

Appendix 9

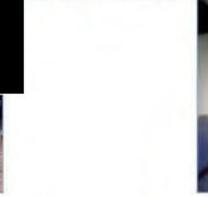
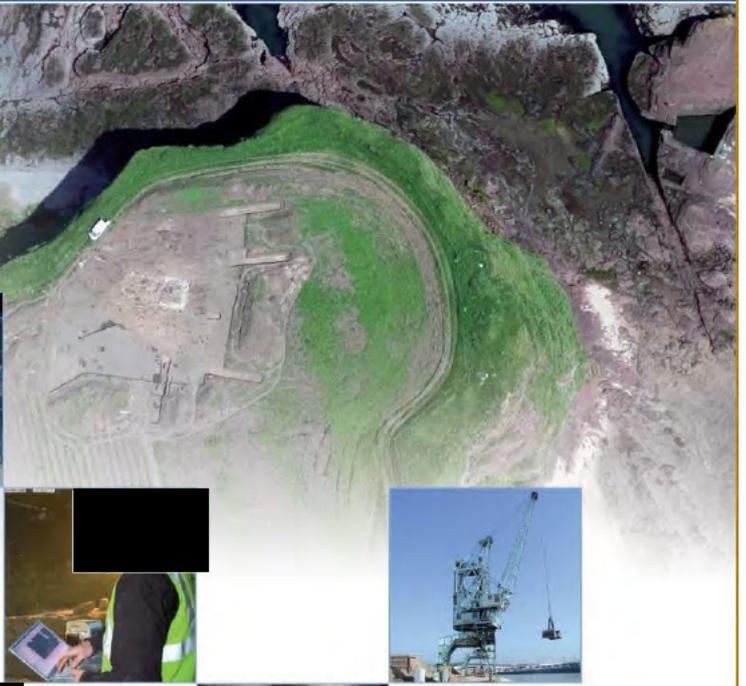
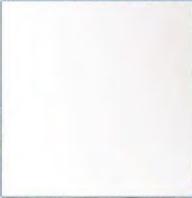
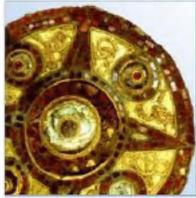
LAND ON THE NORTH SIDE OF HIGHFIELD LANE, SEVINGTON, KENT: A POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

National Grid Reference: 603950 140346

AOC Project No: 34280

Site Code: SPS20

Date: May 2022



NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of archaeological works commissioned by Mott MacDonald undertaken in advance of redevelopment between August and December 2020 (NGR 603950 140346).

This document summarises the stratigraphic sequence of archaeological remains, and describes the assessment of finds from the site, discussing the results in relation to their archaeological and historical context. The principal objective of this report is to present the results, refine the research objectives of the project in light of the findings, and assess the potential of the archive to address these research objectives.

The results indicate the presence of Late Bronze Age to Early / Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age to Early Roman farmland and settlement activity within the confines of the site. This included a road, a trackway, two associated inhumations, field boundaries, enclosures and possible structures including three roundhouses. Early to Middle Saxon activity, perhaps pertaining to the 6th century, took the form of a small inhumation cemetery of 11 individuals in the eastern part of the site. One individual, a young to middle-aged adult male, was buried with a spear, a knife and an unusual buckle. Late Saxon or earlier activity also occurred in the eastern part of the site in the form of a field boundary, a collection of pits or postholes, two fence lines and six probable corn drying kilns, which could alternatively pertain to the Roman period. A possible post-built structure with the same dimensions as a Late Saxon long hall was also present but is poorly dated and not well understood. Medieval to early post-medieval activity was nucleated in the south-west corner of the site, closer to the current village of Sevington, thus suggesting a change of settlement focus between the Late Saxon and later medieval periods. Farmland boundary ditches that may date to the 17th to 19th centuries were also present.

The finds collected from the site included prehistoric and Roman pottery, post-Roman pottery, ceramic building materials (CBM), post-Roman glass, fired clay, clay tobacco pipe, metals, a single coin, worked and burnt flint, worked leather, worked wood and slag and industrial residues. Ecofacts included diatoms, ostracods, pollen, macroplants, charcoal, cremated bone of uncertain origin, animal bone and human bone.

The prehistoric to Late Saxon results are deemed to be regionally significant, while the medieval to post-medieval remains are of local importance. In light of these results, it is recommended that they are disseminated either as a journal article or special paper amounting to c. 30,000 words or as an AOC monograph.

An OASIS form has been completed (aocarcha1-507058) and an electronic copy of all reports will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The site archive will be prepared in accordance with local and national guidance.

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Mott MacDonald to carry out a programme of archaeological works in advance of the construction of a lorry park that may be followed by a mixed-use development. The archaeological works comprised a trial trenching evaluation and a strip, map and sample investigation. This report provides details of the methodology deployed on site and the results of the investigation. It goes on to succinctly contextualise these results and provide an assessment of their potential and significance, as well as recommendations for further work.

Site Background

- 1.2 The proposed development site ('the site') is located on the north side of Highfield Lane, Sevington, in Ashford Borough Council in Kent, covering an area of 49 ha (NGR 603950 140346; Figure 1). The majority of the site was previously in arable agricultural use, with two small fields in the north-western area in use as pasture. The field adjoining Bridge Cottage in the south of the site was also in use as pasture. Highfield Lane runs through the south-western corner of the site and partially bounds it on the eastern and southern extents. The M20 motorway runs north-west to south-east to the north of the site and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link rail link partially bounds the site to the South. The A2070 runs to the west of the Site.

Planning Background

- 1.3 The archaeological works were undertaken and designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines (detailed in full in Section 5).
- 1.4 The local planning authority is Kent County Council (KCC) and archaeological advice to the council is currently provided by the Senior Archaeological Officer to KCC, Wendy Rogers.
- 1.5 A historic environment desk-based assessment (HEDBA) was prepared in support of the planning application (Waterman 2014). This set out the legislative and planning background and provided a detailed baseline and an assessment of the impacts of the proposed development. A programme of archaeological trial trenching was previously carried out in 2012, covering the majority of the development area (CgMs / Wessex 2012; Section 3.6-3.9).
- 1.6 The scheme was granted planning permission (Ref: 14/00906/AS), which included Conditions 30 and 31 relating to the archaeological mitigation work (note that this document addresses conditions 30B and 31 only; 30A relates to the Royal Observer Corps underground post, which was subject to an independent study). The relevant conditions relating to the archaeological works presented in this document are as follows:
- Condition 30: No development shall take place until-

(B) The applicant (or the applicant's agents or successors in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work other than the matter identified in (A) above in accordance with a plan covering the site, a written specification and timetable which has previously been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest – including the Royal Observer Corps underground post - are properly examined and recorded across the site.

- Condition 31:

Within 3 months of the completion of the approved archaeological works a report containing details of the final archaeological recording work and the archaeological work report from the appointed archaeological contractor shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded across the site. Elements of the condition relating to the Royal Observer Corps underground post, namely Part (A) of Condition 30, are covered in a separate document.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The site is relatively flat, with the centre at a height of c. 55m OD, rising slightly towards the south-east to a maximum level of c. 61m OD. A slight ridge also existed across the northern side of the site on a north-east–south-west orientation with the ground falling gradually away towards the north and west to a minimum level of c. 50.5m OD to the north and c. 49.5m OD to the west (Plate 1).
- 2.2 The East Stour River flows c. 1.10km to the south-west of the site and the Old Mill Stream flows c. 90m to the north. Beyond the site boundary, the ground slopes marginally downwards in the direction of these watercourses to the north, west and south-west. This slight topographic difference was sufficient to largely mitigate the historic risk of flooding, thus encouraging human activity that perhaps included settlement on and in the vicinity of the site. The proximity of the site to the abundant resources that a marshy area could provide, coupled with the nearby presence of waterways that were perhaps navigable in antiquity, would have further increased the desirability of the area to past populations.
- 2.3 The British Geological Survey indicates that the geology of the area of the site is mixed. The bedrock geology across much of the site is Hythe Formation, comprising sandstone and limestone, sedimentary bedrock that formed approximately 112 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas. Atherfield Clay Formation was also present in the southern part of the site. This is also a sedimentary bedrock formed during the Cretaceous Period (WSP 2019a; 2019b; UKRI 2021; BGS 2022).
- 2.4 The bedrock geology was predicted to be overlain by a sequence of alluvial clays, silts, sands and gravels that were deposited up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period by a migrating river system associated with the East Stour and its tributaries (WSP 2019a; 2019b, UKRI 2021; BGS 2022).



Plate 1: This image shows the ridge that ran across the northern edge of the site in a north-east–south-west direction. Photograph looks towards the east over Area 3, Area 4 and Area 9.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The following paragraphs collate existing archaeological evidence relating to previous works both on and in the vicinity of the site. The information is primarily sourced from the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the trial trenching evaluation and the subsequent strip, map and sample exercise (WSP 2019a; 2019b), as well as a HEDBA (Waterman 2014). The conclusions presented in those documents are augmented here with supplementary desk-based research, which focuses upon periods relevant to the archaeological sequence outlined in Section 6 of this report.

Prehistoric (c.500,000 BC – AD 43)

3.2 The site lies within an area in which prehistoric activity ranging in date from the Neolithic through to the Late Iron Age (LIA) has been previously identified. Extensive remains of prehistoric settlement have been uncovered to the south of the site, while an evaluation undertaken in 2012 on the site itself proved that prehistoric remains underlie the area. At the time of the evaluation, it was hypothesized that this was limited to agricultural activity in the form of a later prehistoric field system, situated in the north-western portion of the site (CgMs / Wessex 2012). The distribution of these remains led to the conclusion that the potential for prehistoric activity within the confines of the site was moderate towards the north-west and low across all other areas.

Roman (AD 43 – AD 410)

3.3 According to the *Rural Settlement of Roman Britain* (Allen *et al* 2016), the site is situated just under 3km to the west of a small roadside settlement at Kingsnorth. In addition to evidence for settlement, an associated cemetery was also uncovered close to Kingsnorth (*ibid.*). This settlement activity appears to have been centered on a cross-roads that was formed by two thoroughfares. The first of these roads connected Kingsnorth with Canterbury (*Duroverno*) and

Reculver (*Regulbium*) to the north-east and the Weald to the south-west, where this road formed a 'T' junction with another thoroughfare that ran from Watling Street (in the vicinity of Gillingham) to the north, at least as far as the outskirts of Hastings to the south (*ibid.*). The second road that ran through Kingsnorth also connected with the aforementioned Watling Street to Hastings road just south of Maidstone, running onwards from there in a south-easterly direction to Lympne (*Portus Lemanis*), before curving around the coastline to Folkstone and Dover (*Dubris*). During the Roman period, the area in which the site sat was therefore well connected not only with *Britannia's* road network but also beyond thanks to direct links with at least three significant Roman ports.

- 3.4 The *Rural Settlement of Roman Britain* (Allen *et al* 2016) also suggests that a Roman-period field system was situated just over 1km to the south-east of the site in the vicinity of what is now Mersham. A farmstead and an associated field system were also situated just under 2km to the south in the vicinity of Cheeseman's Green. The latter was positioned adjacent to the extrapolated route of the aforementioned Watling Street to Lympne road and could have formed part of the hinterland of a villa, uncovered close by at Bridgefield. Also situated on the same Roman road, this time to the north-west of Kingsnorth (c.3km to the south-west of the site) was a Roman farmstead and an associated shrine.
- 3.5 In the immediate vicinity of the site and within its confines, no evidence of Roman activity was previously identified prior to the commencement of this study. This led to the conclusion that the archaeological potential for the Roman period on the site was low (Waterman 2014).

Early Historic (AD410 – 1066)

- 3.6 The etymology of the nearby settlement of Sevington suggests that it possesses Anglo-Saxon roots. The name translates into modern English as 'the town or settlement of Sægifu', a woman's name of Anglo-Saxon origin that itself means 'gift of the sea' (Ekwall 1966).
- 3.7 Sevington was first recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 as *Seivetone*, by which time it had become the property of Hugh de Montfort. The settlement was reasonably developed by that time, possessing both a church and a mill, which in turn suggests that its origins almost certainly lie in the pre-Norman period (Domesday Book Online, n.d.). In apparent support of this, it has been claimed that the earliest known incarnation of the church of St Mary's, around which the village of Sevington presumably grew, possessed a 9th-century watchtower (St. Mary's Sevington, n.d.); however, to the knowledge of the author the veracity or otherwise of this structure has not yet been confirmed through archaeological observation.
- 3.8 Despite being situated close to a probable settlement with origins in the Late Saxon period or earlier, previous archaeological work undertaken on the site itself suggested that it possessed low potential for early to late Saxon remains (Waterman 2014).

Medieval (1066–c.1480) and Post-Medieval (c.1480–1900)

- 3.9 Nearby Sevington existed as a small village throughout these periods. Its historic core was presumably centered around the parish church of St Mary's, the earliest surviving portions of which date back to the 12th century (Historic England n.d.).
- 3.10 The area in which the site sat was generally characterized by agricultural land during the medieval and post-medieval periods. Evidence of medieval activity was found in the south and

south-western portions of the site during the 2012 evaluation. The site was therefore judged as having moderate potential for archaeological remains of medieval and post-medieval date.

Modern (AD post 1900)

- 3.11 The surrounding landscape has evolved gradually with a slow increase in housing in the surrounding villages, the construction of the railway line to the south, the A20 (now M20) to the north and the A2070 to the west.
- 3.12 The Royal Observer Corps underground monitoring post, constructed in 1961 and abandoned in 1968, is marked as being within the Site, but following further research and the site visit, it appears that the HER data is inaccurate and that the post lies in the field east of Highfield Lane which is still within the site boundary. Further information on the post is detailed in an Archaeological Note, produced by WSP.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 3.13 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake a site walkover survey, metal detecting survey and archaeological field evaluation over a majority of the development site (CgMs / Wessex 2012).
- 3.14 An archaeological evaluation was then commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, also in 2012 (CgMs / Wessex 2012). This comprised the mechanical excavation of 101 trenches measuring 30m by 2m, comprising a 2% sample of the area of proposed development. Only a small number of the trenches contained archaeological remains and the majority of those features appeared to be small scale undated field boundaries, drainage ditches or discrete features. Trench 145 contained the densest collection of archaeological features observed on the site. The presence of a mortared ragstone wall alongside two other features represented possible structures, perhaps associated with a medieval occupation site. The majority of the finds recovered dated to the 12th-14th century.
- 3.15 Together the walkover survey and the subsequent evaluation suggested a low level of archaeological activity across the majority of the site, with the exception of the aforementioned zone of medieval activity in the southern part of the site.

4 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 A trial trenching evaluation was undertaken as part of this phase of work, which supplemented the previous phase of evaluation undertaken in 2012 (CgMs / Wessex 2012). The aim of the supplementary archaeological evaluation was to clarify the presence, nature, date and extent of any archaeological remains that might be present within areas of impact that had not been previously evaluated. As such, this phase of evaluation targeted areas that were inaccessible during the 2012 phase of work (CgMs / Wessex 2012).
- 4.2 The objective of trial trench evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) is to 'determine and report on, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices' (CIfA, 2020a: 4).
- 4.3 This is further explained as " limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts and their research potential, within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal

zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present, field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, reports on them and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.” (ClfA 2020a: 4).

4.4 In accord with requirements stipulated by Kent County Council the objectives of the evaluation were:

- To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site;
- To establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected
- To identify archaeological deposits at the site
- To establish the likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development.

4.5 The following research objectives were formulated after the results of the previous archaeological evaluation (CGMS / Wessex 2012) and the supplementary trial trenching exercise were taken into consideration and are as follows.

- Does the untruncated surface of natural gravels/clay and/or brickearth subsoil survive?
- What is the nature of the natural topography and does it concatenate with the results of the evaluation in the corresponding areas? How does this affect the archaeological resource?
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity *in situ*? Is there any redeposited evidence for prehistoric activity? If so, can this be linked in anyway with sites nearby?
- What is the nature, extent, survival, date, and significance of the Romano-British remains? Can the nature and extent of the features found during the evaluation be fully understood? How does the evidence modify or enhance our understanding of Romano-British development and occupation?
- Can specific socio-economic activities be identified in the archaeological record? This might include further evidence of land management indicated by the evaluation.
- Is there evidence for the development of occupation past the Romano-British period into the early-medieval period?
- What is the nature of the post-medieval field boundaries and can these tie into features identified on maps of the area?
- What is the nature of the natural topography and underlying geology and how might this have influenced the location of the site?

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 This section of the report describes the methodologies used for the supplementary trial trenching investigation and the strip, map and sample investigation. These are outlined in full in the Written Schemes of Investigation for the site (WSP 2019a; 2019b) and are summarised in the paragraphs that follow.

Trial Trenching Investigation

5.2 The supplementary archaeological evaluation consisted of 26 trial trenches measuring 1.80m by 30.00m, representing a c. 3% sample of the area that was inaccessible during the 2012 evaluation (CgMs / Wessex 2012) (Figure 2). For further details on the strategy for placing these trenches the reader should refer to WSP 2019a.

5.3 All trenches were opened initially by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket, under supervision of the archaeological fieldwork subcontractor (Site Supervisor). Following initial exposure of archaeological horizons, investigation was carried out by hand, including cleaning, examination, sampling and recording.

5.4 In order to obtain sufficient information on the likely nature, date, extent, survival and significance of any potential archaeological features and deposits identified, these were sample excavated by hand. It was not the objective of the evaluation to archaeologically excavate features in their entirety as this would form part of a future mitigation strategy for preservation by record.

5.5 The following sampling strategy was carried out:

- Linear features were hand excavated to achieve a minimum 10% sample along their length with a minimum width of 1.0m.
- The termini of any linear features were 100% hand excavated.
- Pits were 50% hand excavated as a minimum.
- Significant solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or postholes were preserved intact, even if fills were sampled.
- Isolated postholes and complex features such as hearths were 100% hand excavated.

Strip, Map and Sample Investigation

5.6 The strip, map and sample area corresponded with the former locations of evaluation Trenches 25, 32, 52, 73, 145, 104, 105 and 106, which were excavated during the 2012 evaluation (Wessex / CGMS 2012) (Figure 2).

5.7 Machine stripping of the proposed archaeological investigation area was carried out under archaeological direction by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with an appropriate toothless ditching bucket (Plate 2). Undifferentiated topsoil overburden of recent origin was removed to the upper-most level of any identified archaeological features, or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Following monitoring of the preliminary stripping, archaeological excavation and recording within the area commenced under supervision by a fully qualified Archaeological Project Officer/Supervisor.

5.8 A pre-excavation site-plan was produced for an initial archaeological strategy meeting attended by the LPA archaeological advisor, Wendy Rogers. The site plan was used to guide the

recording and sampling strategy, which was flexible and accommodated changes as the fieldwork proceeded.

- 5.9 Where archaeological horizons were encountered, subsequent excavations were undertaken by hand. All excavated sections were drawn at a scale deemed appropriate for the task, usually 1:10 or 1: 20. All plans and sections were located to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid and Ordnance Datum (OD) heights were established for all strata and features through the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS).
- 5.10 Archaeological features were sample excavated in accord with the methodology as set out in the WSI (WSP 2019b).



Plate 2: Overview of Area 5 under machine excavation. Photograph faces south. Scales 2m and 1m.

Recording Methodology

- 5.11 Written records were produced using either *pro-forma* context or trench record sheets and by the single context planning method and will be compatible with those published by the Museum of London (MoLAS 1994). A record of the full sequence of all archaeological remains as revealed in the evaluation was made. Plans and sections of features were drawn at an appropriate scale of 1:10 or 1:20, with sections drawn at 1:10. A full photographic record was maintained and indexed using digital Single Lens Reflex (SLR) cameras. Registers will be kept of all photographs, levels, plans, sections, finds and samples taken in the field.
- 5.12 Identified archaeological finds and artefacts were carefully recovered by hand and bagged or boxed according to the type of artefact (i.e. pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), bone, worked flint, metal) archaeological context from which they came, with a label indicating the site code, find type and context reference number). Particularly notable artefacts were recorded as a 'registered' find, and recorded three dimensionally with Ordnance Datum levels.
- 5.13 Initial conservation and storage followed *First Aid for Finds* (Leigh *et al.* 1998) and the ClfA 'Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials' (ClfA 2020b).
- 5.14 All pottery, bone and worked flint was washed and then marked in accordance with the project archive repository guidelines. The finds identification and specialist work was undertaken by

the relevant finds specialists agreed with the LPA Archaeological Advisor to assess the date range of the assemblage with particular reference to pottery use relevant county or region-specific type series for identification and dating, where available.

5.15 This post-excavation assessment report provides a stratigraphic summary of the archaeological mitigation carried out. It has been designed in accordance with the Written Schemes of Investigation (WSP 2018; 2019a; 2019b), current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- ADS (2011) *Guides to Good Practice*, <http://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/g2gp/Main>.
- Historic England (2015a) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE project Managers' Guide*.
- Historic England (2015b) *Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork*.
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5.16 The research aims outlined prior to excavation (Section 4, above) are discussed with reference to the results of archaeological works (Section 6, below). Quantification of resources needed to fulfil the project design and discussion of the revised research objectives is presented in Section 9.

Terminology and Definitions

- 5.17 In this report, cuts and structural remains are shown in square brackets '[000]' and fills and layers are shown in rounded brackets '(000)'. Where context numbers from the evaluation trenches are revisited, both are presented.
- 5.18 The site sequence is arranged by chronological period, with each period being numbered sequentially from earliest to latest. Period numbering is unique to the site. A full stratigraphic diagram using the Harris Matrix recording system has been compiled (see Appendix 15.4).
- 5.19 Where possible, chronological periods have been separated into phases (e.g. Period 2: Phase 1, Period 2, Phase 2, abbreviated herein to Period 2.1, Period 2.2 etc), each of which represents a distinct episode of land-use. It should be noted, however, that this formative phasing may change at the publication stage should additional evidence come to light.
- 5.20 Within each phase, contexts have been collated into related groups of cuts and fills, identified by a unique group number. Deposits within a group concord with a specific construction, use or disuse episode within the life of a landscape feature. Groups have also been used to collate layers that represent a specific depositional episode or deposit formation event that took place on the site.
- 5.21 The height at which features were encountered is demonstrated on the section drawings on Figures 6, 13, 14, 23–25, 29, 33–37, 40 and 43.
- 5.22 Possible evidence of structured deposition was noted on the site pertaining variously to the Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods. Structured deposition is defined herein in accord with Darvill (2008) as 'patterning in the way that artefacts are found when uncovered through excavation which allows the suggestion that behavioural regularities underlie the way in which they were put into the ground in the first place'. In all cases, further work is required at the publication stage to verify whether these potential structured deposits as flagged within Section 6 genuinely fit within that definition through comparative inter-site study at regional level or higher.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 This section of the report presents the results of the excavation. The occupation of the site spans nine archaeological periods. As set out below, where necessary these have been divided into different phases of archaeologically recognisable activity:
- Period 1: Natural
 - Period 2.1: Prehistoric / Late Bronze Age (LBA) to Middle Iron Age (MIA) Activity
 - Period 2.2: Subsequent Early Iron Age (EIA) to MIA Activity
 - Period 2.3: Latest EIA to MIA Activity
 - Period 3.1: Late Iron Age (LIA) to Early Roman Activity (1st to 2nd century AD)
 - Period 3.2: Subsequent LIA to Early Roman Activity (mid-1st to 2nd century AD)
 - Period 4: Early to Middle Saxon Activity (5th to 8th century AD)
 - Period 5.1: Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman or Earlier Activity (9th to 11th century AD)
 - Period 5.2: Subsequent Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman Activity (9th to 11th century AD)
 - Period 6: Medieval to Early Post-Medieval Activity (11th to 17th century)

- Period 7: Mid- to Late Post-Medieval Activity (17th to 19th century)
- Period 8: Pre-modern Activity (Prehistoric to Post-Medieval)
- Period 9: Late Post-Medieval to Modern Activity (19th to 21st-century)

6.2 Area 1 transpired to be archaeologically sterile and will not be reported upon further herein. The remaining areas produced archaeological evidence, including the trial trench area (Area 11), however the latter did not produce sufficient evidence to warrant further investigation.

Period 1: Natural

Areas 2 to 12

Superficial deposits of alluvial silts and clays:

Group 1: (2002) / (3002) / (4002) / (5002) / (6002) / (7002) / (9003) / (10003) / (11003) / (12003)

- 6.3 A thin layer of mid yellowish brown silty clay overlying heavily fragmented limestone was identified at the base of the archaeological sequence across the bulk of the excavation area, termed Group 1 herein. It is presumed to represent the upper reaches of the natural geology. The top of the natural was observed at a maximum height of 60.95m OD in the northern end of Area 10, close to the eastern edge of the site. It sloped gently downwards towards the north, east and south-west to a height of 54.03m OD in Area 4, 54.77m OD in Area 3 and 52.65m OD in Area 12. From there the topography sloped downwards in a steeper fashion to a minimum level of 49.86m OD in Area 8 to the west and 49.86m OD in Area 2 to the north, thus forming a north-east–south-west orientated ridge.
- 6.4 The presentation of the deposit in terms of its topography approximated that of the extant landscape. This demonstrates that, with the probable exception of plough damage and plough soil formation in the relatively recent past, the site has neither suffered significant horizontal truncation (for example terracing) nor been subject to any significant ground raising activity by natural or anthropic means. As such, the ground conditions on site would appear to have remained relatively stable since the upper reaches of Group 1 amassed during the Quaternary period.
- 6.5 The lack of any identifiable alluvium of Holocene date above this geological unit supports the notion that the site sat on a relatively elevated platform close to but beyond the edge of the floodplain of the East Stour and its tributaries. This relatively dry area would therefore have been suitable for a range of activities throughout the Holocene period, including settlement and farming, while simultaneously being situated close to the rich resources of the marsh. An additional boon to the desirability of the site for settlement may have been provided by the transport options that were perhaps afforded by nearby rivers, were they navigable in antiquity (in particular the Old Mill Stream, c. 90m to the north, a tributary of the East Stour).

Period 2.1: Prehistoric / Late Bronze Age (LBA) to Middle Iron Age (MIA)

- 6.6 Collections of Late Bronze Age (LBA) to Middle Iron Age (MIA) features were identified in four distinct areas during the strip, map and sample exercises, namely Areas 2, 7, 9 and 10 (Figure 2), as were a number of pits from which flints of a more general prehistoric date were recovered. These are discussed in the paragraphs that follow by excavation area followed by feature type and context group.

Area 2

A collection of pits and / or natural features

Group 168: [2016], (2015), [2022], (2021), [2026], (2025); [2028], (2027); Figure 3

- 6.7 Five possible prehistoric sub-circular to ovoid features were unearthed in Area 2 about which little can be gleaned. These features, collated here as Group 168, ranged in size and shape from the smallest, which were no more than 0.36m in diameter and 0.07m in depth, through to the largest, which were up to 3.80m in length, 1.40m in width and up to 0.44m deep. The fills of the features were visually similar, closely resembling redeposited natural. A small quantity of prehistoric worked flint was retrieved from them, which suggests that they may have been infilled during the prehistoric period, perhaps through natural silting rather than deliberate dumping given the fine-grained nature of their fills and the spartan nature of the artefact assemblages retrieved from them. It is possible that some of the smaller features represent natural undulations, perhaps caused by burrowing or rooting activity for example, while the larger features, namely [2028] (Figure 6, Section 163.5) and [2026], could represent deliberately dug pits of uncertain function or larger natural features, such as tree boles.

A large, shallow pit

Group 169: [2020], (2019); Figure 3; Figure 6, Section 164.1

- 6.8 A large sub-rectangular to sub-ovoid pit was unearthed in the north-east corner of Area 2. This large, shallow pit possessed rounded corners and was 3.80m long, 1.40m wide and up to 0.28m deep. It possessed a sharp break of slope at the top and bottom and a largely flat base, which together suggests that it represents a man-made feature rather than a natural undulation. The feature was infilled with a single fine-grained fill from which eight worked flints were recovered, all of which showed traces of surface re-cortication. The assemblage included a flake fragment, blade fragments, spalls and one thinning flake fragment. These artefacts could have amassed within this feature when it was in use were it to represent a working hollow in which flint knapping took place. Alternatively, these scant remains could have been dumped into the pit after it fell out of use, or washed in through natural processes.
- 6.9 The function of this shallow pit remains uncertain, one possibility being that it represents a possible working hollow of prehistoric origin. Given the scant nature of the evidence, this interpretation remains speculative, however.

Area 7

A large shallow pit

Group 63: [7055] / [7067]; (7054) / (7066); [7069], (7068); [7071], (7070); Figure 18

- 6.10 A large, sub-rectangular sunken feature with diffuse, somewhat ragged edges was observed in the southern third of Area 7. The pit was 8.70m long and up to 7.30m wide with a depth of 0.24m. Two adjacent circular features, [7071] and [7069], appeared to have been dug into the base of the pit. They were poorly preserved, being no more than 0.14m deep, and were up to 0.37m in diameter. They were approximately central to the southern end of the pit and it is not unreasonable to suppose that they represent postholes. If so, similar postholes may have been

present in the northern part of the feature, beyond the excavated sample. If this interpretation is correct then it is possible that the posts upheld some sort of canopy. One posthole may perhaps have replaced the other, thus suggesting possible evidence of a repair. If so, it is not unreasonable to suppose that Group 63 could together represent a working hollow or storage area that was given some protection from the elements by a canopy that was repaired on at least one occasion.

- 6.11 After the feature fell out of use, a single fill amassed within it. A small quantity of prehistoric worked flint, including five spalls and one flake fragment, was recovered from this deposit, as were 10 fragments of pottery, currently dated to the LBA. A single, carbonised cereal caryopsis was also present, as were five fragments of animal bone and a tooth (not identifiable to genus level). It is possible that the diffuse edges of this feature developed while the pit was open, perhaps due to slumping as a result of weathering. Consequently, it seems more probable that some or all of this material accumulated gradually after the pit fell out of use as a result of the deliberate dumping of a component of domestic waste, as well as natural in-washing and edge collapse.

A rectangular post-built structure

Group 65: construction: [7065], (7064); [7061], (7041); [7039], (7038); [7060], (7059); Figure 18

- 6.12 Four postholes were identified to the immediate east of the possible working hollow. Their spacing and similar morphologies suggest that they were associated with one another, and as such they are discussed together here as Group 65. The probable postholes were between 0.12m and 0.34m in diameter and were up to 0.25m deep. Postholes [7065], [7060] and [7061] were aligned north-west–south-east, while posthole [7039] was set at a right-angle to that row of features, in line with [7065]. Each contained a single fill from which 29 sherds of pottery, variously pertaining to the earlier IA and the EIA to EIA / MIA transition, were collectively recovered. Six fragments of daub of prehistoric to medieval date and a small quantity of prehistoric worked flint was also present. It is possible that the pottery was packed around the structural uprights that these postholes presumably once contained in order to support them. Two burnt cereal caryopses were also collectively recovered from this group of features, which probably represent accidental inclusions.
- 6.13 If the location of a possible associated robber cut ([7063], discussed subsequently) is taken into consideration, then the minimum dimensions of the post-built structure that these features appear to have formed was 4.75m north-west–south-east by 3.48m north-east–south-west. The dating evidence suggests that the feature was built during the EIA / MIA transition period, however its function remains uncertain. Plausible interpretations include a small animal pen or two adjoining fence lines. A rectangular building also cannot be entirely ruled out, however domestic structures pertaining to this period throughout Britain were more usually circular (Cunliffe 1991, 242–6). That said, non-domestic rectangular buildings, in particular four and six-post structures, did exist in south-east England and are often interpreted as granaries (*ibid.*, 246). This group of four postholes could therefore represent the only surviving elements of a rectangular structure of this nature. That said, few cereal remains were found in association with this feature, although this could be a product of post-depositional decay.

Group 66: disuse and robbing: [7063], (7062), (7042); [7053], (7052); Figure 18

- 6.14 Postholes [7060], [7061] and [7065] were horizontally truncated by a larger pit, [7063]. A second large pit [7053] was also situated 0.92m to the south-east, which appeared to be aligned with the main run of postholes discussed above (namely [7065], [7060] and [7061]). The two pits in this group were between 1.40m and 2.50m long and between 1.32m and 2.20m wide, with depths that ranged between 0.29m and 0.36m. It is possible that they were dug to remove timbers associated with the rectangular structure formed by Group 65 either in full or in part after it fell out of use.
- 6.15 Pit [7063] was then infilled with two deposits of clayey silt, while pit [7053] was infilled with a single deposit of similar material, from which a somewhat contradictory array of dating evidence was recovered. The primary and secondary fills of [7063] together yielded eight fragments of earlier IA pottery and 16 fragments of a more diagnostic fabric pertaining to the EIA to EIA / MIA transition as well as a small quantity of prehistoric worked flint. In addition to this, 28 fragments of CBM were also present pertaining to the period 1450–1700. These fragments are presumed to represent contamination from a stratigraphically later pit that truncated this feature (see Group 188, Period 6, below). In addition to a large assemblage of late medieval to early post-medieval CBM, a large quantity of earlier dating evidence was recovered from that stratigraphically later pit. This included 412 sherds of EIA to MIA pottery and prehistoric worked flint that included seven flakes, three blades, nine spalls, one core and a spherical hammerstone. A copper alloy bronze pin was also present. It is probable that this material more probably derives from [7063], having been incorporated in the later feature as the result of an excavation error. The amount of pottery is interesting and could represent a structured deposit, although further research would be required to demonstrate this. For an involved discussion of Iron Age structured deposition and rubbish disposal in pits see Hill 1996 (*passim*).
- 6.16 Pit [7053] was securely dated to this period through the discovery of 166 fragments of pottery dating to the EIA to EIA / MIA transition. Also present was a small quantity of worked flint, 7.3g of charcoal derived from *Alnus glutinosa* L. (alder), *Maloideae/sorbus* sp. (apple, pear, hawthorn or rowan), *Prunus* sp. (cherry) and *Quercus* sp. (oak), three carbonized fragments of *Corylus avellana* L. (hazelnut), and 16 carbonized cereal caryopses, including *Avena* sp. (oat), *Hordeum* (sp.), and *Hordeum vulgare* L. (six-row hulled barley). The presence of such a large amount of pottery accompanied by burnt debris in the fill of this feature is interesting and further research designed to establish whether this represents generic rubbish disposal or structured deposition would again be worthwhile (see Hill 1996 *passim*).
- 6.17 In summary, these two large pits may represent robbing activity that took place after the rectangular post-built structure under discussion here fell out of use. The dating evidence suggests that this occurred at a later point during the EIA / MIA transition period. The robber cuts were then deliberately infilled with a large assemblage of pottery and burnt material that either represents domestic waste or an example of 'structured deposition' involving a large quantity of pottery. One possibility is that the pottery and burnt material represent a 'closing deposit' to mark the end of this building's existence, however further research would be required to better explore this possibility.

A four-post structure

Group 67: [7051], (7050); [7049], (7048); [7045], (7044); [7047], (7046); Figure 18

- 6.18 A group of four postholes were uncovered in the southern end of Area 7. These circular features were between 0.23m and 0.36m in diameter, with depths that ranged between 0.12m and 0.14m. Together, they appeared to form a four post structure with a sub-square footprint that was 3.05m north-east–south-west by 2.54m north-west–south-east. The postholes were each infilled with a single deposit that together yielded one sherd of earlier IA pottery and a small quantity of prehistoric worked flint. This could be taken to suggest that this feature represents an earlier Iron Age four post structure, perhaps a granary. Again, however, no environmental evidence was retrieved that could more conclusively demonstrate this formative interpretation.

A deposit of cremated bone

Group 185: [7037], (7036); Figure 17

- 6.19 A small circular pit was unearthed in the centre of Area 7, close to the eastern limit of the excavation. The feature was 0.38m in diameter and just 0.05m deep. It was infilled with a single deposit of burnt material that yielded two sherds of EIA pottery and 35.49g of highly fragmented burnt bone that included at least two tooth fragments, one of which was unburnt and belonged to an animal that has not as yet been identified to genus or species level. Further work is required to determine whether any bone within the sample is of human origin. It has been phased within Period 2 herein due to the presence of the two sherds of EIA pottery.
- 6.20 A caveat regarding the possible date of this cremation is necessary. The pit's location within the footprint of a later post-built structure, which could perhaps represent the poorly preserved remains of a Late Saxon long hall, is noteworthy (see Period 5.1, below). The construction and demolition of Anglo-Saxon buildings of most types was sometimes accompanied by structured deposition, as exemplified by the discovery of deliberately placed (structured) deposits of animal bone (particularly skulls and long bones of animals) within the foundations of high-status buildings and sunken featured buildings (as at Yeavinger, Cowdery's Down and Brandon, to name but a few of many examples). What is more, cremated animal and human bone was indeed used as a closing deposit within a Mid-Saxon sunken featured building (SFB) at Friars Oak in West Sussex (Hamerow 2012, 111), thus demonstrating that such material was deemed suitable for this purpose. Were the two sherds of prehistoric pottery recovered from this pit either residual or misidentified (due to frequent commonalities in form and fabric between certain forms of Saxon and Iron Age pottery), then this alternative interpretation could hold true. Further work, perhaps in the form of radiocarbon dating, is therefore recommended in order to determine whether this feature genuinely represents an EIA cremation or a later Saxon feature.

Area 9

A collection of pits or postholes

Group 53: [9044], (9043); [9046], (9045); [9048], (9047); [9050], (9049); [9052], (9051); [9054], (9053); [9056], (9055); [9058], (9057); [9060], (9059); [9062], (9061); [9064], (9063); [9066], (9065); [9068], (9067); Figure 28; Figure 29, Section 153.3, 153.5, 153.7, 153.9, 153.11

- 6.21 Thirteen circular to ovoid pits or postholes were discovered in the south-western end of Area 9, termed Group 53 herein. The features varied in size, being between 0.15m and 0.95m in diameter with depths that ranged from 0.11m to 0.38m. The pits or postholes appeared to form at least three approximate rows that trended north–south and three rows that trended east–west that together covered an area that was at least 5.95m north–south by at least 5.57m east–west.
- 6.22 A total of 178 sherds of Iron Age pottery was collectively recovered from this group that included 149 sherds of EIA to EIA / MIA date and a lesser quantity of possible MIA to LIA date (28 sherds from two discrete features, [9052] and [9062]). Taken together, the overlapping date ranges obtained from this group of features could be taken either to suggest that they were created gradually from the EIA into the MIA period, with [9052] and [9062] representing the latest additions to the group. Equally, however, the evidence could instead indicate that the pits were all dug at the same time or at a similar time, most probably during the earlier part of the MIA (the only date range within which all of the dating evidence collectively falls). The latter interpretation is favoured here because the features appeared to be roughly aligned with one another, thus suggesting that the approximate whereabouts of the earlier pits or postholes were known to those responsible for creating the later ones.
- 6.23 In addition to pottery, eight carbonized cereal caryopses were collectively recovered from four pits within this group ([9046], [9052], [9050] and [9064]). Remains that could be identified to either species or genus level included *Hordeum sp.* (barley), *Hordeum vulgare* L. (six-row hulled barley), *Hordeum var nudum* L. (naked barley) and *Triticum aestivum* L. (bread / club wheat). One small fragment of animal bone was also recovered from [9071]. The small quantities of ecofacts retrieved from these features is more suggestive of accidental rather than deliberate inclusion within their fills.
- 6.24 The purpose(s) of this collection of pits or postholes is not well understood at present. Their organised arrangement could be taken to suggest that they represent the remains of a post-built structure or adjoining post-built structures, for example a series of animal pens of earlier MIA date. Alternatively, the large assemblage of Iron Age pottery that was recovered from them could instead indicate that some or all of them were deliberately dug to receive the pottery as a form of structured deposition. Further work would be necessary to explore these alternative theories through inter-site analysis at the publication stage.

A large shallow pit

Group 54: [9072], (9070); Figure 28; Figure 29, Section 151.3

- 6.25 A large sub-ovoid feature, Group 54, was excavated to the immediate north of the pits or postholes of Group 53. It has been grouped separately here on morphological grounds due to

the fact that it was substantially larger in size than the Group 53 features, being 1.77m long, 1.08m wide and 0.30m deep. Its purpose is uncertain, with potential functions including a working hollow or a rubbish pit.

- 6.26 The feature contained a single silty fill from which 25 sherds of earlier IA pottery were recovered, as were four pieces of prehistoric worked flint. Ecofacts present included a cattle bone and 15 carbonized cereal caryopses including *Avena sp.* (oat), *Hordeum sp.* (barley), *Hordeum vulgare* L. (six-row hulled barley), *Triticum aestivum* L. (bread / club wheat) and single burnt fragments the weed species *Fallopia convolvulus* L. (black bindweed) and *Galeopsis sp.* (hemp nettles). Taken together, this suggests that the feature was either dug as a rubbish pit or was alternatively reused as such, having been infilled with material that included a component of domestic waste.

Area 10

A putative roundhouse

Group 162: [10108], (10107); [10106], (10105); [10104], (10103); [10110], (10109), [10007], (10006); [10009], (10008); Figure 30

- 6.27 A group of six circular features were recognised towards the eastern side of the central portion of Area 10, which probably represent postholes. They were between 0.56m and 0.21m in diameter, surviving up to a maximum depth of 0.16m. The postholes formed an approximate circle in plan with a diameter of c. 5.73m and were fairly regularly spaced, generally being between 1.48m and 1.88m apart. Two larger gaps did exist that were up to c. 3.52m apart, however this is presumed to have been induced by the presence of a later ditch that may well have truncated two postholes that would otherwise have formed part of this group. Each contained a single fill that may represent a combination of the degraded remains of the posts that they once contained and the backfill that surrounded them. Ten small fragments of daub were recovered from these fills, which may represent accidental inclusions that were incorporated during construction.
- 6.28 The size of the circular structure that this group of features appeared to form is typical of an Iron Age roundhouse. Such structures commonly consisted of nothing more than circular collection of postholes of this nature (Cunliffe 1991, 242). The structure is not well dated, however, given the range of prehistoric dating evidence recovered from elsewhere on the site, it more probably pertains to the earlier part of the Iron Age period. This assertion is also supported by the fact that the roundhouse appears to pre-date a ditch that fell out of use during the EIA to MIA transition period (Group 70, discussed subsequently).

A large, shallow pit

Group 178: [10011], (10010); Figure 30

- 6.29 A large, circular feature with a diameter of 1.23m and a depth of 0.25m was observed in the central portion of Area 10 within the footprint of the putative roundhouse. It is not clear whether it was internal to the northern part of the roundhouse or whether it represents an unrelated feature that pertains to an earlier or later phase of prehistoric activity on the site. Either option

is possible, as pits internal to roundhouses, often interpreted as storage pits, have been noted elsewhere in southern and south-central Britain (Cunliffe 1991, 246).

- 6.30 After the pit fell out of use it was infilled with a single silty deposit that resembled redeposited natural, from which no finds were retrieved. It was, however, truncated by an EIA to MIA enclosure ditch pertaining to Period 2.2, which it must pre-date.

Period 2.2: Subsequent Early Iron Age (EIA) to MIA Activity

- 6.31 After the aforementioned roundhouse and pit fell out of use, a later phase of archaeologically recognizable activity occurred during the later EIA or early MIA (Period 2.2). This activity changed the nature of land use in Area 10.

Area 10

A boundary ditch

Group 70: [10101] / [10095] / [10154] / [10210] / [10098], (10153), (10209), (10100), (10094), (10097), (10099), (10093), (10096); Figure 30; Figure 40, Section 231.1

- 6.32 The western portion of a probable rectangular enclosure formed by a single continuous ditch was uncovered in the central portion of Area 10 (Plate 3). Five slots were excavated through the feature, which have been grouped together here as Group 70. The slots demonstrated that the ditch was between 1.28m and 1m wide, surviving to a depth of up to 0.57m. The dimensions of the visible portion of the enclosure were 31.7m north-east–south-west by over 7.08m north-west–south-east, continuing beyond the limit of the excavation to the east. Settlement patterns elsewhere in south-east England suggest that this landscape feature more probably enclosed one or more roundhouses, situated further east beyond the limit of excavation within Area 10 (Cunliffe 1991, 213–246). This interpretation is further supported by the probable presence of earlier IA settlement in this approximate area, as demonstrated by the aforementioned roundhouse. Alternative functions are possible, however, such as a field boundary associated with a stock enclosure (*ibid.*).
- 6.33 After the enclosure fell out of use, the five excavated ditch slots were infilled with between one and two fills. Slots [10154] and [10210] were infilled in their entirety with single deposits (10153) and (10209), while the remaining slots were infilled with silt rich primary fills (10094) / (10097) / (10100), which were between 0.23m and 0.26m thick, and clayey silt secondary fills (10093) / (10096) / (10099). Together, these deposits yielded a pottery assemblage of 43 sherds that variously dated either to the earlier IA or the EIA to MIA transition period. Taken together, this suggests that this boundary ditch represents an earlier IA feature that more probably fell out of use during the EIA to MIA transition.

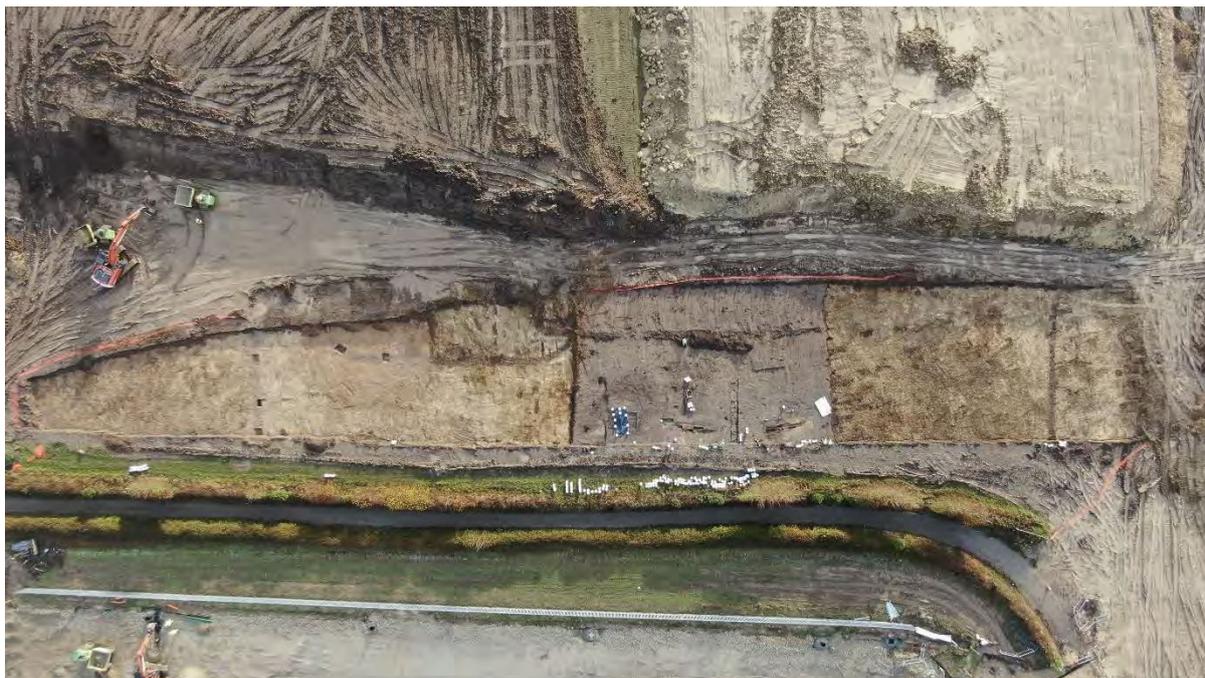


Plate 3: Overview of Area 10. Photograph faces south-east. The rectangular enclosure (Group 70) can be seen in the left side of the image, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the south-east.

Period 2.3: Latest EIA to MIA Activity

- 6.34 After the rectangular enclosure had fallen out of use, a third archaeologically identifiable episode of land use occurred within the confines of Area 10 during the EIA to MIA period (Period 2.3).

Area 10

A large pit or tree bole

Group 179: [10005], (10004); Figure 30

- 6.35 A large ovoid feature, [10005], truncated the backfill of the north-west corner of the rectangular enclosure. It was 1.45m long, 1m wide and up to 0.36m deep and contained a single fill from which 17 sherds of earlier IA pottery were recovered. The feature was interpreted on site as a tree bole, however its relatively straight sides and gently concave base does not preclude a man-made origin, while the presence of 17 sherds of pottery suggests that a component of domestic waste may have been dumped within the feature in order to close it. The purpose of the pit remains uncertain.

Period 3.1: Late Iron Age (LIA) to Early Roman Activity (1st to 2nd Century AD)

- 6.36 Collections of LIA to Early Roman features were identified in seven areas during the strip, map and sample exercises, namely Areas 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12. These are discussed in the paragraphs that follow by excavation area followed by feature type and context group.

Area 2

A north–south trackway or droveway

Group 6: [2010] / [2012] / [2014], (2009) / (2011) / (2013) and Group 7: [2004] / [2006] / [2008] / [2018]; (2003) / (2005) / (2007) / (2017); Figure 3; Figure 6, Section 163.1, 164.1

- 6.37 Two parallel ditches orientated north–south were uncovered in the eastern part of Area 2, collated here as Group 6 (the western ditch) and Group 7 (the eastern ditch). The ditches were similarly sized, the western example being up to 0.56m wide and up to 0.23m deep, the eastern example being up to 0.69m wide and up to 0.28m deep. The ditches bounded an area that was 4.42m wide and in excess of 24.6m in length, continuing beyond the northern and southern limits of Area 2. These linear features may therefore represent roadside ditches that flanked a droveway or trackway.
- 6.38 Three and four slots were excavated through Group 6 and 7 respectively (seven in total), which together demonstrated that both the eastern and western ditches were infilled with a single silty deposit along their entire lengths. The fills of the eastern ditch (Group 7) produced 27 sherds of pottery pertaining to the period AD 10–70 and a small quantity of prehistoric worked flint, thus suggesting that this droveway or trackway more probably represents a LIA to early Roman feature that fell out of use and was probably infilled during the 1st century AD, most probably prior to AD 70. The fills of the western ditch (Group 6) produced two fragments of CBM pertaining to the period 1450–1700, which may be residual in this context, and a small quantity of prehistoric worked flint.

Area 3

Two large, shallow pits

Group 8: [3012], (3011); Figure 4; Figure 6, Section 17.1

- 6.39 A large sub-rectangular pit, [3012], was identified in the north-west corner of Area 3, the long axis of which was orientated north–south (Plate 4; Plate 5). The feature was 3.75m long, just over 3.1m wide (it is presumed to continue fractionally beyond the western limit of Area 3) and up to 0.95m deep. The pit possessed steep sides with a sharp break of slope at the top and bottom and a flat base, which suggests that it represents a man-made feature. The purpose of the pit is uncertain. Possible functions include but are not limited to a large storage pit, some sort of working hollow or even the poorly preserved remnants of a building with a sunken floor.
- 6.40 The feature was infilled with a single fine grained silty deposit from which 11 pottery sherds pertaining to the period 50 BC to AD 70 were retrieved along with some prehistoric worked flints. This suggests that this feature fell out of use and was infilled during the LIA to Early Roman period at some point after 50 BC, perhaps before AD 70.



Plate 4: Large pit [3012] (Group 8). Photograph faces south-west. Scales 1m.



Plate 5: Large pit [3012] (Group 8) after full excavation. Photograph looks west. Scales 2m and 1m.

Group 9: [3014], (3013); Figure 4; Figure 6, Sections 1.3 and 3.3

- 6.41 A second, morphologically similar sub-rectangular pit, [3014], was identified in the approximate centre of Area 3 that was 4.76m long, 3.55m wide and up to 0.87m deep (Plate 6; Plate 7). Like pit [3012] (Group 8, discussed above), its long axis was also approximately aligned north–south. Given its similarity to pit [3012], it is reasonable to suspect that it fulfilled a similar function.
- 6.42 The pit was infilled with a single silty deposit from which 27 sherds of LIA to Early Roman pottery pertaining to the period AD 10–70 were recovered. This suggests that [3014] fell out of use at a similar time to [3012] most probably at some point during the first century post-AD 10 and perhaps prior to AD 70.



Plate 6: Large pit [3014] (Group 9). Photograph faces east. Scales 2m and 1m



Plate 7: Area 3 under excavation, including pits [3014], [3012] and [3018]. Photograph looks north-north-east

Area 6

A large shallow pit

Construction Group 10: [6084]; [6113], (6112), [6111], (6110); Figure 8; Figure 6: Section 26.4

- 6.43 Another large shallow pit pertaining to this phase of activity was uncovered in Area 6, [6084] (Group 10). This feature was also broadly sub-rectangular; however, in this case the edges were highly irregular, perhaps due to edge collapse and weathering. The maximum dimensions of the pit were 7.36m north-west–south-east by 6.47m north-east–south-west and the single slot that was excavated through it suggested that it was up to 0.23m deep. Again the purpose of this feature is uncertain, however it may have fulfilled a similar function to [3012] (Group 8) and [3014] (Group 9) in Area 3 (discussed above).

Disuse Group 11: (6083); Figure 6: Section 26.4

- 6.44 The pit was infilled with a single deposit, (6083) (Group 11), from which 56 sherds of pottery pertaining to the period AD 50–100 were recovered. This suggests that it may have fallen out of use and been infilled during the Early Roman period, most probably during the latter half of the 1st century. Although the presence of the large pottery assemblage suggests that a component of domestic waste or even a structured deposit infilled this feature at least in part, the diffuse nature of the edges does suggest that erosion may have taken place prior to or during infilling. This in turn indicates that the pit was either left open for a period of time before it was infilled, or that it was infilled gradually.

A large shallow pit

Group 12: [6102], (6101); Figure 9

- 6.45 A fourth large, sub-rectangular pit, again with highly irregular edges, was uncovered close to the south-western limit of excavation within Area 6, [6102] (Group 12; Plate 8). The feature was fractionally smaller than [6084] (Group 10) to the north, being up to 5.2m long and up to 3.53m wide, surviving to a depth of just 0.04m. As before, the purpose of the feature is uncertain, however it may have fulfilled a similar function to the other large, shallow pits under discussion here. The irregular edges could again be a result of erosion through weathering, were the pit left open for a period of time in antiquity, but in this case this morphology could alternatively be a product of severe post-depositional truncation, for example via modern ploughing. This could have left only the deepest portions of the base of the feature behind, thus distorting the overall footprint.
- 6.46 The feature was infilled with a single silty deposit that was archaeologically sterile. It is nevertheless discussed here due to its similarity to the other large shallow pits that were uncovered in Areas 3 and 6, all of which appear to represent LIA to Early Roman features.



Plate 8: Pit [6102] (Group 12). Photograph looks south. Scale 4m.

A north-west–south-east road: overview

- 6.47 Evidence for a probable north-west–south-east thoroughfare running through the southern side of Area 6 was uncovered (Plates 9 and 10). As set out in the paragraphs that follow, the

evidence included post pits associated with fences that may have flanked the road, a series of later roadside ditches positioned either side of the thoroughfare and remnants the road surface itself. The road continued beyond the limits of Area 6 to the west and east, continuing through and beyond Area 9 to the east (discussed subsequently). In summary, the evidence presented in the paragraphs that follow together suggest that the thoroughfare may initially have been flanked by a fence line that was later replaced by an evolving sequence of roadside ditches.



Plate 9: Overview of the road. Photograph looks west across Area 6.



Plate 10: Overview of the road. Photograph looks north across Area 6.

A fence line flanking the southern side of the road

Group 174: [6029], (6027), (6028); [6046], (6045); [6069], (6068); Figure 9; Figure 10; Figure 12, Section 30.2

- 6.48 Three similarly sized pits were observed running along the northern side of the road. Given the fact that these features appeared to flank the southern side of an area that later came to be bounded by probable roadside ditches, they have been interpreted here as the poorly preserved remnants of a fence line that perhaps originally defined this trackway. If so, more pits presumably existed that have subsequently been lost to truncation, either through the creation of later ditches in antiquity, modern ploughing or a combination of the two. This is supported by the shallow depth of two of these features, [6046] and [6029], which were 0.07m and 0.26m deep respectively. Pit [6069] was somewhat better preserved, being 0.45m deep, however it too would presumably originally have been deeper than this. In contrast to their shallow depths, the pits were considerably sized in plan, being between 1.20m and 2.10m in diameter, thus suggesting that they were more probably dug to remove the fence posts after they fell out of use rather than as construction cuts for the posts themselves.
- 6.49 The pits were infilled with between one and two silty fills that cumulatively yielded nine sherds of LIA to Roman pottery that included seven more diagnostic sherds pertaining to the period 50 BC–AD 70. Taken together, this evidence suggests that this putative fence line fell out of use and was robbed during the LIA or Early Roman period.

A possible fence line flanking the northern side of the road

Group 175: [6065], (6064); [6075], (6073), (6074); [6077], (6076); Figure 9; Figure 10; Figure 12, Sections 25.1, 32.1 and 34.3

- 6.50 Two large sub-ovoid pits were present on the opposing side of the road, [6065] and [6075], which were up to 0.80m in diameter with depths of 0.17m and 0.20m respectively. A small circular feature, [6077], was noted in the base of [6075], which possessed a diameter of 0.31m and a depth of 0.23m. The clay-rich fill, (6076), could therefore perhaps represent the highly degraded remains of a post that was driven into the base of [6075] while it was still open. As such, these features have been interpreted here as post pits.
- 6.51 The pits were then presumably infilled with between one and two deposits of silty material that perhaps secured the posts in place. No artefacts or ecofacts were recovered from the fill of [6075] nor [6077], while [6065] produced four fragments of CBM dating to the period 1450–1700. This could be taken to suggest that these post pits are post-medieval in date, however their position at the base of the stratigraphic sequence, below an LIA to Early Roman roadside ditch (see Group 32, below), strongly suggests that these artefacts are intrusive in this context.
- 6.52 Taken together, the evidence suggests that these two shallow pits represent the poorly preserved remnants of an early fence line that flanked the northern side of the road. They may have acted as a counterpart to the southern fence represented by possible robber cuts [6029], [6046] and [6069] (Group 174, above). If so, it can be concluded that the first archaeologically recognizable incarnation of this road was approximately 3.4m in width.

Earliest roadside ditches flanking the southern side of the road

Group 21: [6012]; [6014] / [6019] / [6044] / [6048] / [6087] / [6122] / [6038] / [6042] / [6032] / [6033] / [6067]; (6011) / (6013) / (6018) / (6043) / (6047) / (6086) / (6121) / (6037) / (6041) / (6030) / (6031) / (6066), Figure 9; Figure 10; Figure 12, Sections 19.4, 24.1, 30.2, 39.1; Group 22: [6141] / [6191]; (6140) / (6190); Figure 10; Figure 14, Section 154.1

- 6.53 Within the confines of Area 9, the earliest archaeologically recognizable ditches that flanked the southern side of this probable road took the form of two linear features that are no doubt related: [6012] to the north-west and [6014] / [6044] / [6019] / [6087] / [6033] / [6122] / [6048] / [6038] / [6042] / [6067] to the south-east, collated here as Group 21. One slot was dug through the former, which demonstrated that it was 0.48m wide, surviving to a depth of just 0.08m, while the ten slots that were dug through the latter demonstrated that it possessed variable dimensions that more probably represent differential levels of survival rather than being indicative of the feature's original morphology. Towards the west, the ditch was just 0.35m wide and 0.09m deep, becoming gradually better preserved towards the east where it survived to a maximum width of 1.40m and a maximum depth of 0.45m.
- 6.54 The most easterly ditch fragment in this group truncated features associated with the robbing of a possible fence line (see Group 175, above), thus demonstrating that the robbing activity occurred before the ditch was constructed. It is possible that these two events were related, the posts having been removed to make way for the ditch.
- 6.55 Towards the western corner of Area 6 the south-eastern and north-western 'termini' of these two ditches either defined a 2.31m wide opening that permitted access and egress from the road to the area to the south, or else they originally formed one continuous feature, part of which was subsequently lost to post-depositional horizontal truncation (modern ploughing) in that location. As set out above, the poor preservation of the ditches in this area of the site strongly supports the latter interpretation.
- 6.56 The south-western end of the ditch was obscured by a gravel spread associated with a later incarnation of the road that was not removed during the strip, map and sample exercise. It seems likely, however that a 0.98m wide, 0.20m deep ditch [6141] / [6191] (Group 22) uncovered after the partial removal of the spread further towards the east represents a continuation of Group 21 beyond the gravel surface to the south-east. As such, it can be concluded that this ditch probably originally ran continuously for a distance in excess of 117.8m in antiquity.
- 6.57 After this probable roadside ditch fell out of use, it was infilled with a single fill along its entire length. These fills of Group 21 cumulatively yielded two sherds of pottery, perhaps of a general Iron Age date, while the fills of Group 22 yielded one sherd of Early Roman pottery pertaining to the period AD 50–100 and a Roman bow brooch, RF1 from slot [6141], which appeared to have been broken through being twisted. This slot also yielded the pin from a bow brooch, which could pertain to the LIA, Roman or early medieval periods.
- 6.58 The infilling of the ditch is therefore not well dated. However, in combination with dating evidence retrieved from the stratigraphically earlier robber cuts (see Group 175, above), it is suggested that this feature more probably fell out of use and was infilled during the Early Roman period, perhaps after AD 50 but before AD 70–100. That said, a fractionally earlier date of

infilling during the latter part of the LIA period cannot be entirely ruled out if the single sherd of Early Roman pottery is intrusive.

Second phase of southern roadside ditch construction (recutting of Group 21)

Group 24: [6004] / [6006], (6003) / (6005); Figure 9; Figure 12, Sections 14.1 and 15.2

- 6.59 After ditch slot [6012] (part of Group 21) had been infilled, the north-western end of the feature was recut as [6004] / [6006] (Group 24). This incarnation of the ditch was up to 1.12m wide and up to 0.25m deep. It survived for a length in excess of 7.51m, continuing beyond the western limit of Area 6. It may also have originally continued further towards the south-east, but if so it did not appear to survive in that location.
- 6.60 The ditch was subsequently infilled with a single silty fill that proved to be archaeologically sterile. Nevertheless, this infilling event is presumed to fall within this period due to the fact that the ditch almost certainly represents a later incarnation of [6012], which was more securely dated to this phase of activity on the site.

Group 25: [6040], (6039); Figure 9; Figure 10; Figure 12, Section 24.1

- 6.61 After ditch slot [6038] (also part of Group 21) was infilled, it was truncated by a long, narrow gully, [6040], which trended east–west but exhibited a gentle curve in plan. The feature was 4.24m long, 0.39m wide and 0.19m deep, appearing to lense out towards the east and west. Its purpose remains unclear, one possibility being that it represents the remnants of a wheel rut that formed after Group 21 fell out of use and was infilled. If so, the road must have remained in use for a period of time after the archaeologically visible southern roadside ditches discussed above were lost from the landscape.

Two or three phases of ditch construction along the northern side of the road

Group 26: [6143] / [6182] / [6180], (6142) / (6181) / (6179); [6060] / [6097] / [6106] / [6108], (6059) / (6096) / (6105) / (6107); [6021] / [6072] / [6008]; (6020) / (6007); Figure 9; Figure 10 Figure 12, Sections 36.1 and 34.3; Group 38: (6151); Figure 13, Section 41.1

- 6.62 Three shallow ditch fragments were identified, collated here as Group 26, which were aligned with one another. They are presumed to represent the poorly preserved remnants of what was once a single continuous ditch that flanked the northern side of the road under discussion here. Such an interpretation is made more plausible by the shallow depth of the surviving fragments of ditch that ranged between 0.08m and 0.36m. Additionally, the features gradually lensed out towards their edges, where they were presumably lost to post-depositional horizontal truncation induced by modern ploughing.
- 6.63 After this ditch fell out of use, each of the 10 excavated slots were infilled with a single silty deposit from which five sherds of pottery were retrieved, including one sherd of possible IA pottery and four sherds of pottery pertaining to the period 50 BC–AD 70. This suggests that the ditch was lost from the landscape at some point during the LIA to Roman transition, after 50 BC, perhaps prior to AD 70.
- 6.64 A gently mounded layer was recorded in section to the immediate north of the roadside ditch described above, (6151) (Group 38), which broadened from a feather edge along its northern

and southern flanks to a maximum thickness of 0.23m in the approximate center of the deposit. This layer of silty clay resembled redeposited natural and extended northwards for a distance of 2.10m from the northern edge of the ditch. It has therefore been interpreted here as the remnants of upcast from the digging of this roadside ditch. No artefacts were recovered from the layer, however it is presumed to be contemporary with the construction of Group 26 (see above).

Group 29: [6058] / [6063] / [6082] / [6089], (6057) / (6062) / (6081) / (6088) / (6194); [6187], (6186); [6195] / [6187], (6194) / (6186); Figure 10; Figure 12, Sections 25.3, 27.1 and 34.1; Figure 14, Section 150.2, 154.1

6.65 Three fragments of another probable ditch that once flanked the northern side of the thoroughfare were encountered towards the south-eastern end of the stretch of road under discussion here, collated here as Group 29. This feature again exhibited variable levels of preservation being between 0.55m and 0.70m wide and being between 0.06m and 0.50m deep, with each fragment gradually lensing out. Together, the fragments survived for a total length of 45.4m, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the south-east. Again, this incarnation of the northern roadside ditch probably originally continued further towards the north-west but did not survive in that location.

6.66 When the ditch fell out of use it was infilled with a single deposit that collectively yielded a small quantity of residual prehistoric worked flint and four small fragments of CBM pertaining to the period 1450–1700, which are presumed to be residual in this context.

6.67 Due the location of this roadside ditch c. 1.38m to the south of a separate incarnation of this landscape feature (see Group 26, discussed above), it is unlikely that the two ditches were extant at the same time. Which of the two came first cannot, however, be determined from the available evidence due to a lack of dating evidence and relevant stratigraphic relationships. The feature did, however, truncate post pit [6065] (part of Group 175, see above), which suggests that the fence line of which [6065] is presumed to have formed a part had fallen out of use by the time that this ditch was dug.

Group 32: [6050] / [6052], (6049) / (6051); [6035] / [6026] / [6056] / [6024] / [6017] / [6010], (6034) / (6025) / (6055) / (6009), (6016), (6023), (6022), (6015); Figure 9; Figure 10; Figure 12, Sections 18.3 and 27.3

6.68 Further towards the north-west, another section of ditch was noted in the form of one longer fragment, [6035] / [6026] / [6056] / [6024] / [6017] / [6010], and another shorter fragment [6050] / [6052] that were almost certainly originally conjoined, collated here as Group 32 (Plate 11). These two adjacent ditch segments were together over 51.5m long, up to 0.90m wide and up to 0.43m deep, lensing out towards the south-east and continuing beyond the limit of the excavation to the north-west. It is also possible, though it cannot be definitively proven, that these features represent a continuation of Group 29 (discussed above).

6.69 After this probable roadside ditch fell out of use, it was infilled with between one and two deposits of silty clay from which eight sherds of pottery were collectively recovered. These fragments possessed mixed date ranges that included two possible residual sherds of LBA/EIA pottery, five sherds spanning the period 50 BC to AD 410 and one more diagnostic sherd that

was manufactured between AD 50–200. It therefore seems likely that this feature fell out of use and was infilled during the LIA to Roman transition period, perhaps after AD 50.



Plate 11: Ditch slot [6024] (Group 32). Photograph looks west. Scale 1m.

Stratigraphically later phases of ditch construction and road use along the northern side of the road

Group 31: Construction: [6193] / [6119] / [6185]; [6126] / [6104] / [6145]; (6150); Figure 12, Section 36.1; Figure 13, Section 41.1; Figure 14, Section 154.1; Group 30: Disuse: (6192) / (6125) / (6103) / (6144) / (6118) / (6184); Figure 10

- 6.70 Towards the south-eastern end of the exposed section of the road, a stratigraphically later incarnation of the northern roadside ditch was observed in the form of two associated ditch fragments, [6193] / [6119] / [6185] and [6126] / [6104]. They no doubt originally formed one continuous feature and are thus collated here as Group 31. The ditch was up to 1.6m wide and up to 0.40m deep. It survived for a length in excess of 29.8m, continuing beyond the limit of the excavation to the south-east and having been horizontally truncated, presumably by later ploughing, to the north-west.
- 6.71 The ditch partially truncated the fills of earlier roadside ditch fragments [6060] / [6097] / [6106] / [6108] and [6143] / [6182] / [6180] (both part of Group 26) and [6195] / [6187] (part of Group 29), which had evidently fallen out of use and been infilled before this later feature was dug. It not clear whether this feature pre-dates or post-dates Group 32, however.
- 6.72 A 1.6m wide deposit of silty clay, (6150), was recorded in section to the immediate north of the ditch, which proved to be up to 0.26m thick and 1.60m wide. It possessed a somewhat domed appearance, growing thicker towards the middle of its total width and lensing out towards the edges. This deposit may therefore represent upcast from the digging of the ditch.
- 6.73 After the ditch fell out of use it was infilled with a single silty fill (Group 30) from which six sherds of pottery pertaining to the period AD 10–100 were collectively retrieved. This suggests that this feature may have fallen out of use during the 1st century AD, probably after AD 10.

Group 173: [6130], (6129); Figure 9

- 6.74 A small elongated ovoid feature, [6130] (Group 173) appeared to truncate the fill of [6052] (Group 32). It survived for a length of 0.94m and was up to 0.40m wide with a depth of just 0.12m. The function of the feature is uncertain. It could possibly form the only archaeologically visible remnant of a later incarnation of roadside ditch [6052] (Group 32) or could alternatively represent the unrelated remains of a wheel rut associated with the use of the road that formed after [6052] had been infilled. The feature was contained a single silty deposit that proved to be archaeologically sterile.

Stratigraphically latest phases of ditch construction and road use along the northern side of the road

Group 34: [6147], (6146); Figure 10; Figure 13, Section 41.1

- 6.75 After roadside ditch [6145] (part of Group 31) was infilled, it was partially truncated by a narrow ovoid feature, [6147] (Group 34). This feature was over 1.04m long, up to 1.02m wide and up to 0.31m deep. It appears to represent the poorly preserved remnants of a later recut to [6145], the bulk of which either did not survive or was not recognisable archaeologically due to similarities between the fill of the recut and the infill of the earlier ditch.
- 6.76 The possible recut was infilled with a single deposit that proved to be archaeologically sterile.

A metaled road surface

Group 35: (6189) / (6183); Figure 10

- 6.77 A compact layer of pebbles was identified within the footprint of this roadway near the eastern limit of excavation in Area 6. The formed a sub-rectangular shape in plan that was over 13.3m long, continuing beyond the eastern limit of the excavation, up to 4.43m wide and 0.05m deep. It seems probable that this gravel spread represents the remnants of the road surface. It must, however, represent a later incarnation of the road as the spread sealed the infill of several roadside ditches, including [6147] (part of Group 34, one of the latest additions to the northern complex of roadside ditches).
- 6.78 One sherd of pottery was incorporated within the gravel spread, which was too small and undiagnostic to be assigned to a period.

Group 36: [6149], (6148), (6188); Figure 10; Figure 13, Section 41.1; Figure 14, Section 154.1

- 6.79 One of the latest modifications to the road resulted in the creation of a shallow 'cut', [6149], in the center of the south-western end of the feature. The 'cut' was 7.13m long as seen and 4.48m wide and could represent an area of erosion within the surface of the road, perhaps induced by traction along its surface. The hollow was infilled with a basal silty fill (6148), which yielded a hobnail, one iron nail (RF 1) of uncertain date, and an upper sandy silty fill, (6188) from which 58 sherds of pottery pertaining to the period AD 50–100 were recovered. It is therefore possible that this material subsequently amassed in the hollow through the dumping of domestic waste.

Two associated inhumations

Group 27: [6100], Sk 6099, (6098), Figure 9; Figure 15; Group 28: [6093], Sk 6091, (6093), Figure 10; Figure 15

- 6.80 Two sub-rectangular grave cuts were identified close to the center of Area 6. The features were orientated north-east–south-west and were 7.18m apart. The graves were approximately aligned with the extrapolated extent of the northern complex of roadside ditches discussed above, however the ditches themselves did not survive in proximity to the burials, thus making it hard to definitively ascertain whether these graves were dug into one of the roadside ditches when it was open, or whether they were situated immediately adjacent to the ditch.
- 6.81 The most north-westerly of the two, Group 27, consisted of grave cut [6100], which was 2.05m long and 0.70m deep, surviving to a depth of 0.20m. It contained the partial remains of a single mature adult male, Sk 6099, buried in a supine position unaccompanied by grave goods (Plate 12). In life this individual had dental calculus (mineralised plaque) and joint disease of the thoracic, lumbar and cervical vertebrae. Given the shallow nature of the grave, it seems likely that the missing skeletal elements, including the head, were lost to horizontal truncation in the form of modern ploughing. Three sherds of pottery pertaining to the period 50 BC–AD 410 were present in the backfill of the grave, which probably represent accidental inclusions. A 51mm long slender lead rod of uncertain age and function was also present.
- 6.82 The more south-easterly grave, Group 28, consisted of grave cut [6093], which was 2.05m long, up to 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep. It contained the remains of a second adult male, Sk 6091, that was again laid out in a supine position, this time with the left leg slightly bent (Plate 13). The burial may have been intentionally accompanied by a small, slender lead rod of uncertain function, retrieved from an environmental sample, although the rod could alternatively represent an accidental inclusion. In life, the individual had dental caries and calculus formation as well as joint disease of the left hand, right elbow and lumbar and thoracic vertebrae. The vertebrae of this individual also provided evidence of Schmorl's Nodes, which can be induced when the spine is put under pressure through excessive lifting or bending. A possible healed fracture or myositis ossifications was identified on the left fibula. The grave was infilled with a single deposit that yielded one small fragment of pottery pertaining to the period AD 1225–1325. This is presumed to be intrusive in this context.
- 6.83 The presence of LIA to Roman pottery in the backfill of grave [6100], coupled with the fact that both graves appeared to respect the orientation of the LIA to Early Roman road, suggests that they represent LIA to Early Roman inhumations. Their burial context also concords with this interpretation, as contemporary extra-cemetery burials within or in close proximity to ditches have been found elsewhere in south-east Britain and beyond, including at Ewell in Surrey, West Thurrock, Essex, and as far afield as Nash on the Gwent levels in Wales to name but a few of many examples (Haslam and Haslam, 2021; Andrews 2009, 13–14; Meddens and Beasley 2001). In accord with Cunliffe (1991, 505), it is therefore suggested that this represents a minority burial rite that was nevertheless reasonably common practice, particularly in southern Britain, during the LIA and Roman periods.



Plate 12: Sk 6099 (Group 27). Photograph faces west. Scale 2m and 1m.



Plate 13: Sk 6093 (Group 28). Photograph looks east. Scale 0.5m.

Area 7

An animal burial

Group 177: [7057], (7056); Figure 17

- 6.84 A sub-circular pit, [7057], was uncovered close to the western limit of excavation in the central section of Area 7 (Plate 14). It was 0.87m in diameter, surviving to a depth of 0.06m. The near complete carcass of a sheep / goat was found within the feature. In association were two fragments of pottery pertaining to the early Roman period (AD 50–100), hence its inclusion in

this phase, which probably represent accidental inclusions within the backfill. Due to the small quantity of finds recovered, the possibility that these pottery sherds are residual in this context cannot be entirely ruled out, however.

- 6.85 Regardless of the age of the feature, the presence of the sheep carcass could simply represent the disposal of the corpse of a diseased farm animal in a convenient context below ground. However, should the feature be Roman in date, an alternative interpretation also exists. The carcass could represent the continuation of a prehistoric belief system into the Roman period, in which valuable objects, human remains and near-complete animal carcasses were sometimes interred in pits. Hill (1996 *passim*) and Cunliffe (1991) provide a plethora of Iron Age examples of such practices, while Woodward and Woodward (2004) chart the continuation of this and other forms of structured deposition into the Roman period with an emphasis on urban contexts. Recent developer funded work suggests such practices continued into the Early Roman period on rural sites in south-central and south-eastern Britain that are more comparable with the site under investigation here. An example from Kent can be found at Stone Castle near Dartford, where a crouched inhumation and a Roman brooch were variously recovered from pits dating to the LIA to Roman transition period (Haslam 2004; Haslam forthcoming). That said, the isolated nature of this burial could preclude this. These alternative possibilities should be further investigated at the publication stage.



Plate 14: Animal burial [7057] (Group 177). Photograph looks west. Scale 0.5m

Area 9

Continuation of the road: northern roadside ditches

Group 200: [9036], (9035); Figure 28; Figure 29, Section 145.1

- 6.86 The north-west–south-east road that was identified in Area 6 continued eastwards into Area 9 and beyond, as evidenced by two sets of roadside ditches. The most northerly of these, [9036], was 0.70m wide and 0.40m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the excavation to the east and west. The location and orientation of the feature suggests that it could represent either a continuation of roadside ditch [6143] / [6182] / [6180] (part of Group 29) or later roadside ditch [6185] (part of Group 31) in Area 6 to the west.

6.87 After the feature fell out of use, it was infilled with two silty deposits that yielded no finds.

Group 23: [9038], (9037); Figure 28; Figure 29, Section 145.1

6.88 Another possible roadside ditch, [9038] (Group 23), was identified 3.18m to the south of ditch [9036]. It was 0.60m wide, over 1.14m long, continuing beyond the edges of the excavation to the east and west, and up to 0.20m deep. It is possible that ditch [9038] represents a different phase of activity to [9036] along the northern side of the road given that it approximately aligns with [6187] (Group 29, see above) in Area 6 to the west.

6.89 The ditch contained one silty fill from which 23 sherds of pottery dating to the period AD 50–100 were recovered. The presence of this larger assemblage of Roman pottery provides the strongest evidence that this road either represents an Early Roman rather than an LIA feature, or that it continued in use into the Early Roman period.

Continuation of the southern roadside ditches

Group 51: [9040], (9039); Figure 28; Figure 29, Section 145.1

6.90 A probable ditch flanking the southern side of the road was identified in the form of [9040]. This section of ditch was 1m wide and 0.30m deep, continuing beyond the edges of the excavation to the north and south. Its location and orientation suggests that it may represent a continuation of [6191] (Group 22), which itself represents a continuation of Group 21 (see above).

A continuation of the road surface

Group 50: (9073) / (9042); Figure 29, Section 145.1

6.91 Between ditches [9040] and [9038], an area of hard standing was identified in the form of (9073) / (9042) (Group 50), recorded in section. This was 0.05m thick and was formed by a compact layer of pebble and cobble sized flint that had been laid to form a flat surface. It almost certainly represents a continuation of road surface (6189) / (6183) (Group 35) in Area 6.

6.92 Once the evidence relating to the probable road that was identified in Areas 6 and 9 is collated, it can be stated that it was over 142.2m long. Archaeologically visible incarnations of the road span the period from the LIA to Roman transition through to the end of the 1st century AD. Initially, it may have been flanked by fence lines that perhaps delineated adjacent field boundaries rather than the road itself, while later incarnations of the feature were flanked by ditches. The nature of the earlier road surfaces remains unknown, however the latest archaeologically visible incarnation of the thoroughfare was capped by a compact surface of gravel. The earliest incarnation of the road, delineated by the fence lines, was 3.4m wide. After the posts were replaced by ditches, the road appears to have been enlarged to a maximum possible width of 8.17m, before again decreasing to a probable minimum width of 3.24m. With the exception of the initial width of 3.4m, it should be noted that subsequent dimensions given here represent the maximum and minimum possible widths rather than absolute dimensions. This is because the stratigraphic and dating evidence was insufficient to accurately determine which of the northern and southern ditches were simultaneously extant. That said, the stratigraphic evidence that is available generally suggests that, after expansion, the feature narrowed over time.

Area 10

Boundary ditches

Group 69: [10088] / [10081], (10087) / (10080); Figure 30; Figure 40, Section 215.2

- 6.93 A south-west–north-east ditch was identified towards the northern end of Area 10. The feature possessed a butt end towards the south-west and appeared to merge with or be truncated by a probable associated boundary (discussed subsequently) to the north-east. The feature was 4.26m long, up to 0.65m wide and survived to a depth that did not exceed 0.13m. It probably represents the poorly preserved remnants of a field boundary.
- 6.94 A single clay-rich fill had amassed in the base of the feature from which two small scraps of pottery were retrieved that were too fragmentary and undiagnostic to be assigned to an archaeological period; also present was a small amount of possible flake hammerscale (<0.1g). Although the ditch is therefore undated through artefactual evidence, its spatial association with a later feature (see Group 68, below) suggests that it may pertain to the LIA to Early Roman period. The presence of hammerscale could indicate industrial activity in the vicinity of the feature during this period.

Group 68: [10091] / [10086] / [10083], (10090), (10085), (10082), (10089), (10084); Figure 30; Figure 40, Section 215.2

- 6.95 A second ditch, [10091] / [10086] / [10083] (Group 68) ran at a right angle to [10088] / [10081] (Group 69). The ditch was over 14.3m long, extending beyond the limit of the excavation to the north-west and south-east. It was up to 0.90m wide and up to 0.62m deep. It most probably represents a boundary ditch, perhaps within farmland.
- 6.96 The feature was infilled with between one and two deposits of clayey silt from which 14 sherds of pottery were recovered, the latest of which (11 sherds) pertained to the period AD 50–410. This suggests that the ditch fell out of use and was infilled during the Roman period. Two modern nails were also present, which are presumed to be intrusive.

Area 12

A large rectangular enclosure

- 6.97 A repeatedly recut ditch delineated three sides of a large rectangular enclosure in Area 12. As demonstrated in the paragraphs that follow, the enclosure was recut on several occasions during the LIA to Early Roman period.
- 6.98 The earlier incarnations of the ditches that defined this enclosure presumably originally extended for a length of 26m from the southern corner of Area 12 in a north-westerly direction before turning at a right angle and continuing towards the north-east for a further distance of 53.2m. They then turned again at an approximate right-angle and continued in a south-easterly direction up to and beyond the eastern limit of the excavation. As shown on Figures 41 and 42, the enclosure therefore possessed internal dimensions of c.51.8m south-west–north-east by over 35.7m north-west–south-east. As set out below, not all of the earlier recuts were identifiable along the entire perimeter of the enclosure, presumably due to truncation by later incarnations of the feature

Group 105: earliest archaeologically visible ditch: [12087], (12086); Figure 42; Figure 43, Section 173.2

- 6.99 The earliest archaeologically visible enclosure ditch, [12087] (Group 105), survived towards the western side of the enclosure, being visible within one excavated slot only. It was infilled with a single deposit from which six sherds of LIA to Roman pottery were recovered, including five diagnostic sherds pertaining to the period AD 50–100. This suggests that the earliest archaeologically visible iteration of this landscape feature was infilled during the latter part of the 1st-century, post-AD 50.

Group 106: recut 1: [12085], (12084); Figure 42; Figure 43, Section 173.2

- 6.100 The western side of the enclosure was then recut as [12085]. This recut was 0.94m wide and 0.31m deep and had been infilled with a single deposit that did not yield any finds.

Group 104: recut 2: [12090] / [12136] / [12185] / [12205] / [12211] / [12224] / [12280] / [12208], (12184) / (12204) / (12223) / (12248) / (12279), (12089), (12135), (12206), (12210), (12088), (12134), (12206) (12207), (12209); Figure 41; Figure 42; Figure 43, Sections 173.2, 173.4, 181.1 and 201.1a

- 6.101 The entirety of the enclosure was then recut as ditch [1290] / [12136] / [12185] / [12205] / [12211] / [12224] / [12280] (Group 104), that was up to 1.60m wide and up to 1m deep. It was infilled with between one and two deposits of silty clay that together produced 20 sherds of 1st-century pottery, 12 of which post-dated AD 50. This suggests that this incarnation of the enclosure was infilled during the Early Roman period, prior to AD 100.

Group 107: recut 3: [12254], (12253); Figure 41

- 6.102 An episode of maintenance of the enclosure ditch can be recognised through the discovery of recut [12254], visible within one slot along the northern edge of the enclosure. The recut was 1.4m wide and up to 0.8m deep.

Enlargement of the enclosure

Recut 4: Group 108: [12161] / [12252] / [12133] / [12278] / [12222], (12158), (12250), (12251), (12220), (12227), (12219), (12160), (12132), (12221), (12221), (12129), (12131), (12159), (12130); Figure 41; Figure 42; Figure 43, Section 181.1

- 6.103 The western and northern portions of the enclosure were later recut as ditch [12161] / [12252] / [12133] / [12278] / [12222] (Group 108), that was up to 2.2m wide and up to 1.07m deep. The creation of this ditch significantly modified the shape of the enclosure since the eastern return was not recut at this time. Instead, the northern boundary of the feature was extended further towards the north-east. The new section of ditch kinked slightly northwards before continuing in a north-easterly direction for a distance in excess of 17.6m. Henceforth, the internal dimensions of the enclosure were enlarged so that they were in excess of 68.6m south-west–north-east, continuing beyond the limit of the excavation to the north-east, by over 35.7m north-west–south-east, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the south-east.
- 6.104 The ditch was infilled with two deposits of clayey silt, from which 95 sherds of LIA to Roman pottery were collectively recovered, including 87 fragments pertaining to the period AD 50–100,

seven of which more probably post-date AD 70. Taken together, this suggests that this incarnation of the enclosure fell out of use and was infilled towards the end of the 1st century AD.

- 6.105 That said, it should be noted that the uppermost fill of slot [12161], a 0.19m thick deposit of silt, yielded a mixed assemblage of pottery that, in addition to a small quantity of Roman finds, included 40 fragments of late medieval material pertaining to the period 1425–1525. The presence of this medieval pottery in what would otherwise appear to be a Romano-British feature is worthy of some explanation. The assemblage cannot simply be dismissed as intrusive owing to its size, however the isolated nature of this medieval evidence in one slot only could indicate an excavation or recording error. For example, the material could herald from the poorly preserved remnants of a later pit or agricultural furrow that was indistinct and not recognized during excavation. Alternatively, upper fill (12158) could have amassed in the upper reaches of this ditch during a much later period if the earlier fills suffered post-depositional subsidence.

Western Extension: Group 118: [12229], (12218), (12225), (12215); Figure 42; Figure 43, Sections 201.1a and 201.1b

- 6.106 A stratigraphically later ditch, interpreted here as a westerly extension to the earlier enclosure, was then created, [12229] (Group 118). The feature was up to 1.4m wide and up to 0.21m deep and extended westwards from the western corner of the original enclosure for a distance in excess of 11.3m. It is therefore possible that a second enclosure henceforth adjoined the original to the west, thus transforming this landscape feature into a complex of at least two conjoined enclosures rather than a single entity.
- 6.107 After it fell out of use, three silty fills amassed within this ditch from which no finds were retrieved.

Western Extension Recut 1: Group 109: [12218], (12217), (12216), (12226); Figure 42; Figure 43, Sections 201.1a and 201.1b

- 6.108 The western extension was then recut as ditch [12218] (Group 109), which was up to 1.65m wide and up to 0.49m deep. After it fell out of use, three deposits of clayey silt amassed within it from which four pottery sherds pertaining to the period AD 50–100 were retrieved. This again suggests that this enclosure complex had fallen out of use by the end of the 1st century AD.

A small square enclosure

Group 103: [12233] / [12262] / [12237] / [12240] / [12274]; (12261), (12273), (12239), (12236), (12232), (12238), (12235), (12231); Figure 41; Figure 40, Section 204.3

- 6.109 Abutting this enclosure complex to the north was another, smaller enclosure that that was again defined by a ditch, [12233] / [12262] / [12237] / [12240] / [12274] (Group 103). The ditch was up to 0.79m deep and up to 0.45m deep and defined a sub-square area with internal dimensions of 14.9m north-west–south-east by 14.3 south-west–north-east. The function of this small enclosure is uncertain, one possibility being that it represents a small animal corral. A possible entranceway may have existed in the southern corner of the feature that was formed by the southern butt end of this enclosure ditch (Group 103) and the northern side of the large rectangular enclosure discussed above (Group 109).

- 6.110 A stratigraphic relationship between this small sub-square enclosure and the larger enclosure to the south unfortunately could not be deduced due to truncation by a modern land drain, however the two were aligned with each other and appeared to form part of the same organised landscape, thus suggesting they are contemporary.
- 6.111 After this enclosure fell out of use it was infilled with one fill in slots [12262] and [12274] and two fills in the remaining three slots that collectively produced 18 sherds of pottery spanning the period 50 BC–AD 410. Three of these were more diagnostic, having been produced between AD 50 and AD 100. As with the adjacent larger enclosure to the immediate south, it therefore seems possible that this landscape feature fell out of use and was infilled during the latter part of the 1st century AD.

Occupation debris / subsoil

Group 2: (12004) / (12225) / (12215); Figure 43, Section 164.1

- 6.112 A humic rich layer of clayey silt, (12004), was found at the base of the sequence in the southern corner of Area 12, where it was recorded in section only. The deposit was up to 0.08m thick and produced over 100 sherds of Roman pottery pertaining to the period AD 50–100. This suggests that it may represent a dump of domestic waste from a nearby settled area that was deposited during the early Roman period.

The eastern ring ditch

Group 111: [12128] / [12048] / [12031] / [12191] / [12201] / [12183] / [12048]; (12021) / (12064) / (12137) / (12154) / (12175) / (12202) / (12047): Figure 42; Figure 43, Sections 164.1 and 178.5

- 6.113 Situated within the large rectangular enclosure was a poorly preserved curvilinear feature that was up to 0.57m wide and no more than 0.17m deep [12128] / [12048] / [12031] / [12191] / [12201] / [12183] (Group 111). It continued beyond the limit of excavation to the south and appeared to lens out towards the north, presumably as a result of plough damage. The feature can, however, be extrapolated to form a circle with a diameter c. 11.6m and it can therefore be confidently interpreted as a ring ditch. The feature could represent an animal pen, however its dimensions do fall within the range expected for LIA to Early Roman roundhouses in southern England (Cunliffe 1991, 242–6). Such features are usually either delineated by a ring of posts, a circular gully or a combination of these two building techniques (*ibid.*). In this instance, the gully could represent either a foundation trench for roundhouse posts or a drainage channel dug around the dwelling to keep the living space dry (*ibid.*). If this interpretation holds true, it is possible that the large rectangular enclosure, within which the ring ditch sat, bounded an area of occupation.
- 6.114 The ring ditch was infilled with a single silty deposit from which 130 fragments of LIA to Roman pottery were recovered, the date ranges of which collectively suggested that the feature was infilled between AD 50 and AD 100. This suggests that this prehistoric building form continued in use into the Early Roman period within the confines of this site.

The western ring ditch

Group 113: [12155] / [12138] / [12010] / [12176] / [12065] / [12022] / [12203]; (12154) / (12137) / (12009) / (12202) / (12175) / (12064) / (12021) / (12200); Figure 42; Figure 43, Sections 179.5 and 196.2

- 6.115 The eastern ring ditch described above (see Group 111) sat adjacent to a smaller ring ditch to the west, defined by ditch [12155] / [12138] / [12010] / [12176] / [12065] / [12022] (Group 113). This ditch had been truncated or recut by a later ditch to the south (discussed subsequently), lensed out towards the north-east and was obscured or truncated by a later deposit to the north-west. It could nevertheless be extrapolated to form a circle in plan with an internal diameter of 7.7m. The feature could represent an animal pen; however its dimensions do again fall within the range expected of LIA to Early Roman roundhouses in southern England (Cunliffe 1991, 242–6). Consequently, it more probably represents a circular foundation trench or a drainage gully surrounding such a feature.
- 6.116 The ring ditch was infilled with a single silty deposit that collectively yielded 71 fragments of Roman pottery, the most diagnostic sherds of which suggested the ditch was infilled between AD 50–100, more probably after AD 70. This again suggests that roundhouses continued to be used into the Early Roman period on this site and that the two roundhouses under discussion here fell out of use at a similar time during the latter part of the 1st century AD.

Boundary ditches associated with the ring ditch complex

Group 114: [12012] / [12142] / [12020] / [12153] / [12006] / [12120], (12011) / (12141) / (12019) / (12153) / (12005) / (12007) / (12119) Figure 42; Figure 43, Section 155.1 and Group 115: [12029] / [12067] / [12018] / [12122], (12018) / (12066) / (12017) / (12121); Figure 42; Figure 43, Section 157.3

- 6.117 The western ring ditch appeared to be partially surrounded by a complex of external ditches in the form of [12012] / [12142] / [12020] / [12153] / [12006] / [12120] (Group 114) to the immediate south of the western ring ditch and [12029] / [12067] / [12018] / [12122] (Group 115) to the east of the western ring ditch. The former arced gently from east to west over a distance of 12.6m, before being truncated by a pit (Group 187, discussed subsequently). The latter ran north-eastwards from that same robber cut for a distance in excess of 5.29m before being truncated by a later feature. The ditches were up to 0.45m wide and up to 0.35m deep.
- 6.118 The stratigraphy encountered suggested that these ditches partially truncated and therefore replaced the western ring ditch, yet curiously they also appeared to approximately respect the whereabouts of the putative structure that the western ring ditch perhaps once defined. It is therefore not unreasonable to suppose that they surrounded a later incarnation of that landscape feature that was not visible archaeologically. Their purpose is uncertain, one possibility being that they acted as a supplementary property boundary that surrounded this area of possible settlement.
- 6.119 After these ditches fell out of use, they were infilled with between one and two deposits of silty clay that together yielded 145 fragments of 1st-century pottery. A total of 133 sherds of that assemblage pertained to the period AD 50–100, while the majority of that sub-set of material was more probably manufactured after AD 70. This strongly suggests that this small enclosure

fell out of use and was infilled towards the end of the 1st century AD. Also present was 12.9g of unclassified iron slag, the presence of which suggests that industrial activity may have taken place in the vicinity. Together the slag and pottery suggest that this ditch was infilled, at least in part, with a mixture of domestic and industrial waste when it fell out of use as a land boundary.

