

Iron Age occupation and Medieval rural buildings at Isleham Recreation Ground, Cambridgeshire



Excavation Report



May 2014

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**Iron Age occupation and Medieval rural buildings at Isleham Recreation
Ground, Cambridgeshire**

Archaeological Excavation

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Summary

Between the 19th November and 6th December 2012 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological excavation in advance of the construction of a new village hall and community centre on the recreation ground in Isleham. A previous evaluation had uncovered evidence for early medieval activity in this area and the subsequent excavation aimed to examine and characterise the extent of this activity and its relationship to the development of medieval Isleham.

The earliest activity that was uncovered dated to the Early Iron Age. This consisted of a partially surviving enclosure ditch within which were located several storage pits and postholes. The postholes may have been part of domestic structures and pottery recovered from one of the pits indicated that there had been a settlement located here at this time.

Two phases of medieval activity were uncovered on either side of a large natural hollow or pond. The pond was bounded by ditches, fences and hedges throughout the medieval period to keep animals away from crops and storage buildings located to the east and south of the excavation area. This activity was closely related to the alien Benedictine priory which was established shortly after the Norman conquest.

A structure located in the south-eastern part of the excavation area was of sill-beam and post construction and may have been designed to hold a raised floor for storage of produce. This structure was rebuilt in the second medieval phase. An area directly to the east of this structure may have been used for crop cultivation.

The southern corner of a field was located to the north-east of the trench and contained linear features thought to represent medieval ploughing and root action of crops in this area. These field boundaries were later backfilled with domestic refuse, including large amounts of charred grain, before a small barn was constructed. The barn may signify that the field was being used to hold animals rather than for agriculture. Activity on the site may have declined after the monks of the priory moved away from Isleham in the 13th century.

During the post-medieval period several pits were dug for the quarrying and working of clunch for construction. This may indicate that Isleham was beginning to expand.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at Isleham recreation ground, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, centred on TL 6425 7403 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 09/00475/FUM), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Drummond-Murray 2012).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the Zig-Zag marly chalk formation that is part of a ridge that runs south-west to north-east along the southern Fen edge (B.G.S. 1978). The River Lark lies 2.4km to the north-east whilst the River Snail lies 3.5km to the west from where they flow towards the Fen edge c.750m to the north of the proposed development area. The site lies at a height of 11.60m in the south-west falling to 10.20m in the north-east (Figure 2).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is taken from the background research carried out during the evaluation stage of archaeological works (Rees 2012).

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 Evidence of prehistoric activity has primarily been identified close to the Fen edge to the north-west with several concentrations of artefacts, particularly lithics, being found during the Fenland survey (Hall 1996). Few prehistoric finds have been uncovered in the village itself, notable artefacts include two Mesolithic antler axes (HER07622), found 500m to the north of the site. Excavation along the course of the Isleham to Ely water pipeline, to the west and north of the village, added to the number of sites identified by the Fenland survey with particularly notable evidence of Neolithic to Bronze Age occupation being found (MCB17270, Edmonds *et al.* 2007). Burnt flints indicative of prehistoric activity have been recovered from several sites in and around the village, including Hall Barn Road 300m to the west to the site (CB15282, Kenney 2001; CB154281, Grant and Gardner 2002) and West Street 250m to the north (CB15283, Knight 1997) whilst a single sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from excavations on Beck Road to the east (MCB18442, Ennis 2009). Bronze Age activity in the wider area is attested to by 'the Isleham hoard', consisting of 6500 Late Bronze Age metal artefacts buried in a ceramic pot, located 1.5km to the south-west of the village (CHER07592). Ring-ditches, visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, located to

the south-west of the site may also date to the Bronze Age (HER09020, Hall 1996: 86-88; HER11125).

- 1.3.3 Very little is known of the Iron Age period in the vicinity. Evidence for Iron Age (and earlier) occupation, in the form of storage pits, was recovered at Chalk Farm, 1.2km south-west of the development site (Gdaniec *et al.* 1997).