A large pit or robber cut

Group 187: [12016] / [12057], (12015) / (12056), (12055) / (12014), (12054) / (12013); Figure 42

- 6.120 A large, circular pit, [12016] / [12057] (Group 187), truncated the western corner of the small enclosure that surrounded the western ring ditch. It was up to 2.05m in diameter and was 0.73m deep.
- 6.121 After the feature fell out of use it was infilled with three deposits of clayey silt from which a large assemblage of Early Roman pottery was recovered amounting to more than 300 sherds. Within the context of this site, a relatively large charcoal assemblage was also recovered from environmental samples taken from each of the three fills that amounted to a total of 25.9g of material. Species present included *Prunus* sp. (cherry), *Corylus avellana* L. (hazel) and *Quercus* sp. (oak), with the assemblage being dominated by the latter. Animal bone recovered from these fills included small quantities of pig, sheep and cattle, which showed evidence of waterlogging.
- 6.122 The function of the pit is uncertain, however several possibilities are suggested here. The first and least probable of these is that the feature could represent a shallow well. It was clearly dug to a sufficient depth to reach the water table, hence the recovery of waterlogged ecofacts from its fills. That said, were it left open for any length of time, a lining would be expected to shore up the sides. This was not observed thus reducing the likelihood of this possibility. Perhaps a more plausible explanation is that the pit either represents a robber cut for the removal of a fence post that was perhaps associated with the aforementioned enclosure or alternatively a small quarry pit. On other contemporary sites in south-east and south-central Britain, quarry pits both large and small appear to have been intentionally dug through infilled boundaries, many of which were subsequently infilled with structured deposits. An exploration of the possible motives behind this practice lies beyond the scope of this document, suffice to note that such a pattern has been recognised elsewhere, for example West Thurrock in Kent, Ewell in Surrey and Viabes Farm, Oakridge and Old Kempshott Lane in Hampshire (see Andrews *et al* 2011, 47; Haslam and Haslam 2021; Oliver *et al* 1992, 70–1; Millett and Russell 1984, 54; Haslam 2012, 104).
- 6.123 This raises the possibility that the fills of this pit represent structured deposits. This suggestion is due to the presence of an unusually large assemblage of Roman pottery amounting to 361 sherds, all of which were tightly dated to the period AD 50–100, more probably post-AD 70. As set out previously, a late prehistoric tradition of interring valuable objects, including metal items, human skeletal remains, near-complete animal carcasses and large pottery assemblages (often of deliberately smashed vessels) in pits existed in southern Britain (Hill 1996 *passim*; Cunliffe 1991). This persisted into the Roman period, when such deposits sometimes appear to have been made to mark the beginning or the end of the ‘lives’ of landscape features, in particular buildings, boundaries, wells and quarries (Woodward and Woodward 2004; Haslam

and Haslam 2021; Woodward and Woodward 2004; Beasley 2006; Ross 1968). As such, further research is required to determine whether the contents of this pit, including the nature of the infill and the entire suite of finds present within it, fits within previously identified patterns of Early Roman structured deposition or rubbish disposal prior to publication. The large pottery assemblages recovered from the associated ditches may also be of relevance here and should be reassessed with this possibility in mind.

Period 3.2: Subsequent LIA to Early Roman Activity (mid-1st to 2nd Century AD)

- 6.124 A different phase of Early Roman activity may be archaeologically recognisable within the confines of Area 12. In summary, this activity was represented by a series of morphologically similar linear or 'L' shaped gullies and posthole groups that were generally aligned with each other or were arranged at approximate right-angles to each other, variously on a north-east–south-west or a north-west–south-east alignment. A layer was also present in the south-east corner of the area, that may represent an occupation deposit. As justified in the paragraphs that follow, these features are phased together here, variously owing to their similar alignments, the nature of the dating evidence recovered from them, their similar sizes and appearances and their relatively close proximities to one another. Together this suggests that they may have fulfilled similar functions and that they were perhaps extant either at the same time or at similar times. Possible functions include a collection of poorly preserved ditched enclosures, for example animal pens, or a series of poorly preserved rectangular buildings.
- 6.125 At least one of these features (see Group 119, below) could not have existed at the same time as the eastern roundhouses (see Group 111, above) since it extended into the footprint of that structure, hence the inclusion of these features in this separate sub-period. The reasons why this sub-period more probably represents a later rather than an earlier phase of Early Roman activity is justified in the paragraphs that follow, however none of the evidence presented definitively precludes an inversion of this formative phasing.

Area 12

A small enclosure or a clay and timber building?

Group 119: Gully [12157] / [12170] / [12246] / [12244], (12243) / (12156) / (12169) / (12245); Postholes [12181] (12179), (12180); [12242], (12241); Figure 42

- 6.126 An 'L'-shaped gully with near-vertical sides and a flat base was recorded in the south-central section of Area 12, [12157] / [12170] / [12246] / [12244] (Group 119). It possessed a rectangular to 'U' shaped profile in section and was up to 0.34m wide. The long-axis of the gully was orientated north-west–south-east and was 9.57m in length with a gently curved return towards the southern end that ran south-westwards for a further distance of 2.37m before lensing out. The feature was infilled with a single silty deposit from which three sherds of pottery pertaining to the period AD 10–100 were retrieved.
- 6.127 The feature could represent the partial remains of a rectangular enclosure, for example an animal pen, of Early Roman date. Alternatively and perhaps more probably, however, it could represent the poorly preserved remains of a beam slot associated with an earthfast Roman building. The dimensions of the feature are indeed in keeping with those that would be expected of a rural Romano-British clay and timber building, similar in nature to 'strip' buildings encountered in urban contexts throughout *Britannia*, which are typically long and narrow

(Perring 2002). What is more, beam slots tend to be relatively slender with relatively rectangular profiles and regular widths (*ibid.*), similar in nature to the gully in question here. If this feature does represent a building, then no trace of the western and northern walls survived archaeologically.

- 6.128 The degraded remains of two potentially associated posts, variously recorded in the field as a posthole and post pipe, may also have formed part of this landscape feature. Posthole [12181] was aligned with the southern return of the gully or beam slot, thus suggesting the presence of a structure that may have been c. 5.77m wide or more. Another posthole, [12242], appeared to augment the northern end of the gully or beam slot. Clay and timber buildings pertaining to this period were often constructed through the use of an array of building techniques that included earthfast posts and beam slots arranged at approximate right angles (*ibid.*).
- 6.129 As set out above, this structure cannot have been extant at the same time as the eastern roundhouse as the extrapolated footprints of the two overlap. If it does represent the poorly preserved remnants of a clay and timber building, it more probably represents a later phase of Early Roman activity on this site. This is because this rectangular building form is exclusively Roman, whereas the roundhouse form is more typical of the Iron Age in this part of *Britannia* (*ibid.*). A caveat must be included here as it has been widely demonstrated that roundhouses continued to be used during the Roman period, particularly in rural contexts (*ibid.*). That said, a reversion to that dwelling type after embracing more Romanized forms of architecture seems less probable.

Group 201: [12272] / [12270] / [12268], (12267) / (12269) / (12271); Figure 42

- 6.130 A morphologically similar feature to Group 119, [12272] / [12270] / [12268] (Group 201), was uncovered 0.7m to the east. It survived for a length of 4.41m and was up to 0.24m wide and 0.18m deep. It is possible that the feature represents an earlier or later incarnation of the ditch or beam slot previously described. Alternatively, if Group 201 and 119 were extant at the same time, they could together have formed a narrow corridor were this structure to represent a building.
- 6.131 The gully was infilled with a single silty deposit that yielded six sherds of LIA to Early Roman pottery, which may represent accidental inclusions within the fill of the feature.

Group 202: [12264] / [12258] / [12256], (12255) / (12257) / (12263); Postholes [12260], (12259); Figure 42

- 6.132 Situated between the northern ends of Groups 119 and 202 was a third morphologically similar gully, [12264] / [12258] / [12256] (Group 202), that extended northwards for a further distance of 5.83m. The feature was up to 0.34m wide and up to 0.26m deep. It contained a single fill that produced 13 sherds of pottery pertaining to the period AD 50–100 and 149.8g of unclassified iron slag. At least one post, [12260], was driven into the base of the gully. It is possible that this feature again represents an earlier or later iteration of the building or animal pen in question here. The presence of the pottery and slag suggests that it was infilled with a component of domestic and industrial waste when it fell out of use.

A second small enclosure or a clay and timber building?

Group 102: [12082] / [12080] / [12076] / [12078], (12081) / (12079) / (12075) / (12077); Figure 41; Figure 43, Section 157.7

- 6.133 A very similar 'L' shaped gully was observed c.15m to the north on the opposite site of the large rectangular enclosure. The long-axis of the feature was orientated north-east–south-west, covering a distance of 13.2m. A return was situated towards the northern end that ran north-westwards for a further distance of 2.42m before lensing out. The single silty fill of the gully produced 15 sherds of pottery pertaining to the period 50BC–AD410. For reasons outlined previously, this feature may therefore represent the poorly preserved remains of another small rectangular enclosure or, more probably, a clay and timber building.

A boundary ditch or a robber cut for a ground beam?

Group 112: [12069] / [12034] / [12037] / [12061], (12068), (12033), (12032), (12036), (12035), (12060), (12059), (12058); Figure 43, Section 183.1

- 6.134 To the west of the building or small enclosure, a fourth gully was observed, [12069] / [12034] / [12037] / [12061]. It was 10.7m long, up to 0.6m wide and up to 0.27m deep with a 'U' shaped profile. The feature was orientated at an approximate right-angle to the long-axis of the building or small enclosure previously discussed, being aligned north-east–south-west, parallel with the large rectangular enclosure described in Period 3.1. This further supports the notion that the enclosure was retained into this sub-period.
- 6.135 The function of the feature is unclear. Possibilities include but are not limited to a boundary ditch associated with a small sub-pen or a robber cut for a beamslot.
- 6.136 Four slots were dug through the gully, which demonstrated that it had been infilled with between one and three fills that together produced 15 sherds of LIA to Roman pottery pertaining to the period 50 BC–AD 410 and a large assemblage of charcoal.

Remnants of a post-built structure?

Group 190: [12043], (12042); [12039], (12038); [12046], (12045), (12044); [12063], (12062); [12041], (12040); Figure 41; Figure 43, Section 164.3

- 6.137 A cluster of four circular pits or postholes were noted c. 2.6m to the south of the aforementioned gully, collated here as Group 190. The pits were variably sized, being between 0.60m and 0.26m in diameter, with depths that ranged between 0.15m and 0.27m. One example, [12043], contained the remnants of a post pipe in the form of [12041].
- 6.138 Three of the features, [12063], [12039] and [12043], formed a 6.12m long row that was aligned with gully [12069] / [12034] / [12037] / [12061] (Group 112) to the north, while the fourth, [12046], was offset from the central post at a right angle. Their silty fills collectively yielded an assemblage of 26 sherds of LIA to Roman pottery pertaining to the period AD 50–410. The purpose(s) of the features are uncertain, however their regular arrangement does suggest a structural function that could include a rectangular building. An association with gully [12069] / [12034] / [12037] / [12061] (Group 112) should not be ruled out.

Group 120: [12178] / [12197] / [12195], (12194) / (12196) / (12177); Figure 41

- 6.139 Situated to the south of the postholes was a short gully remnant, the long-axis of which was again aligned north-east–south-west. The gully survived for a distance of 2.51m and possessed a width of 0.45m and a depth of 0.24m. The fill of the feature produced one fragment of daub and two sherds of pottery pertaining to the LIA to Roman period (50BC–AD 410).
- 6.140 The purpose of the feature is uncertain. Potential functions include but are not limited to the poorly preserved vestiges of a small enclosure or animal pen, the remnants of a beamslot or the remains of a robber cut for the removal of a ground beam.

Two pits or post pits

Group 189: [12053], (12052), (12051); [12193], (12192); Figure 42

- 6.141 Two circular pits or post pits were noted in the center of Area 12. The features were variably sized, possessing diameters that ranged between 0.96m in the case of [12053] and 0.54m in the case of the [12193]. The depth of the pits respectively ranged between 0.54m and 0.58m. They were infilled with between one and two silty deposits that together yielded an assemblage of 40 sherds of LIA to Early Roman pottery, 39 of which pertained to the period AD 50–100. This suggests that the features were infilled during the latter half of the 1st century AD.
- 6.142 The function(s) of these pits remain unknown. Given their proximity to the post-built structures described above it is possible that they represent the poorly preserved vestiges of similar features (i.e. post pits), however this cannot be proven from the available evidence.

An occupation deposit / dump of domestic waste

Group 122: (12230) / (12073) / (12023) / (12050) / (12074); Figure 42

- 6.143 An amorphous spread of material was identified in the southern part of Area 12 that appeared to seal the remains of the western ring ditch. The spread was up to 15.1m north–south by up to 8.93m east–west, with a maximum depth of 0.17m. Collectively recovered from the five slots that were dug through the deposit was a large assemblage of more than 1000 sherds of Roman pottery pertaining to the period AD 50–100, more probably post-dating AD 70, 10 fragments of daub, two iron nails, 7.5g of vitrified ceramic and 710.8g of unclassified iron slag. Taken together, this suggests that this layer represents a dump of domestic and industrial waste from a nearby settled area. The large quantity of pottery recovered is interesting and further work should be undertaken to determine whether any evidence of structured deposition can be found within the layer, or whether it represents generic rubbish disposal.

Period 4: Early to Middle Saxon activity (5th to 8th Century AD)

- 6.144 Early to Middle Saxon activity was limited to Area 6. Here, a small, unenclosed cemetery was discovered, in which 11 individuals were interred.

Area 6

An inhumation cemetery

- 6.145 A collection of 11 graves were discovered in the southern part of Area 6. Without exception, the graves contained inhumations that had been buried in supine positions. Nine were aligned

north-west–south-east, while two, [6203] and [6200], trended east–west. Overall the graves did not form a coherent pattern, but did express some elements of organisation. For example, none of the features intercut and they were fairly evenly spaced. The central cluster of five graves were between 0.7m and 1.04m apart. Four of these, [6166], [6157], [6172], and [6160] formed a relatively organised row that was orientated north-east–south-west. The outlying graves to the north and south were between 2.93m and 4.71m apart, while the three most southerly graves, [6206], [6203], [6200] also formed an approximate row that was similarly orientated north-east–south-west. Together, this small cemetery appears to have possessed a long, narrow footprint that extended across an area with a total length of c. 34.5m and a total width of c. 11.4m.

Group 39: [6178], Sk 6176, (6177); Figure 11; Figure 16

- 6.146 Grave [6178] was the most northerly of the Early to Middle Saxon graves that were uncovered on the site. It was 2m long, 0.67m wide and survived to a depth of 0.67. Interred within the grave were the remains of a middle-aged to mature adult, Sk 6176. The dentition of this individual exhibited evidence of dental calculus, caries and ante-mortem tooth loss. Joint disease of the lumbar vertebrae was also noted.
- 6.147 The grave was infilled with a single deposit of clayey silt from which seven residual sherds of pottery pertaining to the period 50 BC–AD 410 were recovered. These no doubt represent accidental inclusions within the fill of the feature.

Group 40: [6175], Sk 6173, (6175); Figure 11; Figure 16

- 6.148 Situated c. 2.28m to the south-west and offset by c.2.04m to the east was a second sub-rectangular grave, [6175]. The feature was 2.84m long and 1.13m wide, surviving to a depth of 0.18m. Within the cut were the remains of a mature male, Sk 6173. In life, this individual suffered from several dental problems that included dental caries and dental calculus, as well as joint disease of the left hip, right elbow and cervical vertebrae. Evidence of a healed fracture to the right ulna was also present.
- 6.149 After this individual had been lain within this grave, it was infilled with a single deposit of silty clay that produced nine sherds of pottery pertaining to the period AD 50–100. These artefacts must represent accidental, residual inclusions in this context.

Group 41: [6160], Sk 6159, (6160); Figure 11; Figure 15

- 6.150 Positioned c.3.03m further towards the south-east was a relatively small grave, [6160]. The feature was 1.8m long and 0.60m wide, surviving to a depth of just 0.07m. It contained the skeleton of a middle-aged adult of indeterminate sex (Plate 15). The individual had dental caries and dental calculus in life and also suffered from joint disease of the right foot and lumbar vertebrae. Evidence of Schmorl's Nodes (a common spinal disorder that can sometimes result in inflammation) were also noted; this can be an indicator of back strain induced by excessive bending or lifting. Grave goods included a small ceramic bead (RF2), found adjacent to the right wrist.
- 6.151 The grave was infilled with a single deposit from which one small fragment of pottery pertaining to the period 1225–1350 was recovered, which must be intrusive in this context.



Plate 15: SK 6159 (Group 41). Photograph looks north-west. Scale 2m

Group 42: [6172], Sk 6171, (6170); Figure 11; Figure 16

- 6.152 Situated 1.02m further towards the south-west was a fourth grave, [6172], that was 1.80m long, 0.56m wide and 0.20m deep. This grave contained Sk 6171, a middle adult female (Plate 16). The grave was infilled with a single silty deposit that produced one sherd of pottery pertaining to the period 50 BC–AD 410, which must be residual in this context. The pottery no doubt represents an accidental inclusion within the fill of the grave.



Plate 16: Sk 6171 (Group 42). Photograph looks north-west. Scale 2m.

Group 43: [6163], Sk 6162, (6163); Figure 11; Figure 15

- 6.153 Positioned 0.98m further towards the south-east was a fifth grave, [6163]. The feature was 2.36m long, 0.86m wide and no more than 0.14m deep. Buried within it was a mature adult female, Sk 6162 (Plate 17). The dentition indicated calculus, periodontal disease, caries and ante-mortem tooth loss in life. The individual had joint disease of the left femur, left calcaneus

and the lumbar and thoracic vertebrae, which were also affected by ankylosis (stiffening caused by bone fusion). Evidence of Schmorl's Nodes was also noted.

- 6.154 The grave was infilled with a single silty deposit from which one fragment of prehistoric to medieval daub was retrieved, which no doubt represents an accidental inclusion within the grave.



Plate 17: Sk 6162 (Group 43). Photograph looks north-west. Scale 2m.

Group 44: [6157], Sk 6156, (6155); Figure 11; Figure 15

- 6.155 Approximately 0.59m to the south-west was another grave, [6157]. The feature was 1.90m long, 0.80m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained the remains of a late middle-aged adult female, Sk 6156 (Plate 18). The dentition of this individual demonstrated that they suffered from calculus and periodontal disease in life. Joint disease was also evident in the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, while Schmorl's Nodes were also present. A possible Colle's fracture to the right radius was also present, a type of fracture that commonly occurs after a fall onto an outstretched hand.
- 6.156 The grave was infilled with a single silty deposit from which a small quantity of prehistoric worked flint was recovered, which must be residual in this context.



Plate 18: Sk 6156 (Group 44). photograph looks north-west. Scale 2m.

Group 45: [6166], Sk 6165, (6164); Figure 11; Figure 15

- 6.157 Situated 0.89m further towards the south-west was a seventh grave, [6166]. The feature was 2.04m long, 0.52m wide and 0.39m deep. Interred within it were the remains of a mature male, Sk 6165 (Plate 19). Severe dental calculus (mineralised plaque) characterised the dentition of this individual, who was also afflicted by a dental abscess and ante-mortem tooth loss. Joint disease of the right elbow and extensive joint disease of the vertebral column were also noted.
- 6.158 The grave was infilled with a single silty deposit that did not contain any artefacts or ecofacts.



Plate 19: Sk 6165 (Group 45). Photograph looks north-west. Scale 2m.

Group 46: [6169], Sk 6167, (6168); Figure 11; Figure 15

- 6.159 Located a further 5.4m to the south was an eighth grave, [6169]. The feature was 2.5m long, 1.15m wide and 0.10m deep. Contained within the feature was the remains of a young to middle-aged adult male, Sk 6167 (Plate 20). Severe dental calculus (mineralised plaque)

characterised the dentition of this individual, while they appear to also have been afflicted by osteoarthritis of the left wrist.

- 6.160 The burial was accompanied by an incomplete iron knife with an asymmetrical blade, RF4, a possible iron spear, RF3, a copper alloy buckle, RF9, as well as an unidentified composite object, perhaps of copper alloy and wood, RF6 (Plates 21–23).
- 6.161 The form and proportions of the spear suggest that it is a Swanton Type D2 due to the proportion of the surviving socket length (see Appendix B, Registered Finds, below). This type of weapon generally pertains to the 6th century and its distribution is concentrated in Kent and along the Thames. Although of British origin, it is commonly associated with Frankish-style pottery, which may provide a clue as to the cultural affiliations of the individual interred in this grave. The presence of this artefact suggests that this burial could date to the earlier part of the Saxon period, perhaps as early as the 6th century, although it is also possible that the spear could have been curated for a period of time before it was buried in this context.
- 6.162 The buckle is 'D' shaped with an elaborate shield on pin. The buckle plate is produced from a sheet of copper-alloy folded around the pin bar. It tapers from the buckle to the tip where it is perforated to hold two circular rivets. There are two triangular openwork sections at the tip of the plate. The buckle plate is decorated with multiple ring and dot motifs, the reverse is undecorated. No clear British parallel for the distinctive plate is known. This combined with the shield on pin suggests the buckle is a continental type. It is advised that strontium isotope analysis is undertaken on this individual.
- 6.163 Also found within this grave were two additional objects of uncertain form and function, RF 5 and RF 6, which appear to consist of mineralised wood. Within RF 6 is a fragment of curved copper-alloy sheet, which may represent a circular band that was wrapped around the object. It is possible that these nodules of wood represent the fragmentary remains of the spear shaft, although further specialist work is required in order to better determine form and function.
- 6.164 The grave was infilled with a single deposit from which four sherds of pottery pertaining to the LIA to Roman period and 800 BC–50 BC were retrieved. Again, these finds must represent accidental, residual inclusions within the backfill of the grave.



Plate 20: Sk 6167 (Group 46). Photograph looks west. Scale 2m.



Plate 21: Detail of the spearhead RF3 in situ, found in association with Sk 6167 (Group 46). Photograph looks north. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 22: Cu alloy buckle RF9 (foreground) with Fe alloy knife behind, RF4, found in association with Sk 6167 (Group 46). Photograph looks north. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 23: Unidentified composite object, perhaps of copper alloy and wood RF6 found in association with Sk 6167 (Group 46). Photograph looks west. Scale 0.5m.

Group 47: [6200], Sk 6198, (6199); Figure 11; Figure 16

- 6.165 Situated 4.77m further towards the south-west was a ninth grave, [6200], which was 1.97m long, 0.67m wide and 0.13m deep. It contained the remains of an adolescent of indeterminate sex, Sk 6198. Dental calculus was noted on the teeth of this individual.
- 6.166 The feature was infilled with a single silty deposit from which one residual fragment of possible Iron Age pottery was retrieved, along with a small quantity of residual worked flint and a single pyrite nodule. Three fragments of CBM pertaining to the period 1450–1700 were also present, which must be intrusive in this context. A possible metal musket ball was also found, which must represent another intrusive artefact.

Group 48: [6203], Sk 6201, (6202); Figure 11; Figure 16

- 6.167 A further 3.3m towards the south-west, another grave was present, [6203]. This feature was 1.93m long, 0.63m wide and 0.15m deep. The skeleton of a middle-aged adult of indeterminate sex was present within the grave. The individual had dental carries and calculus. They were buried with an incomplete iron knife (RF 16) that was found next to the left hand along the left femur. This could perhaps indicate that the individual was left-handed.
- 6.168 The grave was infilled with a single deposit of silty material, from which four sherds of LIA to Roman pottery were recovered, along with five small fragments of earlier ceramic pertaining to the period 800 BC–50 BC. An undiagnostic glass shatter sherd was also present, as were three pieces of residual prehistoric worked flint. These artefacts no doubt represent accidental inclusions within the fill of the grave.

Group 49: [6206], Sk 6204, (6205); Figure 11; Figure 16

- 6.169 The eleventh and most southerly grave in this group consisted of [6206]. The feature was 1.71m long, 0.49m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained the remains of a mature individual of indeterminate sex. The dentition of this individual exhibited evidence of dental caries and calculus. Evidence of porotic hyperostosis (the development of spongy tissue around the cranial vault) was also noted, which can result from anemia induced by an iron-deficient diet.
- 6.170 The silty fill of the feature produced 15 sherds of pottery pertaining to the periods AD 50–100 and 800–50 BC, which must represent accidental, residual inclusions within the backfill of the grave.

Period 5.1: Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman (9th to 11th Century AD) or Earlier Activity

- 6.171 A collection of features that variously yielded small quantities of Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman pottery or possessed morphologies suggestive of landscape features pertaining to this period were identified in two areas during the strip, map and sample exercise, namely adjacent Areas 7 and 10. A single outlying boundary ditch was also noted in Area 11. This therefore suggests the potential presence of a concentration of early medieval activity towards the south-eastern corner of the site. That said, unless otherwise stated, the dating evidence recovered from these features was generally small in quantity, and as such they are, for the most part, not securely phased at present. In most cases, earlier date ranges should not be discounted, particularly the prehistoric and Roman periods. This is evaluated on a group by group basis in the paragraphs that follow.

Area 10

Group 88: [10020] / [10048] / [10112] / [10162]; (10047) / (10111) / (10161), (10021), (10022); Figure 32; Figure 40, Sections 215.1 and 232.1

- 6.172 A ditch was uncovered in the southern end of Area 10, [10020] / [10048] / [10112] / [10162] (Group 88), that was orientated north-west–south-east. It was up to 1.65m wide, up to 0.46m deep and over 20.5m long, continuing beyond the limits of the excavation to the north-west and south-east.
- 6.173 After the feature fell out of use, two silty clay fills amassed within slot [10020], while a single fill was recorded in the remaining slots. Seven sherds of pottery, including three early medieval sherds, were collectively retrieved from these deposits, as was RF 126, an oval buckle of uncertain date, RF 128, a knife consisting of a complete blade and an incomplete tang, RF 125, an iron reaping hook, 2413.3g of tapped slag, 591.7g of unclassified slag amalgam, 782.1g of unclassified iron slag, 204.8g of runned slag and a plano-convex cake of slag (372.5g). Residual Iron Age pottery was also present, alongside three sherds pertaining to the period AD 850–1000. In addition, a fragment of daub, a nail of uncertain date and a Roman to early post-medieval stone spindle whorl were recovered from the fills of the ditch.
- 6.174 Taken together, this evidence suggests that this ditch was infilled with material that included a component of domestic waste and a larger component of industrial debris after it fell out of use as a land boundary, perhaps during the Late Saxon period. The presence of the reaping hook is noteworthy given that the area to the immediate south may have been set aside for crop processing during this period (see Kilns or Ovens 1 to 6, below).

Kiln or Oven 1: Structure [10113] / [10027]

- 6.175 A 2.95m long, 1.3m wide structure was uncovered in the western side of the central section of Area 10, Structure [10113] / [10027] (Figure 31). The feature was sub-ovoid in plan, being slightly 'waisted' (narrowing fractionally towards the center) and surviving to a depth of up to 0.30m. The feature was not well dated, however its apparent association with similar features in the immediate area that yielded Late Saxon dating evidence suggests that it may pertain to that period. The stratigraphy as recorded tentatively suggests that it was rebuilt at least once, although further research is required to verify the possibility and feasibility of this.
- 6.176 The feature was excavated in eight quadrants (Figure 33, Plan 240) however the fills of these quadrants have been equated in the paragraphs that follow on the grounds that the sediments and finds recovered from them were very similar in nature and frequency. A significant assemblage of charcoal and a great deal of fired clay was retrieved from the various fills, amounting to over 119kg in total, that appeared to have been made from a silty, yet very slightly sandy alluvial source. The temperature to which the clay was heated did not vitrify any components of the fragments, indicating no temperatures in excess of around 750–800 degrees, more likely in the 650–750 range (see Appendix B, Fired Clay; this was the case for all fired clay recovered from this and the other five kilns identified on the site). The material is therefore interpreted as deriving from a kiln, though one that was used for lower rather than higher temperature processes. Wattle impressions in some fragments of clay suggest that the kiln possessed a wattle and daub superstructure, which presumably sat over pit [10013] / [10027], later collapsing into the feature. As justified in the paragraphs that follow, the feature may represent a corn drying kiln.

Group 71: initial construction: [10140] / [10133] / [10134] / [10135]; (10139); Figure 31; Figure 33, Plan 240

- 6.177 The initial construction of the feature involved the excavation of an ovoid cut into the underlying natural silty clay. The cut was orientated north-west–south-east and was up to 1.12m wide at the western end, narrowing to 0.95m towards the eastern end. As shown in Section 235.2b (Figure 33), the longitudinal profile was somewhat uneven, possessing a distinct step at the southern end. Here the construction cut sloped gently downwards in a northerly direction over a distance of c.0.85m to a depth of c.0.15m before rising fractionally. It then sloped downwards more steeply to a depth of c.0.30m over a further distance of c.0.20m. The remainder of the feature then flattened off, before the far northern side rose again, exhibiting a gentle, concave profile with a gradual break of slope towards the base and a sharp break of slope at the top (235.2a, Figure 33). Cross-sections recorded at regular intervals through the width of the feature also generally possessed stepped profiles, in which the northern and southern sides sloped steeply downwards, exhibiting a concave to straight profile. The edges then flattened off before sloping downwards again and culminating in a sharp break of slope at the base. This profile is most clearly demonstrated by Section 239.2 (Figure 33). The base itself was generally concave (Sections 239.1, 239.3, 235.1a, 235.1b, Figure 33) but in places trended towards a flatter profile (Sections 239.2, Figure 33).
- 6.178 During excavation it was suggested that the stoke pit of the kiln is represented by the somewhat deeper, somewhat wider western end of the feature, while the flue could be represented by the somewhat shallower, narrower eastern end. This is speculative, however, as further research

is required to better understand the morphology and function of the feature. Why it appeared to be stepped is also uncertain at this stage and again further research is required to better understand this.

- 6.179 A thin, discontinuous deposit of clay, (10139), appeared to have been applied to the sides and perhaps the base of the feature (Section 239.2, Figure 33). The clay was pinkish in colour, presumably due to the effects of heat, and it was no more than 0.3m thick. It was interpreted as the remains of a poorly preserved clay lining during excavation, which may be correct, however, it could alternatively represent a layer of heat-affected natural surrounding the feature, rather than being part of the kiln itself. That said, the deposit was sampled and yielded less than 10 grains of *Avena* sp. (oat caryopses) but more than 100 grains of *Triticum aestivum* L. (bread / club wheat caryopses). This large quantity of cereal grain suggests two things: that this feature perhaps functioned as a corn dryer and that this deposit formed part of the kiln itself rather than representing heat-affected natural.

Group 72: first disuse? (10138); Figure 33, Section 239.2 and 239.3

- 6.180 The first evidence of disuse was found in fill (10138), which yielded a very large quantity of fired clay and a single pottery fragment that is thought to represent a post-Roman pottery sherd, although the sherd was not closely dated. The fired clay no doubt derives from the demolition of the superstructure, which appears to have collapsed into the feature, while the sherd probably represents an accidental inclusion. This deposit infilled the south-east corner of the feature and was up to 0.30m thick. Its contents are discussed in detail in Appendix B: Fired Clay (below).
- 6.181 Samples taken from this fill yielded an assemblage of 74 cereal grains, including *Avena* sp. (oat), *Hordeum var nudum* L. (naked barley), *Triticum aestivum* L. (bread / club wheat) and *Triticum spelta* sp. (spelt). These grains may have amassed during the life of the feature, later becoming incorporated within this demolition debris. Their presence further supports the corn dryer interpretation.

Group 73: reconstruction and reuse? (10137), (10136) / (10132); Figure 33, Section 239.2 and 239.3

- 6.182 It is possible that this kiln was then recut and reconstructed, during which a second clay lining was smoothed across the sides. Evidence for this event is provided by Section 239.2, which appears to show clay lining (10136) stratigraphically above demolition layer (10138) (Group 72, discussed above). The clay lining was up to 0.05m thick and again exhibited signs of heat affectation due to its pink hue. This deposit again yielded over 100 cereal grains that included a small quantity of *Avena* sp. (oat) and a far larger quantity of *Triticum aestivum* L. (bread / club wheat), thus suggesting continued use as a corn dryer.

Group 74: final disuse and subsequent collapse? (10131), (10130); Figure 33, Plan 240

- 6.183 The final episode in the life of this feature again involved the accumulation of a probable demolition deposit within it. This contained very frequent burnt clay fragments, which no doubt derived from the collapsed superstructure of the kiln. Also present were over 130 grains of *Avena* sp. and over 300 grains of *Triticum aestivum* L. (bread / club wheat), which again are

presumed to have accumulated while this feature was still in use. An incomplete modern nail shank was also recovered, presumed to be intrusive in this context.

Kiln or Oven 2: Structure [10259]

Group 75: construction and use or disuse [10259], (10258), (10257), (10256), (10255); Figure 31

- 6.184 A second ovoid feature was situated just over 3m to the south. It was also aligned north-west–south-east and was up to 3.47m long, up to 1.48m wide and up to 0.80m deep. The feature possessed concave sides with sharp breaks of slope at the top, curving gradually downwards to form a rounded, concave base. It was similar in size and shape to other features interpreted as corn drying kilns in this area of the site, but notably did not produce cereal grains. The feature was infilled six distinct deposits, described here in stratigraphic order from oldest to youngest.
- 6.185 The primary fill of the feature, (10258), was 0.08m to 0.25m thick. It consisted of a dark, clayey silty from which no finds were recovered. If this feature does represent a kiln, it is possible that this material amassed within it while it was still standing, either during its final firings or subsequently through natural silting during early stages of abandonment. The lack of any detectable ash, charcoal, grain or industrial residue within the layer suggests the latter.
- 6.186 The primary fill was sealed by a compact, reddish, clay-rich secondary fill, (10257), which was up to 0.10m thick. It appeared to be largely composed of burnt clay fragments (not sampled in this instance). This material could represent the collapsed superstructure of the kiln or could alternatively form part of an *in situ* fired clay lining. Its position in the stratigraphic sequence above primary fill (10258) is more suggestive of the latter.
- 6.187 The possible lining was sealed by silty clay tertiary fill (10256) that was up to 0.08m deep. It was light blueish-white in colour, resembling ash. This was sealed by a dark clayey silty layer of charcoal-rich material, (10255), which again resembled ash. It is therefore possible that these fills either derive from a final firing of this possible kiln, or else were produced within a nearby kiln before being raked out and dumped in this disused feature.

Group 203: disuse (10254), (10253)

- 6.188 Quinary fill (10254) consisted of a compact layer of yellowish to light brown silty clay, again rich in fired clay fragments (not sampled). The deposit was 0.35m to 0.40m thick and may represent the collapsed superstructure of this kiln.
- 6.189 Sealing this probable demolition deposit was an uppermost fill of mid-greyish brown silty clay, (10254). It was up to 0.25m thick and may either have been dumped within this feature to level it, or else amassed gradually via natural silting after this possible kiln was abandoned.

Kiln or Oven 3: Structure [10246] / [10261]

Group 76: construction and use? [10246], (10245), (10244); Figure 34, Section 264.1; Figure 35, Section 262.1

- 6.190 A third ovoid pit, Structure [10246] / [10261], was situated to c.3.59m the east of Kiln 1 (Structure [10113]) and c.5.14m to the north of Kiln 2 (Structure [10259]). The feature was more compact than the other putative kilns under discussion here, being 2.37m long, 1.56m wide and up to

0.40m deep. It possessed concave, gently sloping sides and a flat base (Figure 34, Section 264.1). The feature was infilled with three deposits, discussed below from oldest to youngest.

- 6.191 Primary fill (10245) consisted of a 0.10m thick compact deposit of reddish clay, again interpreted here either as the remnants of a fired clay lining or the collapsed remnants of a superstructure. One small fragment of possible post-Roman pottery was recovered, which may represent an accidental inclusion.

Group 78: use and / or disuse? (10244); (10243)

- 6.192 Sealing the fired clay was secondary fill (10244), a distinctive light grey deposit of ashy material, within which occasional small pieces of a chalk-like substance were observed. A total of 81 cereal grains were recovered from a sample of this deposit that included *Avena* sp. (oat), *Hordeum vulgare* L. (six-row hulled barley), *Triticum aestivum* L. (bread / club wheat). Also present were six garden peas (*Pisum sativum*) and a fragment of probable post-Roman pottery. It is possible that this 0.15m thick fill amassed when the kiln was in use or could alternatively have been dumped within the feature after it fell out of use. Assuming that the deposit formed *in situ*, its contents suggests that this feature may again have functioned as a corn dryer.
- 6.193 The uppermost fill of this pit, (10243), was composed of a mid-brownish silty clay. It is possible that this 0.15m thick deposit was either dumped into the top of this feature to level it, or that it amassed in the upper reaches of the feature through natural silting after it was abandoned.

Kiln or Oven 4: Structure [10030]

- 6.194 A long, thin pit was discovered to the south-west, which was orientated north-east–south-west at an approximate right-angle to the three smaller kilns discussed thus far. The feature was 7.69m long, having been truncated by a later pit to the south-west, up to 2.25m wide and up to 0.80m deep.
- 6.195 This feature was excavated in eight quadrants, however for clarity and brevity the fills from those quadrants have been collated and are discussed in groups in the paragraphs that follow. This is due to the apparent identical natures of the collated fills in terms of their composition, the finds that were recovered from them and their relative positions in the stratigraphic sequence.

Group 83: construction and use: [10223], (10225) / (10229) / (10226) / (10235) / (10224) / (10219) / (10236) / (10227) / (10202) / (10203) / (10204) / (10189) / (10183) / (10076) / (10220); Figure 31; Figure 36, Plans 250

- 6.196 The kiln was lined with fired clay that in this case was up to 0.30m thick. Of particular note was context (10225), which appeared to be composed of mud bricks. These bricks, though in poor condition, could be measured at 60x30cm, corresponding in size to the Roman 'bipedalis' type, which when unfired themselves, were used for *opus latericium* masonry (Plates 24 and 25). Unfortunately, these bricks were too fragile to be recovered complete and as such, interpretation is based upon on-site recording and photography (Plate 25). In contrast to this possible Roman date of inception for this feature, the latest dating evidence recovered from these fills took the form of three sherds of pottery that pertained to the Late Saxon period (AD 850–1050), although notably four small scraps of Roman or prehistoric pottery were retrieved from environmental samples taken from these contexts.

6.197 Further uncertainty regarding dating is introduced by the fact that Roman corn dryers are more commonly 'T' shaped in plan (Goodchild 2012), a morphology that does not appear to fit with the features under discussion here. Similarly, Mid- to Late-Saxon corn dryers and malting ovens are often 'L' shaped (Hamerow 2012), however, a morphologically identical ovoid example that mirrors the ovens under discussion here, replete with a burnt clay lining and a collapsed clay superstructure, was unearthed in the Kentish region at Ebbsfleet. This was dated to the Mid- to Late Saxon period (Andrews *et al* 2011). Nevertheless, a Roman date of inception for the corn dryers on this site should not be discounted at this stage as the evidence is unclear. Further comparative analysis with Roman and post-Roman corn drying kilns is therefore required prior to publication.

Group 82: disuse: (10175), (10206), (10205), (10218), (10217), (10177), (10178), (10176), (10121), (10075), (10074), (10057), (10056), (10055)

6.198 The feature contained a mass of fills that have been collated here as Group 82. They produced a large quantity of fired clay that amounted to almost 8.5kg of material that is presumed to derive from the collapsed lining, walls and roof of the structure. The contents of these fills are detailed in Appendix B (fired clay). In brief, the recorded remnants of the collapsed kiln elements, as recorded stratigraphically from earliest to latest, suggest that the ceiling/roof of the structure fell first, after which the walls folded inwards thus burying the roof collapse material. As with the other two thermal installations that were sampled, only one fabric of fired clay was identified, which in all cases appeared to derive from the same alluvial source. Numerous fragments were characterised by the impression of a woven network of withies, which must have provided the above-ground frame upon which the daub was applied. Present within these fills were over 100 cereal grains and a single sherd of probable post-Roman pottery of uncertain date.

Group 84: closing deposit? [10222], (10216), (10228), (10211)

6.199 The southern end of the feature was truncated by a large circular pit, [10222]. The feature was up to 3.6m in diameter and up to 0.50m deep. It had been infilled with three deposits, the first of which, (10216), consisted of a silty grey fill that was 0.15m thick. Sitting on top of this was a large, somewhat irregular burnt stone, (10228), that could represent an anvil. This in turn was sealed by two more deposits of silty clay, (10211) and (10221), that infilled the pit in its entirety. The lowest of these produced 8.7g of unclassified iron slag that appeared to have been dumped within this feature, while the uppermost produced five sherds of pottery pertaining to the period AD 800–1050 along with 13 pieces of prehistoric to medieval daub. The function of the anvil stone remains uncertain in this context as it would appear to have been redeposited here rather than being in its primary context. Consequently, it could represent an example of structured deposition, perhaps a closing deposit to mark the end of the life of the kiln, however further work would be required to ascertain this.

6.200 The presence of the slag could be taken to suggest that the kiln played a role in iron working, however this is deemed unlikely for several reasons. First, the slag was retrieved from a fill that amassed in the kiln after it fell out of use rather than accumulating during its active use. Secondly, the temperature (650–750 degrees) to which the clay lining of the kiln was exposed to is not thought to have been high enough to melt iron (1535 degrees) nor copper (1084.62 degrees) (periodic-table.org 2019). Thirdly, the quantity of slag recovered is considered smaller

than would normally be expected for a production site. As such, the corn dryer interpretation is preferred.



Plate 24: Overview of the central and north-eastern portions of Kiln [10030]. Photograph looks north-west.



Plate 25: Kiln [10030] (Group 83) under excavation showing the clay lining in detail. Photograph looks south.

Kiln or Oven 5: Structure [10029]

- 6.201 A fifth possible oven was uncovered to the north-east, [10029] (Plates 26 and 27). The feature was 8.4m long and up to 1.56m wide to the north-east, tapering to a width of 0.9m to the south-west. It survived to a maximum depth of 0.80m. The sides of the feature were somewhat irregular but were generally gently sloping and concave (Figure 36, Sections 256.1, 256.2). The northern end of the feature also possessed a step in the base that led down to a deeper chamber (Figure 36, Plan 258.3).

Group 79: construction and use: [10119], (10234) / (10171) / (10174) / (10124) / (10123) / (10120) / (10122) / (10141); Figure 31

- 6.202 The primary fill of the feature consisted of a reddish clay that was up to 0.15m thick, (10234) / (10171) / (10174) / (10124) / (10123) / (10120) / (10122) / (10141) (Figure 36, Plan 250). This deposit may represent an *in situ* clay lining (see Appendix B, Fired Clay, below). The pinkish red colour of the clay suggests that it was heat affected.

Group 80: disuse: (10199); (10237) / (10207) / (10208); (10197) / (10194) / (10172) / (10114) / (10115) / (10116) / (10196) / (10169)

- 6.203 The secondary fills of the feature, collated here as Group 80, produced a very large assemblage of material that could derive from the collapsed superstructure of a kiln (Plate 26). This is discussed in detail in Appendix B (see Fired Clay, below) but is summarized here. The earliest of these fills, (10199), included a component of lime mortar, while the overlying fills contained large quantities of fired clay. The fired clay is again thought to have been exposed to temperatures in the 650–750-degree range (see Appendix B, Fired Clay). Included within these fills were over 100 cereal grains that included *Triticum aestivum* L. (bread / club wheat), *Avena* sp. (oat), *Triticum spelta* sp. (spelt) and *Triticum/secale* sp. (wheat / rye) and 0.5g of runned slag, which is thought likely to be intrusive for the reasons set out above (see Group 84). Micromorphological samples taken through these fills confirmed the suspicion that they formed through dumping and / or collapse rather than *in situ* burning.

Group 204: (10173) / (10170) / (10118) / (10117) / (10054)

- 6.204 A kubiena tin sample straddled the (10114) (Group 80) and the (10117) (Group 204) boundary. A distinct horizon was observed between Group 80 and Group 204, thus suggesting the presence of two distinct infilling events. The somewhat heterogeneous fills collated here as Group 204 contained a lesser amount of fired clay and may have amassed from rapid back-filling on top of the collapsed structure, while the fired clay fragments may represent remnants of the superstructure that were incorporated in the later backfill. Witty impressions were again noted in fired clay fragment (10170), thus suggesting that, like Kiln 1 (see above), the superstructure of this kiln was partially composed of wattle and daub. Also present were more than 50 cereal grains that included *Hordeum vulgare* L. (six-row hulled barley), *Hordeum distichon* L. (two-row barley), *Hordeum var nudum* L. (naked barley), *Triticum aestivum* L. (bread / club wheat), *Avena* sp. (oat), *Triticum spelta* sp. (spelt) and *Triticum/secale* sp. (wheat / rye). Taken together, the evidence presented here suggests that this feature represents the collapsed remains of a corn drying kiln. This is again suggested by micromorphological samples, which suggested dumping or collapse rather than *in situ* burning.

Group 110: closing deposit: [10214], (10233), (10231), (10232), (10213), (10215), (10212)

- 6.205 The south-western end of the feature may have been truncated by a pit [10213] (not illustrated) or could alternatively have been infilled in a different way to the rest of the feature. It contained a silty grey fill (10233) that was just 0.05m deep. Three associated animal bone groups (ABGs), the near-complete skeletons of two pigs, at least one of which was peri-natal, were lain on top of this and recorded as (10231) and (10232). A single sherd of EIA-EIA/MIA transition pottery was found in association with these burials, which must be residual in this context. Sealing the animal burials was a 0.39m deep tertiary fill, (10213), which yielded a complete penannular

buckle or brooch, <RF 126>, of Roman to early medieval date. The plain terminals could also suggest that the object is a simple iron loop which has been slightly bent. Also present were 25 fragments of daub, that may have been redeposited in this context from the kiln. A third pig, (10215), was then placed on top of that deposit. The uppermost fill of the pit, (10212), infilled the remainder of the feature. Included in the fill were four sherds of Late Saxon pottery, the presence of which may date the infilling of this pit to the period AD 850–1050, and 1.3g of unclassified iron slag, which again is presumed to have been imported from elsewhere.

- 6.206 It is distinctly possible that this pit was dug to mark the end of the life of the kiln. It may contain evidence of structured deposition in the form of the ABGs and perhaps the penannular buckle or brooch fragment. While such traditions are well known during the prehistoric period, there is a growing body of evidence that suggests such practices continued into the Saxon period, well beyond the adoption of Christianity (Hamerow 2012). Further comparative research is required to demonstrate this.



Plate 26: Kiln [10029] (Group 83) under excavation. Photograph looks north-east. Scales 2m, 1m.



Plate 27: Detail of the collapsed clay superstructure within the south-western quadrant of Kiln [10029]. Photograph looks east. Scale 2m.

Kiln or Oven 6: Structure [10032]

Group 180: [10032], (10031); Figure 31

- 6.207 An elongated, sub-ovoid feature with somewhat irregular sides and a flat base was situated to the north of this collection of probable kilns on an identical alignment to [10027] (i.e. Kiln 1, Groups 71–72). The feature was 2.16m long and up to 0.82m wide. It was poorly preserved, surviving for a depth of no more than 0.07m.
- 6.208 The feature contained a single fill, described as a dark grey brown clayey silt that appeared to be rich in charcoal fragments. This was not verified through environmental sampling, although a large assemblage of cereal grain was recovered that was dominated by bread / club wheat. A total of 43 fragments of prehistoric to medieval daub were also present, which probably represent the collapsed remnants of the structure that this feature once housed.
- 6.209 Taken together, this evidence suggests that this feature represents the very poorly preserved remains of yet another partially demolished oven, the bulk of which was presumably lost to post-depositional processes such as ploughing. The long, slender shape of the feature is reminiscent of other post-Roman corn dryers, an interpretation that is supported by the presence of cereal grains.

A possible fence?

Group 81: [10059], (10058); [10061], (10060); [10063], (10062); [10065], (10064); [10067], (10066); [10069], (10068); [10071], (10070); [10073], (10072); Figure 31

- 6.210 A collection of eight small circular features were revealed between Kiln 4 to the north and Kiln 5 to the south, collated here as Group 81. They were between 0.40m and 0.17m in diameter and 0.08m and 0.22m in depth and are interpreted here as a collection of postholes and driven stakes. They formed an approximate row that was at least 8.09m long that trended north-west–south-east. As such they are presumed to represent the poorly preserved remnants of a fence. That said, the features were not perfectly aligned. This could perhaps signify that this possible fence was rebuilt on two or more occasions on slightly differing alignments. The fence may have formed a division between two kilns within this industrial area.

A second probable fence

Group 163: [10034], (10033); [10036], (10035); [10038], (10037); [10040], (10039); [10042], (10041); [10044], (10043); [10046], (10045); Figure 31

- 6.211 A group of seven closely spaced circular features were identified towards the north in Area 10, interpreted herein as postholes. They were between 0.51m and 0.30m in diameter, surviving to variable depths that ranged between 0.15m and 0.38m. The postholes were generally spaced between 0.14m and 0.32m apart, however the most south-easterly feature, [10034], was positioned somewhat further away, being 0.9m from the nearest equivalent feature, [10036]. This wider spacing may perhaps have been induced by the loss of one or more postholes to post-depositional processes such as modern ploughing. Together, the postholes would have formed a single row of wooden uprights that was orientated north-west–south-east, covering a distance of at least 4.81m.

- 6.212 The posthole fills together contained 10 small scraps of pottery that may be of EIA origin, however this date was uncertain owing to the size of the sherds. Also present was a significant quantity of daub of prehistoric to medieval date, amounting to 251 fragments. It is therefore possible that the daub fragments represent construction or even demolition debris from the nearby kilns that was incorporated within the fills of these postholes either accidentally or as post packing.
- 6.213 Taken together, this evidence suggests that these posts represent the remains of a north-west–south-east orientated fence. Their close spacing is interesting and could indicate the presence of a more solid structure, for example a wattle or wood-panelled fence. The large assemblage of daub is relevant to this discussion as it could perhaps indicate that they were associated with a wattle and daub structure. That said, as set out above, it is perhaps more probable that this material heralded from one of the kilns, which made copious use of daub. Although the specific function of the fence is uncertain, one possibility, given its linear yet relatively solid nature, is a wind break or screen that perhaps defined an external work area. The latter interpretation may be more probable as the prevailing wind direction in south-east England is west to east, thus making this north-west–south-east aligned structure less effective as a windbreak than a north–south orientated fence would have been.

A collection of pits or post-built structures

Group 87: [10018], (10019); [10025], (10026); [10166], (10165); [10168], (10167); [10186], (10185); [10188], (10187); [10191], (10190); [10193], (10192); Figure 32

- 6.214 A collection of eight circular features that may represent pits or postholes were uncovered in the southern end of Area 10 to the north of a probable contemporary boundary ditch [10020] / [10048] / [10112] / [10162] (Group 88, see above). The features were variably sized, being between 0.82m and 0.30m in diameter and 0.07m and 0.34m in depth. They were infilled with between one and two deposits of silty material that collectively yielded an assemblage of 23 fragments of pottery, most of which pertained to the Iron Age, however four sherds of Late Saxon pottery were also present, thus suggesting that these apparently related features may pertain to that later period. Pit [10018] also yielded 64.9g of tapped slag, pit [10167] produced 13.4g of unclassified iron slag and 28.4g of Iron Age grey, pit [10180] produced 6g of runned slag and 4.9g of unclassified iron slag, pit [10185] yielded 1.9g of unclassified iron slag and pit [10188] contained 0.6g of runned slag. The presence of this material suggests that these features were infilled with a component of industrial waste. This in turn suggests that metalworking may have taken place in the vicinity of these features during this period.
- 6.215 Two clear north-west–south-east rows were formed by [10168] / [10166] and [10193] / [10186] / [10182], while a third may be represented by [10191] / [10180]. At least two rows trending north-east–south-west were additionally formed by [10182] / [10180] / [10188] and [10168] / [10193] / [10191], while a third row may be represented by [10166] / [10186]. Together, these features therefore appear to have formed a rough grid pattern that covered a total area of 15.2m north-east–south-west by 16.6m north-east–south-west. This suggests, but does not definitively prove, that they represent the remains of a post-built structure or a collection of adjacent post-built structures such as timber buildings or animal corrals.

Area 7

A probable building and a possible hearth

Group 61: [7033], (7032); [7029], (7028); [7027], (7026); [7017], (7016), [7021], (7020); [7019], (7018); [7007], (7006); [7023], (7022); [7005] (7004); [7003], (7058); [7013], (7012); [7011], (7010); [7015], (7014); Figure 17; Group 186: [7009], (7008); Group 62: (7034), [7035]; Figure 17

- 6.216 A collection of 13 small, circular features were uncovered in the south-western end of Area 9, collated here as Group 61. They were between 0.21m and 0.45m in diameter and were no more than 0.20m deep. In plan they appeared to form a sub-rectangular structure, the long-axis of which was orientated north-east–south-west, and as such they have been interpreted as postholes. The friable, silty fills that they contained ranged in colour from mid yellowish grey to a dark reddish brown. These deposits may represent a combination of the degraded remains of posts that decayed *in situ* and the backfill that was deposited around them.
- 6.217 The postholes were not securely dated through artefactual evidence. A small quantity of pottery was collectively recovered from Group 61 in the form of six small sherds that at this stage have been dated to the earlier part of the Iron Age period. Three fragments of daub of probable prehistoric to medieval date were also recovered, as was a small quantity of prehistoric worked flint. This small collection of artefacts could therefore date the construction of the postholes to a far earlier period than the evidence presented here otherwise suggests, but as set out in the paragraphs that follow, the morphology of this putative building has little in common with Iron Age structures in this part of Britain. Instead, it closely resembles the expected footprint of a well-known Late Saxon building type, namely a long hall. The structure was also positioned near a well-dated zone of Early medieval activity on the site that was centered around the kilns (situated c. 28m to the south-east of this possible long hall). It should also be noted that on occasion it can be hard to differentiate between certain forms of Iron Age and Saxon pottery (for example see Beverton 2012, 11) and as such it may be prudent to take the context of discovery of the pottery from this feature into consideration should further work be undertaken on the assemblage at the publication stage.
- 6.218 Four postholes within Group 61 were aligned with a larger sub-circular pit, [7009] (Group 186), that was up to 1.24m wide and up to 0.46m deep (Plate 28). This larger pit could represent a robber cut for the removal of a post that was dug after this putative structure fell out of use or alternatively a post pit. The fill of the pit was found to contain residual Roman pottery and a small quantity of building material post-dating 1450 that is presumed to be intrusive in this context. That said, the possibility that Group 186 belongs to a later period of activity on the site cannot be entirely ruled out at this stage.



Plate 28: Post pit or robber cut [7009] (Group 186). Photograph faces east. Scale 0.5m.

- 6.219 Pit [7009] and postholes [7011], [7013], [7003] and [7017] (listed here from the south-west to the north-east) formed a row of features that trended north-east–south-west but also exhibited a gentle bow towards the west in plan. These features have been interpreted as the surviving remnants of the outer, western side of a poorly preserved long hall. Excavated examples of such buildings possess a strikingly similar footprint, being wider towards the middle, while tapering gently towards each end. As noted by Hamerow, emphasis appears to have been placed on standardizing the dimensions of such buildings, which are typically between 23m and 25m in length (Hamerow 2012, 48, fig. 2.9). The structure under discussion here falls within this bracket in terms of its length, which amounts to c.23.2m.
- 6.220 A row of postholes were arranged at a right-angle to the outer wall, formed by [7023], [7007], and [7019], which could have formed an internal dividing wall within this building. Postholes [7029] and [7031] could represent another internal division towards the northern end of the structure. If this interpretation is correct, then the hall would have been divided into three rooms, the internal dimensions of which were as follows:
- North-east room: c. 3.58m x 3.80m or more
 - Central room: c. 10.1m by 4.30m or more
 - South-west room: c. 9.2m by 3.62m or more
- 6.221 Some long halls appear to have been characterised by one large room, however others were divided in a similar way to this, for example at Sulgrave, Goltho and Bicester where between two and four unequally sized rooms were noted (Hamerow 2012, 48; Hamerow 2011, fig. 97).
- 6.222 The construction technique used to build this putative long hall, that of posts set into individual postholes, was used throughout the Late Saxon period. That said, other construction techniques, such as sill beams and construction trenches into which posts were driven, were more normative for most of that period (Hamerow 2011, 131). The use of posts without construction trenches was more dominant during the Middle Saxon period before regaining popularity in the 11th century as the Late Saxon period drew to a close (Hamerow 2011, 131). It should be remembered, however, that in this case the poor preservation of the structure means that any associated construction trenches into which the posts were perhaps originally

driven may not have survived, thus limiting the extent to which the structure can be dated through analysis of the construction methods used.

- 6.223 Solitary posthole [7015] (Plate 29) was offset to the west of the external wall of the building by a distance of c.1.90m. The purpose of this feature is uncertain, one possibility being that it represents the only surviving element of an associated external structure, for example a fence. A precedent for a Saxon hall that was augmented by such an external feature can be found in Building A1 at Cowdery's Down (Hamerow 2011, 137, fig. 9.6).



Plate 29: Posthole [7015] (Group 61). Photograph faces east. Scale 0.5m.

- 6.224 The remaining postholes appeared to be internal to this putative long hall but did not appear to form any obvious alignments. Examples of such isolated features within long halls exist elsewhere, for example at Sulgrave and Bicester (Hamerow 2012, 48). They are usually interpreted as representing the remains of internal fixtures, such as supports for benches (*ibid.*).
- 6.225 A sub-circular feature with a maximum width of 0.73m and a maximum depth of 0.12m (Group 62) was observed towards the northern end of what has been interpreted here as the central room of the hall. Notably, the fill of the feature contained very frequent angular inclusions of ragstone, which could represent the remnants of a masonry lining. The function of this enigmatic pit remains uncertain, however one possibility is that it represents the poorly preserved base of a hearth. Although no obvious signs of burning survived, other examples of hearths demonstrate that they sometimes sat above a crude lining of masonry, for example at West Stow, where recycled Roman CBM was used for the purpose (Hamerow 2012, 43). Despite an assumption by scholars that long halls almost certainly contained substantial hearths, they rarely survive, presumably due to the loss of occupation surfaces to ploughing and weathering (Hamerow 2012, 43). This alone could explain the lack of any apparent burning in this case.
- 6.226 Aberrations exist, however the normative position of a hearth within a long hall was central to the width of the building, though not necessarily the length (Hamerow 2012, 43). Consequently, if Group 62 does represent a hearth, then it provides a frame of reference from which the full dimensions of the building can be extrapolated. A width of c. 5m is suggested towards the north-eastern and south-western ends of the building, broadening to c. 5.48m towards the center. This again falls within the anticipated and somewhat *pro forma* dimensions of a Late Saxon

long hall, which tend to vary between 5m and 6m in width, broadening slightly towards the center (Hamerow 2012, 48, fig. 2.9).

- 6.227 Further work is required to confirm, refute or modify the formative conclusions that are presented in the paragraphs above, including further consideration of other earthfast structures pertaining to different periods, in particular (give the nature of the scant dating evidence retrieved from Group 61) the earlier part of the Iron Age as well as the Late Saxon period.
- 6.228 As set out in Period 2 (above) a cremation at present dated to the LIA (Period 2.1) could alternatively represent a foundation deposit associated with this putative hall. Carbon dating of that feature could help to not only resolve its age and function but also, were it to pertain to the Saxon period, could be used to support the 'hall' hypothesis presented here.

Area 11

A boundary ditch

Group 100: [11033], (11031), (11032), (11033); Figure 39

- 6.229 A probable farmland boundary ditch was uncovered in Trench 24 towards the southern corner of Area 11. The feature was 1.2m wide, continuing beyond the edges of the evaluation trench to the north-east and south-west. The feature had been infilled with three silty deposits that yielded 15 sherds of Middle Saxon pottery and two sherds of Late Saxon pottery pertaining to the period AD 850–1050. This suggests that this boundary may represent a Saxon feature that perhaps fell out of use and was infilled during the Late Saxon period.

Period 5.2: Subsequent Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman Activity (9th to 11th Century AD)

Miscellaneous pitting or the poorly preserved remnants of a wooden structure

Group 90: [10145], (10144); [10147], (10146); [10149], (10148); [10158], (10157); [10160], (10159); [10164], (10163); Figure 32

- 6.230 A collection of four pits or postholes and a gully remnant were uncovered in the southern part of Area 10, collated here as Group 90. Included in this group was pit or posthole [10160], which truncated the infill of boundary ditch [10020] / [10048] / [10112] / [10162] (Group 88, Period 5.1, see above). This suggests that this land boundary had fallen out of use by the time this collection of potentially related features was created, hence their inclusion in this later sub-period.
- 6.231 The pits or postholes, [10160], [10164], [10145] and [10147], were roughly circular with similar diameters that ranged between 0.80m and 0.72m and similar depths that varied between 0.20m and 0.10m. The potentially associated gully was up to 0.42m wide and up to 0.16m deep. It was interpreted on site as representing the remnants of a possible beam slot for an earthfast building, an interpretation that is made more plausible by the fact that it approximately aligns with posthole [10164] to the south-east and posthole [10145] to the northwest. Posthole [10160] was also situated at an approximate right angle to this collection of features, in line with [10164] to the south-west. Together these features are presumed to represent the poorly preserved remains of a timber structure. Posthole [10147] could either form part of this same structure or could instead represent an unrelated feature to the south-west.

- 6.232 The fills of this collection of features collectively yielded five sherds of Late Saxon pottery dating to the period AD 850–1050, as well as a lesser quantity of Iron Age to Roman material, presumed to be residual in these contexts. Taken together, this evidence suggests that this possible timber structure was built during that time period. Pits or postholes [10145], [10147], [10157], [10160] and [10163] also respectively produced 94.6g, 7.3g, 24.4g, 308.8g and 1045.7g of slag, including hammerscale, runned slag, tapped slag and slag spheres, thus suggesting that these features were infilled with a component of metalworking waste, presumably produced nearby during this period.

Two possible stakeholes

Group 91: [10152], (10151); [10156], (10155); Figure 32

- 6.233 Two small stakeholes appeared to be internal to the possible timber structure defined by Group 90 (see above), collated here as Group 91. It is therefore possible that they may be associated with that structure, however this potential association is uncertain. No dating evidence was recovered from the stakeholes.

Period 6: Medieval to Early Post-Medieval Activity (11th to 17th Century)

- 6.234 A concentration of activity broadly dated to the later medieval period to the early post-medieval period (11th to 17th century) was identified in Area 8 in the south-west corner of the site, while lesser amounts of activity pertaining to this period were noted in Areas 4, 7 and 10. The bulk of this evidence appears to be indicative of pastoral or agricultural land use during this period, while some features noted in Area 8 could represent peripheral settlement activity in the form of rubbish pitting and perhaps outbuildings. The focus of activity on the site therefore appears to have migrated westwards between the Late Saxon and the later medieval period, closer to the historic nucleus of the existing village of Sevington.

Area 4

A field boundary

Group 19: construction and use: [4009] / [4024] / [4026]; [4032], (4031); [4028], (4027); Figure 5; Figure 6, Section 12.3

- 6.235 A ditch orientated north-east–south-west crossed the central portion of Area 4, extending beyond the edges of the excavation to the north and south, [4009] / [4024] / [4026]; [4032] (Group 19; Plates 30 and 31). The feature was over 28.2m long, up to 0.60m wide and up to 0.53m deep. It appears to represent a field boundary.
- 6.236 The ditch may have been augmented by one or more fence lines, as suggested by the presented of probable postholes [4032] to the west of the northern end of the ditch and [4028] (Figure 6, Section 12.3; Plate 31) to the east of the central section of the feature. If so, little of trace of these fences have survived.



Plate 30: Ditch slot [4009] (Group 19); photograph faces north; scale 1m



Plate 31: Ditch [4026] and associated posthole [4028] (Group 19). Photograph faces north. Scale 1m.

Group 164: disuse: (4007) / (4008) / (4023) / (4025)

- 6.237 After this boundary fell out of use it was infilled with between one and two silty fills that cumulatively produced five fragments of CBM pertaining to the period 1450–1700 AD. This suggests that the boundary fell out of use between the late medieval and early post-medieval periods.

Area 7

An isolated pit

Group 188: [7043], (7040); not illustrated

- 6.238 An isolated rubbish pit [7043] (Group 188) appeared to partially truncate an earlier feature, [7063] (see Group 188, Period 2.1, above) in the central section of Area 7. The circular pit possessed a diameter of 2.5m and a depth of 0.40m and had been infilled with a single deposit

of silty clay that yielded 72 fragments of CBM pertaining to the period 1450–1700 and a large assemblage of charcoal that was presumably dumped within the feature.

- 6.239 That said, the dating evidence from this feature was unusually mixed, given that it also yielded a very large quantity of pottery pertaining to the EIA to MIA transition (412 sherds in total), as well as an assemblage of prehistoric worked flint that included seven flakes, three blades, nine spalls, one core and a spherical hammerstone. A copper alloy bronze pin was also present, that may represent the shaft of a hair pin or the pin from a bow brooch. It is possible that this material heralds from the underlying feature [7063], having been incorporated in this later pit as the result of an excavation error. Burnt residue was identified on a sherd of pottery from the pit, which could be put forward for carbon dating.

Area 10

An area of hard standing

Group 85: (10142) / (10143) / (10015) / (10051) / (10142) / (10053), Group 86: (10012) / (10013) / (10014) / (10017) / (10050) / (10049) / (10052) and Group 77: (10251) / (10239) / (10128) / (10126); not illustrated

- 6.240 After the Late Saxon corn drying kilns in Area 10 had fallen out of use and been demolished, a rubble rich layer was lain across them, collated here as Groups 77, 85 and 86 (recorded in section only). This fragmentary layer was up to 0.30m thick and may have originally covered an area that was up to c. 20m long and up to c. 15m wide. It was composed of compacted CBM from which 168 fragments of brick and tile and 155 fragments of daub were sampled, some of which possessed wattle impressions, thus suggesting the daub derived from a wattle and daub structure. While some daub could have come from the demolished kilns, the brick and tile fragments suggest a later date of formation pertaining to the period 1450–1700. Also present within the layer were 44 nails, at least two of which were hobnails, three holdfasts (used to join two pieces of wood together; RF 59, RF 60 and one bulk find), a complete medieval iron hammer head, RF 23, an incomplete snaffle bit, RF 39, an incomplete bow brooch of probable LIA to early Roman date, RF 24, a copper-alloy early-medieval strap end, RF 158, which stylistically dates to c. AD 750-1100 and RF 86, an incomplete buckle that was missing its pin. The pin may be represented by RF 173 that was also recovered from this context. Also present was an iron folding knife with a bone handle, RF 33, three near-complete knives, RF 40, RF 63 and RF 174, two complete Manning Type 19 knives, RF 28 and RF 79, a clamp / hinge pivot, two mounts, RF 42 and RF 75, and two binding strips RF 26 and RF 24. As many as 48 metal objects of uncertain function were recovered from that included iron loops <RF 154>, fragments of iron sheet metal (RF 83, RF 159, RF 146), hooks (RF 62, RF 84 and RF 89) and a possible strike a light, RF 77. A total of 781.6g of tapped slag, 485.1g of unclassified iron slag, a plano-convex cake of slag (330.9g) and 8g of fuel-ash slag were also present.
- 6.241 The layer is thought to represent an area of late medieval or early post-medieval hard standing. It may also have functioned as a levelling layer, as Group 77 appeared to infill a series of shallow depressions or gullies in the vicinity of former Kiln 4.
- 6.242 The presence of this surface demonstrates that the former location of the Late Saxon corn dryers continued to be set aside from the surrounding farmland for a different purpose during this period. Exactly what the area was used for at this time remains uncertain, however

whatever tasks were undertaken here evidently benefited from the presence of a more consolidated ground surface. This could be taken to suggest that a relatively high level of traction took place in this part of Area 10 during that period, for example through the back-and-forth movement of people, farm animals or carts, an assertion that is perhaps supported by the discovery of the snaffle bit. The presence of so many discarded tools and metal fastenings in this layer (six knives, a hammer head, the clam / hinge pivot, four holdfasts, 44 nails and 48 metal objects of uncertain function) and the iron slag also points towards an external work area of some description, however these objects need to be better dated in order to determine whether they pertain to this or an earlier period. A continued role in crop processing is one of numerous possible functions for this area that is suggested here owing to the nature of land use in this area of the site during the earlier part of the medieval period. An association with carpentry and perhaps other cottage industries including smithing is also distinctly possible, given the presence of the nails, holdfasts, mounds, binding strips, the hammer, the pivot, the strike a light and the metal slag.

Area 8

Soil formation

Group 165: (8016); Group 147: (8153) / (8002); Figure 24, Section 113.2

- 6.243 A humic rich layer of silty clay was noted at the base of the sequence in Area 8, through which numerous late medieval to early post-medieval features were cut. The layer contained one residual sherd of pottery dated to the period 1250–1350 and 26 sherds of later pottery pertaining to the 15th century. A small quantity of residual worked flint was also present. The layer may therefore represent an episode of soil formation dating to the late medieval period.

Mid-11th to mid-14th century pitting activity

Group 183: [8015], (8014); [8029], (8026), (8027); [8031], (8030); [8036], (8035), (8034); [8055], (8091); [8092], (8103); [8105], (8104); [8135], (8134), (8135); [8146], (8145); [8159], (8158); [8162] / [8122], (8161), (8121), (8160); [8078], (8084); Figure 19–21; Figure 23, Section 63.3

- 6.244 The possible soil horizon was truncated by a collection of 12 pits, collated here as Group 183. These circular to sub-ovoid features were variably sized, ranging in length from 2.06m to 0.55m, in width from 1.35m to 0.20m and in depth from 0.12m to 0.70m. They each contained between one and two fills, some of which were dark in colour and rich in clay (e.g. [8087] Plate 32), thus suggesting they perhaps amassed, at least in part, through natural silting in a wet environment. Others appeared lighter with sandier fills less suggestive of silting (e.g. [8015], Plate 34) Late medieval pottery was either recovered from these pits, or else they possessed stratigraphic relationships with later ditches that suggest they pertain to the earlier part of this period. The pit with the earliest possible date of infilling, [8105], contained pottery dating to 1050–1150, while the latest dated example, elongated pit [8162] / [8122], contained pottery dated to the period 1225–1325. The remaining features contained material that fell within these two extremes.
- 6.245 Taken together, this evidence suggests that this collection of features was created gradually over a time period that spanned the mid-11th century through to the early 14th-century. Given the range of sizes and shapes of the pits under discussion here, coupled with the range of dating evidence recovered, it seems probable that they were dug for a variety of purposes.

Although specific functions cannot be proven from the available evidence, such miscellaneous pitting activity tends to be found around the peripheries of settled areas pertaining to this period and can be related to small-scale quarrying, rubbish pitting and small-scale industry (Haslam and Shepherd, forthcoming). Noteworthy finds recovered included five small pieces of leather trimming waste and 20.8g of vitrified ceramic from primary fill (8161) of pit [8162], which probably represents manufacturing waste from nearby industries.



Plate 32: Section through pit [8078] (Group 183). Photograph looks south. Scale 2m.

Mid-12th–13th-century ditches

Group 128 [8172], (8171); Figure 20

- 6.246 A ditch orientated north-west–south-east was uncovered in the north-eastern side of Area 8, [8172] (Group 128). The feature was over 8.79m long, continuing beyond the limit of the excavation to the south-east and terminating in a butt end to the north-west. It was up to 1.33m wide and up to 0.72m deep and probably formed a farmland boundary ditch. The feature was infilled with a single deposit from which five sherds of pottery dating to the period AD 1150–1250 were recovered, along with a single iron nail, a gilded strap end of uncertain date, RF 87, and four wooden plank fragments. This suggests that this ditch was lost from the landscape between the mid-12th and mid-13th centuries, when it was infilled with material that included dumped domestic waste.

Group 123: [8025] / [8023], (8022), (8024); Figure 20

- 6.247 One of the stratigraphically earliest ditches noted in the north-western part of Area 8 survived for a length of 4.37m and was composed of two ditch fragments, [8025] and [8023] (Group 123), that no doubt once formed part of the same feature. The surviving portion of the ditch was approximately orientated east–west, while the eastern end of kinked towards the north before being truncated in full by a later recut (Group 177, discussed subsequently).
- 6.248 The ditch was infilled with a single deposit from which 76 fragments of pottery dating to the periods 1225–1325 and 1250–1300 were retrieved. Taken together, this evidence suggests that this feature fell out of use and was infilled between AD 1250 and the end of the 13th century.

Group 124: [8086] / [8118] / [8120] / [8126], (8085) / (8117) / (8119) / (8125); Figure 19

- 6.249 A curvilinear ditch was uncovered in the north-western side of Area 8, [8086] / [8118] / [8120] / [8126] (Group 124). It was 17.3m long as seen and was up to 0.56m wide and up to 0.26m deep. The feature trended east–west but arced gently northwards towards the center before bending back towards the south. Its eastern end was truncated by a later ditch, as was the central portion of the feature, while the far western end continued beyond the limit of the excavation. The ditch was infilled with a single deposit from which 44 sherds of medieval pottery were recovered that variously pertained to the periods AD 1100–1175, 1150–1250 and 1200–1275. Taken together, the overlapping date ranges of this large pottery assemblage suggest that the ditch more probably fell out of use during the earlier part of the 13th century. That said, 10 small pieces of CBM dating to the period 1450–1700 were also present. This could suggest a later date of infilling, however it seems more probable that they are residual in this context.

Mid- to late 13th century ditches

Group 125: [8169] / [8077] / [8114] / [8133] / [8094] / [8107] / [8090] / [8109] / [8082], (8076) / (8081) / (8089) / (8093) / (8106) / (8108) / (8113) / (8132) / (8168); Figure 20

- 6.250 A sinuous ditch orientated roughly north–south ran down the central section of Area 8, [8169] / [8077] / [8114] / [8133] / [8094] / [8107] / [8090] / [8109] / [8082] (Group 125; Plate 33). The feature was 46.4m long, up to 1.90m wide and up to 0.62m deep and had been infilled with a single deposit from which 22 fragments of later medieval pottery were recovered, the latest of which pertained to the period 1200–1275. Four small fragments of CBM dated to 1450–1700 were also present, which are probably intrusive, as was a small quantity of residual worked flint. It must also have been created after an earlier 13th-century ditch was infilled (Group 124, see above), which it truncated, thus suggesting it perhaps pertains to the mid- to late 13th century. This date range is further refined by the fact that this feature was itself truncated by a probable mid-13th to mid-14th-century feature, thus strongly suggesting a mid- to late 13th century date of infilling. Also present within the ditch was a component of dumped, worked wood, including the remains of four planks, one stake tip and a fragment of wood with a single facet down one face.



Plate 33: Ditch slot [8082] (Group 125). Photograph faces north. Scale 2m.

Mid- 13th to mid-14th-century ditch

Group 116: [8019] / [8065] / [8067] / [8144] / [8151] / [8167], (8018) / (8064) / (8066) / (8143) / (8149) / (8150) / (8166); Figure 19

- 6.251 A long, thin ditch ran across the north-central portion of Area 8, [8019] / [8065] / [8067] / [8144] / [8151] / [8167] (Group 116). It was orientated north-east–south-west and was over 32.8m long as seen, continuing beyond the limits of the excavation to the east and west. The feature was up to 1m wide and up to 0.25m deep and had been infilled with a single deposit from which 152 sherds of pottery spot-dated to the period AD 1225–1350 were recovered, as was one intrusive fragment of CBM pertaining to the period AD 1450–1700 and an iron blade, interpreted as a probable cleaver. The feature also truncated a mid-13th-century ditch (see Group 125, above), which it must post-date. Taken together, this evidence cumulatively suggests that this ditch was infilled during the late 13th century or the first half of the 14th century.

Later mid-13th to mid-14-century ditch

Group 117: [8021] / [8011] / [8033] / [8069] / [8008], (8020) / (8010) / (8032) / (8068) / (8007); Figure 19; Figure 20

- 6.252 The ditch discussed above (Group 116) was truncated by [8021] / [8011] / [8033] / [8069] / [8008] (Group 117; Plate 34), a northeast–southwest ditch that also truncated or recut ditch [8023] (Group 123, above). The ditch survived for a length of 21.6m, lensing out to the north and south. It was up to 0.86m wide and up to 0.75m deep and contained a single fill from which 368 sherds of pottery of medieval date were recovered, the latest of which dated to the period AD 1250–1350. This again suggests that this ditch fell out of use during the latter part of the 13th century or the earlier part of the 14th century, but at a later point to Group 116 (see above). Also present was a large charcoal assemblage and 143.6g of unclassified iron slag, the presence of which suggests industrial activity in the vicinity of the feature during this period. The presence of the slag, pottery and charcoal also together suggest that the ditch was infilled with material that included a component of industrial and domestic waste when it fell out of use as a land boundary.



Plate 34: Ditch slot [8021] (Group 117) and pit [8015] (Group 183)

Mid-14th century or later ditches

Group 142: [8049] / [8131] / [8005] / [8013]; (8048) / (8130) / (8004) / (8012); Figure 19

- 6.253 A stratigraphically early north-west–south-east orientated ditch was uncovered in the north-east corner of Area 8, [8049] / [8131] / [8005] / [8013] (Plate 35). The feature was 18.6m long as seen, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the south-east and lensing out to the north-west. It was up to 0.5m wide and 0.60m deep and had been infilled with a single deposit from which four sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, variously pertaining to the periods AD 1225–1350 and 1125–1225, as were five pieces of CBM dating to the period 1450–1700. This suggests that this feature may have fallen out of use during the late medieval or early post-medieval period, post-1450.



Plate 35: Ditch [8013] (Group 142). Photograph faces south-east. Scale 2m.

Group 141: [8129] / [8051], (8050) / (8128); Group 126: [8083] / [8088], (8123) / (8074); Figure 19

- 6.254 Ditch [8049] / [8131] / [8005] / [8013] appears to have been recut as [8129] / [8051] (Group 141). The recut was up to 0.65m wide and up to 0.22m deep and had been truncated to the north-west by a later feature. It appeared to continue on the opposite side of that later truncation for a further 4.43m as [8083] / [8088] (Group 126) before lensing out to the north-west.
- 6.255 The southern part of the feature was infilled with a single deposit from which two probable residual sherds of pottery dating to the period 1200–1325 were recovered, as were four sherds of CBM dating to the period 1450–1700. The north-western section (Group 126) yielded one sherd of probable residual pottery dated to 1200–1325. Taken together, this dating evidence suggests that this feature fell out of use during the later medieval or early post-medieval period, probably after 1450.

Mid- to late 14th-century marsh

Group 130: [8042], (8041); Figure 19

- 6.256 A deposit of peat was found in the northern corner of Area 8 that appeared to have amassed within a sub-rectangular depression that continued beyond the edge of the excavation to the

north. The deposit was 2.5m long and 0.45m wide as seen, with a thickness of 0.56m. Two exploratory slots were excavated through it. A large assemblage of pottery was recovered from the layer that possessed a mixed date range spanning the 13th–17th centuries. This was refined by radiocarbon dating, which suggested that the deposit amassed during the 14th century, more probably between 1327–1384calAD) A total of 35 fragments of willow were also recovered from the deposit, which may represent twigs from a nearby tree that made their way into this peat-like layer through natural processes.

- 6.257 A monolith sample was taken through this deposit that was subjected to pollen, diatom and ostracod analysis. The latter were too poorly preserved to yield good results however, an acceptable pollen profile was created. It was found to be broadly homogenous, with no local pollen assemblage zones specified, suggesting an overall stable environment over the period of sediment accumulation (c. 1327-1384calAD). Overall, the assemblage demonstrated the former presence of a local environment dominated by herbaceous taxa, whereby herbs comprised up to 87% of the total pollen values. Ferns were identified in small quantities within the lower part of the profile, up to 22% (0.21-0.22m). Trees and shrubs were present in small quantities, with a maximum presence (40%) within the upper profile due to a peak in willow (*Salix*) pollen.
- 6.258 On site vegetation throughout the period of deposition probably included willow (*Salix*). Accompanying willow were species of marsh herbs from fen ground flora, including sedges (*Cyperaceae*), grasses (*Poaceae*), hemlock water dropwort (*Oenanthe* sp.), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), and greater burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*). Though poorly preserved, the ostracods that were present suggested a landscape studded by freshwater streams and ponds. Taken together, this suggests the presence of willow carr on this site at a local level during the 14th century. A noteworthy discovery was that cannabis type pollen was found throughout the sequence, with a particular concentration in the upper sequence. This suggests that *Cannabis sativa* and / or hops (*Humulus lupulus*) were perhaps cultivated locally, perhaps for rope making and brewing respectively. The pollen assemblage also suggested that the wider environment was dominated by farmland characterised by a mixed agricultural economy. Relatively few trees appear to have studded that open landscape.

Ditches of mid-15th–16th-century date

Group 134: [8165] / [8057] / [8096] / [8157] / [8071] / [8112] / [8080] / [8116] / [8053], (8072) / (8056) / (8095) / (8156) / (8070) / (8164) / (8111) / (8163) / (8079) / (8115) / (8052); Figure 19–20 and Group 143: [8176] / [8180] / [8190] / [8192] / [8196], (8175) / (8179) / (8189) / (8191) / (8195); Figure 20–21

- 6.259 A long, curvilinear ditch was identified in the northern part of Area 8, [8165] / [8057] / [8096] / [8157] / [8071] / [8112] / [8080] / [8116] / [8053] (Group 134). It ran from the western limit of excavation in a westerly direction for a distance of 12.2m, before kinking gradually southwards over a further distance of 11.6m. From there it continued in a south-westerly direction for a distance of 29.8m before being truncated by a complex of later east–west ditches. It then appeared to continue on the opposite side of that complex of ditches for a further 50.3m as [8176] / [8180] / [8190] / [8192] / [8196] (Group 143). The feature was up to 2m wide and up to 1.10m deep.

- 6.260 The northern part of the ditch (Group 134) contained between one and two fills from which 36 fragments of pottery were retrieved, the latest of which dated to the 14th–16th century. Four fragments of CBM were also present pertaining to the period 1450–1700, as were five iron nails, two clay tobacco pipe stems and trace amounts of charcoal (less than 0.1g). The southern part of the ditch (Group 143) contained eight sherds of medieval pottery, the latest of which pertained to the period 1425–1525. A large assemblage of cereal grains dominated by bread / club wheat were also recovered from the fills of this feature. Taken together, this suggests that this boundary fell out of use between c. 1450 and the 16th century and was infilled with material that included a component of deliberately dumped domestic waste.

Group 135: [8098], (8097), not illustrated

- 6.261 Ditch [8073] / [8165] / [8057] / [8096] / [8157] / [8071] / [8112] / [8080] / [8116] / [8053] (Group 134) was subsequently partially recut as [8098]. This recut was recognized in one slot only (recorded in section 81.2). It was up to 1.10m wide and up to 0.30m deep and had been infilled with a single deposit from which no finds were recovered.

Group 136: [8140] / [8155] / [8142] / [8100], (8139) / (8154) / (8099) / (8141) and Group 144: [8194] / [8178] / [8206], (8193) / (8205), (8181), (8177); Figure 23, Section 109.1

- 6.262 The boundary was recut for the third and final time as [8140] / [8155] / [8142] / [8100] (Group 136) to the north and [8194] / [8178] / [8206] (Group 144) to the south. This incarnation of the feature was up to 0.50m wide and 0.25m deep and was infilled with a single silty deposit that yielded one sherd of residual pottery pertaining to the period 1050–1150, seven sherds of CBM dating to 1450–1700 and 17 nails of uncertain date.

A mid-15th to 16th-century post-built structure?

Group 158: [8183], (8182); [8185], (8184); [8188], (8187); driven stakes (8203); Figure 20; Figure 24, Section 113.2

- 6.263 A collection of three postholes and six stakeholes were identified in the southern part of Area 8, collated here as Group 158. The former possessed diameters of 0.55m to 0.70m and depths up to 0.55m, while the latter possessed diameters of up to 0.18m and depths up to 0.35m. They together appear to have roughly delineated a rectangular area that was 14.7m north-west–south-east by c. 7.05m north-east–south-west. This area straddled an earlier ditch (see Group 134, above), thus suggesting that this feature had fallen out of use and been infilled by the time that these postholes and stakeholes were created.

A conglomeration of intercutting east–west ditches of mid-15th to 17th-century date

- 6.264 A series of intercutting east–west ditches, some of which appeared to have been revetted with wattle work, were uncovered in the central portion of Area 8 (Figure 20). It is reasonable to presume that these features represent successive incarnations of the same landscape feature and that they therefore fulfilled similar functions. Four slots were excavated through this conglomeration of features and the deposits were variously recorded in detail in plan and / or section.
- 6.265 The results of this exercise are described in the paragraphs that follow. It is important to note, however, that due to similarities in the nature of certain fills and layer (8153) (Group 147), some

inconsistencies exist in the stratigraphic narrative as recorded between and sometimes within slots. These are highlighted in the ensuing narrative. The phasing presented below will also need to be revised and re-grouped during the analysis phase in order to better correlate the relationships between ditches and layers that ran between excavated slots.

Ditches recorded in the western slot: Section 117.1 (Figure 20; Figure 25)

Group 156: [8262], (8259), (8260), (8261); Plan 116, Figure 22; Figure 25, Section 117.1

- 6.266 Ditch [8262] ran through the northern half of the western slot. It was 3.10m wide and up to 1.14m deep (Plan 116, Figure 22). It was infilled with three clay-rich fills from which 15 sherds of pottery pertaining to the period 1500–1550 were recovered, along with 34 sherds of CBM dating to the period 1450–1700. Also present were two iron nails, a fragment of 15th to 17th-century window glass and a similarly dated glass shatter sherd. Taken together, this suggests that this ditch was infilled during the early post-medieval period after 1500. It may be the same as Group 155 in the central slot (discussed subsequently), however this is called into question by the fact that the contents of that feature were more suggestive of a 17th-century date of infilling.

A probable fence line: Group 206: [8258], (8257), (8256); Figure 22, Plan 116; Section 117.1

- 6.267 The next phase of activity within this slot appears to have involved the creation of a wooden fence, [8258] (Group 206). The construction cut for the fence was 0.36m wide and 0.32m deep. It was recorded as having been dug through the fills of ditch [8262] (Group 156). The fence itself was composed of one poorly preserved plank, only a few fragments of which survived. After the fence has been instated, the construction cut was infilled with a single deposit of dark brown clay that yielded two fragments of pottery, the latest of which dated to the period 1400–1525. This, coupled with the position of the feature in the stratigraphic sequence, suggests that it represents an early to mid-post-medieval land boundary. The fence is probably the same as Group 207 in the central slot (see below).

A soil horizon and dump layer: Group 147: (8153); Figure 25, Section 117.1

- 6.268 A layer, recorded as subsoil, was noted across this general area in multiple slots. Here the layer was up to 0.4m thick. The formation of the layer appears to be well dated, as it produced 94 sherds of pottery pertaining to the period 1425–1525. Also recovered were 25 pieces of CBM dating to the period 1450–1700, seven metal objects and one lead fragment. This suggests that this layer formed, at least in part, through the dumping of domestic waste during the earlier part of the post-medieval period. Its dark, humic-rich appearance does however suggest that subsequent pedogenesis may have taken place. The layer sealed the ditches previously discussed.

Group 145: [8252], (8251); Plan 116, Figure 22; Figure 25, Section 117.1

- 6.269 An east–west ditch was recorded in the southern part of the western slot, [8252] (Group 145) that appeared to truncate the post-medieval subsoil. It was 2m wide and up to 0.66m deep and had been infilled with a single deposit that yielded 452 sherds of pottery pertaining to the period AD 1350–1400 and 66 fragments of CBM, the latest of which were manufactured between 1450 and 1700. An iron pin that may represent a clothes pin of 14th-century or later date was also

present, SF 148, as were 16 nails. Taken together, this suggests that this feature was infilled with a deposit of domestic waste during the earlier part of the post-medieval period.

Group 148: [8255], (8254), (8253); Plan 116, Figure 22; Figure 25, Section 117.1

- 6.270 Ditch [8252] (see Group 145, above) was then recut as [8255]. This incarnation of the feature was up to 1.2m wide and over 1m long with a maximum depth of 0.40m. The feature was infilled with two silty clay deposits that together yielded 35 sherds of pottery, the latest of which dated to the period 1450–1550, and 18 fragments of CBM manufactured between 1450 and 1700. Also present was a post-medieval black glass bead that may be dress related and several glass shatter sherds that were not closely datable. Taken together, this evidence suggests that this feature fell out of use and was infilled during the earlier part of the post-medieval period. This feature may be the same as Group 154 in the central slot (discussed subsequently).

Ditches and a fence line recorded in the central slot: (Figure 20; Figure 25; Section 119)

A 17th-century ditch? Group 155: [8250], (8254), (8249), (8248), (8247), (8246); Plan 116, Figure 22; Figure 25; Section 119

- 6.271 A large ditch was noted at the base of the sequence in the northern side of the central slot, [8250] (Group 155). It was up to 2.49m wide and up to 1.02m deep with concave sides and a flattish base. After the feature fell out of use it was infilled with four deposits of silty clay and clayey silt that together produced five sherds of pottery, the latest of which dated to the period 1525–1600, 103 fragments of CBM dating to the period AD 1450–1700, one fragment of clay pipe pertaining to the period 1660–1680 and the remains of a wooden shovel or spade, RF 7. Also present were eight sherds of 15th to 17th-century glass, including window glass and vessel fragments, a leather shoe vamp that could be 19th century but could alternatively have been manufactured during an earlier period, the tip of a possible wooden stake, four wooden planks, at least six coopered stave fragments and notably the remains of a wooden bowl, RF 183. Taken together, this evidence suggests that this feature fell out of use during the mid-post-medieval period, perhaps during the later 16th or 17th century. It appears to have been infilled with a component of dumped domestic waste. The survival of the organic objects also demonstrates that this context must have been wet at the time of their deposition, remaining so into the modern era, and as such it may represent a drainage ditch. It may be the same as Group 156 in the northern slot (see above), however the dating evidence recovered could alternatively indicate that it represents a later recut or an entirely different feature.

A later ditch or a continuation of [8250]? Group 154: [8242], (8241); Figure 22; Plan 118; Figure 25, Section 119

- 6.272 The southern side of underlying ditch [8250] may then have been truncated by yet another ditch, [8242]. That said, the relationship between the lowest fill of [8242] and ditch [8250] could not be conclusively determined, while fill (8246) of [8250] appeared to seal fill (8241) of [8242]. It is therefore possible that [8242] and [8250] instead represent a single ditch (see Section 119, Figure 25).
- 6.273 This section of ditch was up to 2.60m wide and was infilled with a single clay-rich fill that yielded 231 sherds of pottery pertaining to the period 1525–1600. Also present were 55 pieces of CBM dating to the period 1450–1500, one metal spur, RF 10, one metal object and three sherds of

15th to 17th-century window glass. Taken together, this strongly suggests that this ditch fell out of use and was infilled during the earlier part of the post-medieval period.

- 6.274 This ditch is thought to be the same as [8250], however it should be noted that it could alternatively form a continuation of Group 148 in the western slot (see above). Further stratigraphic and spatial analysis is required to determine which of these possibilities is correct.

A probable fence line: Group 207: [8245], (8243), (8244); Figure 22, Plan 102

- 6.275 A wooden fence, (8243) (Group 206) was then erected within the confines of this slot. The construction cut for the fence was 0.35m wide and 0.30m deep. It was recorded as having been dug through the fills of ditch [8250] (Group 155). The fence itself was composed of several overlapping, poorly preserved planks that crossed the slot from east to west. After the fence has been instated, the construction cut was infilled with a single deposit of dark brown clay from which 49 fragments of CBM pertaining to the period 1450–1700 were recovered. This, coupled with the position of the feature in the stratigraphic sequence, suggests that it represents an early to mid-post-medieval land boundary. The fence probably represents a continuation of Group 206 in the northern slot (see above).

A soil horizon and dump layer: Group 147: (8153); Figure 25, Section 119.1

- 6.276 A soil horizon and dump layer then appeared to form across this area of the site, (8153), that sealed the earlier features. This layer has been described previously so will not be detailed again here, suffice to note that in this instance the layer was up to 0.45m thick.

Group 205: [8240], (8239), (8264); Figure 25, Section 119.1

- 6.277 Ditch [8242] (Group 154) was then recut as [8240], a 2.66m wide, 0.72m deep feature that was infilled with two clay-rich deposits that produced no dating evidence. As shown in Section 119 (Figure 25), stratigraphic inconsistencies characterized the relationship between this feature and subsoil / dump layer (8153). This is resolved if the 'subsoil layer' as recorded between lower fill (8264) and upper fill (8239) instead represents a secondary fill of this ditch that looked visually similar to (8153).

The north-eastern slot: Figure 22, Plan 102 (north side) Section 112.1

Group 151: [8209], (8208), (8207), (8204), (8236); Figure 22, Plan 102, northern half; Figure 23, Sections 112.1 and 112.2

- 6.278 A stratigraphically early pit or ditch terminus was found at the base of the sequence in the north-eastern slot, [8209] (Group 151). The feature occupied the western corner of the slot and was over 4.5m long and 3.5m wide as seen, with a depth in excess of 1.4m. Its size suggests that it may have been dug to quarry the underlying geology, for example for building stone. This interpretation is speculative, however, as the feature is not well understood.
- 6.279 The pit or ditch terminus was infilled with four silty fills that collectively yielded ten sherds of pottery pertaining to the period 1425–1550 and 48 fragments of CBM manufactured between 1450 and 1700. Also present was one sherd of 15th to 17th-century window glass and four wooden plank fragments. In addition to this, the organic-rich lower fill of this feature was radiocarbon dated to the period 1423-1459 cal AD, while the upper fill was radiocarbon dated

- to the period 1457-1631 cal AD. Taken together, this array of dating evidence suggests that this feature began to infill during the 1450s, before being infilled in its entirety prior to 1631AD.
- 6.280 A column sample taken through this backfill sequence was studied for pollen, ostracods and diatoms. This enabled the production of a pollen profile (described subsequently), the lower reaches of which were augmented by data supplied by ostracod analysis. Diatoms and ostracods were only preserved in the lower reaches of the sequence.
- 6.281 The lowest part of the sequence of (8208) / (8207), termed Zone 1 herein, suggested the presence of a generally open landscape with possible on-site or local cultivation and processing of cannabis (*Cannabis sativum*) or possibly hop (*Humulus*) species, in the vicinity of small areas of grassland, sedge fenland, possible willow woodland and damp, disturbed ground characterised by ditches. The lower deposits dating to the period 1423–1459 cal AD were dominated by grass (*Poaceae*) species at around 45%, which declined to c. 20% by the end of this first pollen zone. This decline was accompanied by a significant increase in the presence of cannabis-type pollen from 15% to almost 60%. Tree pollen was found in low quantities, though a peak of *Corylus avellana* (hazel)-type pollen was identified at the base of the zone at 20%. Ostracod and diatom analysis suggested that a range of freshwater environments, most likely streams and ponds fed by springs, studded the landscape at this time.
- 6.282 The upper sequence of (8208) / (8207), termed Zone 2 herein, was characterised by a steady dominance of grasses at around 40% of the assemblages. As in Zone 1, tree and shrub pollen was identified in small quantities. The herb assemblage appeared to diversify, however, and cereal type pollen was recorded throughout with a small peak to 4%. Evidence of a marsh-like environment nearby was also observed within this assemblage.
- 6.283 Pollen retrieved from upper fills (8207) / (8204) was less well preserved but suggested the continuation of a similar environmental regime represented by a single pollen zone up to c.1457-1631 cal AD. General trends in the assemblage included a dominance of *Poaceae* (grass) pollen between 30%-80%. Herb pollen was most prevalent, with *Lactucoideae* (dandelion) declining through the sequence from 35% to 5% towards the top. There is a general paucity of tree and shrub pollen, with *Salix* (willow) the only species recorded throughout (2-5%). The pollen accumulated from both on-site vegetation and via other factors of pollen transport such as airborne or fluvial modes from the wider environment.
- 6.284 Moving into the upper sequence from (8207) to (8204), the pollen assemblage suggested the on-site landscape continued to be characterised by open grassland with areas of slow flowing or standing water, as evidenced by the presence of small numbers of sedges (*Cyperaceae*) and bulrush/ bur reed (*Typha angustifolia/Spaganium*). This may indicate areas of herb fen, which may also be the origin of some of the grass pollen within the assemblage. Unidentified trilete spores were also present, which may have derived from a pre-Quaternary source, or perhaps were part of the onsite vegetation. Their presence in association with dandelion types (*Lactuoideae*) at initial values of 35% may suggest the spores to be present due to differential preservation or reworking of older sediments. Diatom analysis suggests that the local environment became somewhat drier at this time.
- 6.285 The wider environment again appears to have consisted of a mixed farming economy incorporating both pastoral and arable practices. Cereal type pollen is present throughout at relatively low levels, with arable weed types also identified within the assemblage, suggesting

arable farming within the wider landscape. Diversity of herbs increases toward the end of the sequence, with the emergence of Cannabis or hop-type pollen, possibly suggesting its cultivation in the wider landscape. Tree and shrub pollen is present only in very small numbers, most likely derived from long distance transportation. This suggests trees were growing only in small numbers in the wider landscape.