Roman and Saxon

- 1.3.4 Occupation in the Roman period is evidenced by the location of a villa to the north of Temple Road (HER11661). This villa may have been associated with a driveway uncovered on Hall Barn Road to the south (HER11894; Gdaniec *et al.* 1997). Find spots and several individual features indicate that there was background activity in the Isleham area during the Roman period. A pit located 150m to the south of the proposed development area contained a single fragment of Roman tile (MCB16866; Kenney 2004) and a large quantity of re-used Roman building material was found later during excavations (Newton 2006, 7). Several other finds have been recovered from the west of the village including a brooch (MCB16203), a saddle quern (HER10864), several coins (HER07559; HER07559a) and a scatter of pottery (HER10866).
- 1.3.5 Evidence of the Saxon occupation of Isleham is limited to a few individual finds consisting of two brooches (HER11691, 11708) and a coin (HER07612), however two features identified on the Fordham Road site (MCB16866) to the south of the proposed development area have been tentatively interpreted as possible sunken floor buildings that may relate to Saxon occupation.

Medieval

- 1.3.6 Located 350m to the north of the proposed development site, the alien Benedictine priory is evidence of the importance of the site following the Norman Conquest. The priory was probably founded soon after the land was granted to the Breton abbey of St-Jacut-de-la-Mer in the 1110s. In the 1220s the monks were moved to the sister cell in Linton and the priory became a manor. The only standing priory building is the Chapel of St Margaret of Antioch (HER07529) to the north of which lie the buried foundations of the conventual buildings. Earthwork remains to the north include fishponds and linear divisions (HER07528). Recent archaeological works have uncovered possible contemporary features to the north-west of the priory (Webster 2011), whilst excavation to the west uncovered a large boundary ditch extending beyond the scheduled limits of the site (Knight 1997). Property boundaries associated with the medieval settlement have also been uncovered on West Street (Macaulay 2000).
- 1.3.7 There are no certain medieval remains located away from the village. Remains of a moat survive to the south of the Roman villa (HER05704a), off Temple Road. The name of the road and the surrounding area (commonly referred to as 'The Temple') may originate from the Manerium Templi that was held by the Master of the Templars in 1279 (Reaney 1943, 193). However, the moat does not appear to be associated with the Manerium. Pottery recovered in this area would suggest a 14th century date for the earthwork (HER11574, HER11074). Excavations to the west of the village at Hall Farm uncovered three rectangular pits on a north-west to south-east alignment which appeared to replicate the general alignment of medieval features in this area (HER11895, Gdaniec *et al.* 1997). A post-built structure and a sunken floor building, dated to the 11th-12th century, were located to the south of Fordham Road (MCB16866, Newton 2006). This site also contained evidence of high intensity clunch quarrying and processing tanks indicating that it was a major source of building material in the early medieval period (Newton 2010).

- 1.3.8 From the later medieval period onwards drainage of land began on a major scale. The process was accompanied by both intensification of agricultural practices and industrial development. During the later part of the medieval period a water-filled channel, which gave its name to the present road of Waterside, linked a former quay (one of at least three situated along the north side of Isleham) with the River Lark to the north. A further canal ran westwards at the rear of properties on the north side of the village, which gave them their own access for waterborne trade (Oosthuizen 1996).
- 1.3.9 By 1460, five crofts east of the south end of Up (later Mill) Street had quarry pits at their street ends, and there was a limekiln croft south of Bletherweyk (later West) Street. Clunch continued to be extracted for both building material and for burning into lime until 1938 (Wareham & Wright 2002).
- 1.3.10 The church of St. Andrews, located 500m to the north of the proposed development site, was constructed in 1330AD on the site of a previous Norman church (HER 07591).

Post-medieval

- 1.3.11 A windmill (HER07611) dating to this period was located 300m to the south of the proposed development area. A series of 19th century lime kilns on the east side of High Street (HER07489) may have been associated with a quarry shown on the Enclosure Map (Draft) to the north (HER11214). These kilns and clunch quarrying for construction purposes appear to have been common in this area and further examples have been uncovered to the south at Fordham Road (CB15282: Kenney 2004) and to the east on Beck Road (MCB18442; Ennis 2009).
- 1.3.12 The 1885 first edition 25" ordnance survey map shows no features in the proposed development area which is labelled as 'Street Farm'.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Richard Underwood of Archial, and Isleham Parish Council, particularly Diane Bayliss and Derrick Beckett, who commissioned and funded the work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and monitored by Dan McConnell who also wrote the Brief for archaeological works. The works were directed by Gareth Rees, who also undertook the site survey. Pete Boardman, James Coles, Nick Cox, John Diffey, Mike Green, Steve Morgan and Jemima Woolverton excavated and recorded the site. Thanks also go to Jane Darley and Denise Wilding and the other members of the local community who gave their time and resources to assist with the excavation. Specialist advice was supplied by Chris Faine, Rachel Fosberry, Matt Brudenell and Carole Fletcher; Lucy Offord digitised the records and produced the illustrations.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this excavation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that open area excavation took place in the area of the footprint of the proposed new community centre.
- 2.2.2 Stripping of the topsoil and subsoil, as well as muck-away, was carried out by members of the local community under archaeological supervision using a tracked 360 excavator with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 Environmental sampling was targeted on feature types that had proved productive in the evaluation as well as on features with a high potential for the preservation of environmental remains.
- 2.2.6 Site conditions were generally good. Once stripped the entire site was hand cleaned and planned at a scale of 1:50. The west central area of the site consisted of a large natural depression which may have been a pond during the medieval period (Figure 2). Heavy rain during the excavations, combined with the marly clay caused surface disturbance to the archaeology as well as hazardous conditions for the excavators.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Archaeological remains comprised of features dating from the late Bronze Age\Early Iron Age (1000BC – 700BC) to the post-medieval period (AD1500 – AD1800) with the majority of remains encountered dating from the early medieval period (AD1066 – 1400). A comprehensive listing of all contexts excavated is recorded in Appendix A (Figure 3).