- 6.286 In summary, this sequence identifies a transition from a local environment dominated by a mosaic of grassland, willow (*Salix*) woodland, and sedge fen, toward one of grasses, cultivated cereals, fewer trees and shrubs, and reduced amount of wet ground.

The south-eastern slot: Figure 22, Plan 102 (south side)

Group 149: [8226], (8225), (8224); (8227) [8228]; (8229) [8230]; (8231) [8232]; Figure 22, Plan 102, south side; Figure 24, Section 113.2

- 6.287 A ditch orientated east–west, [8226], was identified at the base of the sequence in the south-eastern slot, that was 2m wide and up to 0.30m deep. It may represent a construction trench for a wooden fence line, represented in this instance by a minimum of three posts, [8228], [8230] and [8232] (Figure 22, Plan 102, south side). These were driven into the base of the ditch in a straight east–west line. They were infilled with bluish grey clay that could represent the degraded remnants of the posts. Dumped around these posts in the base of the ditch was a 0.39m thick deposit composed of roughly hewn, angular cobble to small boulder-sized ragstone fragments, (8225), that did not appear to be held together with any bonding material. The blocks therefore appear to have been dumped into the ditch, perhaps to shore up the fence posts that were driven into its base, thus effectively functioning as post packing. The remainder of the ditch was then infilled with silty clay from which 11 pottery sherds pertaining to the period 1425–1525 were retrieved, as were three fragments of CBM pertaining to the period 1450–1700.

Group 150: [8223], (8222); Figure 22, Plan 102; Figure 24, Section 113.1

- 6.288 After the fence fell out of use, this boundary was truncated by large, somewhat irregularly shaped pit or ditch [8223] (Group 150). The feature was 4.30m long, over 2m wide as seen and over 0.75m deep. It is possible that it may represent the corner of an industrial feature such as a quarry pit, perhaps dug to remove the underlying geology, for example for building stone. This is speculative, however, and the purpose of the pit remains uncertain.
- 6.289 What can be said is that the feature appears to have been infilled with a component of domestic waste when it fell out of use, which suggests that it was reused as a rubbish pit. This included 56 sherds of pottery pertaining to the period 1425–1524 and 19 sherds of CBM dating to the period 1450–1700.

Group 146: [8263], (8201), (8200), (8237), (8199); Figure 22, Plan 102; Section 113.1

- 6.290 Truncating the infill of the pit or ditch was gully [8263], which was over 4m long from east to west as seen and up to 0.60m wide. The feature appeared to be a construction cut for a wooden fence, the surviving remnants of which consisted of a series of overlapping planks, (8201) / (8202). After the fence has been instated, the gully was infilled with a silty deposit from which four pottery sherds pertaining to the period 1225–1325 were recovered, which may be residual in this context. The fence line may be the same as Group 207 in the central slot and Group 206

in the northern slot, although further stratigraphic and spatial analysis is required in order to demonstrate this.

Group 152: [8221], (2220), (8218); Figure 24, Section 113.1

- 6.291 After the fence fell out of use, it was truncated by another large pit or ditch [8221] (Group 152), recorded in section only. This feature was 1.30m wide and up to 0.66m deep and contained a single fill that did not produced any datable finds.

Group 208: [8219], (8218); Figure 24, Sections 113.1 and 113.2

- 6.292 The pit or ditch was then truncated by ditch [8219] (Group 208), recorded in section only. This was up to 1.20m deep and up to 0.40m wide. It was infilled with a single deposit that yielded five sherds of pottery pertaining to the period 1400–1500.

Group 153: [8235] / [8197]; Figure 22, Plan 102; Figure 24, Section 114.1

- 6.293 A large pit or ditch terminus was recorded towards the southern end of the central slot, [8235] / [8197] (Group 153). It was just under 4m wide and over 1.5m long as seen, with a depth of 0.39m. The purpose of the feature is uncertain.
- 6.294 After the feature fell out of use it was infilled with 14 sherds of pottery dated to the period AD 1425–1525 and 16 sherds of post-medieval CBM dating to the period 1450–1700. This suggests that feature was perhaps infilled with a component of domestic waste, thus suggesting it was reused, at least in part, as a rubbish pit.

Area 11

A field boundary

Group 92: [11026], (11025); [11024], (11023); Figure 38; Figure 40, Section 123.3

- 6.295 A ditch was uncovered in the northern part of Area 11 within Trench 3, [11026]. The ditch was orientated north-east–south-west and was 0.40m wide, surviving to a depth of just 0.08m. The feature was infilled with a deposit of silty clay, (11025), from which 15.9g of unclassified iron slag was recovered. This suggests that the feature was infilled, at least in part, with a component of industrial waste after it fell out of use as a land boundary.
- 6.296 The ditch was, however, aligned with another ditch fragment in Trench 13, c. 80m to the south-east, [11024]. This feature was better preserved, being up to 1m wide and up to 0.20m deep. It was infilled with a single silty deposit, (11023), which yielded three fragments of earlier IA pottery and six fragments of CBM pertaining to the period AD 1450–1700.
- 6.297 The alignments and positions of these two features strongly suggest that they form part of the same ditch. The evidence obtained from the most southerly excavated sample suggests that they functioned as a field boundary of late medieval to early post-medieval date that fell out of use and was infilled between AD 1450 and 1700.

Period 7: Mid- to Late Post-Medieval activity (17th to 19th Century)

- 6.298 A small amount of activity dating to the mid- to late post-medieval period (17th to 19th century) was noted within the confines of the site in Areas 7 and 8 only. The evidence is limited to a

farmland boundary ditches in Area 7 and linear stone-built features that could represent external wall foundations in Area 8.

Area 7

Boundary ditches

Group 58: [9007], (9004), (9005), (9006); Figure 26

- 6.299 A 7m long stretch of ditch was exposed in the northern end of Area 9 that was orientated north-west–south-east. The feature continued beyond the limits of the excavation to the north-west and the south-east. It was 2m wide and up to 0.70m deep and had been infilled with three distinct silty deposits, all of which were archaeologically sterile. The location and orientation of the ditch suggests that it was associated with Group 57 (discussed subsequently), hence its inclusion in this period.

Group 57: [9013] / [9017] / [9019] / [9025] / [9027] / [9029] / [9031]; (9012), (9016), (9018), (9024), (9026), (9028), (9030); Figure 27; Figure 29, Sections 133.1 and 134.1

- 6.300 A ditch orientated north-east–south-west was observed in the central portion of Area 9. The ditch extended from the eastern limit of excavation for a total distance of 122.3m, before being truncated by a modern boundary ditch. It is presumed to terminate in that location as it did not continue beyond the modern field boundary. It is therefore possible that the modern boundary replaced an earlier counterpart that was contemporary with the ditch under discussion here.
- 6.301 If [9007] (see Group 58, above) represents a return of this ditch, it can be concluded that it bounded a field that was over 20.2m south-east–north-west, extending beyond the limit of excavation to the north-west, by 176.2m north-east–south-west.
- 6.302 After the ditch fell out of use it was infilled with a single silty deposit from which a wide range of dating evidence was recovered. Fifteen sherds of Iron Age and Roman pottery were present, presumed to be residual in this context, as were five sherds of post-medieval pottery, the latest of which post-dated 1780.

Area 8

Stone wall foundations or field drains

Group 170: (8037), (8038); Figure 19

- 6.303 The base of a linear ragstone wall foundation composed of one course of roughly hewn boulder to cobble-sized blocks was uncovered in the northern corner of Area 8, (8037) (Plate 36). The feature was over 6.5m long, up to 0.30m wide and up to 0.30m deep and was orientated north-east–south-west. A similar stone-built feature, (8038), was identified 4.35m to the south-east on an identical orientation. This survived for a length of 3.79m and was up to 0.40m wide and 0.40m deep.

Group 140: (8009); Figure 19, Figure 20

- 6.304 A third, similar stone feature, (8009), was uncovered further towards the south, which was again orientated north-east–south-west. It was up to 14.5m long and up to 0.45m wide, with a depth of up to 0.12m. Found in association were 10 sherds of pottery pertaining to the period AD

1175–1250, however the position of the feature in the stratigraphic sequence, truncating earlier medieval and post-medieval ditches to the south-west and north-east, demonstrates that it more probably pertains to this later period. Worthy of note is the fact that, as shown on Figure 19, this feature could easily be misinterpreted as being earlier than the ditches to the north-east. However, this spatial association is misleading as the primary archive makes clear that it instead represents a stratigraphically later feature that sat above the edge of the intersection of the ditches.

Group (8039); Figure 19

- 6.305 A fourth stone feature, (8039), was recorded 11.4m to the south-east, which was again orientated north-east–south-west. It survived for a length of 28m and was up to 0.30m wide and 0.25m deep. No finds were found in association with the feature, however it truncated four medieval to early post-medieval ditches, thus suggesting that it belong in this period.

Group 138: (8040); Figure 19, Figure 20

- 6.306 Situated 0.89m to the east was a fifth stone feature, (8040). This somewhat sinuous feature trended east–west but exhibited a gentle curve in plan. It was 20.5m long as seen, up to 0.30m wide and up to 0.15m deep. Again, it truncated earlier medieval and post-medieval ditches, thus suggesting it may pertain to this period.
- 6.307 The purposes of these five stone features remains unclear. They could together represent fragments of buildings or could alternatively have formed external boundary walls, however their long, thin lengths are perhaps most suggestive of early examples of stone-lined field drains.



Plate 36: Wall (8037) (Group 170) in Area 8. Photograph looks south. Scale 2m.

Period 8: Pre-modern Activity (Prehistoric to Post-Medieval)

- 6.308 Archaeological activity that pre-dated the modern plough soil but could not be assigned to a specific archaeological period was uncovered in Areas 3 to 6, 9 and 11.

Area 3

Undated pits or natural features

Group 170: [3004], (3003); [3006], (3005); [3008], (3007); [3010], (3009); [3016], (3015); [3018], (3017); Figure 4; Figure 6, Section 7.1; Plate 37, Plate 38

- 6.309 A collection of six pits were recorded in Area 3 that were between 0.56m and 2m in width, 3.20m and 0.74m in length and 0.14m and 0.56m in depth. They were each infilled with a single deposit that resembled redeposited natural. These features are undated and may either represent a collection of man-made pits, natural undulations or a combination of the two.



Plate 37: Pit [3004] (Group 170). Photograph looks west. Scale 0.5m



Plate 38: Large pit [3018] (Group 170). Photograph faces west. Scale 2m

Area 4

A north-east–south-west aligned road

Group 13: [4022] / [4011] / [4004]; (4021) / (4010) / (4003); Figure 5

- 6.310 A ditch orientated north-east–south-west crossed the western half of Area 4 (Plates 39 and 40). It was over 31.6m long as seen, up to 0.85m wide and up to 0.33m deep. The feature contained a single fill that produced no datable finds.



Plate 39: Ditch slot [4022] (Group 13). Photograph looks south-west. Scale 0.5m.

Group 14: [4019] / [4015] / [4017] / [4013], (4018) / (4014) / (4016) / (4012); Figure 5

- 6.311 Running parallel with Group 13 was a second, similarly sized ditch, however this example did not survive to the north, presumably due to the damaging effects of ploughing. It was again infilled with a single deposit that contained no datable finds.
- 6.312 Together the ditches bounded a linear parcel of land that was 4.15m wide and over 31.6m long (Plate 40). It therefore seems probable that this long, narrow tract of land represents a droveway or trackway.
- 6.313 This landscape feature is currently undated. Efforts should therefore be made at the publication stage to determine whether it pertains to the post-medieval period through a map regression exercise.



Plate 40: The trackway bounded by [4022] / [4011] / [4004] (Group 13) and [4019] / [4015] / [4017] / [4013] (Group 14) crossing the western third of Area 4. Photograph looks north.

Miscellaneous pitting activity

Group 172: [4934], (4033); [4036], (4035); [4038], (4037)

- 6.314 A collection of small, shallow, undated circular to ovoid features were uncovered in Area 4 that were between 0.76m and 0.08m in diameter and up to 0.12m in depth. None produced any datable finds. They no doubt represent a disparate collection of pits, postholes and stakeholes of uncertain date and function. The features are do not appear to be directly related to one another as they expressed no clear spatial patterning in plan.

Area 5

An inhumation

Group 17: [5008], (5006), (5007); Figure 7; Figure 15

- 6.315 An irregular cut was noted in the central section of Area 5, [5008], that appeared to have suffered severe horizontal truncation, most probably by ploughing. The feature contained human bone in the form of a pair of articulated feet. Little can be said about this inhumation suffice to say that what remained of the grave cut was orientated north-west–south-east. The presence of this individual in a non-cemetery context is more suggestive of a prehistoric, Roman or even an Early to Mid-Saxon date (Cunliffe 1991; Taylor 2008; Reynolds 2009), however a lack of dating evidence means that the burial cannot be assigned to a specific period. This could be resolved were carbon dating considered prior to publication.

Area 6

Group 20: [6132], (6131); [6134], (6133); (6135), (6137), (6138), (6139), (6136); Figure 8

- 6.316 A collection of seven potentially related pits or post pits were identified in the northern corner of Area 6 (Plate 41). The features were between 0.22m and 0.89m in diameter and were up to 0.17m deep. They produced no datable finds, while their functions remain uncertain.



Plate 41: Pits or post pits [6132], [6134], [6135], [6136], [6137], [6138] (Group 20). Photo looks south-west. Scale 1m.

Group 187: [7025], (7024); Figure 17

- 6.317 A curvilinear feature was identified in the north-central portion of Area 7, continuing beyond the eastern limit of the excavation. It was up to 1.24m long and over 1m wide with a depth of up to 0.46m. This feature contained a single fill that yielded no datable finds. It may represent a tree throw, an irregular pit or a ditch terminus.

Area 9

Group 60: [9023], (9022); Figure 27

- 6.318 A similar feature to Group 187 was unearthed in the central portion of Area 9, which was up to 0.96m long and up to 1m wide. This irregularly shaped feature may represent a natural undulation or a tree throw. No finds were recovered from the feature.

Area 11

Undated ditches in Area 11

- 6.319 Undated ditches orientated north-east–south-west were uncovered in Area 11. These included [11020] in Trench 9 (Figure 38) and [11017] in Trench 19 (Figure 39). Also present were a series of ditches orientated north-west–south-east. These included [11022] in Trench 18, [11005] in Trench 20 and ditches [11028] and [11030] in Trench 23 and [11015] and [11012] in Trench 25. They were between 0.30m and 1m in width and were up to 0.45m deep. Little more can be said of these features suffice to note that they most probably represent field boundary ditches of uncertain date.

Period 9: Late Post-Medieval to Modern Activity (19th to 21st Century)

- 6.320 The entire site was sealed by a layer of modern subsoil (Group 3), found to be between 0.25m and 0.50m thick. A number of notable finds were recovered from this layer, including a single probable barbarous radiate <RF13> (AD 275–285), a copper alloy finger ring from (9034), two hobnails, 71.7g of tapped slag and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe (AD 1680–1710).
- 6.321 This was in turn sealed by a layer of topsoil (Group 4), found to be 0.17m and 0.70m thick. These deposits no doubt represent an agricultural plough soil that was active throughout the late-post-medieval and modern periods, prior to the site's development.
- 6.322 These deposits were truncated by several modern ditches and field drains of no archaeological value. These features are not described in any detail here. Instead, those that were awarded context numbers during the excavation are listed below for ease of reference:
- Ditch [2024] in Area 2 (Figure 3)
 - Field drain [9033] / [9015] and field boundary ditch [12172] / [12174] in Area 9 (Figure 27; Figure 29, Section 144.1)

7 QUANTIFICATION OF THE ARCHIVE

- 7.1 All finds have been washed, catalogued and are stored appropriately in archive boxes/environmentally controlled conditions. Assessment of the finds and environmental samples has been undertaken in accordance with the guidelines laid down in MoRPHE (Historic England 2015a). Completed reports have been reproduced in full in Appendix B.
- 7.2 Finds from the site comprise prehistoric and Roman pottery, Late Saxon to post-medieval pottery, bulk and registered metal finds, CBM, clay tobacco pipe (CTP), fired clay, worked flint, leather, post-Roman glass and slag.
- 7.3 Ecofacts from the site include animal bone, wood and macroplant remains. Geoarchaeological data relating to diatoms, pollen and micromorphology also forms part of the archive. Of 413 processed bulk samples taken for environmental assessment, 266 produced charcoal and 174 produced macroplant remains. Cereal remains were recovered from 174 of these samples.
- 7.4 Additionally, six kubiena samples were removed from within kiln [10029], which together sampled the lower two fills of the kiln for micromorphology. A total of 18 sub-samples were also taken from three column samples, which were assessed for pollen, ostracods and diatoms. One column sample targeted the fills of a pond feature, [8042], which was also subject to carbon dating, while two sampled the fills of ditch terminus [8209].
- 7.5 The site records have been completed and checked (see Table 1). A context register has been completed (Appendix A) and a draft stratigraphic matrix has been compiled for the site. Contexts have been placed into preliminary phases using stratigraphic information and provisional dating. Illustrations have been constructed to accompany the results showing the location of the features. Assessment of the finds has been undertaken (Appendix B). The photographic archive has been checked and will be reassessed prior to deposition.
- 7.6 There are currently no repositories in Kent collecting archaeological archives.

Archive	Quantification
Context Checklist	35
Context Record Sheets	1116
Finds	15648
Environmental Sample List	21
Environmental Samples Taken	497
Primary Drawing Register	39
Registered Finds List	8
Plan and Section Sheets (Permatrace)	222
Photographic Record Sheet	100
Digital Photographs (JPEG)	1222

Table 1: Quantification of the archive

8 FINDS ASSESSMENT

8.1 All of the finds have been washed and catalogued as appropriate. The finds have been assessed by specialists in accordance with current guidance (ClfA 2020b). All finds have been examined for this report. They comprise pottery, animal bone, metal objects, glass, clay tobacco pipe, ceramic building material, marine shell and environmental samples. Table 2 presents the frequencies of each find type, excluding marine shell and archaeobotanical remains. Full specialist assessments are presented as Appendix B.

Find Type	Count
Animal Bone	2372
Burnt flint	132
CBM	1175
Charcoal	624.8g
CTP	4
Fired Clay	6986
Human remains	14 individuals
Industrial Residue	10.4kg
Leather	6
Lithics	456
Macroplant	4580
Metal assemblage	265
Numismatic assemblage	1
Post-Roman Glass	50
Post-Roman pottery	2417
Prehistoric and Roman pottery	4109
Stone spindle whorl	1
Worked wood	207

Table 2: A breakdown of the finds recovered excluding marine shell and archaeobotanical remains

Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

8.1 A large assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery was recovered from the site, totalling 4109 sherds, weighing 34.58 kg. The pottery belongs predominantly to two discrete phases: the Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age/early Roman period, but could span a longer period, including Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, Middle/Late Iron Age and mid/late Roman date. The Late Iron Age/early Roman assemblage was mostly found in Area 12. Smaller

quantities of similar material was recovered in Areas 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 10. Two very large groups were recorded: over 600 sherds from occupation deposit (12073) and over 300 sherds from three fills of pit [12057], the latter containing a higher proportion of fine/table wares than the assemblage as a whole. A large group of over 100 sherds was also present in deposit 12004. A number of moderate sized groups of c. 30-100 sherds were also recovered from other deposits, pits and ditches.

Post-Roman Pottery

- 8.2 The archaeological work at the site recovered 2417 sherds of post-Roman pottery, weighing 33,048g, from 119 individually numbered contexts. These totals include 355 sherds (1009g) from 67 different environmental residues – the remainder being recovered by hand collection on site. An estimated 1033 different vessels are represented in the assemblage.

Post-Roman Glass

- 8.3 Fifty sherds of post-Roman glass were recovered from the site. The assemblage comprises a complete and intact medicinal bottle (12002) which makes up the majority of the assemblage by weight (Mass: 400.5g), a dark olive green drinks bottle fragment (8043) (Mass: 60.3g), a tiny black glass bead (RT 150a), (Mass: <0.1g), a partial drinking glass foot (8000b) (Mass: 9.8g), 10 window glass fragments (Mass: 28.8g), a non-classifiable bottle neck and finish fragment (8000a) (Mass: 15.1g), 10 non-classifiable vessel fragments (Mass: 4.1g), and 25 tiny non-diagnostic shatter sherds (Mass: 0.1g). A small quantity of tiny fragments of natural quartzite (Mass: 0.8g) was also submitted amongst the retent glass assemblage (not included in the assessment / archive).

Ceramic Building Materials

- 8.4 Excavations recovered a total of 1175 fragments (92.131kg) of ceramic building material (CBM); entirely of post-medieval date, potentially spanning the Tudor period to the 18th century and generally in a moderately fragmented condition; as well as 1070 fragments (9117g) of daub that is highly fragmented (with a friable nature) and may be contemporary, if not related to preceding prehistoric to medieval activity. The CBM includes a low number of bricks that could feasibly have been produced from the mid-15th century onwards, but although they generally occur separately from the pre-dominant brick, it is more likely that both types represent contemporary activity in the mid-16th to 17th centuries. Similarly the peg tile may have currency into the 18th century, but is likely contemporary with the bricks. The only substantive groups of both peg tile and brick were contained in ditches, including field boundaries and drainage ditches, which is also true of the daub, except for a very high concentration recorded as a spread that may have been associated with a structure.

Clay Tobacco Pipe Assemblage

- 8.5 A very small assemblage of 4 (37g) clay tobacco pipe fragments were recovered by hand during archaeological investigations at Stour Park. Two clay tobacco pipe bowls were recovered from site, dating from the mid-17th to the late-18th century. The earliest bowl (14g) identified is likely an AO9 type (c.1680-1710) from topsoil context (8001). The second bowl (17g), recovered from the primary fill (8249) of a ditch (8250) is likely an AO6 type dating to c. 1660-1680. One fragment of stem (3g) and one fragment of a mouthpiece (3g) were recovered from context (8043).

Metal Assemblage

- 8.6 A total of 265 metal objects were identified. 125 of these were iron nails and nail fragments (see Appendix II), whilst 140 were other types of objects made from iron, copper alloy and lead (see Appendix I). The whole assemblage weighed 4009g with nails accounting for 741g of this weight.
- 8.7 A total of 11 objects within the assemblage are made from copper alloy, weighing 29.9g. These objects include a buckle, two brooches, two strap ends and a possible finger ring. Stylistically, the identifiable copper-alloy objects are consistent with a Late Iron Age, Roman or early-medieval date, some finds present more refined dates within this range.
- 8.8 A total of 246 objects within the assemblage are made from iron alloy, weighing 3,573g. These objects include a spearhead from burial [6169], knives and cleavers, a buckle, holdfasts and nails. Ironwork generally is functional and therefore many objects remain in consistent form throughout the Roman, early-medieval and medieval period.
- 8.9 The lead assemblage from the site consists of 5 objects, weighing a total of 223.58g. These consist of two pieces of folded lead including <RF 45>, a piece of rolled lead sheet, fragments of lead sheet <RF 141> and a slender possible lead rod recovered from sample 510 of burial [6100]. Generally, the objects are undiagnostic and dates cannot be assigned based on stylistic features. The slender rod recovered from burial [6100] measures 51mm in length, 0.2mm in diameter and weighs 0.01 grams. At present it remains undiagnostic.

Numismatic Assemblage

- 8.10 A single probable barbarous radiate <RF13> was found on the site, recorded from (9034) in Area 9.

Stone Spindle Whorl

- 8.11 Three fragments from a single stone spindle whorl were recovered from fill (10047) of ditch [10048]. The artefact could be Roman to early post-medieval in date.

Fired Clay

- 8.12 Fragments of fired clay totalling more than 130kg were recovered from Area 10 and comprises the fired clay debris resulting from the destruction of three thermal installations. These structures/features, [10027], [10029] and [10030] were used for some form of thermal process, though not one requiring high temperatures. Two types of structure are present, with [10027] having a completely different shape to [10029] and [10030]. Despite this, the fired clay material is largely identical in terms of fabric.

Lithics and Burnt Flint

- 8.13 A total of 456 struck flints were recovered from 146 separate contexts. The assemblage is summarised by artefact type in Table B11 and is set out in full by context order in Table B12. This makes clear that only four contexts achieved double figures while no fewer than 58 produced only a single piece. The most productive single context was 7052, the fill of pit 7053, which produced 34 flints, although 26 of these comprised spalls <10mm in size. Next came context (7040), the fill of pit [7043], with 21 pieces, of which nine comprised spalls.

- 8.14 Small quantities of burnt flint were recovered from 25 contexts across the site, all from wet sieving. No single context produced more than 38g of material and most produced less than 10g.

Leather

- 8.15 Six pieces of leather were recovered from the site. A small amount of waste leather was present in the primary fill (8161) of pit 8162. The waste leather comprised five small pieces of narrow trimming. The vamp from a leather shoe of welted construction was also found in the primary fill (8249) of ditch [8250]

Slag and Industrial Residues

- 8.16 The vitrified material assemblage is dominated by ironworking waste (mass: 9.5kg), which is largely made up of slags indicative of iron smelting, and includes large quantities of dense, grey tapped slags (mass: 3.6kg). Some possible evidence for smithing was also identified in the form of two plano-convex cake fragments (mass: 703.4g) although these may be smelting related, as well as a concentration of flake hammerscale and slag spheres retrieved along with small fragments of unclassified iron slag and runned slags (mass: 1.0kg) from a single pit deposit. Other materials retrieved include unclassified iron slags and runned slags which are diagnostic of metalworking though not indicative of a particular metalworking process, and small amounts of vitrified ceramic and fuel-ash slags, including one fragment identified as Iron Age Grey. This material represents the remains of both smelting and smithing activities though no definitive *in situ* evidence for metalworking was identified. The activity is predominantly focused around the Late Saxon kilns within Area 10.

Human Remains

- 8.17 A total of 14 inhumations and one cremation were recovered from the site. This included 11 Saxon inhumations in a small cemetery, two probable extra-cemetery Roman inhumations adjacent to a Roman road within Area 6 and a partial undated inhumation consisting of just the feet in Area 5. The assemblage included six males, three females, three adults of indeterminate sex and one nonadult between the ages of 15 to 18 years of age at time of death. All adults were identified as either middle (26-45 yrs) or mature (46+ yrs). Evidence for degenerative joint disease, osteoarthritis, dental enamel hypoplasia, healed fractures and dental pathology including calculus, antemortem tooth-loss, caries and abscess were observed in the assemblage.

Animal Bone

- 8.18 A total of 2372 hand-collected animal bones and teeth were recovered from 128 contexts spanning the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. Of these 525 fragments could be identified to taxon. There were no obvious deposits of primary butchery, skin-processing or craft-working waste, and it is likely that the assemblage consists of a mixture of processing and consumption refuse. Two associated bone groups were recovered, which imply primary contexts subject to little post-depositional disturbance, a sheep / goat skeleton (7057) from [7056] and contexts (10231) and (10232) contained the remains of at least three pigs, one of which was perinatal.

Worked Wood

- 8.19 A total of 207 fragments of worked wood were recovered from the site that included fragments of oak, willow, cherry, maple, birch and ash. The bulk of the assemblage consisted of unworked

roundwood, often with bark still attached. A mixture of species was present, mostly willow (*Salix* sp.) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) but also cherry (*Prunus* sp.), birch (*Betula* sp.) and maple (*Acer campestre*). Some of the contexts also contained small fragments of radially-split oak planking, usually very decayed and consequently displaying no woodworking evidence. There were occasional pieces of worked wood, such as the trimmed roundwood from [8106] and [8248] which could represent small stake tips. Included in the worked wood assemblage were registered finds SF 184 (plank), SF 191, SF 186, SF 187, SF 188, SF 192 (staves), SF 185 (plank), SF 189, SF 193 (plank offcuts), SF 190 (stake) and SF 183, a wooden bowl.

Macroplant and Charcoal

- 8.20 A total of 413 washover samples were collected from a series of burials, cremation pits, enclosure ditches, pits, ditches, gullies, kilns, pits, postholes and subsoil. These archaeological features derived from a multi-phase site in use from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period.
- 8.21 A minimum of 4580 carbonised macroplant were assessed from 178 samples collected from 145 contexts. The assemblage was composed of cereals, nuts, fruits, vegetables, woodland remains and weeds. Cereal caryopses formed the largest component of the plant assemblage with chaff, nuts, fruits, vegetables, woodland finds and weeds only a minor inclusion. Preservation of the macroplant remains ranged from mostly poor to adequate with a smaller number recorded as good to excellent.
- 8.22 Charcoal fragments (624.8g) suitable for analysis were recovered from 266 samples collected from 244 contexts. Only those contexts which had 4.0g more of charcoal were selected for further study at this stage of the assessment. A total of 410 fragments (426.2g) were identified to species from 41 samples from 39 contexts. The remaining fragments (198.6g) were scattered among the other 225 samples in small quantities and these were not identified. The species were alder (*Alnus glutinosa* L), birch (*Betula* sp), hazel (*Corylus avellana* L), ash (*Fraxinus* sp), apple/pear/hawthorn/rowan (*Maloideae/sorbus* sp), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa* L), cherry (*Prunus* sp), oak (*Quercus* sp), willow (*Salix* sp) and elm (*Ulmus* sp). Preservation of the fragments ranged from poor to good. Those described as poor were noticeably vitrified and abraded.

Palaeoenvironmental

- 8.23 Palaeoenvironmental assessment was carried out on three monolith samples (four tins in total were taken of which only three were deemed suitable for palaeoenvironmental analysis). Assessment of the subsamples included the investigation of diatoms, ostracods, and pollen. A possible pond feature, [8042], with one fill (8041) was also sampled, <Tin 2>. Feature [8209] represents a ditch terminus with five recorded fills, the lower three of which were sampled within tins <3> and <4>. Throughout the sequence, 12 subsamples for palaeoenvironmental assessment and 2 radiocarbon dating samples have been taken. Diatom and ostracod preservation was found to be very poor, however pollen was moderately well preserved.

9 CONCLUSIONS

Summary of Results

Period 1: Natural

- 9.1 Natural clay and fragmented limestone were identified across the entire site (Group 1). These deposits are presumed to represent the upper reaches of the natural superficial geology, namely alluvial silts and clays, laid down by the East Stour and its tributaries during the Quaternary period, and the upper reaches of the underlying bedrock, the Hythe formation of limestone and sandstone. The lack of any Holocene alluvium above this within the confines of the site suggests that it remained dry for much of that period. It was therefore suitable for a range of activities including settlement and farming, while simultaneously being situated close to the rich resources of the marsh of the East Stour and its tributaries.
- 9.2 The topography of the natural ground included a ridge that ran across the northern and western sides of the site on a north-east–south-west orientation with the ground falling away to the north and west. This topography appears to have influenced the alignments of features of all periods across the site, which generally either ran approximately parallel with the ridge or at a right-angle to it.

Periods 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3: Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age Activity

- 9.3 Late Bronze Age to Early / Middle Iron Age activity in the form of pits (Groups 168, 169, 63, 54, 178), small pits or postholes (Group 53), two possible post-built structures (Groups 65 and 67), a cremation (Group 185) and a possible roundhouse (Group 162) were variously uncovered in Areas 2, 7, 9 and 10. Activity pertaining to this period therefore appears to have been biased towards the eastern fringe of the site (Areas 7, 9 and 10), with a small amount of activity in the northern corner (Area 2).
- 9.4 This was followed by a second phase of archaeological activity, recognized in Area 10 only. The earlier roundhouse (Group 162) was replaced by a rectangular enclosure (Group 70). The enclosure continued beyond the western limit of the excavation and could either bound a settled area or an agricultural or pastoral field.
- 9.5 The last archaeologically recognisable phase of activity pertaining to this period again occurred in Area 10, where a large pit was dug through the backfilled enclosure (Group 179).

Periods 3.1 and 3.2: Late Iron Age (LIA) to Early Roman Activity (1st to 2nd Century AD)

- 9.6 Late Iron Age to Early Roman features were identified in seven areas during the strip, map and sample exercises, namely Areas 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12, with the greatest concentration of activity being in the eastern half of the site. Several land uses were identified during this period.
- 9.7 Roads and trackways were represented by a north–south trackway or driveway that was flanked by ditches (Groups 6 and 7) and an east–west road, replete with a metaled surface (Group 35). The latter was initially flanked by fence lines (Groups 174 and 175) and later by ditches that were maintained through repeated recutting throughout this period (Groups 21, 24, 25, 26, 29, 32, 31, 173, 34).
- 9.8 Two inhumations were buried immediately beside the northern flanking ditches of the east–west road (Groups 27, 28), while an animal burial was also found in an apparently isolated location (Group 177). The latter could represent an example of structured deposition but, given

its isolated nature and the lack of any associated artefacts, it more probably represents the burial of a diseased animal in farmland.

- 9.9 Boundary ditches and enclosures were encountered that variously delineated areas of settlement or farmland (Groups 69, 103 and 105), with one enclosure being maintained through recutting on at least three occasions (Groups 106, 104, 107) before being enlarged (Group 108) and recut for the final time (Group 118).
- 9.10 Evidence of settlement in the south-east corner of the site was demonstrated by the presence of two ring ditches that may represent roundhouses (Groups 111 and 113) and an associated boundary ditch (Groups 114 and 115). Pitting activity also took place throughout this period (Groups 8, 9, 10, 12).
- 9.11 A second phase of Roman activity was recognized in Area 12. The features took the form of a series of narrow gullies that either represent beam slots for clay and timber buildings or poorly preserved boundary ditches surrounding small pen-like enclosures (Groups 119, 201, 202, 102, 112). A post-built structure was also identified (Group 190), along with pitting activity (Group 189), as was a dump layer of probable domestic waste (Group 122).

Period 4: Early to Middle Saxon Activity (5th to 8th Century AD)

- 9.12 Early to Middle Saxon activity, perhaps pertaining to the 6th century, was uncovered in Area 6. This took the form of a small inhumation cemetery of 11 individuals (Groups 39–49), that could perhaps represent an extended family group or the occupants of a small settlement (Williams 2011). Grave goods accompanied a young to middle-aged adult male (a spear, a knife and an unusual buckle) that may be able to provide valuable information regarding the cultural affinities of the group as a whole as well as the status and perhaps the identity in the individual with which they were buried (Welch 2011). Further analysis of the grave goods may also enable the cemetery to be better dated.

Periods 5.1 and 5.2: Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman Activity (9th to 11th Century AD) or Earlier

- 9.13 Activity pertaining to the Late Saxon period or earlier was uncovered in Areas 7 and 10 along the eastern periphery of the site, the only outlying feature being a probable field boundary ditch in Area 11 (Group 100).
- 9.14 Activity in Areas 7 and 10 took the form of a boundary ditch (Group 88), two fence lines (Group 81) and six probable corn drying kilns, which could alternatively pertain to the Roman period but did collectively yield a small quantity of Late Saxon dating evidence (Kilns 1–6). The morphology of the kilns also appeared to more closely resemble Mid- to Late Saxon corn dryers than their Roman equivalents, although further research is required to confirm this. When the kilns fell out of use, possible closing deposits (potentially structured deposits) including three ABGs and a possible quern stone, were placed in pits that were dug through Kilns 4 and 5. These deposits may have been placed within the pits to mark the end of the lives of the kilns, however further research is necessary to determine whether any analogues for this exist on contemporary sites elsewhere. A collection of pits or post-built structures were also found to the south of the corn dryers that could also represent Late Saxon features (Group 87).
- 9.15 A possible post-built structure with the same dimensions as a Late Saxon long hall was uncovered in Area 7. While this could represent a high-status Late Saxon building, no dating evidence pertaining to this period was recovered from the feature. Further work is therefore

required to better understand the nature of this poorly dated and rather poorly preserved earthfast structure. The long hall interpretation is favoured here, but it is important to stress that the evidence amassed thus far is not conclusive. In particular, the lack of Late Saxon dating evidence is problematic. Further work is therefore required to confirm, refute or modify this hypothesis.

- 9.16 A cremation, currently phased herein to the Late Iron Age (Period 2.1), could alternatively represent a foundation deposit associated with this hall. Carbon dating of the cremated bone could help to not only resolve its age but also, were it to pertain to the Saxon period, could be used to support the 'hall' hypothesis presented here.

Period 6: Medieval to Early Post-Medieval Activity (11th to 17th Centuries)

- 9.17 Medieval to early post-medieval activity was nucleated in Area 8 in the south-west corner of the site, with outlying activity in the form of farmland boundary ditches (Groups 19, 164) and pitting activity (Group 188) in Areas 4 and 7. A noteworthy discovery was also made in Area 10 in the form of a roughly made rubble surface that perhaps delineated an external work area (Groups 85, 86, 77).

- 9.18 Land use within Area 8 appeared to consist of a dense array of field or property boundaries that were repeatedly recut and realigned between the 12th and 17th centuries. These frequent changes in land use will need to be sub-phased prior to publication as the stratigraphy encountered demonstrated that many of the groups detailed here cannot have been simultaneously extant.

- 9.19 In summary, pitting activity was noted (Groups 165, 147, 185), the bulk of which appeared to date between the 11th and 14th centuries. Ditches and other boundaries in the form of wooden fence lines ranged in date from the mid-12th century to the 17th century.

- 9.20 Over seven sub-phases of activity pertaining to this period was deduced from the stratigraphy encountered coupled with the finds retrieved:

- mid-12th to mid-13th-century (Group 128, 123, 124)
- mid- to late 13th century (Group 125)
- mid-13th to mid-14th century (Group 116)
- later mid-13th to the mid-14th century (Group 117)
- mid-14th century or later (Groups 142, 141)
- mid-15th–16th century (Groups 134, 143, 135, 136, 158)
- mid-15th to 17th century (Groups 156, 206, 147, 145, 148, 155, 154, 207, 147, 205, 151, 149, 150, 146, 152, 208, 153,

- 9.21 This sub-phasing has not been formerly applied herein as it is incomplete but will need to be applied fully prior to publication. The further stratigraphic analysis that is required to sub-phase this period relates to how the mid-15th to 17th-century ditches should be grouped and sub-phased. This will be undertaken during the analysis phase.

- 9.22 This relative intensity of medieval to early post-medieval activity in Area 8 strongly suggests that the focus of settlement shifted westwards during the 10th and 11th centuries, towards the historic core of the extant village of Sevington.

- 9.23 Palaeoenvironmental evidence recovered from two features (Groups 130, 151) suggested that this area of the site was characterised by willow carr within a wider, open landscape of pastoral and agricultural fields during the earlier part of this period (14th century). Hops and / or hemp were perhaps grown more locally, presumably for use in the beer and / or rope production industries. While the wider environment continued to be characterised by farmland into the later part of this period, at a local level it became somewhat drier as it transitioned from a mosaic of grassland, willow (*Salix*) woodland, and sedge fen, towards one of grasses, cultivated cereals, fewer trees and shrubs, and a reduced amount of wet ground.

Period 7: Mid- to Late Post-Medieval Activity (17th to 19th Century)

- 9.24 Two farmland boundary ditches that may date to the 17th to 19th centuries were uncovered in Area 7 (Groups 57, 58). Stone foundations or field drains were noted in Area 8. No other activity pertaining to this period was identified on the site.

Period 8: Pre-modern Activity (Prehistoric to Post-Medieval)

- 9.25 Archaeological activity that pre-dated the modern plough soil but could not be assigned to a specific archaeological period was uncovered in Areas 3 to 6, 9 and 11. Features encountered included pits, postholes or natural features (Groups 170, 172, 20, 187, 60) in Areas 3, 4, 6 and 9, a probable north-east–south-west aligned road or trackway in Area 4 (Groups 13 and 14), a partial inhumation in Area 5 (Group 17) and eight probable farmland boundary ditches in Area 11.

Period 9: Late Post-Medieval to Modern Activity (19th to 21st-Century)

- 9.26 The entire site was overlain by modern subsoil (Group 3) and topsoil (Group 4). These deposits were truncated by modern field boundaries and land drains of little archaeological significance.

Realisation of the Research Aims

- 9.27 The archaeological strip, map and sample exercise successfully addressed the following general research aims:
- To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site;
 - To identify archaeological deposits at the site

As detailed above and summarised below, archaeological remains were found across the entire site, the only exception being Area 1. The extent, nature, character, date and quality of archaeological features encountered is described in detail in Section 6 and their dimensions are provided in Appendix A. A summary of the extent, nature, character, condition, date and quality of artefacts and ecofacts that were recovered during the excavation is provided in Section 8 and detailed in Appendix B, while the palaeoenvironmental results are summarised in Section 9.

- To establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected
- To establish the likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development.

Other than small, localized impacts by modern field drains and boundary ditches, no vertical intrusions of modern origin significantly impacted upon the archaeological resource across the

site. That said, a degree of horizontal truncation has undoubtedly occurred in the recent past as a result of 20th-century ploughing. The scale of the damage is hard to accurately quantify, however the shallow nature of most (though not all) of the features suggests that a moderate to severe degree of horizontal truncation has been induced by ploughing across the entire site in the recent past.

9.28 The following specific research objectives were also addressed:

- Does the untruncated surface of natural gravels/clay and/or brickearth subsoil survive?
- What is the nature of the natural topography and does it concatenate with the results of the evaluation in the corresponding areas? How does this affect the archaeological resource?

Natural alluvial clay pertaining to the Quaternary period was identified across the entire site. The topography of the natural ground included a ridge that ran across the northern side of the site on a north-east–south-west orientation with the ground falling away to the north. This influenced the alignments of features of all periods across the site, which generally either ran parallel or at a right-angle to the ridge.

- Is there any evidence for prehistoric activity *in situ*? Is there any redeposited evidence for prehistoric activity? If so, can this be linked in anyway with sites nearby?

Residual flint artefacts suggest low-level visitations by mobile bands of hunter-gatherers during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods (see Appendix B, The Lithics, below).

The first *in situ* evidence of prehistoric activity pertains to the Late Bronze Age to Early / Middle Iron Age. This consisted of pitting activity, boundary ditches, two post-built structures, a cremation and a possible roundhouse in Areas 2, 7, 9 and 10. Together this evidence suggests that small-scale settlement and farming took place within the confines of the site during the Late Bronze Age to the Early / Middle Iron Age. After a possible period of abandonment, settlement and farming appears to have resumed during the Late Iron Age to Roman transition.

- What is the nature, extent, survival, date, and significance of the Romano-British remains? Can the nature and extent of the features found during the evaluation be fully understood? How does the evidence modify or enhance our understanding of Romano-British development and occupation?

Late Iron Age to Early Roman features were identified in Areas 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12, with the greatest concentration of activity being in the eastern half of the site. The remains were moderately well preserved but had been subjected to horizontal truncation via ploughing. The remains are reasonably well understood, although further work is required to contextualise them at a regional level. Land uses included a north–south trackway or driveway, an east–west road, two roadside inhumations, an isolated animal burial in probable farmland, boundary ditches and enclosures variously delineating areas of settlement and farmland and settlement activity in the form of two probable roundhouses and pitting activity. It is possible that a collection of clay and timber buildings were also present on the site, however these features could alternatively represent small pen-like enclosures. The settlement appears to have been abandoned as the Early Roman period drew to a close, perhaps during the early 2nd century. This evidence will certainly enhance our understanding of Romano-British development and occupation at a local level and could perhaps contribute to the growing corpus of evidence relating to Roman

settlement and farming at a more regional level. The evidence is thus deemed to be of local to regional significance.

- Can specific socio-economic activities be identified in the archaeological record? This might include further evidence of land management indicated by the evaluation.

In addition to evidence of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age to Roman settlement, socio-economic activities identified on the site include farmland management features (i.e. field boundaries) pertaining to all periods. This may include boundary ditches and fence lines separating both agricultural and pastoral fields. Evidence of agrarian activity (i.e. crop processing) was also demonstrated by the discovery of six corn dryers that could be Roman but appear to more closely resemble Mid- to Late Saxon features.

- Is there evidence for the development of occupation past the Romano-British period into the early-medieval period?

An earthfast structure was discovered in the south-east portion of the site (Area 7) that possessed dimensions that were identical to those of a Late Saxon long hall. It is therefore possible that this structure represents the poorly preserved remnants of such a structure that in turn could indicate a nucleus of Late Saxon activity towards the western side of the site. The feature was poorly dated, however, and as such this remains speculative.

- 9.29 No direct evidence of settlement pertaining to later periods was found within the confines of the site. However the relatively high intensity of medieval to early post-medieval peripheral settlement activity in Area 8 in the form of pits and ditches strongly suggests that the focus of settlement shifted westwards during the 10th and 11th centuries, towards the historic core of the extant village of Sevington.

- What is the nature of the post-medieval field boundaries and can these tie into features identified on maps of the area?

Only one field boundary pertaining to Period 7 (17th to 19th century) was found during the strip, map and sample exercise. During this period maps grew in detail and accuracy thus enabling this research aim to be realistically addressed for this phase. The ditch was not found on any 19th or 20th century maps of the area consulted thus far, however further cartographic analysis will be undertaken prior to publication.

- What is the nature of the natural topography and underlying geology and how might this have influenced the location of the site?

Natural alluvial clay was identified across the entire site. This was laid down by the East Stour and its tributaries during the Quaternary period. The lack of Holocene alluvium above this within the confines of the site suggests that it remained dry. It was therefore suitable for a range of activities including settlement and farming, while simultaneously being situated close to the rich resources of the marsh of the East Stour and its tributaries.

Statement of Significance

- 9.30 The discovery of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (Period 2) and Late Iron Age to Roman (Period 3) archaeology within the confines of the site is of local to regional significance. It has the potential to add to the existing corpus of evidence regarding Late Bronze Age to Roman activity at a local level, but may also contribute to regional overviews relating to patterns of

settlement, changes in material culture and perhaps cultural affinities in east Kent. The data may add to existing syntheses, such as those presented by Cunliffe (1991) and Hamilton (2007). The Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (Period 2) archaeology may be particularly influential in this regard (see prehistoric and Roman pottery, this section, below).

- 9.31 The discovery of a small Early to Middle Saxon cemetery on the site (Period 4) and Late Saxon or earlier (Period 5) evidence that could include six corn drying kilns and perhaps a long hall, may be of regional importance as some or all of these discoveries will contribute to regional-level patterns of Saxon settlement activity, changes in material culture and cultural affinities in Kent as collated, for example, by Hamerow (2012), amongst others. While already represented in East Kent, archaeology pertaining to these periods is nevertheless a relatively uncommon find when compared with earlier and later periods of activity, thus elevating the significance of these discoveries.
- 9.32 The presence of the Middle Saxon inhumations, the corn dryers and the 'long hall' deserve particular mention. In the case of the former, in addition to providing biographical information through osteoarchaeological analysis, the presence of grave goods, perhaps in combination with strontium isotope analysis, has the potential to reveal a great deal of new information regarding mobility, cultural affiliations and the social status of the Middle Saxon occupants of the Sevington area (Williams 2011; Welch 2011), all of which again has the potential to be of regional significance. Similarly, the corn dryers represent a rare and regionally significant discovery. Detailed analysis of these features has the potential to improve current understanding of this technology, regardless of whether they represent Late Saxon or earlier thermal installations. If the earthfast structure does represent a long hall, it would also be a relatively rare discovery of a high-status building that would be of regional significance. This interpretation is tentative, however, and as such the significance of this feature may decrease were that interpretation to change in the wake of further research.
- 9.33 The medieval to post-medieval (Periods 6 and 7) remains that were uncovered are thought to represent farmland features and peripheral settlement features. They are of local significance as they inform upon the nature of land use during those periods in the hinterland of the village of Sevington.
- 9.34 The undated (Period 8) and late post-medieval (Period 9) deposits and features are of negligible archaeological significance as they are unable to further current knowledge of the evolving nature of land use in the vicinity of the site.

Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

- 9.35 The prehistoric assemblage is of moderately large size, however the presence of at least a few large diagnostic stratified pit groups of Early Iron Age date is of some regional significance, since diagnostic ceramics of this period have so far been lacking in the Ashford area. Of particular note is the fact that the Early Iron Age assemblage is dominated by grog-tempered fabrics. Grog-tempering has previously been identified in several Early or Early/Middle Iron Age assemblages in coastal east Kent, including Saltwood Tunnel (Jones 2006) and the Aerodrome and Canterbury Road sites at Hawkinge (Hamilton & Seager Thomas in prep a and b). This tempering tradition is quite atypical in contemporary assemblages elsewhere in Kent and the South East and possibly suggests strong localised ceramic links to areas of France and the Low Countries. Having said this, the current assemblage does not necessarily appear as

influenced by continental forms or decorative traditions as other coastal assemblages: it lacks elements such as fine pedestal base jars or the common use of rustication, for example. As such, this assemblage is unusual for the area, with potential to contribute to knowledge of Early Iron Age pottery traditions in Kent at regional level.

- 9.36 The Late Iron Age/early Roman assemblage is much larger in size and also contains some larger stratified groups. It is clearly of local significance and worthy of publication; however, its significance is slightly limited by the fact that several other Late Iron Age/Roman assemblages have been published from the area (e.g. Thompson 2013; Lyne 2008; Powell 2013) and many others are available in grey literature format (e.g. Lyne 2000; Brown 2006; Booth 2011, Rayner 2021). It also seems to conform fairly closely to the range of fabrics and forms expected in this period for a lower status rural assemblage.

Post-Roman Pottery

- 9.37 The Early/Mid Saxon assemblage is of interest as it is the earliest post-Roman material recovered. However, although the material needs to be mentioned in the final report the sherds themselves have no potential for further analysis and are of local significance.
- 9.38 The Late Saxon assemblage is considered more important as this period has not been well represented in the Ashford area previously and it not only demonstrates a specific area of activity at this time but also provides a small insight into the fabrics in use. This assemblage could therefore be seen as regionally significant.
- 9.39 The Early Medieval assemblage is considered to be of local to regional interest for the period pre-dating the mid-12th century. The assemblage contains new fabrics not previously seen in the immediate area as well as highlighting the Canterbury source for much of this early material. Additionally, it can help to establish the probable start date for the field lay-out and full-time settlement of the land.
- 9.40 The pottery from the latter part of the Early Medieval period is of local interest as, despite demonstrating the chronological narrative of the current site, similar material is well known from other sites in and around Ashford.
- 9.41 This position is similar for the High Medieval assemblage which is somewhat repetitive and unremarkable compared with other assemblages unearthed nearby.
- 9.42 The Late Medieval material is considered to have more potential for detailed work and could be considered to be of local to regional significance. Despite the period being well represented locally, the current assemblage includes a notable quantity of material that falls between c. 1350 and 1450, a period often not represented in assemblages due to the massive reduction in population following the plague. As such some of the current groups have the potential to help our understanding of the fabrics in use at this time and the transition between the High and 'later' Late Medieval periods ceramically. The early and late post-medieval assemblages are two small and scattered to warrant any further detailed analysis though their presence should be noted in the final report in order to help understand the nature of land-use and close by occupation at this time.

Ceramic Building Material

- 9.43 The CBM assemblage relates well to several themes identified as having research potential within the region, including the potential transition and change in building materials from the

medieval to post-medieval periods, the types of structure of non-extant farms and domestic rural or estate buildings (Barber 2013, 7, 9, 12-13), and the local production of handmade brick and tile (Barber 2013, 40-1). Similarly, the distribution may inform on the construction of a post-built structure that may be datable by associated pottery or artefacts to a period more specific than prehistoric to medieval. However, the deposition and/or re-deposition of brick and tile in ditches and field boundaries, and the resultant modest level of fragmentation may present a significant constraint on the level of potential analyses that can be applied to this assemblage, which is deemed to be of local significance.

Metals

- 9.44 The metal assemblage is significant at both local and regional level. At the site / local level the quantity of tools must be emphasised, particularly the proportion of knives which requires further investigation. This offers insights into the activities that occurred at the site which can be considered in combination with other archaeological evidence.
- 9.45 At a regional level, the material recovered from the Anglo-Saxon burials suggests those interred might not be local and were of potentially high status. This is an important avenue to explore and further consideration on the material in combination with scientific analysis could be of particular importance.

Spindle Whorl

- 9.46 A stone spindle whorl was recovered from this site, that may be of Roman to early post-medieval date. Further specialist analysis may refine this dating. The whorl is deemed to be of significance at local / site level, providing information on activities that occurred on or in the vicinity of the site and also as dating evidence.

Lithics and Burnt Flint

- 9.47 The struck flint and burnt unworked lithic assemblages are small and widely scattered across a large area. Most pieces appear to be residual within features of later Roman to medieval date. As such the assemblages are considered to be of local significance.

Slag and Industrial Residues

- 9.48 The slag and industrial residue assemblage is deemed to be of archaeological significance to a site-specific and local level, with the potential to provide information on the types of activities taking place on site and to add to the existing corpus of knowledge of local metalworking practices potentially during the Romano-British and / or Late Saxon periods.

Human Remains

- 9.49 The assemblage from the site is of local and regional significance. It possesses high potential for the recovery of detailed osteological information. While the number of inhumations is relatively small, the data which can be obtained from these individuals offers the unique potential to recreate a detailed picture of life and death in Roman and Anglo-Saxon Kent.

Post-Roman Glass, Clay Tobacco Pipe and Leather

- 9.50 The post-Roman glass and clay tobacco pipe assemblages are small and are considered to be of limited archaeological significance beyond dating evidence at a site-specific level. The leather is of little intrinsic value as it cannot contribute to site dating.

Animal Bone

- 9.51 The animal bone assemblage needs to be reassessed in light of the revised phasing presented in Section 6 (above) by contextual units / groups / land uses. As a minimum, the medieval assemblage is worth further consideration on a site level, although this will be restricted to the potential diet and status of inhabitants, as there is not enough mortality data to consider the animal economy. If phasing can be refined it is possible that the large sample dated to the prehistoric/ medieval period may be useful either to increase the data available for the medieval assemblage, or to add a further dimension to understanding of the diet and nature of the prehistoric settlement.
- 9.52 High fragmentation and broad phasing means that the assemblage has little significance on a regional or national level, though will be useful to better understand the story of those living on the site in the past at a site / local level. There is not enough data to add significantly to the specific project aims, with the possible exception of identifying specific socio-economic activities in the archaeological record.

Worked Wood

- 9.53 The worked wood assemblage from the site comprises broken vessels and woodworking offcuts. The artefacts can inform on activities and land uses that may have characterised the site in the past. They may also facilitate the dating of the site, particularly if suitable pieces of oak are subjected to dendrochronology. As such the assemblage is of local significance.

Macroplant and Charcoal

- 9.54 Both the macroplant and charcoal assemblages have the potential to answer important research questions concerning the exploitation of both cultivated and wild plant resources on the site from the prehistoric to the late medieval period. They are therefore of local significance.

Soils and Sediments

- 9.55 The Kubiena samples that were taken through the kilns have the potential to yield results that may inform upon the ways in which the kiln structures were used, collapsed and were subsequently infilled. This will provide local-level information regarding the life histories of the kilns, however the rare nature of such features in Kent elevates the importance of this information. Consequently, this evidence is deemed to be of local to regional significance.

10 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

- 10.1 Recommended further work on this project includes the following. Further stratigraphic and spatial analysis is recommended on Area 8 features pertaining to Period 6 (medieval to early post-medieval). This period needs to be formerly sub-phased prior to publication, while some contexts may need to be re-grouped in order to better equate those that were recorded in the deeper slots. Isotope analysis may be undertaken on some of the Saxon skeletons to assess mobility, including the individual buried with grave goods (Group 27). Carbon 14 dating of some key contexts is also recommended. These may include but is not necessarily limited to the following:
- The possible Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age cremation (Group 185) to establish whether it has been phased correctly or whether it could alternatively relate to a possible Late Saxon earthfast structure tentatively identified herein as a long hall.

- The partial inhumation (Group 17), which is currently undated.
- The burnt residue on the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery sherd from Group 188 to help refine the existing pottery chronology for the East Kent area.
- Cereal grains from Kilns 1, 4 and 5 to better determine whether these thermal installations are Roman or Saxon in date.
- An Early to Middle Saxon individual to better date this group of inhumations.

10.2 The research questions to be addressed during further work are as follows:

- To fully integrate the results of the excavation with any subsequent phases of work to the east of the current site.
- To fully integrate the stratigraphic narrative with all finds and ecofact data, particularly animal bone and palaeoenvironmental data.
- To better contextualise the results at local and regional level through desk-based research of settlement and land use patterns, settlement hierarchy, material culture and cultural affinities. The prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval periods will be the main focus of this research given their relatively elevated significance in relation to the other remains that were encountered. Depending upon the focus of the publication, this research could be expanded to include a map regression exercise to better understand the longevity and function of a later post-medieval field boundary and some undated farmland features, for example the undated trackway.
- To consider through desk-based research and full integration of the stratigraphy and finds data whether any structured deposits are present on the site.
- To further research Roman and post-Roman corn drying kilns in order to better understand the forms, ages and functions of the six kilns that were unearthed on the site.
- To further research the earthfast structure (Group 61) that was tentatively interpreted here as a long hall in order to confirm, refute or modify that conclusion. Any new data (for example absolute dating) should be taken into consideration.
- To disseminate findings through publication.

10.3 Recommendations for the further analysis and research of several of the finds assemblages from the archaeological investigation have been made:

Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

- Further reading and comparison with Kentish assemblages is required to explore the significance of Early Iron Age grog-tempering at Stour Park. This has the potential to contribute to the following research aim from the South-East Research Framework (Champion 2011, 50): 'the external connections of the region require further analysis, especially connections with other areas of southern and eastern England and across the Channel with France, Belgium and the Netherlands'.
- The scientific dating framework for Iron Age pottery in Kent is limited. Consequently, radiocarbon dating of key EIA pottery groups from this site is recommended. A single internal burnt residue is available on a pottery sherd from the largest EIA group from fill (7040) of pit [7043]. It is proposed that this should be radiocarbon dated and that the

potential for dating of any other organic material such as animal bone, charcoal or other charred plant remains from contexts containing large diagnostic Early Iron Age pottery assemblages should also be considered.

- Comparative analysis between this and other assemblages from coastal south-east Kent and possible continental influences should be considered in terms of similarities and differences.
- Any updated stratigraphic phasing should be integrated into the pottery dataset and phased quantification tables and overviews of pottery by phase should be produced. This should be integrated with any updated stratigraphic data (grouping etc) and pottery distributions should be considered at group / land use level. Some illustrations may also be required.

Post-Roman Pottery

- It is proposed that a publication report on the post-Roman pottery will be produced for publication. This will give an overview of the overall assemblage (largely drawn from the current assessment) but will include the results of more detailed analysis on the Late Saxon, Early and Late Medieval assemblages. The best groups will be tabulated to demonstrate the changing fabrics through time and up to 30 vessels will be illustrated. Parallels will be sort from similar sites in the area against which to compare the fabrics and forms through time.

Clay Building Materials

- No further recording is required for this assemblage but specific research questions do need to be considered. For example, do the traits of the wall brick and peg tile allow them to be associated or paralleled with any local/regional kilns, workshops, structures or assemblages? Does spatial analysis allow for any focal points of deposition to be identified, that may be associated with structures on or close to the site?

Fired Clay

- Targeted re-examination of a representational sample of the fired clay fragments with textile impressions (from context 10113) by a textile specialist may help to provide a closer identification of the type of fabric used and its date.
- Research into published Roman and Medieval roadside settlements in Kent and the surrounding counties is recommended to determine if any parallels for structures [10029] and [10030] can be identified.
- The contexts associated with fired clay should be cross-referenced with ecofact assessment data from the contexts related to structures [10027], [10029] and [10030], particularly 'primary' floor levels, where possible. This may help to determine the function of these structures.
- Cross reference contexts associated with fired clay with artefact assessment data from the contexts related to structures [10027], [10029] and [10030], particularly 'primary' floor levels (rather than backfill). This may help to determine a) the function of these structures and b) the chronology of their construction, use and abandonment.
- The date of these structures remains uncertain, but may date to the Late Saxon period. Several approaches could be taken to try to refine this. Is there sufficient *in situ*

carbonised organics from primary floor levels within all three structures ([10027], [10029] and [10030]) to allow for C14 dating of each? Can any similar structures from Kent or the southeast more generally be identified to help refine the function/date?

- Presuming that the site will go to publication, a suite of photographs and hand-drawn illustrations detailing fragments with waxy and textile impressions from [10027] and [10029] would be essential. Appendix A includes specific samples which are considered good candidates for illustration from which a representational sample should be extracted. An artist's impression of the structures may also be valuable as an aid to visualization.

Metals

- It is recommended that further research is conducted on this assemblage and that the assemblage is recorded in greater detail. Particularly focus should be made on the ironwork after it has undergone cleaning and conservation. The metal should also be better contextualised in light of the dating evidence and osteological evidence. These elements need to be considered and the typologies of the metal artefacts might need to be amended depending on date.
- It is recommended that objects which are unidentified such as <RF 5> and <RF 6> require further assessment by a relevant specialist and conservation. Subsequently analysis can be undertaken considering the relevant reports and grave plans.
- For objects whose dates and types can be refined, further comparative research should, again, be used to refine these dates and types. Objects that have been identified as particular candidates for this work include the continental buckle, spearhead, knife blades; spade sheath, hammerhead and the other tools. However, other objects in the assemblage will also benefit from this work.
- Focused research should be undertaken on the artefacts found in association with the Anglo-Saxon burials. Detailed typological analysis should be undertaken on the spearhead, buckle, and knives from the burials as well as a consideration of the two composite objects. In combination with specialist reports and scientific analysis this can be used to determine more about the individuals interred at the site and whether there are similarities between these burials and those from other sites in the wider environs.
- A consideration as to the high proportion of tools should be undertaken. Detailed typological assessment is required and then comparison with other sites within the wider region, potentially utilising the Roman Rural Settlement project.
- In addition to the further research recommended above, it is also recommended that a number of the objects from the assemblage are illustrated. Recommendations for illustration include <RF 1> and <RF 24> the Roman brooches, <RF 9> and <RF 126> buckles, <RF 158> strap ends, <RF 3> spear, the knives, <RF 125> reaping hook, <RF 7> spade, <RF 23> hammerhead, <RF 10> spur and <RF 77> strike a light?
- Given that the buckle that accompanied Sk 6167 could be continental, strontium isotope analysis of this individual is recommended to investigate mobility.

Stone Spindle Whorl

- A small finds specialist should be engaged to confirm the lithology and seek parallels for the type that will confirm the likely Roman origin.

Worked Flint

- Diagnostic pieces of worked flint, such as the microlith, possible microburin, arrowhead fragments, scrapers, flake/blade knives, hammerstones, re-corticated crested piece and thinning flakes, should be illustrated within any forthcoming publication. No other work is recommended on the assemblage

Slag and Industrial Residue

- Further specialist analysis is required which should include greater integration with contextual units and distribution patterns associated with the materials from Area 10, along with research into local site parallels. This should be followed by the production of a report which incorporates the results of the distribution analysis and parallels.

Human Remains

- It is recommended that all inhumations (n=13) along with the possible cremation (n=1) undergo full osteological analysis to determine the MNI represented in the Stour Park skeletal assemblage, provide full demographic details including age-at-death and biological sex, identify, record and provide differential diagnosis of pathology and trauma and provide a full discussion on spatial distribution and grave goods, comparing with other known sites. The report should also provide contextual analysis of the population as a whole, including demography, stature, pathology and trauma, providing a clear picture of the bioarchaeological landscape for the region

Animal Bone

- Further work is recommended on animal bone assemblages from well-dated contexts. As a minimum this will require full recording of the assemblage to answer the following basic research questions. What was the meat diet of those living at the site in the past? Quantification of taxa and anatomical elements can be used to imply the role of livestock and wild animals in the diet. What was the socio-economic status of those living at the site? Evidence for redistribution of carcass parts can be useful to imply the mode of production e.g. self-sufficient, consumer or producer.

Worked Wood

- The items of oak were assessed for their dendrochronological potential. The only viable candidate is plank SF184 from [8249], which retains an estimated 150 growth-rings. However, it has been trimmed of all its outermost rings so analysis would provide at most a *terminus post quem* for felling and use.
- The following items should be illustrated: SF183; the bowl; SF191; the complete stave; SF185; the re-used plank; SF184; the plank with dowel *in situ*

Macroplant and Charcoal

- If ecofacts are needed for radiocarbon dating, then the cereal caryopses, hazelnuts and charcoal are suitable. If charcoal is selected for dating, oak should be avoided as it is

a slow growing species which can prove unreliable. Further work on this assemblage should consider:

- What cereal crops were cultivated, which species if any was more economically important and whether this changed over an archaeologically recognised time period should be considered. Are the crops representative of a processing, consumer or mixed economy.
- Is there surviving evidence of deliberate spatial deposition of plant remains within specific deposits and locations within the excavated area.
- Is there evidence for the exploitation and economic role of wild plants for use as food, fuel and building material within this site and did this change.
- What information can be gathered from the weed assemblage concerning the surrounding landscape.
- What wood species were collected for use on site as fuel and which for building. Is there evidence that exploitation of wood species changed over time.
- What information can be gathered from the ecofact assemblage concerning on site-activities.
- How do the results from Stour Park compare to other sites of a similar date in this region of England.

Soils and Sediments

- Further work on the soil and sediment samples taken for micromorphological analysis should be undertaken to consider:
- What site formation processes were responsible for the kiln infilling
- How do the lower and upper kiln infills differ and is this a reflection of differing depositional environments?
- Do post-depositional alterations to the infilled eposist tell us anything about wider environmental conditions at this site?
- What can the inclusions in the lower fill tell us about the material used to construct the kiln and materials that may have been burned within it?
- What can the conclusions in the upper fill tell us about wider domestic activity on this site?
- How do the kiln infills compare with other examples of Roman kilns studied micromorphologically?

10.4 No further work is recommended on the post-Roman glass, clay tobacco pipe, coin, burnt flint and leather assemblages from the site. However, the assessments of this material will be referred to in further research and considered in the context of the full site assemblage from both phases of work.

10.5 Further documentary research will be carried out in order to place the site into its regional context and compare its features and finds with those from other sites.

10.6 The results merit further research, illustration and dissemination. A narrative of the site results will be integrated with documentary research and published as an AOC monograph or journal

article in a suitable local journal such as *Archaeologia Cantiana*. This will include details plans of the site along with illustrations and photographs of a sample of finds from the site

- 10.7 No depositories in Kent are currently accepting archive.
- 10.8 The further work to be undertaken is set out in the Table of Recommendations (see Table below). Justifications for the analyses recommended can be found in Sections 6, 9 and 10 (above) and Appendix B (below). The following is based upon the premise that the site will be published as a journal article and may be subject to change should this be published as an AOC monograph.

Task	Description	Resource	Days
General			
1	Desk-based / documentary research	RHaslam	15
2	Further stratigraphic analysis relating to Area 8	RHaslam	3
3	Fully integrating digital, drawn and contextual data	RHaslam	2
Analysis			
4	Roman and prehistoric pottery	AD	9
5	Post-Roman pottery	LB	7.5
6	CBM	AP	3
7	Fired clay	OM	9
8	Metal	RHenry	17
9	Stone spindle whorl	To be confirmed	1
10	Lithics	JC	1
11	Slag and industrial residues	AM	3.5
12	Animal bone	MH	45
13	Human remains	AJ / MT	14
14	Worked wood	AC & GD	3
14	Dendrochronology of SF 184		Fixed price
15	Conservation of SF 183, SF 191, SF 185, SF 184	GE	Fixed price
16	Macroplant and charcoal	JR	11
18	Soils and sediments	LR	5
19	Pollen analysis(8208) of ditch feature [8209]		Fixed price
20	Isotope analysis on Sk 6167		Fixed price
21	Carbon 14 dating of up to six key contexts		Fixed price
Report, Publication and Archiving			
22	Liaison with specialists	RHaslam	1

Task	Description	Resource	Days
23	Integrating specialist reports	RHaslam	4
24	Liaison with illustrator	RHaslam	3
25	Completion of illustrations and photographs for publication	To be confirmed	12
26	Preparation of the publication text	RHaslam	15
27	Editing and review of the publication text	MM / HS	4
28	Proof reading and liaison with journal editor	RHaslam	4
29	Amendments arising from external editor's comments to publication text and figures	RHaslam	4
30	Project management and quality assurance overall	MM/HS	2
31	Page costs		Fixed price
32	Archiving and materials		Fixed price
33	Deposition		Fixed price

Table 7: Table of Recommendations

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LAND ON THE NORTH SIDE OF HIGHFIELD LANE, SEVINGTON, KENT:
A POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

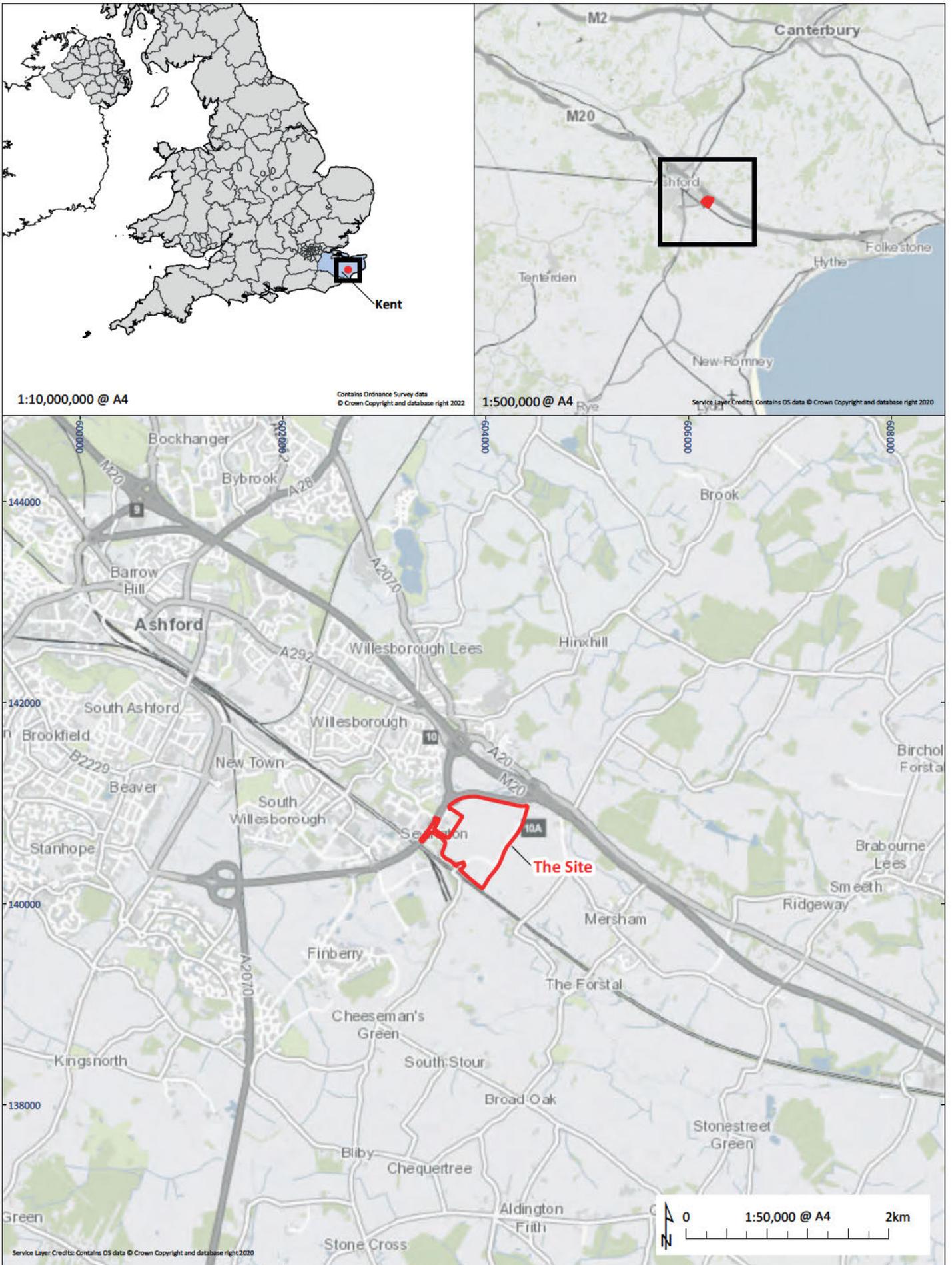


Figure 1: Site Location

03/34280/PXA/01/01



Service Layer Credits: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location

03/34280/PXA/02/01

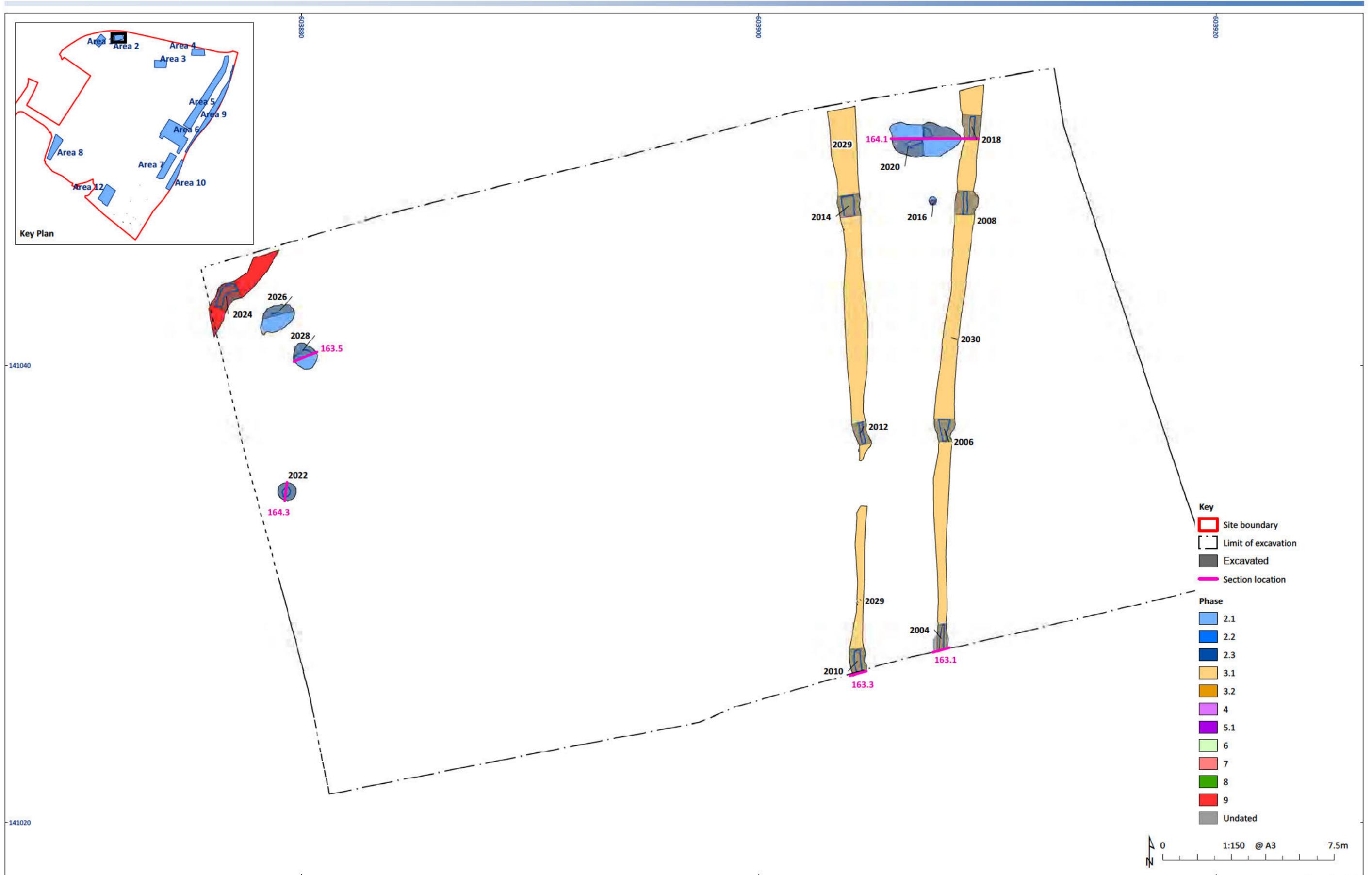


Figure 3: Area 2

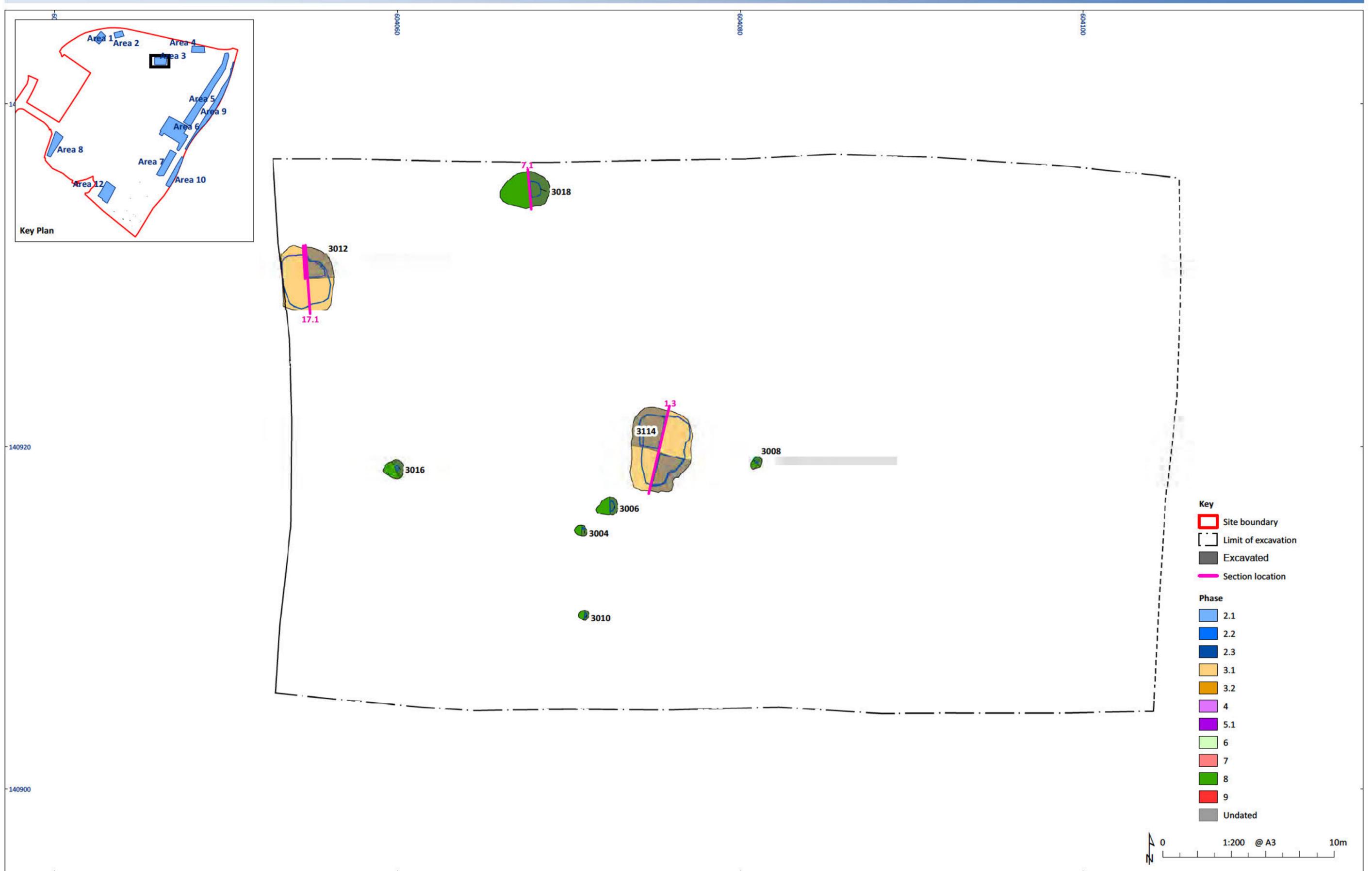


Figure 4: Area 3

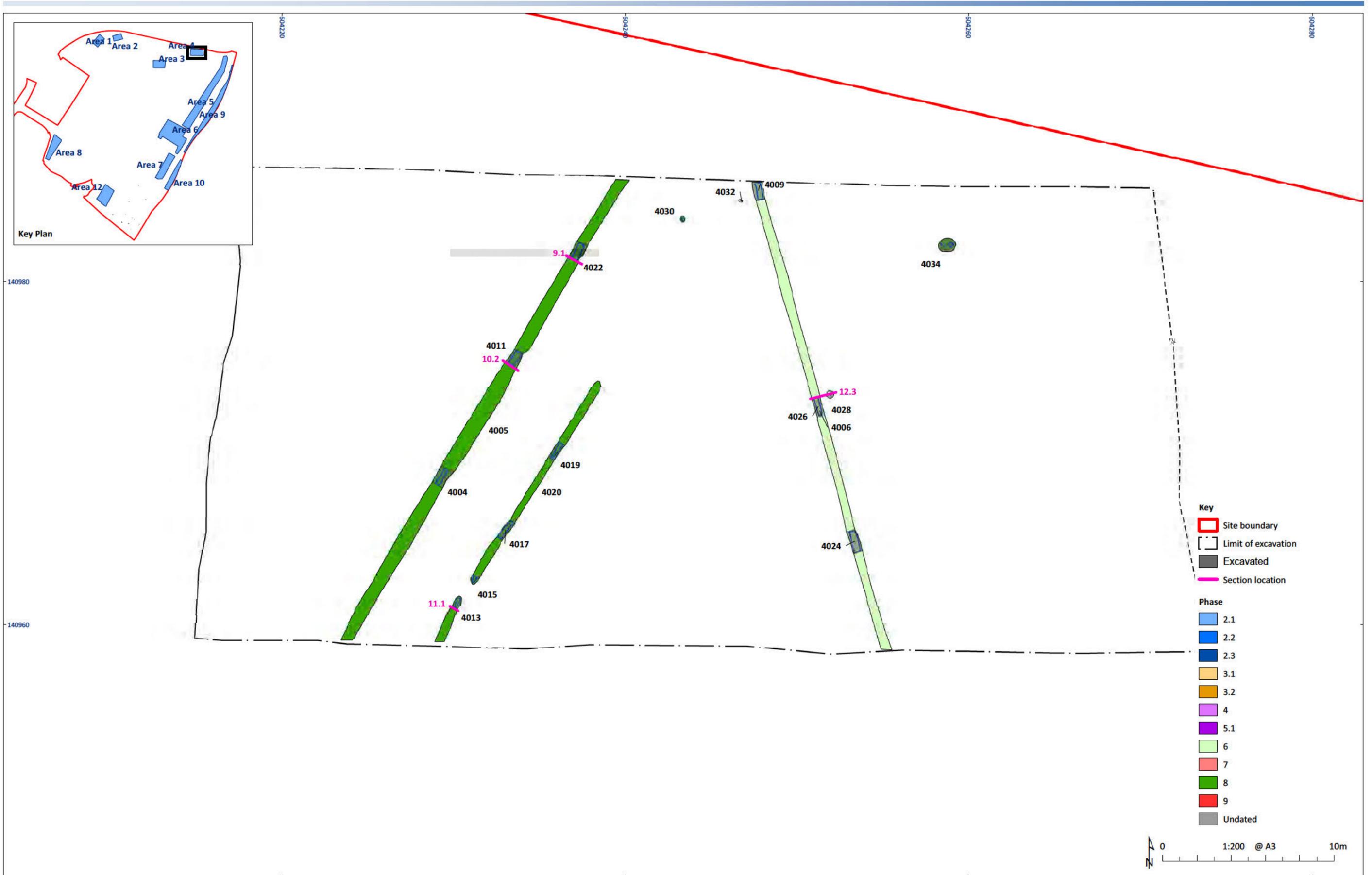
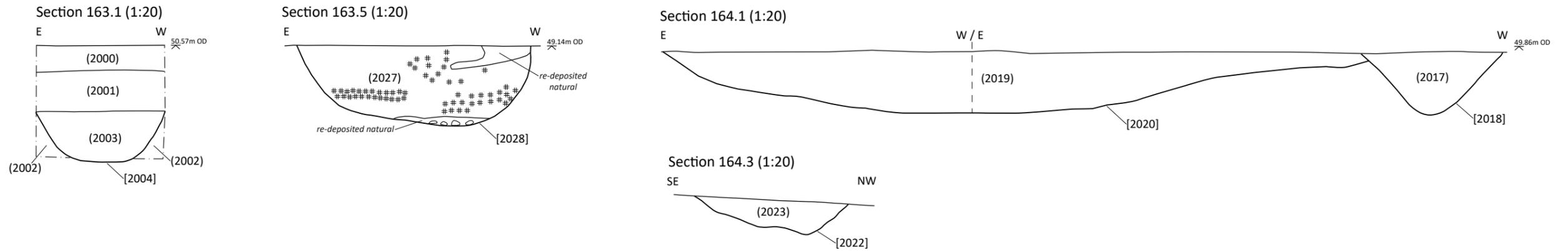
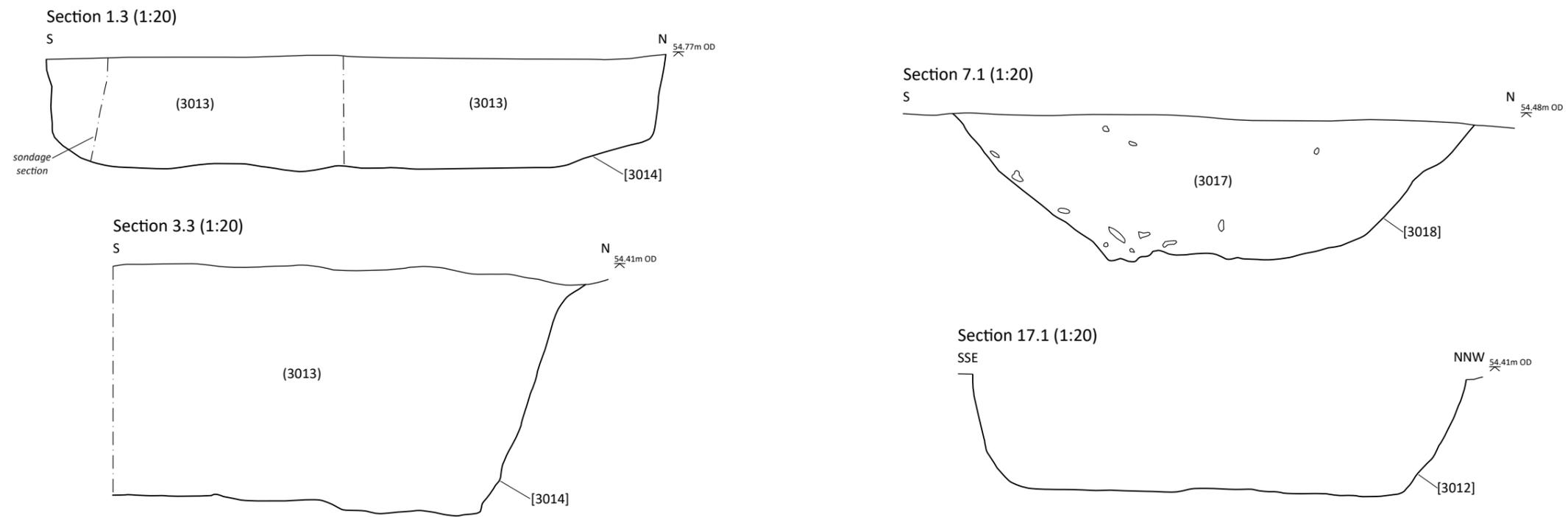


Figure 5: Area 4

Area 2



Area 3



Area 4



Key
 # Charcoal
 Stone



Figure 6: Areas 2, 3, and 4 - Sec ons

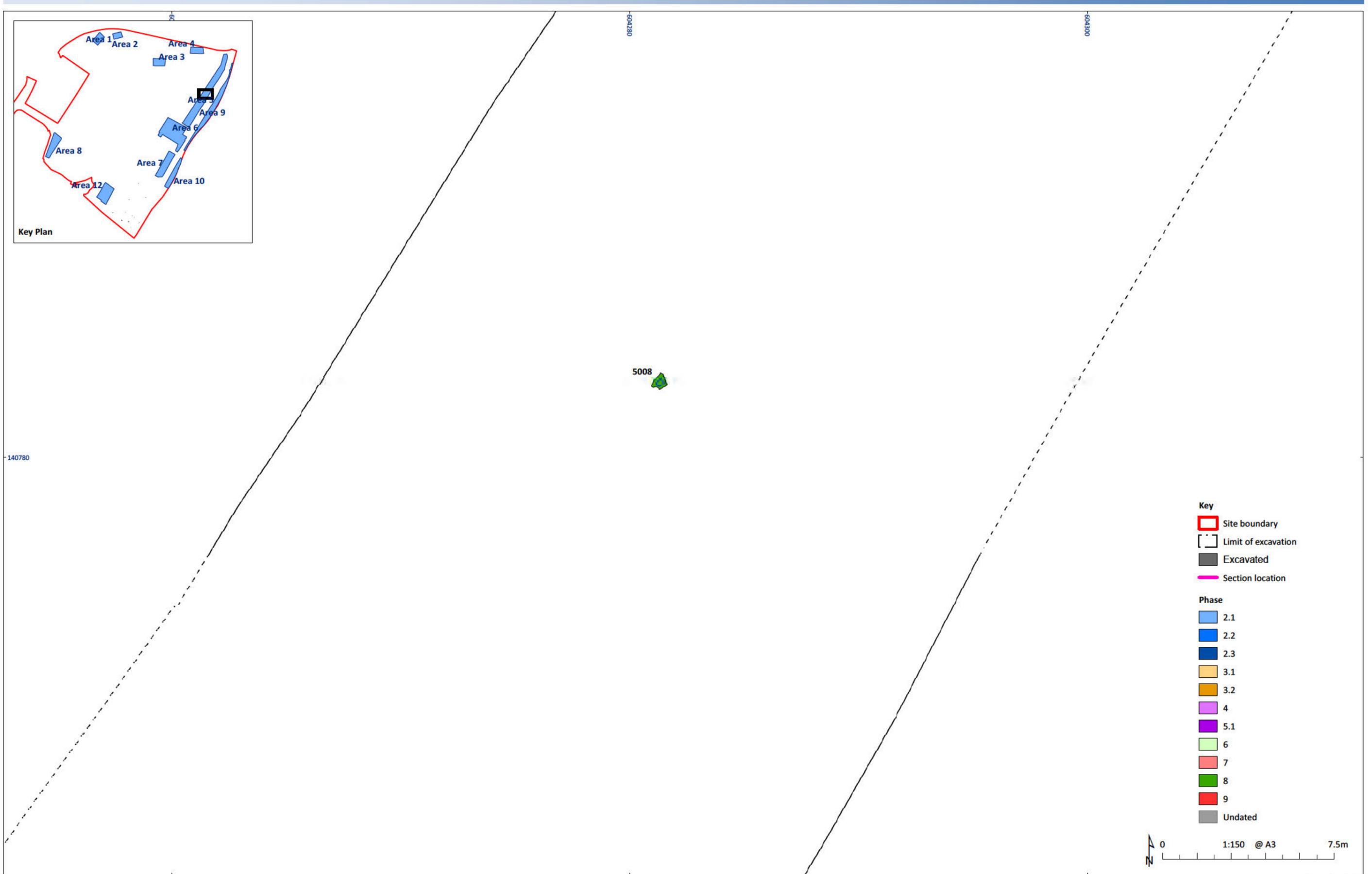


Figure 7: Area 5 Central

03/34280/PXA/07/01

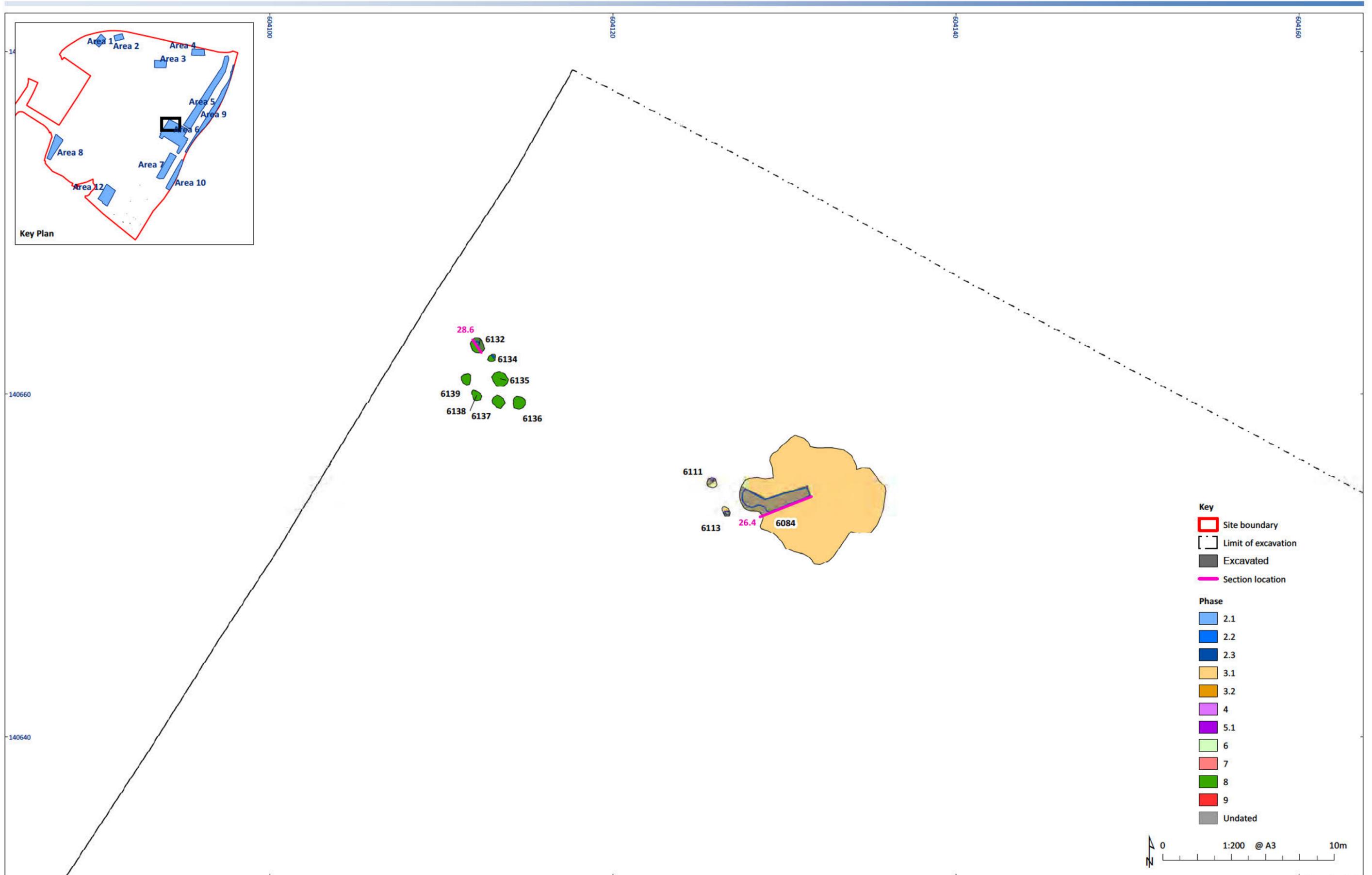


Figure 8: Area 6 North

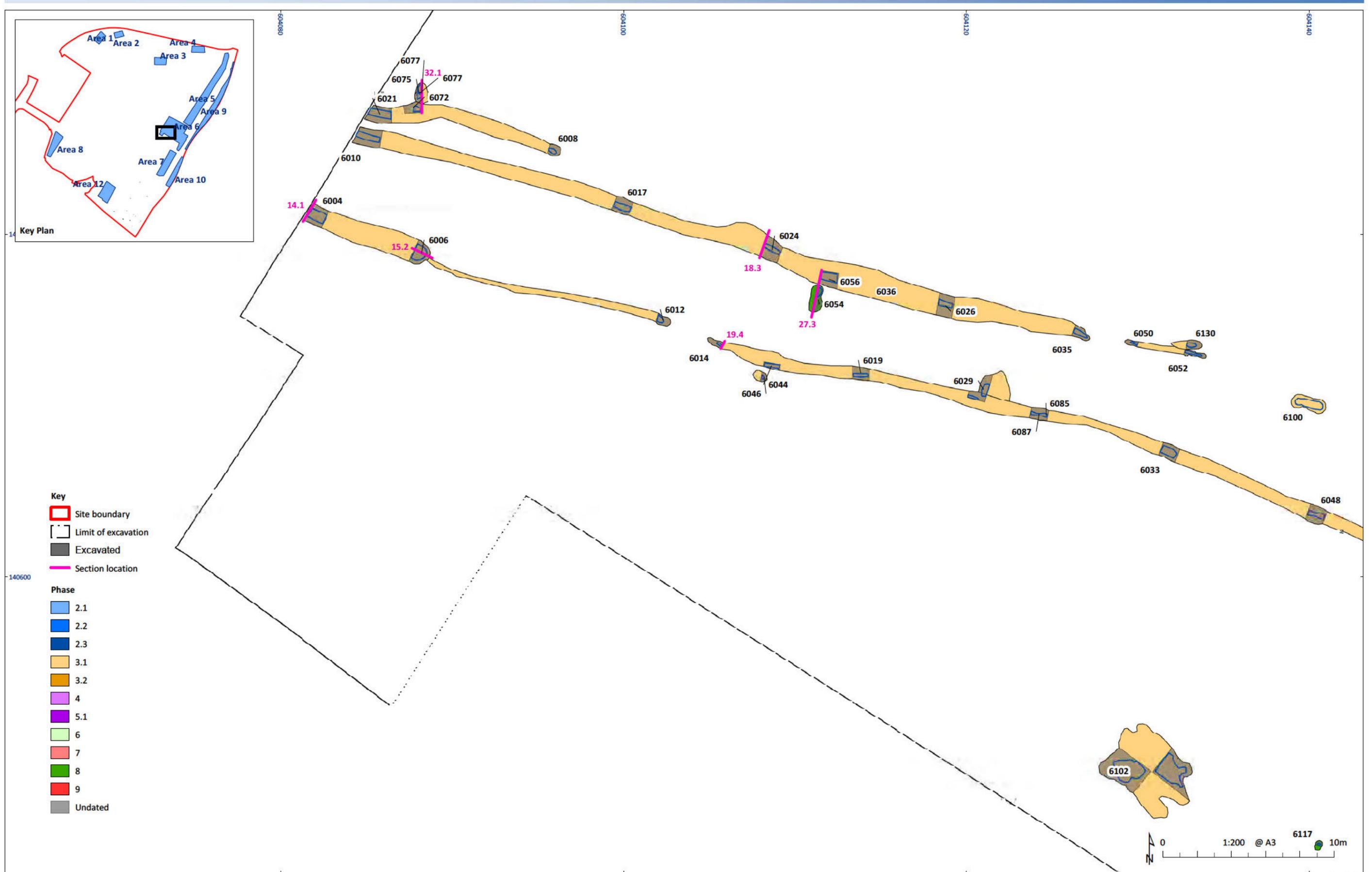


Figure 9: Area 6 West & Central

03/34280/PXA/09/01

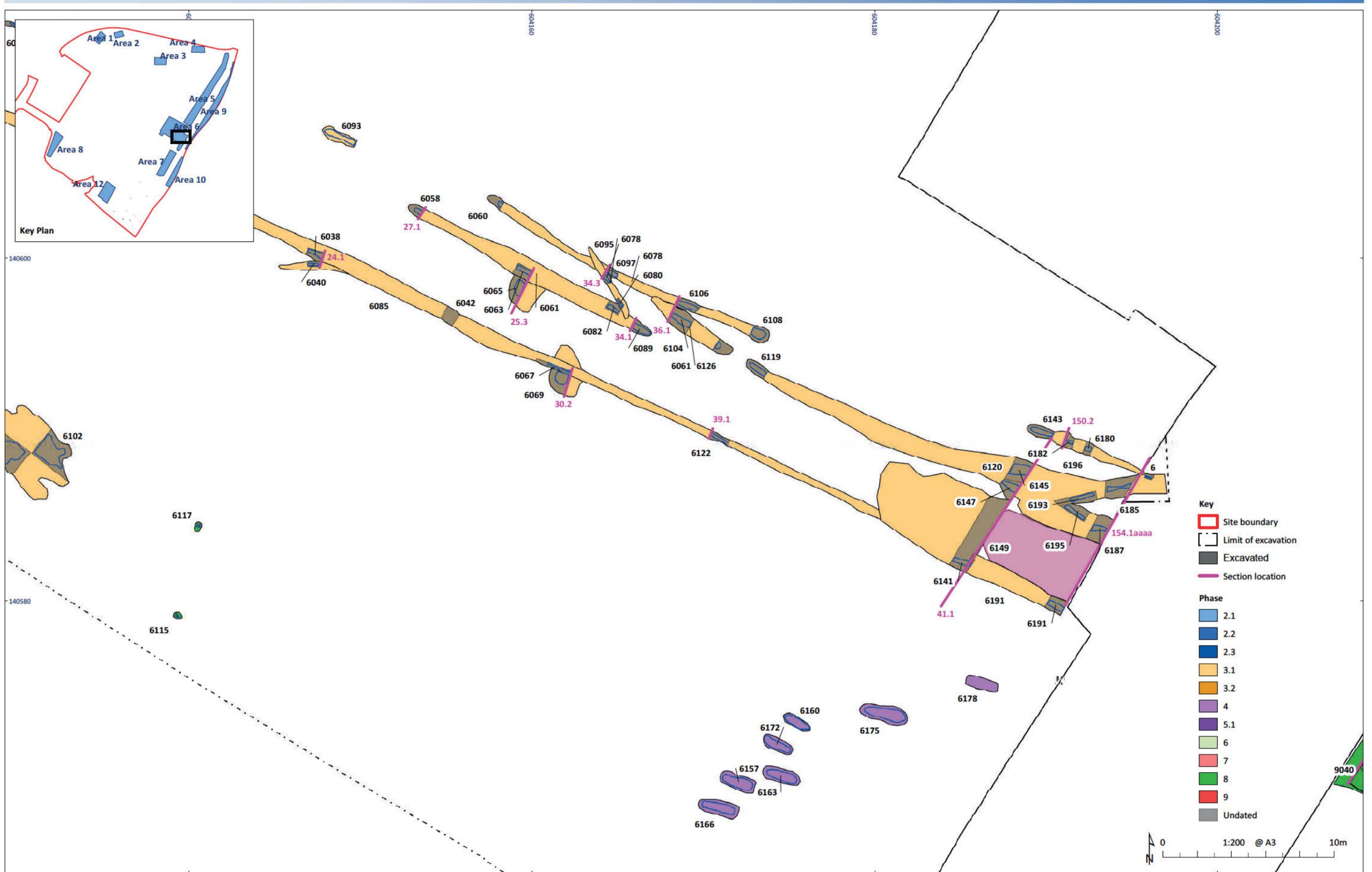


Figure 10: Area 6 South-East

03/34280/PXA/10/01

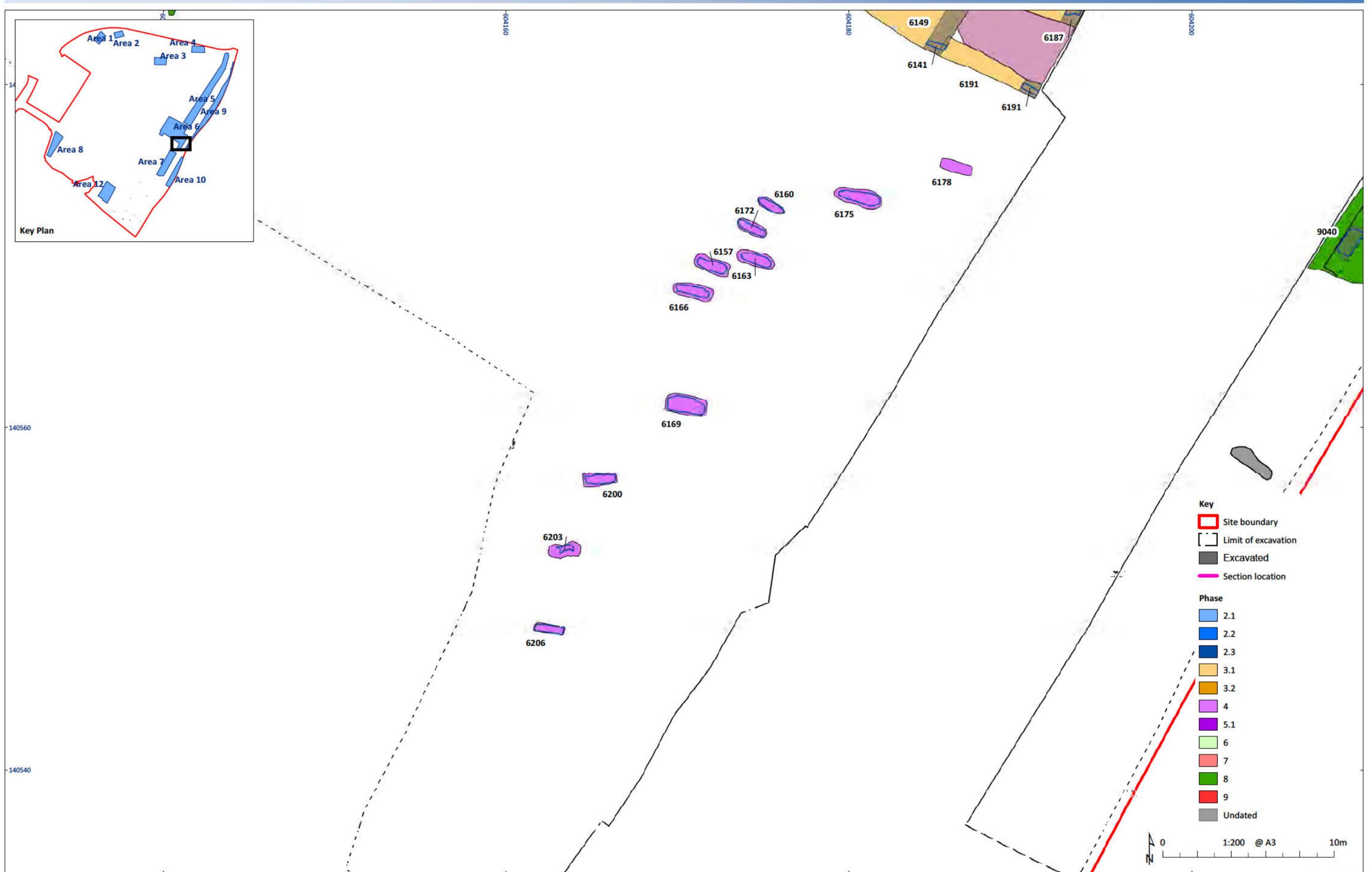


Figure 11: Area 6 South

03/34280/PXA/11/01

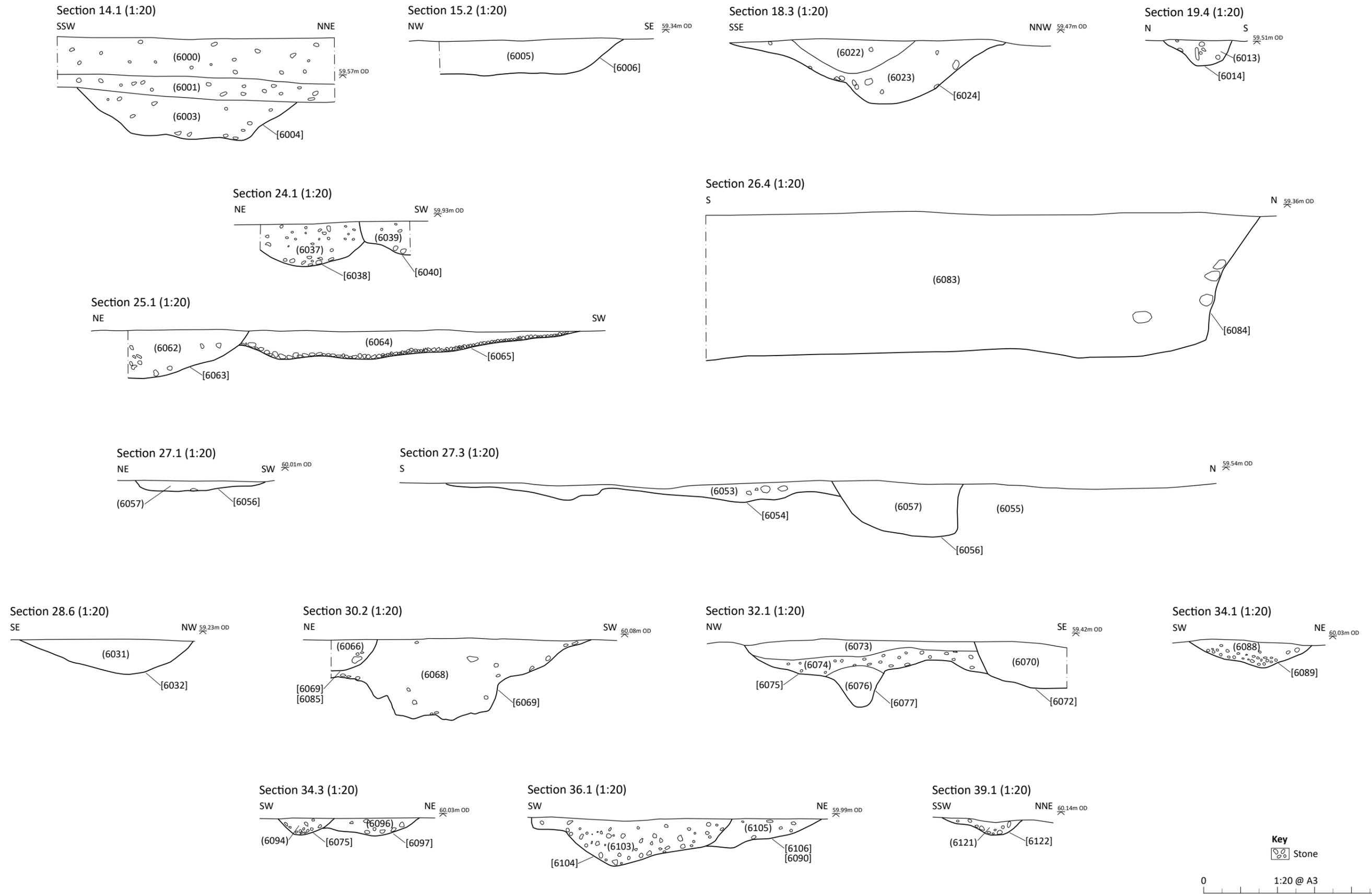


Figure 12: Area 6 - Sections 1

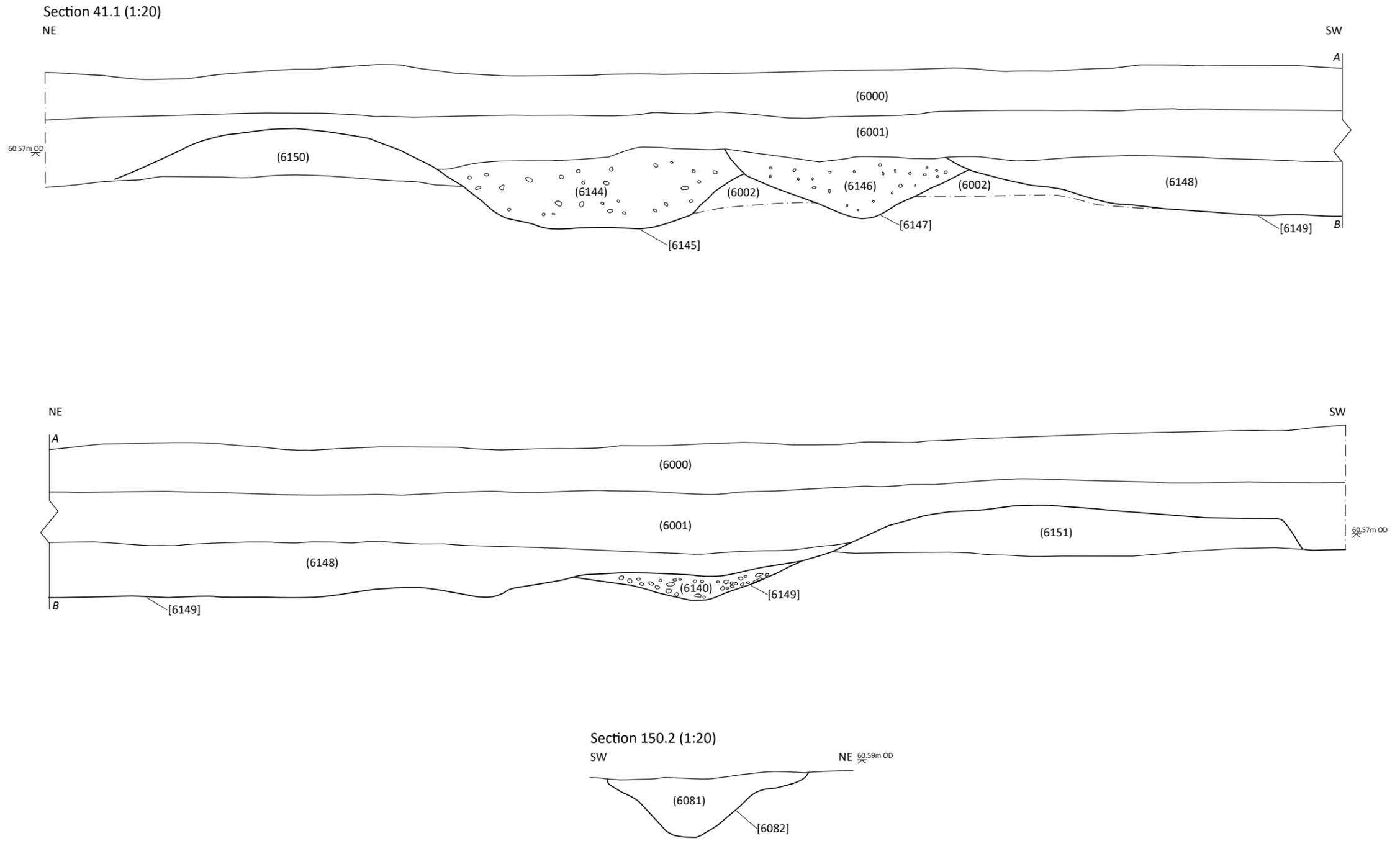
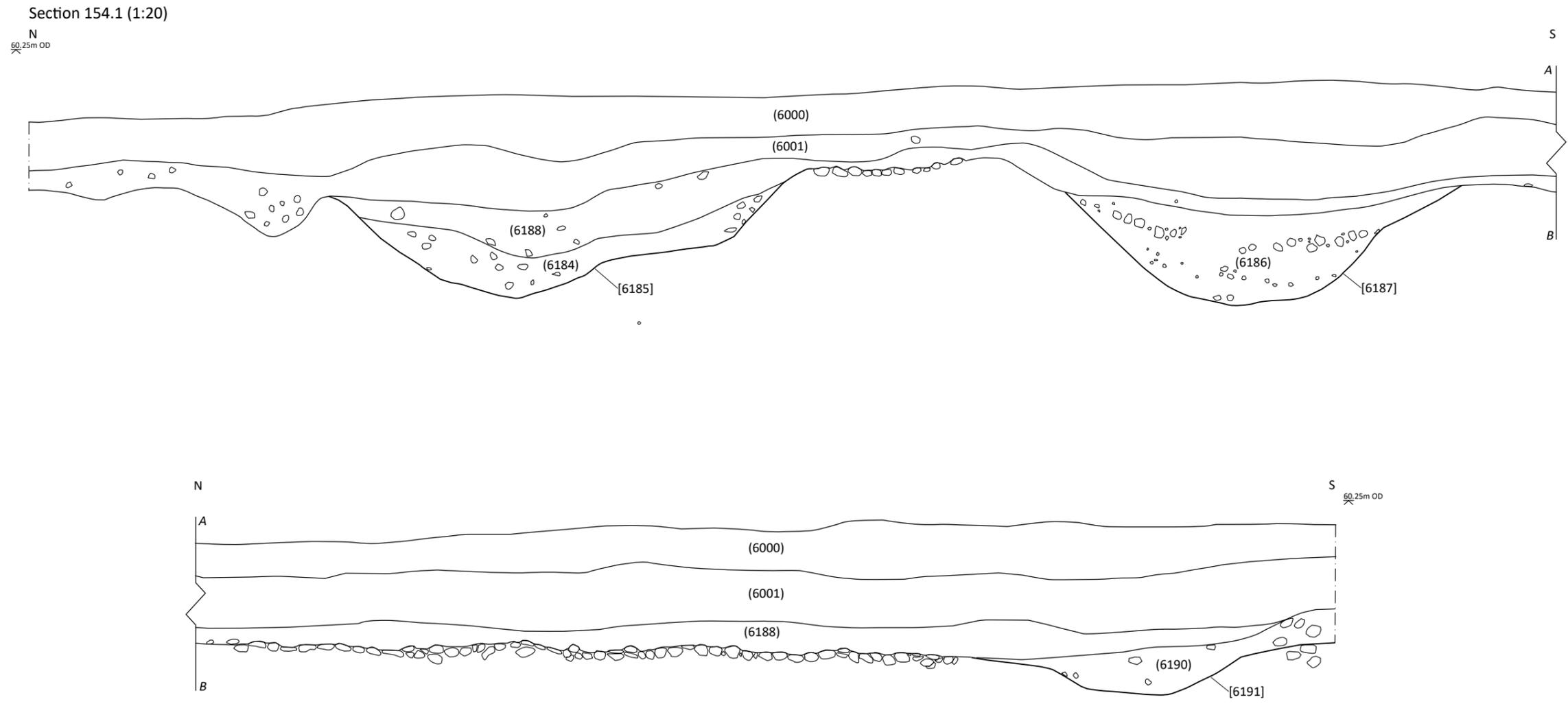


Figure 13: Area 6 - Sections 2



Key
Stone



Figure 14: Area 6 - Sections 3

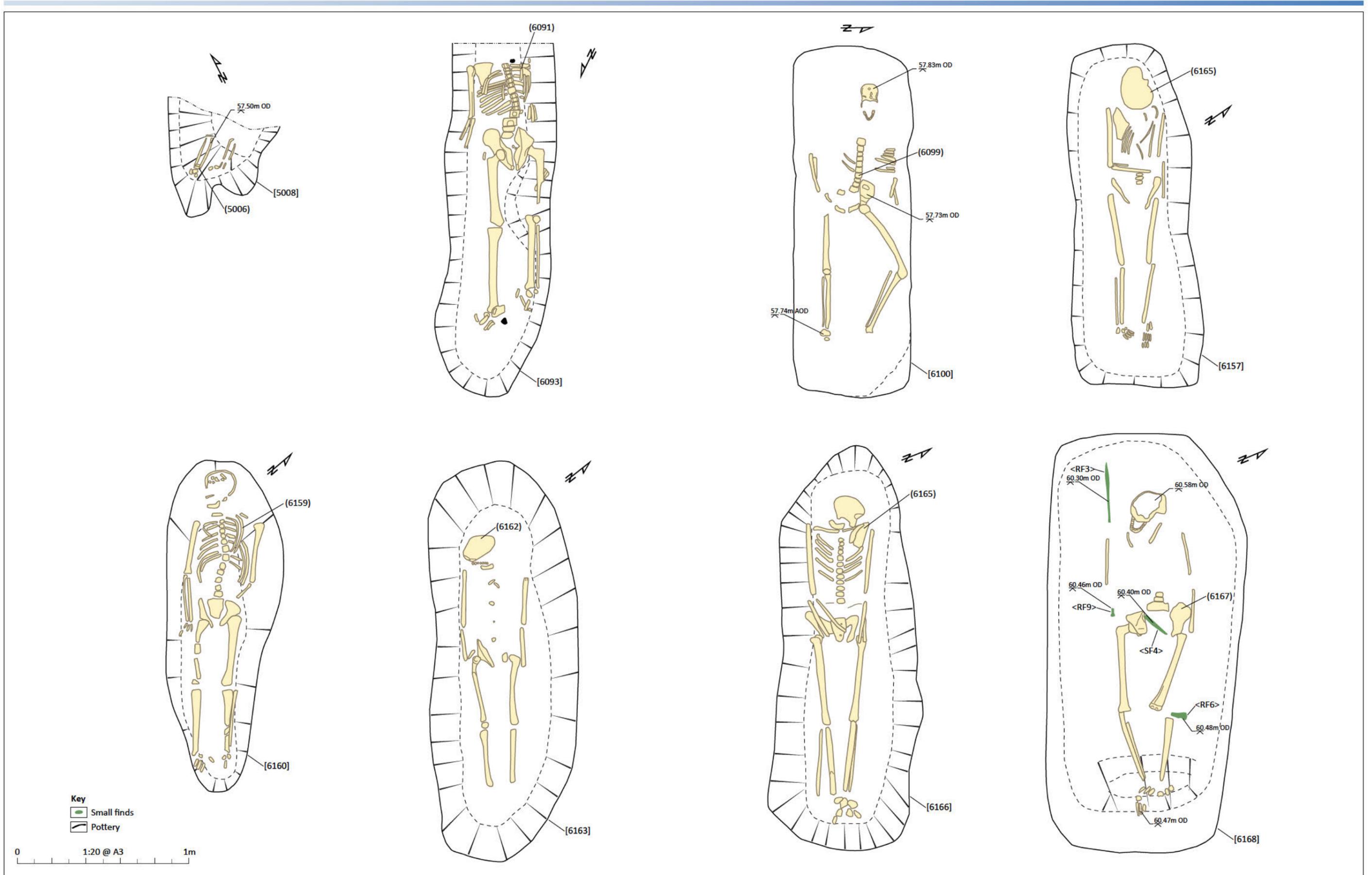
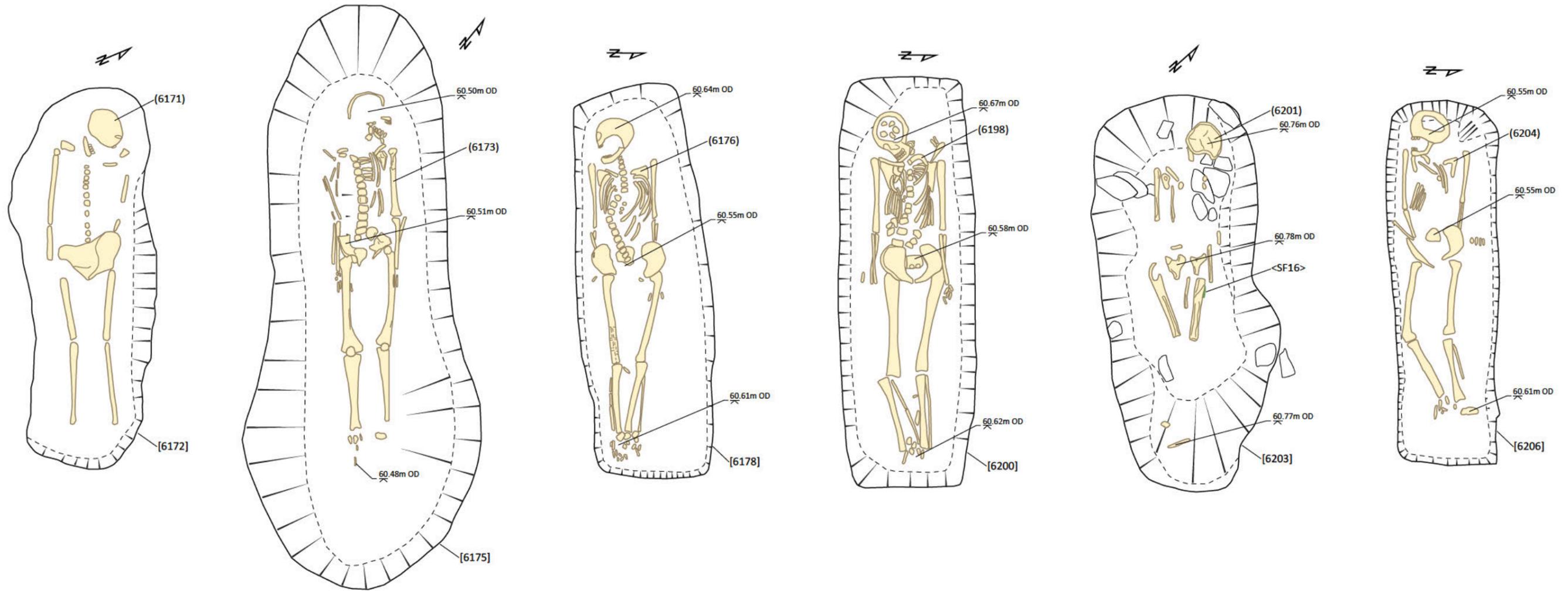


Figure 15: Detailed plans of graves [5008], [6093], [6100], [6157], [6160], [6163], [6166], and [6168]



Key
■ Small finds
□ Stone

0 1:20 @ A3 1m

Figure 16: Detailed plans of graves [6172], [6175], [6178], [6200], [6203], and [6206]

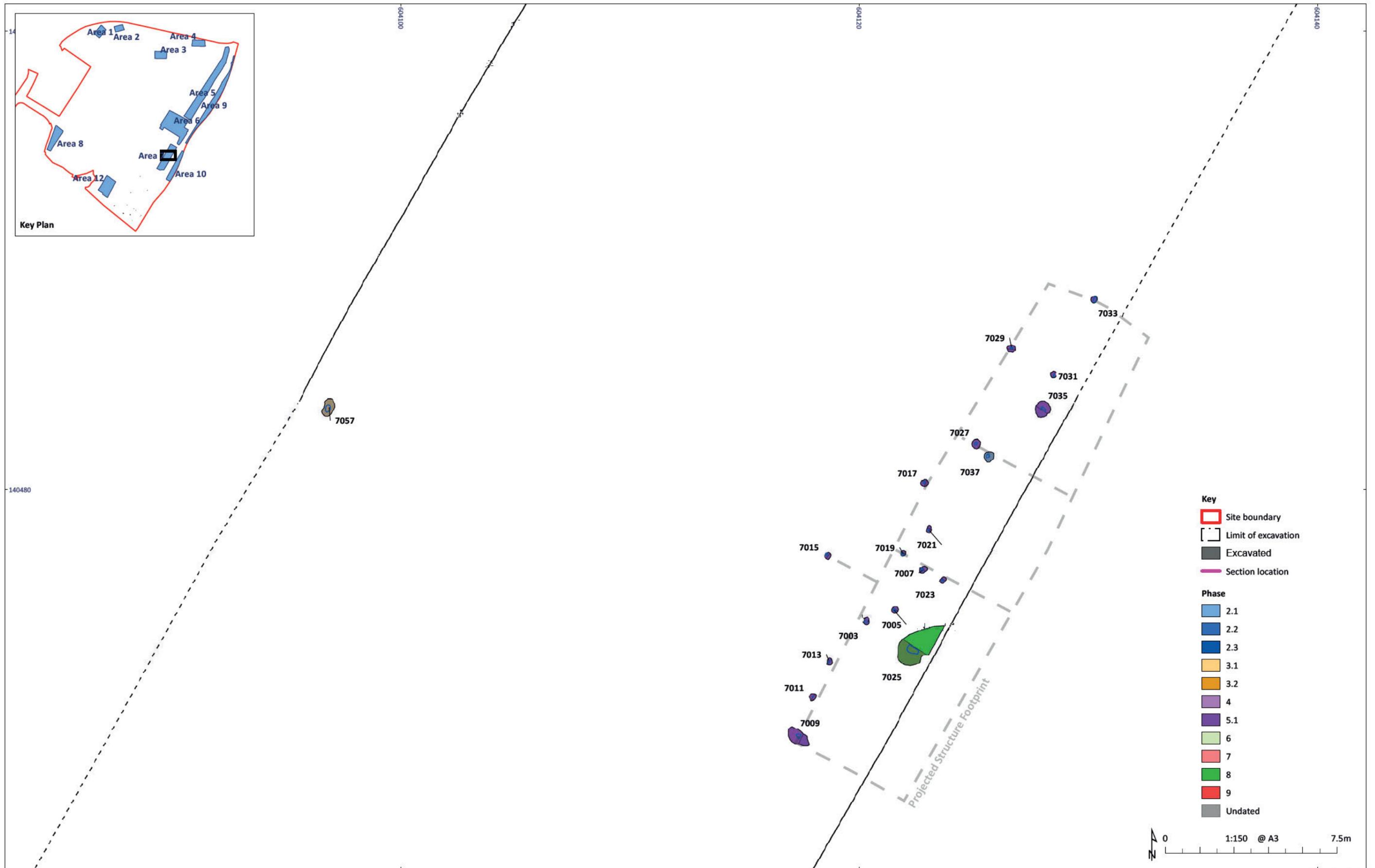
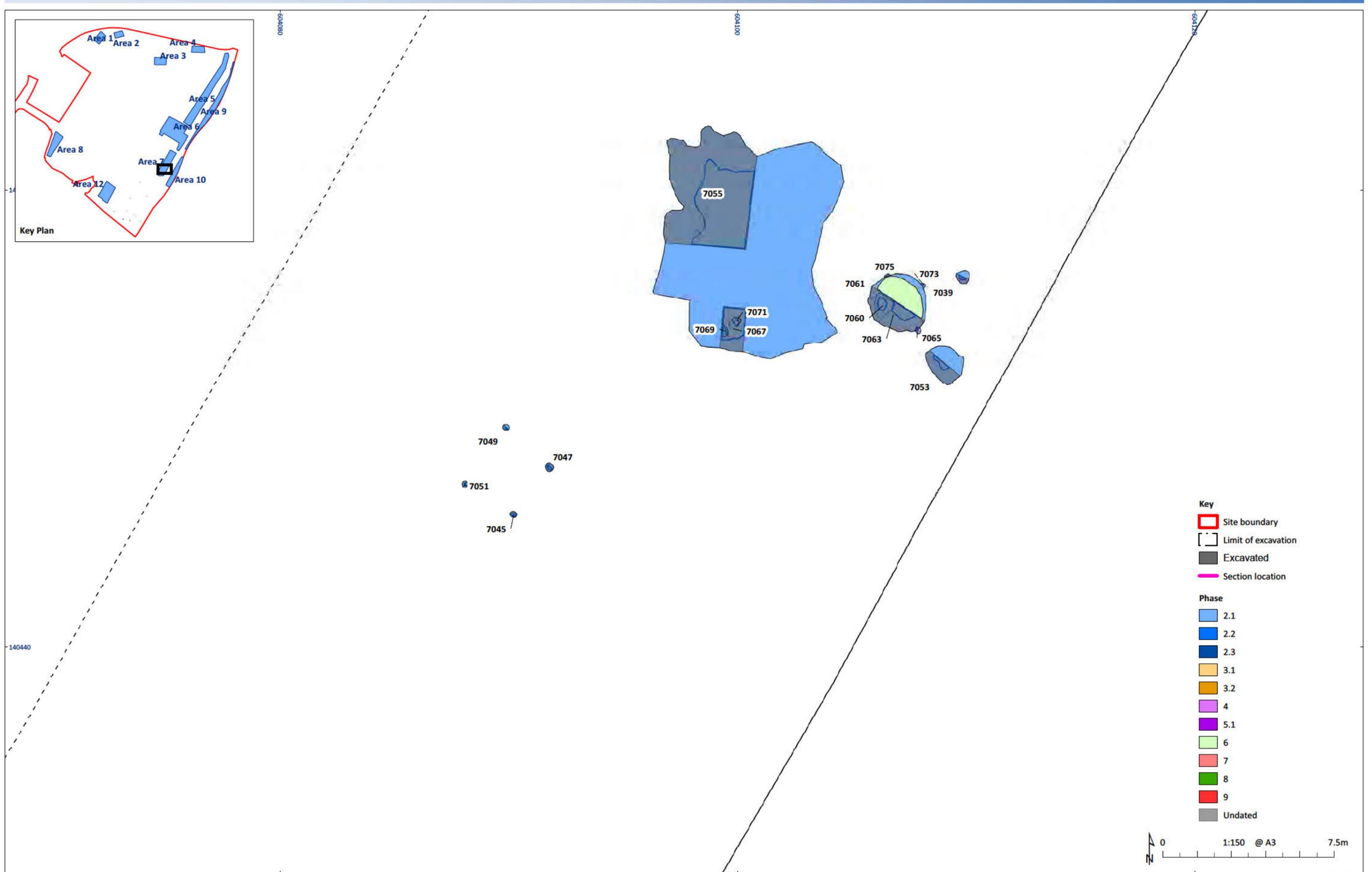


Figure 17: Area 7 Central North



- Key**
- Site boundary
 - Limit of excavation
 - Excavated
 - Section location
- Phase**
- 2.1
 - 2.2
 - 2.3
 - 3.1
 - 3.2
 - 4
 - 5.1
 - 6
 - 7
 - 8
 - 9
 - Undated

Figure 18: Area 7 Central South

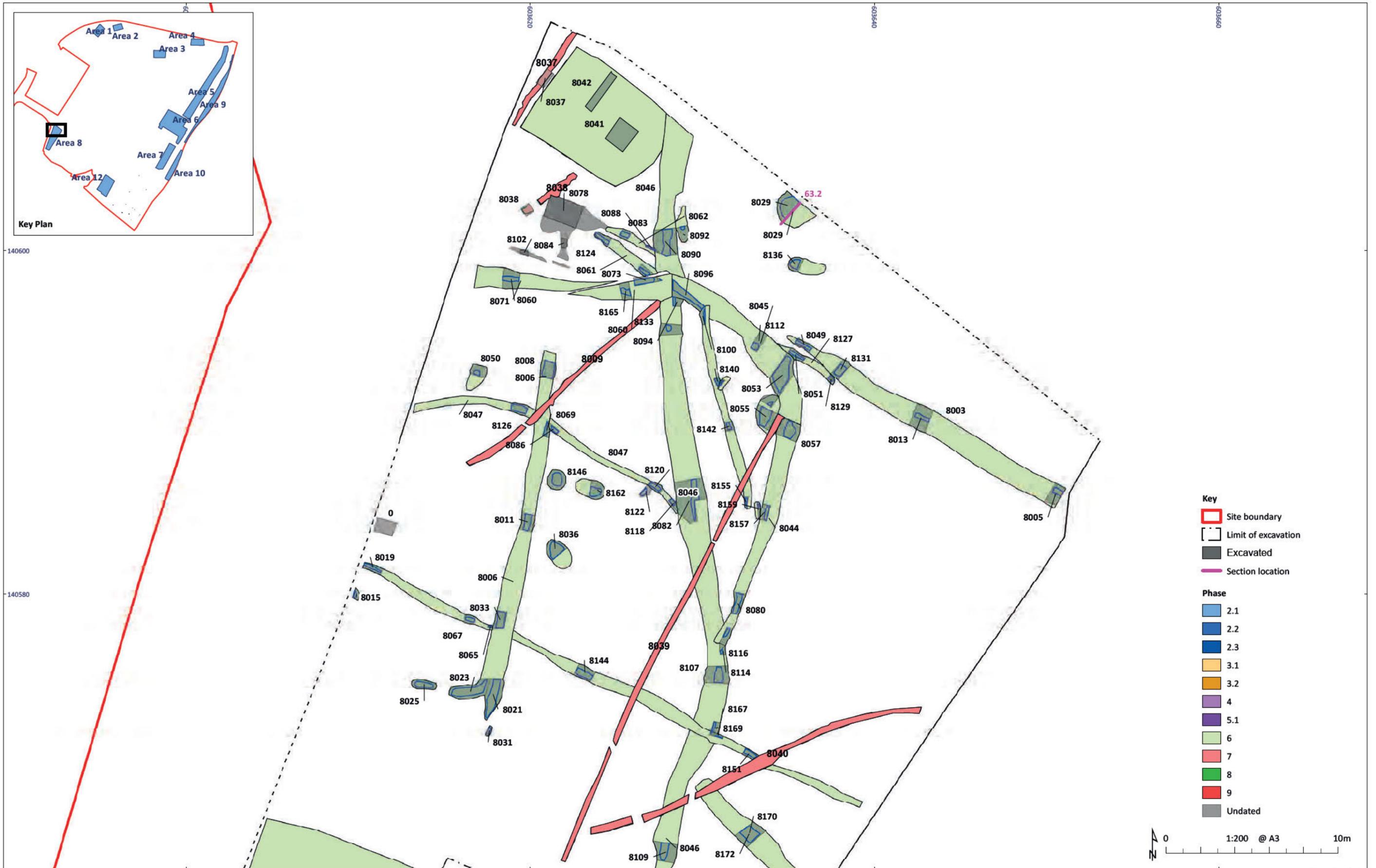


Figure 19: Area 8 North

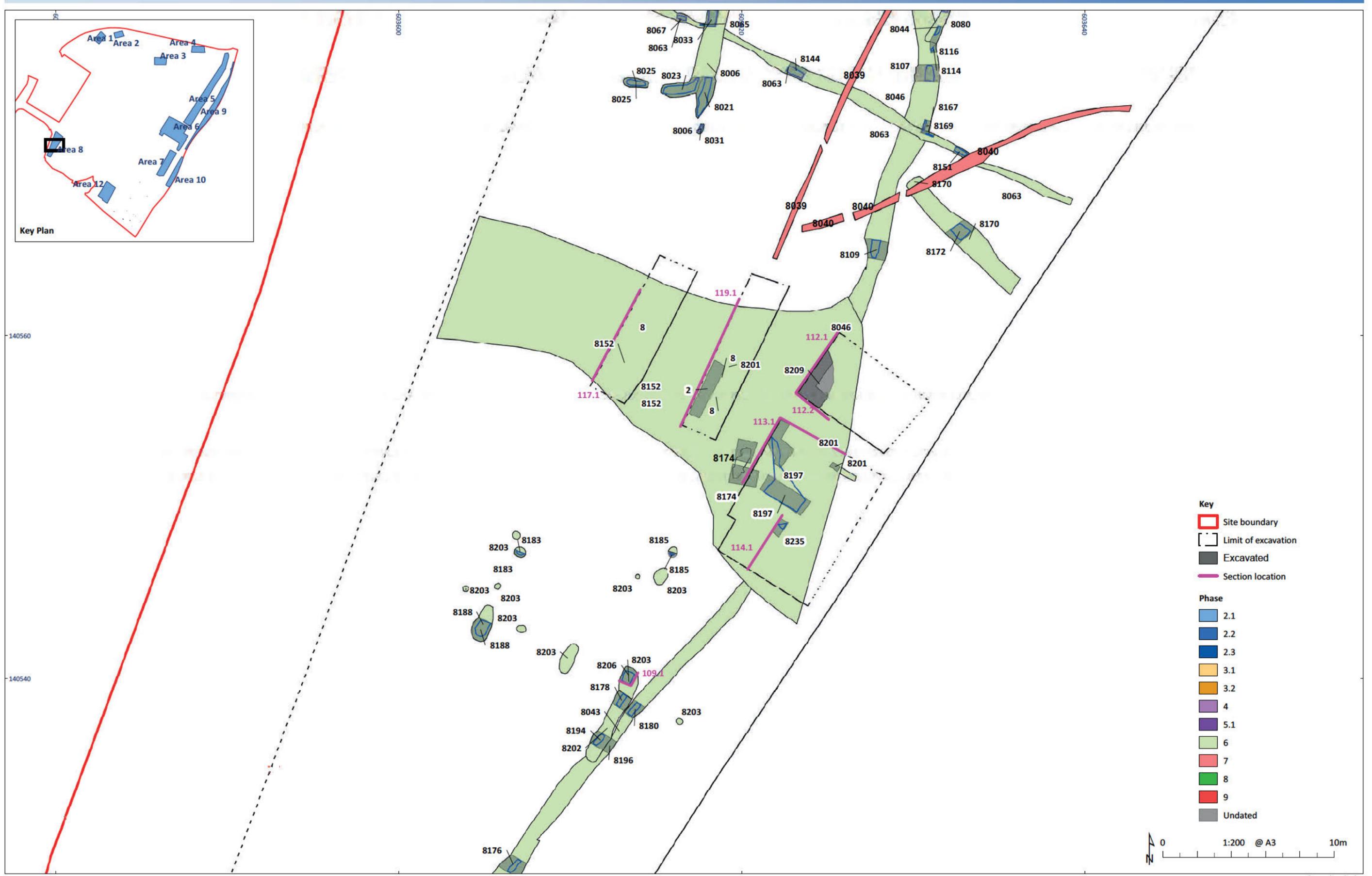


Figure 20: Area 8 Central

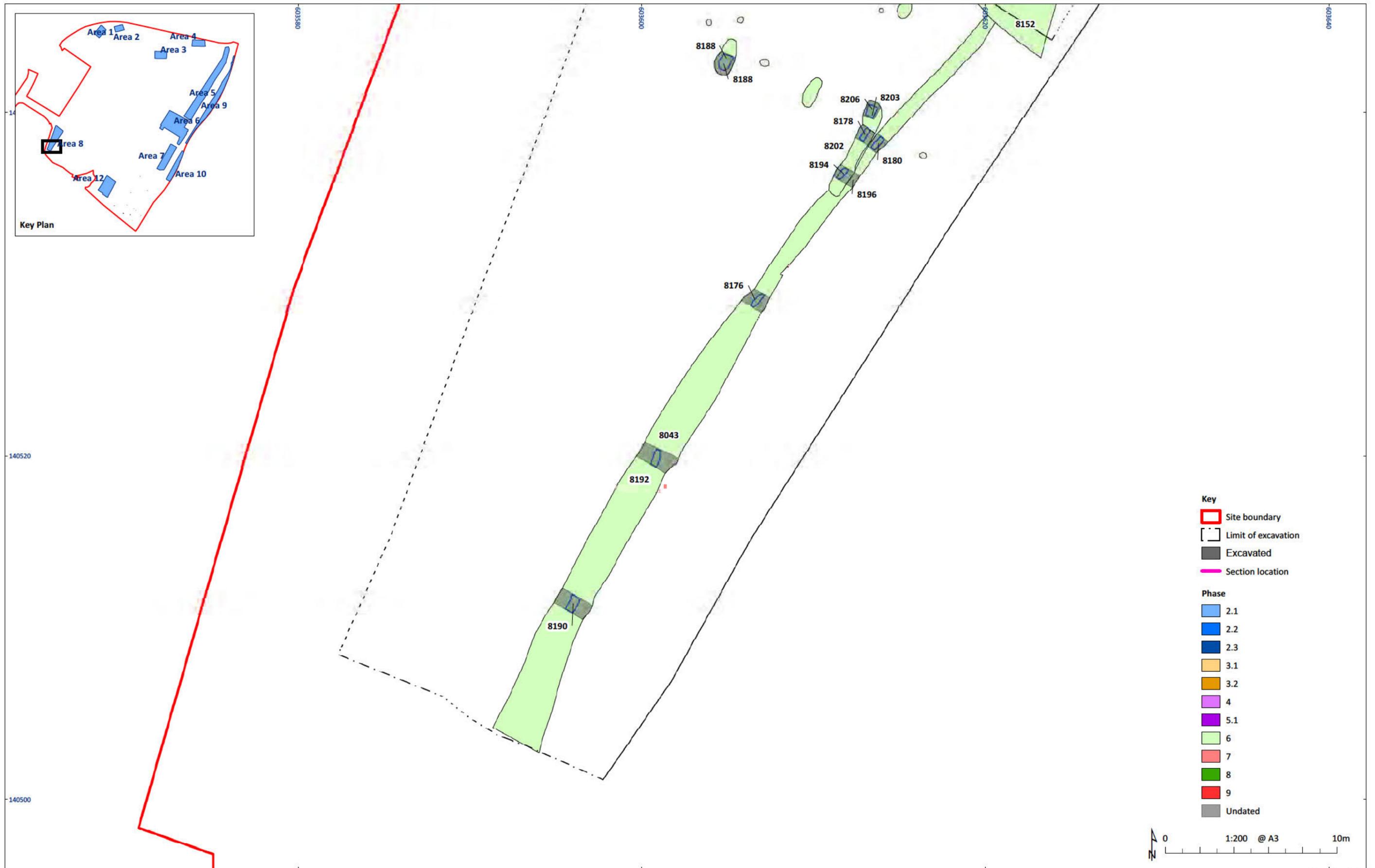
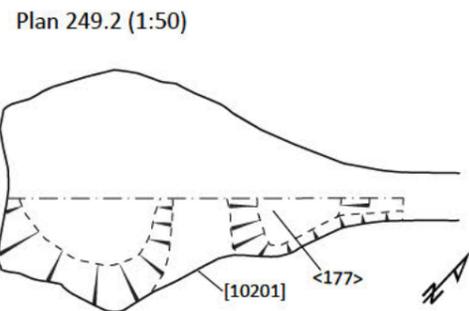
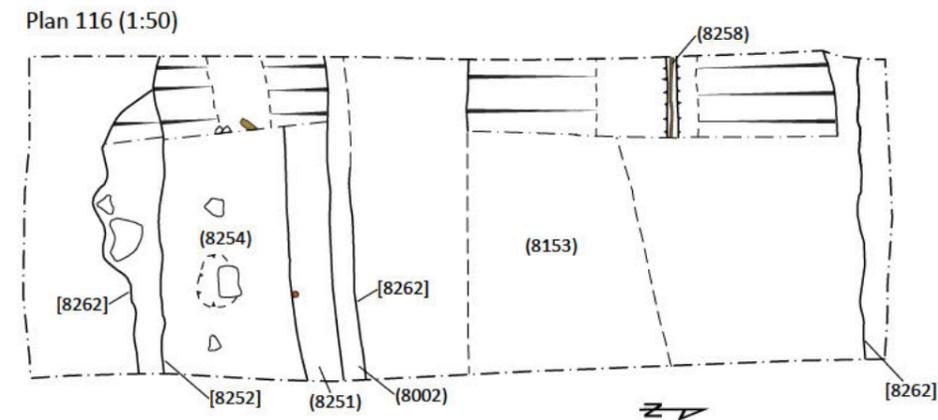
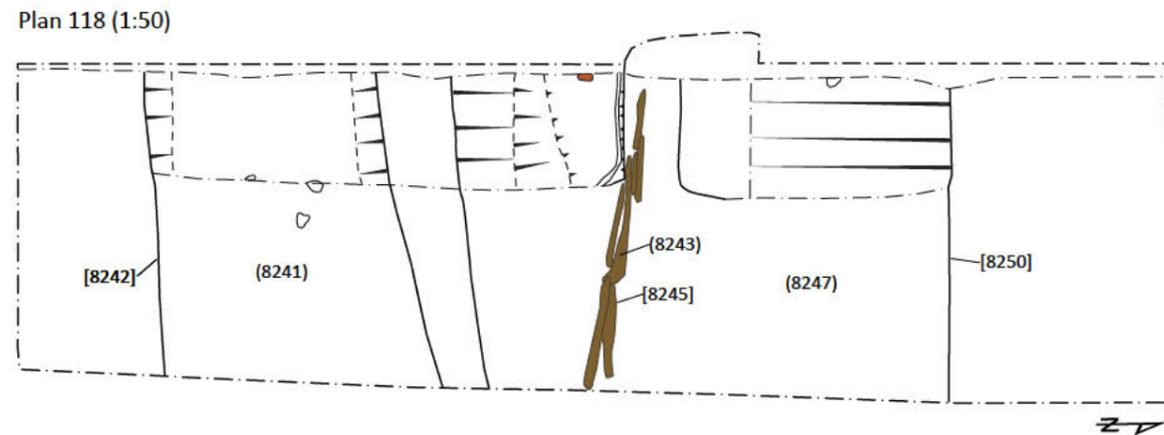
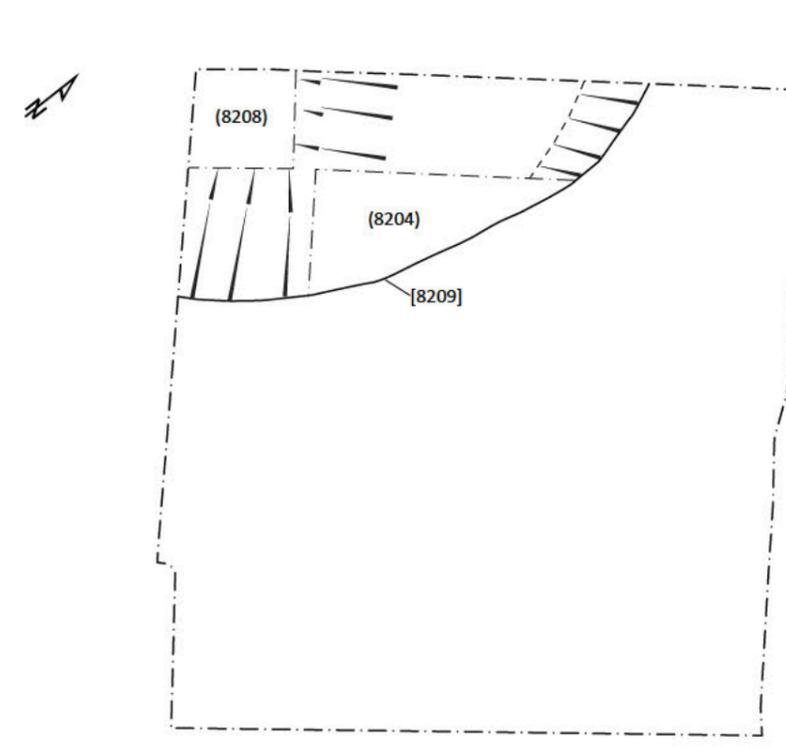
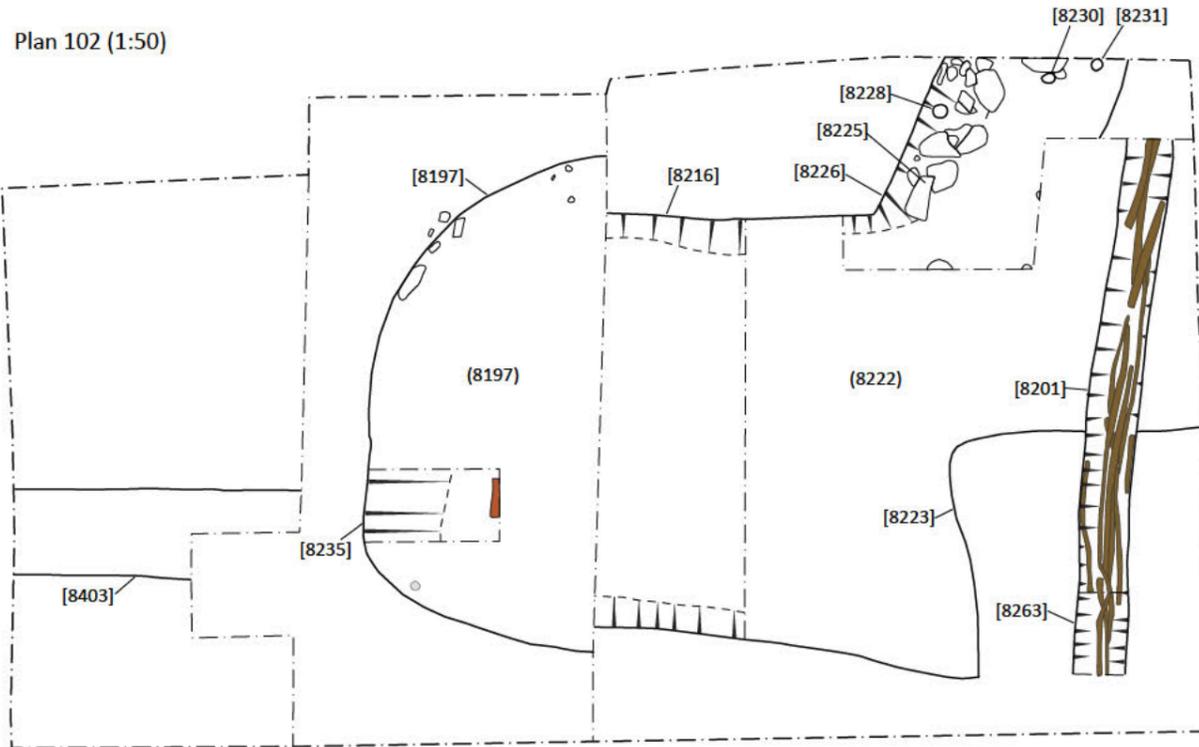


Figure 21: Area 8 South

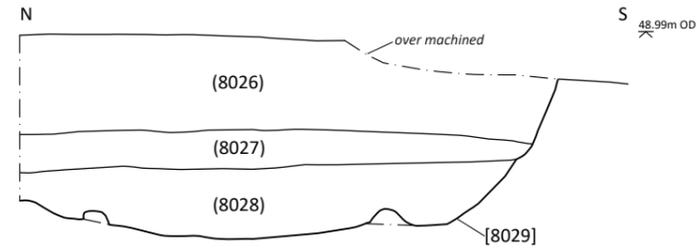


- Key**
-  Animal Bone
 -  Ceramic Building Material (CBM)
 -  Shell
 -  Stone
 -  Wood

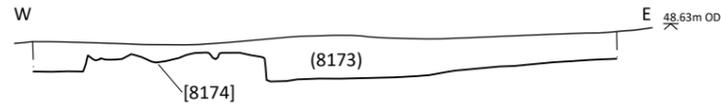
0 1:50 @ A3 2m

Figure 22: Detailed plans of selected features

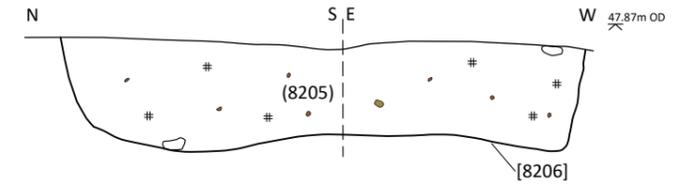
Section 63.3 (1:20)



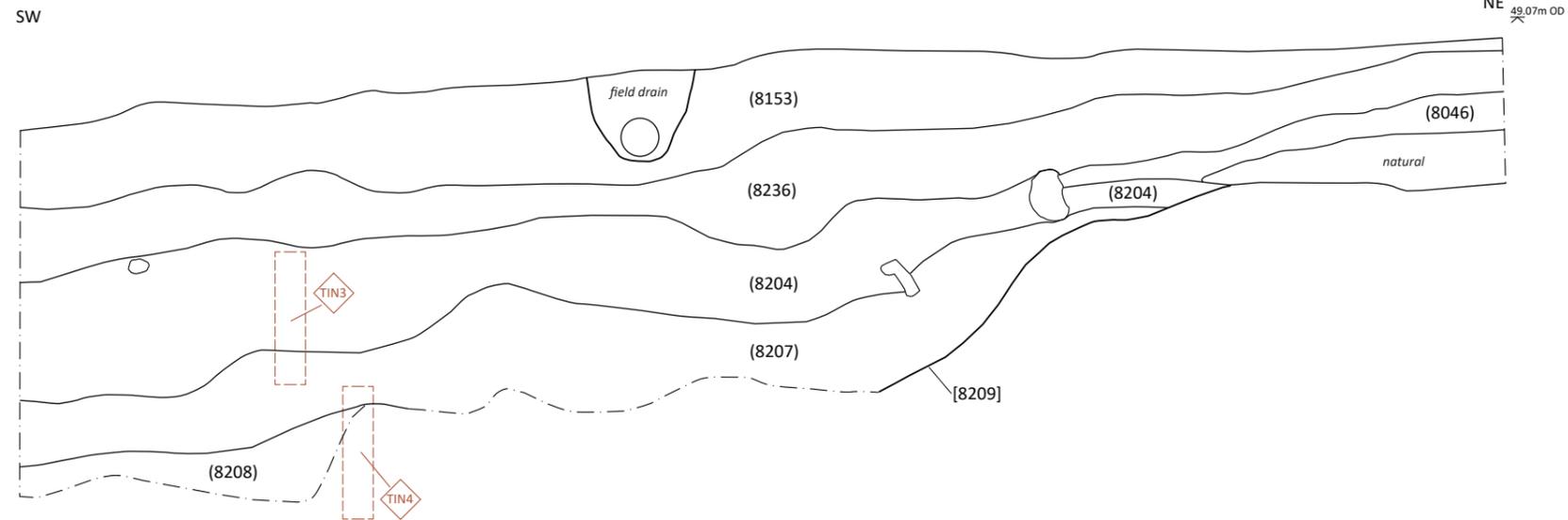
Section 98.1 (1:20)



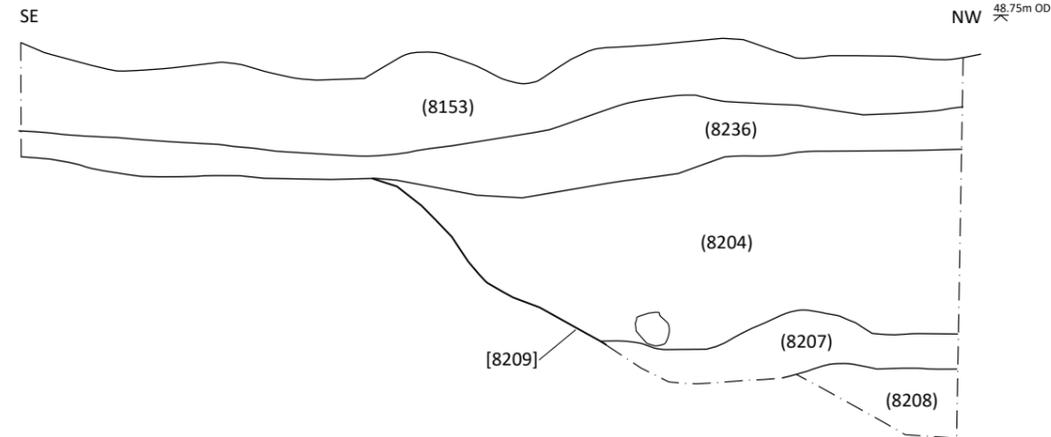
Section 109.1 (1:20)



Section 112.1 (1:20)

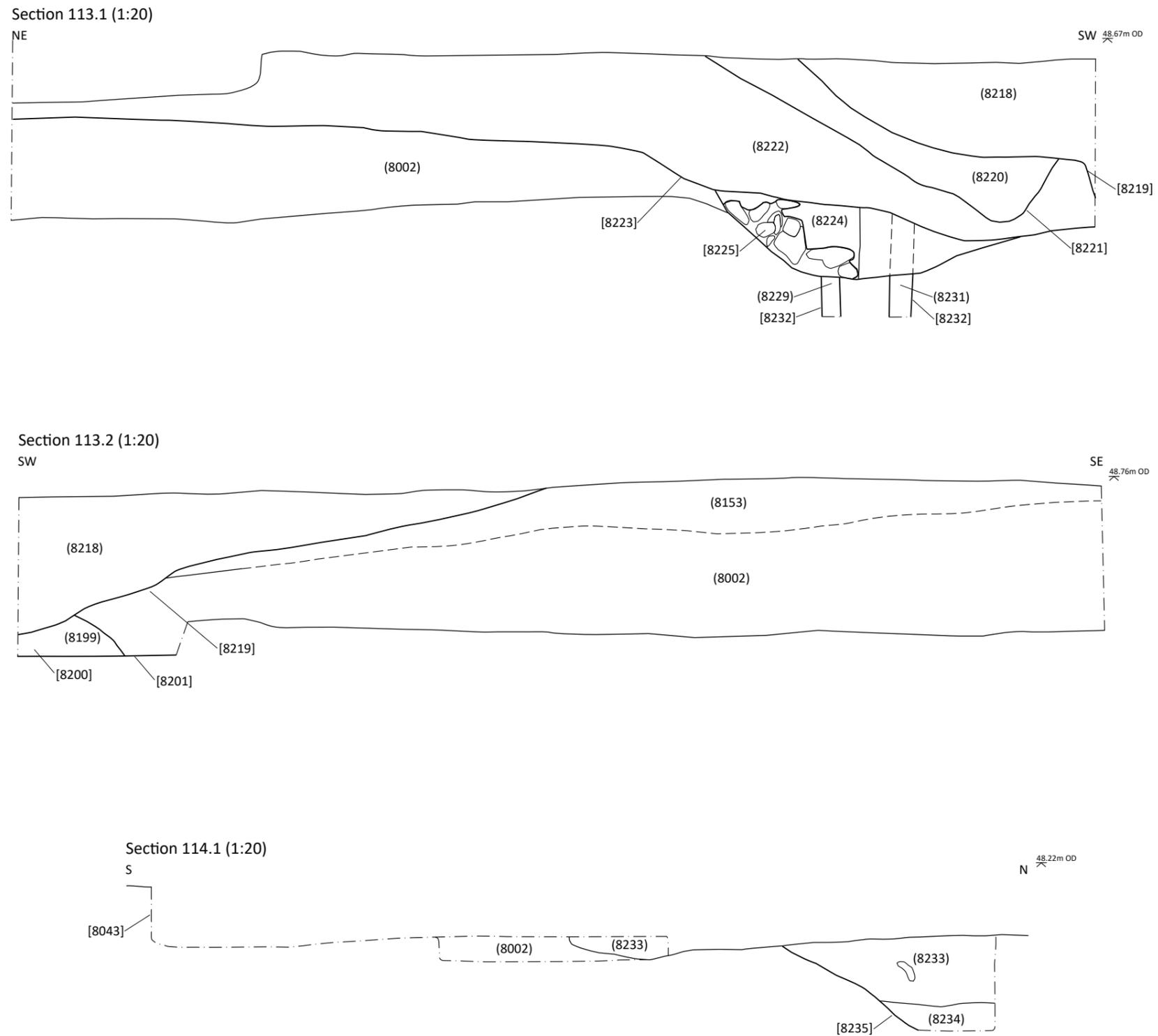


Section 112.2 (1:20)



- Key**
- Animal Bone
 - Bioturbation
 - Ceramic Building Material (CBM)
 - Charcoal
 - Environmental Sample
 - Stone

Figure 23: Area 8 - Sections 1

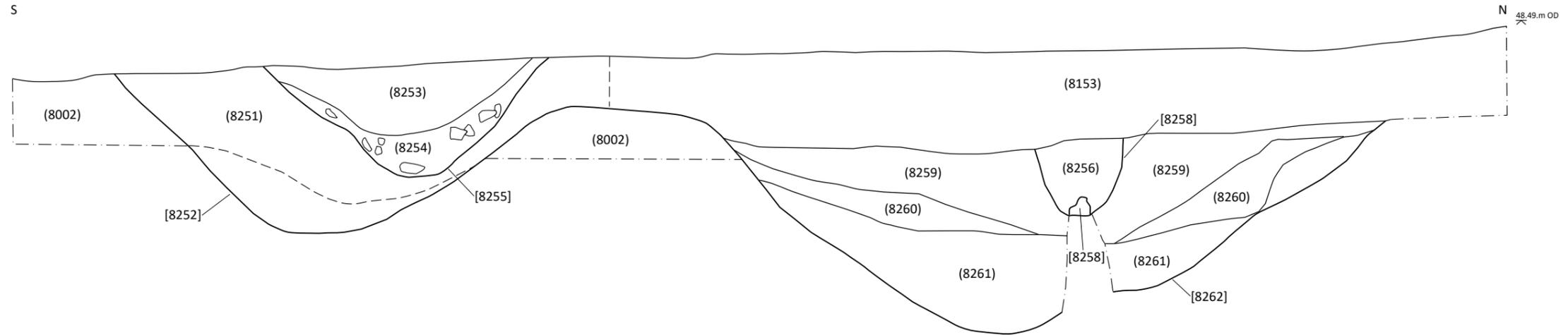


Key
Stone

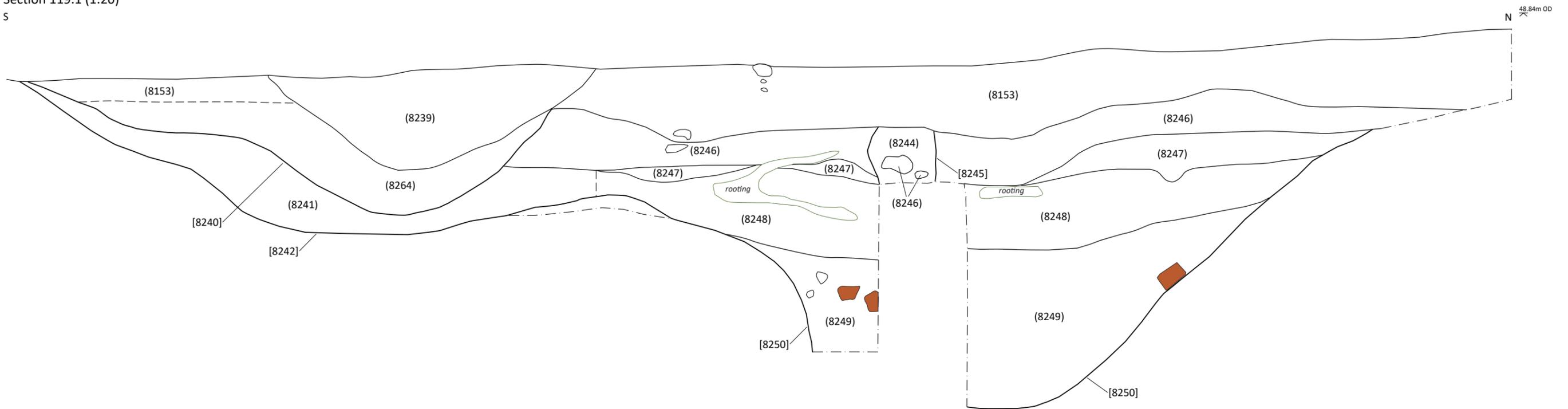


Figure 24: Area 8 - Sections 2

Section 117.1 (1:20)
S



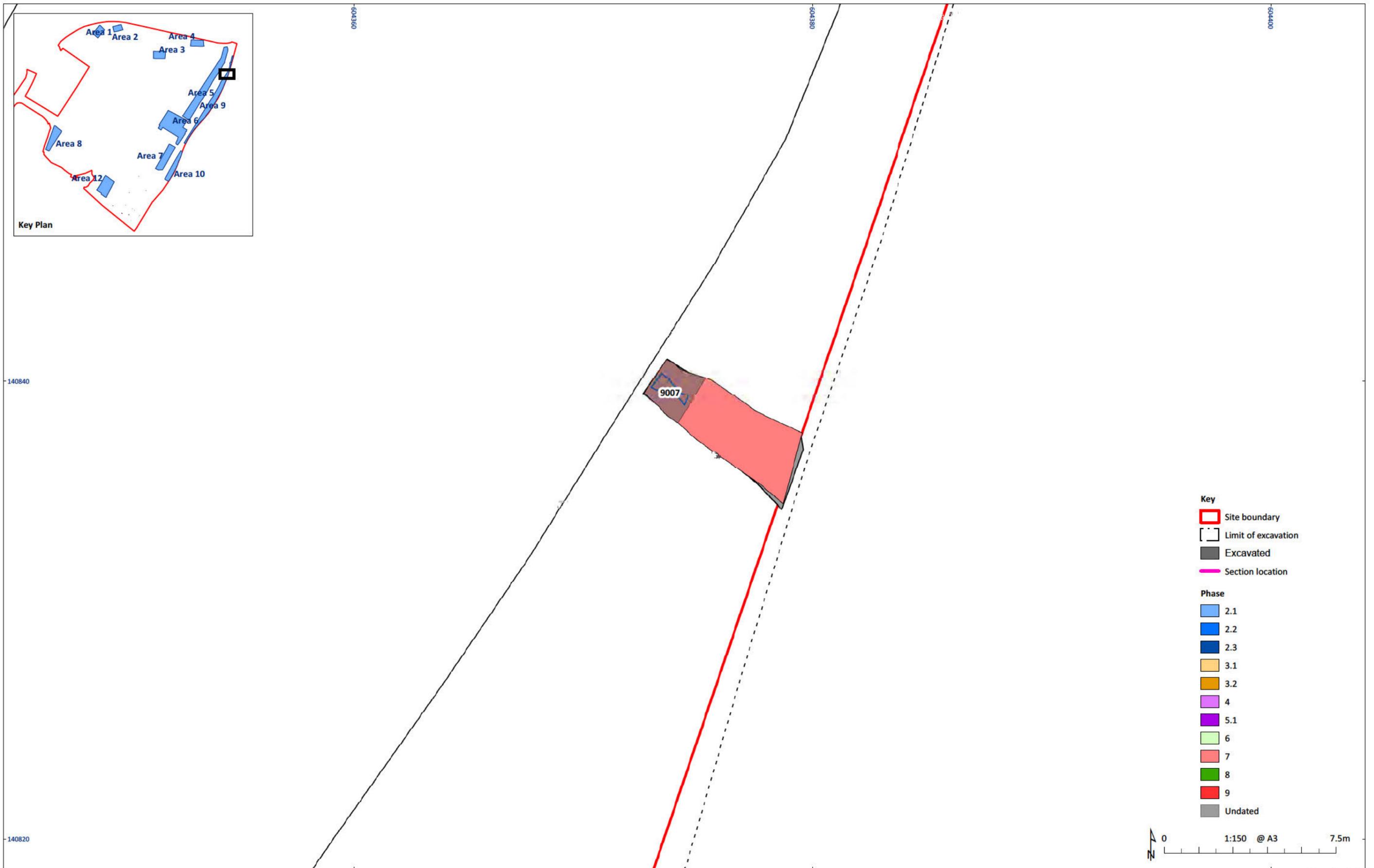
Section 119.1 (1:20)
S



- Key**
- Bioturbation
 - Ceramic Building Material (CBM)
 - Stone



Figure 25: Area 8 - Sections 3



Key Plan

Figure 26: Area 9 North

03/34280/PXA/26/01

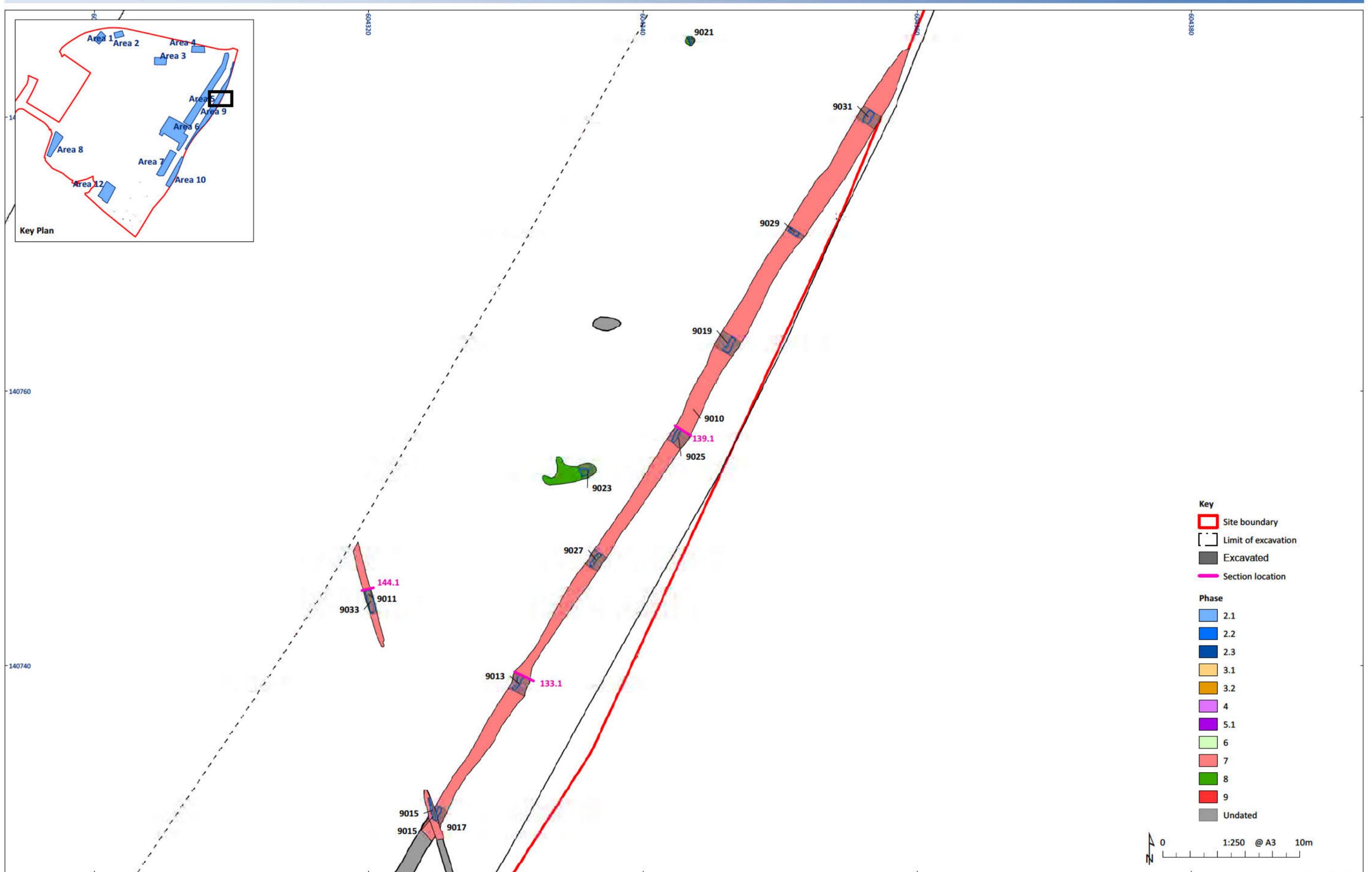


Figure 27: Area 9 Central



Figure 28: Area 9 South

03/34280/PXA/28/01

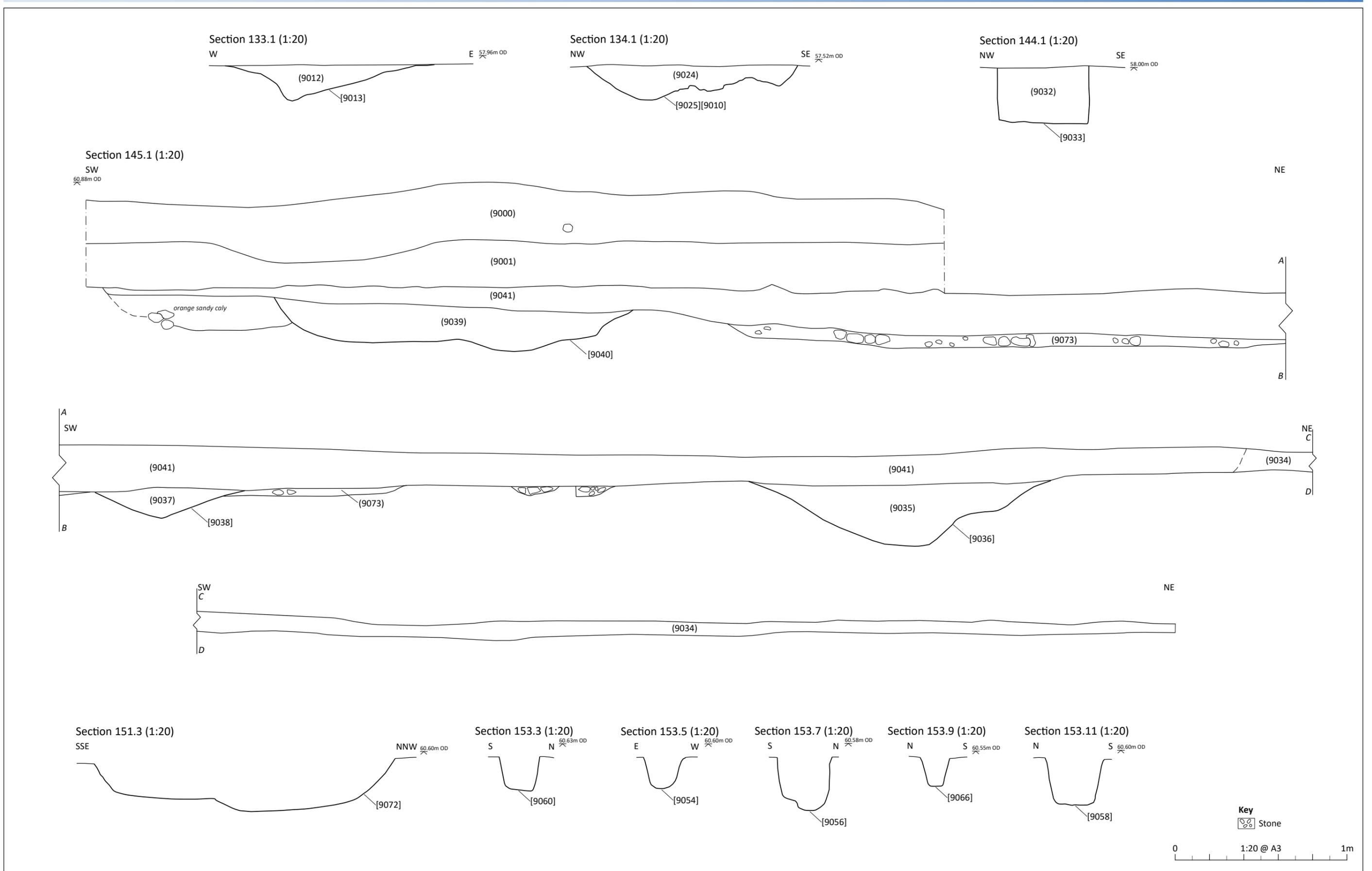


Figure 29: Area 9 - Sections

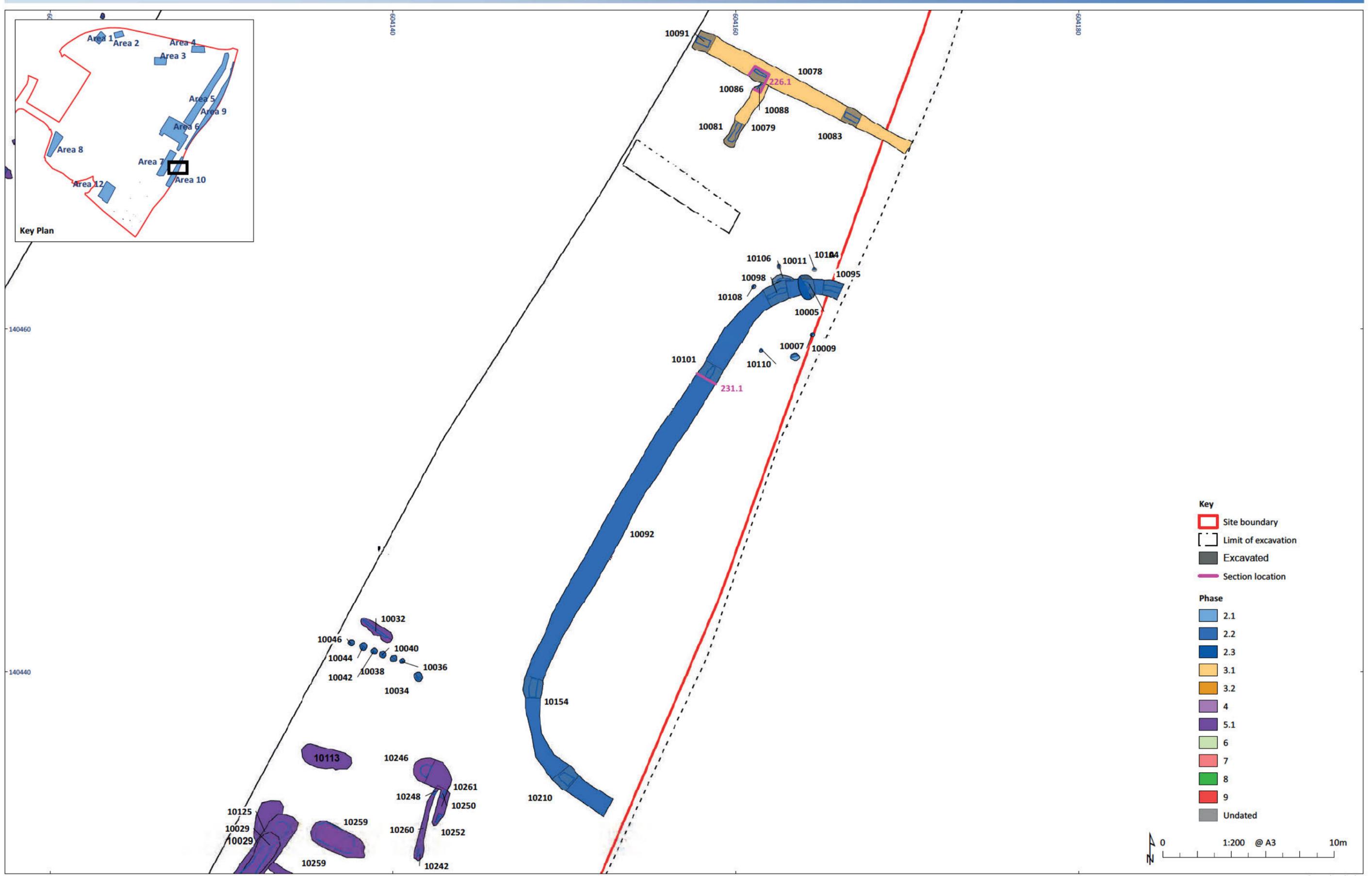
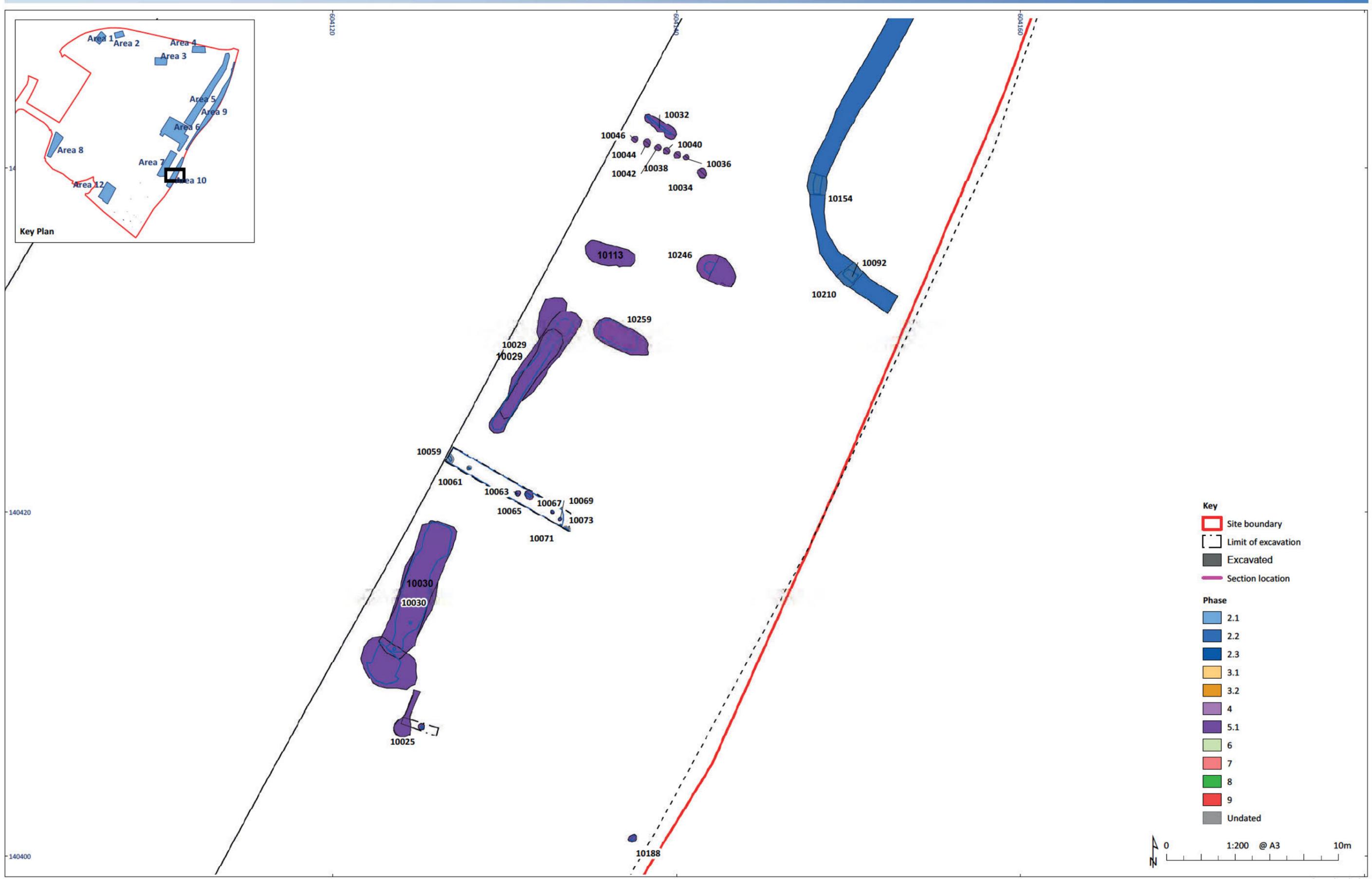


Figure 30: Area 10 North

03/34280/PXA/30/01



- Key**
- Site boundary
 - Limit of excavation
 - Excavated
 - Section location
- Phase**
- 2.1
 - 2.2
 - 2.3
 - 3.1
 - 3.2
 - 4
 - 5.1
 - 6
 - 7
 - 8
 - 9
 - Undated

Figure 31: Area 10 Central

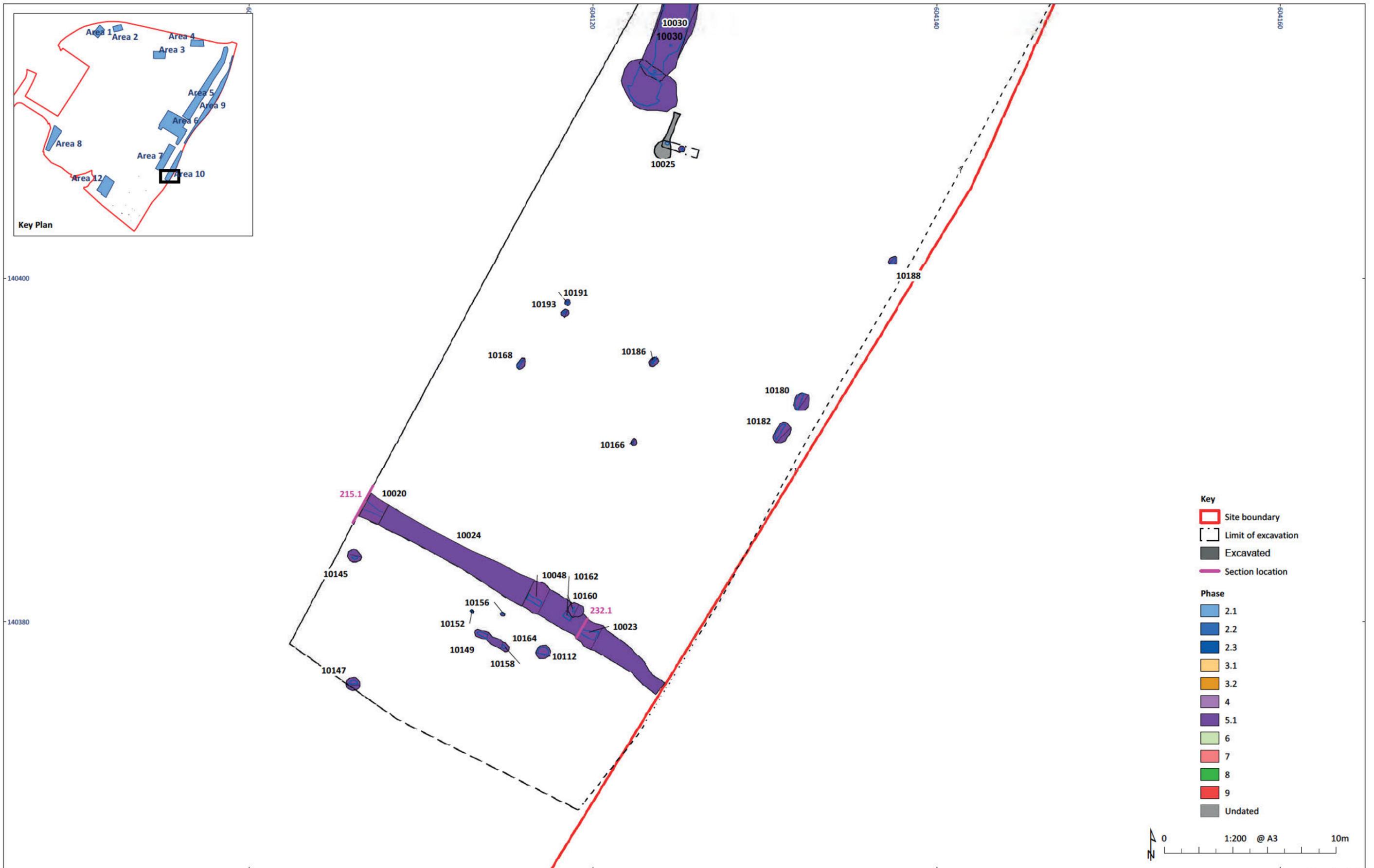


Figure 32: Area 10 South

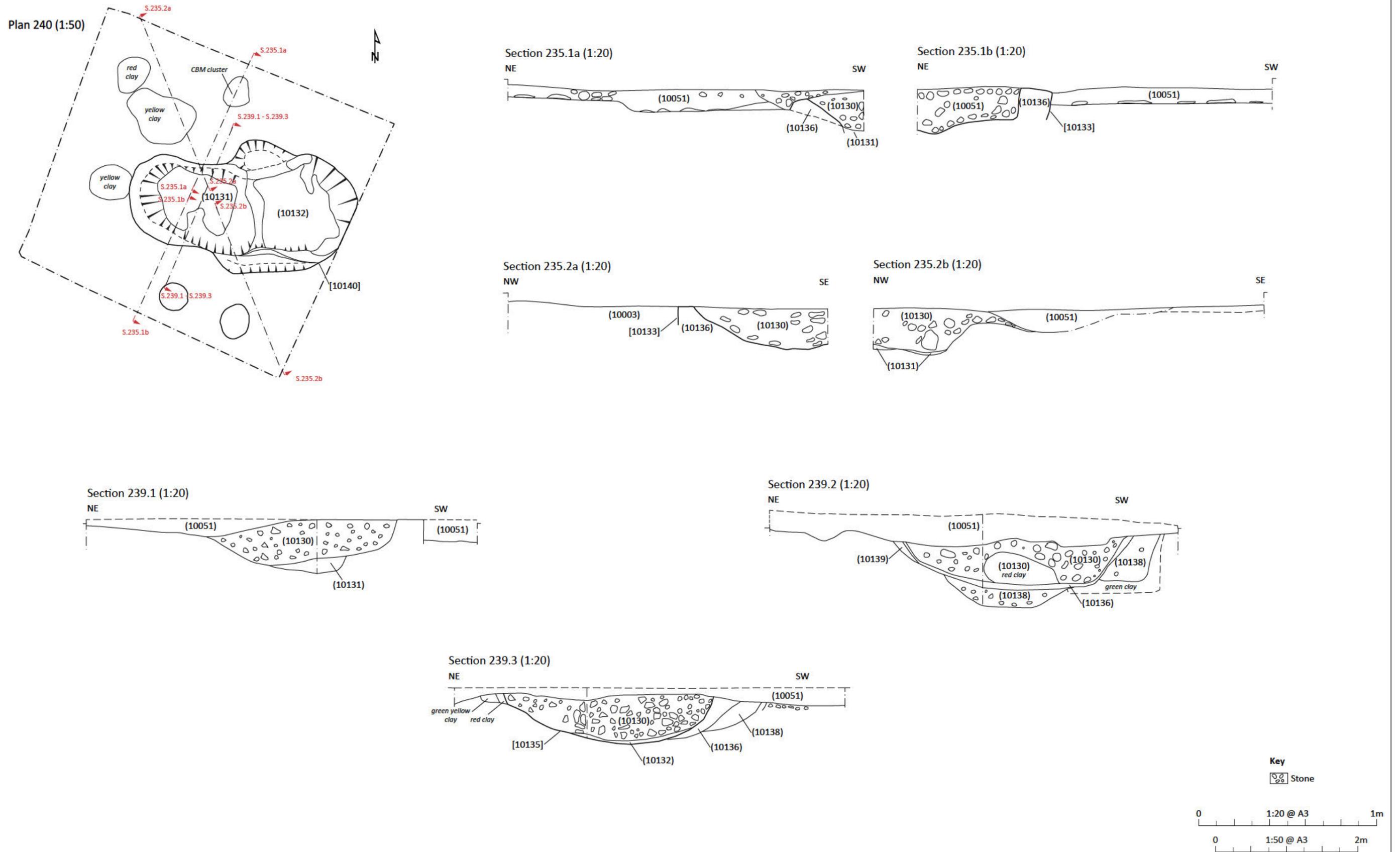


Figure 33: Detailed plan and sections through Kiln 1

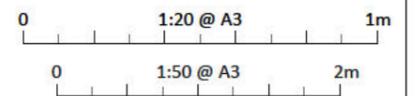
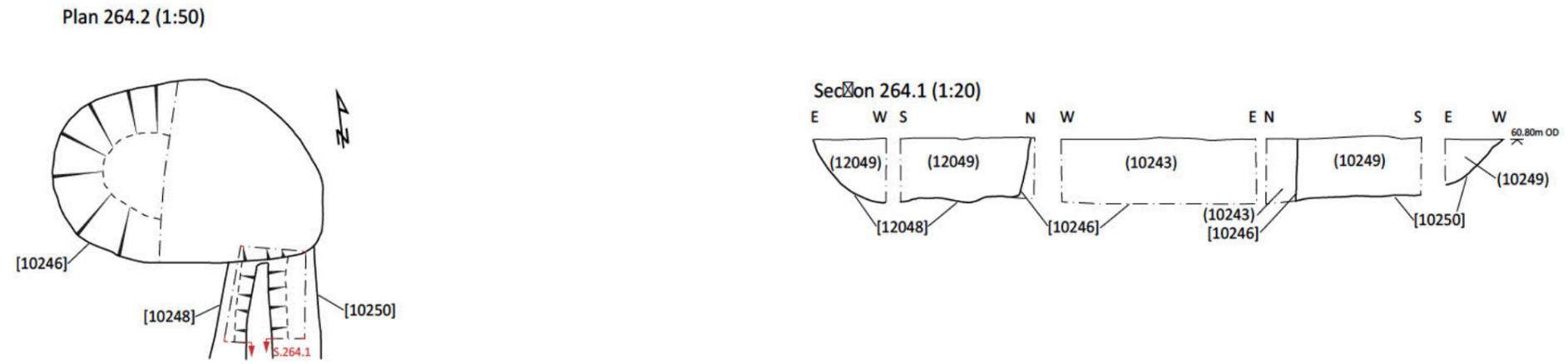
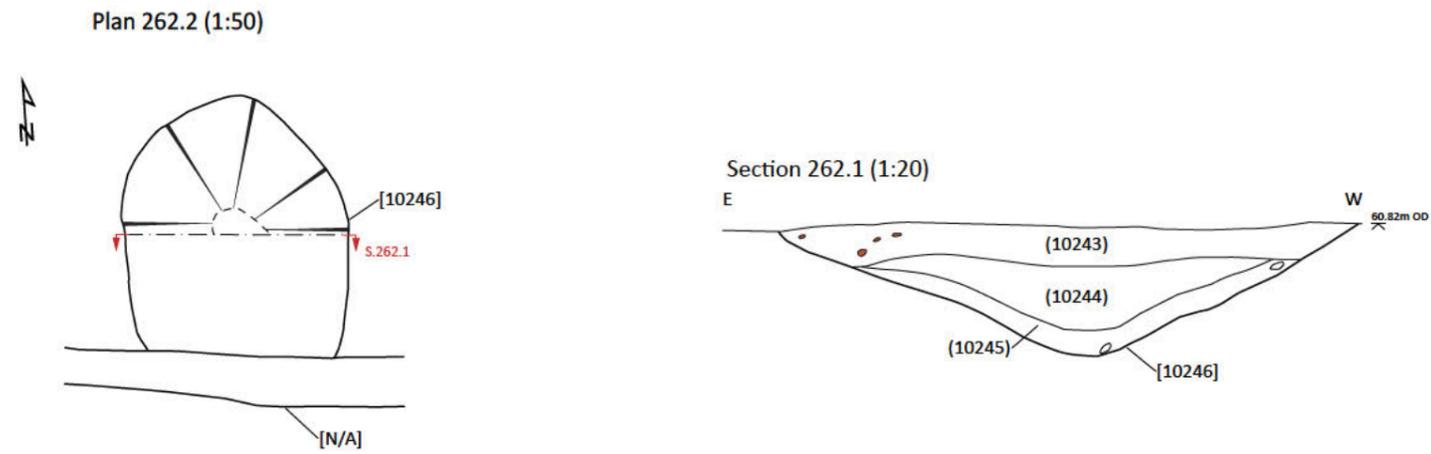


Figure 34: Detailed plan and sections through Kiln 2



Key
● Ceramic Building Material (CBM)
□ Stone

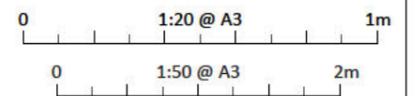
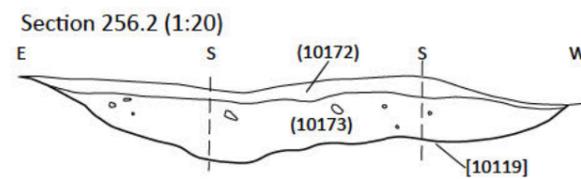
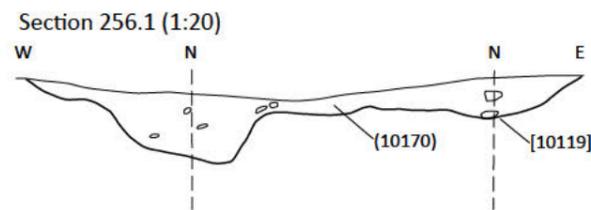
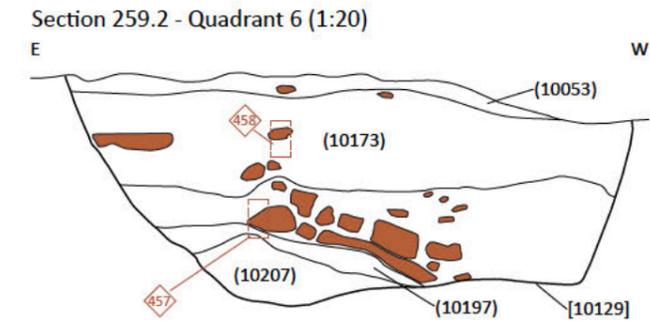
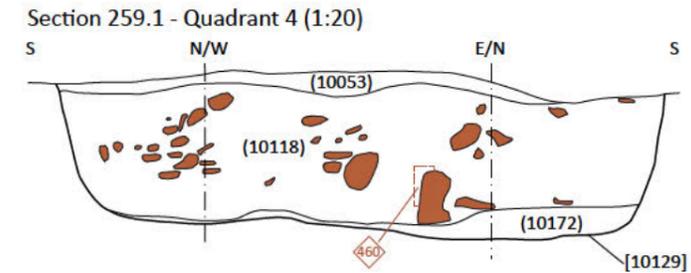
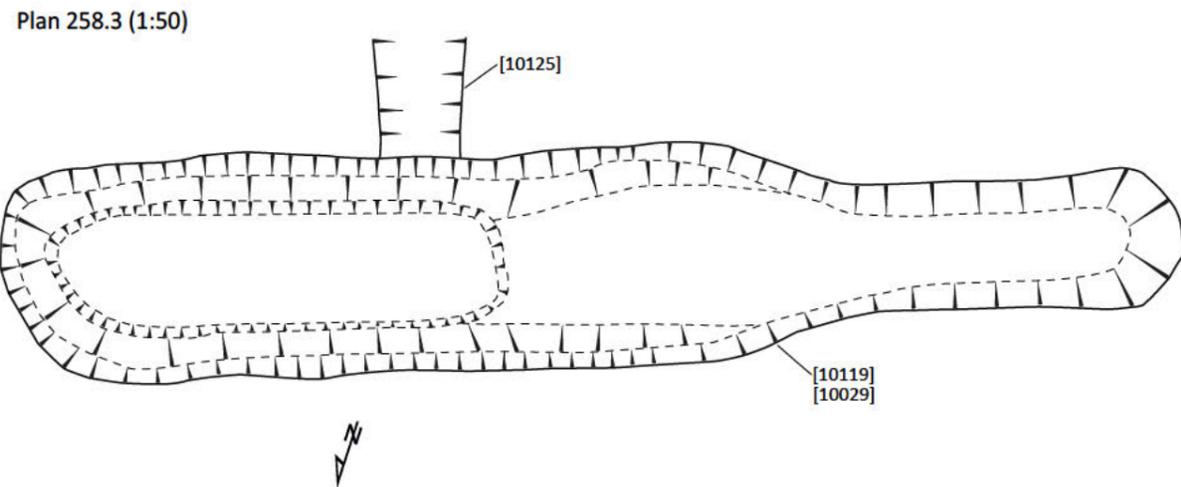
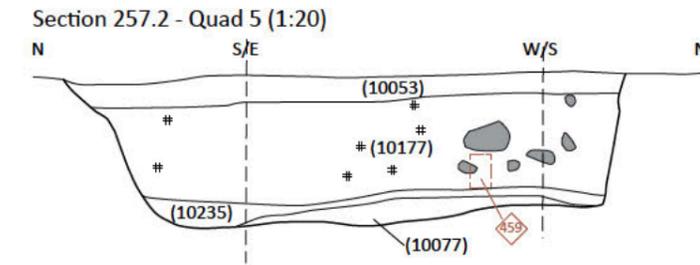
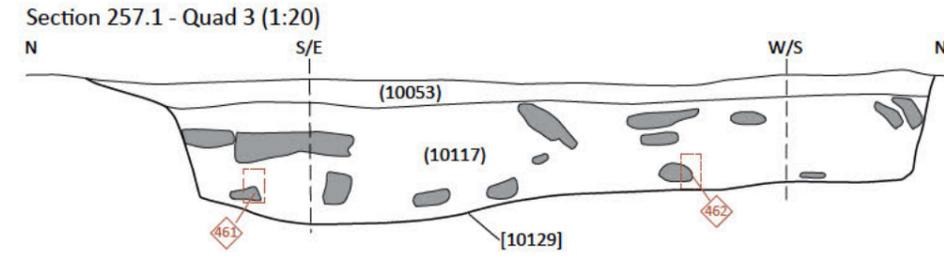
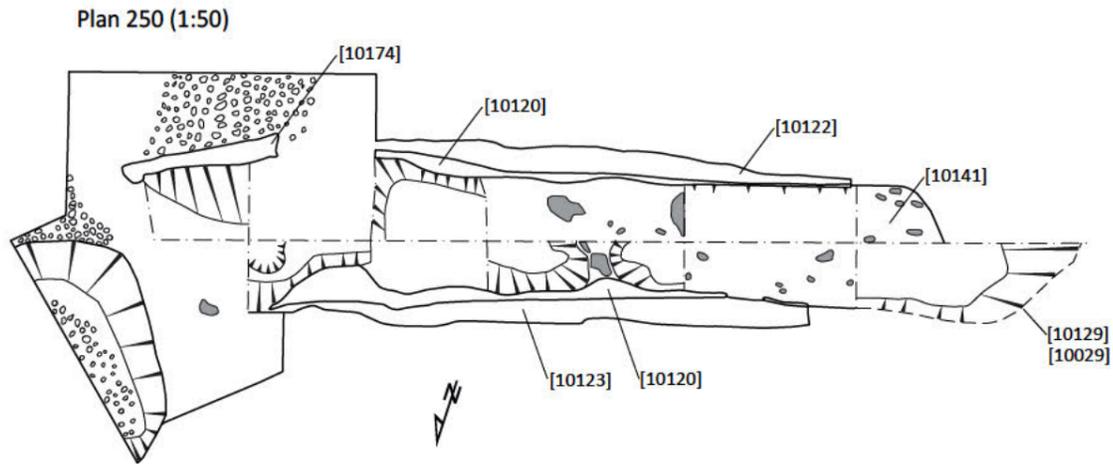


Figure 35: Detailed plan and sections through Kiln 3



-  Burnt stones
-  Ceramic Building Material (CBM)
-  Charcoal
-  Environmental Sample

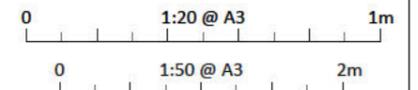
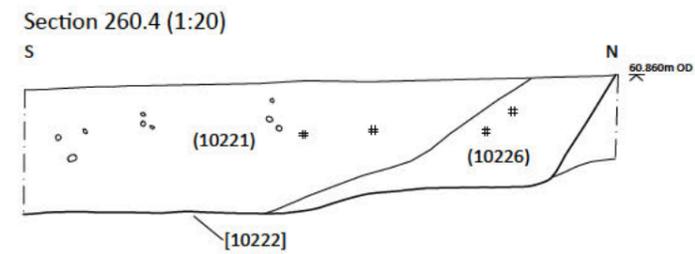
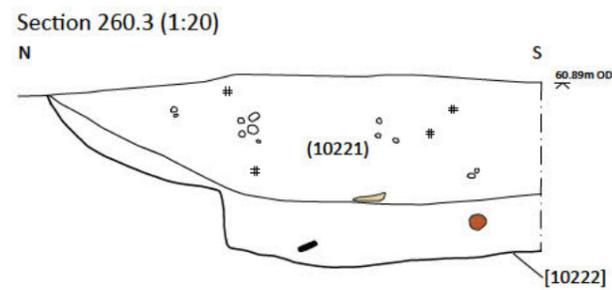
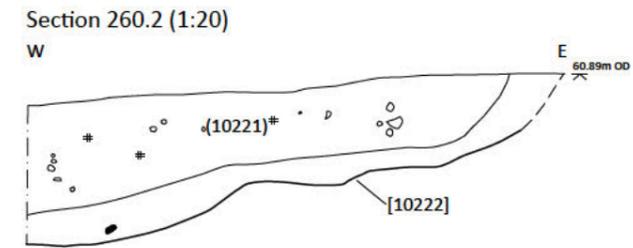
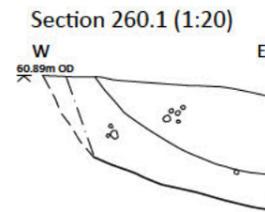
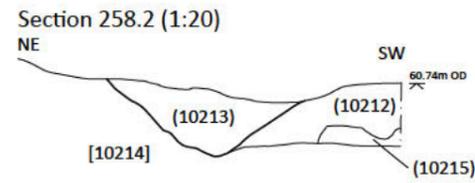
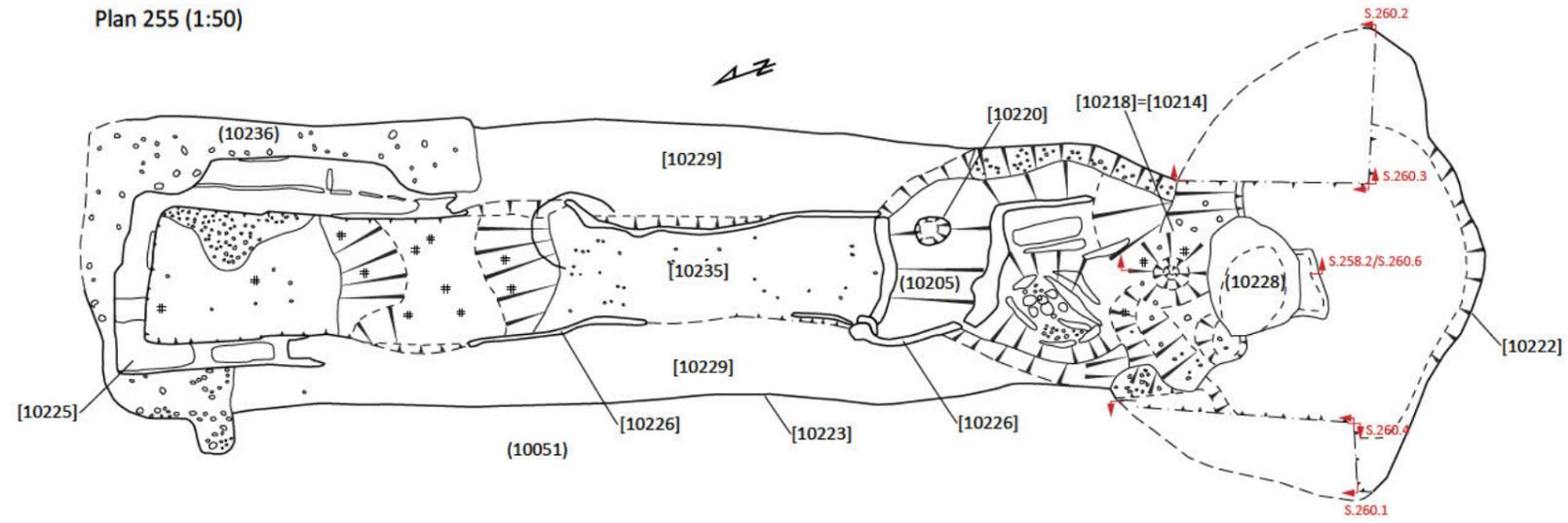


Figure 36: Detailed plan and sections through Kiln 3



- Key**
- Animal Bone
 - Ceramic Building Material (CBM)
 - Charcoal
 - Pottery
 - Stone

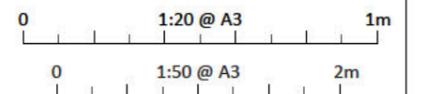


Figure 37: Detailed plan and sections through Kiln 5

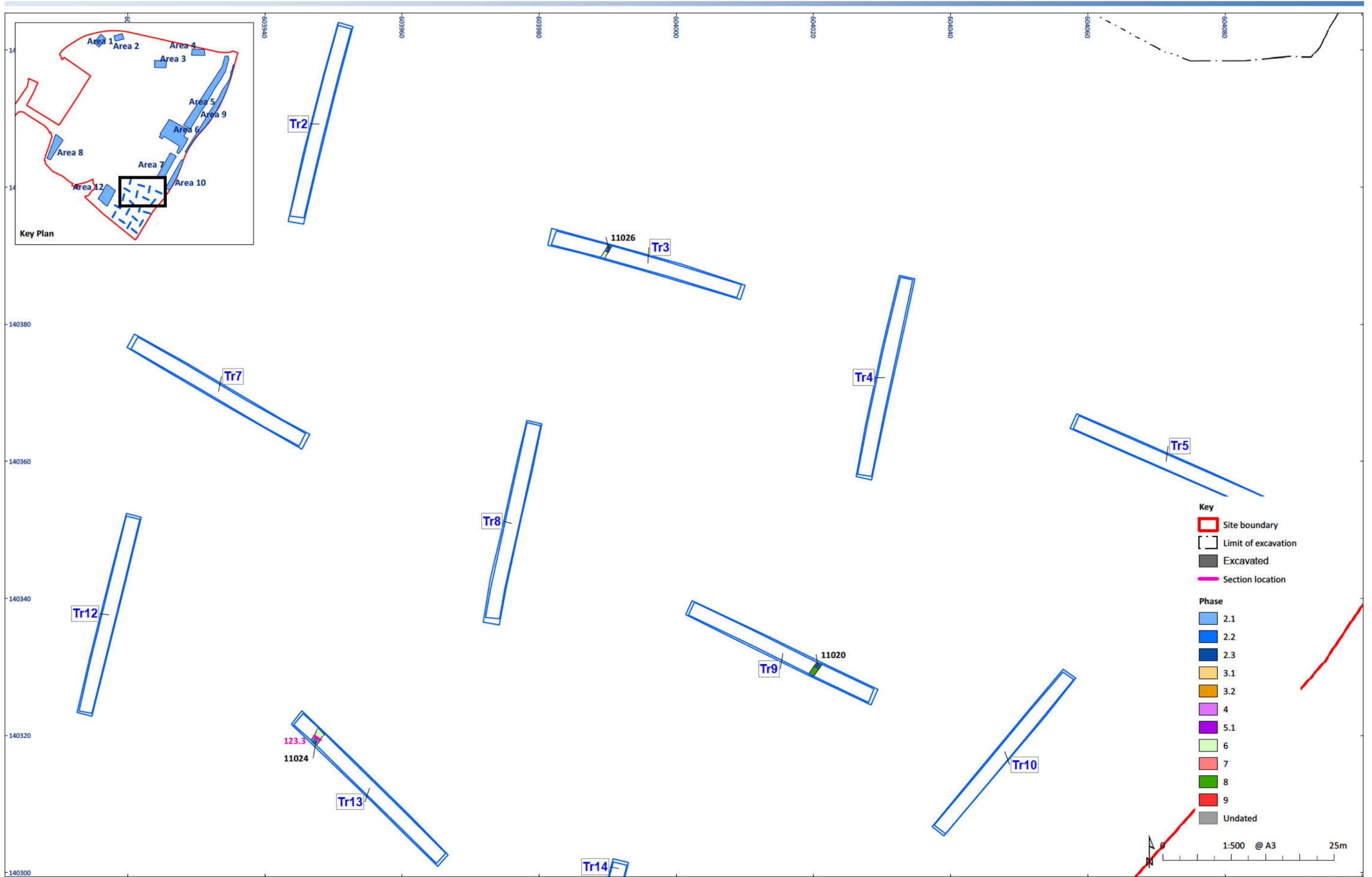


Figure 38: Area 11 North

03/34280/PXA/38/01

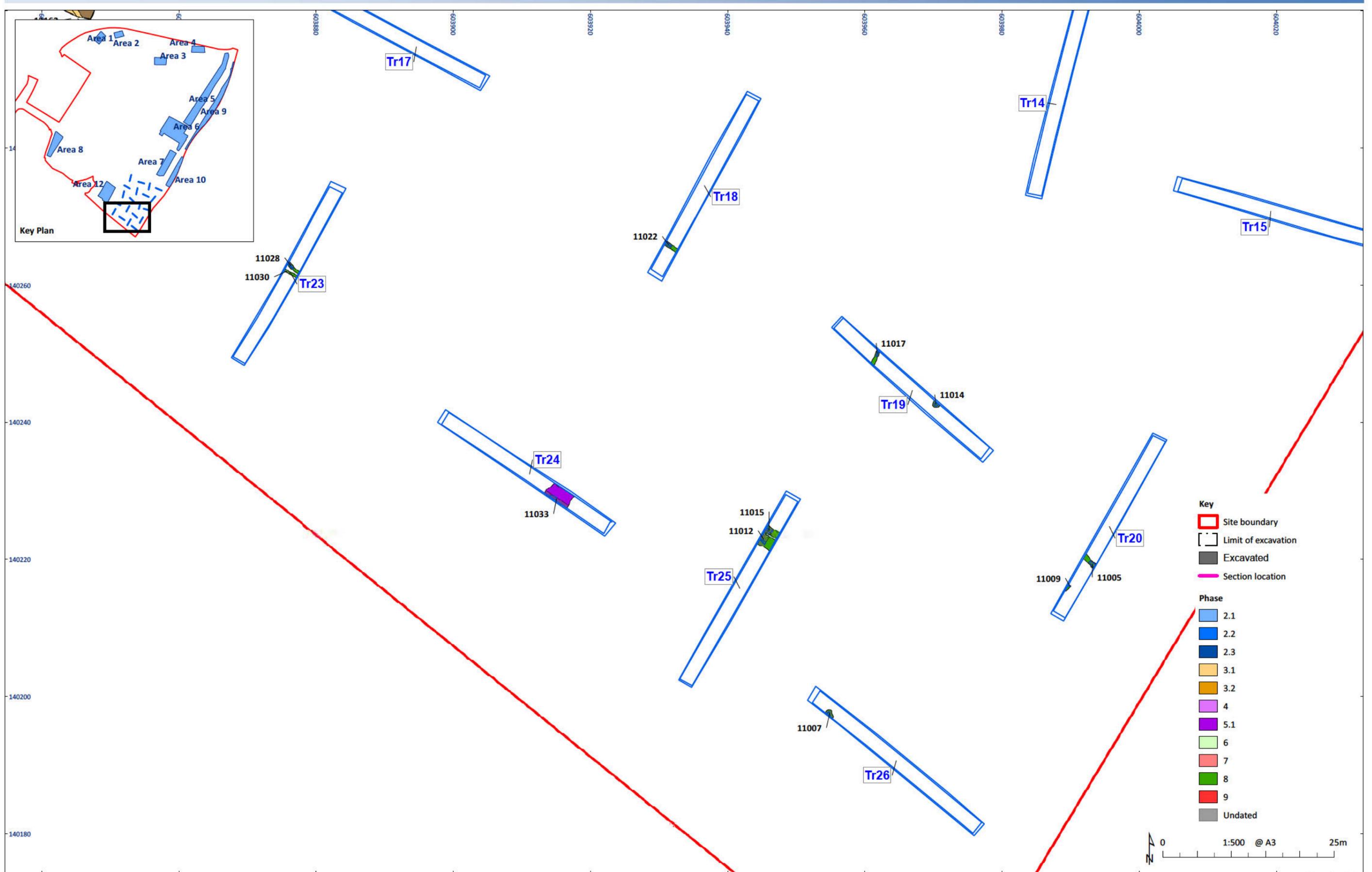
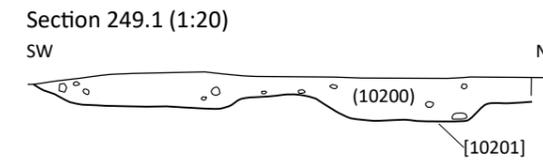
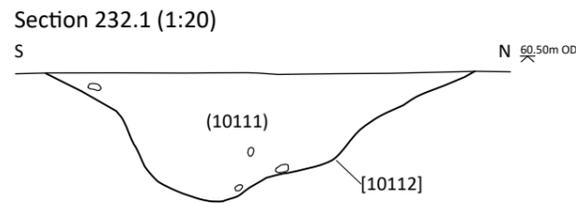
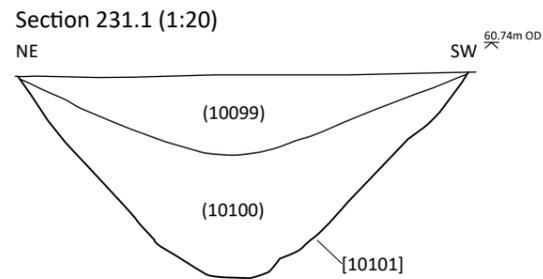
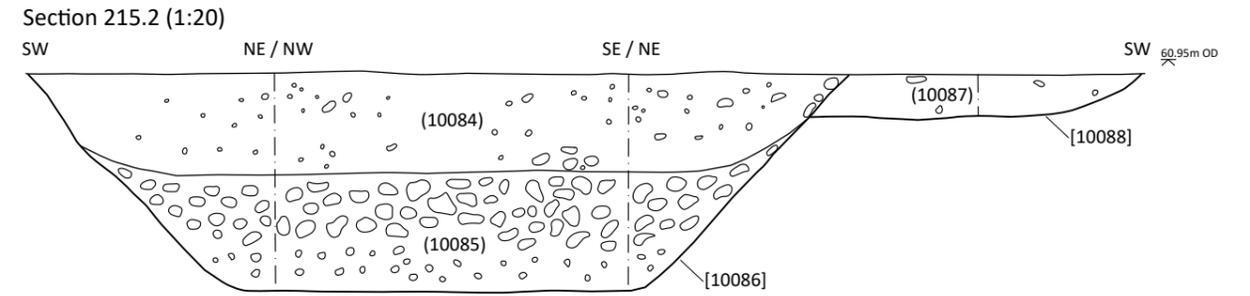
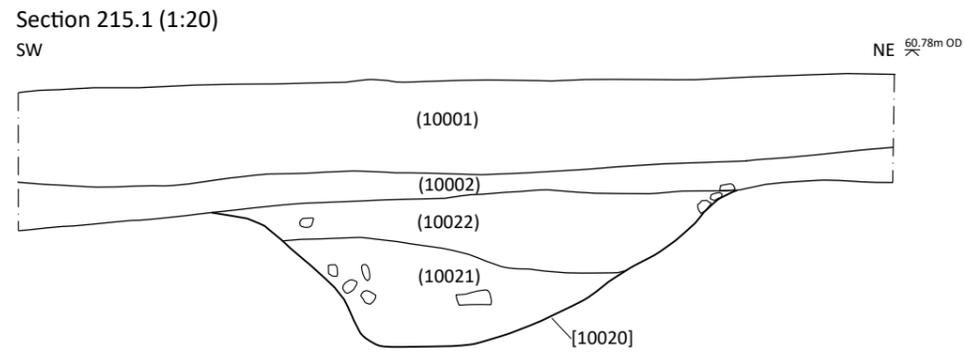
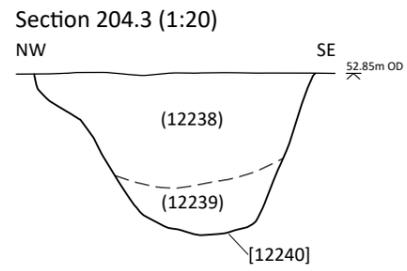


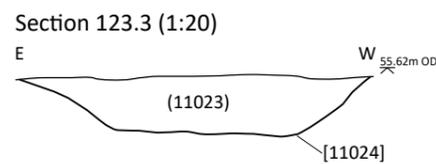
Figure 39: Area 11 South

03/34280/PXA/39/01

Area 10



Area 11



Key
Stone



Figure 40: Areas 10 and 11 - Sections

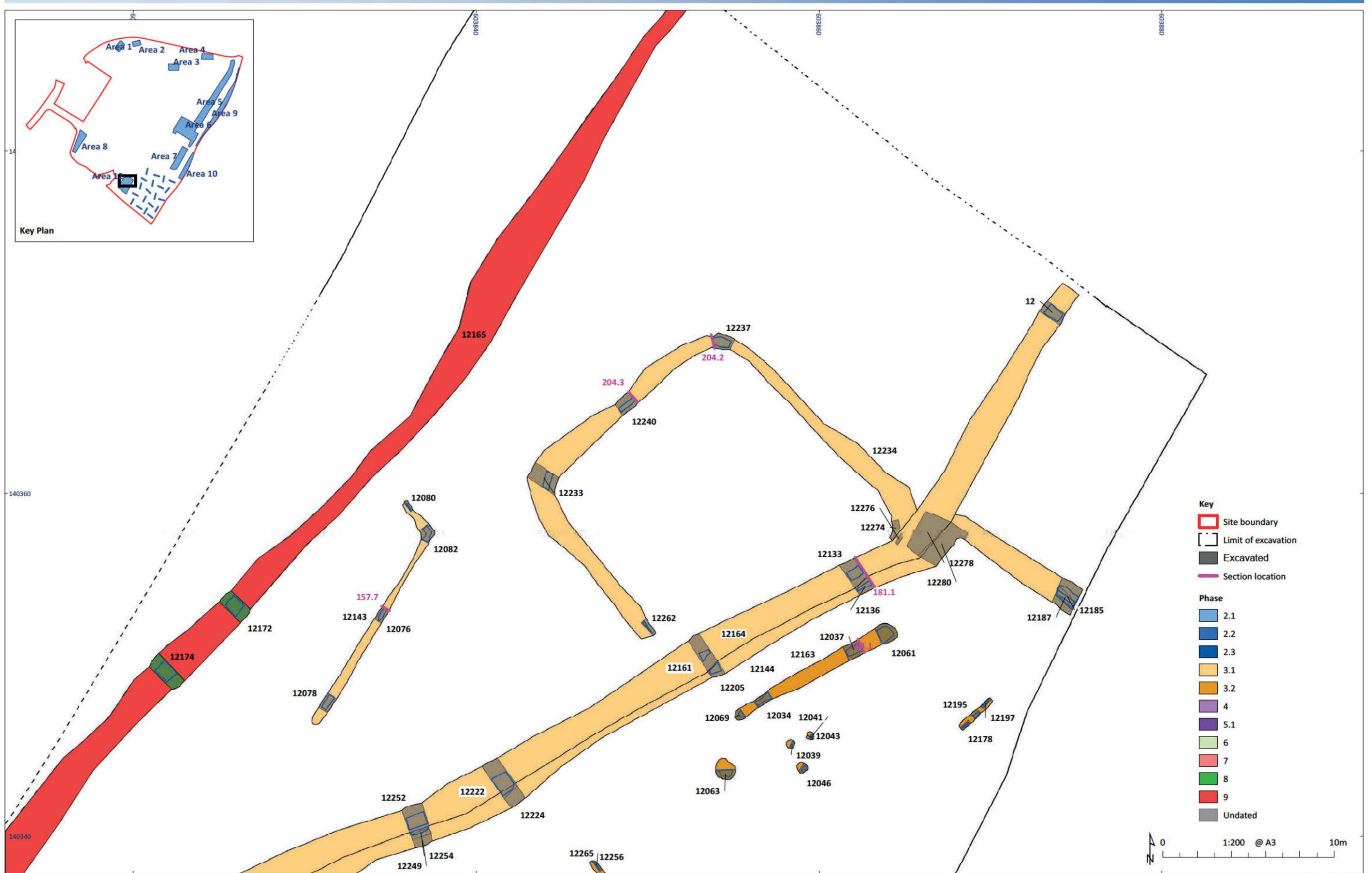


Figure 41: Area 12 North

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
2000		DEPO	Topsoil	0.17		
			Subsoil	0.25-		
2001		DEPO		0.67		
2002		DEPO	Natural	NFE		
2003	2004	FILL	Fill of Ditch slot	0.23	1.00	0.58
2004		CUT	Ditch slot	0.23	1.00	0.58
2005	2006	FILL	Fill of Ditch slot	0.23	1.00	0.40
2006		CUT	Ditch slot	0.23	1.00	0.40
2007	2008	FILL	Fill of Ditch slot	0.26	1.00	0.69
2008		CUT	Ditch slot	0.26	1.00	0.69
2009	2010	FILL	Fill of Ditch slot	0.23	1.00	0.56
2010		CUT	Ditch slot	0.23	1.00	0.56
2011	2012	FILL	Fill of Ditch slot	0.04	1.00	0.20
2012		CUT	Ditch slot	0.04	1.00	0.20
2013	2014	FILL	Fill of Ditch slot	0.20	1.00	1.00
2014		CUT	Skeletal recovery - possible cremation	0.20	1.00	1.00
2015	2016	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.07	0.36	0.29
2016		CUT	Posthole	0.07	0.36	0.29
2017	2018	FILL	Fill of Ditch slot	0.28	1.00	0.65
2018		CUT	Ditch slot	0.28	1.00	0.65
2019	2020	FILL	Fill of pit	0.28	3.80	1.40
2020		CUT	Pit	0.28	3.80	1.40
2021	2022	FILL	Fill of pit	0.09	0.76	0.78
2022		CUT	Pit	0.09	0.76	0.78
2023	2024	FILL	Fill of solution channel	0.15	1.40	0.69
2024		CUT	Solution channel	0.15	1.40	0.69
2025	2026	FILL	Fill of tree bole	0.44	1.44	0.93
2026		CUT	Tree bole	0.44	1.44	0.93
2027	2028	FILL	Fill of tree bole	0.36	1.20	1.06
2028		CUT	Tree bole	0.36	1.20	1.06
2029		GROUP	Ditch	0.23	25.50	0.56-1.00
2030		GROUP	Ditch	0.28	25.50	0.69
3000		DEPO	Topsoil	0.26		
3001		DEPO	Subsoil	0.29		
3002		DEPO	Natural	NFE		
3003	3004	FILL	Fill of pit	0.22	0.74	0.56
3004		CUT	Cut of pit	0.22	0.74	0.56
3005	3006	FILL	Natural feature	0.14	1.20	1.00
3006		CUT	Natural feature	0.14	1.20	1.00
3007	3008	FILL	Possible posthole or rooting	0.22	0.90	0.62
3008		CUT	Possible posthole or rooting	0.22	0.90	0.62
3009	3010	FILL	Likely natural feature	0.14	0.65	0.56
3010		CUT	Likely natural feature	0.14	0.65	0.56
3011	3012	FILL	Fill of large pit	0.95	3.70	

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
3012		CUT	Cut of large pit	0.95	3.70	
3013	3014	FILL	Fill of possible natural pit	0.87	4.76	3.55
3014		CUT	Cut of possible natural pit	0.87	4.76	3.55
3015	3016	FILL	Fill of small pit	0.25	1.18	1.10
3016		CUT	Cut of small pit	0.25	1.18	1.10
3017	3018	FILL	Fill of possible natural pit	0.56	3.20	2.00
3018		CUT	Cut of possible natural pit	0.56	3.20	2.00
4000		DEPO	Topsoil	0.30		
4001		DEPO	Subsoil	0.29		
4002		DEPO	Natural	NFE		
4003	4004	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.33	1.10	0.85
4004		CUT	Ditch	0.33	1.10	0.85
4005	4004, 4011, 4022	GROUP	Gully / Ditch	0.23-33	31.30	0.70-85
4006	4009, 4024, 4026	GROUP	Ditch	0.53	28.50	0.60
4007	4009	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.45	1.0+	0.50
4008	4009	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.18	1.0+	0.47
4009		CUT	Ditch	0.53	1.0+	0.57
4010	4011	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.26	1.0+	0.70
4011		CUT	Ditch	0.26	1.0+	0.70
4012	4013	FILL	Fill of gully	0.14	1.0+	0.37
4013		CUT	Gully	0.14	1.0+	0.37
4014	4015	FILL	Fill of gully	0.08	0.50+	0.32
4015		CUT	Gully	0.08	0.50+	0.32
4016	4017	FILL	Fill of gully	0.08	1.23	0.40
4017		CUT	Gully	0.08	1.23	0.40
4018	4019	FILL	Fill of gully	0.06	1.10	0.38
4019		CUT	Gully	0.06	1.10	0.38
4020	4015, 4017, 4019	GROUP	Gully		15.00+	
4021	4022	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.23	1.10	0.75
4022		CUT	Ditch	0.23	1.10	0.75
4023	4024	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.20		0.60
4024		CUT	Ditch	0.20		0.60
4025	4026	FILL	Fill of gully	0.12	1.0+	0.47
4026		CUT	Gully	0.12	1.0+	0.47
4027	4028	FILL	Fill of possible natural circular feature	0.28	0.38	0.38
4028		CUT	Cut of possible natural circular feature	0.28	0.38	0.38
4029	4030	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.16	0.32	0.24
4030		CUT	Posthole	0.16	0.32	0.24
4031	4032	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.14	0.20	0.20
4032		CUT	Posthole	0.14	0.20	0.20
4033	4034	FILL	Fill of pit	0.12	0.90	0.76
4034		CUT	Pit	0.12	0.90	0.76
4035	4036	FILL	Fill of possible stake hole	0.12	0.12	0.08

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
4036		CUT	Possible stake hole	0.12	0.12	0.08
4037	4038	FILL	Fill of possible stake hole	0.12	0.12	0.12
4038		CUT	Possible stake hole	0.12	0.12	0.12
5000		DEPO	Topsoil	0.80		
5001		DEPO	Subsoil	0.80		
5002		DEPO	Natural	NFE		
5003	5004	FILL	Fill of 5004	0.80		
5004		CUT	Modern truncation	0.80		
5005		DEPO	Colluvium			
5006	5008	SKEL	Skeleton			
5007	5008	FILL	Grave fill	0.12	0.70	0.65
5008		CUT	Grave cut	0.12	0.70	0.65
6000		DEPO	Topsoil	0.26		
6001		DEPO	Subsoil	0.29		
6002		DEPO	Natural	NFE		
6003	6004	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.25	7.5	1.12
6004		CUT	Ditch	0.25	7.5	1.12
6005	6006	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.23	7.5	1
6006		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.23	7.5	1
6007	6008	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.15	0.68	0.48
6008		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.15	0.68	0.48
6009	6010	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.33	1.0+	1.15
6010		CUT	Ditch	0.33	1.0+	1.15
6011	6012	FILL	Fill of gully	0.08	1.0+	0.48
6012		CUT	Gully terminus	0.08	1.0+	0.48
6013	6014	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.15	1.0+	0.37
6014		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.15	1.0+	0.37
6015	6017	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.14	1.0+	0.9
6016	6017	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.14	1.0+	0.8
6017		CUT	Ditch	0.28	1.0+	0.9
6018	6019	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.18	?	0.85
6019		CUT	Ditch	0.18	?	0.85
6020	6021	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.25	1.0+	1.27
6021		CUT	Ditch	0.25	1.0+	1.27
6022	6024	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.2	4.90 ?	0.78
6023	6024	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.3	1.0+	1.35
6024		CUT	Ditch	0.34	?	1.35
6025	6026	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.43	1.0+	1.11
6026		CUT	Ditch	0.43	1.0+	1.11
6027	6029	FILL	Fill of pit	0.06	1.8	1.4
6028	6029	FILL	Fill of pit	0.2	1.34	0.5
6029		CUT	Pit	0.26	2.1	1.4
6030	6031	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.18	1.07	0.35
6031		CUT	Ditch	0.18	1.07	0.35

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
6032	6033	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.23	1.07	0.91
6033		CUT	Ditch	0.23	1.07	0.91
6034	6035	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.11	1.0+	0.64
6035		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.11	1.0+	0.64
6036		GROUP	Ditch			
6037	6038	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.24	1	0.84
6038		CUT	Ditch	0.24	1	0.84
6039	6040	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.19	0.76	0.6
6040		CUT	Ditch	0.19	0.76	0.6
6041	6042	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.24	1	0.82
6042		CUT	Ditch	0.24	1	0.82
6043	6044	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.18	1.0+	0.8
6044		CUT	Ditch	0.18	1.0+	0.8
6045	6046	FILL	Fill of tree throw?	0.07	1.2	0.55
6046		CUT	Tree throw?	0.07	1.2	0.55
6047	6048	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.14	1.0+	0.9
6048		CUT	Ditch	0.14	1.0+	0.9
6049	6050	FILL	Fill of ditch / gully terminus	0.1	5	0.24
6050		CUT	Ditch / gully terminus	0.1	5	0.24
6051	6052	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.06	1.0+	0.46
6052		CUT	Ditch	0.06	1.0+	0.46
6053	6054	FILL	Fill of ditch / gully terminus	0.09		
6054		CUT	Ditch / gully terminus	0.09		
6055	6056	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.28	1.04	0.9
6056		CUT	Ditch	0.28	1.04	0.9
6057	6058	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.06	1.0+	0.63
6058		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.06	1.0+	0.63
6059	6060	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.08	1.0+	0.5
6060		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.08	1.0+	0.5
6061		GROUP	Ditch	0.06-0.27	16	0.55-0.66
6062	6063	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.27	1.0+	0.6
6063		CUT	Ditch	0.27	1.0+	0.6
6064	6065	FILL	Fill of pit	0.17	1.0+	1.85
6065		CUT	Pit	0.17	1.0+	1.85
6066	6067	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.45	1.7	1.4
6067		CUT	Ditch	0.45	1.7	1.4
6068	6069	FILL	Fill of pit	0.45	1.45	1.1
6069		CUT	Pit. Possible natural?	0.45	1.45	1.1
6070	6072	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch	0.25	1.0+	?
6071	6072	FILL	Primary fill of ditch	0.08	0.6	?
6072		CUT	Ditch	0.25	1.0+	0.9
6073	6075	FILL	Secondary fill of pit	0.11	1.25	0.4

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
6074	6075	FILL	Primary fill of pit	0.11	1.27	0.4
6075		CUT	Pit	0.2	1.25	0.8
6076	6077	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.23	0.31	0.31
6077		CUT	Posthole	0.23	0.31	0.31
6078		GROUP	Ditch	0.1	4.7	0.23-0.3
6079	6080	FILL	Fill of gully	0.07	0.54	0.23
6080		CUT	Gully	0.07	0.54	0.23
6081	6082	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.22	0.8	0.55
6082		CUT	Ditch	0.22	0.8	0.55
6083	6084	FILL	Fill of pit	0.78	3.0+	3.0+
6084		CUT	Pit	0.78	3.0+	3.0+
6085		GROUP	Ditch	0.12-0.24	93.4	0.35-0.98
6086	6087	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.17	1.0+	0.63
6087		CUT	Ditch	0.17	1.0+	0.63
6088	6089	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus	0.13	1.2	0.66
6089		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.13	1.2	0.66
6090		GROUP	Ditch	0.08-0.17	18.3	0.50-0.74
6091	6093	SKEL	Skeleton			
6092	6093	FILL	Grave fill		2.05	
6093		CUT	Grave cut		2.05	
6094	6095	FILL	Fill of gully	0.1	0.52?	0.3
6095		CUT	Gully	0.1	0.52?	0.3
6096	6097	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.12	0.7	0.5
6097		CUT	Ditch	0.12	0.7	0.5
6098	6100	FILL	Grave fill	0.2	2.05	0.7
6099	6100	SKEL	Skeleton			
6100		CUT	Grave cut		2.05	0.7
6101	6102	FILL	Geological fill	0.04	4.8	3.4
6102		CUT	Geological cut	0.04	4.8	3.4
6103	6104	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.25	1.07	1.36
6104		CUT	Ditch	0.25	1.07	1.36
6105	6106	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.17	0.6	1.38
6106		CUT	Ditch	0.17	0.6	1.38
6107	6108	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus	0.12	1.1	0.74
6108		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.12	1.1	0.74
6109		VOID				
6110	6111	FILL	Fill of possible natural pit	0.23	0.28	0.28
6111		CUT	Natural Pit?	0.23	0.28	0.28
6112	6113	FILL	Fill of possible natural pit	0.07	0.58	0.37
6113		CUT	Natural Pit?	0.07	0.58	0.37
6114	6115	FILL	Fill of possible pit	0.16	0.5	0.4
6115		CUT	Possible pit	0.16	0.5	0.4
6116	6117	FILL	Fill of possible pit	0.07	0.62	0.37
6117		CUT	Possible pit	0.07	0.62	0.37

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
6118	6119	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus	0.11	0.53	1.4
6119		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.11	0.53	1.4
6120		GROUP	Ditch	0.31	23.5	0.53-1.38
6121	6122	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.09	1.12+	0.42
6122		CUT	Ditch	0.09	1.12+	0.42
6123	6124	FILL	Fill of pit	0.24	2.06	0.8
6124		CUT	Pit	0.24	2.06	0.8
6125	6126	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus	0.24	1.0+	0.8
6126		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.24	1.0+	0.8
6127	6128	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.13	1.04+	0.44
6128		CUT	Ditch	0.13	1.04+	0.44
6129	6130	FILL	Fill of possible pit	0.12	0.94	0.4
6130		CUT	Possible pit	0.12	0.94	0.4
6131	6132	FILL	Fill of plantation pit	0.17	0.85	0.89
6132		CUT	Plantation pit	0.17	0.85	0.89
6133	6134	FILL	Fill of plantation pit	0.17	0.22	0.22
6134		CUT	Plantation pit	0.17	0.22	0.22
6135		CUT	Plantation pit			
6136		CUT	Plantation pit			
6137		CUT	Plantation pit			
6138		CUT	Plantation pit			
6139		CUT	Plantation pit			
6140	6141	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.12	1.10+	0.98
6141		CUT	Ditch	0.12	1.10+	0.98
6142	6143	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus	0.36	1.74+	0.63
6143		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.36	1.74+	0.63
6144	6145	FILL	Fill of curvilinear ditch	0.31	1.10+	1.38
6145		CUT	Curvilinear ditch	0.31	1.10+	1.38
6146	6147	FILL	Fill of ditch recut	0.31	1.10+	1.11
6147		CUT	Ditch recut	0.31	1.10+	1.11
6148	6149	FILL	Spread	0.25	8	5.35
6149		CUT	Cut of spread	0.25	8	5.35
6150		DEPO	Bank of ditch [6120] ?	0.26	?	1.6
6151		DEPO	Bank of ditch [6141]	0.23	?	2.1
6152	6153	FILL	Spread	0.03	1.0+	0.24
6153		CUT	Cut of spread	0.03	1.0+	0.24
6154		GROUP	?			
6155	6157	FILL	Grave fill	?	1.9	0.8
6156	6157	SKEL	Skeleton			
6157		CUT	Grave cut	?	1.9	0.8
6158	6160	FILL	Grave fill	0.04	1.8	0.6
6159	6160	SKEL	Skeleton			
6160		CUT	Grave cut	0.07	1.8	0.6
6161	6163	FILL	Grave fill	0.14	2.36	0.86
6162	6163	SKEL	Skeleton			
6163		CUT	Grave cut	0.14	2.36	0.86
6164	6166	FILL	Grave fill	0.39	2.04	0.52

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
6165	6166	SKEL	Skeleton			
6166		CUT	Grave cut	0.39	2.04	0.52
6167	6169	SKEL	Skeleton			
6168	6169	FILL	Grave fill	0.1	2.5	1.15
6169		CUT	Grave cut	0.1	2.5	1.15
6170	6172	FILL	Grave fill	0.2	1.8	0.56
6171	6172	SKEL	Skeleton			
6172		CUT	Grave cut	0.2	1.8	0.56
6173	6175	SKEL	Skeleton			
6174	6175	FILL	Grave fill	0.18	2.84	1.13
6175		CUT	Grave cut	0.18	2.84	1.13
6176	6178	SKEL	Skeleton			
6177	6178	FILL	Grave fill	0.14	2	0.67
6178		CUT	Grave cut	0.14	2	0.67
6179	6180	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.18	0.5	0.73
6180		CUT	Ditch	0.18	0.5	0.73
6181	6182	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.27	0.53	0.92
6182		CUT	Ditch	0.27	0.53	0.92
6183			Trackway			6.3
6184	6185	FILL	Fill of linear	0.4		1.5
6185		CUT	Linear	0.4		1.5
6186	6187	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.5	1	1.7
6187		CUT	Ditch	0.5	1	1.7
6188		DEPO	Overburden on pebbled trackway	0.05-0.15		3.8
6189		DEPO	Pebble surface of trackway	0.05		3.8
6190	6191	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.2		0.8
6191		CUT	Ditch	0.2		0.8
6192	6193	FILL	Fill of linear	0.2		0.4
6193		CUT	Linear	0.2		0.4
6194	6195	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.2	1.8	0.7
6195		CUT	Ditch	0.2	1.8	0.7
6196		GROUP	Ditch / Rooting/ Burrowing ?	0.18-0.36	7.5	0.63-0.92
6197		GROUP	Ditch	0.2-0.5	5.5	0.7-1.00
6198	6200	SKEL	Skeleton		1.68	
6199	6200	FILL	Fill of burial cut	0.13	1.97	0.67
6200		CUT	Burial	0.13	1.97	0.67
6201	6203	SKEL	Skeleton			
6202	6203	FILL	Fill of burial cut	0.15	1.93	0.63
6203		CUT	Burial	0.15	1.93	0.63
6204	6206	SKEL	Skeleton			

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
6205	6206	FILL	Fill of burial cut	0.15	1.71	0.49
6206		CUT	Burial	0.15	1.71	0.49
7000		DEPO	Topsoil	0.27		
7001		DEPO	Subsoil	0.28		
7002		DEPO	Natural	NFE		
7003		CUT	Posthole	0.09	0.40	0.34
7004	7005	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.16	0.37	0.26
7005		CUT	Posthole	0.16	0.37	0.26
7006	7007	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.18	0.30	0.24
7007		CUT	Posthole	0.18	0.30	0.24
7008	7009	FILL	Fill of posthole?	0.28	1.20	0.50
7009		CUT	Posthole?	0.28	1.20	0.50
7010	7011	FILL	Fill of posthole?	0.13	0.30	0.30
7011		CUT	Posthole?	0.13	0.30	0.30
7012	7013	FILL	Fill of posthole?	0.11	0.35	0.35
7013		CUT	Posthole?	0.11	0.35	0.35
7014	7015	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.18	0.30	0.29
7015		CUT	Posthole	0.18	0.30	0.29
7016	7017	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.18	0.40	0.34
7017		CUT	Posthole	0.18	0.40	0.34
7018	7019	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.13	0.28	0.20
7019		CUT	Posthole	0.13	0.28	0.20
7020	7021	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.20	0.25	0.21
7021		CUT	Posthole	0.20	0.25	0.21
7022	7023	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.12	0.27	0.26
7023		CUT	Posthole	0.12	0.27	0.26
7024	7025	FILL	Fill of pit	0.46	1.24	0.90+
7025		CUT	Pit	0.46	1.24	0.90+
7026	7027	FILL	Fill of cremation or posthole	0.11	0.45	0.45
7027		CUT	Cremation or posthole	0.11	0.45	0.45
7028	7029	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.14	0.35	0.28
7029		CUT	Posthole	0.14	0.35	0.28
7030	7031	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.15	0.25	0.24
7031		CUT	Posthole	0.15	0.25	0.24
7032	7033	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.09	0.25	0.22
7033		CUT	Posthole	0.09	0.25	0.22
7034	7035	FILL	Fill of pit	0.12	0.73	0.68
7035		CUT	Pit	0.12	0.73	0.68
7036	7037	FILL	Fill of cremation or posthole	0.05	0.38	0.38
7037		CUT	Cremation or posthole	0.05	0.38	0.38
7038	7039	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.11	0.60	0.56
7039		CUT	Posthole	0.11	0.60	0.56
7040	7043	FILL	Fill of pit	0.40	2.50	2.20
7041	7061	FILL	Fill of pit	0.25	0.48	0.35

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
7042	7063	FILL	Secondary fill of pit	0.21	0.50	0.48
7043		CUT	Pit	0.40	2.50	2.20
7044	7045	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.14	0.33	0.32
7045		CUT	Posthole	0.14	0.33	0.32
7046	7047	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.14	0.36	0.34
7047		CUT	Posthole	0.14	0.36	0.34
7048	7049	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.13	0.3	0.29
7049		CUT	Posthole	0.13	0.3	0.29
7050	7051	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.12	0.28	0.23
7051		CUT	Posthole	0.12	0.28	0.23
7052	7053	FILL	Fill of pit	0.29	1.72	1.32
7053		CUT	Pit	0.29	1.72	1.32
7054	7055	FILL	Fill of possible natural pit	0.24	8.7	7.30
7055		CUT	Natural Pit?	0.24	8.7	7.30
7056	7057	FILL	Animal burial	0.06	0.87	0.42
7057		CUT	Cut for animal burial	0.06	0.87	0.42
7058	7003	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.09	0.40	0.34
7059	7060	FILL	Fill of pit	0.25	1.00	0.60
7060		CUT	Pit	0.25	1.00	0.60
7061		CUT	Pit	0.25	0.48+	0.35
7062	7063	FILL	Primary fill of pit	0.25	1.20	0.87+
7063		CUT	Pit	0.36	1.4	1.2+
7064	7065	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.16	0.23	0.21
7065		CUT	Posthole	0.16	0.23	0.21
7066	7067	FILL	Fill of feature	0.14	1.95+	1.95+
7067		CUT	Feature	0.14	1.95+	1.95+
7068	7069	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.24	0.53	0.53
7069		CUT	Posthole	0.24	0.53	0.53
7070	7071	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.05	0.37	0.37
7071		CUT	Posthole	0.05	0.37	0.37
7072	7073	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.24	0.2	0.19
7073		CUT	Posthole	0.24	0.2	0.19
7074	7075	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.16	0.34	0.12
7075		CUT	Posthole	0.16	0.34	0.12
8000		DEPO	Topsoil	0.3		
8001		DEPO	Subsoil	0.5		
8002		DEPO	Subsoil			

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
8003		GROUP	Ditch	0.3	18.5	1.4
8004	8005	FILL	Fill of slot	0.32	0.65	1.2
8005		CUT	Ditch slot	0.32	0.65	1.2
8006		GROUP	Ditch	0.3	22.00	0.8
8007	8008	FILL	Fill of slot	0.15	1.00	0.86
8008		CUT	Ditch slot	0.15	1.00	0.86
8009		MASO	Drainage or field boundary	0.04-0.12	15.3	0.45
8010	8011	FILL	Fill of slot	0.25	1.00	0.8
8011		CUT	Ditch slot	0.25	1.00	0.8
8012	8013	FILL	Fill of slot	0.36	1	1.4
8013		CUT	Ditch slot	0.36	1	1.4
8014	8015	FILL	Fill of pit	0.7	0.55	0.55
8015		CUT	Pit	0.7	0.55	0.55
8016		DEPO	Earlier subsoil	0.3		
8017		VOID				
8018	8019	FILL	Fill of slot	0.25	1.1	0.35
8019		CUT	Ditch slot	0.25	1.1	0.35
8020	8021	FILL	Fill of slot	0.75	2.35	0.83
8021		CUT	Ditch slot	0.75	2.35	0.83
8022	8023	FILL	Fill of slot	0.18	1.95	0.8
8023		CUT	Ditch slot	0.18	1.95	0.8
8024	8025	FILL	Fill of slot	0.28	1.45	0.55
8025		CUT	Ditch slot	0.28	1.45	0.55
8026	8029	FILL	Tertiary fill of pit	0.29	2.25+	1.50+
8027	8029	FILL	Secondary fill of pit	0.12	0.85+	1.45+
8028	8029	FILL	Primary fill of pit	0.21	0.85+	1.42+
8029		CUT	Pit	0.53	2.25+	1.50+
8030	8031	FILL	Fill of terminus slot	0.12	0.63	0.25
8031		CUT	Ditch terminus slot	0.12	0.63	0.25
8032	8033	FILL	Fill of slot	0.23	1.07	0.57
8033		CUT	Ditch slot	0.23	1.07	0.57
8034	8036	FILL	Secondary fill of pit	0.2		0.75
8035	8036	FILL	Primary fill of pit	0.4		1.15
8036		CUT	Pit	0.61	1.8	1.35
8037		MASO	Stone linear	0.25	5	0.3
8038		MASO	Stone linear / Field drain?	0.25	4	0.3

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
8039		MASO	Stone linear / Field drain?	0.25	4	0.3
8040		MASO	Stone linear / Field drain?			
8041		DEPO	Peat	0.56	0.46 - 6.00	2.5
8042		CUT	Possible pond			
8043		GROUP	Drainage or field boundary ditch	0.35	50	0.3-1.8
8044		GROUP	Drainage or field boundary ditch	0.4	16	1.4
8045		GROUP	Drainage or field boundary ditch	0.3	9	1.8
8046		GROUP	Field boundary ditch	0.2-0.6	50	1.5
8047		GROUP	Drainage ditch	0.2	15	0.45
8048	8049	FILL	Fill of slot	0.27	1	0.3
8049		CUT	Ditch slot	0.27	1	0.3
8050	8051	FILL	Fill of slot	0.22	1	0.65
8051		CUT	Ditch slot	0.22	1	0.65
8052	8053	FILL	Fill of slot	0..31	1	1.8
8053		CUT	Ditch slot	0..31	1	1.8
8054	8055	FILL	Fill of tree bole	0.33	1.95	1.2
8055		CUT	Tree bole	0.33	1.95	1.2
8056	8057	FILL	Fill of slot	0.32	1	1.35
8057		CUT	Ditch slot	0.32	1	1.35
8058	8059	FILL	Fill of slot around <8039>	0.23	1.1	0.55
8059		CUT	Cut for drain <8039>	0.23	1.1	0.55
8060		GROUP	Drainage / field boundary	0.3	12.5+	1.2
8061		GROUP	Drainage ditch	0.1	4	0.7
8062		GROUP	Drainage ditch or natural	0.03	4	0.4-0.6
8063		GROUP	Drainage ditch	0.25	32	0.45
8064	8065	FILL	Fill of slot	0.07	0.74	0.3
8065		CUT	Ditch slot	0.07	0.74	0.3
8066	8067	FILL	Fill of slot	0.22	0.6	0.41
8067		CUT	Ditch slot	0.22	0.6	0.41
8068	8069	FILL	Fill of slot	0.2	0.9	0.45
8069		CUT	Ditch slot	0.2	0.9	0.45

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
8070	8071	FILL	Fill of slot	0.26	0.96	1.04
8071		CUT	Ditch slot	0.26	0.96	1.04
8072	8073	FILL	Fill of slot	1.1	1.6	1.2
8073		CUT	Ditch slot	0.7	1.6	1.2
8074	8075	FILL	Fill of slot	1.1	1.6	0.7
8075		CUT	Ditch slot	1.1	1.6	0.7
8076	8077	FILL	Fill of slot	0.38	3.2	0.3
8077		CUT	Ditch slot	0.38	3.2	0.3
8078		FILL	Fill of tree bole		2.07+	1.39+
8079	8080	FILL	Fill of slot	0.16	1.2	0.76
8080		CUT	Ditch slot	0.16	1.2	0.76
8081	8082	FILL	Fill of slot	0.3		1.9
8082		CUT	Ditch slot	0.3		1.9
8083		DEPO	Natural deposit	0.06	0.5+	0.55
8084		DEPO	Natural deposit	0.07	0.5+	0.4
8085	8086	FILL	Fill of slot	0.16	0.7	0.3
8086		CUT	Ditch slot	0.16	0.7	0.3
8087	8088	FILL	Fill of slot	0.12	1.62	0.24
8088		CUT	Ditch slot	0.12	1.62	0.24
8089	8090	FILL	Fill of slot	0.46	1.6	1.52
8090		CUT	Ditch slot	0.46	1.6	1.52
8091	8092	FILL	Fill of natural pit	0.16	1.14	0.64
8092		CUT	Natural Pit?	0.16	1.14	0.64
8093	8094	FILL	Fill of slot	0.32	1.5	1.2
8094		CUT	Ditch slot	0.35	1.5	1.2
8095	8096	FILL	Fill of slot	0.3	2.4	1.3
8096		CUT	Ditch slot	0.3	2.4	1.3
8097	8098	FILL	Fill of slot	0.3	1	1.1
8098		CUT	Ditch slot	0.3	1	1.1
8099	8100	FILL	Fill of slot	0.25	1.1	0.5
8100		CUT	Ditch slot	0.25	1.1	0.5
8101		GROUP	Ditch	0.15-0.20	12.5	0.5
8102		DEPO	Linear natural deposition	?	3.5	0.5
8103	8105	FILL	Secondary fill of pit	0.25	0.89	0.61
8104	8105	FILL	Primary fill of pit	0.46	0.89	0.5
8105		CUT	Pit	0.49	0.89	0.61

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
8106	8107	FILL	Fill of slot	0.62	1	1.4
8107		CUT	Ditch slot	0.62	1	1.4
8108	8109	FILL	Fill of slot	0.24	1.09	1.6
8109		CUT	Ditch slot	0.24	1.09	1.6
8110		GROUP	Field drains			
8111	8112	FILL	Fill of slot	0.18	1.15	0.45
8112		CUT	Ditch slot	0.18	1.15	0.45
8113	8114	FILL	Fill of slot	0.27	0.75	0.35
8114		CUT	Ditch slot	0.27	0.75	0.35
8115	8116	FILL	Fill of slot	0.15	1	0.3
8116		CUT	Ditch slot	0.15	1	0.3
8117	8118	FILL	Fill of slot	0.1	0.48	0.25
8118		CUT	Ditch slot	0.1	0.48	0.25
8119	8120	FILL	Fill of slot	0.26	0.82	0.43
8120		CUT	Ditch slot	0.26	0.82	0.43
8121	8122	FILL	Fill of pit	0.14	0.75	0.4
8122		CUT	Pit	0.14	0.75	0.4
8123	8124	FILL	Fill of terminus slot	0.13	1	0.66
8124		CUT	Ditch terminus slot	0.13	1	0.66
8125	8126	FILL	Fill of slot	0.07	1	0.56
8126		CUT	Ditch slot	0.07	1	0.56
8127		GROUP	Linear feature	0.15-0.2	4.8	0.4
8128	8129	FILL	Fill of slot	0.22	0.75	0.5
8129		CUT	Ditch slot	0.22	0.75	0.5
8130	8131	FILL	Fill of slot	0.6	1.03	0.5
8131		CUT	Ditch slot	0.6	1.03	0.5
8132	8133	FILL	Fill of slot	0.46	0.72	1.02
8133		CUT	Ditch slot	0.46	0.72	1.02
8134	8136	FILL	Secondary fill of pit	0.37	2.06	0.83
8135	8136	FILL	Primary fill of pit	0.27	2.06	0.83
8136		CUT	Pit	0.65	2.06	0.83
8137	8138	FILL	Fill of pit	0.12	0.35+	0.25
8138		CUT	Pit	0.12	0.35+	0.25
8139	8140	FILL	Fill of slot	0.17	0.6+	0.28+
8140		CUT	Ditch slot	0.17	0.6+	0.28+
8141	8142	FILL	Fill of gully slot	0.1	0.5	0.43
8142		CUT	Gully slot	0.1	0.5	0.43
8143	8144	FILL	Fill of slot	0.17	1	0.48
8144		CUT	Ditch slot	0.17	1	0.48
8145	8146	FILL	Fill of pit	0.53	1.2	1
8146		CUT	Pit	0.53	1.2	1
8147	8148	FILL	Fill of construction cut	0.02	?	1.8
8148		CUT	Construction cut	0.02	?	1.8
8149	8151	FILL	Secondary fill of slot	0.1-0.2	1	?
8150	8151	FILL	Primary fill of slot	0.2	1	0.4
8151		CUT	Ditch slot	0.2	1	0.4

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
8152		GROUP	Ditch and fence			
8153	8152	FILL	Fill of group			
8154	8155	FILL	Fill of terminus slot	0.2	0.65	0.2
8155		CUT	Ditch terminus slot	0.2	0.6	0.2
8156	8157	FILL	Fill of slot	0.3	0.9	0.4
8157		CUT	Ditch slot	0.3	0.9	0.4
8158	8159	FILL	Fill of slot	0.18	0.95	0.2
8159		CUT	Ditch slot	0.18	0.95	0.2
8160	8162	FILL	Secondary fill of pit	0.15	1.65	1.04
8161	8162	FILL	Primary fill of pit	0.45	1.65	1.04
8162		CUT	Pit	0.55	1.65	1.04
8163	8165	FILL	Secondary fill of slot	0.18	0.5	1.06
8164	8165	FILL	Primary fill of slot	0.19	0.5	0.68
8165		CUT	Ditch slot	0.37	0.5	1.6
8166	8167	FILL	Fill of slot	0.21	0.77+	0.18+
8167		CUT	Ditch slot	0.21	0.77+	0.18+
8168	8169	FILL	Fill of slot	0.27	0.8+	0.37+
8169		CUT	Ditch slot	0.27	0.8+	0.37+
8170		GROUP	Ditch	0.3	8.7	1.5
8171	8172	FILL	Fill of slot	0.72	0.9	1.33
8172		CUT	Ditch slot	0.72	0.9	1.33
8173		MASO		1.1	2.2	0.05
8174		DEPO	Mixed horizon	0.11	6	4
8175	8176	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.28	1	1.24
8176		CUT	Ditch slot	0.28	1	1.24
8177	8178	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.1	0.9	0.9
8178		CUT	Ditch slot	0.2	0.9	0.9
8179	8180	FILL	Fill of slot	0.25	0.8	0.9
8180		CUT	Ditch slot	0.25	0.8	0.9
8181	8178	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.1	0.9	0.9
8182	8183	FILL	Fill of pit	0.05	0.6	0.7
8183		CUT	Pit	0.05	0.6	0.7
8184	8185	FILL	Fill of pit	0.55	0.6	0.55
8185		CUT	Pit	0.55	0.6	0.55

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
8186	8188	FILL	Secondary fill of pit	0.26	2.16	0.86
8187	8188	FILL	Primary fill of pit	0.65	2.16	0.86
8188		CUT	Pit	0.91	2.16	0.86
8189	8190	FILL	Fill of slot	0.27	1	2
8190		CUT	Ditch slot	0.27	1	2
8191	8192	FILL	Fill of slot	0.4	1.1	1.8
8192		CUT	Ditch slot	0.4	1.1	1.8
8193	8194	FILL	Fill of slot	0.3	1.04	0.8
8194		CUT	Ditch slot	0.3	1.04	0.8
8195	8196	FILL	Fill of slot	0.3	0.8	0.25
8196		CUT	Ditch slot	0.3	0.8	0.25
8197		VOID				
8198		VOID				
8199	8201	FILL	Upper fill around wooden fence/ ditch	0.05-0.1		
8200	8263	TIMBER	Fence or lining of ditch			
8201		OTHER	Fence or wood lined ditch	0.15	Area 8	0.35
8202		GROUP	Pit or Ditch	0.25	6	1
8203		GROUP	Postholes			
8204	8209	FILL	Tertiary fill of terminus slot	0.5	3.5	1.7
8205	8206	FILL	Fill of terminus slot	0.3	1	0.7
8206		CUT	Ditch terminus slot	0.3	1	0.7
8207	8209	FILL	Secondary fill of terminus slot	0.3	3.5	1
8208	8209	FILL	Primary fill of slot	0.2	0.9	0.4
8209		CUT	Terminus ditch slot	1.4	3.5	1.7
8210		VOID				
8211		GROUP	Ditch			
8212		GROUP	Ditch			

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
8213		GROUP	Ditch			
8214	8216	FILL	Secondary fill of terminus slot	0.34	1	3
8215	8216	FILL	Primary fill of terminus slot	0.73	1	3.1
8216		CUT	Ditch terminus slot	0.73	1	3.4
8217		GROUP	Masonry and postholes			
8218	8219	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.4	1	1.1
8219		CUT	Ditch slot	0.4	1	1.2
8220	8221	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.24	1.04	1.3
8221		CUT	Ditch slot	0.66	1.04	2
8222	8223	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.5	4.3	
8223		CUT	Ditch slot	0.5	4.3	
8224	8226	FILL	Fill of slot around stones	0.3	1.22	4.4
8225	8226	MASO	Ragstone	0.39	0.5	
8226		CUT	Ditch slot	0.3	1.24	2
8227	8228	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.2+	0.1	0.1
8228		CUT	Cut of posthole	0.2+	0.1	0.1
8229	8230	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.2+	0.09	0.09
8230		CUT	Cut of posthole	0.2+	0.09	0.09
8231	8232	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.2+	0.09	0.09
8232		CUT	Cut of posthole	0.2+	0.09	0.09
8233	8235	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch terminus slot	0.29	0.87	
8234	8235	FILL	Primary fill of ditch terminus slot	0.12	0.47	
8235		CUT	Ditch terminus slot	0.39	0.87	
8236	8209	FILL	Quaternary fill of ditch slot	0.4	4.5	2.7+
8237	8263	FILL	Base fill of fence ditch [8201] in slot [8263]	0.05	1	0.55
8238		DEPO	Lining of man made pond	0.08	2.5	0.45
8239	8240	FILL	Secondary fill ditch slot	0.52	1.7	?
8240		CUT	Ditch slot	0.72		2.66
8241	8242	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.34	?	2.58
8242		CUT	Ditch slot	0.7	?	2.6
8243	8245	TIMBER				
8244	8245	FILL	Fill containing (8243)	0.3	0.35	?
8245		CUT	Ditch slot	0.3	0.35	?
8246	8250	FILL	Quaternary fill of ditch slot	0.25	5	?
8247	8250	FILL	Tertiary fill of ditch slot	0.23	0.88	2.49
8248	8250	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.4	3.5	?

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
8249	8250	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	? 1.02		2.22
8250		CUT	Ditch slot	0.7	2.4	?
8251	8252	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.35	2.3+	2.2
8252		CUT	Ditch slot	0.66	2.3+	2
8253	8255	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.29	?	0.7?
8254	8255	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.22	?	0.7?
8255		CUT	Ditch slot	0.44	?	1.12
8256	8258	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.26	?	?
8257	8258	TIMBER				
8258		CUT	Ditch slot	0.32	?	0.36
8259	8262	FILL	Tertiary fill of ditch slot	0.4		
8260	8262	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.2		
8261	8262	Fill	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.4		
8262		CUT	Ditch slot	1.14	2.3	3.1
8263		CUT	Fence / Ditch slot	0.15	1	0.6
8264	8240	FILL	Primary fill ditch slot	0.68		2.78
9001		DEPO	Topsoil	0.4		
9002		DEPO	Subsoil	0.4		
9003		DEPO	Natural	0.1+		
9004	9007	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch	0.25	7	2.5
9005	9007	FILL	Primary fill of ditch	0.4	7	2.5
9006	9007	FILL	Natral slumping at base of ditch	0.1	7	1
9007		CUT	Ditch	0.7	7	2.5
9008	9009	FILL	Fill of animal burrow	0.68	1.50+	0.3
9009		CUT	Animal burrow	0.68	1.50+	0.3
9010		GROUP	Ditch	0.2-0.3	65	0.9-1.4
9011		GROUP	Ditch	0.05-0.3	28.3	0.5-0.7
9012	9013	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.21	2.21	2.23
9013		CUT	Ditch slot	0.21	2.21	2.23
9014	9015	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.17	1.55+	0.53
9015		CUT	Ditch slot	0.17	1.55+	0.53
9016	9017	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.25	1+	0.75
9017		CUT	Ditch slot	0.25	1+	0.75
9018	9019	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.24	1.36	0.96
9019		CUT	Ditch slot	0.24	1.36	0.96

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
9020	9021	FILL	Fill of tree bole	0.19	1.2	0.37
9021		CUT	Tree bole	0.19	1.2	0.37
9022	9023	FILL	Fill of natural cut	0.21		0.96
9023		CUT	Natural cut	0.21		0.96
9024	9025	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.2	1.2	1.23
9025		CUT	Ditch slot	0.2	1.2	1.23
9026	9027	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.15	1.3	1.15
9027		CUT	Ditch slot	0.15	1.3	1.15
9028	9029	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.15	1.55	2
9029		CUT	Ditch slot	0.15	1.55	2
9030	9031	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.19	1	1.58
9031		CUT	Ditch slot	0.19	1	1.58
9032	9033	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.31	1.8	0.75
9033		CUT	Ditch slot	0.31	1.8	0.75
9034		DEPO	Spread	0.05-0.15	26	5.6
9035	9036	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.4		1.7
9036		CUT	Ditch slot	0.4		1.7
9037	9038	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.2		0.6
9038		CUT	Ditch slot	0.2		0.6
9039	9040	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.3	1	2.1
9040		CUT	Ditch slot	0.3	1	1.4
9041		DEPO	Spread	0.18	15	5.6
9042		OTHER	Trackway		10.4	
9043	9044	FILL	Fill of pit / cremation	0.26	0.6	0.5
9044		CUT	Pit/ cremation	0.26	0.6	0.5
9045	9046	FILL	Fill of pit / cremation	0.38	1	0.95
9046		CUT	Pit/ cremation	0.38	1	0.95
9047	9048	FILL	Fill of pit / cremation	0.2	0.6	0.6
9048		CUT	Pit/ cremation	0.2	0.6	0.6
9049	9050	FILL	Fill of pit / cremation	0.2	0.5	0.4
9050		CUT	Pit/ cremation	0.2	0.5	0.4
9051	9052	FILL	Fill of pit	0.2	0.7	0.6
9052		CUT	Pit	0.2	0.7	0.6
9053	9054	FILL	Fill of pit / cremation	0.2	0.25	0.2
9054		CUT	Pit/ cremation	0.2	0.25	0.2
9055	9056	FILL	Fill of pit / cremation	0.32	0.3	0.22
9056		CUT	Pit/ cremation	0.32	0.3	0.22
9057	9058	FILL	Fill of pit / cremation	0.27	0.35	0.27
9058		CUT	Pit/ cremation	0.27	0.35	0.27
9059	9060	FILL	Fill of pit / cremation	0.2	0.24	0.25
9060		CUT	Pit/ cremation	0.2	0.24	0.25
9061	9062	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.15	0.25	0.22

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
9062		CUT	Posthole	0.15	0.25	0.22
9063	9064	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.2	0.27	0.22
9064		CUT	Posthole	0.2	0.27	0.22
9065	9066	FILL	Fill of pit / cremation	0.17	0.15	0.18
9066		CUT	Pit/ cremation	0.17	0.15	0.18
9067	9068	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.11	0.22	0.22
9068		CUT	Posthole	0.11	0.22	0.22
9069	9071	FILL	Fill of pit	0.3	0.9	0.76
9070	9072	FILL	Fill of pit	0.3	1.77	1.08
9071		CUT	Pit	0.3	0.9	0.76
9072		CUT	Pit	0.3	1.77	1.08
9073		DEPO	Cobbled trackway	0.05		
9074		GROUP	Pit Cluster			
10001		DEPO	Topsoil	0.1		
10002		DEPO	Subsoil	0.1-0.25		
10003		DEPO	Natural	NFE		
10004	10005	FILL	Fill of tree bole	0.36	1.45	1
10005		CUT	Tree bole	0.36	1.45	1
10006	10007	FILL	Fill of shallow pit	0.08	0.56	0.45
10007		CUT	Shallow pit	0.08	0.56	0.45
10008	10009	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.16	0.42	0.4
10009		CUT	Posthole	0.16	0.42	0.4
10010	10011	FILL	Fill of tree bole	0.25	1.23	1.23
10011		CUT	Tree bole	0.25	1.23	1.23
10012		GROUP	Natural features/trees fill	0.16		
10013		CUT	Subsoil (slot)	0.25-0.3		
10014		CUT	Subsoil (slot)	0.24		7.37
10015		DEPO	Roman Topsoil	0.1-0.25		
10016		DEPO	Subsoil (slot)	0.1		
10017		DEPO	Subsoil (slot)	0.06	1.6	7.03
10018		CUT	Cut of pit	0.34	0.82	0.49
10019	10018	FILL	Pit	0.34	0.82	0.49
10020		CUT	Ditch slot	0.44	1.24	1.4

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
10021	10020	FILL	Lower fill of ditch	0.32	1.24	0.95
10022	10020	FILL	Upper / tertiary fill of ditch	0.23	1.24	
10023		GROUP	Roman E-W Ditch southend	0.35-0.44	20.2	1.2
10024		GROUP	Group of pits and postholes near NW LOE central part of the site			
10025		CUT	Posthole	0.33	0.4	0.28
10026	10025	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.43	0.4	
10027		GROUP	Kiln	0.5	3.2	1.4
10028		GROUP	ditched enclosure	0.15	3.4	2.4
10029		GROUP	Kiln/ Corndrier	0.8	1.5	8.4
10030		GROUP	Kiln	0.30-0.80	8.5	2.2
10031	10032	FILL	Fill of pit	0.07	0.82	1.78
10032		CUT	Pit	0.07	0.82	1.78
10033	10034	FILL	Fill of pit / posthole	0.28	0.52	0.51
10034		CUT	Pit / posthole	0.28	0.52	0.51
10035	10036	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.17	0.3	0.26
10036		CUT	Posthole	0.17	0.3	0.26
10037	10038	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.38	0.45	0.36
10038		CUT	Posthole	0.38	0.45	0.36
10039	10040	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.15	0.36	0.36
10040		CUT	Posthole	0.15	0.36	0.36

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
10041	10042	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.37	0.44	0.38
10042		CUT	Posthole	0.37	0.44	0.38
10043	10044	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.19	0.4	0.41
10044		CUT	Posthole	0.19	0.4	0.41
10045	10046	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.36	0.3	0.38
10046		CUT	Posthole	0.36	0.3	0.38
10047	10048	FILL	Fill of Ditch slot	0.46	1	1.6
10048		CUT	Ditch slot	0.46	1	1.6
10049		DEPO	Spread over 10027 10028	0.05-0.10		
10050		DEPO	Over eastside 10027 10028	0.20-.30		
10051		DEPO	Spread over 10029 10030			
10052		DEPO	Spread southside over 10030	0.30-0.40		
10053	10029	FILL	backfill of kiln 10029	0.07-0.10	8	0.50-0.90
10054	10029	FILL	Upper fill of Kiln 10029 quadrant 1	0.15-0.20	1	0.5
10055	10226	FILL	Upper Fill of Kiln ([10030]?)	0.15	2	1
10056	10030	FILL	Upper Fill of Kiln 10030	0.05	?	0.8
10057	10030	FILL	Fill of Kiln 10030	0.07	1.7	1
10058	10059	FILL	Fill of pit	0.12	0.4	0.5
10059		CUT	Pit	0.12	0.4	0.5
10060	10061	FILL	Fill of pit / posthole	0.08	0.22	0.22
10061		CUT	Pit / posthole	0.08	0.22	0.22
10062	10063	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.2	0.32	0.3
10063		CUT	Posthole	0.2	0.32	0.3
10064	10065	FILL	Fill of pit / posthole	0.18	0.48+	0.52

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
10065		CUT	Pit / posthole	0.18	0.48+	0.52
10066	10067	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.22	0.23	0.21
10067		CUT	Posthole	0.22	0.23	0.21
10068	10069	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.21	0.2	0.17
10069		CUT	Posthole	0.21	0.2	0.17
10070	10071	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.12	0.14+	0.2
10071		CUT	Posthole	0.12	0.14+	0.2
10072	10073	FILL	Fill of pit	0.13	0.22+	0.53
10073		CUT	Pit	0.13	0.22+	0.53
10074	10030	FILL	Fill of kiln 10030	0.07	0.2	0.2
10075	10030	FILL	Fill of kiln 10030	0.05	1.2	1
10076	10030	FILL	Fill of kiln 10030	0.11	2.67	0.93
10077	10030	FILL	Fill of kiln 10030	0.08	1.5	0.35
10078		GROUP	Roman E-W Ditch northend	0.32-0.62	14	0.6-1.2
10079		GROUP	Roman N-S Gully	0.13	4.2	0.65
10080	10081	FILL	Fill of gully terminus	0.11	1.44	0.62
10081		CUT	Gully terminus	0.11	1.44	0.62
10082	10083	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.32	1	0.9
10083		CUT	Ditch slot	0.32	1	0.9
10084	10086	FILL	Upper fill of ditch slot	0.28	1	0.7
10085	10086	FILL	Lower fill of ditch slot	0.33	1	0.55
10086		CUT	Ditch slot	0.62	1	0.7+
10087	10088	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.13	0.5	0.45
10088		CUT	Ditch slot	0.13	0.5	0.45
10089	10091	FILL	Upper fill of ditch slot	0.32	1	1.22
10090	10091	FILL	Lower fill of ditch slot	0.24	1	0.68
10091		CUT	Ditch slot	0.56	1	1.22
10092		GROUP	Curved linear ditched enclosure	0.43-0.57	40	1.36
10093	10095	FILL	Upper fill of ditch slot	0.18	1.2	1
10094	10095	FILL	Lower fill of ditch slot	0.26	1.2	0.62
10095		CUT	Ditch slot	0.47	1.2	1
10096	10098	FILL	Upper fill of ditch slot	0.2	1.4	1.1
10097	10098	CUT	Lower fill of ditch slot	0.23	1.4	1.1
10098		CUT	Ditch slot	0.43	1.4	1.1
10099	10101	FILL	Upper fill of ditch slot	0.57	1	1.28
10100	10101	FILL	Lower fill of ditch slot	0.35	1	1.28
10101		CUT	Ditch slot	0.57	1	1.28

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
10102		GROUP	Group of postholes alignment	0.2	0.3	0.3
10103	10104	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.04	0.29	0.29
10104		CUT	Posthole	0.04	0.29	0.29
10105	10105	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.07	0.3	0.29
10106		CUT	Posthole	0.07	0.3	0.29
10107	10108	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.04	0.28	0.25
10108		CUT	Posthole	0.04	0.28	0.25
10109	10110	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.1	0.21	0.21
10110		CUT	Posthole	0.1	0.21	0.21
10111	10112	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.35	1.23	1.65
10112		CUT	Ditch	0.35	1.23	1.65
10113	10027	MASO	Kiln structure	0.3	3.2	0.3
10114	10029	FILL	Fill containing collapse of flue	0.25	0.55	0.35
10115	10029	FILL	Fill containing collapse of flue	0.24		
10116	10029	FILL	Fill containing collapse of flue	0.08	0.86	
10117	10029	FILL	2nd fill of kiln 10029 Q3	0.26		
10118	10119	FILL	2nd fill of kiln 10029 Q4	0.23		
10119	10029	CUT	Construction Cut of Kiln 10029	0.8	8.4	1.5
10120	10029	MASO	Kiln flue			
10121	10030	FILL	Collapse of kiln [10030]	0.25	4.4	1
10122		MASO	Kiln structure			
10123		MASO	Kiln structure			
10124		MASO	Kiln structure			
10125		GROUP	Ditch for path or foundation or flooring			
10126	10127	FILL	Fill of slot	0.07	0.6	0.57
10127		CUT	slot	0.07	0.6	0.57
10128	10129	FILL	Fill of slot	0.15	0.84	0.7
10129		CUT	slot	0.15	0.84	0.7
10130	10027	FILL	Upper rubble fill in 10133 10134 10135	0.3	3.2	1.4
10131	10027	FILL	Charcoal fill in 10133	0.05-0.15	1.4	0.8
10132	10027	FILL	Charcoal fill in 10135	0.05	1.2	1.1
10133		CUT	Construction Cut of firing chamber Kiln 10027	0.4-0.5	1.6	1.2

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
10134		CUT	construction cut of flue of kiln 10027	0.5	1.4	1.4
10135		CUT	construction cut of stoke pit of kiln 10027	0.5	1.4	1.4
10136	10027	FILL	fired clay lining of kiln 10027	0.3	3.2	0.3
10137	10133	FILL	unfired clay lining of kiln 10027	0.3-0.5	3,2	1.0-1.4
10138	10027	FILL	backfill of cons cut southside	0.35		
10139	10027	FILL	backfill of const cut northside	0.35		0.08-0.2
10140	10027	CUT	Construction cut of Kiln 10027	0.5	3.2	1.4
10141	10029	MASO	Kiln structure 10029			
10142	10029	FILL	Fill of kiln 10029	0.05-0.15	3.4	2.4
10143	10029	CUT	Construction Cut of kiln 10029	0.15	3.4	2.4
10144	10145	FILL	Fill of pit	0.1	0.84	0.72
10145		CUT	Pit	0.1	0.84	0.72
10146	10147	FILL	Fill of pit	0.2	0.8	0.7
10147		CUT	Pit	0.2	0.8	0.7
10148	10148	FILL	Fill of gully terminus	0.13	0.72	0.35
10149		CUT	Ditch	0.13	0.72	0.35
10150		GROUP	Group of pits southend			
10151	10152	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.1	0.22	0.22
10152		CUT	Posthole	0.1	0.22	0.22
10153	10154	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.28	1.24	1.05
10154		CUT	Ditch slot	0.28	1.24	1.05
10155	10156	FILL	Fill of posthole or pit	0.07	0.29	0.22
10156		CUT	Posthole or pit	0.07	0.29	0.22
10157	10158	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus	0.16	0.32	
10158		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.16		
10159	10160	FILL	Fill of Pit			
10160		CUT	Pit			
10161	10162	FILL	Fill of ditch			
10162		CUT	Ditch			
10163	10164	FILL	Fill of Pit	0.2	0.8	0.8
10164		CUT	Pit	0.2	0.8	0.8
10165	10166	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.07	0.3	0.35
10166		CUT	Posthole	0.07	0.3	0.35
10167	10168	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.09	0.7	0.4
10168		CUT	Posthole	0.09	0.7	0.4
10169	10119	FILL	Fill of Kiln 10029 q6	0.19	0.64	
10170	10119	FILL	4th fill of kiln 10029 Q5	0.11	0.64	
10171	10119	MASO	Kiln structure 10029 q6		1	2.2
10172	10119	FILL	Upper Fill of Kiln 10029 q5	0.1	0.75	

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
10173	10119	FILL	4th fill of kiln 10029 Q6	0.29	1.62	
10174	10119	MASO	Kiln structure 10029 q5			
10175	10030	FILL	Collapse of kiln 10030	0.1	1.62	0.3
10176	10030	FILL	Collapse of kiln 10030	0.05	0.95	0.3
10177	10030	FILL	Collapse of kiln 10030	0.2	1.5	0.8
10178	10030	FILL	Fill under 10176 kiln 10030	0.05	1.6	0.4
10179	10180	FILL	Fill of Pit	0.35	1.04	0.84
10180		CUT	Pit	0.35	1.05	0.85
10181	10182	FILL	Fill of Pit	0.5	1.3	0.8
10182		CUT	Pit	0.5	1.3	0.8
10183	10030	FILL	Fill under 10175 kiln 10030	0.04	0.72	0.59
10184		GROUP	Pits grouped south part of the area		30	10
10185	10186	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.14	0.47	0.43
10186		CUT	Posthole	0.14	0.47	0.43
10187	10188	FILL	Fill of pit	0.08	0.6	0.6
10188		CUT	Pit	0.08	0.6	0.6
10189	10030	FILL	Fill of kiln 10030	0.3	2.6	1.7
10190	10191	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.07	0.4	0.36
10191		CUT	Posthole	0.07	0.4	0.36
10192	10193	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.14	0.44	0.36
10193		CUT	Posthole	0.14	0.44	0.36
10194	10029	FILL	Fill of Kiln 10029 q5	0.07-0.15	0.9	0.35
10195	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
10196	10029	FILL	Fill of Kiln 10029 q6	0.31	1.5	
10197	10029	FILL	Fill of Kiln 10029 q6	0.05	0.73	
10198	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
10199	10029	FILL	Fill of Kiln 10029 q6	0.05	0.9	0.35
10200	10201	FILL	Fill of Ditch terminus	0.12	1.4	0.85
10201		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.12	1.4	0.85
10202	10030	FILL	Fill of kiln 10030	0.02	0.6	0.3
10203	10030	FILL	Fill of kiln 10030	0.02	0.5	0.3
10204	10030	FILL	Fill of kiln 10030	0.06	1.5	0.8
10205	10030	FILL	Fill of kiln 10030	0.4	2.6	1.6
10206	10030	FILL	Fill of kiln 10030		1.52	1.34
10207	10029	FILL	Fill of Kiln 10029 q6	0.19	0.52	
10208	10029	FILL	Fill of Kiln 10029 q5	0.1	0.9	0.35
10209	10210	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.46	1.36	1
10210		CUT	Ditch	0.46	1.36	1
10211	10222	FILL	Fill of pit cutting kiln 10030	0.15-0.2	3.6	2.6
10212	10029	FILL	Fill of Kiln 10029			
10213	10214	FILL	Fill of pit	0.39		1.2?
10214		CUT	Pit cutting kiln 10029	0.39		1.13?

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
10215	10214	FILL	Animals buried	0.1		0.46
10216		FILL	Fill of kiln 10030	0.15	0.4	0.2
10217	10218	FILL	Fill of posthole in kiln 10030	0.3	0.5	0.5
10218		CUT	Cut of posthole in kiln 10030	0.3	0.5	0.5
10219	10220	FILL	Fill of posthole in kiln 10030	0.08	0.2	0.2
10220		CUT	Cut of posthole in kiln 10030	0.08	0.2	0.2
10221	10222	FILL	Fill of pit	0.4	3.66	2.6
10222		CUT	Pit cutting kiln 10030	0.5	3.66	2.6
10223	10030	CUT	Construction cut of kiln 10030	0.8	8.5	2.2
10224			void			
10225	10030	MASO	Bricks side kiln 10030		1.2-1.8	0.3
10226	10030	MASO	Clay lining kiln 10030	0.05-0.1	7.5	0.3-0.7
10227	10030	FILL	Fill of kiln 10030	0.1	6	0.8
10228	10030	MASO	Anvil stone	0.3	0.9	0.6
10229	10030	MASO	Yellow lining	0.8	7.5	0.3
10230		GROUP	Animal burial in pit	0.6	1.5	1.5
10231	10214	FILL	Animal buried			
10232	10214	FILL	Animal buried			
10233	10029	FILL	Fill of kiln 10029	0.05-0.1	1	1
10234	10029	MASO	Kiln structure 10029	0.2	1.4	1.2
10235	10029	MASO	Base Kiln structure 10029		1.5	1.4
10236	10030	FILL	Crushed cbm in kiln 10030	0.25	1.7	1.4
10237	10029	FILL	fill of kiln 10029	0.2	1.4	1.2
10238	10029	GROUP	Masonry in kiln [10029]	0.8	8	1.5
10239	10240	FILL	Fill of Ditch terminus	0.2	0.7	0.55
10240		CUT	Cut of ditch terminus	0.2	0.7	0.55
10241	10242	FILL	Fill of Ditch terminus	0.15-0.2	0.65	0.35
10242		CUT	Cut of ditch terminus	0.2	0.65	0.35
10243	10246	FILL	Fill of pit	0.15	1.7	1.7
10244	10246	FILL	Fill of pit	0.2	1.1	1.1
10245	10246	FILL	Fill of pit	0.1	1.2	1.2
10246		CUT	Pit	0.4	2	2
10247	10248	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.2	0.6	0.3
10248		CUT	Ditch	0.2	4.35	0.5
10249	10250	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.2	0.6	0.4
10250		CUT	Ditch	0.2	0.6	0.4
10251	10251	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.2	0.8	0.4
10252		CUT	Ditch	0.2	0.8	0.6
10253	10259	FILL	1st top Fill of rubbish pit	0.2-0.25	3.5	1.5
10254	10259	FILL	2nd Fill of rubbish pit	0.35-0.4	3	1.5
10255	10259	FILL	1rd Fill of rubbish pit	0.2	2.7	1.5
10256	10259	FILL	4th Fill of rubbish pit	0.08	1.5	1.2

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
10257	10259	FILL	5th Fill of rubbish pit	0.1	1.7	1.5
10258	10259	FILL	6th lowest Fill of rubbish pit	0.08-0.25	2	1.5
10259		CUT	Rubbish pit	0.8	3.5	1.5
10260		GROUP	ditched enclosure related to 10028 10125	0.2	4.5	0.5
10261		GROUP	Early gully	0.2	2.3	0.6
11001		DEPO	Topsoil	0.3	30	2.1
11002		DEPO	Subsoil	0.25-0.30	30	2.1
11003		DEPO	Natural	NFE	30	2.1
11004	11005	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.15	2.2+	0.75
11005		CUT	Ditch	0.15	2.2+	0.75
11006	11007	FILL	Fill of tree bole	0.2	1.36	0.9
11007		CUT	Tree bole	0.2	1.36	0.9
11008	11009	FILL	Fill of possible tree bole	0.09	1.1	0.5
11009		CUT	Possible tree bole	0.09	1.1	0.5
11010	11012	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch	0.25	0.8	1
11011	11012	FILL	Primary fill of ditch	0.05	2.9	1
11012		CUT	Ditch	0.25	2	1
11013	11014	FILL	Fill of possible tree bole	0.21	0.95	0.7
11014		CUT	Possible tree bole	0.21	0.95	0.7
11015		CUT	Ditch	0.55	2	1.85
11016	11017	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.13	2.2	0.38
11017		CUT	Ditch	0.13	2.2	0.38
11018	11020	FILL	Secondary fill of pit	0.45	1.1	
11019	11020	FILL	Primary fill of pit	0.1	0.25	
11020		CUT	Test pit?	0.7	1.1	
11021	11022	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.07	2.2+	0.62
11022		CUT	Ditch	0.07	2.2+	0.62
11023	11024	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.2	1	1
11024		CUT	Ditch slot	0.2	1	1
11025	11026	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.08	2.12+	0.4
11026		CUT	Ditch slot	0.08	2.12+	0.4
11027	11028	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.3	2.0+	0.51
11028		CUT	Ditch	0.3	2.0+	0.51
11029	11030	FILL	Fill of ditch slot ?	0.19	2.0+	0.45
11030		CUT	Ditch slot ?	0.19	2.0+	0.45
11031	11033	FILL	Primary fill of ditch	0.3	2.12+	2.86
11032	11033	FILL	Redeposited natural	0.46	?	3.04
11033		CUT	Ditch		2.12+	3.84
11034	11033	FILL	Upper fill of ditch	0.3	2.12+	3.84
12001		DEPO	Topsoil			
12002		DEPO	Subsoil			

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
12003		DEPO	Natural			
12004		DEPO	Deposit	0.08	5	3
12005	12206	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.08	1.2	0.33
12006		CUT	Ditch slot	0.08	1.2	0.33
12007	12008	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.35	1.0+	0.35
12008		CUT	Ditch slot	0.35	1.0+	0.35
12009	12010	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.16	1.1+	0.28
12010		CUT	Ditch	0.16	1.1+	0.28
12011	12012	FILL	Fill of ditch			
12012		CUT	Ditch			
12013	2016	FILL	Tertiary fill of pit	0.19	2.05	1.75
12014	2016	FILL	Secondary fill of pit	0.28	2.05	1.75
12015	2016	FILL	Primary fill of pit	0.39	2.05	1.75
12016		CUT	Pit	0.73	2.05	1.75
12017	12018	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.07	0.82+	0.35
12018		CUT	Ditch	0.07	0.82+	0.35
12019	12020	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.15	0.44+	0.27
12020		CUT	Ditch	0.15	0.44+	0.27
12021	12022	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.17	0.27	0.37
12022		CUT	Ditch slot	0.17	0.27	0.37
12023		DEPO	Slot in spread	0.17	4.4	1.80+
12024		VOID				
12025		VOID				
12026		VOID				
12027		VOID				
12028	12029	FILL	Fill of ditch			
12029		CUT	Ditch			
12030	12031	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.04	1.0+	0.25
12031		CUT	Ditch slot	0.04	1.0+	0.25
12032	12034	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.25	1.0+	0.55
12033	12034	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.1	1.0+	0.55
12034		CUT	Ditch slot	0.35	1.0+	0.55
12035	12037	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.25	1.0+	0.84
12036	12037	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.09	1.0+	0.62
12037		CUT	Ditch slot	0.31	1.0+	0.84
12038	12039	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.18	0.53	0.51

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
12039		CUT	Posthole	0.18	0.53	0.51
12040	12041	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.19	0.37	0.28
12041		CUT	Posthole	0.19	0.37	0.28
12042	12043	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.1	0.35	0.15+
12043		CUT	Posthole	0.1	0.35	0.15+
12044	12046	FILL	Secondary fill of posthole	0.23	0.58	0.56
12045	12046	FILL	Primary fill of posthole	0.18	0.58	0.47
12046		CUT	Posthole	0.4	0.58	0.56
12047	12048	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.08	0.88+	0.09
12048		CUT	Ditch	0.08	0.88+	0.09
12049		VOID				
12050		DEPO	Spread? Or fill?	0.14	12.1	8.23
12051	12053	FILL	Secondary fill of pit	0.42	0.96	0.85
12052	12053	FILL	Primary fill of pit	0.15	0.96	0.46
12053		CUT	Pit	0.58	0.96	0.85
12054	12057	FILL	Tertiary fill of pit	0.19	2.05	1.75
12055	12057	FILL	Secondary fill of pit	0.28	2.05	1.75
12056	12057	FILL	Primary fill of pit	0.39	2.05	1.75
12057		CUT	Pit	0.73	2.05	1.75
12058	12061	FILL	Tertiary fill of ditch terminus slot	0.14	1.0+	0.9
12059	12061	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch terminus slot	0.32	1.0+	0.98
12060	12061	FILL	Primary fill of ditch terminus slot	0.52	1.0+	0.97
12061		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.52	8.0+	1.06
12062	12063	FILL	Fill of pit	0.08	1.24	1.22
12063		CUT	Pit	0.08	1.24	1.22
12064	12065	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.13	1.19	0.36
12065		CUT	Ditch	0.13	1.19	0.36
12066	12067	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.15	0.8	0.3
12067		CUT	Ditch	0.15	0.8	0.3
12068	12069	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus	0.12	0.46+	0.65
12069		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.12	0.46+	0.65
12070		GROUP	Ditch	0.35	12.5	0.35
12071		GROUP	Ditch	0.17	4.5	0.3
12072		GROUP	Ditch	0.04-0.15	5.3	0.45-1

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
12073		DEPO	Occupational deposit	0.1	4.7	3.6
12074		DEPO	Spread?	0.16?	12.1	1.15
12075	12076	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.15	1.2+?	0.43
12076		CUT	Ditch slot	0.15	1.2+?	0.43
12077		FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.17	1.0+?	0.6
12078		CUT	Ditch slot	0.17	1.0+?	0.6
12079	12080	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus	0.19	0.6+?	0.26
12080		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.19	0.6+?	0.26
12081	12082	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.27	1.2+	0.46-0.71
12082		CUT	Ditch slot	0.27	1.2+	0.46-0.71
12083		GROUP	Same as 12163			
12084	12085	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.31	1.2+	0.94
12085		CUT	Ditch slot	0.31	1.2+	0.94
12086	12087	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.44	1.2+	0.5
12087		CUT	Ditch slot	0.44	1.2+	0.5
12088	12090	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.2	1.2+	1.02
12089	12090	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.17	1.2+	0.81
12090		CUT	Ditch slot			
12091	12092	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.28	1.0+	0.45
12092		CUT	Ditch slot	0.28	1.0+	0.22+
12093	12095	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.38	1.0+	0.99
12094	12095	OTHER	Drain	0.28	1.0+	0.52
12095		CUT	Ditch slot	0.38	1.0+	0.99
12096	12097	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.17	1.0+	0.62+
12097		CUT	Ditch slot	0.17	1.0+	0.62+
12098	12099	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.34	1.0+	0.4
12099		CUT	Ditch slot	0.34	1.0+	0.4
12100	12102	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.37	1.1+	1.15
12101	12102	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.13	1.1+	0.46
12102		CUT	Ditch slot	0.37	1.1+	1.15
12103	12107	FILL	Tertiary fill of ditch slot	0.28	1.00+	1.55
12104	12107	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.17	1.00+	1.3
12105	12107	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.23	1.00+	1.25
12106	12107	OTHER	Drain	0.32		0.5
12107		CUT	Ditch slot	0.55	1.00+	1.55+
12108	12110	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.21	1.00+	0.43
12109	12110	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.29	1.00+	0.54
12110		CUT	Ditch slot	0.52	1.00+	0.43+

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
12111	12112	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.24	1.00+	0.35
12112		CUT	Ditch slot	0.24	1.00+	0.35
12113	12115	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.19	1.00+	0.81
12114	12115	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.21	1.00+	0.56
12115		CUT	Ditch slot	0.38	1.00+	0.81
12116	12118	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.2	1.00+	0.62
12117	12118	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.29	1.00+	0.63
12118		CUT	Ditch slot	0.5	1.00+	0.65+
12119	12120	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.24	0.9+	0.45
12120		CUT	Ditch slot	0.24	0.9+	0.45
12121	12122	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.04	1.16+	0.7
12122		CUT	Ditch slot	0.04	1.16+	0.7
12123		VOID				
12124		VOID				
12125	12126	FILL	Fill of pit	0.07		0.55
12126		CUT	Pit	0.13	0.18	0.36
12127		FILL	Fill of ditch slot			
	12128			0.16	1.0+	0.66+
12128		CUT	Ditch slot	0.16	1.0+	0.66+
12129	12133	FILL	Quaternary fill of ditch slot	0.15	1.0+	1.6
12130	12133	FILL	Tertiary fill of ditch slot	0.2	1.0+	1.7
12131	12133	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.16	1.0+	1.45
12132	12133	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.53	1.0+	1.07
12133		CUT	Ditch slot	1.02	1.0+	1.7
12134	12136	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.35	1.0+	0.54
12135	12136	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.16	1.0+	0.7
12136		CUT	Ditch slot	0.51	1.0+	0.7
12137	12138	FILL	Fill of drainage ditch	0.09	0.82?	0.26
12138		CUT	Ditch	0.09	0.82?	0.26
12139	12140	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.17	1.0+	0.59
12140		CUT	Ditch slot	0.17	1.0+	0.59
12141	12142	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus	0.24	0.68+	0.23+
12142		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.24	0.68+	0.23+
12143		GROUP	Modern Drainage ditch	0.27	13	0.71
12144		GROUP	Boundary Ditch		94+	
12145		GROUP				
12146	12148	FILL	Fill of ditch			
12147	12148	OTHER	Chalk rubble drain			
12148		CUT	Ditch			
12149	12151	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot			
12150	12151	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot			
12151		CUT	Ditch slot			
12152	12153	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.29	0.6+	0.32
12153		CUT	Ditch slot	0.29	0.6+	0.32
12154	12155	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.31	0.6+	0.25

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
12155		CUT	Ditch slot	0.31	0.6+	0.25
12156	12157	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus	0.06	0.75	0.34
12157		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.06	0.75	0.34
12158	12161 / 12205	FILL	Spread	0.19	2.73	
12159	12161	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.2		1.9
12160	12161	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.66		1
12161		CUT	Ditch slot	1.07	?	1.3
12162		GROUP	Roman Boundary Ditch			
12163		GROUP	Ditch		10.7	0.85
12164		GROUP	Roman Boundary Ditch	0.3-1.0	69.5	1.3-3.2
12165		GROUP	Modern Boundary Ditch		1.75-2.2	68.5
12166		VOID				
12167		VOID				
12168		VOID				
12169	12170	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.1	0.5	0.2
12170		CUT	Ditch slot	0.1	0.5	0.2
12171	12172	FILL	Fill of ditch slot			
12172		CUT	Modern drainage ditch slot			
12173	12174	FILL	Fill of ditch slot			
12174		CUT	Modern drainage ditch slot			
12175	12176	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.08	1.6+	0.33
12176		CUT	Ditch slot	0.08	1.6+	0.33
12177	12178	FILL	Fill of pit terminus	0.24	2	0.21
12178		CUT	Pit	0.24	2	0.21
12179	12181	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.23	?	0.5
12180	12181	FILL	Fill of post pipe	0.27	?	0.2
12181		CUT	Cut of posthole	0.27	0.43	0.5
12182	12183	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.12	1.0+	0.57
12183		CUT	Ditch slot	0.12	1.0+	0.57
12184	12185	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.3	1.4+	1.6
12185		CUT	Ditch slot	0.3	1.4+	1.6
12186	12187	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.2	1.4+	0.4
12187		CUT	Ditch slot	0.2	1.4+	0.4
12188		VOID				
12189		VOID				
12190	12189	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus	0.08	0.62	0.26
12191		CUT	Ditch terminus	0.08	0.62	0.26
12192	12193	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.54	0.68	0.66
12193		CUT	Cut of posthole	0.54	0.68	0.66
12194	12195	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus / pit?	0.19	0.72	0.22
12195		CUT	Ditch terminus / pit?	0.19	0.72	0.22
12196	12197	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus / pit?	0.11	2+	0.45
12197		CUT	Ditch terminus / pit?	0.11	2+	0.45
12198	12199	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.11	1.8?	0.52

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
12199		CUT	Ditch slot	0.11	1.8?	0.52
12200	12201	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.12	0.8	0.57
12201		CUT	Ditch slot	0.09	0.8	0.57
12202	12203	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.09	0.6+	0.31
12203		CUT	Ditch slot	0.09	0.6+	0.31
12204	12205	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.6		0.6
12205		CUT	Ditch slot	0.8		1.3
12206	12208	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.2	1.0+	0.58
12207	12208	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.3	1.0+	1.37
12208		CUT	Ditch slot	0.5	1.0+	1.37
12209	12211	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.25	2.46	1.26
12210	12211	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.34	2.46	1.24
12211		CUT	Ditch slot	0.5	2.46	1.24
12212		GROUP	Ditch	0.04-0.12	0.25-0.59	15.8
12213		GROUP	Gully	0.1	10.3	0.14-0.34
12214		GROUP	Ditch	0.25	0.33	6.5
12215	12229	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.15	0.35+	1.4+
12216	12218	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.49		2.85
12217	12218	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.18		1.02
12218		CUT	Ditch slot	0.49		3.24
12219		DEPO	Spread	0.16		3.2
12220	12222	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.4		2.03
12221	12222	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.5		1.44
12222		CUT	Ditch slot	0.7		3.2
12223	12224	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.5	0.7?	0.7?
12224		CUT	Ditch slot	0.7	0.7?	3.2
12225	12229	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.16	0.55	1.4
12226	12218	FILL	Tertiary fill of ditch slot	0.16		1.65
12227		VOID				
12228	12229	FILL	Fill of ditch slot	0.2		0.88
12229		CUT	Ditch slot	0.21		3.49
12230		DEPO	Spread	0.14	4.5+	1.03+
12231	12233	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.38	1.0+	1.6
12232	12233	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.17	1.0+	0.75
12233		CUT	Ditch slot			

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
12234		GROUP	Ditch Enclosure	0.48	29+	0.7
12235	12237	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.25	1.0+	0.7
12236	12237	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.2	1.0+	0.7
12237		CUT	Ditch slot	0.45	1.0+	0.7
12238	12240	FILL	Secondary fill of ditch slot	0.25	1.12+	0.79+
12239	12240	FILL	Primary fill of ditch slot	0.2	1.12+	
12240		CUT	Ditch slot	0.45	1.12+	0.79
12241	12242	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.13	0.31	0.3
12242		CUT	Cut of posthole	0.13	0.31	0.3
12243	12244	FILL	Fill of gully slot	0.04	0.18+	0.14
12244		CUT	Gully slot	0.04	0.18+	0.14
12245	12246	FILL	Fill of gully slot	0.08	0.52+	0.18
12246		CUT	Gully slot	0.08	0.52+	0.18
12247	12249	DEPO	Spread /fill of ditch ?	0.1		0.6
12248	12249	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.3	1.2	0.6
12249		CUT	Ditch	0.4	1.2	0.6
12250	12252 / 12254	DEPO	Spread /fill of ditch ?	0.3		1.7?
12251	12252	FILL	Fill of ditch	0.5		1.4
12252		CUT	Ditch	0.8	1.4	1.5
12253	12254	FILL	Fill of posthole ?	0.7	0.3	0.3
12254		CUT	Cut of posthole ?	0.8	1.4	0.3
12255	12256	FILL	Fill of gully terminus	0.11	0.8	0.34
12256		CUT	Gully terminus slot	0.11	0.8	0.34
12257	12258	FILL	Fill of gully slot	0.07	0.4+	0.19
12258		CUT	Gully slot	0.07	0.4+	0.19
12259	12260	FILL	Fill of posthole	0.22	0.26	0.21
12260		CUT	Cut of posthole	0.26	0.26	0.21
12261	12262	FILL	Fill of ditch terminus slot	0.25	1.06+	0.44
12262		CUT	Ditch terminus slot	0.25	1.06+	0.44
12263	12264	FILL	Fill of gully terminus	0.09	0.51+	0.3
12264		CUT	Gully terminus slot	0.09	0.51+	0.3
12265		GROUP	Gully	0.07- 0.11	5.75	0.3
12266		GROUP	Gully	0.03- 0.07	4.43	0.3
12267	12268	FILL	Fill of gully terminus	0.03	0.55+	0.24
12268		CUT	Gully terminus slot	0.03	0.55+	0.24
12269	12270	FILL	Fill of gully slot	0.05	0.5+	0.18
12270		CUT	Gully slot	0.05	0.5+	0.18
12271	12272	FILL	Fill of gully terminus	0.07	0.5	0.24
12272		CUT	Gully terminus slot	0.07	0.5	0.24
12273	12274	FILL	Primary/ secondary fill of ditch slot	0.19		0.9
12274		CUT	Ditch slot	0.19		0.9
12275	12276	FILL	Primary/ secondary fill of ditch slot	0.08+		0.26+
12276		CUT	Ditch slot	0.08+		0.26+
12277	12278	FILL	Fill of ditch	NFE	2	2.2

Context	Cut No.	Context Description	Context Interpretation	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)
12278		CUT	Cut of ditch	NFE	2	2.2
12279	12780	FILL	Fill of ditch	1	2	2
12280		CUT	Cut of boundary dtich	1	2	1

APPENDIX B: SPECIALIST REPORTS

Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

Anna Doherty, Archaeology South-East

Introduction

A large assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery was recovered from the site, totalling 4109 sherds, weighing 34.58 kg. The pottery belongs predominantly to two discrete phases: the Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age/early Roman periods. Having said this, the assemblage potentially spans a longer period, including some tentatively-dated context groups and poorly-stratified individual sherds of Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, Middle/Late Iron Age and mid/late Roman date.

Method

The pottery was recorded and reported on following guidance in the *Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (PCRG et al 2016) and CIfA (2020) *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting*. It was examined using a x 20 binocular microscope and quantified by sherd count, weight, estimated number of vessels (ENV) and, for the Late Iron Age and Roman assemblage, by estimated vessel equivalent (EVE) on *pro forma* records and in an Excel spreadsheet. Some fabric definitions for later Iron Age/early Roman pottery were adopted from the nearby Brisley Farm excavations (Thompson 2013, Fabrics FLIN1, FLIN2, FLIN3, GROG1, GROG1A, GLAUC1, IO2, SAND1, SAND2). Additional fabrics were defined according to a site-specific fabric type-series, in accordance with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010; Table B1). In the absence of a published fabric type-series in Kent, Late Iron Age and Roman fabrics have been recorded using an adapted version of the London/Southwark typology (MoLA 2019); where possible, suggested concordances to the unpublished Canterbury fabric type-series (Macpherson-Grant *et al* 1995) are provided below in Table B3. Late Iron Age and Roman forms have also been recorded using general codes from the Southwark/London typology, with additional concordance to appropriate typologies, including Thompson (1982) for 'Belgic' forms and Monaghan (1987) for material from the Kent/Thameside industry.

A large number of sherds were recovered from the residues of environmental samples. It is generally difficult to define fabric types for very small sherds (less than c. 8 mm or c. 1g in weight) since they are often too small to provide a representative sample of the inclusions present. Although all of the material from samples was scanned, sherds from smaller fractions were only recorded where they were considered diagnostic/confidently identifiable or where very small sherds constituted the only pottery from the context.

Fabric	Description
FLGR1	Sparse/moderate ill-sorted flint of 2-5mm in a dense matrix with rare/sparse grog of 1-3mm; rare coarse quartz grains of up to 0.7mm can occur
FLGR2	Moderate flint of 0.5-3mm and moderate grog of 0.5-3mm; sparse quartz of 0.4-0.6mm can occur
FLIN4	Sparse/moderate ill-sorted flint mostly of 0.5-3mm with rare examples up to 5mm in a slightly silty matrix
FLIN5	Sparse flint of 0.5-2mm in a silty matrix
FLIN6	Moderate/common v. well-sorted flint of 0.5-1mm in a silty matrix
FLIN7	Moderate ill-sorted flint of 0.5-9mm in a dense inclusionless matrix
FLIN8	Common flint of 0.5-3mm in a silty matrix

Fabric	Description
FLQG1	Sparse/moderate flint 1-3mm; moderate quartz of 0.4-0.7mm; sparse/moderate glauconite of 0.3-0.4mm
FLQG2	Moderate very ill-sorted flint of 1-7mm in a silty to fine sand matrix with rare/sparse larger quartz grains up to 0.5mm and rare/sparse glauconite of 0.2-0.4mm
FLQU1	Sparse/moderate, moderately-sorted flint of 0.2-2mm in a silty matrix with sparse coarse quartz to 0.5mm
FLQU2	Sparse ill-sorted flint, mostly of 0.2-2mm with rare coarse examples up to 5mm; a silty matrix with moderate coarse quartz of 0.5-0.7mm
FLQU3	Sparse flint of 0.5-3.5mm with moderate coarse quartz of 0.5-0.8mm
GLQF1	Common/abundant glauconite; rare quartz of up to 1mm; and rare/spa
GRFL1	Moderate grog of 1-3mm; rare/sparse flint of 0.5-2mm; rare quartz grains up to 0.7mm can occur
GROG4	Moderate grog of 1-3mm in a silty matrix
GRQU1	Moderate ill-sorted grog 1-3mm and moderate quartz of 0.4-0.5mm
QUAR1	Common coarse ill-sorted quartz of 0.5-1mm
QUAR2	A silty matrix with sparse larger quartz grains up to 0.5mm; rare fine linear organic inclusions can occur
QUFL1	Common coarse ill-sorted quartz of 0.5-1mm and sparse/moderate flint of 0.5-3mm
QUGG1	Moderate/common quartz of 0.5-0.8mm; sparse/moderate glauconite of 0.4-0.5mm; rare/sparse grog of up to 2mm
QUGL1	Moderate/common quartz of 0.5-0.8mm; sparse/moderate glauconite of 0.4-0.5mm
QUGR1	A silty matrix with sparse larger quartz grains of 0.5-1mm; sparse grog of 1-3mm
QUGR2	Common quartz of 0.4-0.7mm and sparse grog of 1-3mm

Table B1: Site-specific fabric definitions for prehistoric pottery

Prehistoric pottery

Stratigraphic context

The Early Iron Age material comes predominantly from Areas 7 and 9 and was mostly recovered from pits, including a single, very large group of over 400 sherds from fill (7040) of pit [7043], a large group of over 100 sherds from fill (7052) of pit [7053] and other moderate sized groups from deposit (9034) and fill (9045) of pit [9046]. The former includes sherds from a jar (RF<12>) which is fragmented but c. 1/3 complete, found with broken mixed sherds from other vessels. The material from Area 7 was notably less fragmented than that in Area 9. Excluding sherds recovered from samples, the average sherd weight in the former was just over 14g vs just under 7g in the latter.

Range of datable prehistoric material

A very small number of thick-walled sherds were recovered in coarse or very coarse flint-tempered fabrics (FLIN4 and FLIN7). Although no diagnostic features were recorded, these characteristics may be suggestive of the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury (DR) tradition. In one case, fragmentary base and lower wall sherds of a probable DR vessel were recovered as unstratified material in Area 7 and the remainder of the sherds of possible Middle Bronze Age date were clearly residual in later pottery groups in Areas 2, 3, 7 and 12.

A small group of 10 sherds, weighing 134g, from fill (7054) of pit [7055] is entirely made up by non-sandy flint-tempered fabrics, including a few thick-walled fragments of coarse fabric FLIN7 which may represent Middle Bronze Age DR pottery, however it largely comprises thinner walled sherds in coarse to moderately coarse fabrics (FLIN4 and FLIN8) with a single thin-walled fine ware (FLIN6). Although

this represents a very small and undiagnostic group, the lack of diversity in fabric types is quite distinct from the rest of the prehistoric assemblage and seems likely to indicate Late Bronze Age dating. An associated partial rim appears to be of plain profile and may be in keeping with Late Bronze Age post-Deverel-Rimbury plain ware jars. A number of other context groups contained one or two fragments in similar flint-tempered wares and it possible that some of this material also predates the major Early Iron Age element of the prehistoric assemblage, although it very difficult to date isolated flint-tempered sherds with much certainty.

Where diagnostic prehistoric material is present, it is almost uniformly of Early Iron Age date. On balance the range of forms is considered likely to post-date c. 600 BC although, in the absence of radiocarbon dating evidence, the possibility of a slightly earlier date is not entirely excluded at present. It is also perhaps possible that the assemblage extends into the Early/Middle Age transition (c. 400/300 BC), although again, an independent dating framework would help to refine the chronology of this assemblage. Only a minority of prehistoric context groups contained datable feature sherds and it is possible that some of the more poorly-dated contexts tentatively assigned to this range encompass a wider range of Iron Age dating. Nevertheless the diverse range of prehistoric fabrics from the assemblage as a whole largely mirrors that in the diagnostic Early Iron Age groups and it appears likely that it is predominantly contemporary.

For the most part, the assemblage lacks clear evidence for more developed Middle or Middle/Late Iron Age pottery. However, two very small groups from fill (9051) of pit [9052] and fill (9061) of posthole [9062] are notably more dominated by glauconitic fabrics than other prehistoric contexts. The former contains a small, weak-shouldered cup like vessel of probable Middle Iron Age type. Both contexts also contain probable Late Iron Age grog-tempered fabrics, suggesting that these represent transitional Middle/Late Iron Age assemblages probably dating to around the early/mid 1st century BC and analogous to material from Period 3 at Brisley Farm (Thompson 2013, 275-277).

Fabrics

As shown in Table B2, the prehistoric assemblage is characterised by a wide range of fabrics, often with mixed inclusions, including flint, grog, quartz and glauconite. Many of the individual fabrics represent a spectrum of attributes like size, frequency and sorting of inclusions rather than completely discrete fabric types. Nevertheless, the assemblage can be split into a number of broader fabric categories.

Non-sandy flint-tempered fabrics together account for around 12% of prehistoric sherds. As noted above, it is likely that at least some of the coarser examples of non-sandy flint-tempered wares (FLIN4, FLIN7) represent Middle Bronze Age pottery, although this material is generally poorly-stratified. The most common group of non-sandy flint-tempered wares contain moderately coarse flint temper with maximum inclusion size of 2-3mm (fabrics FLIN1, FLIN5 and FLIN8) and there are also a few non-sandy fine flint-tempered wares (FLIN6). With the exception of the single partial rim sherd described above in the possible Late Bronze Age group from fill (7054) of pit [7055], none of these fabrics are associated with diagnostic feature sherds and many were recovered in very small, poorly-dated context assemblages. It is therefore difficult to determine the extent to which they might represent residual or very small undiagnostic stratified groups of Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age pottery. Moderately coarse and fine flint-tempered wares do appear in some of the larger Early Iron Age pit groups, although it is notable that they appear to be less common than in the assemblage as a whole; for example, they make up less than 5% of sherds in fill (7040) of pit [7043] vs 9% in the assemblage more generally.

Fabric group	Code	Sherds	Weight (g)	ENV
Flint-tempered wares (unassigned)	FLIN	10	7	7
Very coarse non sandy flint-tempered wares	FLIN7	24	392	9
Coarse non sandy flint-tempered wares	FLIN4	8	95	8
Moderately coarse non sandy flint-tempered wares	FLIN1	2	4	2
	FLIN5	73	261	70
	FLIN8	22	258	18
Fine non sandy flint-tempered wares	FLIN6	10	26	9
Moderately coarse sandy flint-tempered wares	FLQU1	84	435	70
	FLQU2	17	257	15
	FLQU3	17	200	17
	QUFL1	60	524	41
Grog-tempered wares	GROG	7	4	4
	GROG1	6	4	6
	GROG3	5	28	1
	GROG4	272	1475	171
	QUGR1	43	310	41
	QUGR2	24	316	21
Flint-and-grog-tempered wares	FLGR1	50	903	27
	FLGR2	189	2262	122
	GRFL1	121	1082	92
Flint and glauconite	FLQG1	26	415	14
	FLQG2	8	555	3
	GLQF1	20	45	6
Glauconite	GLAUC1	19	98	8
	GLQU1	36	106	3
	QUGL1	11	65	7
Grog and glauconite	QUGG1	5	62	5
Handmade sandy ware	QUAR1	15	58	10
	QUAR2	19	36	18
	SAND1	25	57	23
	SAND2	1	2	1
Total		1229	10342	849

Table B2: Quantification of prehistoric pottery fabrics

A larger proportion of the assemblage – c.15% of sherds – is made up by moderately coarse flint-tempered wares containing coarse quartz sand (FLQU1, FLQU2, FLQU3 and QUFL1). These fabrics are more clearly contemporary in well-dated Early Iron Age groups and are associated with a number of diagnostic feature sherds of this period.

Perhaps the most notable element of fabric composition is the dominance of grog- and grog- and-flint-tempered fabrics, which each account for about 29% of sherds. The former group (GROG4, QUGR1 and QUGR2) includes both sandy and non-sandy variants while the latter (FLGR1, FLGR2 and GRFL1) encompasses quite a lot of variability in the size and frequency of flint and grog inclusions.

Other fabric grouping include wares containing flint, quartz sand and glauconite (FLQG1, FLQG2 and GLQF1), fabrics containing quartz and glauconite without flint (GLAUC1, GLQU1 and QUGL1) and

hand-made quartz-rich fabrics (QUAR1, QUAR2, SAND1 and SAND2). These groups constitute more minor elements of the assemblage, each making up around 4-5% of sherds. Five sherds of fabrics containing quartz sand, grog and glauconite were identified (QUGG1).

Forms

Just 35 vessels could be assigned to form type and this figure includes a number of partial rim sherds. Nevertheless, it is notable that the assemblage features quite a restricted range of vessels. Overall, just over half of recorded forms are jars with long upright or flaring rims, often with squared or flattened rim profiles. These typically feature well-defined shoulder profiles, which are carinated in some cases. Another major form category, accounting for c. 37% of ENV, is made up by plain, neckless jars, including examples with open and strongly recurving profiles. It is quite notable that assemblage almost entirely lacks fine ware bowl forms. Just one bowl was recorded with a carinated shoulder and short flaring rim.

Decoration and surface treatment

Few examples of decoration were noted: just three examples of fingertip/fingernail decoration are present: all vessels with fingertipping on shoulders, one of which also features fingernail impressions on the rim; however, these vessels account for about 6% of diagnostic rims. Surface treatments are also fairly uncommon. About 6% of estimated vessels feature smoothed surfaces although highly burnished finishes are much more uncommon, accounting for less than 1% of ENV. Combing was noted on three vessel but, perhaps notably, rustication which is common in contemporary assemblages from coastal east Kent, is only present on a single vessel.

Late Iron Age/Roman pottery

Stratigraphic context and deposition

The Late Iron Age/early Roman assemblage was mostly found in Area 12. Smaller quantities of similar material was recovered in Areas 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 10. Two very large groups were recorded: over 600 sherds from occupation deposit (12073) and over 300 sherds from three fills of pit [12057], the latter containing a higher proportion of fine/table wares than the assemblage as a whole. A large group of over 100 sherds was also present in deposit 12004. A number of moderate sized groups of c. 30-100 sherds were also recovered from other deposits, pits and ditches. The condition of the assemblage is somewhat fragmentary with an average sherd weight of just under 10g (discounting sherds from environmental samples). A few examples of partially-complete vessels were noted but these are generally fragmented and less than half complete and occur in larger pottery groups with other broken mixed sherds, suggesting that they are less likely to represent deliberately placed vessels or episodes of structured deposition, and more likely to indicate mixing of some freshly broken vessels with more highly fragmented midden material.

Dating

Although a number of contexts were spot-dated as Late Iron Age/early Roman, it is important to note that these are all small or very small groups, entirely comprising grog-tempered fabrics. Since grog-tempered wares make up the vast majority of more diagnostic early Roman context groups, these do not provide any positive evidence for Late Iron Age activity on site. In fact, on balance, it seems fairly likely that 1st century settlement activity entirely post-dates the Roman Conquest. The overall fabric composition is fairly comparable to that in phases 2.2 (c. AD 43-70) and 2.3 (c. AD 70-150) at Westhawk Farm (Lyne 2008). The small but consistent quantities of south Gaulish samian wares and north Kent

fine ware fabrics make it seem less likely that the assemblage was deposited in the immediate post-Conquest period. Although the proportion of samian ware (c. 1% of sherds) is fairly typical for lower status rural assemblages (Willis 2011, table 3, 188), it is less common to find samian and other fine wares in the very early Roman period, in rural settings (Booth 2004, 44-45). Although there are almost no diagnostic Flavian forms, the small proportion of Canterbury fabrics suggests that many of the larger context groups were deposited after c. AD 70 since the industry expanded significantly after that time (Pollard 1988, 66-67).

As grog-tempering persisted to some degree throughout the Roman period in the Ashford area, a few contexts containing one or two entirely undiagnostic grog-tempered sherds were assigned a very broad spot-date spanning the whole of the Late Iron Age and Roman period. There was however, no evidence of pottery post-dating the 1st century AD from stratified deposits. A handful of mid/late Roman sherds were noted however, including a few examples of central and east Gaulish samian ware (SAMCG and SAMEG), the latter associated with a Dragendorff 33 cup form, a sherd of North Gaulish grey ware (NGGW), a tiny scrap of Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (OXRC) and a grog-tempered bead and flanged bowl, all of which were recovered from subsoil or other unstratified contexts.

Fabrics

As shown in Table B3, about 90% of the Late Iron Age/Roman assemblage is grog-tempered. These fabrics are predominantly equivalent to Brisley Farm fabric GROG1 or fabric B2 from the Canterbury series. A minor grog-tempered fabric variant (GROG1A) features pale grog inclusions and another contains prominent quartz sand (GRQU1). It is probably chronologically significant that other tempered wares appear to be very rare in Late Iron Age/early Roman groups. Only one example of a coarse iron-rich fabric (IO2) was recorded. It should be noted that, because this assessment has been completed without stratigraphic phasing information, fabrics like hand-made sandy, glauconitic and flint-tempered wares have been assumed to be prehistoric and omitted from quantification in Table B3. In the current assemblage, these other tempered wares did very occasionally occur with Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered fabrics. Two small groups which may be of Middle/Late Iron Age date are highlighted above but, elsewhere, these fabrics only tended to occur in mixed contexts which also contained Early Iron Age material so it is difficult to determine whether any of these should be considered contemporary in the Late Iron Age/early Roman period. It is notable that glauconitic, flint-tempered and hand-made sandy wares were all but absent from Area 12 which produced most of the Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and which contained very little prehistoric activity. Such fabrics were clearly a significant component of Middle/Late Iron Age groups at Brisley Farm and continued to appear in small quantities into the 1st century AD, even in the immediate post-Conquest phase (Thompson 2013, Fig 10.7, 10.9, 10.11). Their near absence in these groups perhaps adds weight to the idea that the Area 12 settlement was founded in the post-Conquest period.

Fabric group	Code	CAT*	Sherds	Weight (g)	ENV
Grog-tempered wares	GROG1	B2	2530	22302	1868
	GROG1A	B2.1	53	451	22
	GRQU1	B5	8	46	4
Iron rich wares	IO2	?	1	8	1
Oxidised coarse wares	OXID	R74	19	44	14
	RWS	R105	1	9	1
Reduced coarse wares	BBS	R73.1	5	46	5

Fabric group	Code	CAT*	Sherds	Weight (g)	ENV
	SAND	R100	42	212	34
Regionally traded coarse wares	CTGW	R5	5	19	3
	CTOX	R6	34	158	19
	HOO	R18	8	15	7
	VRW	R15	1	1	1
	COLWW	R63	14	181	1
Unsourced/local fine wares	OXIDF	?	32	35	18
Regionally traded fine wares	NKGW	R16	54	99	40
	NKOX	R17	12	39	9
	OXRC	LR10	1	2	1
Amphorae	BAETE	R50	13	347	3
	GAUL1	R56	5	93	2
Other imported coarse ware	NGGW	?	1	5	1
Imported fine wares	GBWW	BER10	14	15	2
	SAMCG	R43	2	2	2
	SAMEG	R46	2	41	2
	SAMLG	R42	22	70	21
	SAM	?	1	0	1
Total			2880	24240	2082

Table B3: Quantification of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery fabrics (CAT* = suggested concordance to the unpublished Canterbury fabric series Macpherson-Grant *et al* 1995)

Together, Roman fabrics account for about 10% of the c. 1st century AD pottery and no one fabric group makes up more than 1-2% of the assemblage. Unsourced coarse sandy wares (SAND) are predominantly black-surfaced although this category also includes a few examples of coarse grey wares possibly of North Kent/Thameside origin. A single coarse body sherd is possibly a mid/late Roman black-burnished style fabric (BBS) although, in the absence of associated form elements, this remains uncertain. Unsourced oxidised wares (OXID) include some coarse red/orange sandy wares as well as buff/white fabrics of uncertain origin. A single example of a white-slipped fabric (RWS) is possibly from north Kent and many of the unsourced fine oxidised wares (OXIDF) also have some similarities to fabrics from the same region.

Regionally-traded wares include sandy grey and oxidised fabrics of Canterbury origin (CTGW, CTOX). North Kent fine grey and oxidised wares (NKGW, NKOX) constitute the single most frequent fabric category after grog-tempered wares, although they make up just 2% of sherds. A few examples of Hoo white-slipped wares are also present. A single mortarium was tentatively identified as Colchester white ware (COLWW), although it has been suggested that similar fabrics were produced within Kent; for example, in the Canterbury series, fabric R63 is described as Colchester/Kent mortaria. A body sherd of Verulamium region white ware (VRW) was also recorded.

La Graufesenque samian ware (SAMLG) makes up about 1% sherds. Two vessels were also recorded in Gallo-Belgic white ware (GBWW). A small number of amphora sherds from the site include examples of Baetican Dressel 20 (BAETE) and Gaulish fabrics, likely associated with Gauloise forms (GAUL1).

Forms

As is typical in rural lower status sites, the assemblage is dominated by jars, which account for 77% of ENV and 75% of EVE. More than half of these can be broadly characterised as necked jars. Where enough of the profile was present to assign these to a more specific form type, they are overwhelmingly fairly simple cordoned types equivalent to Thompson (1982) form B1. A single example of a fine thin-walled necked jar was also recorded in North Kent fine ware (Monaghan type 4J). There are surprisingly few examples of more complex cordoned or corrugated profiles of Thompson's types B2 and B3. This may be related to chronology since more elaborately cordoned vessels appear to be more common in pre-Conquest groups. Pedestal vessels (Thompson's class A) are also only represented by one or two examples. Bead rim (Thompson class B5-5 and C1) or hand-made short everted rim jars (Thompson class C2), often associated with combed/furrowed surface treatments, are also common elements in the assemblage: the former accounts for 17% of ENV and 27% of EVE and the latter for 7% of ENV and 6 % of EVE. Plain profile jars (Thompson form C3) are very uncommon however, represented by just two estimated vessels. Again this may be chronologically significant as these forms were better represented in the pre-Conquest assemblage from Brisley Farm (Thompson 2013, table 10.10). Storage jars were also found infrequently, with just two estimated vessels recorded.

Form class	ENV	EVE	ENV %	EVE %
Amphora	2	0.48	0.9%	2.5%
Beaker	10	0.79	4.4%	4.1%
Bowl	4	0.27	1.7%	1.4%
Cup	4	0.4	1.7%	2.1%
Dish/platter	7	0.15	3.1%	0.8%
Flagon	4	1.34	1.7%	7.0%
Jar	177	14.48	77.3%	75.1%
Jar/beaker	10	0.85	4.4%	4.4%
Lid	9	0.44	3.9%	2.3%
Mortarium	1		0.4%	0.0%
Strainer	1	0.08	0.4%	0.4%
Total	229	19.28	100.0%	100.0%

Table B4: Quantification of Late Iron Age/Roman forms

Other coarse ware forms are uncommon in the assemblage. Lids account for 4% of ENV and 2% of EVE. The few bowl forms recorded are all partial rims probably from carinated bowls, including a grog-tempered example, possibly similar to Thompson type G2-3 and fragmentary rims probably from carinated reeded-rim bowls in Canterbury fabrics. No fine ware bowls were recorded although a few small decorated samian fragments are likely from bowl forms. A single mortarium of probable Colchester origin was recorded with a hooked flange and low bead. A single grog-tempered strainer is also present. Its form is similar to dishes like Thompson G2-2 but it also features multiple pre-firing perforations in the base.

Around 4% of the assemblage is made up by uncertainly categorised jar/beaker forms. These are typically necked, sometimes cordoned forms with thin-walled profiles and small diameters. More certainly assigned beaker forms account for another 4% of the assemblage and include a plain grog-tempered barrel shaped butt-beaker (Thompson form G5-1), globular beakers, including a rouletted

example in an unsourced sandy ware and fragmentary sherds from two carinated North Kent fine ware beakers (Monaghan type 2G).

Other fine and table ware forms include dishes/platters, accounting for 3% of ENV and 1% of EVE. These comprise grog-tempered derivatives of Gallo-Belgic forms (Thompson G1-5 and G1-10), dishes imitating Dragendorff 36 in North Kent fine wares (Monaghan form 7A1.1) and samian Dragendorff 15/17 and 18 forms.

Four examples of flagons were recorded, accounting for 2% of ENV and 7% of EVE. One of these is in an unsourced buff ware and is only represented by undiagnostic body elements, one is a collared flagon in a grog-tempered fabric analogous to Thompson G6. The remaining two flagons are both associated with Canterbury oxidised wares. One is a ring necked form and the other a pully rim flagon, comparable to an illustrated Canterbury vessel from Westhawk Farm (Lyne 2008, Fig 6.2, no 32).

Cups are represented by three examples, including grog-tempered, Gallo-Belgic influenced forms (Thompson E1-1 and G3-1) and a single samian Dragendorff 27. Another east Gaulish samian Dragendorff 33 cup is among the small poorly stratified mid/late Roman assemblage described above.

Significance and Potential

Although the prehistoric assemblage is only of moderately large size, the presence of at least a few large diagnostic stratified pit groups of Early Iron Age date is of some regional significance, since diagnostic ceramics of this period have so far been lacking in the Ashford area, despite quite extensive programmes of excavation having been undertaken locally. Some similar fabric types were encountered at Little Stock Farm a few kilometres to the south-east (Bryan 2006) but this assemblage was mostly attributed as either earlier (earliest Iron Age) or later (Middle Iron Age) and there is possibly some chronological overlap with the small assemblage from Christchurch School (Doherty 2013). The assemblage has a number of areas of potential. The date range attributed to the Early Iron Age material (c. 600-400/300 BC) is rather broad and tentative because the scientific dating framework for Iron Age pottery is limited. Although the common occurrence of recurving plain and very strongly shouldered/carinated jars has been interpreted here as an indicator of a developed Early Iron Age assemblage post-dating 600BC, it is notable that fine carinated bowls are absent and slightly earlier dating is not completely excluded as a possibility. It would therefore be very useful to obtain radiocarbon dates from some of the key pottery groups. A single internal burnt residue is available on a pottery sherd from the largest Early Iron Age group from fill (7040) of pit [7043]. It is proposed that this should be radiocarbon dated and that the potential for dating of any other organic material such as animal bone, charcoal or other charred plant remains from contexts containing large diagnostic Early Iron Age pottery assemblages should also be considered. This addresses the *South East Research Framework* aim to improve our understanding of the absolute dating of later prehistoric pottery (Champion 2011, 44):

‘Since most sites will be dated by the pottery found there, there is a need for a firmly based ceramic chronology, ideally derived from the detailed typological analysis of large assemblages and stratified sequences and made absolute by an appropriate programme of high-precision radiocarbon dates’.

It is of particular note that the Early Iron Age assemblage is so dominated by grog-tempered fabrics. Grog-tempering has previously been identified in several Early or Early/Middle Iron Age assemblages in coastal east Kent, including Saltwood Tunnel (Jones 2006) and the Aerodrome and Canterbury Road sites at Hawkinge (Hamilton & Seager Thomas in prep a and b). This tempering tradition is quite atypical in contemporary assemblages elsewhere in Kent and the South East and possibly suggests strong

localised ceramic links to areas of France and the Low Countries. Having said this, the current assemblage does not necessarily appear as influenced by continental forms or decorative traditions as other coastal assemblages: it lacks elements such as fine pedestal base jars or the common use of rustication, for example. Further reading and comparison to other Kentish assemblages is required to explore the significance of Early Iron Age grog-tempering at Stour Park. This has the potential to contribute to the following research aim from the South-East Research Framework (Champion 2011, 50):

‘The external connections of the region require further analysis, especially connections with other areas of southern and eastern England and across the Channel with France, Belgium and the Netherlands’.

The Late Iron Age/early Roman assemblage is much larger in size and also contains some large stratified groups. It is clearly of local significance and worthy of publication; however, its significance is slightly limited by the fact that several other Late Iron Age/Roman assemblages have been published from the area (e.g. Thompson 2013; Lyne 2008; Powell 2013) and many others are available in grey literature format (e.g. Lyne 2000; Brown 2006; Booth 2011, Rayner 2021). It also seems to conform fairly closely to the range of fabrics and forms expected in this period for a lower status rural assemblage.

Further work

It is proposed that the Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery assemblages should be published. The following further work tasks have been identified:

Integrate any updated stratigraphic phasing into the pottery dataset and produce updated phased quantification tables and overviews of pottery by phase	4 days
Integrate any updated stratigraphic data (grouping etc) and consider pottery distribution at a group/landuse level	1 day
Radiocarbon date on burnt residue from pottery sherd in fill 7040	Fee
Discuss of any new dating evidence from the radiocarbon programme	1 day
Comparative reading on similarities and differences with other assemblages from coastal south-east Kent and possible continental influences	2 days
Comparative reading and discussion on the Late Iron Age/Roman pottery	1 day
Total	9 days

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Post-Roman Pottery

Luke Barber, freelance specialist

Introduction

The archaeological work at the site recovered 2417 sherds of post-Roman pottery, weighing 33,048g, from 119 individually numbered contexts. These totals include 355 sherds (1009g) from 67 different environmental residues – the remainder being recovered by hand collection on site. An estimated 1033 different vessels are represented in the assemblage. The pottery is of variable condition but there is a tendency towards small to medium sized sherds (to 60mm across) although larger sherds are present in the Late Medieval assemblage – the average sherd sizes by period are given in Table B5. The earliest sherds are notably fresh, despite having a small average sherd size and, with the exception of the Late Medieval material, the remainder of the assemblage is characterised by slightly abraded sherds indicative of slight reworking and/or the adverse effect of an acidic burial environment. The worst affected sherds are, unsurprisingly, those that appear to be residual.

The overall site assemblage is characterised at a basic level in Table B5 in order to give a rough idea of quantities by period. The exact division between periods is approximate as some of the fabrics cross the actual dates allocated. This is most notable with the sandy-shelly wares that mainly sit in the Early Medieval period but linger on into the High Medieval period. Sherds that appear to fall within these 'transitional' phases have been allocated the earliest period in which they appear.

The assemblage has been fully quantified (number of sherds/weight/estimated number of vessels) by fabric and form on pro forma with spot dates being allocated to each context. The fabric series established at the Brisley Farm site (Ashford) was used where possible (Barber 2013). Fabrics not present at Brisley Farm were allocated a code as per the Canterbury fabric series (described in Cotter 2006) or, where this was not obviously apparent, a site specific code. In the event virtually all the site specific codes relate to Late Saxon and Early Medieval material - periods not well represented at Brisley Farm. The results of this work have been used to create an excel spreadsheet as part of the digital archive.

Period	No./weight	Average sherd size	No. of different fabric groups
Early/Mid Saxon C6th to C8th	15/32g	2.1g	Local – 1
Late Saxon Mid C9th to mid C11th	90/294g	3.3g	Local - 4
Early Medieval Mid C11th-early/mid C13th	545/5142g	9.2g	Local – 9
High Medieval Mid C13th – mid/late C14th	582/6301g	10.8g	Local – 7
Late Medieval Mid/late C14th – early/mid C16th	1159/21,017g	18.1g	Local – 18 Imported - 3
Early post-medieval Mid C16th – mid/late C18th	11/181g	16.5g	Local – 1 Regional – 1 Imported - 3
Late post-medieval Mid/late C18th – early C20th	15/81g	5.4g	Local - 1 Regional - 5

Table B5: Characterisation of pottery assemblage by period. NB. Totals include all residual/intrusive and unstratified material. Local equates to Kent/East Sussex wares; Regional to other English wares.

Periods and Fabrics

Overall the date range of the post-Roman pottery spans the later 6th to 19th/early 20th centuries. Although all periods are represented in the assemblage the majority of activity, at a general level, appears to relate to the later 12th to mid 16th- century with a peak in refuse disposal in the 15th to mid 16th centuries. Due to a moderate degree of residuality on the site, the provisional nature of the site phasing and the many small context groups involved the ceramics are discussed by ceramic period rather than provisional site phase. This approach gives a good indication of the chronological run of activity, even where a period is represented by residual sherds.

Early/Mid Saxon: 6th to 8th centuries

The earliest post-Roman pottery recovered consists of 15 sherds (32g) from a single reduced chaff tempered vessel of indeterminate form. All were recovered from ditch fill [11033] and although small are quite fresh, particularly considering the low-fired nature of the fabric. Too little is present to draw conclusions from but their presence confirms activity between c. 575 and 750.

Late Saxon: Mid 9th to mid 11th centuries

The 90 sherds allocated to this period were all clustered together in Area 10 (contexts in the 10000s). Once again, although the sherds are usually small they are quite fresh suggesting they have not seen any significant reworking. The assemblage is dominated by Late Saxon shelly ware with a scatter of vessels tempered with shell and flint grits, a few of Canterbury type Late Saxon Sandy Ware (LS1) and some possible pieces tempered with alluvial flint. Few feature pieces are present but where they are vessels appear to consist of quite crudely made reduced jars with simple everted rims. Close dating of these fabrics is notoriously difficult, particularly in the absence of more feature sherds and/or associated imports so only a broad date can be given. The presence of the material is interesting as it highlights a probably short-lived period of activity following which the area was largely abandoned.

Early Medieval: Mid 11th to early/mid 13th centuries

This period potentially has a number of sub-periods within it judging by the pottery. The earliest is represented by a scatter of Canterbury Sandy Ware (EM1) of the later 11th to early 12th centuries. This is most notable in the old topsoil context [10002]/[10015] where six different EM1 cooking pots are represented by beaded flaring rims of Frere's Group 2/3 (Frere 1954). These appear alongside some early shelly wares (Brisley F1a) and flinty wares that could either be contemporary or residual from the Late Saxon activity in this area. Certainly the flinty wares and F1a shelly fabric are common types in the first half of the 12th century and there is a scatter of chalk tempered sherds (not present at Brisley Farm) that are probably of the same general period (eg pit [8136] contained 4 sherds including one from a reduced cooking pot with thickened flaring rim). It would appear that activity in this area (contexts in the 8000s) began at the very end of the 11th or beginning of the 12th century. The F1a shelly ware is present but the most dominant type at this time is the F1b coarse sandy-shelly ware that is suspected of being more of early/mid 12th- century date but still includes some flaring rim types.

These earlier fabrics are gradually replaced by the finer sandy-shelly wares (Brisley F1c) during the later 12th century and a range of generally oxidised cooking pots is represented, occasionally augmented with bowls and unglazed jugs (eg a strap handle with oblique slashing from subsoil [8001]). The Potter's Corner industry at Ashford (Grove 1952) is the source of this material and indeed for the more refined type (F1d) with a notably lower proportion of shell that becomes the dominant type during the 13th century. Combined, these two fabrics account for 336 sherds (3639g) and show a notable increase in activity/refuse disposal from the later 12th century. Both types continue well into the 13th century and are common on sites in the area (Parfitt 1976; Rigold 1962). Quite when they were totally replaced by the typical High Medieval sandy wares is uncertain but it is likely even the finer F1d was scarce by the late 13th century. Vessels are typically plain and there are no non-local types in the assemblage of this period.

High Medieval: early/mid 13th to mid 14th centuries

As noted above the sandy-shelly wares of the Potter's Corner industry heavily overlap into this period. However, probably from the early 13th century the Ashford potters were producing increasing numbers of purely sand tempered vessels, initially for sparsely glazed jugs to complement the sand/shell wares, but later across the whole vessel spectrum (Brisley Farm F2c: 387/3638g). At least 39 different F2c jugs are represented in the assemblage. Most are mutely decorated with patches of clear or green glaze but some have incised line or white slip decoration (eg ditches [8025], fill [8024], and [8033], fill [8032]). Other F2c vessels include cooking pots (mainly), bowls and at least one pipkin (fill [8032]). Other fabrics are also essentially sand tempered, sometimes with notable iron oxides (Brisley Farm F3a), but the source of these is less certain. The exception to this is a scatter of well formed and decorated jugs from the Rye industry (mainly from ditch [8252], fill [8251]) that are of mid 13th- to mid 14th- century date. As a whole the assemblage demonstrates quite intense refuse disposal was continuing throughout the 13th century and into the first half of the 14th. The High Medieval assemblage is composed exclusively of local wares with no regional or foreign imports being present and is thus fairly typical of a Wealden land-locked site of low status.

Late Medieval: mid 14th to early/mid 16th centuries

The period between 1350 and 1550 is characterised by a series of overlapping fabrics marking a gradual development brought about by the gradual recovery of the population after the mid 14th- century

epidemics, the improvement in manufacturing technology and the changing role of ceramics in the home. The current assemblage unusually does not appear to have a gap in the second half of the 14th century, though there does appear to be a reduction in the amount of refuse at this time. This would suggest that although the plague had an impact activity did not stop. Ditch [8252] (fill [8251], is dated to the period c. 1350-1450 and includes many typical Late Medieval sandy ware sherds (many probably from the Rye industry) as well as low quantities of residual earlier material. The wares are typically better fired and utilitarian in nature with cooking pots/jars, bowls and pitchers dominating. There is a single probable Late Tyler Hill sherd (from north of Canterbury) but the vast majority of the pottery is from Rye or one of the number of small Wealden workshops that were operating at this time – all of which produced a similar range of wares in remarkable similar/overlapping fabrics.

The latter part of the period is better represented still, suggesting an intensification of refuse disposal between c. 1425/50 and 1550. Some of the earlier hard fired sandy wares continue but they are gradually replaced by finer types with less sand, some to the point of being virtually untempered. The fabrics tend to merge with each other and originated from a number of small potteries across the Weald though the more major centres such as Rye probably produced the majority – sourcing these wares is notoriously difficult due to the ubiquitous nature of pottery in the Weald at this time. With the exception of some very fine types, with sparse calcareous inclusions, all can be paralleled at Brisley Farm (Barber 2013) and good assemblages of similar types are known from elsewhere (Barber 2011; Streeten 1983 and 1985; Whittingham 2001). The range of forms tends to increase in this period with cooking pots/jars, jugs/pitchers, bowls, dishes, mugs and pipkins being represented in the current assemblage. Of note is the fragment from a large (c. 420mm diameter) bowl/trough in calcareous peppered hard fired earthenware from ditch [8250] (fill [8249]) that belongs to the end of the period or the beginning of the early post-medieval one. Decoration is typically rare and muted when it does occur in this period but a few sherds have the typical white painted slip lines.

This period also sees the first imported pottery in the form of six sherds from at least two different Raeren mugs (subsoil [8001] and ditch [8262], fill [8259]), part of a Cologne/Frechen bottle (subsoil [8001]) and three sherds (27g) from a probable Dutch tin-glazed earthenware dish (badly degraded) with blue and yellow cable design from ditches [8250] (fill [8249]) and [8262] (fill [8259]). Although a meagre imported assemblage that does not suggest a particularly wealthy household it does demonstrate the wider market contacts enjoyed by the inhabitants between c. 1475 and 1550.

Early Post-medieval: early/mid 16th to mid 18th centuries

At just 11 sherds this period suggests a marked decrease in activity at the site after c. 1550 either as a result of occupation being abandoned or shifting to a new centre, or due to a change in the pattern of refuse disposal/agriculture. Five sherds are from local glazed red earthenware vessels (bowls and a cup), one of which copies a Dutch form, and there is a single sherd from a Surrey-Hampshire white Border Ware dish with clear (yellow) glaze. The remaining sherds are imported German material. This is dominated by three sherds from Frechen bottles, a brown glazed bowl in probable German whiteware (ditch [8241], fill [8241]) and part of a mug in Weser red/green trailed slipware (context [8043]). The pottery assemblage of this period is often unstratified or intrusive in earlier features. Although it is too small to draw conclusions from there is a notable increase in the proportion of non-local pottery suggesting the associated household, albeit set some way from the excavation area, was more affluent than before.

Late Post-medieval: mid 18th to early 20th centuries

The assemblage of this period is of similarly small size to that of the early post-medieval one suggesting low level activity, most likely the result of manuring cultivated land with domestic waste during periods of arable cultivation. Most of the sherds are from topsoil deposits and late ditches. The assemblage is dominated by local glazed red earthenwares but includes some late English stoneware and a chronological spread of finewares including creamware, pearlware and transfer-printed refined whitewares suggesting activity between the later 18th to 19th centuries. Most sherds are small with signs of having been reworked.

The Assemblage

The majority of the ceramic assemblage was derived from ditches and open layers, including mixed material from the topsoil and subsoil. There is also a scatter of better sealed pits but context groups in these are rarely large. Although most context groups produced small assemblages there are some larger ones present though many include small to moderate residual or, to a lesser extent, intrusive, elements (the largest are shown in Table B6).

Feature	No. sherds	Weight	Ceramic Spot Date
8001 (subsoil)	91	1426g	Mixed: mid/late C11th – 16th
8008 (ditch)	91	1152g	c. 1225-1325 (low residual C12th)
8032 (ditch)	122	1490g	c. 1250-1350
8043 (ditch)	125	2150g	c. 1475-1550 (residual C13th/14th, low intrusive later C16th)
8145 (pit)	103	718g	c. 1175-1250
8187 (pit)	53	346g	c. 1425-1525
8215 (ditch)	66	802g	c. 1400-1500
8222 (ditch)	56	1254g	c. 1425-1525
8241 (ditch)	231	4366g	c. 1525-1600 (low residual C13th -15th)
8251 (ditch)	452	6524g	c. 1350-1450 (low residual C13th – mid 14th)

Table B6: Summary of all PR pottery context assemblages in excess of 50 sherds

As can be seen from Table B6, the majority of the larger groups are of the Late Medieval period though some good earlier groups are also present. It is likely that following final phasing and grouping many individual context groups will be able to be combined to create larger coherent groups that will facilitate the analysis of fabric ratios through time. Despite their size many of these groups are not well supplied with sherds worth illustrating but even so overall up to 32 sherds are deemed potentially worthy of illustration across the post-Roman assemblage.

Although residuality, and to a lesser extent intrusiveness, are an issue in some contexts, the sherds are either easily isolated and/or the issue is not considered to be a significant one statistically.

Potential of the Ceramic Assemblage

The post-Roman pottery is considered to hold mix potential for further analysis depending on the sub-period involved. The Early/Mid Saxon assemblage is of interest as it is the earliest post-Roman material recovered. However, although the material needs to be mentioned in the final report the sherds themselves have no potential for further analysis. The Late Saxon assemblage is considered more important as this period has not been well represented in the Ashford area previously and it not only demonstrates a specific area of activity at this time but also provides a small insight into the fabrics in

use. The Early Medieval assemblage is also considered to be of interest, particularly for the period pre-dating the mid 12th century. The assemblage contains new fabrics not previously seen at Brisley Farm as well as highlighting the Canterbury source for much of this early material and establishing the probable start date for the field lay-out and full-time settlement of the land. The pottery from the latter part of the Early Medieval period is of less interest as, despite demonstrating the chronological narrative of the current site, similar material is well known from other sites in and around Ashford. This position is similar for the High Medieval assemblage which is somewhat repetitive and unremarkable compared with that from Brisley Farm. The Late Medieval material is considered to have more potential for detailed work. Despite the period being well represented at Brisley Farm the current assemblage includes a notable quantity of material that falls between c. 1350 and 1450 – a period often not represented in assemblages due to the massive reduction in population following the plague. As such some of the current groups have the potential to help our understanding of the fabrics in use at this time and the transition between the High and ‘later’ Late Medieval periods ceramically. The early and late post-medieval assemblages are two small and scattered to warrant any further detailed analysis though their presence should be noted in the final report in order to help understand the nature of land-use and close by occupation at this time.

Methodology of Further Work

It is proposed that a publication report on the post-Roman pottery will be produced for publication. This will give an overview of the overall assemblage (largely drawn from the current assessment) but will include the results of more detailed analysis on the Late Saxon, Early and Late Medieval assemblages. The best groups will be tabulated to demonstrate the changing fabrics through time and up to 30 vessels will be illustrated. Parallels will be sort from similar sites in the area against which to compare the fabrics and forms through time. A number of analysis tasks have been identified:

Update excel archive with final groupings/phasing	5 hrs
Correlate/integrate selected fabrics with the Canterbury Archaeological Trust fabric series	6 hrs
Study spatial distribution of key pottery groups	7 hrs
Compile the site fabric series	7 hrs
Tabulate key groups	6 hrs
Comparison with other published assemblages in area	7 hrs
Selection and catalogue of illustrated pottery	5 hrs
Publication report	14 hrs
Total	57 hrs

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Post-Roman Glass Assessment

Andrew Morrison (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction

A small glass assemblage (Mass: 519.5g) was submitted for assessment in February 2022 following the recent archaeological trial trenching and strip, map, and sample undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at land on the north side of Highfield Lane (also known as Stour Park), Sevington, in Ashford Borough Council in Kent, in advance of the construction of an employment-led mixed-use scheme. This assessment considers the Post-Roman glass identified within the overall glass assemblage, with the Roman glass fragments already having been extracted to be separately assessed by a Roman specialist. It is possible that some of the non-diagnostic sherds and shatter sherds considered here may be Romano-British in date, however their small size does not allow for an accurate classification. The Post-Roman assemblage in consideration here comprises what is likely a post-medieval hexagonal black glass bead, a complete and intact late 19th to early 20th century medicinal bottle, a 19th to 20th century wine bottle fragment, an 18th century or later drinking glass foot, a small amount of likely 15th century or later window glass, and other non-classifiable bottle glass and glass fragments and other tiny, non-diagnostic shatter sherds. The assemblage is associated with activity on site from the Tudor period onwards, with the glass representing residual remains incorporated within the various deposits, ditches, and pit fills across the site.

Methodology

This assessment report provides a summary of the assemblage with information on form and function based on a visual examination; it also provides recommendations for further work, conservation, and illustration. The assemblage was examined macroscopically with the aim of identifying object type, function, and date, and to compile an inventory for assessment purposes. The finds were both hand-retrieved in the field and recovered during the post-excavation processing of soil sample retent. The hand retrieved finds were recorded as bulk finds and are identified by their context of discovery (e.g.8000), while the retent finds are identified by RT followed by their sample number (e.g. RT 19). For the purpose of identification within this assessment, where more than one classification of artefact was submitted under the same bulk finds number or retent number, these have been subdivided with the addition of a letter for differentiation (e.g. 8000a, 8000b, RT 19a, RT 19b). Finds were measured using a 0-150mm Carbon Dial Caliper with 0.1mm accuracy and were weighed using a Sartorius digital scale

accurate to 0.1g. A summary table of the material by context has been included as part of the digital archive with a complete table available as a separate excel spreadsheet.

The assemblage

The assemblage comprises a complete and intact medicinal bottle (12002) which makes up the majority of the assemblage by weight (Mass: 400.5g), a dark olive green drinks bottle fragment (8043) (Mass: 60.3g), a tiny black glass bead (RT 150a), (Mass: <0.1g), a partial drinking glass foot (8000b) (Mass: 9.8g), 10 window glass fragments (Mass: 28.8g), a non-classifiable bottle neck and finish fragment (8000a) (Mass: 15.1g), 10 non-classifiable vessel fragments (Mass: 4.1g), and 25 tiny non-diagnostic shatter sherds (Mass: 0.1g) (See Table B7 below, for a summary of the material by date). A small quantity of tiny fragments of natural quartzite (Mass: 0.8g) was also submitted amongst the retent glass assemblage and will not be considered here further.

The intact medicinal bottle (12002) was retrieved from the subsoil deposit (12002) in Area 12, and has been identified as a light green aqua Boots Regesan Fruit Saline bottle most likely dating from the late 19th to early 20th century. The bottle has a slightly tapering rectangular body with rounded edges and a rounded shoulder with plate mould-imposed lettering and a short wide neck and wide packer finish. Fruit saline was most likely used, and is still used today, as an antacid.

Other bottle glass sherds recovered comprise two dark olive green body, heel, and base fragments from a Ricketts-moulded wine bottle (8043) dateable from the 2nd quarter of the 19th century and later (Dungworth 2012, 39-40) recovered from the drainage or field boundary ditch [8043] in Area 8, and a light blue aqua short bottle neck and patent finish from a 19th-20th century sauce bottle or medicinal bottle (8000a) retrieved from the topsoil (8000) in Area 8.

Other finds of note comprise a single, tiny intact black glass bead (RT 150a) that was retrieved from the primary fill (8254) within ditch slot [8255], and a stemware drinking glass fragment (8000b) from the topsoil (8000) in Area 8. The bead has a likely hexagonal body and angled terminals, and is most likely identifiable as a dress bead associated with the post-medieval period. The tiny size of the bead allows for the possibility that it may be intrusive within its context of discovery. The stemware drinking glass fragment displays a slight greenish grey tinge, and comprises the partial foot and basal stem knop, and is most likely dateable from the 18th century or later.

The window glass assemblage comprises 10 fragments in varying condition, ranging from heavily corroded with only the core glass surviving, displaying heavy flaking corrosion and pitting, to only lightly corroded with minimal abrasion, with some remaining near firebright. Colour ranges from clear and colourless, to light sage green, with the majority of the fragments, where discernable, displaying a light yellow green tinge. Thickness, where both faces are intact, spans from 1.1mm to 2.0mm, with the average ranging from 1.3mm to 1.6mm. Evidence for triangular or diamond-shaped panes are present in five fragments recovered from contexts (8192) (8241) (8249) and (8259), with the fragment from (8249) displaying two chamfered edges meeting at an approximate 135-degree angle and showing the shadow of a lead came 1.6mm in width. Evidence for possible crown glass is also present in the light sage green coloured fragment (8192) retrieved from the fill of the ditch slot [8192], although this is not definitive. The majority of the window glass fragments recovered most likely date from the Tudor period to the late 17th century, when the smaller greenish-tinged lead came-framed panes were supplanted by larger, clearer sash window panes which were favoured for the increased amount of light that they let into a room (Dungworth 2011, 26).

Other finds retrieved comprise 10 non-diagnostic vessel sherds recovered from the mixed horizon deposit (8174) and the primary fill (8249) of ditch slot [8250] in Area 8, the fill (10167) of posthole [10168] in Area 10, and the fill (12077) of ditch slot [12078] in Area 12, as well as 25 tiny non-diagnostic shatter sherds recovered from a total of 16 separate contexts across Areas 6, 8, 10, and 12. The non-diagnostic vessel sherds include a small dark greyish blue green curved body sherd (8174), seven very thin curved fragments from a possible dish or drinking glass (8249b), a small sherd of dark olive green possible bottle glass (10167), and a small fragment of light yellow green glass (RT 515). The shatter sherds are not classifiable due to their tiny size and lack of diagnostic features, however they may include the remains of window glass and bottle glass and range in colour from clear and colourless, to light greenish yellow, light greenish grey, bright emerald green, and light green and light blue aqua tinged.

Table B7: Summary of the materials recovered by date

Identification	Context	Mass (g):
19th-20th century		
Ricketts moulded wine bottle fragment	8043	60.3
Intact Boots fruit saline bottle	12002	400.5
Bottle neck and patent finish	8000	15.1
Window glass	11027, U/S	2.5
Shatter sherd	6164	<0.1
18th century or later		
Stemmed drinking glass foot	8000	9.8
Likely 15th to late 17th century		
Window glass	8207, 8241, 8249, 8259	24.0
Non-diagnostic likely vessel glass	8249	2.8
Post-medieval		
Tiny hexagonal black glass bead	8254	<0.1
Non-diagnostic fragment	10167	0.4
Not closely dateable		
Window glass core	8001, 8192	2.3
Non-diagnostic body sherd	8174	0.8
Non-diagnostic fragment	12077	0.1
Non-diagnostic shatter sherds	6202, 8010, 8184, 8186, 8254, 8259, 10013, 10033, 10049, 10117, 10159, 10192, 10200, 10212, 12186	0.1
Natural quartzite		0.8
Total:		519.5

Summary of the contextual units

The table below (Table B8) summarises the glass recovered from each contextual unit across the site. For a more detailed summary of the material, please see digital appendix). The site comprises twelve separate excavated areas, with Areas 1-10, and Area 12 subject to a programme of archaeological strip, map, and sample, while Area 11 is made up of 20 individual trial trenches. The glass was recovered from a total of 29 separate contexts, including two from Area 6, 13 from Area 8, nine from

Area 10, one from Area 11, three from Area 12, and one from an unstratified context. The glass recovered from Areas 6, 10, 11, and 12 are predominantly tiny non-diagnostic shatter sherds, apart from the topsoil finds, with the main focus of the activity limited to four to five contexts representing ditch fills within Area 8 (8207, 8241, 8249, 8254, 8259).

Table B8: Summary of the contextual units from Stour Park

Context no	Context Description	Material	Bulk/ RT #
Area 6			
6064	Fill of pit [6065].	Natural stone	RT 49
6100	Grave cut. Fill (6098), SK 6099. Grave Group 27.	Natural stone	RT 508
6164	Fill of grave [6166], SK 6165. Saxon Cemetery, Grave Group 45.	Shatter sherd, possible modern safety glass	RT 19a
		Natural stone	RT 19b
6202	Fill of burial cut [6203], SK 6201. Saxon Cemetery, Grave Group 48.	Non-diagnostic shatter sherd	RT 252
Area 7			
7042	Secondary fill of pit [7063]. Post-built structure or pit group.	Natural stone	RT 162
Area 8			
8000	Topsoil	19 th -20 th century sauce/ medicinal bottle neck/ finish	8000a
		19 th century or later stemmed drinking glass foot	8000b
8001	Subsoil	Window glass	8001
8010	Fill of ditch slot [8011]. Likely Post-Roman.	Non-diagnostic shatter sherd	RT 35
8043	Feature group. Drainage or field boundary ditch. Likely Post-Roman.	19 th -20 th century wine bottle fragment	8043
8174	Mixed horizon deposit. Ragstone foundation.	Non-classifiable bottle body sherd	8174
8184	Fill of pit [8185]. Possible post and beam-slot structure [8203].	Tiny non-diagnostic sherd	RT 118
8186	Secondary fill of pit [8188]. Possible post and beam-slot structure [8203].	Tiny non-diagnostic sherd	RT 93
8192	Cut for ditch slot. Fill (8191). Likely Post-Roman.	Window glass	8192
8207	Secondary fill of terminus ditch slot [8209].	Window glass, likely 15 th century or later	8207
8241	Primary fill of ditch slot [8242].	Window glass, likely 15 th century or later	8241a-b, RT 143
8249	Primary fill of ditch slot [8250].	Window glass, likely 15 th century or later	8249a
		Vessel glass, likely 15 th century or later	8249b
8254	Primary fill of ditch slot [8255].	Post-medieval black glass bead	RT 150a
		Non-diagnostic shatter sherds	RT 150b
8259	Tertiary fill of ditch slot [8262].	Window glass, likely 15 th century or later	8259a

Context no	Context Description	Material	Bulk/ RT #
		Non-diagnostic shatter sherds	RT 152
Area 9			
9057	Fill of pit/ cremation [9058]. Possible cremation cemetery.	Natural stone	RT 197
Area 10			
10013	Slot cut within subsoil.	Non-diagnostic shatter sherds	RT 350
10033	Fill of pit/ posthole [10034]. Enclosure surrounding kiln, north side.	Non-diagnostic shatter sherd	RT 356
10049	Deposit. Spread overlying (10027) Kiln, (10028) ditched enclosure	Mix of natural stone and non-classifiable shatter sherds	RT 389
10115	Fill containing collapse of flue of kiln [10029]. Q2.	Natural stone	RT 5467
10117	Second fill of kiln [10029] Q3. Flue collapse.	Tiny non-diagnostic shatter sherd	RT 396
10159	Fill of pit [10160]. Post-built building.	Tiny non-diagnostic shatter sherd	RT 428
10167	Fill of posthole [10168]. Possible post-built structure.	Non-diagnostic vessel/ window fragment	10167
10192	Fill of posthole [10193]. Possible post-built structure.	Tiny non-diagnostic shatter sherd	RT 450
10200	Fill of ditch terminus [10201].	Tiny non-diagnostic shatter sherd	RT 456
10212	Fill of kiln [10029].	Tiny non-diagnostic shatter sherd	RT 485
Area 11			
11027	Fill of ditch [11028].	Tiny modern window glass	RT 170
Area 12			
12002	Subsoil	Late 19 th - early 20 th century intact Boots Fruit Saline bottle	12002
12077	Fill of ditch slot [12078]. L-shaped gully.	Small non-diagnostic fragment	RT 515
12186	Fill of ditch slot [12187].	Tiny non-diagnostic shatter sherds	RT 325
12216	Secondary fill of ditch slot [12218].	Natural stone	RT 310
12220	Secondary fill of ditch slot [12222].	Natural stone	RT 328
U/S	Unstratified	Modern window glass	U/S

Discussion and statement of significance

The Post-Roman glass assemblage recovered during the archaeological trial trenching and strip, map, and sample exercise at Stour Park comprises 10 fragments of window glass, one intact medicinal bottle, three bottle sherds including 2 wine bottle sherds, a stemware drinking glass sherd, a tiny hexagonal bead, 10 non-classifiable vessel sherds, and 25 tiny non-diagnostic shatter sherds.

The majority of the window glass assemblage most likely represents the remains of greenish-tinged triangular and diamond-shaped panes associated with leaded came and dateable from the Tudor period or later, from between the 15th to late 17th centuries. These small fragments most likely represent residual remains incorporated within the various ditch fills within Area 8.

The heavily fragmented non-classifiable vessel sherds are representative of residual materials incorporated within the various feature fills, while the numerous tiny shatter sherds as well as the tiny bead (RT 150a) may be intrusive within their contexts of discovery owing to their small size. Other finds retrieved, including the late 19th-early 20th century intact fruit saline medicinal bottle, the 19th century or later bottle glass fragments, and the 18th century or later stemware drinking glass fragment, represent the remains of domestic waste incorporated with the topsoil and subsoil layers across the site.

Recommended further work

The finds retrieved are considered to be of limited archaeological significance beyond a site-specific level and possess little scope for further research.

Conservation: No specialist conservation is required.

Specialist analysis: No further specialist analysis and recording is recommended.

Illustration: No illustration is merited.

Retention: The finds recommended for retention comprise: light blue aqua sauce or medicinal bottle neck and finish (8000a), the stemware drinking glass foot and knob (8000b), the greyish blue-green vessel body sherd (8174), the non-classifiable blue tinged sherd (RT 118), the non-classifiable greenish-yellow tinged sherd (RT 93), the window glass fragments (8192, 8207, 8241a-b, 8249a-b, 8259a, RT 143), the hexagonal bead (RT 150a), and the intact Boots Regesan Fruit Saline medicinal bottle (12002). The remaining finds are suggested for eventual discard.

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Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey, Wardell Armstrong

Introduction

Excavations recovered a total of 1175 fragments (92.131kg) of ceramic building material (CBM); entirely of post-medieval date, potentially spanning the Tudor period to the 18th century (Table B9) and generally in a moderately fragmented condition; as well as 1070 fragments (9117g) of daub that is highly fragmented (with a friable nature) and may be contemporary, if not related to preceding prehistoric to medieval activity. The CBM includes a low number of bricks that could feasibly have been produced from the mid 15th century onwards, but although they generally occur separately from the pre-dominant brick, it is more likely that both types represent contemporary activity in the mid 16th to 17th centuries. Similarly the peg tile may have currency into the 18th century, but is likely contemporary with the bricks. The only substantive groups of both peg tile and brick were contained in ditches, including field boundaries and drainage ditches, which is also true of the daub, except for a very high concentration recorded as a spread that may have been associated with a structure.

Date	CBM type	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Post-Medieval			
Tudor to 18 th C	Peg tile	664	37155
	Ridge tile	8	1706
	Misc. CBM (?peg tile)	208	310
Mid 15 th -Early 17 th C	Wall brick	13	11242
Mid/Late 16 th -17 th C	Wall Brick	282	41718
<i>Medieval to Post-Medieval</i>	Daub	1070	9117
Total		2245	101248

Table B9: Quantification of CBM

Methodology

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight with fabric samples examined at x20 magnification, extant dimensions measured and manufacturing traits recorded in free text; with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive.

The Assemblage

Roof tile (Peg and Ridge tile)

Peg tile was innovated in Britain in the medieval period, becoming relatively common by the 14th century; however the traits and standardization of the Peg tile (explored below) suggest that it is entirely of post-medieval origin, probably in the mid 16th to 18th centuries. The peg tile was manufactured in two fabrics, with the predominant type (659 fragments, 36.384kg) ranging from pale orange to mid red-orange in colour, and a rarer variant (8 fragments, 1706g) appearing with cream surfaces over a pinker/redder core. However the inclusions of both fabrics appear comparable and it is likely they represent variations in local clay. Both fabrics have inclusions of common to abundant limestone, some oolitic (generally <0.25mm, occasionally to 0.5mm) with common shell/dissolved voids (<3mm), and are very hard and well-fired.

A complete peg tile was recovered from the subsoil (Figure B1), with numerous larger fragments often with complete width and/or peg holes in ditches [8043], [8209], [8216], [8250], [8252] and [8262] supporting the theory that only a single variant of peg tile is represented. The peg tile have dimensions of 235x160x12mm with a fully rectangular, not tapered profile. They are typically flat or slightly warped with a finely sanded base, faint striations on the upper surface, and fairly regular edges with slight tips and occasional fingermarks where they were pressed into a former or handled. At one end of the tile are two diamond shape peg holes, 12mm wide and slightly tapered to the base, with a slight lip on the underside where they were cut when the tile was leather hard. The holes vary slightly in placement, clearly intended to be a 'centred' pair, but often pierced through closer to the corners; a degree of variation typical in pre-industrial products. The peg tile has an extensive distribution in ditches across the site, as well as in pits [8185] and [8188] possibly as packing material, as well as in peat (8041); but the principal small to modest groups of sherds were contained in ditches [8043], [8152], [8185], [8209], [8216], [8223], [8242], [8245], [8250], [8252] and [8262]; with further notable fragments from the topsoil and subsoil. This pattern of deposition likely represents the dumping of CBM in order to enhance drainage at the base of ditches, and is not of sufficient scale to be directly associated with demolition deposits related to an adjacent structure; but an association with a structure in the vicinity or the production of peg tile in the local landscape cannot be entirely discounted, while the relative homogeneity of the peg tile's technology and fabric suggests the various groups may have a fairly

narrow chronology within the mid 15th to 18th centuries. It may be pertinent that the peg tile appears slightly narrower than that specified in a statute of 1477 to regulate the dimensions of peg tile at 10.5x6.25x0.5 inches (267x159x13mm) and to dictate seasonal minima for the digging, turning and firing of clay (Drury 1981, 131 & 135); potentially indicating that the peg tile is consistent with production in the late 15th century or shortly thereafter, although degrees of local variation persisted throughout the post-medieval period.

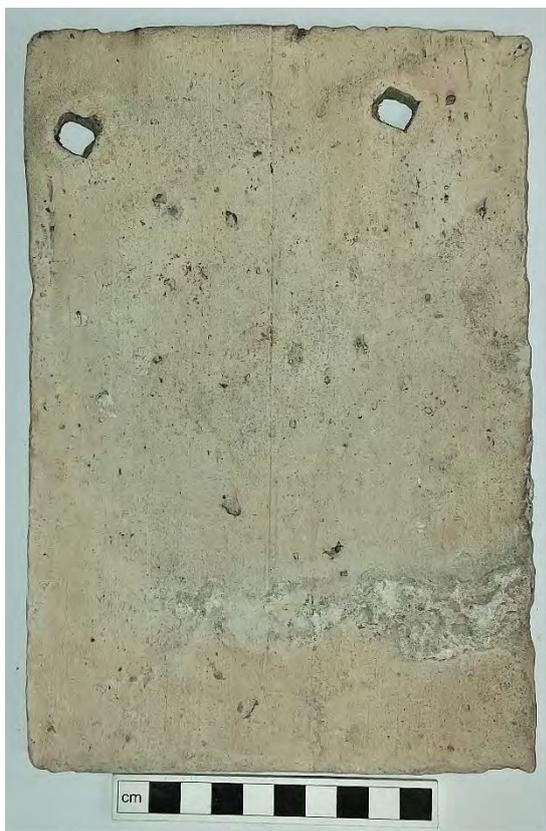


Figure B1: complete post-medieval peg tile recovered from the subsoil

In comparison to peg tile, ridge tile is rare with just eight fragments identified, all in the same fabric as the dominant peg tile, and present in ditches [8209], [8216], as well as the topsoil and subsoil, and all associated with substantive groups of peg tile. The ridge tile is closely comparable to the peg tile in that it is 12mm thick with a sanded base, but ridge tiles have steep slightly curved sides rising to a strongly curved crest; in total 140mm tall (full width not extant). There is no evidence that any of the ridge tile was glazed or decorated (not the peg tile), traits that may have been more common in the medieval period, and there is little doubt that these are a contemporary and associated product of the post-medieval peg tile.

Wall Bricks

A small proportion of the recovered bricks, a total of 13 fragments from ditches [8209], [8216], [8223] and [8226] may have a currency that commences in the mid 15th century and continues into the early 17th century, with the largest fragments including a complete brick in ditch [8216], and a small fragment associated with the more common red bricks only in ditch [8209]. These bricks were manufactured in a mid orange to red-orange fabric with inclusions of common white clay pellets (0.5-4mm) and sparse red clay pellets (0.5-10mm), a medium hardness and a slightly powdery to abrasive feel. These bricks have dimensions of 210x110x45mm (or 8 ¼ x 4 ½ x 1 ¾ inches) with a slightly rough base, slightly

creased faces, shallow sunken margins with fairly regular arrises. The traits exhibited are consistent with bricks produced in south-east England from the mid 15th to early 17th centuries (Tudor to early post-medieval periods) (Drury 1981, 94-96), but examples have been recorded in arches and vaults dating from the early 13th century at Allington Castle, Kent (Lloyd 1983, 89), therefore medieval origins cannot be entirely discounted.

The most common brick in the assemblage may be considered a red 'stock' brick common throughout the 16th to 17th centuries, although the varied preservation in this assemblage suggests they may have been reused. Fairly well-preserved but not complete fragments were recovered from ditches [8043], [8152], [8206], [8242], [8245], [8250], [8252], pits [8185] and [8188]; while rounded smaller fragments of rubble that were still identifiable as derived from these bricks were recovered from path/foundation/floor (10127), (10129), and kiln [10029], suggesting re-use as hardcore within make-up layers or lining. These bricks were manufactured in a red-orange fabric with inclusions of abundant well-sorted fine quartz (<0.25mm), occasional quartz, flint and red iron-rich grains (<0.5mm, rare to 10mm), and a medium hardness with a powdery to slightly abrasive feel. Based on the recorded fragments, this type had partial dimensions of ?x110x55mm (or ? x 4 ½ x 2 ¼ inches) with a flat base that exhibits common straw/organic impressions, regular to slightly creased faces, and slightly rounded regular arrises. It is notable that these dimensions are smaller than those dictated in an Act of Parliament of 1725 to standardise the size of bricks, and that the size and traits of this type are commensurate with examples at Sturry Court, Kent, built in the early 16th century, Old Charlton House and Broome Park, Denton, Kent, both built in the early/mid 17th century (Lloyd 1983, 91-2))

Daub

The assemblage included a fairly extensive albeit sparse distribution of daub, including a single significant group and seven small groups. The daub was comprised of pale orange-brown silty clay with incidental inclusions of medium-coarse quartz sand, chalk and flint; and did not appear to have been fired or exposed to any significant degree of heat. The most significant group comprised a total of 189 fragments (5.238kg) recovered from associated spreads (10049) and (10051), including relatively large fragments with a high incidence of extant wattle impressions and 'external' surfaces. These fragments indicate the daub was packed over parallel wattle rods (each c.10-15mm in diameter) to a thickness of approximately 40-40mm thick either side of the wattle, with surfaces then crudely smoothed or patted flat before being left to dry solid. Further wattle impressions were observed on single fragments of daub in pit [9044] and posthole [12181]. A total group of 294 small fragments (1309g) was recovered from associated postholes [10032], [10036], [10038], [10040], [10042], [10044] and [10046], potentially part of a small structure; while other small groups of daub were contained in posthole [7043], pit [9071], ditches [10083], [10158], and kiln [10030], including posthole [10218]. Elsewhere on the site, the sparse distribution of daub was limited to very small fragments, typically amounting to less than 100g per deposit. Wattle-and-daub construction such as this was in use from at least the early Bronze Age to Roman periods, if not earlier, but is a common component of medieval building and would have persisted, especially in rural areas into the 17th and 18th centuries, prior to the industrial revolution allowing a massive increase in the production and transport of bricks.

Research Potential

The CBM assemblage relates well to several themes identified as having research potential within the region, including the potential transition and change in building materials from the medieval to post-medieval periods, the types of structure of non-extant farms and domestic rural or estate buildings

(Barber 2013, 7, 9, 12-13), and the local production of handmade brick and tile (Barber 2013, 40-1). Similarly, the distribution may inform on the construction of a post-built structure that may be datable by associated pottery or artefacts to a period more specific than prehistoric to medieval. However, the deposition and/or re-deposition of brick and tile in ditches and field boundaries, and the resultant modest level of fragmentation may present a significant constraint on the level of potential analyses that can be applied to this assemblage. No further recording is required for this assemblage but specific research questions that may be addressed comprise:

- *Do the traits of the wall brick and peg tile allow them to be associated or paralleled with any local/regional kilns, workshops, structures or assemblages?*
- *Does spatial analysis allow for any focal points of deposition to be identified, that may be associated with structures on or close to the site?*

Proposed Tasks and Resources

Task	Description	Time
1	Library research into published and grey literature assemblages of brick and tile.	1 day
2	Sort data into groups according to phasing and distribution to identify any foci or patterns that may be associated with structures.	1 day
3	Expand discussion and conclusion for archive report	1 day
<i>Total</i>		<i>3 days</i>

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Fired Clay

Orlene McIlfratrick (freelance specialist on behalf of AOC Archaeology Group), Daniel Bateman and Dawn McLaren (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction

Fragments of fired clay totalling more than 130kg were recovered during archaeological evaluations undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group, at Stour Park, to the north side of Highfield Lane, Sevington, Kent (Site code: 34280). A total of 11 Areas (Areas 1-10 and 12) were opened across the site, with various levels of archaeological results, leading to additional extensions of Areas befitting the initial results. The material discussed in this report came from Area 10 and comprises the fired clay debris resulting from the destruction of three thermal installations. These structures/features, [10027], [10029] and [10030] were used for some form of thermal process, though not one requiring high temperatures

(see conclusion). Two types of structure are present, with [10027] having a completely different shape to [10029] and [10030]. Despite this, the fired clay material is largely identical in terms of fabric. This assessment is designed to quantify and characterise the fabric, form, construction and general types of fired clay recovered and will proceed to discuss it by feature (i.e., the structural aspects of the kiln/thermal installation structure) and context (finds location within the structure), in order to identify any particular fabric, firing and possible architectural patterns within the fragmentary remains.

The two large structures [10029] and [10030] are located relatively close together aligned north-south, with their flues facing towards each other. They appear to respect each other in placement, and this may indicate contemporaneous use. Structure [10027] lay north and slightly east of [10029] and is the smallest of the group. Its distinctly different layout and rather better preservation in terms of quantity of material may be chronologically significant, and may indicate either a different function or different date of use. The dating of features on the Stour Park site is wide ranging. Bronze Age features were encountered, along with Iron Age and Roman material. The thermal installations, and their fired clay remains are hypothesized to be of Roman date (AOC 2020) as they appear to have been dug into the Roman date subsoil and subsequently covered by subsoil, also hypothesized to date to the Roman period. Of the three, only the fills of [10029] was sampled for environmental assessment (Roy: 2022).

Methodology

The fired clay was hand collected on site on a context basis, and later washed free of adhering soil during post excavation. The dried material was then weighed using a Sartorius digital scale accurate to 0.01g, counted, measured using a carbon dial calliper accurate to 0.1mm, and described within a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet inventory. Some of the contexts were extremely densely strewn, and so they were separated into several bags, and this is reflected by multiple entries in the digital inventory, and therefore collated in the table below (Table B10). The full inventory of the fired clay is presented as an accompanying Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet and is summarised here as Appendix A.

Assessment for specific aspects of fabric and structure have been carried out macroscopically with the aid of a hand lens only.

Recommendations for further work, including any scientific analysis, illustration or conservation will be discussed towards the end of the report.

The Assemblage

The Stour Park fired clay assemblage weighs 133.5kg, totalling approximately 6986 fragments. The fragments were recovered in association with, meaning from the fills of, the three thermal installations, and represent the superstructure and/or lining, destroyed during collapse and subsequent intervention. The bulk of the fragments are abraded, amorphous and lack any particular distinguishing features, such as a variety of types of fabric. Some fragments of the debris do have surviving features which pertain to the construction methods employed in the building to the structures such as withy impressions. The distribution of the recovered debris will be addressed and discussed, and any significance it may suggest. This will be done for each of the three sets of fired clay remains.

Structure [10027]

Structure [10027] is of ovoid, slightly 'waisted' figure-of-eight form aligned east-west on the long axis, with the proposed flue and stoke-pit facing east. It measures 1.80x 3.20m. Of the three thermal installations, the contexts relating to the collapse/destruction of this, the smallest one, yielded the best-

preserved fragments of fired clay. The quantity of larger pieces, the overall lower intensity of abrasion, and the number of fragments bearing with impressions etc. makes it the most informative subdivision of the assemblage. Just over 119kg of fired clay was retrieved. The retrieved material came from six contexts; (10113), (10130), (10131), (10138) and (10139) and the kiln lining feature {10136} associated with the thermal installation, the weights of material per context can be read in Table B10 below. The inventory indicates that all quadrants were excavated under the context number (10113) for 'masonry' which appears to comprise the fired clay which is identifiable as super-structural elements, such as lining, from each quadrant. Thusly, (10113) alone produced just over 81.8kg of that material. It was excavated in 8 sub-divisions labelled 'Quadrants' and identified A-H. These sub-divisions covered the 'firing chamber' (10133), a short 'flue' (10134) and the 'stoke-pit' (10135). The author must note that the given information, nor the fired clay material, supports or refutes such subdivision. Lenses of charcoal-rich fill were found in both (10133) and (10135) (contexts (10131) and (10132) respectively), underlying the fired-clay fragment rich fill (10130), which show presence of burned wood fuel in both 'premises' of the structure. Feature {10136} is the fired clay superstructure of the installation, comprised of red hard-fired clay. Fragments of this were retrieved and are discussed below.

The depth of the fills in the dug-in portion of the installation is recorded as 50cm in the proposed firing chamber, and 55cm in the stoke pit. The fill of the kiln, comprising contexts (10130), (10131), (10138) and (10139), are layers identified as resulting from the collapse of the structure yielded a combined quantity just exceeding 33 kg of fired clay. (10130), the uppermost of these layers was the most productive, probably predominantly material from the upper part of the structure or 'roof', while the underlying (10131) yielded much less material, but also in this context, the soil fill contained a quantity of charcoal. Unfortunately, the homogeneity of the material, and the lack of any distinct pattern in the fill does not allow a postulation of a model of collapse for the structure.

Fabric: Only one fabric, fabric 1, was identified. It is a silty, yet very slightly sandy, most likely alluvial clay. Very few inclusions can be observed, and these are limited to small rounded pebbles of a fine-grained white stone, which may be thermally decayed coarse limestone, predominantly smaller than 5x5mm, and with very occasional pebbles of 10x7mm. Most fragments show no inclusions of this kind, and can be considered accidental natural inclusions in the raw clay. The soils and sediments assessment report (Roy 2022) notes that the Atherfield Clay formation, a cretaceous bedrock, is mapped south of the site, and that the superficial deposits of the site are alluvial clays, silts, sands and gravels deposited in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was predominantly riverine. This alluvial origin is reflected in the texture of the clay used for the construction of the thermal installations. No voids from organic inclusions were observed. The temperature to which it was heated did not vitrify any components of the fragments, indicating no temperatures in excess of around 750-800 degrees, and more likely in the 650-750 range. The resulting 'ceramic' is porous, crumbly, easily abraded, and with a powdery surface texture akin to baking soda. The colour varies from pale apricot to a deeper orange. Occasionally a grey reduced core or patchy grey areas can be observed within the fragments.

Form: All the fragments are abraded, most of these to an amorphous shape varying from crumb-sized to palm sized pieces. Some fragments with a smoothed surface can be distinguished, however none of the fragments can be identified as kiln furniture or supports. The conclusion is that this material is structural, either from the superstructure of the kiln or installation, such as a dome or vault, and from the clay-plastered lining.

Some indication of the construction methods can be drawn from the presence of withy impressions. The assemblage from this structure was the only one of the three to produce such readily identifiable traces. There are around 24-30 fragments, better preserved, taken predominantly from quadrants C and D of (10113) which show round-wood withy impressions congruent with a woven structure, resembling wattle, with both vertical and horizontal impressions. Measured diameters range from 8-15mm, with occasional larger shafts up to 19mm, which are more likely to be the horizontal portion of the framework. Where possible to measure, the horizontal placement of the withies was close, at only around 19-11mm distant one from the next, and using more consistent thickness of withy, of 8-12mm. No bark impressions or striations remain. A few of the best impressions are angled, indicating the lay of the weave of withies. Two fragments show the flat, ledge-shaped, right-angle impression left by a flat/squared baton or lath, though where this may have been employed structurally is unclear. Additionally, around 10 fragments from Structure [10027] context (10113), which appears to contain substantial quantities of kiln lining fragments, also show the impressions from some form of loosely woven textile such as sack-cloth on one smoothed side of each fragment (Figure B2-4).



Figure B2: Photograph of a fragment of fired clay from (10113) Quad E, structure [10027], showing textile impressions.



Figure B3: Detail of a fragment of fired clay from (10113) Quad E, structure [10027], showing textile impressions.



Figure B4: Photograph of a fragment of fired clay from (10113) Quad F, structure [10027], showing textile impressions.

Inspection of the impressions shows a simple lattice weave, made from twine/yarn which has a round cross-section and must have been quite stiff in order to leave such distinct preserved curvature in the wet clay. This seems to be external, as the opposite side shows withy impressions indicating the direction of application for the clay to the woven scaffold of withies. It should be added that these were the only pieces with clear 'surfaces' and very few other pieces with conclusive surfaces could be identified with surety in the whole assemblage. The assessment of the structure identifies their location as internal to the firing chamber, in Quadrants A, B, C and D. This was also where the bulk of the fired clay was retrieved. Quadrants E and F are located in the flue, crossing into the stoke pit, and Quadrants

H and G contain the remaining stoke pit area. These quadrants also produced large quantities of fired clay from the collapse, though in general their state of preservation was much poorer, with the fragments being smaller and more abraded, and only a very small number of fragments with surviving distinguishable withy impressions. A group of 39 fragments from feature <10136>, identifiable as coming from the fired clay lining of the structure, came from along the firing chamber, flue and stoke pit. This shows that the construction of the various areas of the installation seems to have been homogenous in terms of method and material.

Inspection on a quadrant-by-quadrant basis of the material does not show that there was any significant difference in firing temperature across the assemblage. One would expect remains from inside the proposed firing chamber to be more highly fired, however this does not appear to be the case, and the consistency of colouring, hardness and atmospheric indicators such as prevalence of reduced versus oxidized fragments, suggests that no part of the structure was exposed to particularly high temperatures or uncontrolled atmosphere relative to the other areas.

Structure [10029]

This structure [10030], is the first of two structures on the site which seem to share the same extremely elongated design and construction methodology. The whole structure stretches to 8.40m and 1.5m at its widest point. It is aligned slightly north-east - south-west, with the 'flue' facing south-west. The internal depth of the fill reached 80cm at the deepest area. The retrieved material came from thirteen contexts; (10053), (10054), (10114), (10115), (10116), (10117), (10118), (10120), (10170), (10173), (10196), (10237) and (10238). The structure is hypothesized to represent a single phase of use, and to be part of the second industrial phase of the site (AOC 2020)

The structure's fill was partitioned into 12 'quadrants', from which 6 were excavated and fired clay retrieved: Context (1053) lay uppermost and covered all quadrants. Q1(10054) and (10116), Q2(10115), Q3(10117) and (10114), Q4(10118) and (10172), Q5(10170), and Q6 (10173) and (10196). Contexts (10237) and (10238) relate to the northernmost end of the structure. The lower fill, (10196) and (10114), which contained varying quantities of fired clay debris overlaid a masonry base which was made of the local ragstone, and clearly heat affected. Mid-level fills (10117), (10118), (10170), (10173) were less plentiful in fired clay fragments. The context reports indicate that these fills were frequently heterogeneous, and may have been the result of rapid back-filling of the collapsed structure. It should be noted that the soils and silt assessment included a kubiena tin sample from Q3, which straddled the (10114)-(10117) boundary, and that a distinct horizon could be observed between this upper and lower fills, both of which contained fired clay. In terms of fired clay fragment retrieval: (10114) contained 33 fragments versus (10117) with 23. Likewise upper and lower fills of Q6, (10173) and (10196) show little difference in fragment retrieval with 21 and 13 respectively. The uppermost fills (10053) and (10054) were the richest in fragments, with 135g and 436g collected respectively.

Not all of the contexts named as 'fills' in the report are represented by fired clay fragments, and those are not included here. Quadrants 4, 3, 2, and 1 relate to the flue, while Quadrants 5 and 6 relate to the firing chamber. Context (10199) located in Quadrant 5, yielded quantities of lime mortar, potentially related to the construction, and therefore included in the collapse debris, and not discussed here. Structure [10029] is the least represented in terms of recovered fired clay material, with only about 2kg retrieved for assessment. For distribution by context see Table B10 below. The fragments are in particularly poor condition. The northernmost part of the structure was subject to later interference in the form of a large rubbish pit dug into the area that was identified during the excavation as the stoke-

pit and part of the firing chamber. The backfill of this pit was included in the assessment of fired clay. Two further intrusions in the form of animal burials were recorded in Quadrant 6, (10231) and (10232). As a result the disturbance of the original layering in this area disrupted the layer of collapse debris (10197), and potentially (10196) above it where fired clay was recovered, and this should be noted as a possible reason why the latter context – while in the ‘heart’ of the structure, yielded so little fired clay (8.2g). Beside and beneath the fill contexts lie the features identified as fired clay lining. They are: N end = {10234}, Q6 = {10171}, Q5= {10174}, Q4= {10124}, Q3= {10123} and {10120}, Q2= {10122} and Q1= {10141} which together combine to form the encompassing {10119}. According to the inventory, no in-situ samples of this material were extracted for analysis or comparison with the retrieved fragments in the fill contexts.

Fabric: Only one fabric, fabric 1, was identified. It is the same silty, yet very slightly sandy clay used in the construction of [10027]. The same pattern of infrequent, rare white stone grits or small rounded pebbles is maintained, with the same range of sizes. Once again, most fragments show no inclusions at all, and there are no voids indicating organic material added as temper. Additionally, the fired clay was exposed to the same range of temperatures - likely in the 650–750-degree range. The porous ceramic resulting from the firing of the ‘kiln’ is particularly susceptible to abrasion, as evidenced by the very poor quality of the collected fragments and their powdery, crumbly and highly water-absorbent characteristics. The colour varies from predominantly pale apricot to a deeper orange, and some fragments show grey, reduced patches.

Form: All the fragments are abraded, amorphous, and most are small and a good deal of the material is less than 40x30x20mm in size. A goodly portion of the material can only be recorded as ‘crumb fragments’. Very few fragments survive in good enough condition to identify any construction detail such as withy impressions. One fragment from (10170) is an exception. Records of the excavation mean it is possible to distinguish kiln-pit lining from other parts of the collapsed upper structural areas. The context (10136) was recorded as ‘kiln lining’. Under inspection this material is very different to distinguish from the material which must relate to the other structural elements due to the highly fragmentary nature of the retrieved material. The recorded plan of the structure under excavation shows that the whole interior space contained a thin lining of fired clay, noted as ‘reddish lining’.

Structure [10030]

The second of two structures on the site which seem to share the same extremely elongated design and construction methodology. The alignment runs north-east south-west with the whole structure stretching to 8.50m while only approximately 1.80m wide. The flue faces north-east. The internal depth of the fill reached from 50cm in the proposed firing chamber, to 80cm at the deepest area which may have been the stoke pit in the original structure but was subsequently deepened by the intrusion of the later rubbish pit feature [10222]. The retrieved material came from seventeen fill and collapse contexts; (10055), (10056), (10057), (10074), (10075), (10077), (10121), (10175), (10177), (10178), (10183), (10205), (10225), (10226), (10227) and (10229). See Table B10.

Almost 8.5 kg of material was collected from the interior of the collapsed structure. This material includes the lining and walls, and the upper area of the construction. Once again, the bulk of the fragments are in very poor condition. The southernmost part of the structure was subject to later interference from the large rubbish pit [10222] dug into, and extending beyond the original boundary of the area that was identified during the excavation as the ‘stoke-pit’ and part of the ‘firing chamber’. The pit-cut was then backfilled with material including a large rock (10228). It must be noted that no working

could be observed on this rock, and its deposition or discard in this pit does not appear to have been related to the structure's original use. The backfill of this pit was not included in the assessment of fired clay.

As with [10029] the structure's fill was partitioned into ten 'quadrants', however it appears that no quadrant sampling technique was subsequently followed, as no further reference to quadrants is used in the logging of the fired clay retrieved. Furthermore, the sketches provided by the excavating archaeologists in the site record sheets appear to show layer by layer (context-based) excavation across the whole fill of the structure.

The upper fill of the kiln comprising of context (10055) and (10056) produced only 337.5g of fired clay, very fragmented. It was the deeper layers of collapse, (10121), (10175) and immediately below that, (10183), that produced the majority of the fired clay that was retrieved, with the latter two of those contexts in direct association with each other located in the mid-section of the structure's 'floor plan', combining a yield of just over 2.9kg.

The kiln structure was subdivided as features thus: (10225) partly fired mud brick wall, (10226) unfired and partly fired clay lining, and (10229) unfired mud wall. According to the inventory, a small quantity of the material in the retrieval came from these features. The fired clay from these context is homogenous with the material from the fills. The base, or floor of the installation was only visible in the 'firing chamber' identified as feature (10235), and not in the flue. This floor was formed from compact crushed fired clay and showed evidence of much burning which was visible in the form of scorching and deeper shades of red in the fired clay. The manner of collapse of this chamber indicates that the ceiling/roof of the structure fell first, after which the walls folded inwards over it burying the roof collapse material. The resulting hole was then filled. The quantities of fired clay are so homogenous in form and fabric that confirmation of this cannot be confirmed materially, and the excavator's observations of the layering must be the guide to the manner of the structure's demise. The fired clay from the 'firing chamber' came from overlaying fill contexts - here listed from highest to lowest (10175), (10183), (10205) and (10206) the quantities of retrieved material are listed accordingly in Table B10, and shows an interruption in the otherwise consistent pattern of fired clay density, with upper fills (10121) 2255.8g, (10175) 1665.2g, middle fills (10183) 1237.8g and (10205) 21.3g, and lowest (10206) 1536.6g. Note that (10205) shows a significant reduction in retrieved fragments which seems to confirm the observations recorded for (10205) as an accumulated deposit, described as 'thick' lying on top of the original chamber floor of the structure, it may represent accumulation of soil etc. prior to the full collapse of the structure – hence the very small quantity of fired clay retrieved (AOC 2020). It was also subject to interference in the form of the cutting out of the large pit [10222] at a later date. No inventory of collected material is listed for the crushed clay layer (10236) which directly overlay the base {10235}, despite its description as 'crushed clay fill'.

Fabric: As with the other two thermal installations, only one fabric, fabric 1, was identified. It is the same silty, yet very slightly sandy clay used in the construction of [10027] and [10029]. The recurrence of this clay use pattern suggests that this is an easily available clay type in the locality, and either these three structures are roughly contemporary, or that this source was productive and prominent enough to be exploited over an extended period. The author need not repeat therefore, the inclusion, colour, firing or tempering patterns observed as they are the same as those already described above.

Form: Large quantities of amorphous heavily abraded fragments of various sizes and shapes, mostly sub-rounded. Much of the material is less than 4x3x2cm in size. Oxidisation levels vary. As with the retrieved material from [10029], a large portion of the material from the majority of the most productive

contexts can only be recorded as 'crumb fragments'. No fragments survive in good enough condition to identify any construction detail, and there are no pieces with withy impressions. Record sheets from the excavation allow some rudimentary identification of kiln-pit lining from other parts of the collapsed upper structural areas. The features (10226) and (10229) are recorded as 'kiln lining' and 'yellow lining' respectively. As with the described contexts from [10029] this material is mostly indistinguishable from the other fragments retrieved from the collapsed fill, except that it is the layer of fired clay encountered marking the bounds of the structure, indicating its function as the clay-plaster lining. A few fragments from these contexts have what could be termed a surface, though having abraded away to varying degrees. Material from feature (10226) comprises 223 (1.9kg) heavily abraded fragments of fired clay with varying levels of smoothing and a number containing withy impressions (Thickness: 8.6 -12.0mm) running parallel from one another, indicating that the lining was indeed supported by a woven network of withies. The cross-sectional plan of the proposed firing chamber indicates that the fill containing crushed fired clay was deposited in lenses after the manner of a collapse, which was then backfilled. Feature (10225) is an interesting structural feature of the installation, being composed of mud bricks. These bricks, though in poor condition could be measured at 60x30cm, corresponding in size to the Roman 'bipedalis' type, which when unfired themselves, were used for *opus latericium* masonry. Unfortunately, none of these bricks were available at the time of assessment to be visually inspected and so confirmation of a Roman or Romano-British origin cannot be given here. It appears to have been part of the superstructure delineating the walls of the northernmost end of the flue and may have extended higher. Whether or not this construction was used to create a barrel vault type of roof cannot be determined, although the excavator notes the presence of a clay/earthen/degraded mud brick 'plinth' as part of (10229) at the beginning of the flue, which may have supported such a roof. The bricks remained only low temperature fired from their use as part of the installation. Given that it appears to abut, or perhaps take over from, the clay lining and superstructure here, it may be some form of extension, replacement or repair.

Summary of the contextual units

Feature no.	Feature description	Context no.	Context description	Material	Mass (g)
10027	Thermal installation	10113	Kiln Quads. A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H	Fired clay	81,813.7
		10130	Upper rubble fill in 10133 10134 10135. Quad G	Fired clay	25,949.2
		10131	Charcoal fill in 10133	Fired clay	5980.9
		10136	fired clay lining of kiln 10027	Fired clay	4105.9
		10138	Backfill of const. cut south side. Quad E	Fired clay	991.1
		10139	Backfill of const. cut north side. Quad F	Fired clay	755.4

Feature no.	Feature description	Context no.	Context description	Material	Mass (g)
10029	Thermal installation	10053	Backfill of kiln	Fired clay	134.7
		10054	Upper fill of kiln Quad 1	Fired clay	436
		10114	Fill containing collapse of flue Quad 3	Fired clay	14.9
		10115	Fill containing collapse of flue Quad 2	Fired clay	675
		10116	Fill containing collapse of flue Quad 1	Fired clay	110.4
		10117	2nd fill of kiln Quad 3	Fired clay	14.3
		10118	2nd fill of kiln Quad 4	Fired clay	25.7
		10120	Kiln flue	Fired clay	571
		10170	4th fill of kiln Quad 5	Fired clay	24.2
		10173	4th fill of kiln Quad 6	Fired clay	16
		10196	Fill of Kiln Quad 6	Fired clay	8.2
		10237	fill of kiln	Fired clay	13.8
		10238	clay structure lining {10119}	Fired clay	121.3
		Total			2,165.5
Feature no.	Feature description	Context no.	Context description	Material	Mass (g)
10030	Thermal installation	10055	Upper Fill of Kiln	Fired clay	139.3
		10056	Upper Fill of Kiln	Fired clay	198.2
		10057	Fill of Kiln	Fired clay	255.2
		10074	Fill of kiln	Fired clay	115.3
		10075	Fill of kiln	Fired clay	121.7
		10077	Fill of kiln	Fired clay	83.2

		10121	Collapse of kiln	Fired clay	2255.8
		10175	Collapse of kiln	Fired clay	1665.2
		10177	Collapse of kiln	Fired clay	158.6
		10178	Fill under 10176	Fired clay	28.9
		10183	Fill under 10175	Fired clay	1237.8
		10205	Fill of kiln	Fired clay	21.3
		10206	Fill of kiln	Fired clay	62.7
		Feature [10225]	Bricks, side of kiln	Fired clay	427
		10226	Clay lining kiln	Fired clay	1536.6
		10227	Fill of kiln	Fired clay	95
		10229	Yellow lining	Fired clay	1.6
		Total			8,403.4

Table B10: Distribution of fired clay associated with structures [10027], [10029] and [10030] by context

Discussion and statement of significance

The fired clay assemblage from structures [11027], [10029] or [11030] are all fairly typically of what would be expected from thermal installations (such as ovens or kilns) from archaeological contexts, deriving from either the interior lining of the kiln itself or from its collapsed superstructure. The lack of any diagnostic kiln furniture means that there is a limit to how much can be inferred from the fired clay assemblage alone. Rather, it is comprised predominantly of either amorphous low-fired clay, fired clay with partial smoothed original surfaces or those with warty impressions attesting to use in association with a wattle framework, all of which are typical of lining and superstructure fragments from kilns and ovens of later prehistoric through to post-medieval date.

Given that none of the fired clay from [11027], [10029] or [11030] has been exposed to very high temperatures such as would be the case in a pottery kiln, or a kiln used for ceramic building materials, and given the absence of wasters, kiln furniture fragments or indeed the internal fixtures which would be expected from a Roman, Romano-British or Early Medieval ceramic producing kiln (Swan 1984), it is proposed that some other more domestic function should be sought for these thermal installations. Nor can any connection of these structures with metalworking activities be offered. Not only are the form of these structures completely different to what would be anticipated for an iron smelting furnace, iron smithing hearth or even a refractory kiln for the refinement of non-ferrous metal production (Dungworth 2015) but the quantity of metalworking slags (A Morrison, 2022) recovered during excavation is extremely limited implying that although ironworking was taking place at Stour Park, the activity appears to be either very small scale, episodic and/or focused in an area beyond the trench edges of the excavation area. Additionally, the thoroughness of the firing of the clay from [11027], [10029] or [11030] despite the low temperature suggests prolonged exposure to the heat over either

many hours, or many firings, or both. It is also possible that the upper range of temperatures which would result in fired clay such as this, came from hot fires set in the main chamber periodically to sterilise the space from moulds and food-spoiling bacteria, much as is still practiced in Eastern Europe today during the process of home-curing pork.

In the case of [10029] and [10030] in particular, the noticeably elongated flue ('stoke chamber') may have been specifically to allow lengths of greenwood or similar fuels to dry out slowly and burn at a lower temperature in order to produce controlled quantities of heat and/or smoke in the main chamber to smoke meat, fish and game, or simply to thoroughly dry it (in a climate which is more conducive to moulding than drying). During use, a lapse in attention while attending the smoking or drying could lead to conflagration of wooden withy racking and foodstuffs, and destruction of the installation.

Grain drying kilns, or indeed maltings, two other possible uses for the structures, are frequent finds in the archaeological record, and have long spans of use from prehistory to the post-medieval period (Rikett 2021), including examples such as the medieval kilns from Warren Lane, Ashford, Kent with their distinctive pear-shaped or figure-of-eight configuration (Atkins and Webster 2012). Such structures, much as with the smokehouse model, most often have a domed roof constructed by plastering a woven 'basket' frame with clay or daub, leaving space for a vent. As little remains of the flue walls for any of the structures, their height (or that of the main chamber roofs) cannot be determined from studying the retrieved material, it is simply too fragmentary and with no clear indication of what proportion of the original structures are represented in each case. Therefore, it is not possible to say if entry and exit to these structures was possible after construction was complete, or by what means.

The pair of structures [10029] and [10030] are so similar in form but set at opposing orientations that this suggests that their function was the same, however, the lack of stratigraphic relationship between the two features means that it is not possible to determine if these were contemporary or represent sequential replacements. Structure [10027] is sufficiently different in form and construction to perhaps hint at a different use or period of construction. The use of sack cloth or loose weave fabric to cover the superstructure of [10027] (as evidenced by impressions on fragments of fired clay recovered from context (10113)) merits note. Whether the application of textile to the exterior of the kiln or oven was for aesthetic or practical purposes is unclear and this practice may benefit from further investigation.

The chronology of use of these structures based on the form of the fired clay alone is also elusive. As already described, the elongated form of structures [10029] and [10030] are unusual and, as a result, cannot be readily ascribed to typical thermal installations of a particular period or date. On the basis of stratigraphy alone, as already described, [10029] and [10030] are probably Roman in date as they are sandwiched between two deposits, both thought to be Roman in date. It has also been noted that Roman bricks have been used in the construction of [10030] which suggests that this structure has a *terminus post quem* of circa. 1st century AD. The date range of the finds within contexts overlying structure may assist in providing a *terminus ante quem* which will narrow down the date bracket for the construction, use and abandonment of the structures.

Recommended further work

The fired clay assemblage from structures [11027], [10029] or [11030] are all fairly typically of what would be expected from thermal installations (such as ovens or kilns) from archaeological contexts, deriving from either the interior lining of the kiln itself or from its collapsed superstructure. However, there are a few aspects to the assemblage that merit further consideration and analysis, and any

publication on the site and its artefacts would benefit from a summary of this material being included in the report.

Further research into Roman and medieval thermal structures would also be beneficial to allow closer identification of the function of each of these thermal installations and to compliment the data provided here. As just described, we can rule out certain possibilities for their use but defining their exact function remains elusive.

Avenues into a better understanding of these structures include the following tasks: further works recommended include:

- *Targeted re-examination of a representational sample of the fired clay fragments with textile impressions (from context 10113) by a textile specialist may help to provide a closer identification of the type of fabric used and its date;*
- *Research into published Roman and Medieval roadside settlements in Kent and the surrounding counties to determine if any parallels for structures [10029] and [10030] can be identified (e.g., consultation with regional journal articles and monographs);*
- *Cross reference contexts associated with fired clay with ecofact assessment data from the contexts related to structures [10027], [10029] and [10030], particularly 'primary' floor levels, where possible. This may help to determine the function of these structures.*
- *Cross reference contexts associated with fired clay with artefact assessment data from the contexts related to structures [10027], [10029] and [10030], particularly 'primary' floor levels (rather than backfill). This may help to determine a) the function of these structures and b) the chronology of their construction, use and abandonment.*
- *The date of these structures remains elusive. Stratigraphic information implies that these thermal installations are Roman in date but this is yet to be proven. Three approaches could be taken to try to refine this. Can the associated artefact assemblage (such as the pottery) help to refine this? Is there sufficient in situ carbonised organics from primary floor levels within all three structures ([10027], [10029] and [10030]) to allow for C14 dating of each? Can any similar structures from Kent or the southeast more generally be identified to help refine the function/date?*

Following further analysis and research, an updated report on the fired clay is recommended.

Conservation: the fired clay assemblage is stable and packed in museum-standard archive boxes. No conservation is recommended.

Illustration: Presuming that the site will go to publication, a suite of photographs and hand-drawn illustrations detailing fragments with withy and textile impressions from [10027] and [10029] would be essential. Appendix A includes specific samples which are considered good candidates for illustration from which a representational sample should be extracted. An artist's impression of the structures may also be valuable as an aid to visualisation (not costed for here).

Discard/Retention: Given the amorphous and abraded nature of the assemblage, it is recommended that the fragments undergo strict selection. Only withy and textile marked fragments are of interest or possible future use, along with a representative few fragments per context for the site archive. Appendix A provides a list which may be consulted for this purpose, and the whole inventory is provided in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

Requirement	Estimate
Selection of textile impressed fragments from (10113) for examination by a textile specialist	2 hours
Textile impressed fragments: Transport to and return from specialist	External cost. est. £30 + VAT x 2 = £60 + VAT
Examination and report by textile specialist (e.g. Textile Research Laboratory, York)	External: 2 days (approx.. £400 + VAT)
Selection of withy marked fragments from [10027] and [10029] for illustration and publication photography	2 hours
Photography of withy impressed fragments [10027]	2 hours
Cross-reference with environmental assessment report to determine if sufficient secure carbonised organics survive within primary levels in [10027], [10029] and [10030] to allow for C14 dates	4 hours
If sufficient carbonised organics survive, selection of suitable samples for C14 dating [by enviro specialist]	3 hours
If sufficient carbonised organics survive from secure in situ contexts within [10027], [10029] and [10030], 1 x C14 date per structure	External cost, £315 + VAT per sample
Cross-reference with artefact assessment inventories to establish character and date of artefacts associated with [10027], [10029] and [10030]	6 hours (2 hours per structure)
Research into regional comparanda by referencing regional and wider existing publications	Max 2 days
Revision of report on fired clay associated with Structures [10027], [10029] and [10030] for inclusion in publication	2 days

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Clay Tobacco Pipe

Kylie McDermott (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction

A very small assemblage of 4 (37g) clay tobacco pipe fragments were recovered by hand during archaeological investigations at Stour Park (SPS20). The pipe fragments have been assessed for this report.

This report aims to spot date the assemblage as well as consider the significance of the material in line with regional and wider frameworks.

Methodology

The pipe assemblage has been quantified, using number of fragments, weight (g) and type (bowl, stem or mouthpiece). The bowls have been identified and spot dated using the Atkinson & Oswald (1969), London typology.

The clay pipe assemblage has been recorded in line with Guidelines for the Recovery and Processing of Clay Tobacco Pipes from Archaeological Projects (Higgins, 2017) on an Excel spreadsheet, to be included with the final site archive.

The Bowls

Only two clay tobacco pipe bowls were recovered from site, dating from mid-17th to late-18th century. Both bowls are incomplete, with no decoration or makers marks present.

The earliest bowl (14g) identified is likely an AO9 type (c.1680-1710) from topsoil context (8001). The second bowl (17g), recovered from the primary fill (8249) of a ditch (8250) is likely an AO6 type dating to c. 1660-1680.

Stems and Mouthpieces

One fragment of stem (3g) and one fragment of a mouthpiece (3g) were recovered from context (8043). Neither contain any decoration.

Potential and significance

The assemblage is small and offers little archaeological value beyond dating evidence. The assemblage is not of regional or local significance.

Recommendations for further work

None

Recommendation for illustration

None

References

Higgins, D. (2017) Guidelines for the Recovery and Processing of Clay Tobacco Pipes from Archaeological Projects, National Pipe Archive, University of Liverpool

Atkinson D. & Oswald, A. (1969) London Clay Tobacco Pipes, Journal of the British Archaeological Association, Third Series, XXXII, 171-227.

Metals

Richard Henry, freelance specialist

Introduction

This report assesses metal finds recovered during excavation by AOC Archaeology at Stour Park (MOJO). It discusses the composition of the assemblage and the identification and dating of the objects within it, as well as looking briefly at their contexts within the site. It then assesses the significance and potential of the assemblage and makes recommendations for further work. At present limited spot dating is available, further refinement of the dates presented here and their typological groups will require potential revision at the analysis stage.

Methodology

The metal finds were examined with the aid of x-radiography. Counts of objects and fragment were recorded; when multiple refitting pieces of the same object were identified within the same bag, these are recorded as one object. The resulting data were recorded in the accompanying spreadsheet (see Appendices I and II for abridged versions for the spreadsheets relating to the metal objects and the nails/hobnails).

The Assemblage

A total of 265 metal objects were identified. 125 of these were iron nails and nail fragments (see Appendix II), whilst 140 were other types of objects made from iron, copper alloy and lead (see Appendix I). The whole assemblage weighed 4009g with nails accounting for 741g of this weight.

Copper Alloy

A total of 11 objects within the assemblage are made from copper alloy, weighing 29.9g. These objects include a buckle, two brooches, two strap ends and a possible finger ring. Stylistically, the identifiable copper-alloy objects are consistent with a Late Iron Age, Roman or early-medieval date, some finds present more refined dates within this range.

The copper alloy finds have been grouped broadly by functional category as defined by Nina Crummy (1983) based on the artefactual assemblage from Colchester and are discussed in these groups below. These consist of objects of personal adornment and objects of an uncertain function.

Objects of personal ornament:

Seven objects of personal adornment have been recovered consisting of brooches, buckles, strap ends, a possible hair pin and a fragment of a pin. These date from the late Iron Age to the Roman period as well as the early-medieval period. It is possible that <RF 87> is a later medieval strap end. One fragment consists of an element of the shaft of a hair pin or the pin from a bow brooch from context (7040).

Brooches:

Two incomplete bow brooches were recorded from Stour Park. <RF 24> from context (10014) is an incomplete bow brooch of probable late Iron Age to early Roman date such as a Langton Down type where the sprung pin is encased within the wings. Only the wings and upper section of the bow survive, the x-ray reveals elements of the sprung pin survive within the encased wings.

<RF 1> from context (6140) consists of two connecting fragments of a Roman bow brooch which has broken through being twisted. Only the lower section of the bow which is decorated with a raised vertical ridge and the complete foot survives.

Buckles:

A copper-alloy buckle and plate <RF 9> were recovered from the burial of Sk6167. The buckle is D shaped with an elaborate shield on pin. The buckle plate is produced from a sheet of copper-alloy folded around the pin bar. It tapers from the buckle to the tip where it is perforated to hold two circular rivets. There are two triangular openwork sections at the tip of the plate. The buckle plate is decorated with multiple ring and dot motifs, the reverse is undecorated. No clear parallel for the distinctive plate is recorded in Marzinzik (2003) or Macgregor and Bolick (1993). This combined with the shield on pin suggests the buckle is a continental type. It is advised that strontium isotope analysis is undertaken on this individual.

A fragment of copper-alloy sheet with a minimum of two perforations is possible part of a sheet metal buckle plate or a vessel repair <RF 195>. It was recovered from context (8174) and has been tentatively assigned to the personal adornment category.

Strap ends:

A copper-alloy early-medieval strap end of Thomas (2003) Class B Type 1 <RF 158> which stylistically dates to c. AD 750-1100 from context (10015). The top of the strap end has a split terminal with two circular perforations. The tip narrows to the tip. It is decorated with three sets of three horizontal grooves. At the tip are two concave recesses which form a zoomorphic depiction of a snout.

A second probable strap end <RF 87> was recovered from context (8171). It appears to be constructed from a single sheet of copper-alloy which has been folded and held together with a single rivet. The object has been gilded on the front face.

Finger ring:

An almost complete copper-alloy probable finger ring <RF 13> from context (9034). Broadly 90% of the ring survives, it is circular in cross section.

Objects of an uncertain function:

Three copper-alloy objects of uncertain function are recorded. These consist of <RF 148> from context (8251) which is a small pin that could be a clothes pin. These pins often have wound wire head and date to the 14th century onwards (Egan and Pritchard, 1991). <RF 33> and <RF 89/90> are both unidentified fragments.

Iron

A total of 246 objects within the assemblage are made from iron alloy, weighing 3,573g. These objects include a spearhead from burial [6169], knives and cleavers, a buckle, holdfasts and nails. Ironwork generally is functional and therefore many objects remain in consistent form throughout the Roman, early-medieval and medieval period. Pottery spot dates were not available at the time this assessment was compiled but the majority occur from context (10015) the Roman topsoil. Therefore, where objects have been assigned a typology generally the typology for Roman ironwork by William Manning (1985) has been used, revision might be required as part of the analysis.

The iron finds have been grouped broadly by functional category as defined by Nina Crummy (1983) based on the artefactual assemblage from Colchester and are discussed in these groups below. These consist of objects of personal adornment, weapons, tools, transport, fixtures and fittings and objects of an uncertain function.

Objects of personal ornament:

The iron items of personal adornment consist of three buckles, one possible iron pin and five iron hobnails.

Buckles:

<RF 126> is a complete iron buckle and pin from context (10023). The buckle is oval in plan and circular in cross section. <RF 86> is an incomplete buckle which is missing its pin from context (10015). <RF 178> is possibly either a penannular buckle or brooch from context (10213). The plain terminals could also suggest that the object is a simple iron loop which has been slightly bent.

<RF 173> is an iron pin, probably from a buckle which was recovered from context (10015).

Hobnails:

Iron hobnails are often the only surviving remains for shoes at Roman sites. Five hobnails were recorded, two (<RF 106> and <RF 144> from context (10015)) are registered small finds, the remainder were from the bulk finds from contexts (6188), (9041), and (10179).

Weapons:

An incomplete iron spearhead <RF 3> was recovered from burial [6169]. The spearhead is seemingly incomplete and survives in three fragments. The tip of the blade is missing, the spear head is c. 200mm and pointed oval in cross section before expanding towards the socket. The socket is c. 15mm in internal diameter at the tip. The socket is damaged and there is no split terminal in the surviving section. This suggests that the spear is an incomplete. The form and proportions of the spear suggest that it is a Swanton Type D2 due to the proportion of the surviving socket length. Swanton (1974, 11) noted that this type appears to have developed in the 6th century and was commonly associated with Frisian style pottery and that its distribution is concentrated in Kent and along the Thames.

Tools:

Within the tools category are finds both from burials and other areas of the site. They have been discussed based on their form typology based on Manning and their completeness.

Knives and cleavers:

An iron folding knife with bone handle <RF 33> from context (10051). The blade is asymmetrical and measures 52mm in length. The tang tapers slightly and has two perforations which contain iron rivets. These allow the folding blade to open and close within the handle. The bone handle is incomplete in nine fragments but the majority of both sides of the handle survive. The handle is broadly oval in form and has a maximum width of c. 24mm. It is decorated with multiple double ring and dot motifs.

Three Manning (1985) Type 19 knives with asymmetrical blades are recorded from context (10015). Two are complete, <RF 28> measures 104mm in length, <RF 31> is 97.5mm in length and <RF 79> is almost complete, it measures 104mm in length.

One Manning (1985) Type 22 knife <RF 25> was recovered from (10013). It is socketed with a straight backed blade which rises slightly and a downward facing edge that turns up slightly at the tip. The socket has a maximum internal diameter of 8.5mm and a length of 34mm.

Three incomplete or almost knives were recorded from context (10015). These consist of <RF 40> where the tang is incomplete, the knife measures 98mm in surviving length. <RF 63> is an incomplete iron blade, probably from a knife and the tang is missing, it measures 24.5mm in surviving length. The blade from <RF 174> is incomplete, the tang is complete and the knife measures 103mm in surviving length. A knife consisting of a complete blade and incomplete tang <RF 128> was recorded from context (10023), a fragment of blade <RF 58> from context (10051) and a fragment of blade <RF 176> from context (10181).

Two knives were deposited as grave goods. An incomplete knife with an asymmetrical blade <RF 4> from burial [6169] and an incomplete iron blade from a knife <RF 16> from burial [6203].

Finally, one iron blade from the bulk iron assemblage from context (8018) has been recorded as a cleaver due to the size of the blade. The tip of the blade is missing preventing classification, the blade is 35mm in width. The tang is complete. The cleaver measures 135mm in length.

Reaping hook:

An iron reaping hook <RF 125> from context (10023). The blade is incomplete and curved. Reaping hooks and sickles appear to have been uncommon finds based on the analysis by Lodwick and Brindle (2017) evaluating data from the Roman Rural Settlement project. They would have been used to cut cereals and straw.

Spade:

A complete iron spade sheath with straight edges <RF 7> from context (8249). The edges are grooved and at the tip are two perforations and are 19mm wide at the rivet. The sheath is 190mm in length and 165mm wide.

Hammerhead:

A complete iron cross pene hammer head <RF 23> from context (10013). The hammer head is broadly square (23mm wide), to the reverse the narrow face is rectangular (18mm wide, 11mm thick). The perforation appears to be oval indicating the hammer is unlikely to be Roman in date. From the x-ray both faces have been used but the perforation is not visible in the x-ray. It is probable that this hammer is medieval in date.

There is a diverse range of tools recovered ranging from agricultural activities to industry. The most interesting aspect is the quantity of knives recovered. Further work on these 13 knives should be undertaken assigning types to the material.

Transport:

Spur

An incomplete iron spur <RF 10> from context (8241) which is missing one terminal and the tip of the central projection - this would have held a spike or a rowel. On one terminal is a loop and what appears to be a small attachment on the x-ray. This suggests that the spur is medieval to post-medieval.

Snaffle bit

An incomplete bit link from a two link snaffle bit <RF 39> from context (10015). The loops are offset and one is incomplete. The complete loop shows signs of wear internally.

Fixtures and fittings:

A total of 166 objects are recorded under this category including 126 nails, hold fasts, mounts, binding strips and other objects. They have been discussed based on their form typology based on Manning and their completeness. Three modern iron nails consist of two nails recorded from the bulk iron assemblage from context (10090) and an incomplete nail shank from the bulk iron assemblage from context (10130).

Nails:

126 iron nails or tacks weighing 741g have been recorded from a variety of contexts, primarily nails were recorded from contexts (10015) – 42 examples, (8193) – 11 examples, (8251) – 6 examples, (8177) – 6 examples and (8043) – 5 examples. Of the 125 nails, the heads survive on 37 examples allowing a type to be assigned. Manning (1985) notes that the majority of nails at Roman sites fall into one of two types (Type I and type II). Type I is divided based on length and the form of the head, type IB nails are less than 150mm in length and have a flat head. With the caveat regarding spot dating the assemblage consists of 34 type IB nails, 1 Type IA and 1 Type III nail.

Of the nails and nail fragments a total of 56 show evidence of being used. The majority have been bent from insertion or from extraction or marks on the head from hammering (Manning, 1985) Rhodes (1991, 132) study of a hoard of nails from the Walbrook Valley highlighted that some nails were unused, others were damaged from insertion, but the majority were damaged from extraction with a nail claw.

Hold fasts:

Four holdfasts were recovered from the excavations. Holdfasts are used to join two pieces of wood and consist of a nail and an iron plate called a rove attached to the tip of the nail shaft, the nail is often subsequently flattened. Holdfasts are often used by shipbuilders (Manning, 1985). Three holdfasts were recorded from context (10051) including <RF 59>, <RF 60> and one bulk find. A further holdfast was recorded as a bulk find from context (8186).

L clamp/hinge pivot:

A complete iron L clamp/hinge pivot <RF 67> from context (10015). L clamp is the Roman typological terminology and hinge pivot is the terminology used in the medieval period.

Mounts:

Two mounts were recorded from context (10015), <RF 42> is broadly cross shaped and has a central circular perforation, <RF 75> has two perforations for attachment and an incomplete projecting iron loop at the top. The mount expands from the iron loop (8mm wide) to 17mm before tapering to the foot. At the foot and just below the loop are two circular perforations c. 6mm in internal diameter.

Binding strips:

Binding strips and bands were used to reinforce objects. The material discussed below includes a number of possible examples. <RF 26> is a fragment of binding strip from context (10015) with three circular perforations and <RF 34> from context (10051) has two perforations with two iron tacks remaining in situ. A third possible piece of binding strip was recorded from context (8241) from the bulk iron assemblage.

Uncertain objects:

Within this category fall material which appears to be related to the fastener and fitting category but no further refinement can be made. This group consists of 33 objects and includes elements of iron sheets, incomplete fixtures or fittings. The majority were recovered from contexts (10015), or (10051).

Two fragments of iron sheets appear to be related, <RF 64> and <RF 65> were recovered from context (10015) and form a rectangular plate with circular perforations, albeit they do not clearly join. Within <RF 65> is a complete iron tack with remains in situ.

Uncertain:

Within this category are 48 objects, the majority are recorded from context (10015). This group includes objects such as iron loops <RF 154> and an example within <RF 118> which cannot be assigned a category, fragments of iron sheet metal including <RF 83>, <RF 159> and <RF 146>, hooks <RF 62>, <RF 84> and <RF 89>, a possible strike a light as well as unidentifiable lumps and fragments. The possible strike a light <RF 77> from context (10015) is broadly circular both terminals are joined and curl inwards. It measures 66mm in length.

Lead

The lead assemblage from the site consists of 5 objects, weighing a total of 223.58g. These consist of two pieces of folded lead including <RF 45>, a piece of rolled lead sheet, fragments of lead sheet <RF 141> and a slender possible lead rod recovered from sample 510 of burial [6100]. Generally, the objects are undiagnostic and dates cannot be assigned based on stylistic features.

The slender rod recovered from burial [6100] measures 51mm in length, 0.2mm in diameter and weighs 0.01 grams. At present it remains undiagnostic.

Composite materials

Two objects <RF 5> and <RF 6> have been recorded from the burial [6169]. These objects have been assessed visually and by x-ray. Generally they appear to consist of fragments of possible mineralized wood although within <RF 6> is a fragment of curved copper-alloy sheet and further mineralized wood. Tentatively this suggests that copper-alloy sheet such as a circular band was wrapped around the object. Further conservation work on this material and evaluation of the potential mineralized wood by a relevant specialist is required.

The date of the assemblage

Within this assemblage are objects which date to the late Iron Age to Roman period, the Roman period, the early-medieval period and the medieval period. With the caveat that this report has been written prior to spot dating, the majority of the ironwork perhaps dates to the Roman period and the typology defined by Manning (1985) has been used here as part of this assessment. As has been noted, as ironwork in generally functional the forms used vary little over a long period of time.

The Anglo-Saxon burials appear to be 6th century in date based on the evidence of the spearhead from burial [6169] where Swanton (1974) suggests that this type is a 6th century introduction and based on the unusual continental buckle.

Objects such as the hammerhead <RF 23> stylistically appears to be medieval in date, the shape of the perforation will assist more nuanced dating for this object.

The context of the assemblage

The assemblage was distributed throughout a wide range of different contexts at the site. Finds principally occurred from context (10015; the Roman topsoil) – 99 artefacts, (12074; spread?) – 11 artefacts, (10051; spread over (10029) and (10030)) – 11 artefacts, (8193; Fill of slot) – 11 artefacts and (8043; fill of drainage ditch) – 10 artefacts and (10023; Roman drainage ditch) – 8 artefacts.

The Anglo-Saxon burials:

Metal grave goods were recorded from three Anglo-Saxon burials, [6100], [6169] and [6203]. A pyrite nodule was recovered from a sample of burial [6200] which is noted here but is likely to be a coincidental recovery. When this assessment was written no osteological data for these burial was available.

[6100]

A very slender rod of possible lead was recovered from sample 510 of this burial. It measures 51mm in length, 0.2mm in diameter and weighs 0.01 grams.

[6169]

The grave goods from this burial include an iron spearhead <RF 3> with mineralized wood in situ within the socket and an iron knife <RF 4>. It is possible that the composite objects <RF 5> and <RF 6> are elements of the spear depending on the location where these objects were recovered. They appear to consist of mineralized wood and copper-alloy sheet fragments of broadly the same diameter as the socket of the spear. It is advised that this potential mineralized wood is evaluated by a specialist.

A further copper-alloy object <RF 33> is recorded from context (6168) which could similarly be associated with the objects discussed above.

A copper-alloy buckle with intricate openwork plate and shield on pin was also present in this burial. As has been noted this buckle is not recorded in the standard works of buckles in Britain and therefore it is suggested that this is a continental type. Consequently, strontium isotope analysis is strongly advised.

Although the socket of the spearhead is damaged, typologically it falls under Swanton Type D2 which appears to have developed in the 6th century. It might be beneficial to consider submitting the mineralized wood and the inhumation for radiocarbon dating. This is to allow better modelling and potential variation if, for example the spear was curated prior to deposition.

As links have been made between this spearhead type and Frisian pottery (although it is a British form), it might be pertinent to consider strontium isotope analysis.

[6200]

From sample 248 a small spherical pyrite nodule was recovered which weighs 0.93 grams. In this circumstance it is likely that this was not specifically selected for deposition.

[6202]

An iron knife <RF 16> was deposited as a grave good with this burial.

Discussion

Tentatively, the suggestion based on the metalwork is that the burials with grave goods are 6th century in date. Further analysis of the continental buckle is essential and both radiocarbon dating and strontium isotopic analysis could prove informative.

Significance and potential

The assemblage is significant at both site and regional level. At the site level the quantity of tools must be emphasised, particularly the proportion of knives which requires further investigation. This offers insights into the activities that occurred at the site which can be considered in combination with other archaeological evidence.

At a regional level, the material recovered from the Anglo-Saxon burials suggests those interred might not be local and were of potentially high status. This is an important avenue to explore and further consideration on the material in combination with scientific analysis could be of particular importance.

Recommendations for further work

It is recommended that further research is carried out on this assemblage and that the assemblage is recorded in general detail. Particularly focus should be made on the ironwork after it has undergone cleaning and conservation. At present the dating evidence for certain contexts is limited and osteological reports were not available limiting the scope of this assessment. Consequently, these elements need to be considered and the typologies used might need to be amended depending on date.

It is recommended that objects which are unidentified such as <RF 5> and <RF 6> require further assessment by a relevant specialist and conservation. Subsequently analysis can be undertaken considering the relevant reports and grave plans.

The metal assemblage should be contextualized within the full site assemblage and the features present at the site, using the Post-Excavation Assessment report, with the aims of better understanding the

distribution of the full site assemblage and understanding the activities that took place in different areas of the site.

For objects whose dates and types can be refined, further comparative research should, again, be used to refine these dates and types. Objects that have been identified as particular candidates for this work include the continental buckle, spearhead, knife blades; spade sheath, hammerhead and the other tools. However, other objects in the assemblage will also benefit from this work.

Focussed research should be undertaken on the following:

Anglo-Saxon burials

Detailed typological analysis should be undertaken on the spearhead, buckle, and knives from the burials as well as a consideration of the two composite objects. In combination with specialist reports and scientific analysis what can this tell us about those who were interred at the site and are there similarities between these burials and at other sites in the wider environs.

Iron tools

A consideration as to the high proportion of tools should be undertaken. Detailed typological assessment is required and then comparison with other sites within the wider region, potentially utilising the Roman Rural Settlement project.

The recommendations for analysis and the time required are as follows:

Task	Time Required
Full recording of the assemblage	3 days
Comparative research on identification, type and dating	2 days
Cataloguing of the assemblage	3 days
Placing the assemblage into its site context	2 days
Placing the assemblage into its regional context	3 days
Focused research on the Anglo-Saxon burials	2 days
Focused research on the iron tools	2 days
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>17 days</i>

In addition to the further research recommended above, it is also recommended that a number of the objects from the assemblage are illustrated. Recommendations for illustration are listed below:

- *<RF 1> and <RF 24> the Roman brooches*
- *<RF9> and <RF 126> buckles*
- *<RF 158> strap ends*
- *<RF 3> Spear*
- *The knives*
- *<RF 125> Reaping hook*
- *<RF 7> Spade*
- *<RF 23> Hammerhead*
- *<RF 10> Spur*
- *<RF 77> Strike a light?*

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Numismatic assessment

Richard Henry, freelance specialist

The assemblage

A single probable barbarous radiate <RF13> was recorded from (9034).

A probable barbarous radiate copying an uncertain ruler dating to the period c. AD 275-285 (Reece period 14), uncertain reverse type and mint. The flan is slightly dished.

Recommendations for further work

No further work is recommended.

The Stone Spindle Whorl

Andrew Peachy, AOC Archaeology Group

The assemblage

Excavations recovered a total of three fragments (15g) of stone spindle whorl contained in ditch [10048] (10047). The stone appears to be shale with deep black surfaces over a dark red-orange core, and may have been burnt (the lithology is uncertain). Two of the fragments are cross-joining and form the profile of a conical spindle whorl with a slightly convex top and sides, and a flat base. The basal diameter is 40mm and the height 15mm, with the internal perforation 10mm in diameter. The spindle

whorl was formed by turning, and three incised grooves decorate the base, while seven incised grooves run around the sides and top. These traits are commensurate with spindle whorls used in the Roman period, although conical spindle whorls in various materials continued to be used into the 16th century.

Recommendations for further work

A small finds specialist should be engaged to confirm the lithology and seek parallels for the type that will confirm the likely Roman origin.

The Lithics

Jon Cotton, freelance specialist

Introduction

A lithic assemblage comprising 456 pieces of struck flint and 132 pieces of burnt unworked flint weighing 177g was presented for assessment by the AOC Archaeology Group. This had been recovered during an archaeological evaluation carried out ahead of the construction of an employment led mixed use scheme at land on the north side of Highfield Lane, Sevington, in Ashford Borough, Kent.

Location

The site from which the lithic assemblage was recovered is approximately 49 hectares (ha) in area, centred on Ordnance Survey (OS) Grid Reference 603954 140821, and at the time of the evaluation was in arable agricultural use, with two small fields to the north-west under pasture. Highfield Lane runs through the south-western corner and partially bounds it on the eastern and southern extents. The M20 motorway runs north-west to south-east to the north and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link partially bounds the site to the south, while the A2070 runs to the west (Clarke 2019).

Topography and geology

The centre of the site is a slightly elevated point within the surrounding landscape. The ground slopes down towards the south-east with the fields to the south of Highfield Lane sloping more steeply than those in the centre of the site. The geology is mixed and comprises sandstone and limestone of the Hythe Beds along with sandy mudstones of the Atherfield Clay formation, overlain by superficial alluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel (Waterman 2014).

The struck flint

A total of 456 struck flints were recovered from 146 separate contexts. The assemblage is summarised by artefact type in Table B11 and is set out in full by context order in Table B12. This makes clear that only four contexts achieved double figures while no fewer than 58 produced only a single piece. The most productive single context was 7052, the fill of pit 7053, which produced 34 flints, although 26 of these comprised spalls <10mm in size. Next came context 7040, the fill of pit 7043, with 21 pieces, of which nine comprised spalls.

Raw material and condition

Virtually all the raw material comprised small to medium cobbles presumably obtained from the local superficial alluvial deposits. These were often of indifferent quality with thin worn cortex and thermal

flaws. Ten pieces of Bullhead Bed flint from the Thanet Sand/Woolwich and Reading Beds were also present. Colours range from grey to orange/brown, though the majority are mid grey-brown.

Most of the assemblage is in a fresh, occasionally sharp condition. Twenty-eight pieces, including all eight pieces from fill 2019 of pit 2020, show traces of surface re-cortication ranging from partial (milky-blue/dendritic) to complete (snow-white). These include re-corticated blades or blade-like pieces, which may have chronological implications. A few other pieces have heat-affected 'crizzled' surfaces (marked by an asterisk * in Table B12), though none have been truly burnt.

Technology

As Table B11 makes clear, the assemblage is dominated by debitage in the form of unmodified flakes, principally secondary and tertiary pieces, along with blades and spalls. True parallel-sided blades are few, and most of the pieces classified here as blades are more accurately categorised as narrow flakes/blades. Most of the various blanks are small: few are over 50mm in length, and most are less than 40mm. The high number of spalls (comprising nearly 55% of the total assemblage) is worthy of note though this is clearly a result of wet-sieving bulk soil samples from individual contexts.

In contrast to the spalls, cores are virtually absent, although a handful of core preparation and maintenance pieces are present. These comprise two crested pieces, one of which from subsoil context 8001 is 67mm in length and partially re-corticated on its dorsal face, two core tablets, and a few platform-renewal flakes including one heavily re-corticated piece from subsoil context 10016. Two spherical hammerstones of divergent size and weight were recovered from fill 7040 of pit 7043 and topsoil context 10015.

Low numbers of formally retouched pieces include eight convex scrapers of end and end/side form along with a single discoidal example; a single narrow blade microlith blunted down one edge and across the base from context 8089 (L 31mm, W 7mm; Clarke 1934, Class B1/C1b); and a fragmentary bifacially worked arrowhead of probable leaf form from fill 12207 of ditch 12208. (A further possible transverse arrowhead fragment came from fill 6003 of ditch 6004.) There is a single burin worked on a truncation from context 8106; and a fragment of a slender bifacially worked chisel from 6103. Other more informally worked pieces include three flake/blade knives, one utilising a robust blade 70mm in length and 24mm in width from subsoil context 12002. Severally thinning flakes include one large piece measuring 48mm x 37mm from fill 12221 of ditch 12222, which is likely to have been detached from a chipped axe of opaque mottled orange-brown flint.

Table B11: summary of the lithic assemblage by artefact type

Artefact Type	Nos
Flakes	58
Flake fragments	25
Blades and blade-like flakes	18
Blade fragments	36
Spalls <10mm	248
Core	1
Core fragments	2
Core preparation and maintenance pieces	8
Miscellaneous waste	12
Trimming flakes	16
Thinning flakes	4
Scrapers	8

Artefact Type	Nos
Scraper/denticulate	1
Miscellaneous retouched pieces	3
Spherical hammerstones	2
Flake knives	3
Notched pieces	3
Serrate	1
Microlith	1
Arrowhead fragments	2
Burin on truncation	1
Chisel fragment	1
Flaked flake	1
TOTAL	456

Distribution

The lithic material appears to be widely if thinly dispersed across the site and, as noted above, only four contexts produced more than 10 pieces. Most of the contexts comprised the fills of ditches and pits of seemingly medieval date, with further contexts including burials, kilns/ovens, 'spreads', postholes and topsoil/subsoil layers.

If the initial spot-dating is to be relied on, it seems likely that virtually all the flints were residual within the fills of later period features. Possible exceptions comprise 'natural pit' 3014, whose fill 3013 produced 11 flints including a core tablet and a thinning flake, and pit 7043, whose fill 7040 contained 21 flints including a spherical hammerstone (240g) and a core trimming piece.

Dating and affinities

The lithic assemblage is clearly mixed, incorporating diagnostic pieces of Mesolithic, Neolithic, and probably later prehistoric type. Most, as noted above, are likely to be residual within features – mostly pits and ditches – of medieval date, though several pits (eg 3014 and 7043) might be earlier.

Diagnostic Mesolithic material includes the single narrow blade microlith from context 8089, and a possible microburin from context 9035. Furthermore, the few blade-like pieces, some re-corticated and including a uni-directionally crested piece 67mm in length from subsoil context 8001, probably belong here too, along with the burin fashioned on a truncation from context 8106.

Diagnostic Neolithic material includes the arrowhead fragments of leaf and possibly transverse forms, together with the flake/blade knives, a number of the scrapers, the single broken serrate from subsoil 12002, and several of the thinning flakes.

Technologically, it seems likely that a proportion of the worked lithics can be ascribed to the later prehistoric period, ie Middle/Late Bronze Age. These include a number of the squat flake blanks and the single scraper/denticulate from spread 9041.

Table B12: all lithics from all contexts (*=burnt piece; tab=core tablet; cr=crested piece; ch=chunk; fl=flake; bl=blade)

Cxt No	Reg No	Fl (frag)	Bl (frag)	Spall	Core (frag)	Core prep	Misc waste	Other	Tot
+								1 trim fl	1
2009	<239>			5			1		6
2013	<261>		(1)	3					4

Cxt No	Reg No	Fl (frag)	Bl (frag)	Spall	Core (frag)	Core prep	Misc waste	Other	Tot
2017	<241>			3					3
2019	<242>	1	2 (2)	2				1 thinning fl frag	8
2023								1 end scraper	1
	<244>		1	6					7
2025	<245>			1					1
2027								1 end scraper	1
	<246>			4					4
3011		1							1
3013		(3)	1	3	(2)	1 tab		1 thinning fl	11
4001/4002								1 end/side scraper	1
4010								1 end scraper	1
6000							1 ch		1
6003			(1)					1 misc ret (?TVA)	2
6009				1					1
6028	<53>			2					2
6015/6062		1 (1)							2
6034		1							1
6062	<50>		(1)	1					2
6083		1 (1)	1 (1)	4					8
	<29>	1	(2)						3
6086		2	1				3 ch		6
6099	<510>		1						1
6103				1				1 end scraper 1 chisel fragment	3
6148		(1)	1						2
6155	<25>			1					1
6168	<30>			1					1
	<32>	(1)							1
	<33>	1							1
6181	<207>			1					1
6188			1						1
6189	<262>			3					3
6199		1							1
	<250>			1					1
6202	<254>			3					3
7026		1							1
7040		1	2			1		1 spherical hammerstone (240g)	5
	<41>	2 (4)	(1)	9					16
7041		2				1			3
	<161>		(2)	4					6
7042	<162>			8			2		10
7050	<67>			2*					2
7052		1						1 flaked flake 1 trim/thinning fl	3
	<42>	3		19					22
	<159>	2		7					9
7054	<56>			5					5
7059	<54>			1					1
7062	<163>	1		3					4

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Cxt No	Reg No	Fl (frag)	Bl (frag)	Spall	Core (frag)	Core prep	Misc waste	Other	Tot
7064	<164>			1					1
7066		1							1
8001						1 cr			1
8008			(1)						1
8012		(1)	1 (1)						3
8016								1 flake knife	1
8017	<83>		(1)	2					3
8026	<74>		(1*)	2					3
8028	<75>	1		1					2
8034	<77>			7					7
8035						1			1
8043								1 trim fl	1
8048	<111>			5					5
8052	<112>			1					1
8089	<80>			1				1 microlith	2
8104	<125>			2					2
8106	<82>	1		2				1 burin on truncation	4
8108			1						1
8113			(1)						1
8117			1						1
8128			(1)						1
8130	<115>			6					6
8134	<121>	(1)		1					2
8135	<122>			3					3
8137		1							1
8141	<99>			3					3
8163	<97>		(1)						1
8184	<118>						2		2
8186								1 trim fl	1
8215								1 trim fl	1
8233	<133>			3					3
8237	<136>			>5					>5
9024	<174>	1		1					2
9034		2	1					1 trim fl	4
9035	<232>			1				1 notched bladelet (microburin?)	2
9041		1 (1)	(2)					1 side scraper 1 end scraper/ denticulate	6
	<231>	1		5					6
9043	<188>	1							1
9045		1	1					1 misc retouch	3
	<201>		(3)	1					4
9049	<190>	1							1
9051		2 (1*)							3
9057								1 trim fl	1
	<197>	(1)							1
9059		1							1
9061				1					1
	<194>			1					1

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Cxt No	Reg No	Fl (frag)	Bl (frag)	Spall	Core (frag)	Core prep	Misc waste	Other	Tot
9063	<195>			4					4
9067								1 trim fl	1
9069		(1)						1 trim fl	2
	<200>	1	(1)	5*					7
9070		1							1
	<202>	1		2					3
10013	<349>			2					2
	<350>	1							1
10002/ 10015		3	1 (1)		1			1 misc retouch (knife?)	7
10015								1 spherical hammerstone (30g)	1
10016		1*		1				1 trim fl?	3
10019	<363>			2					2
10021	<353>			1					1
10022	<354>			1					1
10030	<356>			1					1
10047								1 discoidal scraper	1
10051	<406>			1					1
10075	<380>	1		1					2
10089								1 trim fl	1
10115	<467>			2					2
10117	<481>			1					1
10121	<434>			1					1
10128	<404>		(1*)	3					4
10136	<483>	1*							1
10153	<427>			2		1*			3
10178	<442>		(1*)			1 cr*			2
10179	<445>			2					2
10190	<449>	1		1					2
10200	<456>	1		3					4
10209	<479>	(1)	(1)	3					5
10211	<482>	(1)		2				1 trim fl	4
10212	<485>		(1)						1
	<491>			1					1
10213	<490>		(1)						1
10225	<486>	1		1					2
11034		1		1		1 tab			3
12002								1 bl knife?	1
	<19>							1 serrate frag	1
	<20>		(1)						1
12023								1 notched piece	1
12050		1						1 end scraper frag	2
	<219>						1		1
12054	<263>			5				1 trim fl	6
12055	<264>	(1)		8					9
12058	<227>			1					1
12060	<228>		(1)						1
12073		(1)						1 nod trim fl	2
12074	<271>		(1)	1			1		3
12075	<514>			4					4

Cxt No	Reg No	Fl (frag)	Bl (frag)	Spall	Core (frag)	Core prep	Misc waste	Other	Tot
12077	<515>			2					2
12100	<272>	2		3					5
12113	<275>			4					4
12114	<276>			1			1		2
12118		(1)							1
12127		(1*)							1
12146	<315>			2					2
12158			(1)						1
	<301>	1							1
12159		1							1
12160	<303>		(1*)						1
12182	<307>		(1)	2**					3
12186	<310>			1					1
12192				1					1
	<314>			3					3
12207	<321>			1				1 bifacially worked frag (?leaf ah) 1 misc retouch	3
12209								1 nod trim fl 1 notched piece	2
	<322>		1						1
12216		(1)							1
12219	<327>			2					2
12220	<328>			1					1
12221								1 thinning fl 1 shallow notched piece 1 flake knife? frag	3
12231	<334>	1							1
12232	<335>			1					1
12250	<342>	(1*)							1
12251								1 nod trim fl	1
	<397>			2**				1 trim fl	3
TOTALS									

Unworked burnt flint

Small quantities of burnt flint were recovered from 25 contexts across the site, all from wet sieving. No single context produced more than 38g of material and most produced less than 10g.

Table B13: All burnt unworked flint from all contexts

Context No	Sample No	Nos clasts	Weight (g)
2025	<245>	4	<1
6174	<180>	3	4
6177	<184>	2	12
6205	<255>	3	<1
7040	<41>	2	29
7052	<42>	46	33
	<159>	9	38
8099	<103>	1	<1
8130	<115>	2	<1

Context No	Sample No	Nos clasts	Weight (g)
8237	<136>	2	5
9037	<230>	4	<1
9049	<190>	4	<1
9053	<192>	1	1
9057	<197>	1	1
10013	<349>	3	<1
	<350>	1	<1
10128	<404>	7	8
10209	<479>	5	2
10211	<482>	3	7
10213	<490>	3	<1
12100	<272>	1	<1
12113	<275>	1	<1
12146	<315>	1	1
12160	<303>	15	1
12184/12190	<309>/<313>	6	4
12192	<314>	1	<1
12250	<342>	1	19
TOTALS		132	177

Significance of the lithic assemblage

Taken together, the struck and burnt unworked lithic assemblages outlined above are small and seemingly widely scattered across a large area. Most pieces appear to be residual within features of later, predominantly medieval date, although as noted above pits 3014 and 7043 might be earlier. As such the assemblages are considered here to be of local significance only.

They can be added to those recorded previously from the wider locality of the upper Stour (eg Wymer 1977, 144; Clark 1996). These include the late Mesolithic assemblage recovered from Beechbrook Wood, north-west of Ashford during the High Speed I project (eg Booth *et al* 2011, 43–45), and the mixed multi-period assemblage reported from Westhawk Farm, south of Ashford (Booth *et al* 2008, 17–25) – though little of the latter assemblage appears to have been contained within contemporary features.

Potential for further work

There is limited potential for more work on the Stour Park struck and burnt lithic assemblages as they currently stand. However, a short, illustrated report on the data assessed here should be incorporated in any published account, and a note on its discovery should be added to the county HER. Further fieldwork on the site may require a revision of this assessment.

Recommendations

No further work on the current assemblage is required at this stage, but a short report ought to accompany any account prepared for publication, along with selected illustrations of diagnostic pieces such as the microlith, possible microburin, arrowhead fragments, scrapers, flake/blade knives, hammerstones, re-corticated crested piece and thinning flakes.

Estimated time: 1 day for preparing text; illustrations additional.

References

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Leather

Quita Mould, freelance specialist

Methodology

The following assessment is based on examination of the leather on 25th February 2022. A basic record of the material has been made, noting all the diagnostic features present, measurement of relevant dimensions and species identification where possible, and is included below (6). The material is summarised below (2-3) incorporating the contextual information available at present, recommendations for conservation are given (4) and the necessity for additional work is considered (5). All measurements are in millimetres (mm). Leather species were identified by hair follicle pattern and thickness using a low-powered magnification. + indicates an incomplete measurement.

Condition of the material

The leather has been washed and is currently packed wet in double self-sealing polythene bags in an airtight plastic storage box. The leather from Sample 88 (8161) is dry and similarly packed. The leather is in good and robust condition.

Summary and dating

A small amount of waste leather was present in the primary fill (8161) of pit 8162. The waste leather comprised 5 small pieces of narrow trimming (cat no 1-5) produced when trimming a pattern piece to size and 4 small shavings (cat no 6) from paring down the leather to reduce the thickness. The leather waste was in varying states, some wet, some dry, but weighed in total less than 5g. While its presence does provide evidence for leatherworking, such a small amount is of no significance. Waste leather has no diagnostic features that are independently dateable.

The vamp from a leather shoe (cat no 7) of welted construction was found in the primary fill (8249) of ditch 8250, part of Group 8212. The vamp is made of cattle hide, flesh side out, and has a low lining also of thick bovine leather. The shoe vamp has low side seams and an integral tongue that is now

broken off. The back part of the shoe upper (the quarters) is missing and there is no indication of a fastening surviving. The remains of what appears to have been a large integral tongue suggests that the missing quarters had lachets by which the shoe either tied or buckled across the instep. The shoe sole is also missing. Few diagnostic features are present, but the use of the leather flesh side outward and the decorative tunnel stitching were both popular features of footwear in the 17th and 18th century. The location of the tunnel stitching running around the vamp above the lasting margin, however, is more unusual and may point to a later date. The vamp is shaped for a right foot which also suggests 19th century rather than an earlier date. The shoe is clearly of post medieval date but being broken and lacking the quarters and shoe sole is difficult to date closely. It is a sturdy practical shoe intended for outdoor wear.

Recommendations for conservation

The leather cannot be stored wet indefinitely. Without conservation the leather will deteriorate and is potentially hazardous to health being liable to fungal and bacterial infection. Wet leather presents difficulties with short-term storage, transportation, study and illustration. The eventual repository of the leather should be consulted regarding their discard and retention policy for wet organic material. It is usual for this to follow that recommended in the SMA Guidelines and unlikely that they will accept wet leather. When conserved, the material can be safely stored and further examined. Historic England Guidelines (2018) [Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation \(historicengland.org.uk\)](https://www.historicengland.org.uk) provides advice on the conservation options available. If the leather is to be retained, conservation is recommended and, in this case, air-dying under controlled conditions would be appropriate.

Potential for analysis

The leather has been catalogued (6) and a summary (3) has been provided to inform those writing the site narrative. No further work is necessary. The leather is of little intrinsic value and, as it cannot contribute to the site dating, it may be considered for disposal. If the leather is to be discarded then a good quality photograph of the items should be made to accompany the basic record for inclusion in the site archive. If the leather is intended for long term storage it should be conserved (see 4).

Catalogue: basic record for the site archive

- 1 Secondary waste. Tapering trimming, tapering to a long point, other end broken. Leather cattle hide 3.44mm thick. Length 101+mm, max width 9mm. Wt. 2g (wet). SPS20 primary fill (8161) of pit 8162
- 2 Secondary waste. Trimming with skived (bevelled) ends, may be torn from the above but no join obvious. Leather cattle hide 3.37mm. Length 43mm, width 11mm. Wt. 1g (wet) SPS20, primary fill (8161) of pit 8162
- 3 Secondary waste. Narrow paring. Leather cattle hide 5mm thick. Length 35mm, width 1.5mm (dry). SPS20, Sample 88, primary fill (8161) of pit 8162
- 4 Secondary waste. Narrow trimming. Leather bovine leather 1.07mm thick. Length 25mm, width 2.5mm (dry). SPS20, Sample 88, primary fill (8161) of pit 8162
- 5 Secondary waste. Narrow trimming. Leather sheep/goatskin 0.44mm thick. Length 8mm, width 5mm (dry) SPS20, Sample 88, primary fill (8161) of pit 8162

6 Primary waste. Shavings: 4 fragments with no grain pattern. Wt. Less than 0.5g (dry) SPS20, Sample 88, primary fill (8161) of pit 8162

7 Shoe vamp, welted construction right foot, adult size. Vamp with a grain/flesh stitched lasting margin, stitch length 8-9mm. The vamp has a oval/rounded toe, low slightly forward sloping side seams c 40mm high, and an integral tongue that is broken off across the instep. The butted edge/flesh side seams, stitch length 4mm, are heavily worn on the outside (flesh side). A row of decorative tunnel stitching runs around the vamp about 10-15mm above the lasting margin. The vamp is flesh side outward (suede), grain side inward. Leather cattle hide 3.70mm thick. Condition: wet. A low lining runs around the base of the vamp on the interior, two lengths of this remain with a grain/flesh seam incorporated into the lasting margin and a grain/flesh lapped seam along the top edge. The widest lining piece. 119+mm in length is 25mm tall, broken at the wider end and tapering to a point at the other. The other piece is 158+mm long and 15mm tall. Lining bovine leather 3mm thick. Condition: wet. SPS20 primary fill (8249) of ditch 8250

Reference

Historic England 2018 *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation*. Swindon: Historic England . [Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation \(historicengland.org.uk\)](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/publications/waterlogged-organic-artefacts-guidelines-on-their-recovery-analysis-and-conservation/)

Slag and Industrial Residues

Andrew Morrison (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction

A moderate sized assemblage of vitrified and heat-affected materials, collected as industrial residues (Mass: 10.4kg) was submitted for assessment in February 2022 following the recent archaeological trial trenching and strip, map, and sample undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at land on the north side of Highfield Lane (also known as Stour Park), Sevington, in Ashford Borough Council in Kent, in advance of the construction of an employment-led mixed-use scheme. This report presents a summary of the assemblage, providing information on the quantity and classifications of the vitrified and other materials recovered, assessing their form and what this can tell us about the processes that lead to their formation as well as considering the site distribution and the inherent significance of the material.

The vitrified material assemblage is dominated by ironworking waste (Mass: 9.5kg), which is largely made up of slags indicative of iron smelting, and includes large quantities of dense, grey tapped slags (Mass: 3.6kg). Some possible evidence for smithing was also identified in the form of two plano-convex cake fragments (Mass: 703.4g) although these may be smelting related, as well as a concentration of flake hammerscale and slag spheres retrieved along with small fragments of unclassified iron slag and runned slags (Mass: 1.0kg) from a single pit deposit. Other materials retrieved include unclassified iron slags and runned slags which are diagnostic of metalworking though not indicative of a particular metalworking process, and small amounts of vitrified ceramic and fuel-ash slags, including one fragment identified as Iron Age Grey. This material represents the remains of both smelting and smithing activities most likely taking place during the Romano-British period, and though no definitive *in situ* evidence for metalworking was identified, the activity is predominantly focused around the features within Area 10.

Methodology

This assessment report provides a summary of the assemblage with information on form and function based on macroscopic examination only; no scientific analysis was undertaken at this stage. The assemblage was examined with the aid of a low-powered binocular microscope to clarify surface details with the aim of identifying object type, function, and date, and to compile an inventory for assessment purposes (separate Microsoft Excel spreadsheet), with the classifications following the guidelines set out by Historic England's *Archaeometallurgy* guidelines for best practice document (Dungworth 2015) and follows established terminologies (Bayley et al 2001; Starley 2000; McLaren & Dungworth 2021).

The material discussed was both hand-retrieved in the field and recovered during the processing of soil sample retent. The hand-retrieved material was recorded in the field as both registered finds and as bulk finds, with registered finds identified by RF followed by their registered finds number (e.g. RF 35), while bulk finds are identified by their context of discovery (e.g. 2851), and retent finds identified by RT followed by their sample number (e.g. RT 127). For the purpose of identification within this assessment, separate classifications of items within the same bulk finds bag or under the same retent number have been further subdivided by separate letters (e.g. 2851a, 2851b, RT 127a, RT 127b). Recommendations for further work, conservation, and illustration are provided following a statement on the potential significance of this material.

The fragments were scanned with a magnet to allow recognition of magnetic response and were weighed using a Sartorius digital scale accurate to 0.01g, and measured using a carbon dial caliper accurate to 0.1mm. A summary table of the material by context has been included as Table B17.

The assemblage

Vitrified materials, often referred to by the general term 'industrial residues', can typically be split into two broad groups: those that are indicative of metalworking and those which, although heat-affected, are not diagnostic of a particular process or craft (e.g. fuel residues produced in a domestic hearth) (McDonnell 1994). Macroscopic examination allows diagnostic types to be identified but, in the absence of scientific analysis, it is often not possible to provide close identifications of all vitrified materials (Crew & Rehren 2002).

The assemblage from Stour Park consists of a moderate-sized assemblage of vitrified material (Mass: 10.4kg) which is dominated by slags produced as a byproduct of ironworking (Mass: 9,531.9g), and is accompanied by a small quantity of undiagnostic vitrified materials (Mass: 64.7g), and other materials, including natural and unmodified sandstone and mudstone (Mass: 804.1g) and a miniscule amount of likely naturally occurring charcoal flecks (Mass: <0.1g). Table B14, below, summarises the classifications of materials recovered with their associated material abbreviations, along with their quantities by mass.

Table B14 : Summary of the materials recovered

Material	Material Abbreviation	Mass (g):
Indicative of metalworking		
Plano-convex cake	PCC	703.4
Tapped slag	TS	3623.3
Runned slag	RS	205.9
Unclassified Iron Slag	UIS	3140.6
Slag amalgam	UIS	651.1

Material	Material Abbreviation	Mass (g):
Flake hammerscale	HS	<0.1
Mixture of unclassified iron slag and runned slag	UIS/ RS	161.9
Mixture of unclassified iron slag, runned slag, flake hammerscale, and slag spheres	UIS/ RS/ HS/ SS	1045.7
Not diagnostic of metalworking		
Fuel-ash Slag	FAS	8.0
Iron Age grey	FAS	28.4
Vitrified ceramic	VC	28.3
<i>Other materials (including charcoal and stone)</i>		804.2
<i>Total:</i>		10,400.8

Materials indicative of metalworking

The diagnostic vitrified materials recovered are dominated by tapped slags (TS) by weight (Mass: 3.6kg), which are usually large, dense and heavy slag fragments that show a molten or flowed appearance to their surfaces and typically do not produce a magnetic response. These slags are associated with iron smelting within a bloomery smelting furnace and are produced when the molten slags are drained or ‘tapped’ from the furnace during a smelt and allowed to flow out onto the ground surface. The tapping of bloomery furnaces as part of the iron smelting process is generally considered to have been introduced by the Romans (Cleere 1971; Starley 2000) and is therefore dateable from the Romano-British period, however this interpretation is sometimes considered to be problematic. The recovery of tapped slag fragments was limited to Area 10, and was identified within seven separate contexts, including the interface between subsoil (10002) and the Roman topsoil deposit (10015), the subsoil (10016), the fill (10019) of pit [10018], the upper (10022) and lower fills (10021) of ditch [10020] that makes up part of the Roman ditch group [10023], the fill (10047) of ditch slot [10048], and the fill (10159) of pit [10160]. While the smaller quantities of tapped slags recovered from the various pits, ditches, and subsoil deposits are likely identifiable as residual background materials incorporated within those features, possible evidence of a deliberate dump is present in the fills of ditch [10020], with over 2.1kg of tapped slag retrieved, and over 95 % of that confined to the lower fill (10021).

Plano-convex slag cakes (PCC) are dense plano-convex accumulations of slag formed in a pit, which can come in a range of different sizes. It can be difficult to distinguish between slag cakes produced during the smithing process (hearth bottoms) and those produced during the smelting process (furnace bottoms). The criteria employed to aid in distinguishing between the two include size, weight, texture, visible inclusions, and magnetic response (McDonnell 1994: 230, 200, 219; Starley 2000: 338). Smelting slag cakes tend to be bowl-shaped accumulations formed at the base of the smelting furnace and tend to be larger, heavier, and non-magnetic, typically with large charcoal inclusions or impressions and a runned appearance. In contrast, plano-convex hearth bottoms associated with smithing are formed as the result of a high temperature reaction between the iron, hammerscale, and hearth lining, which forms a plano-convex accumulation of material at the base of the hearth and often have a dished upper surface. Smithing hearth bottoms tend to be smaller in diameter, thinner and lighter but often

quite dense and the surfaces often respond to a magnet. Two PCC fragments (Mass: 703.4g) were recovered as residual finds from two contexts within Area 10- the Roman ditch group [10023], and the spread (10051) overlying the kilns [10029] and [10030]. Based on the size and shape of the fragments, it is not possible to determine if they are associated with either the smelting or the smithing process, however the lack of magnetic response and molten appearance suggests smelting as a strong possibility.

Small quantities of runned slags (RS) were identified within the assemblage. In total, 205.9g of material was retrieved from seven separate contexts within Area 10, as well as quantities of runned slag mixed with unclassified iron slags (UIS) (Mass: 161.9g) as well as UIS, flake hammerscale (HS) and slag spheres (SS) (1.0kg) that were recovered from Area 10 during the processing of soil sample retent. Runned slags are usually dark metallic grey coloured slags that possess a runned or flowing appearance and are typically non-magnetic. Where large concentrations or sizeable fragments of runned slag are found they typically are indicators of smelting activity having formed in a smelting hearth however, it should be noted that small, short, flows of molten slag can also seep from smithing hearths during use (Heald 2008, 207) making this category of slag difficult to identify to process based on form alone.

Unclassified iron slag (UIS) is one of the most common types of slag to be recovered during archaeological excavations (Crew & Rehren 2002). Its characteristics, such as colour, texture, inclusions, weight, and magnetic response enable it to be identified as associated with metalworking, however it lacks in sufficient diagnostic features to either be assigned to the smithing or smelting processes and may represent rake-out material from either a smithing hearth or smelting furnace. A total of 4.9kg of UIS was retrieved from site, which includes small quantities of slag amalgam, and mixed bags of materials combining runned slags and flake and spherical hammerscales recovered during the processing of soil sample retent. Apart from small amounts of UIS recovered from Area 2 (Mass: 12.9g), Area 8 (Mass: 143.6g), Area 11 (Mass: 15.9g), and from Area 12, including the large mixed bags (Mass: 860.6g), the vast majority of UIS is associated with Area 10 (Mass: 2.1kg) and was retrieved from a total of 11 separate contexts, including large amounts from the Roman topsoil deposit (10015).

Quantities of flake hammerscale and slag spheres (RT 429) mixed with small fragments of UIS and RS (Mass: 1.0kg) were recovered during the processing of soil sample retent from the fill (10163) of pit [10164] that makes up part of pit group [10150]. Hammerscale flakes are small flakes of iron oxide produced by the impact of a hammer against the hot iron during either the refining of blooms during smelting or the working of wrought iron during smithing, while slag spheres, or spheroidal hammerscale as they are also referred, are small spheroidal, porous or hollow masses of once molten iron oxide within a silicate matrix and are mainly associated with the forge-welding of iron objects during the smithing process (Dungworth and Wilkes 2009: 45). Hammerscale flakes and slag spheres are generally considered to be one of the few categories of waste material diagnostic of metalworking, and when found in significant quantities, can provide direct evidence for *in situ* metalworking and blacksmithing activities (Bayley et al. 2001; Dungworth and Wilkes 2009). Based on the quantity of hammerscale and slag spheres recovered from this single context, they are likely indicators of *in situ* iron smithing taking place or may represent a dump of material within the immediate vicinity of these practices taking place.

Non-diagnostic materials

Materials not diagnostic of metalworking include two fragments of vitrified ceramic (VC) and eight fragments of fuel ash slag (FAS) including one fragment of Iron Age Grey. Vitrified ceramics are the heat affected remains of clay-lined features such as hearths or kilns, which are associated with pyrotechnic processes, but not always associated with metalworking. The fragments recovered (one from the primary fill (8161) of pit [8162] in Area 8, and the other from the spread [12050/12074] in Area 12) both display slag-attacked faces, which confirms an association with metalworking.

Fuel-ash slags are produced when a number of natural materials are combined and fuse together under high temperature processes, such as those in a domestic hearth. The silica content in the clay lining of the hearth or in the natural ground surface can react with potash from the burnt fuels of the fire and other organic materials (e.g. bone or plant matter) to create a light weight, brittle, porous, vesicular and often pale coloured (off-white/yellow/green) vitrified material with patches of glassy sheen on the surfaces (Bayley 1985; Dungworth 2015). Seven fragments of FAS were retrieved from the fill (10128) of slot [10129] within the Group [10125] ditch in Area 10, while one fragment of Iron Age Grey (RT 431a) was identified within the fill (10167) of posthole [10168]. A subclassification of fuel-ash slag, Iron Age Grey slags are larger fragments which may be produced in large domestic hearth settings, and are particularly common to contexts dateable to the Middle to Late Iron Age (Young 2013, 1). It is thought that these slags are formed by the partial melting of materials within the hearth, possibly enhanced by the digging of a hearth into a calcareous substrate, with some assemblages interpreted to reflect communal cooking practices within a large outdoor hearth (*ibid*, 2).

Summary of the contextual units

The table below (Table B15) summarises the slag and industrial materials recovered from each contextual unit across the site. For a more detailed summary of the material, please see Table B17. The site comprises twelve separate excavated areas, with Areas 1-10, and Area 12 subject to a programme of archaeological strip, map, and sample, while Area 11 is made up of 20 individual trial trenches. The vitrified and heat-affected materials were recovered from a total of 39 contexts across the excavated area, with materials retrieved from one context within Area 2, one context within Area 6, three contexts within Area 8, 27 contexts within Area 10, one context from within Trench 3 in Area 11, and from six contexts within Area 12.

A total of 804.1g of material has been identified as natural, unmodified stone (largely sandstone and mudstone), which was the only material within the assemblage that was recovered from Area 6 (Mass: 5.6g from the grave fill (6174). Natural stone was also identified within the registered finds, bulk finds, and retent finds recovered from Area 10 (Mass: 652.3g) (RF 53, RT 467, RT 483), and Area 12 (Mass: 146.2g) (12007, 12100). Tiny flecks of charcoal (Mass: <0.1g) were also identified within the materials recovered during the processing of soil sample retent from the fill (8163) of a drainage ditch/ field boundary in Area 8 (RT 97), and from the fill (12116) of a boundary ditch within Area 12 (RT 277). The small size and miniscule amount of charcoal recovered identifies this material as residual, and potentially naturally occurring. Interestingly, no significant quantities of charcoal are present within the assemblage which may have been associated with fuel remains or metalworking and other pyrotechnic activities.

With regards to the non-diagnostic materials recovered, Table B15 shows that only a small amount of fuel-ash slag (FAS) (Mass: 36.4g), including a fragment of Iron Age Grey (RT 431a) was identified within Area 10, while small quantities of vitrified ceramics (VC) were retrieved from Area 8 (Mass: 20.8g)

(8161) and Area 12 (Mass: 7.5g) (12023a). The small quantities recovered indicate these materials to be residual background scatters within the various pits, ditches, and spreads within their respective areas, with no concentrations of materials present which could have been indicative of hearths, hearth waste, or other associated structures or features.

Materials diagnostic of metalworking were recovered from Areas 2, 8, 10, 11, and 12, with Areas 2, 8, 11, and 12 only producing small amounts of unclassified iron slags that likely represent residual materials incidentally incorporated into the fills within those areas. The main area of metalworking activity is confined to Area 10, which produced 8.5kg of diagnostic material from a total of 27 separate contexts. Although no definitive *in situ* metalworking has been identified at this stage, it is clear from the remains that metalworking (predominantly smelting) was taking place in the immediate vicinity most likely during the Romano-British period. Contexts of particular interest within Area 10 include the Roman topsoil deposit (10015) which produced 869.6g of material, the ditch fills (10021, 10022) (Mass: 3.1kg) which may represent a deliberate dumping of metalworking waste, and the fill (10163) of pit [10164], which contained over 1kg of possible smithing waste including flake hammerscale and slag spheres.

Table B15: Summary of the contextual units from Stour Park

Context no	Context Description	Material	Mass (g):
Area 2			
2007	Fill of ditch slot [2008]. Ditch group [2030].	Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	12.9
Area 6			
6174	Fill of grave [6175], associated with SK 6173.	Natural stone	5.6
Area 8			
8008	Ditch group.	Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	143.6
8161	Primary fill of pit [8162].	Vitrified ceramic (VC)	20.8
8163	Secondary fill of ditch slot [8165]. Drainage/ field boundary ditch group [8060].	Charcoal	<0.1
Area 10			
10002/ 10015	Interface between (10002) subsoil and Roman topsoil deposit (10015).	Tapped slag (TS)	781.6
		Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	485.1
10015	Roman topsoil deposit	Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	810.2
		Unclassified slag amalgam (UIS)	59.4
		Natural stone	0.2
10016	Subsoil slot	Tapped slag (TS)	71.7
10019	Fill of pit [10018].	Tapped slag (TS)	64.9
10021	Lower fill of ditch [10020]. Ditch group [10023]- Roman E-W ditch south end.	Tapped slag (TS)	2009.6
		Unclassified slag amalgam (UIS)	591.7
		Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	207.1
		Runned slag (RS)	151.0
10022	Upper/ tertiary fill of ditch [10020]. Ditch group [10023]- Roman E-W ditch south end.	Tapped slag (TS)	109.0
		Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	54.1
		Runned slag/ Unclassified iron slag (RS/ UIS)	53.8
10023	Roman E-W ditch group. South end.	Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	326.5
		Plano-convex cake (PCC)	372.5
10047	Fill of ditch slot [10048].	Tapped slag (TS)	294.7
		Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	194.4
		Natural stone	651.3

Context no	Context Description	Material	Mass (g):
10051	Spread overlying kiln/ corndrier [10029], kiln [10030].	Plano-convex cake (PCC)	330.9
10080	Fill of gully terminus [10081]. Roman N-S gully group [10079].	Possible flake hammerscale (HS)	<0.1
10115	Fill containing collapse of flue of kiln [10029].	Natural stone	0.1
10128	Fill of slot [10129]. Group [10125] Ditch for path or foundation or flooring.	Fuel-ash slag (FAS)	8.0
10136	Fired clay lining of kiln [10027].	Natural stone	0.7
10144	Fill of pit [10145]. Pit group [10150]- group of pits south end.	Unclassified iron slag/ runned slag (UIS/ RS)	94.6
10146	Fill of pit [10147]. Pit group [10150]- group of pits south end.	Unclassified iron slag/ runned slag (UIS/ RS)	7.3
10148	Fill of gully terminus [10149].	Unclassified iron slag/ runned slag (UIS/ RS)	6.2
10157	Fill of ditch terminus [10158].	Runned slag (RS)	24.4
10159	Fill of pit [10160].	Runned slag (RS)	17.0
		Tapped slag (TS)	291.8
10163	Fill of pit [10164]. Pit group [10150]- group of pits south end.	Unclassified iron slag, runned slag, flake hammerscale and slag spheres (UIS/ RS/ HS/ SS)	1045.7
10167	Fill of posthole [10168].	Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	13.4
		Iron Age grey (FAS)	28.4
10179	Fill of pit [10180]. Group [10184]. Pits grouped south part of area.	Runned slag (RS)	6.0
		Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	4.9
10185	Fill of posthole [10186]. Pit group [10184]- Pits grouped south part of area.	Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	1.9
10187	Fill of pit [10188]. Pit group [10184]- Pits grouped south part of area.	Runned slag (RS)	0.6
10200	Fill of ditch terminus [10201].	Runned slag (RS)	6.4
10211	Fill of pit [10222], cutting kiln [10030].	Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	8.7
10212	Fill of kiln [10029].	Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	1.3
10237	Fill of kiln [10029].	Runned slag (RS)	0.5
Area 11			
11025	Fill of ditch slot [11026]. Trench 3.	Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	15.9
Area 12			
12007	Fill of ditch slot [12008]. Ditch group [12070].	Natural stone	127.6
12023	Slot in spread [12050/ 12074].	Vitrified ceramic (VC)	7.5
		Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	29.4
12073	Occupational deposit.	Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	681.4
12100	Secondary fill of ditch slot [12102]. Group [12162] Roman boundary ditch.	Natural stone	18.6
12116	Secondary fill of ditch slot [12118]. Boundary ditch Group [12144].	Charcoal	0.1
12263	Fill of gully terminus slot [12264]. Gully group [12265].	Unclassified iron slag (UIS)	149.8

Discussion and statement of significance

The slag and industrial residue assemblage recovered during the archaeological trial trenching and strip, map, and sample exercise at Stour Park comprises 9.5kg of diagnostic metalworking materials as well as 64.7g of materials which are the result of a pyrotechnic process but undiagnostic of a particular craft or industrial process. The material was retrieved from a total of 39 separate contexts across five

excavated areas, and is dominated by materials indicative of iron smelting, likely during the Romano-British period, which is largely confined to the features associated with Area 10. It should be noted that there are very few types of dateable vitrified materials and slags, and in most cases, the establishment of a chronology for the metalworking materials is based on their contextual association with other dateable site assemblages and features. The presence of large quantities of tapped slags (Mass: 3.6kg) is associated with the use of a tapped bloomery furnace, which are generally attributed to the Romano-British period.

The size of the assemblage and materials recovered from Stour Park is suggestive of small-scale smelting practices taking place, and with the high magnetic response given by some of the tapped slags, and high iron content of some of the fragments of UIS, it is likely that some of the smelting events may have been somewhat inefficient in their production of bloom. A large percentage of the assemblage, based on the fragmentary nature and small quantities by mass of the materials recovered, is reflective of residual finds incidentally incorporated within the various feature fills across the site. This is particularly true with regards to all of the materials recovered from Areas 2, 8, 11, and 12, with Area 10 highlighted as the Area where metalworking was clearly taking place. Although no definitive evidence for in situ metalworking was identified within Area 10, it is clear that smelting, and possibly smithing, were both taking place at least in the immediate vicinity.

The quantity of smelting waste from Stour Park is fairly restricted in comparison with other Iron Age/Romano-British slag assemblages (e.g. Westhawk Farm, Kent: Paynter 2007) and this may suggest that the activity was limited in scale or in duration or that the main focus for ironworking activities were taking place outwith the excavation area. A preliminary contextual analysis has identified a number of possible discrete dumps within the open fills of ditches and pits, with the majority of the waste within Area 10 associated with the Roman topsoil deposit (10015), the ditch fills (10021, 10022), and the pit fill (10163). Further research into the contextual units and their identification and relationships will be required in order to more closely identify the full extent and distribution of metalworking activities taking place.

The metalworking waste from Stour Park is worthy of further consideration with the majority of the material having been retrieved from the fills of pits and ditches within Area 10. Investigation of the range of slag classifications that here found in association and the quantities of these materials recovered by feature can help to inform the different types of taphonomic processes at work. The materials can be grouped into two broad categories: those representing limited scatters of residual materials within the features fills, and those that may represent deliberate dumpings of metalworking waste. This latter category includes, for example, almost 3.2kg of material including tapped slag, unclassified iron slags, and runned slags from the fills (10021) and (10022) of the Roman ditch [10020], and over 1kg of small fragments of unclassified iron slag, runed slag, flake hammerscale and slag spheres retrieved from the fill (10163) of pit [10164] possibly representing the contemporaneous deliberate dumping of metalworking waste into open pit and ditch features during the Romano-British period.

The metalworking waste from Stour Park would benefit from further targeted analysis and inclusion in publication as part of an overarching report on the excavations. Further targeted analysis is recommended, research into local parallels and the production of an updated report.

Recommended further work

Further work is recommended of the slag and industrial residues assemblage. The finds retrieved are considered to be of archaeological significance to a site-specific and local level, with the potential to

provide information on the types of activities taking place on site and to add to our corpus of knowledge of local metalworking practices during the Romano-British period.

Conservation: No specialist conservation is required.

Specialist analysis: Further specialist analysis is required which should include an analysis of the contextual units and distribution patterns associated with the materials from Area 10, along with research into local site parallels followed by the production of a report which incorporated the results of the distribution analysis and parallels.

Illustration: No illustration is merited.

Retention: Apart from the flecks of naturally charcoal and natural stone which should be discarded, the slag and industrial residues assemblage from Stour Park is recommended for retention.

Requirement	Estimate
Distributional analysis of the vitrified materials from Area 10 employing the use of full contextual information, plans, sections, photos etc.	1 day
Research into relevant parallels	1 day
Reporting	1.5 days
Total:	3.5 days

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Table B17: Stour Park Slag and Industrial Material by context.

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
Bulk 2007	2007	Fill of ditch slot [2008]. Ditch group [2030].	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	12.9				Y	N	Small fragment with tight vesicular structure. High iron content.
RT 180	6174	Fill of grave [6175], associated with SK 6173.	Stone	Natural stone	1		5.6						Natural stone
Bulk 8008	8008	Ditch group.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	2	N	143.6				N	N	Amorphous fragments of UIS. Dark brownish black in colour with prominent visible iron grain within though non-magnetic. Likely the product of an inefficient smelt.
Bulk 8161	8161	Primary fill of pit [8162].	VC	Vitrified ceramic	1	N	20.8				N	N	Fragment of vitrified ceramic with slag-attacked face. Reddish orange to black fabric and black glassy slag-attacked undulating surface.
RT 97	8163	Secondary fill of ditch slot [8165]. Drainage/ field boundary ditch group [8060].	Charcoal	Charcoal	1		0.0						Tiny fleck of vitrified charcoal. Possibly naturally occurring.
Bulk 10002/10015a	10002/10015	Interface between (10002) subsoil and	TS	Tapped slag	17	N	781.6				N	N	Fragments of tapped slag with areas of orange iron corrosion and impressions

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
		Roman topsoil deposit (10015).											from ground surface contact. Possibly associated with an inefficient smelt.
Bulk 10002/ 10015b	10002/ 10015	Interface between (10002) subsoil and Roman topsoil deposit (10015).	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	8	N	485.1				Y/N	N	Amorphous fragments of vesicular slag. Dark reddish brown to purplish-black in colour. Patches of iron corrosion and visible iron grain. Some fragments highly magnetic. Likely the result of an incomplete inefficient smelt. Some appear weathered.
RF 35	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	94.5				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 43	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	5.9				N	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 47	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	24.3				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 50	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	18.3				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 53	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	Stone	Natural sandstone	2	N	0.2						Natural sandstone fragments.
RF 66	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	34.8				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour and highly magnetic. Likely the result of an incomplete

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
													inefficient smelt. Appears weathered.
RF 77	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	50.3				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 78	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Slag amalgam	1	N	43.1				N	N	Slag amalgam of slag with a runned appearance with an area of glassy fuel-ash slag. Possibly the result of an inefficient smelt
RF 82	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Slag amalgam	1	N	16.3				Y/N	N	Slag amalgam of fuel-ash slag with an area of dark reddish brown highly magnetic iron-rich slag. Possibly the result of an inefficient smelt
RF 86	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	66.2				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 91	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	59.7				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 92	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	61.1				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 93	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	18.0				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 97	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	156.1				Y	Y	Moderate-sized and dense amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour and highly magnetic. Likely the

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
													result of an incomplete inefficient smelt. Appears slightly weathered. Possible fuel impressions.
RF 102	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	8.4				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 103	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	26.4				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 110	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	68.1				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 114	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	34.4				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 123	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	9.8				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 139	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	6.7				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 156	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	6.1				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 157	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	7.0				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
RF 164	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	7.3				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour and highly magnetic. Likely the result of an incomplete

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
													inefficient smelt. Appears weathered.
RF 168	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	6.9				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour. Appears weathered.
Bulk 10015	10015	Roman Topsoil deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	39.9				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour and highly magnetic. Likely the result of an incomplete inefficient smelt. Appears weathered.
Bulk 10016	10016	Subsoil slot	TS	Tapped slag	2	N	71.7				N	Y	Fragments with Small inclusions of patches of grey fired clay
RT 363	10019	Fill of pit [10018].	TS	Tapped slag	13	N	64.9				N	N	Small fragments of likely tapped slag.
Bulk 10021a	10021	Lower fill of ditch [10020]. Ditch group [10023]-Roman E-W ditch south end.	TS	Tapped slag	26	N	2009.6				N	N	Moderate-sized to larger fragments of tapped slag with areas of orange iron corrosion and impressions from ground surface contact. Possibly associated with an inefficient smelt.
Bulk 10021b	10021	Lower fill of ditch [10020]. Ditch group [10023]-Roman E-W ditch south end.	UIS	Slag amalgam	5	N	591.7				N	N	Moderate to larger-sized fragments of slag amalgam. Areas with a runned appearance and areas of reddish-brown corrosion-like product. Two fragments with vitrified ceramic. Likely

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
													associated with an inefficient smelt.
Bulk 10021c	10021	Lower fill of ditch [10020]. Ditch group [10023]- Roman E-W ditch south end.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	6	N	97.1				Y	N	Small amorphous fragments of reddish brown, somewhat weathered UIS. Highly magnetic.
Bulk 10021d	10021	Lower fill of ditch [10020]. Ditch group [10023]- Roman E-W ditch south end.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	3	N	41.9				N	N	Small fragments of UIS. Blackish-brown to reddish in colour and lighter grey/ green. Not weathered, vesicular structure, with slight glassiness to the grey green fragment.
RT 353a	10021	Lower fill of ditch [10020]. Ditch group [10023]- Roman E-W ditch south end.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	7	N	68.1				Y	N	Amorphous fragments. Dark reddish brown in colour and highly magnetic. Likely the result of an incomplete inefficient smelt. Appears weathered.
RT 353b	10021	Lower fill of ditch [10020]. Ditch group [10023]- Roman E-W ditch south end.	RS	Runned slag	33	N	151.0				N	N	Small fragments of runned slag. Possible tapped slag. Some with speckles of vitrified ceramic adhered.
Bulk 10022a	10022	Upper/ tertiary fill of ditch [10020]. Ditch group [10023]- Roman E-W ditch south end.	TS	Tapped slag	5	N	109.0				N	N	Small to moderate fragments. Some with possible furnace lining/ ground surface adhered.

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
Bulk 10022b	10022	Upper/ tertiary fill of ditch [10020]. Ditch group [10023]- Roman E-W ditch south end.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	2	N	54.1				Y	N	Two amorphous fragments. Dark reddish brown in colour and highly magnetic. Likely the result of an incomplete inefficient smelt.
RT 354	10022	Upper/ tertiary fill of ditch [10020]. Ditch group [10023]- Roman E-W ditch south end.	RS/ UIS	Runned slag/ unclassified iron slag		N	53.8				N	N	Small fragments of UIS and runned slag possibly identifiable as tapped slag.
RF 122	10023	Roman E-W ditch group. South end.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	13.7				N	N	Small amorphous fragment. Purplish-brown to orange in colour with patches of iron corrosion. Areas of visible grain, though not magnetic.
RF 124	10023	Roman E-W ditch group. South end.	PCC	Plano- convex cake	1	N	372.5	92.4	72.1	43.7	N	N	Possible PCC fragment. Likely associated with smithing. Curved edge and two joining straight sides. Plano-convex in shape with a molten-looking base with dripped appearance and an irregular reddish brown corrosion product like face.
RF 130	10023	Roman E-W ditch group. South end.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	2	N	33.2				Y	N	Amorphous fragments. Dark reddish brown in colour.
RF 131	10023	Roman E-W ditch group. South end.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	3	N	166.5				Y	N	Amorphous fragments. Dark reddish brown in colour.

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
RF 132	10023	Roman E-W ditch group. South end.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	113.1				Y	N	Amorphous fragment. Dark reddish brown in colour and highly magnetic. Likely the result of an incomplete inefficient smelt. Appears weathered.
Bulk 10047a	10047	Fill of ditch slot [10048].	TS	Tapped slag	8	N	294.7				N	N	Fragments of tapped slag with patches of orangey-brown iron.
Bulk 10047b	10047	Fill of ditch slot [10048].	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	5	N	194.4				N	N	Moderate-sized fragments of UIS. Purplish-brown to orange in colour with patches of iron corrosion. Glassy runned patches and areas of visible grain, though not magnetic.
Bulk 10047c	10047	Fill of ditch slot [10048].	Stone	Natural stone	2	N	651.3						Natural mudstone fragments.
RF 61	10051	Spread overlying kiln/ corndrier [10029], kiln [10030]	PCC	Plano-convex cake	1	N	330.9	79	72	52.4	N	N	Possible PCC fragment. Likely associated with smithing. Plano-convex in shape with a molten-looking base with dripped appearance and an irregular reddish brown corrosion product like face. Narrow, dished cross-section with vitrified ceramic adhered to one side.
RT 387	10080	Fill of gully terminus [10081].	HS?	Possible flake hammerscale	3	N	0.0				Y	N	Tiny flecks of possible flake hammerscale or shards or magnetic slag.

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
		Roman N-S gully group [10079].											
RT 467	10115	Fill containing collapse of flue of kiln [10029].	Stone	Natural stone	4		0.1						Tiny flecks of natural stone
RT 404	10128	Fill of slot [10129]. Group [10125] Ditch for path or foundation or flooring.	FAS	Fuel-ash slag	7	N	8.0				N	N	Small fragments of fuel-ash slag. Greyish white, light, amorphous and vesicular.
RT 483	10136	Fired clay lining of kiln [10027].	Stone	Natural stone	1		0.7						Small natural stone
RT 423	10144	Fill of pit [10145]. Pit group [10150]- group of pits south end.	UIS/ RS	Unclassified iron slag/ runned slag		N	94.6				N	N	Small fragments. Well weathered
RT 424	10146	Fill of pit [10147]. Pit group [10150]- group of pits south end.	UIS/ RS	Unclassified iron slag/ runned slag	5	N	7.3				N	N	Small fragments. Well weathered
RT 425	10148	Fill of gully terminus [10149].	UIS/ RS	Unclassified iron slag/ runned slag	2	N	6.2				N	N	Small fragments.
RT 441	10157	Fill of ditch terminus [10158].	RS	Runned slag	14	N	24.4				N	N	Small fragments of runned slag- possible tapped slag.
Bulk 10159	10159	Fill of pit [10160].	RS	Runned slag	1	N	17.0				N	N	Small run. Possible tapped slag.
RT 428	10159	Fill of pit [10160].	TS	Tapped slag	2	N	291.8				N	N	Moderate-sized fragment of tapped slag. VC inclusions along base along with pockets of iron corrosion

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
													likely from an inefficient smelt. Small fragment of slag and iron corrosion detached from the flow.
RT 429	10163	Fill of pit [10164]. Pit group [10150]- group of pits south end.	UIS/ RS/ HS/ SS	Unclassified iron slag, runned slag, flake hammerscale and slag spheres		N	1045.7				Y/N	N	Small fragments of UIS and runned slag. Larger flake hammerscale and infrequent slag spheres. Possible rake-out and smithing or smelting waste?
RT 431a	10167	Fill of posthole [10168].	FAS	Iron Age Grey	1	N	28.4	48.1	37.7	18.9	N	N	Amorphous fragment, greyish-buff in colour. Molten appearance to base and broken face displaying an irregular vesicular structure.
RT 431b	10167	Fill of posthole [10168].	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	2	N	13.4				Y	N	Amorphous fragments. Dark reddish brown in colour and highly magnetic. Likely the result of an incomplete inefficient smelt. Appears weathered.
Bulk 10179	10179	Fill of pit [10180]. Group [10184]. Pits grouped south part of area.	RS	Runned slag	1	N	6.0				N	N	Small fragment of a run, possible tapped slag. Small stone inclusion on the underside, silvery-grey in colour.
RT 445	10179	Fill of pit [10180]. Group [10184]. Pits grouped	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	4.9				N	N	Small fragment. Possible fuel impression. Dark orange, brown in colour.

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
		south part of area.											
RT 447	10185	Fill of posthole [10186]. Pit group [10184]- Pits grouped south part of area.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	2	N	1.9				N	N	Small unabraded fragments.
RT 448	10187	Fill of pit [10188]. Pit group [10184]- Pits grouped south part of area.	RS	Runned slag	1	N	0.6				N	N	Small fragment.
RT 456	10200	Fill of ditch terminus [10201].	RS	Runned slag	2	N	6.4				N	N	Two small weathered and abraded fragments of runned slag.
RT 482	10211	Fill of pit [10222], cutting kiln [10030].	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	8.7				N	N	Small fragment of UIS. Purplish-brown in colour with areas of visible grain, though not magnetic.
RT 485	10212	Fill of kiln [10029].	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	2	N	1.3				N	N	Small unabraded fragments.
RT 493	10237	Fill of kiln [10029].	RS	Runned slag	1	N	0.5				N	N	Small fragment.
Bulk 11025	11025	Fill of ditch slot [11026].	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	15.9				N	N	Dark reddish black fragment of potential runned slag, though appears weathered.
Bulk 12007	12007	Fill of ditch slot [12008]. Ditch group [12070].	Stone	Natural sandstone	1		127.6						Degraded and possibly heat-affected.

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
Bulk 12023a	12023	Slot in spread [12050/ 12074].	VC	Vitrified ceramic	1	N	7.5				N	N	Fragment of greyish-purple vitrified ceramic with glassy black slag-attacked face with ashy inclusions.
Bulk 12023b	12023	Slot in spread [12050/ 12074].	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	2	N	29.4				N	N	Small fragments of UIS. Blackish-brown to orange in colour with patches of iron corrosion. Not magnetic and appears weathered.
Bulk 12073a	12073	Occupational deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	5	N	585.3				N	N	Small to larger fragments of UIS. Purplish-black to lighter brownish-orange in colour with a dense, small vesicular structure. Areas of glossy sheen and pockets of vitrified ceramic inclusions and a fuel-ash-like surface along one face. Likely the product of an inefficient smelt.
Bulk 12073b	12073	Occupational deposit.	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	3	N	96.1				N	N	Small to moderate-sized fragments of UIS. Purplish-black to lighter brownish-orange in colour with a dense, small vesicular structure. Areas of a slightly glossy sheen along one face. Likely the product of an inefficient smelt.
Bulk 12100	12100	Secondary fill of ditch slot [12102]. Group [12162]	Stone	Natural stone	1		18.6						Heat-affected fragment

RF/ RT/ Bulk #	Context #	Context description	Short Description	Full Description	Quantity	Intact?	Mass (g):	L (mm):	W (mm):	Th (mm):	Magnetic?	Inclusions?	Notes (1)
		Roman boundary ditch.											
RT 277	12116	Secondary fill of ditch slot [12118]. Boundary ditch Group [12144].	Charcoal	Charcoal			0.1						Tiny flecks of vitrified charcoal. Possibly naturally occurring.
Bulk 12263	12263	Fill of gully terminus slot [12264]. Gully group [12265].	UIS	Unclassified iron slag	1	N	149.8				Y/N	N	Roughly plano-convex in shape with an almost glassy, fuel-ash slag-like upper surface. Non-classifiable. Very slightly magnetic reddish brown lower surface with a dripped/ runned appearance.

The Human Bone Assemblage: an assessment

Mara Tesorieri (AOC Archaeology Group)

Non-Technical Summary

This report details the results of the osteological assessment of human skeletal remains recovered from archaeological excavations at Stour Park, Sevington, Kent. Results of the excavation revealed human activity dating from the Bronze Age into the Early Medieval Period. A total of 14 inhumations were identified, recorded and lifted from the southern extension in Area 6 and Area 5. Eleven Early to Middle Saxon inhumations were roughly set out in a line running southwest to northeast in Area 6. Two probable Roman inhumations were recorded next to a road in Area 6, one isolated, undated individual was uncovered in Area 5 and a cremation was present in Area 7. The assemblage included six males, three females, three adults of indeterminate sex and one nonadult between the ages of 15 to 18 years of age at time of death. All adults were identified as either middle (26-45 yrs) or mature (46+ yrs). Evidence for degenerative joint disease, osteoarthritis, dental enamel hypoplasia, healed fractures and dental pathology including calculus, antemortem tooth-loss, caries and abscess were observed in the assemblage.

It is recommended the skeletal assemblage (both inhumations and cremated bone) undergo full osteological analysis, to accurately produce data on age-at-death, biological sex, stature, pathology and trauma and place the results within their appropriate archaeological and historical context. Site information, including burial position, location relevant to other features/burials and grave goods are to be full integrated to provide a truly holistic view of the population in question.

Introduction

This document has been submitted as a specialist assessment report on the human skeletal remains from Land on the north side of Highfield Lane (Stour Park), Sevington, Kent (NGR 603950 140346). The site covered an area of 49 a, with the majority located in land previously used for arable farming, with a small area in the north-western corner used as pastureland. The site overall was relatively flat, rising slightly at the south-eastern end (WSP 2019).

Excavations were divided into a total of 10 Areas, with high concentrations of archaeological features found primarily in the Southern half of the site; including Areas 12, 8, 7, 10 and 6. These features showed site use to extend over a large period in time, with human activity at the site as early as the Late Bronze Age to the post-medieval period, with a large concentration of features likely dating to the Roman and medieval periods, including kilns as well as a Saxon cemetery in Area 6. The presence of Roman activity and Saxon cemetery is particularly interesting, as previous archaeological investigations within the area primarily uncovered early medieval agricultural activity, with little evidence for human occupancy prior to this.

This assessment focuses on the inhumations identified and recorded in Areas 5 and 6 as well as the cremation recovered from Area 7. A minimum number of individuals is determined as well as estimating age-at-death and determining biological sex. Overall assessment of preservation and completeness was undertaken as well as a rapid assessment of pathological conditions, highlighting potential contribution that full osteoarchaeological analysis could provide in interpreting lifestyle and overall health of the population in question.

Methodology

All contexts containing bone material were sent to the author after careful washing of the remains, with any known animal bone, charcoal, or finds removed and sent to the appropriate specialist. Soil samples were recovered (where required) from the skull, hands, pelvis and feet for fragment retrieval. The samples were processed and any additional fragments were placed with the appropriate individual. All methods of cleaning and assessment follow the code of practice laid out by BABAO/IFA (Brickley & McKinley, 2004; Mitchell & Brickley, 2018).

An inventory of the human bone present was compiled using a rapid recording system. The bones of the skull, dentition, torso, pelvis, legs, feet, arms and hands were recorded as present or absent and recorded in an appendix to this report (Table B20).

Bone surface preservation was categorised according to the Museum of London (Powers 2007) recording scheme, using the following criteria:

1 = Bone surface is in good condition with no erosion, fine surface detail such as a coarse woven bone deposition would be clearly visible (if present) to the naked eye.

2 = Bone surface is in moderate condition with some post-mortem erosion on long bone shafts, but the margins of the articular surfaces are eroded, and some prominences are eroded.

3 = Bone surface is in poor condition with extensive post-mortem erosion resulting in pitted and eroded.

The percentage completeness of each skeleton was calculated on the basis that the skull equates to 20% of the skeleton, the upper limbs 20%, the torso 40%, and the lower limbs 20%.

Biological Sex Determination and Age-at-Death Estimation

Determination of biological sex was carried out using standard methodologies as outlined by Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994) and included (where possible) morphological features known to be sexually dimorphic in the pelvic girdle and skull (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1995; Walker 2005). Individuals were classified as male, possible male, indeterminate, possible female or female.

Estimation of age-at-death was determined using methodologies including dental development and eruption (AlQahtani 2009) and epiphyseal fusion (Schaefer *et al.* 2009) for non-adults, and the stage of degradation of the auricular surface (Lovejoy *et al.* 1985), pubic symphysis (Brooks and Suchey 1990) and dental attrition (Brothwell 1981). For the purposes of osteological assessment, individuals were classified as neonate or infant (0-1 year), juvenile (2-17 years), young adult (18-25 years), middle adult (26-45 years) and mature adult (46+ years).

Osteological Assessment

Preservation and Burial Practice

The natural geology in the area consisted of a mixture of sandstone and limestone, with clay formation present in the southern part of site, with alluvial clays, silts, sands and gravels deposited c.2million years ago when the surrounding environment was dominated by rivers (WSP 2019). The predominately clayey soils impacted burials within Area 6 with in varying levels of preservation and completeness across the site. Fragmentation was extremely high for all burials, with most poorly preserved (Grade 3), with only one found to be in good condition (Sk6165) (Table B18).

Despite high fragmentation, most burials were presented by 50% of the skeleton or more (75%-100% - three individuals; 50%-74% - eight individuals); with a total of two individuals (Sk6201 and Sk6204) 10% complete.

Grade	Description	%(n/N)
1	Good condition with no erosion	7% (1/13)
2	Moderate condition with some post-mortem erosion	38% (5/13)
3	Poor condition with extensive post-mortem erosion	46% (6/13)

Table B18: Breakdown of preservation for Stour Park skeletal assemblage

All 13 burials were supine and extended in plan, earth cut graves with most oriented W-E or NW-SE, apart for individuals Sk6156 and Sk6198 who were buried in a E-S position. Sk6201 also shows a possible deviation in burial practice when compared to the rest of the population, with the grave recorded on site as potentially being stone lined. Observing the mid-excavation plan of the grave however, this is unlikely. The burials appeared to be placed in a straight-line oriented SE to NW, with burial [6206] representing the most western burial and [6178] the most eastern. Several burials had associated finds. This included Sk6159, a late middle adult of indeterminate sex, where a small ceramic bead (RF2) was found adjacent to the right wrist and a small fragment of pottery next to the left upper arm. Sk6201 (the individual listed as possibly buried in a stone lined grave) was buried with what appears to be an iron blade (FR16) found next to the left hand along the left femur (which could also be interpreted as indicating the individual was left-handed). Sk6167, a young middle adult male, was also buried with what appears to have been an iron knife (RF4) in addition to a possible iron spear (RF3), an unidentified copper alloy object (RF6) and a rare buckle (RF9).

Sk 5006 consisted of only the feet of a single, currently undated individual. The bulk of the remains associated with this isolated burial may have been lost to ploughing.

Demography

A total of 14 inhumations were recorded at Stour Park. This included 12 adults and one non-adult; an adolescent between the ages of 15-18 years at time of death (Table B19). Of the 12 adults, six were identified as male or possible male while three were identified as either female or possible female, with the remaining three recorded as indeterminate during the rapid assessment. All adults were tentatively identified as being at least 25 years of age or older at time of death. However, these age-at-death and biological sex categories must be considered tentative at best at this stage, with full osteological analysis providing a more detailed analysis of the demography of the population.

Due to the small number of burials identified and recovered from Stour Park, it is difficult to make any conclusions regarding population structure. It is likely that the excavated Area at Stour Park only revealed a small portion of a much larger burial ground – as the lack of nonadults but the presence of both adult female and males would indicate. For example, it is possible the cemetery in Area 6 extended towards the south-east, although additional burials would be limited as no burials were identified in Area 9, which runs parallel to Area 6 extension.

	Adolescent	Young Adult	Middle Adult	Mature Adult	Adult	TOTAL
Male			2	4		6
Female			1	2		3
Indeterminate			2	1		3
N/A	1					1
TOTAL	1	0	5	7	0	13

Table B19: Breakdown of demography of Stour Park population

Pathology

Evidence for a range of pathological conditions was encountered during the osteological assessment (Table B20). Dental disease occurred most frequently, including dental calculus, antemortem tooth-loss (AMTL), periodontal disease and caries. All 13 individuals had a dentition or part of their dentition present for assessment, only one of which (Sk6167), a middle adult male, was recorded as having no dental disease (although further analysis may alter these results). Dental calculus (mineralised plaque), was found in all 12 dentitions, ranging from slight to severe (Sk6167, Sk6165), caries were also quite common, with four individuals affected, including Sk6171, middle adult female who was affected by a number of large carious lesions in both the upper and lower dentition along the cemento-enamel junction. The individual also suffered from AMTL and moderate to severe dental calculus (particularly on the left upper dentition). Sk6165, a mature male, also showed extensive dental disease, including slight to severe calculus, AMTL, and an abscess.

Degenerative joint disease and osteoarthritis were observed in 10 individuals and included the areas of the hips elbows, feet, wrist and vertebral column. Most individuals had several joints affected, such as Sk6173, a mature male who had DJD (osteophytes and pitting) affecting the left hip, right elbow and cervical vertebrae. More severe changes in the form of osteoarthritis (OA) was observed in Sk6165, also a mature male, who showed osteoarthritic changes in the right elbow, right wrist and the entire vertebral column. The vertebral column was the most commonly affected area when observing the population as a whole, specifically the thoracic and lumbar regions (lower back), with Sk6171 (middle adult female) showing the most severe degenerative changes in the form of ankylosis in the lower thoracic vertebrae. The degenerative changes observed in the lower backs of individuals from Stour Park is reflected in the number of individuals with Schmorl's Nodes (five in total); small depressions present on the vertebral bodies, a result of herniation of the intervertebral discs often due to excessive strain being placed on the spine.

Four individuals displayed evidence of traumatic injury to the skeleton. This included a healed fracture to the distal right ulna of Sk6173 (mature adult male), which likely resulted in the degenerative joint disease observed in the right elbow. Sk6091 (mature adult male) was affected by ankylosis (fusion) between the left distal tibia and fibula, with a bone callus on the fibula, suggestive of a healed fracture which resulted in ankylosis with the tibia to stabilise the break. Alternatively, the new bone formation could be a result of soft tissue trauma (myositis ossificans), with further analysis required for a more definitive diagnosis. The individual had also suffered from at least two rib fractures on the right side during their lifetime. A Colle's fracture was tentatively identified on the right radius of Sk6156 (middle adult female), with a small callus formation on the posterior side.

Periods of stress during the years of growth can be identified through a number of osteological indicators observed on both the dentition and skeletal system. This includes dental enamel hypoplasia, a term used to describe inconsistencies in enamel formation (such as lines, pits, grooves) resulting from enamel formation slowing or ceasing altogether due to a lack of nutrients. The lines, pits or grooves are a permanent, as unlike bone, once formed enamel cannot be remodelled. A total of four individuals from Stour Park showed evidence of having undergone a period of malnutrition during their childhood years. This includes two males (Sk6204, Sk6165), one female (Sk6171) and one individual of indeterminate sex (Sk6159).

Cremation

A single cremation was excavated in area 7. The cremation (7036) was recovered from pit [7037] and included a total of 35.49g of cremated bone ranging in colour from blue to cream (poor oxidisation). Most of the fragments were recovered from the 5-10mm sieve, with two tooth fragments identified, at

least one of which belonged to an animal (unburnt). In with 2-5mm sieve (7.88g) a small tooth root fragments identified as belonging to a double rooted tooth (molar) was recovered. It is recommended that the cremated remains undergo full osteological analysis in order to determine if some of the remains are human in nature.

Discussion

The osteological assessment has identified the minimum number of individuals excavated from the Grantham Southern Quadrant Link Road as 13, including 12 adults and 1 nonadult. Of the adults, six were identified as male or possible male, three as female or possible female, and three of indeterminate biological sex. The nonadult was estimated to have been between the ages of 15 to 18 years at time of death. The majority of burials were at least 50% complete or more, with fragmentation high for all burials. The burials were primarily grouped together within Area 6 of the site, placed within a relatively straight line running southwest to northeast. Only one burial was found to be slightly apart from the rest of the group, Sk6099, identified as mature male.

A number of individuals were buried with grave goods, including two individuals buried with possible knives. Cemetery sites nearby dating to the Anglo-Saxon period have shown a similar pattern of grave good rich burials and low numbers of nonadults. This includes an Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Stowting, East Kent, c.7 miles east of Stour Park where over 30 inhumations were recorded. The burials were accompanied by a number of grave goods similar to those found at Stour Park, including knives and spears. Similar graves were found at Tremworth Down, c. 8 miles northeast of Stour Park, where 25 individuals, all primarily adult (only two were identified as non-adult) were recorded. Located c.8 miles north of Stour Park was a cemetery site at Boughton Aluph, where two adult male burials were recorded, both accompanied by swords and or knives (Harrington and Brookes 2008). It is interesting to note the pattern in both the Stour Park assemblage as well as within the nearby cemetery groups where nonadults are severely under-represented. This could be due to taphonomic reasons, where the more delicate, fragile remains of nonadults are not surviving as well in the clayey soils, or and more likely, cultural factors are at play, where nonadults have been buried in a separate location.

A range of pathological conditions was identified during the osteological assessment, with high rates of dental disease present in the population including dental calculus, caries and antemortem tooth loss, and dental enamel hypoplasia, analysis of which would provide information relating to diet and perhaps economic practices at the site. A high level of degenerative joint disease including osteoarthritis was also observed, particularly within the lower back, suggesting a strenuous and active lifestyle. Fractures to the lower limbs as well as upper limbs (such as the Colle's fracture), likely relate to activity patterns and have been suggested as occurring due to walking across uneven ground and falls onto an outstretched hand.

Recommendations

The assemblage from Stour Park is of local and regional significance and the result of this assessment indicates a high potential for the recovery of detailed osteological information. While the number of inhumations is relatively small, the data which can be obtained from these individuals offers the unique potential to recreate a detailed picture of life and death in Anglo-Saxon Kent. This report recommends that all inhumations (n=13) along with the possible cremation (n=1) undergo full osteological analysis. The aims of the analysis are to:

- *Determine the MNI represented in the Stour Park skeletal assemblage*
- *Provide full demographic details including age-at-death and biological sex*

- Identify, record and provide differential diagnosis of pathology and trauma
- Provide a full discussion on spatial distribution and grave goods, comparing to other known sites
- Provide contextual analysis of the population as a whole, including demography, stature, pathology and trauma, providing a clear picture of the bioarchaeological landscape for the region

Task	Description	No. of days
1	Retent sorting and bagging	0.5
2	Osteological recording (n=13)	5
4	Analysis of data	1
5	Research	3
6	Report writing and editing	4.5
TOTAL		14

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Table B20: Human Bone Assemblage Appendix

Sk no.	Pr	%	Sk	D	T	P	L	F	A	H	Age	Sex	Pathology
6173	3	60	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Mature	Male	Dental: caries, dental calculus Joint: DJD (L.hip, R.elbow, L.Hip, Cervical vertebrae Trauma: Healed fracture to distal R. ulna
6159	3	60	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Late middle adult	ind	Dental: caries, dental calculus, DEH Joint: DJD (S1, r. foot, lumbar vertebrae) Trauma: Schmorl's Nodes
6201	3	10	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	middle	ind	Dental: caries, calculus
6162	2	50	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	mature	F	Dental: AMTL, calculus, periodontal disease Joint: DJD (vertebral column) Trauma: Schmorl's Nodes
6171	3	70	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Young mid	F	Dental: AMTL, calculus, periodontal disease, caries, LEH Joint: DEJ (L.femur, L. calcaneus) OA (lumbar and thoracic vertebrae – ankylosis present in lower thoracic Trauma: Schmorl's Nodes, fractured R. MC2
6091	3	50	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Mature	M	Dental: caries, calculus Joint: DJD (L.hand, R.elbow) OA (lumbar and thoracic vertebrae Trauma:Schmorl's Nodes, possible healed fracture or myositis ossificans on left fibula.
6156	2	65	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Late mid	f	Dental: AMTL, calculus, periodontal disease Joint: DJD (thoracic and lumbar Trauma:Schmorl's Nodes, possible Colle's fracture to right radius
6198	2	85	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	ado	unk	Dental: calculus
6165	1	95	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	mature	M	Dental: calculus, abscess, AMTL, LEH Joint: OA (R.elbow) Trauma: Enthesophytes – ligamentum flavum, iliac crest, ischial tuberosity Other: ankylosing spondylolysis
6176	2	50	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Middle - mature	ind	Dental: calculus, caries, AMTL Joint: OA (lumbar vertebrae)
6204	3	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	mature	ind	Dental: caries, calculus, LEH Metabolic: Porotic hyperostosis

Sk no.	Pr	%	Sk	D	T	P	L	F	A	H	Age	Sex	Pathology
6167	3	65	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	Young mid	M	Joint: OA (l. wrist)
6099	2	85	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	mature	M	Dental: calculus Joint: DJD (thoracic and lumbar vertebrae) OA (cervical vertebrae)

Pr = preservation grade, % = percentage complete, sk = skull, 1 = present, 0 = absent, D = dentition, T = torso, P = pelvis, L = legs, F = feet, A = arms, H = hands, J = juvenile, YA = young adult, MA = middle adult, OA = old adult, M = male, M? = probable male, I = indeterminate sex, F? = probable female, F = female, U = undetermined, AMTL = antemortem tooth loss, NSI = non-specific infection, OA = osteoarthritis, DJD = degenerative joint disease, IVD = intervertebral disc disease

Animal bone

Matilda Holmes, freelance specialist

Introduction

2372 hand-collected animal bones and teeth were recovered from 128 contexts spanning the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. Of these 525 fragments could be identified to taxon. Phasing was available in the form of spot dates, which has meant that a large proportion of the assemblage has very broad dating. This report aims to characterise the zooarchaeology present at the site, assess the potential for understanding human-animal interactions in the past and state the significance of the assemblage on a local, regional and national scale.

Summary of Findings

Animal remains were in varied condition, but preservation was generally good (Table B21). Contexts 7042 and 8153 contained bones in both good and poor condition, which implies mixing of deposits from different sources, and contexts 7040, 7042 and 7062 included bones showing signs of weathering, indicating they were exposed to the elements for some time prior to burial. Waterlogged deposits came from contexts 8215, 8249, 12014, 12054, 12056, 12074, 12160 and 12221. Further evidence for delayed burial came from a few contexts containing gnawed bones (Table B21). A few butchered and burnt bones reflect processing practices, although some larger groups of burnt fragments came from prehistoric/ medieval contexts 12023, 12004 and 8010 and Roman/ medieval/ post medieval context 12023. Those from context 8010 were of interest as they included burnt fish and bird bones.

There were no obvious deposits of primary butchery, skin-processing or craft-working waste, and it is likely that the assemblage consists of a mixture of processing and consumption refuse. Two associated bone groups were recovered, which imply primary contexts subject to little post-depositional disturbance:

- Possible medieval animal burial 7057 (context 7056) contained a sheep/ goat skeleton.
- Medieval pit 10214 (contexts 10231 and 10232) contained the remains of at least three pigs, one of which was perinatal.

Phasing remains broad at this stage, as it relies on spot dates. The results by period are provided in Tables B22 and B23, but only the medieval and medieval/ post medieval assemblages have large enough assemblages and relatively tight dating to be considered in detail.

Medieval

Cattle were most commonly recovered, followed by pigs, with fewer sheep/ goat remains (Table B22). A few equids (horse or donkey), canids (dog or fox), cats and deer were also present as well as large quantities of marine shells, mostly oyster and land snails. Deer were represented by antler fragments, one from a red deer in the possible medieval sample included the pedicle, suggesting it was from a hunted animal. Groups of micro-mammal (including mole) and bird (including small passerine) remains were also recovered from the environmental samples (Table B23).

Due to high fragmentation of the assemblage, very little mortality or metrical data were available (Table B24).

Methods

All bones and teeth were recorded, although for some elements a restricted count was employed to reduce fragmentation bias: vertebrae were recorded when the vertebral body was present, and maxilla, zygomatic arch and occipital areas of the skull were identified from skull fragments. A basic recording method was undertaken to assess the potential of the animal bone assemblage. The number of bones and teeth that could be identified to taxon were noted, as well as those used to age the major domesticates (tooth wear and bone fusion). The quantity of bones likely to be useful for metrical data were also recorded. Other information included condition and the incidence of burning, gnawing and butchery marks. All hand-collected fragments were recorded by context including those that could not be identified to taxon. Material from environmental samples was scanned and fragments that could be identified to taxon or group (bird, fish, micro-mammal or frog/ toad) were counted. Recording methods and analysis are based on guidelines from Baker and Worley (2014).

Medieval/ post-medieval

The largest sample of identified remains came from features of medieval/ post-medieval date, of which cattle were dominant (Table B22). A few sheep/ goat, pig, equid, cat and bird bones and teeth were also present, as well as fish and micro-mammals from the samples (Table B23). A large quantity of marine shell was also recorded and smaller amounts of land snails. Due to the quantity of cattle remains, a small amount of mortality and metrical data were recorded that may have potential to inform aspects of the animal economy (Table B24).

Potential and Significance

At this stage the broad phasing provided for much of the assemblage makes it difficult to assess its potential for understanding the diet, economy and status with reference to any specific period. It is likely that once the phasing has been refined the sample sizes for well-defined phases will increase. However, at this stage, it is not possible to know if this will result in better dated prehistoric, Roman, medieval or post-medieval assemblages. High fragmentation of the assemblage further reduces usefulness, reflected by the low numbers of potential mortality and metrical data (Table B24).

As a minimum, the medieval assemblage is worth further consideration on a site level, although this will be restricted to the potential diet and status of inhabitants, as there is not enough mortality data to consider the animal economy. If phasing can be refined it is possible that the large sample dated to the prehistoric/ medieval period may be useful either to increase the data available for the medieval assemblage, or to add a further dimension to understanding of the diet and nature of the prehistoric settlement.

High fragmentation and broad phasing therefore means that the assemblage has little significance on a regional or national level, though will be useful to better understand the story of those living on the site in the past. There is not enough data to add significantly to the specific project aims, with the possible exception of identifying specific socio-economic activities in the archaeological record.

Recommendations and timetable for further work

Further work is recommended for well-dated contexts. As a minimum this will require full recording of the medieval assemblage to answer the following basic research questions:

- What was the meat diet of those living at the site in the past? Quantification of taxa and anatomical elements can be used to imply the role of livestock and wild animals in the diet.
- What was the socio-economic status of those living at the site? Evidence for redistribution of carcass parts can be useful to imply the mode of production e.g. self-sufficient, consumer or producer.

Task	Description	Time
Recording	Fully catalogue hand-collected and sieved samples from well-dated contexts	10–31
Analysis	Tabulate or otherwise illustrate species and carcass part representation, taphonomic and mortality data	5–10
Interpretation	Consider the findings in relation to the research questions defined above	5–10
	Total	20–51

References

Baker, P and Worley, F (2014). *Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for Best Practice*. Portsmouth: English Heritage

Worked Wood

Anne Crone and Genoveva Dimova (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction

The assemblage consists of waterlogged wood recovered from 18 contexts, most of them ditch fills. Individual timbers were collected as well as bulk samples of woody debris (Table 1).

Context	S. no	SF. No	Description	Dims (l x w x th)	Species IDs		No tree-rings	Cons
6167		3	Mineralised rw wood frag	diam 17	Oak	/		
8041	134		c. 35 rw frags + debris	diam 4 - 12	Willow x5	/		
8099	103		1 rw splinter, dressed on one side, poss. chop mark on one end	180 x 28 x 21	Oak	/		
8106	82		c. 20 rw frags, some with bark attached	diam 7 - 22	Cherry x 2; Ash x2	A		
			4 x rs plank frags	th 12	Oak x4	D		
			1 x stake tip		Cherry	A		
			1 x frag single facet down one face		Cherry	A		
8171	87		6 rw frags	diam 3 - 15	Willow x2	A		
			4 x rs plank frags		Oak x4	D		
8171	87		2 rw frags with bark attached	diam 9 - 25	Maple x1	/		
8200	139		c. 30 fragmented, decayed rw frags + debris	diam 4 - 34	Ash x5	/		
8207			1 rw frag	diam 2.7, th 15	Willow	A		
			4 X rs plank frags, decayed		Oak x4	D		
8215			1 rw frag, very dessicated	diam 6	/	/		
8215		184	Plank, split along dowel line, dowel still present	320 x 136 x 9	Oak	D1	12 per cm = 150	
			dowel	diam 8 mm	Birch	D1		
8227			Rw frag, decayed	diam 10	Oak	/		
8248	156		c. 50 rw frags, some with bark attached	diam 11 - 42	Willow x3; Birch x4	/		
			1 stake? tip with oblique chop mark		Willow			
8248			1 x rs lath, poss stave	445 x 64 x 6	Oak	D1		
8249		191	coopered stave, complete, croze groove at base	516 x 130 x 18	Oak	D	5-6 per cm = 65	
8249		186	coopered barrel stave, incomplete	490 x 135 x 11	Oak	D	3 per cm = 35	
8249		192	coopered stave, two dowel holes - dowels <i>in situ</i>	169 x 118 x 15	Oak	D	5 per cm = 50	
8249		188	coopered stave, incomplete - nailhole?	280 x 115 x 11	Oak	D	3 per cm = 30	
8249		187	coopered stave, incomplete	145 x 105 x 12	Oak	D	6 per cm = 60	
8249		185	Plank - sawn, evidence for reuse	530 x 205 x 19	Oak	CT	2-3 per cm	
8249		189	Plank offcut - sawn? Oblique chopmark across 1 end	228 x 91 x 16	Oak	T	2 per cm	
8249		193	plank frag with bevelled edge	190 x 30 x 17	Oak	D		
8249		190	stake cleft from rs plank - tip shaped by 2 oblique chops	440 x 60 x 40	Oak	D	4 per cm	
8249		194	stake - rw - tip shaped to square cross-section	460 x 52	Oak	A		
8249		183	Bowl - c 50% surviving in 9 frags	diam 320/ hght 106	Beech	/		*
8249								
8280	128		6 rw frags		Maple x2	A		
			7 oak rs plank frags,	th 8 - 14	Oak x 7	D		
			rs plank frag	th 7	Oak	A		
12015								
12074		15	3 frags: 1 rs half log? very eroded + 2 rs plank	th 5 - 30	Oak x3	B		
12093	279		2 x rs plank frags, very decayed	th 0.8	Oak x2	A		
12104			2 bark frags	th 1 - 4	/	/		
12114			7 rw frags	diam 4 - 26	Ash x2	/		
?	?	?	Rs plank, squarely dressed at both ends, one end stepped, tapered	€970 x 310 x 32	Oak	D		

Table B25; the waterlogged wood assemblage

Methodology

The wood was all gently washed to remove the clay adhering to the surfaces. The bulk samples were separated out into categories, primarily small fragments of oak planking and unworked roundwood. Minimum and maximum diameters of the roundwood were recorded and a sub-sample was identified as to species. The individual timbers were fully recorded.

The assemblage

The bulk of the assemblage consisted of unworked roundwood, often with bark still attached. A mixture of species was present, mostly willow (*Salix* sp.) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) but also cherry (*Prunus* sp.), birch (*Betula* sp.) and maple (*Acer campestre*). Some of the contexts also contained small fragments of radially-split oak planking, usually very decayed and consequently displaying no woodworking evidence. There were occasional pieces of worked wood, such as the trimmed roundwood from [8106] and [8248] which could represent small stake tips.

Almost all the significant structural and artefactual wood came from one deposit, [8249] the primary ditch fill. This produced 11 items, consisting of five coopered stave fragments, three plank fragments, two stakes and a bowl. There was also a worked plank from [8215]. These items are described individually below.

SF184; plank

SF184 is a fragment of radially-split oak plank, some 9 mm in thickness and at least 136 mm at its widest. One edge is completely decayed but the other edge has been neatly squared. A small birch dowel, 8 mm in diameter has been inserted into this edge to a depth of at least 25 mm. The plank has split apart along the dowel-hole so the dowel may have been longer.

SF191; stave

SF191 is a complete stave of radially-split oak. It is 516 mm long and tapers in width from 135 mm at the top to 128 mm at the base. Some 25 mm above its bottom edge is the croze groove. 5 mm thick into which the base would have been inserted. The upper edge is bevelled on its inner face. There is no surviving evidence on the external surface, in the form of indentations or discolourations, for the hoops which would have bound the vessel. This stave is likely to have come from a coopered tub.

SF186; stave

SF186 is an incomplete stave of radially-split oak. Both ends have broken off but it is still 490 mm long so it may originally have been the same length as SF191 above. It displays a similar taper from 135 mm to 125 mm along its surviving length. On the external surface roughly midway along its length there is an indentation which may represent the original position of a hoop.

SF192; stave

SF192 is an incomplete stave of radially-split oak. A length of only 169 mm survives but the upper edge of the stave is present and it is bevelled on its inner face, like SF191. Some 65 mm and 75 mm below the upper edge two dowels, still *in situ* and both 8 mm in diameter, penetrate the stave.

SF188; stave

SF188 is an incomplete stave of radially-split oak. A length of 280 mm survives including one end. However, there is no bevelled edge to suggest that it is the upper end, nor is there a croze groove to distinguish the bottom end. On the interior face the thickness has been reduced to half at one end by a sharp cut while at the opposite end the external surface appears to have decayed away. There is a possible nailhole some 50 mm up from the bottom edge.

SF187; stave

SF187 is a small fragment of a radially-split oak stave. A length of only 145 mm survives and it bears no distinguishing features.

SF185; plank

SF185 is a large oak plank which has been sawn, the cutmarks of the saw just visible on the surfaces. The long edges have been dressed square as has one of the ends; but the other end is decayed. It has been chopped up for other purposes. At the squared end, a square p130 mm square has been cut out of one corner, leaving a cutmark in the inner angle. There is a chopmark across one half of the decayed end.

SF189; plank offcut

SF189 is an offcut from an oak plank similar to SF185 in terms of thickness and squared edges. The surfaces are too decayed to detect any sawmarks but the conversion, a tangential cut suggests that it was probably sawn too. There is an oblique chop across one end.

SF193; plank offcut

SF193 is a small fragment split off a larger oak plank, one of similar thickness to 1 & 9. The surviving edge has been neatly shaped to a quadrant profile.

SF190; stake

SF190 is a radially cleft oak stake. The two wider opposing faces have been cleft while the narrower sides have been trimmed square and the tip has been fashioned by chopmarks on the opposing faces.

SF194; stake

SF194 is a stake which has been fashioned from a length of oak roundwood. The tip is roughly square in cross-section, 40 x 35 mm, fashioned by four facets. The bark has survived along one edge.

SF183; the bowl

Some nine fragments comprising roughly 50% of a wooden bowl were retrieved (Table B26). It had been made from a half-log of fast-grown beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and despite the fragmentation is in good condition.

Fragments 1 to 5 can be joined together (Figure B5). These include large fragments of the rim and some of the base showing that the original profile was a shallow, open bowl with walls gently sloping to a flat base. It was 320 mm in diameter and stood to a height of 106 mm. The rim was square in profile, 17 mm thick and tapering to walls 12 mm in thickness. On the external face there is a decorative band some 39 mm below the rim. This band consists of two incised lines 4 mm apart leaving a slightly raised ridge between. On the interior there is a single incised line some 8 mm below the rim.

The surfaces of the bowl have been finished to a smooth patina so that there are no obvious toolmarks denoting whether it was carved or lathe-turned. However, the very regular thickness of the walls across all fragments suggests that it was lathe-turned. The wide growth rings are very visible. On the exterior there is a single large facet taken out of the surface at the rim; this probably represents an axemark made during the roughing out process.

Frag	Component	Max dims (w x h) mm	
1	rim & wall	260 x 100	x2 small frags broken off
2	base & wall	120 x 110	
3	rim & wall	110 x 50	
4	wall	90 x 35	
5	wall	40 x 70	
6	wall	90 x 80	
7	wall	90 x 80	
8	wall	92 x 30	in 2 pieces
9	wall	98 x 25	in 2 pieces

Table B26: SF183 bowl fragments



Figure B5: conjoining fragments 1 - 5

Discussion and statement of significance

The assemblage from context [8249] is characteristic of domestic debris thrown into a ditch, comprising broken vessels and woodworking offcuts. It seems most probable that the five staves came from the same vessel, the complete stave SF191 suggesting that it had been a tub just over 0.5 m in height. The large shallow bowl, SF183 was well-made and the surfaces smoothly finished but the remains of a roughing-out axemark on the external surface suggests that it was not a high-status piece but intended for ordinary every-day use.

Recommended further work

Recommendations for further work are presented below by type.

Dendrochronology

The items of oak in the assemblage were assessed for their dendrochronological potential; the estimated number of growth-rings on each item is presented in Table B25. Most of the oak planks and stave fragments in context [8249] were all fast-grown and none have sufficient growth-rings for dendro analysis. The only viable candidate is plank SF184 which retains an estimated 150 growth-rings. However, it has been trimmed of all its outermost rings so analysis would provide at most a *terminus post quem* for felling and use.

Illustration

The following items should be illustrated;

- SF183; the bowl
- SF191; the complete stave
- SF185; the re-used plank
- SF184; the plank with dowel *in situ*

Conservation

The following items should be conserved;

- SF183; the bowl
- SF191; the complete stave
- SF185; the re-used plank
- SF184; the plank with dowel *in situ*

Research

A literature search is needed to identify comparable assemblages and objects and contextualise the finds from Stour Park.

Macroplant and Charcoal

Jackaline Robertson (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction and quantification

A total of 413 washover samples were submitted for environmental assessment in February 2022 from the archaeological works undertaken at Stour Park, Kent. The samples were collected from a series of burials, cremation pits, enclosure ditches, pits, ditches, gullies, kilns, pits, postholes and subsoil. These archaeological features derived from a multi-phase site in use from the prehistoric to the post medieval period. From these samples both carbonised macroplant and charcoal were recovered. The main aim of this report was to assess the archaeological potential of these two ecofact assemblages for further study and their suitability for radiocarbon dating.

Methodology

The bulk samples were processed at both the London and Edinburgh offices in their entirety in laboratory conditions using a floatation method designed to retrieve both ecofacts and artefacts (Kenward *et al* 1980). The sediment was composed of a silty clay and it was necessary to pre-soak a number of samples for 24 to 48 hours prior to processing. The wash overs were scanned using a high-powered microscope at x10-x40 magnification. The residue was separated using a stack system of 4mm, 2mm and 1mm sieves and each fraction was scanned by eye and with a magnet.

The plant macrofossils were examined at magnifications of x10 and up to x450. Macroplant identifications were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases stored at AOC Edinburgh (Cappers *et al* 2006; Jacomet 2006). Taxonomy and nomenclature for plants follows Stace (2010). The macroplant assemblage was assessed in full except for 12 samples that were found to be rich in cereal remains. The results from these 12 deposits collected from a ditch and kiln were semi-quantified during this stage of the assessment.

Charcoal fragments larger than 4mm were retained for species identification. Only those contexts that had more than 4.0g of charcoal were chosen for study at this stage of the assessment. A maximum of ten fragments were identified to species per sample. The charcoal identifications were confirmed by analysing the transverse, tangential and radial sections at x70-x450 magnification and using keys and texts stored at AOC Edinburgh (Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990).

Results and observations

The macroplant

A minimum of 4580 carbonised macroplant were assessed from 178 samples collected from 145 contexts. The assemblage was composed of cereals, nuts, fruits, vegetables, woodland remains and weeds. Cereal caryopses formed the largest component of the plant assemblage with chaff, nuts, fruits, vegetables, woodland finds and weeds only a minor inclusion. Preservation of the macroplant remains ranged from mostly poor to adequate with a smaller number recorded as good to excellent.

Cereal remains were recovered from 174 samples. During this assessment 4138 cereal remains composed of 4129 caryopses, four glumes and five culm nodes were fully assessed from 162 samples. The remaining 12 samples were rich in cereal and the results were semi-quantified. The cereal species were oat (*Avena* sp), six-row hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L), two-row hulled barley, naked barley (*Hordeum var Nudum* L), rye (*Secale* sp), bread/club wheat (*Triticum aestivum/compactum* L), spelt (*Triticum spelta* L) and emmer/spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta* L). A rapid assessment of the cereal indicates that bread/club wheat was dominant with oat and six-row hulled barley having a more secondary role. Two-row barley, naked barley, spelt, emmer/spelt and rye were only present in smaller quantities and their contribution to this economy and diet was negligible. Other evidence of cultivated crops was flax (*Linum usitatissimum* L) but only a single seed was noted.

Other food resources were formed of nuts, fruits and vegetables. These were identified as 25 hazelnut (*Corylus avellana* L) shell fragments, two blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* L), seven blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa* L) and 118 garden peas (*Pisum sativum* L). The presence of 55 tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca* L)

was also recorded, and this species has been cultivated as animal fodder. A total of 52 smooth tare (*Vicia tetrasperma* L) were noted but if this plant had any dietary role is unclear.

Two buds were identified within pit [8162] and these are likely accidental inclusions introduced to the site as a by-product of the wood used for fuel and building.

The 66 weeds so far identified are a mix of corncockle (*Agrostemma githago* L), cabbage (*Brassica* sp), bromes (*Bromus* sp), sedge (*Carex* sp), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus* L), hemp-nettles (*Galeopsis* L), cleavers (*Galium aparine* L), autumn hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis* L), pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia* L), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata* L), grass (*Poaceae* sp), dock (*Rumex* sp), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L) and stonecrops (cf. *Sedum* sp). The weeds were only a minor inclusion within this assemblage.

The charcoal

Charcoal fragments (624.8g) suitable for analysis were recovered from 266 samples collected from 244 contexts. Only those contexts which had 4.0g more of charcoal were selected for further study at this stage of the assessment. A total of 410 fragments (426.2g) were identified to species from 41 samples from 39 contexts. The remaining fragments (198.6g) were scattered among the other 225 samples in small quantities and these were not identified. The species were alder (*Alnus glutinosa* L), birch (*Betula* sp), hazel (*Corylus avellana* L), ash (*Fraxinus* sp), apple/pear/hawthorn/rowan (*Maloideae/sorbus* sp), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa* L), cherry (*Prunus* sp), oak (*Quercus* sp), willow (*Salix* sp) and elm (*Ulmus* sp). Preservation of the fragments ranged from poor to good. Those described as poor were noticeably vitrified and abraded.

Modern contamination

Modern contamination was noted in all the samples and was composed of roots, wood, weeds, terrestrial snails and insects. Several samples had large quantities of modern plant and insect remains suggesting some bioturbation of the deposits has occurred that may affect the archaeological security of some of the ecofact assemblage.

Distribution

The macroplant

The cereal assemblage was clearly concentrated within twelve samples. These were two samples from ditch [8176], nine deposits sampled from kiln [10027] and one kiln spread [10140]. The cereal from these 12 samples were semi-quantified and the results so far obtained revealed that large quantities bread/club wheat followed by oat and barley were all present. The finds from ditch [8176] have likely derived from the deliberate disposal of food waste. The material recovered from the kiln samples is from grain dried within this structure.

The cereal from the remaining 162 samples were collected from the animal burial, human burials, cremation pits, ditches, pits and postholes. This material was mostly scattered among these deposits

in small quantities with no evidence of selective or deliberate disposal. However, where larger quantities of cereal were noted, these tended to be from deposits associated with the kiln structures and it is probable this material is re-deposited waste from these features.

The rest of the macroplant assemblage; flax, nuts, fruits, vegetables, woodland and weeds were scattered throughout the site with no obvious evidence of selective or deliberate disposal.

The charcoal

From the 41 samples so far assessed the charcoal was focussed in 12 features (253.5g) described as ditches [8011], [8216], [12099], [12102], gully [12061], kiln [10027], pits [7043], [12063], pit/ditches [12195], [12197] and spread [12074]. The charcoal identified from the 41 samples is more likely to have derived from archaeologically secure deposits. This material has derived mostly from fuel debris alongside some remnants of structural remains. The charcoal in the remaining 225 samples is probably formed of small quantities of re-deposited fuel debris.

Discussion and statement of significance

Crops

The cereal assemblage from Stour Park was clearly concentrated within a ditch and the kiln features. The species so far identified have been cultivated in this area from the prehistoric to the late medieval period. Initial analysis indicates that bread/club wheat was economically the more important crop with oat and six-row hulled barley of secondary importance. The role of two-row hulled barley, naked barley, rye, spelt and emmer/spelt is currently unclear as it is possible these could have been cultivated on a small scale or were weeds of the main crops that were accidentally introduced to the site.

The near absence of chaff indicates that cereal processing such as threshing and winnowing did not occur on this site or if it did the debris was disposed of out with the excavated area. The presence of grain within a kiln structure indicates that crops were dried for a period during the occupation of this site. The large number and variety of cereal crops recovered from Stour Park has the potential for furthering understanding of the agricultural husbandry practised throughout the occupation of this site and if this changed over time.

Nuts, fruits and vegetables

The recovery of hazel, blackberry, blackthorn, garden pea and tufted vetch indicate that these food resources also had a dietary role at this site. Hazel is a common find at most archaeological sites as this resource is easily exploited from the surrounding landscape as a food resource and the shell is typically recycled for kindling. The small size of both the fruit and vegetable assemblage is not unsurprising. Fruits and vegetables due to their fragile structure tend to be underrepresented within most carbonised archaeobotanical assemblages (Zohary et al 1993, 181).

The blackberry and blackthorn were probably gathered when seasonally available. It was noted that two of the blackthorn seeds had been chewed by rodents. Blackthorn was identified within the charcoal

assemblage, and it is possible these fruits were introduced accidentally along with the wood used for fuel, but it is logical to assume the population would exploit all available resources. It appears that vegetables in the form of garden pea were cultivated and consumed at this site. The tufted vetch could have been either a weed or was deliberately cultivated as fodder for livestock. Species such as smooth tare are edible and have been used as a food resource but its economic role at Stour Park if any is currently unclear.

Woodland

The inclusion of the two buds within pit (8161) were probably accidental and were introduced as a by-product of the wood used a fuel resource. The buds are of little interpretive value.

Weeds

The weed species so far identified tend to grow in agricultural fields, disturbed waste ground and damp landscapes. The presence of corncockle is of note as this plant which typically grows alongside crops is poisonous to both humans and animals if consumed. Several the weeds at Stour Park may have been gathered deliberately and used as a food resource or for building material. Species such as cabbage, goosefoot, black bindweed, pale persicaria and dock are all edible and have been collected to supplement both human and animal diets. Sedge has been used to provide flooring material, thatching and bedding. Given the small size of the weed assemblage what economic role if any these plants may have had is unclear. However, analysis of the weed species will reveal further information about the surrounding landscape and if this changed as the site developed.

The charcoal

The tree species are all common finds from throughout Britain. Alder, birch and willow favour more damp habitats whereas hazel, ash, apple/pear/hawthorn/rowan, blackthorn, cherry and elm are usually found in hedgerows, scrub or more open woods and oak is adaptable to a variety of growing and soil conditions (Stace 2010, Linford 2009). The charcoal assemblage has mostly derived from fuel debris although there is evidence of a wattle screen and some small discrete posts. The remnants of a wattle screen constructed from hazel and oak were observed in one deposit in kiln [10027]. The possible remains of oak posts were noted in pits [12063] and pit/ditches [12195] and [12197].

Recommendations for retention or discard

The washover samples, carbonised macroplant and charcoal are currently stored at AOC archaeology in a dry and stable condition and are suitable for long term storage. Once the analysis has been completed the washovers which have been fully sorted are recommend for discard. The carbonised macroplant and charcoal should be retained for inclusion within the site archive.

Potential for analysis of plant remains

Both the macroplant and charcoal assemblage have the potential to answer important research questions concerning the exploitation of both cultivated and wild plant resources at Stour Park from the prehistoric to the late medieval period.

If ecofacts are needed for radiocarbon dating, then the cereal caryopses, hazelnuts and charcoal are suitable. If Charcoal is selected for dating, oak should be avoided as it is a slow growing species which can prove unreliable. Once the chronology of this site and features have been confirmed then a full analysis report focussing on the following research questions is recommended.

- What cereal crops were cultivated, which species if any was more economically important and did this change over an archaeologically recognised time period.
- Are the crops representative of a processing, consumer or mixed economy.
- Is there surviving evidence of deliberate spatial deposition of plant remains within specific deposits and locations within the excavated area.
- Is there evidence for the exploitation and economic role of wild plants for use as food, fuel and building material within this site and did this change.
- What information can be gathered from the weed assemblage concerning the surrounding landscape.
- What wood species were collected for use on site as fuel and which for building. Is there evidence that exploitation of wood species changed over time.
- What information can be gathered from the ecofact assemblage concerning on site-activities.
- How do the results from Stour Park compare to other sites of a similar date in this region of England.

To answer these research questions additional time to fully assess the macroplant and charcoal assemblage is required. To identify the remaining ecofacts to species will take six days to complete. Creation of a analysis report drawing on comparisons with other sites in this location will take five days. In total 11 days are required to complete both the species identification of the ecofacts and the full environmental analysis report.

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Soils and Sediments

Lynne Roy (AOC Archaeology Group)

Introduction

This assessment report presents the results of preliminary analysis of six kubiena samples collected as part of the Stour Park project in Kent. The site is located on the north side of Highfield Lane, Sevington, in Ashford Borough Council in Kent (NGR 603950 140346). The majority of site was previously in arable agricultural use, with two small fields in the north-west and one field in the south in use as pasture.

The British Geological Survey indicates that the geology of the area of the site is mixed. The bedrock geology across much of the site is Hythe Formation, comprising sandstone and limestone, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 112 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas. Atherfield Clay Formation a Cretaceous bedrock is mapped present in the south of the site (BGS 2021)

The superficial deposits at the site are alluvial clays, silts, sands and gravels deposited up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by rivers (BGS 2021).

The date of the archaeology across the Stour Park site is mixed. The earliest date of features appears to be Bronze Age although there may be earlier residual flint work. Iron Age material is present along with Roman on multi phased sites. Roman kilns or ovens have been noted, although their dating is uncertain. The six kubiena samples were removed from within kiln [10029]. The kiln was hypothesised to be of Roman date as it appeared to have been excavated into a Roman date subsoil and subsequently covered over by topsoil, also hypothesised to be of Roman date. The kiln was found to be roughly oval in shape although it was broader (1.5m in width) in the northern half when compared to the southern half (1m in width). Ragstone found within the northern half of the kiln was found to be burned and this was interpreted as evidence that the wider northern end of the kiln was the firing chamber and that the narrower southern half of the kiln was the flue. No recuts or differential cuts were observed, and the kiln was thought to represent a single phase of use. The kiln was found to cut enclosure [10125] and was thus hypothesised to be part of a second phase of industrial activity within this part of the site (AOC 2020).

The kubiena samples were taken through the accumulated sediment which comprised the fill of a collapsed kiln. The samples were taken to assist in assessing deposit formation processes (the deposit may contain both naturally accumulated and dumped material), to further understand spatial variations within the composition of the infill sediment and what it may tell us about the use of the kiln and also to assess the potential for retrieving stratified material suitable for paleoenvironmental analysis or dating.

The kiln [10029] was excavated in six segments (Q1-Q6) and kubiena samples were removed from fills of Q3-Q6.

The main objective of the assessment of the sediment samples was to characterise the deposits within each sample and identify the main formation processes that these sediments represent.

An assessment of the potential for further micromorphological analysis has also been undertaken.

Methodology

Each kubiena sample was cleaned prior to recording and was visually examined and described using a simplified version of the Troels-Smith system of sediment classification (Troels-Smith, 1955; Table B27), and a Munsell soil chart (Munsell, 2000), with any distinguishing features or stratigraphic layers being recorded. This is an objective method of sediment classification to identify each lithostratigraphic context. The presence of any inclusions such as macrofossils and charcoal, or wood was also noted. The descriptions were recorded on a proforma. Each sample was photographed to provide a permanent record of the stratigraphy.

Table B27: Modified Troels-Smith system of sediment description.

Physical Features	
Degree of darkness	Varies from 0 in the lightest occurring shades (e.g., clear (Nigror) quartz sand and lake marl), through 1 (eg. calcareous clay), 2 (e.g., fresh swamp peat), 3 (e.g., partly humified peat) to 4 in the darkest sediments (e.g. completely disintegrated peat).
Degree of stratification	Visual or structural horizontal banding or layering. Varies (Stratification) from 0 where the deposit is completely homogeneous or breaks in all directions, to 4 which consists of clear thin layers or bands.
Degree of elasticity	The sediment's ability to regain its shape after being (Elasticitas) squeezed or bent. Varies from 0 in plastic clay, sand, disintegrated peat etc. to 4 in fresh peat.
Degree of dryness	Deposits fall between 0 (clear water) and 4 (air dry material). (Siccitas) 1 indicates very wet runny sediment such as surface lake muds, 2 represents saturated sediments, the normal condition below the water table, while sicc. 3 indicates moist, unsaturated sediments.
Colour	Best determined by reference to Munsell soil colour charts. Changes in colour with exposure to air should be noted.
Structure	The dominant structural feature (eg. fibrous, homogeneous)
Sharpness of boundary	The boundary can be diffuse (> 1cm: lim. 0), very gradual (Limes superior)(<1cm to > 2mm: lim. 1), gradual (< 2mm to >1mm: lim. 2), sharp (<1mm to > 0.5mm) or very sharp (< 0.5mm).
Humicity	The degree of humification or disintegration of organic (Humicitas) substances. It is measured by determination of the nature and amount of material passing through the fingers on squeezing; 0 (fresh peat yielding clear water), 1 (slightly decomposed peat yielding dark coloured, turbid water), 2 (decomposed peat yielding half its mass), 3 (very decomposed peat yielding three-quarters of its mass) and 4 (totally decomposed peat yielding almost all its mass).
Components	

Mosses	Sphagnum is the most common peat former.
Woody plants (Turfa lignosa)	Roots of trees and shrubs together with attached stumps and branches, frequently in growth position.
Herbs (Turfa herbacea)	Roots of herbaceous plants together with attached stems and leaves, frequently in growth position.
Woody detritus (Detritus)	Fragments of woody plants >2mm.
Components	
Herb detritus (Detritus)	Fragments of herbaceous plants >2mm.
Fine detritus (Detritus)	Fragments of woody or herbaceous plants <2mm.
Charcoal	Carbonised fragments of predominantly woody plants.
Organic lake mud	Homogeneous organic lake sediment composed of remains (Limus detrituosus) of microplankton and humified remains of macrophytes.
Humus (Substantia)	Completely disintegrated organic substances and precipitated humic acids.
Organosilicates (Limus siliceous)	Siliceous skeletons or skeleton fragments of diatoms, sponges etc.
Carbonates (Limus)	Calcium carbonate or marl. Similar in colour and texture to L. siliceous but soluble in hydrochloric acid.
Iron oxides (Limus)	Iron oxides of various types and colours.
Clay (Argilla steatodes)	Mineral particles <0.002mm
Silt (Argilla granosa)	Mineral particles 0.002-0.06mm
Sand (Grana minora)	Mineral particles 0.06 - 2mm.
Gravel (Grana majora)	Mineral particles >2mm.

The assemblage

The six samples cover six contexts identified within the kiln fill:

- **(10196):** Sampled in <457> in Q6 and described as a loose dark reddish brown sandy silt containing large proportions of CBM. When examined in the laboratory it was found to be a pale brown (10YR 6/3) very dense sandy silt. Few patches of possible burned sediment were observed towards the base of the sample as well as rare possible ash patches. Few fibrous organic inclusions including rare ferruginous examples were also observed as were occasional rounded and angular stones. There is a void at the top of the sample which has allowed for sediment movement and the upper part of the sample is thus disturbed, loose and not in situ.
- **(10114):** Sampled in <462> Q3 and described in the field as a dark greyish brown clayey silt overlying the kiln base. It was hypothesised as representative of the original collapse of the flue and noted to contain CBM relating to the flue's construction. When examined in the laboratory it was found to be a brown heterogenous sandy silt with occasional inclusions of whiteish grey CBM. A clear boundary with the overlying (10117) was observed

- **(10173):** Sampled in <458> Q6 and described as a yellowish grey silty sand containing masonry relating to the collapse of the kiln. In the laboratory it was found to comprise a light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) silty clay. It is friable and becomes increasingly friable upwards. Sharp boundaries with CBM and other matrix fabrics were observed. Common charcoal generally c1mm. Patches of yellowish red (5YR 5/6) CBM and dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) silty sand.
- **(10170):** Sampled in <459> Q5 and described in the field as a mid brownish grey clayey silt containing frequent flecks of charcoal and burnt CBM. Fragments of bone were also observed. Noted as very similar to (10173). In the laboratory it was found to comprise a brown (10YR 3/3) sandy clay with patches of clayey silt. Frequent inclusion of pale yellow (2.5Y7/4) CBM and yellowish red (5YR 4/6) CBM. Friable (increasingly friable upwards) with a very weakly developed crumb structure. Frequent modern rootlets.
- **(10118):** Sampled in <460> Q4 and described in the field as a yellowish grey silty sand similar to (10117) to the south. When examined in the laboratory it was found to comprise a light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) to yellowish red (5YR 5/6) silty sand. Sharp internal boundaries with matrix material were observed and may indicate dumping of mixed deposits. Few very small (<1mm) rounded stones. Very few rootlets. Occasional reddish brown CBM. Rare charcoal inclusions increasing in quantity and size upwards. Compacted and well preserved.
- **(10117):** Sampled in <461> and at the top of <462> Q3 and described as a greyish brown silty sand containing large fragments of CBM which it was hypothesised related to the collapse of the kiln. When examined in the laboratory in <461> this was found to comprise a very dark brown to black (10YR 2/1) sediment. Within <462> to be a light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) to dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy silt. Sharp internal boundaries with matrix material were observed. Occasional fragments of CBM. Few very small (<1mm) rounded stones are present as are very few rootlets. Rare charcoal inclusions increase in quantity and size upwards. Compacted and well preserved. This was described as an upper fill deposit overlying the primary collapsed flue deposit (10114).

Discussion and statement of significance

Three fills were found within the flue of kiln [10029]. The lower fill (10196) and (10114) was a yellowish-brown sandy silt containing occasional to frequent CBM. It was found to overlie the masonry base of the kiln which displayed evidence for heat affected stone. The middle fill (10173) (10170) (10118) and (10117) had a similarly silty matrix but contained fewer CBM fragments and higher proportions of charcoal as well as rare bone fragments. This fill was frequently heterogenous with patches of sandy CBM rich material with which sharp boundaries were observed. Preservation of sharp boundaries may be indicative of rapid accumulation/dumping of at least part of this fill. The upper fill (10053) was not sampled for micromorphology but was described in the field as moderately compact silty clay and hypothesised as the upper fill of the kiln features dumped into the kiln following its use as a rubbish pit (AOC 2020). The kiln fill is a heterogenous soil containing a mixture of both upper and lower parts of the kiln infill. It appears that both burned and unburned soil fragments are present here and that these have been thoroughly mixed by subsequent earthworm activity. Coarse charcoal is common in the upper fills, sometimes with burned topsoil attached, and much appears to be breaking up *in situ*. The inclusions of charcoal suggests that infill may have been derived in part by domestic waste. During

excavation it was hypothesised that the upper fill represented deliberate dumping of waste and use of the kiln as a rubbish pit. The lower fill was observed to contain fragments of what may have been a yellow clay lining and was thought to represent the primary abandonment infill.

There is no evidence of *in situ* burning and it is clear that these infills were formed following the abandonment of the kiln.

Further work will have to be undertaken before of the elements of this deposit can be identified, along with any indications of evidence of material fired within the kiln.

Recommended further Work

Four of the kubiena samples were taken from the centre of the middle kiln fill across four quadrants and were presumably sampled in an attempt to identify spatial difference in the kiln infill through the flue. Examination of these samples under laboratory conditions has revealed that the variations are unlikely to be sufficiently significant to allow for differentiation of these deposits and they all appear to have been formed through accumulation of similar debris material. It is therefore concluded that further analysis of the spatial relationship along the flue would not be beneficial.

The upper fill of the stratigraphic sequence sampled in Q6 was found to be disturbed with large voids within the sample tin precluding any further useful analysis of this sequence. The stratigraphic sequence in Q3 however appears to be intact and further appears to preserve the boundary between the lower (10114) and upper (10117) fills of the kiln. Analysis of these two samples could help to differentiate between the depositional processes responsible for the kiln infill and also to further characterise the inclusions in the base of the fill which may in turn further inform us about the use of the kiln itself. It is therefore advised that two samples are submitted for micromorphological analysis which should aim to answer the following research questions:

- *What site formation processes were responsible for the kiln infilling*
- *How do the lower and upper kiln infills differ and is this a reflection of differing depositional environments?*
- *Do post-depositional alterations to the infilled deposit tell us anything about wider environmental conditions at this site?*
- *What can the inclusions in the lower fill tell us about the material used to construct the kiln and materials that may have been burned within it?*
- *What can the conclusions in the upper fill tell us about wider domestic activity on this site?*
- *How do the kiln infills compare with other examples of Roman kilns studied micromorphologically?*

The proposed sample locations are detailed below and have been selected according to relationships between deposits of most interest and those that appeared to best preserved. As no discernible difference could be identified spatially within the kiln further analysis is limited to a single stratigraphic sequence.

Specialist Task	Sample/Context
Micromorphological Analysis	<462> (10114/10117)
Micromorphological Analysis	<461> (10117)

References

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Table B28: Soils and Sediments Appendix of Sediment Characteristics

Note: Deposits are described from the base up in order of sediment deposition and then from north to south

Sample	Context	Darkness	Stratification	Elasticity	Dryness	Structure	Boundary	Description
Sample 457	10196	3	2	3	3	Homogenous	-	10YR 6/3 Pale Brown. Very dense sandy silt. Few patches of possible burned sediment towards base of samples as well as possible ash patches. Few fibrous organic inclusions including rare ferruginous examples. Rare charcoal inclusions. Occasional rounded and angular stones. Occasional roots. There is a void at the top of the sample which has allowed for sediment movement and the upper part of the sample is thus disturbed, loosed and not in situ.
Sample 462	10114	3	2	3	3	Heterogeneous	Clear	10YR 3/3 Brown. Sandy silt. Occasional white CBM fragments 2-5mm. Few fe/mn mottles towards base of unit and at interface with overlying. Few fibrous organic inclusions including rare rootlets. Rare charcoal inclusions.
Sample 462	10114/ 10017	3	2	3	3	Homogenous	-	10YR 2/1 Black. Sandy silt. Few fibrous organic inclusions including roots. Few very small (<1mm) rounded stones. Rare charcoal inclusions increasing in quantity and size upwards).
Sample 458	10173	2/3	1	2	2	Homogenous	-	10YR 6/4 Light yellowish brown. Silty Clay. Friable (increasingly friable upwards). Sharp boundaries with CBM and other matrix fabrics. Common charcoal generally c1mm. Patches of 5Yr 5/6 yellowish red CBM.
Sample 459	10170	2/3	2	0	4	Homogenous	Diffuse	10YR 3/3 Brown with patches of 2.5y7/4 pale yellow CBM and 5YR 4/6 yellowish red CBM. Sandy Clay with patches of Clayey Silt. Friable (increasingly friable upwards). Very weakly developed crumb structure. Presence of > 5mm packing voids/very loose structure. Frequent modern rootlets.

Sample	Context	Darkness	Stratification	Elasticity	Dryness	Structure	Boundary	Description
Sample 460	10118	3	2	3	3	Heterogeneous, fissured	-	10YR 6/4 Light yellowish brown to 5YR 5/6 yellowish red. Silty sand. Sharp internal boundaries with matrix material. Few very small (<1mm) rounded stones. Very few rootlets. Occasional reddish brown CBM. Rare charcoal inclusions increasing in quantity and size upwards. Compacted and well preserved.
Sample 461	10117	3	2	3	3	Heterogeneous	-	10YR 6/4 Light yellowish brown to 10YR 4/4 Dark yellowish brown. Sandy silt. Sharp internal boundaries with matrix material. Few very small (<1mm) rounded stones. Very few rootlets. Rare charcoal inclusions increasing in quantity and size upwards). Compacted and well preserved.

Palaeoenvironmental Assessment

Jackeline Robertson

Introduction

Palaeoenvironmental assessment was carried out on 18 subsamples from 3 monolith samples, which cover two sequences from within archaeological features. Assessment of the subsamples included investigation of diatoms, ostracods, and pollen samples, in order to further understand the depositional environments and palaeoecological context of the features.

A possible pond feature, [8042], with one fill (8041) has been sampled <Tin 2> to produce six subsamples for palaeoenvironmental assessment and two radiocarbon dates.

Feature [8209] represents a ditch terminus with five recorded fills, the lower three of which were sampled within tins <3> and <4>. Throughout the sequence, 12 subsamples for palaeoenvironmental assessment and 2 radiocarbon dating samples have been taken.

A fourth monolith sample, <Tin 1>, was taken from a spread deposit (6148), associated with cut [6149], comprising a friable, mid-dark brown, slightly sandy, clayey silt. Inclusions within the deposit included very occasional small pieces of flagstone, occasional fragments of pottery and animal bone, and a registered small find (1) of a decorative copper item. The deposit was recorded as being 0.25m in thickness, and roughly 5.35m by 8m in lateral extent, with a very irregular surface, irregular to flat base, and gradual sloped sides. It truncates two ditch features, [6146] to the northeast and [6041] to the southwest. No palaeoenvironmental assessment or radiocarbon dating was carried out on this sample.

Table B29: A summary of the palaeoenvironmental subsamples

Context	Tin	Subsample	Depth from Top (m)	Top Elevation (m OD)
(8204) [8209]	<3>	1	0.03-0.04	
(8204) [8209]	<3>	2	0.10-0.11	
(8204) [8209]	<3>	3	0.19-0.20	
(8204) [8209]	<3>	4	0.28-0.29	
(8207) [8209]	<3>	5	0.36-0.37	
(8207) [8209]	<3>	6	0.46-0.47	
(8207) [8209]	<4>	7	0.08-0.09	
(8208) [8209]	<4>	8	0.15-0.16	
(8208) [8209]	<4>	9	0.23-0.24	
(8208) [8209]	<4>	10	0.32-0.33	
(8208) [8209]	<4>	11	0.45-0.46	
(8208) [8209]	<4>	12	0.47-0.48	
(8041) [8042]	<2>	13	0.02-0.03	49.87
(8041) [8042]	<2>	14	0.15-0.16	49.79
(8041) [8042]	<2>	15	0.21-0.22	49.68
(8041) [8042]	<2>	16	0.30-0.31	49.59
(8041) [8042]	<2>	17	0.38-0.39	49.51
(8041) [8042]	<2>	18	0.46-0.47	49.43

Table B30: A list of the radiocarbon dating samples

Context	Tin	Number	Depth from Top (m)	Top Elevation (m OD)
(8204) [8209]	<3>	RC1	0.02-0.03	
(8208) [8209]	<4>	RC2	0.46-0.47	
(8041) [8042]	<2>	RC3	0.02-0.14	49.87
(8041) [8042]	<2>	RC4	0.39-0.41	49.50

The samples from these features will provide details for the environments of deposition for each phase of infilling and illustrate changes in the local and regional palaeoecology with dates provided for the earliest and latest points in the deposition of these units.

Possible Pond feature [8048]

One monolith sample <Tin 2> was recovered from the sole fill (8042) of possible pond feature [8048], from which six subsamples and two radiocarbon dates were obtained.

A tabulated summary of the results from the pollen assessment, ostracod assessment, diatom assessment, and radiocarbon dating is presented in Table B29).

Table B31: Summary of palaeoenvironmental results from sample <499>, Tin 2

Sample No.	Deposit Context Number	Top depth (m)	Base depth (m)	Top Elevation (m OD)	Base Elevation (m OD)	Sub samples								Deposit Descriptions	
						Pollen		Ostracods		Diatoms		Radiocarbon dating			
						No. (e.g. P1)	Assessment result	No. (e.g. O1)	Assessment result	No. (e.g. D1)	Assessment result	No.	Assessment result		
499/Tin 2	8041	0.02	0.03	49.87	49.86	P13	Useful results were obtained from all subsamples, though relatively poorly preserved. The on-site habitat was likely a localised willow (<i>Salix</i>) carr occupying a damp depression, with ground flora of grasses, sedges, and some other fen herbs. The surrounding dryland was utilised for mixed agricultural practices of cultivation and predominantly pasture. Aside from willow, there are relatively low values of other arboreal types, which are considered to have been growing in the wider region.	O13	The assemblage contained common caddis fly cases, seeds, some beetle fragments, and occasional fish bones and teeth. Rare bivalve fragments were present in the upper sample (0.02-0.03m) and a gastropod fragment was identified within the lower sample (0.15-0.16m). Indicative of a range freshwater environment, most likely streams and ponds fed by springs.	D13	Absent			(8041) [8042] Soft and humic. Dark brown/black. Humic sandy clay and peat formation. Lenses of pale brown sand and slick blue/grey clay. Frequent wood fragments, moderate dense organics. Occasional CE and CBM frags, and animal bones. Decayed organic peat accumulation within a waterlogged area - possible POND	
499/Tin 2	8041	0.02	0.14	49.87	49.75							RC3	695 +/- 24 years BP 1273-1384 cal AD (GU59039)		
499/Tin 2	8041	0.15	0.16	49.74	49.73	P14		O14			D14	Absent			
499/Tin 2	8041	0.21	0.22	49.68	49.67	P15		O15		Absent	D15	Absent			
499/Tin 2	8041	0.30	0.31	49.59	49.58	P16		O16		Absent	D16	Absent			
499/Tin 2	8041	0.38	0.39	49.51	49.50	P17		O17		Absent	D17	Absent			
499/Tin 2	8041	0.39	0.41	49.50	49.49								RC4		534 +/- 24 years BP 1327-1437 cal AD (GU59040)
499/Tin 2	8041	0.46	0.47	49.43	49.42	P18		O18		Absent	D18	Absent			

The deposit is described as a fairly soft and humus rich, dark brown to black, sandy clay and peat formation with lenses of pale brown sand and blue to grey clay. Inclusions recorded include lots of fragments of wood and some dense organic materials, as well as few ceramic and CBM fragments and animal bones. Together with the sediment description, these suggest anthropic influence over the sediment accumulation, likely the result of surface run off with continuous high moisture levels. It was recorded to be 0.56m thick. The description suggests a continuous phase of infilling, with little variation in depositional conditions.

Pollen assessment carried out on the monolith sample was conducted on six subsamples. All samples provided viable pollen samples, though low in numbers and poorly preserved. The lower samples provided higher numbers and better preservation. The profile is broadly homogenous, with no local pollen assemblage zones specified, suggesting an overall stable environment over the period of sediment accumulation at this location (c. 1327-1384calAD, GU59040), further supported by the undifferentiated fill of the feature. Overall, the assemblage demonstrates a herb dominated local environment, whereby herbs comprise up to 87% of the total pollen values. Trees and shrubs are generally only present in small quantities, with a maximum presence (40%) within the upper profile at P14 (0.15-0.16m), which is due to a peak in willow (*Salix*) pollen. Ferns or identified in small quantities within the lower part of the profile, at up to 22% (0.21-0.22m).

On site vegetation throughout the period of deposition likely included Willow (*Salix*), due to the nature of the pollen whereby it is generally poorly represented in pollen assemblages without strong local or on-site growth. Accompanying willow on site were species of marsh herbs from fen ground flora, including sedges (*Cyperaceae*), some of the identified grasses (*Poaceae*), hemlock water dropwort (*Oenanthe* sp.), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), and greater burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*).

The presence of willow carr on this site likely had the affected the accumulation of pollen from the broader region, though the assemblage does allow for broad interpretation. Regional vegetation between (c. 1327-1384calAD, GU59040) as indicated by the pollen assemblage was likely broadly open agricultural land with few trees, with greater presence of pastoral indicators than of cereal pollen and associated arable weed species. This suggests the region to have been utilised for mixed agricultural economy. Notably, cannabis type pollen is recorded throughout, with highest count in the upper sequence, possibly from cultivated hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) or hop (*Humulus lupulus*).

Ostracod assessment resulted in assemblages from only the upper sequence (O13 and O14) and provided a varied assemblage indicating a range freshwater environment, most likely consisting of streams and ponds fed by springs. This ties in with the pollen assemblage which suggested a waterlogged local environment of willow carr at (1273-1384 cal AD, GU59039).

No viable diatoms were identified within this sequence.

Ditch Terminus [8209]

Tin 3 (subsamples 1-6) and 4 (subsamples 7-10) takes from three deposits (8204), (8207), (8208) from a sequence within the terminus of a ditch feature [8212], slot number [8209].

The stratigraphy and placement of the sample tin is illustrated in Figure 23, Section 112.1.

A tabulated summary of the results from the pollen assessment, ostracod assessment, diatom assessment, and radiocarbon dating for the sequence is presented in Table B30 and B31.

Table B32: Summary of palaeoenvironmental results from sample <500>, Tin 3

Sample No.	Deposit Context Number	Sub samples											Deposit Descriptions	
		Top depth (m)	Base depth (m)	Top Elevation (m OD)	Base Elevation (m OD)	Pollen		Ostracods		Diatoms		Radiocarbon dating		
						No. (eg P1)	Assessment result	No. (eg O1)	Assessment result	No. (eg D1)	Assessment result	No.		Assessment result
														(8204) (8207) [8209] DITCH TERMINUS
500/Tin 3	8204	0.02	0.03									RC1	364 +/- 21 years BP 1457-1631 cal AD (GU59037)	(8204) Soft but friable clayey SAND, mid greyish brown in colour with flecks of orange. Inclusions of small fragments of CBM and rooting. Upper fill of feature, with stone and CBM found near the interface between the deposit and the wider geology. Worked wood found at lower boundary.
500/Tin 3	8204	0.03	0.04			P1	Poor preservation. Onsite open grassland, with some wetter areas of slow-flowing or standing water from 0.28m, possibly indicating areas of herb fen. Surrounding terrestrial zone of general paucity of tree and shrub pollen suggesting an open environment, with evidence of both pastoral and arable agriculture.	O1	Absent	D1	Absent			
500/Tin 3	8204	0.1	0.11			P2		O2	Absent	D2	Absent			
500/Tin 3	8204	0.19	0.20			P3		O3	Absent	D3	Absent			
500/Tin 3	8204	0.28	0.29			P4		O4	Absent	D4	Absent			
500/Tin 3	8207	0.36	0.37			P5		O5	Absent	D5	Absent			
500/Tin 3	8207	0.46	0.47			P6		O6	Absent	D6	Absent			(8207) Soft light yellowish brown silty SAND containing inclusions of CBM and a worked wooden plank.

Table B33: Summary of palaeoenvironmental results from sample <501>, Tin 4

Sample No.	Deposit Context Number	Top depth (m)	Base depth (m)	Top Elevation (m OD)	Base Elevation (m OD)	Sub samples								Deposit Descriptions
						Pollen		Ostracods		Diatoms		Radiocarbon dating		
						No. (eg P1)	Assessment result	No. (eg O1)	Assessment result	No. (eg D1)	Assessment result	No.	Assessment result	
														Cut [8209] P/o feature [8212]. DITCH TERMINUS
501/Tin 4	8207	0.08	0.09			P7	General paucity of tree and shrub pollen. Open landscape with varied herbs and some cereal.	O7	Absent	D7	Absent			(8207) Soft light yellowish brown silty SAND containing inclusions of CBM and a worked wooden plank.
501/Tin 4	8208	0.15	0.16			P8	Large grass presence (45%) which drops significantly (20%) as a simultaneous increase in <i>Cannabis</i> or possible hop <i>Humulus</i> type pollen (15% to nearly 60%). Possibly indicative of local cultivation and processing. Overall open on-site environment with small areas of grass / sedge fen, and possible willow (<i>Salix</i>) woodland. Trees and shrubs sparse. Evidence of an open agricultural landscape with arable farming close to the site.	O8	Absent	D8	Absent			(8208) is a very soft, mid-dark grey clayey sand with rooting and ecofacts. Wet. Lowest known fill of [8209]. Primary fill of ditch. Large volume of eco deposits within this fill.
501/Tin 4	8208	0.23	0.24		P9	O9		Absent	D9	Absent				
501/Tin 4	8208	0.32	0.33		P10	O10		The presence of small numbers of several species in various life stages indicates the assemblage to be in-situ. Together the taxa indicate a range of freshwater environments, but most likely streams and ponds fed by springs.	D10	Absent				
501/Tin 4	8208	0.45	0.46		P11	O11			D11	One single, very poorly preserved diatom valve fragment which is probably from the non-planktonic species <i>Gomphonema angustatum</i> , a shallow water species that has tolerance of a wide range of freshwater quality.				
501/Tin 4	8208	0.46	0.47							RC2	453 +/- 21 years BP 1423-1459 cal AD (GU59038)			
501/Tin 4	8208	0.47	0.48			P12		O12		D12	Absent			

The primary fill (8208) is described as a very soft, saturated, mid-dark grey clayey sand with inclusions of rooting and frequent ecofacts. It has been measured to a minimum of 0.20m thickness. The secondary deposit (8207) is described as a soft, light yellowish brown, silty sand which inclusions of CBM and a worked wooden plank. It is approximately 0.15m thick. The tertiary deposit included within these samples is (8204), a soft but friable clayey SAND, mid greyish brown in colour with flecks of orange. Inclusions of small fragments of CBM and rooting. Upper fill of feature, with stone and CBM found near the interface between the deposit and the wider geology. Worked wood found at lower boundary. The descriptions of the deposits suggest that the initial phase of infilling was one led by natural surface runoff and consistent high moisture content, with locally increasing anthropogenic influence and drier conditions over time.

The lower deposit within this ditch fill sequence (8208) has provided the most comprehensive set of palaeoenvironmental evidence and proxies, with viable pollen, ostracod, and diatom assemblages identified, with palaeoenvironmental remains generally becoming less well preserved and less prevalent with higher elevation.

The pollen identified within the lowest sequence from (8208) to (8207) <Tin 4> has been separated into two phases, demonstrating a general open landscape with possible on-site or local cultivation and processing of Cannabis or possible hop (*Humulus*) species, and small areas of grass / sedge fen and possible willow woodland.

The lower sequence, Zone 1 (P10-P12) dates to roughly 1423-1459 cal AD, and demonstrates an environment initially dominated by grass (*Poaceae*) species at around 45%, which declines to c. 20% by the end of the zone. This is accompanied by a significant increase in the presence of Cannabis type pollen from 15% to almost 60%. Tree pollen is found in low quantities, though a peak of *Corylus avellana* (Hazel) type pollen is identified at the base of the zone at 20%. A variety of herbs and grasses are present throughout, including cereal types. The assemblage suggests a mixture of vegetation, including grass/sedge fen and *Salix* woodland, as well as damp ground and ditches. This zone provided significantly greater pollen values than the upper zone.

The upper sequence, Zone 2 (P7-P9), is characterised by a steady dominance of grasses at around 40% of the assemblages. As in Zone 1, tree and shrub pollen has been identified in small quantities. The herb assemblage is more diverse, and cereal type pollen is recorded throughout with a small peak to 4% at 0.15m (P8). Evidence of a marsh environment is also observed within this assemblage.

Pollen retrieved from the six subsamples of <Tin 3> was low in numbers and poorly preserved, suggesting similar environment of deposition continues from (8207) to (8204) with lesser preservation potential. The assemblages remain similar throughout the later sequence, resulting in presentation of a single pollen zone suggesting a stable environment over the recorded depositional period up to (1457-1631 cal AD). General trends in the assemblage include a dominance of *Poaceae* (grass) pollen between 30%-80%. Herb pollen is most prevalent, with *Lactucoideae* (dandelion) declining through the sequence from 35% to 5% toward the later deposit. There is a general paucity of tree and shrub pollen, with *Salix* (willow) the only species recorded throughout (2-5%). The pollen has accumulated from both on-site vegetation and via other factors of pollen transport such as airborne or fluvial modes from the wider environment.

Moving into the upper sequence from (8207) to (8204), the pollen assemblage suggests the on-site landscape continues to be one of open grassland with areas of slow flowing or standing water prevalent from 0.47 -0.28m (P4), evidenced by the presence of small numbers of sedges (*Cyperaceae*) and bulrush/ bur reed (*Typha angustifolia/Spaganium*). This may indicate areas of herb fen, which may also

be the origin of some of the grass pollen within the assemblage. Unidentified trilete spores have also been identified, which may have been derived from a pre-Quaternary source, or perhaps were part of the onsite vegetation. Their presence in association with dandelion types (*Lactuoideae*) at initial values of 35% may suggest the spores to be present due to differential preservation or reworking of older sediments.

The surrounding terrestrial zone has been evidenced to be an open environment with mixed agricultural economy including both pastoral and arable practices. Cereal type pollen is present throughout at relatively low levels, with arable weed types also identified within the assemblage, suggesting arable farming to have taken place within the wider landscape. Diversity of herbs increases toward the end of the sequence, with the emergence of *Cannabis* type (*Humulus/hop*) pollen possibly suggesting its cultivation in the wider landscape. Tree and shrub pollen is present only in very small numbers, most likely derived from long distance transportation. This suggests trees were growing only in small numbers in the wider landscape. A peak in trees and shrubs identified at 0.19m (P3) may be due to the low pollen count and poor preservation within this subsample, likely resulting from percentage effect rather than increasing prevalence in the landscape.

In summary, this sequence identifies a transition from a local environment dominated by a mosaic of grassland, willow (*Salix*) woodland, and sedge fen, toward one of grasses, cultivated cereals, fewer trees and shrubs, and reduced wet ground.

Ostracod assemblages identified within subsamples contingent with pollen Zone 1, and (8208), indicate a range of freshwater environments, most likely streams and ponds fed by springs. This supports the pollen evidence suggesting the presence of areas of damp ground and ditches, which may have been utilised in the suggested crop processing. No viable ostracods were identified above 0.32m depth within the sample (O10), or from (8207) or (8204).

Diatom evidence also relates to subsamples parallel with pollen Zone 2 and supports the presence of shallow freshwater features on site. (8207) and (8204) suggest drier conditions in the later phases of infilling, with no viable diatoms identified above 0.45m depth within the sample (D11).

Conclusions and Recommendations

Earlier samples suggest that from around 1327calAD the site was inhabited by an ecological mosaic of *Salix* (willow) woodland, grasses, sedges, and other fen herbs. Freshwater, likely of streams and ponds, was present within the local area. Mixed agricultural practices occupied the surrounding environment, which were predominantly of pastoral activity from c. 1327-1384cal AD. From c. 1423calAD arable farming is evident close to the Site, with a recorded drop in grasses and significant increase (15% to 60%) in the presence of *Cannabis* or *Humulus*. Streams and ponds continued to be prevalent on site, evidenced from ostracods and diatoms of preference for a range of freshwater environments, which may have been utilised within the cultivational processing activities relating to the increased crop presence in the record. Between c. 1423-1681 cal AD, trees including willow became scarcer, with evidence of both pastoral and arable agriculture locally. Some wetter areas of slow-flowing or standing water remained.

Further work may be suggested for the earliest fill (8208) of ditch feature [8209]. There is significant presence of anthropogenic pollen, specifically *Cannabis* type pollen which could be attributable to a retting pit or hop production. Increased sampling resolution in the key areas of the profile may be beneficial to the record. Further pollen assessment has not been recommended from other locations.

No further diatom assessment is recommended due to their very poor preservation.

No further ostracod assessment is recommended due to poor preservation.

APPENDIX C: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

Summary for aocarcha1-507058

OASIS ID (UID)	aocarcha1-507058
Project Name	Strip Map And Sample at Stour Park, Sevington, Kent
Sitename	
Activity type	Strip Map And Sample
Project Identifier(s)	
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	AOC Archaeology Group
Project Dates	01-Aug-2020 - 23-Dec-2020
Location	Stour Park, Sevington, Kent NGR : TR 03950 40346 LL : 51.1260750218452, 0.913236210180305 12 Fig : 603950,140346
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Kent District : Ashford Parish : Sevington
Project Methodology	5.7Machine stripping of the proposed archaeological investigation area was carried out under archaeological direction by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with an appropriate toothless ditching bucket (Plate 1). Undifferentiated topsoil overburden of recent origin was removed to the upper-most level of any identified archaeological features, or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Following monitoring of the preliminary stripping, archaeological excavation and recording within the area commenced under supervision by a fully qualified Archaeological Project Officer/Supervisor.5.9Where archaeological horizons were encountered, subsequent excavations were undertaken by hand. All excavated sections were drawn at a scale deemed appropriate for the task, usually 1:10 or 1: 20. All plans and sections were located to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid and Ordnance Datum (OD) heights were established for all strata and features through the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS).5.10Archaeological features were sample excavated in accord with the methodology as set out in the WSI .

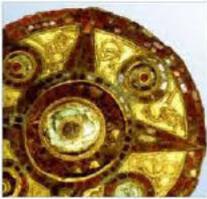
Project Results

The results indicate the presence of Late Bronze Age to Early / Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age to Early Roman farmland and settlement activity within the confines of the site. This included a road, a trackway, two associated inhumations, field boundaries, enclosures and possible structures including three roundhouses. Early to Middle Saxon activity, perhaps pertaining to the 6th century, took the form of a small inhumation cemetery of 11 individuals in the eastern part of the site. One individual, a young to middle-aged adult male, was buried with a spear, a knife and an unusual buckle. Late Saxon or earlier activity also occurred in the eastern part of the site in the form of a field boundary, a collection of pits or postholes, two fence lines and six probable corn drying kilns, which could alternatively pertain to the Roman period. A possible post-built structure with the same dimensions as a Late Saxon long hall was also present but is poorly dated and not well understood. Medieval to early post-medieval activity was nucleated in the south-west corner of the site, closer to the current village of Sevington, thus suggesting a change of focus between the Late Saxon and later medieval periods. Two farmland boundary ditches that may date to the 17th to 19th centuries were also present.

The finds collected from the site included prehistoric and Roman pottery, post-Roman pottery, ceramic building materials (CBM), post-Roman glass, fired clay, clay tobacco pipe, metals, a single coin, worked and burnt flint, worked leather, worked wood and slag and industrial residues. Ecofacts included diatoms, ostracods, pollen, macroplants, charcoal, cremated bone of uncertain origin, animal bone and human bone.

The prehistoric to Late Saxon results are deemed to be regionally significant, while the medieval to post-medieval remains are of local importance.

Keywords	<p>Road - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Trackway - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Round House (Domestic) - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Corn Drying Kiln - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Boundary Ditch - LATE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Rectangular Enclosure - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Square Enclosure - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Inhumation Cemetery - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Cremation Burial - EARLY IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Building - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Blunging Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Rubbish Pit - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Extractive Pit - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Fence - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Structure - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Round House (Domestic) - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Extended Inhumation - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Rubbish Pit - EARLY IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Rubbish Pit - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Field Boundary - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Field Boundary - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Field Boundary - EARLY MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Field Boundary - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Field Boundary - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p>
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HER Identifiers	
Archives	



AOC Archaeology Group, Unit 7, St Margarets Business Centre,
Moor Mead Road, Twickenham TW1 1JS

tel: 020 8843 7380 | fax: 020 8829 0549 | e-mail: london@aocarchaeology.com



www.aocarchaeology.com