3.2 Site Phasing

3.2.1 As with many rural sites very little complex stratigraphy was present, although the archaeological remains were moderately dense and several inter-cutting ditches and pits were recorded. The chronological phasing presented below is largely based on stratigraphic relationships, spatial associations and, to a certain extent similarity of alignment of linear features. Where possible this has been combined with dating evidence provided by stratified artefacts, primarily pottery. Three periods of occupation have been identified. There were also multiple feature that could not be attributed to a particular phase due to a lack of stratigraphy, artefacts or associations.

Period 1: Early Iron Age (1000BC – 700BC)

3.2.2 A single pit in the south-east corner of the site contained pottery dating to this period. A segment of ditch, several pits and postholes have been attributed to this phase by association.

Period 2: Medieval (AD1066 - AD1400)

3.2.3 The majority of activity took place in this phase. The eastern area mainly consisted of a cultivated field with ditched and hedged boundaries at the beginning of this period. Ditches and hedges were also erected around a large natural depression to the west of the site which may have been a pond. Two structures were built in this period, one of beam construction to the south and one of posts to the east. Activity was rural agricultural and pastoral in nature.

Period 3: Post-medieval (AD1500-AD1800)

3.2.4 Density of activity had declined dramatically by this time and the site was clearly on the periphery of the village. Only a few pits associated with clunch working were dated to this period.

3.3 Early undated features (Figure 4)

Pond

3.3.1 The central western part of the site was dominated by a large natural depression measuring 30m from north to south, in excess of 35m from east to west and 1.20m deep (Figure 2). This feature may have been formed by frost-shattering erosion during the immediate post-glacial period and may have stood open as a seasonal pond. Artefacts recovered from the fills of the pond indicate that it was silting up during the Roman period and was likely to have been completely filled by the end of the medieval period. Prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval pottery and a fragment of Roman tegula tile, was recovered from this feature as well as discarded butchery waste (Appendices B2, B3, C1).

- 3.3.2 Several features (**90, 92, 94, 96, 238, 236, 280, 315, 317, 319 & 321**) were located in the area of the pond and may have been sealed by it. None of these features produced any artefacts with the exception of a single fragment of mussel shell from a pit (**238**). These features were very shallow and were most likely formed by rooting of plants around the hollow during its use and whilst it was silting up.

Pits and Posthole

- 3.3.3 A single posthole (**329**) was assigned to this phase. Measuring 0.3m wide and 0.17m deep, it was truncated by Ditch **510** and may have formed part of an earlier post or hedge boundary.
- 3.3.4 A sub-circular pit (**323**), measuring 1.2m long, 0.9m wide and 0.35m deep, was found to have an irregular base and sides, indicating that it may have been a tree-throw. Several similar pits (**47, 60 & 62**) were uncovered during evaluation in the northern half of the site, perhaps indicating that this area, to the north of the pond, had once been wooded.

3.4 Period 1: Prehistoric (Figure 4)

- 3.4.1 Features dating to this period were all located in the southern part of the site. Only four features contained datable artefacts and only a single pit contained pottery in any quantity (Appendix B1).

Boundary Features

- 3.4.2 An 'L' shaped ditch (Boundary Ditch 1) located in the western part of the excavation may have formed part of the north-western and south-western boundaries of the site. This ditch, which measured 1m wide and 0.42m deep, extended north-west for 7m from a terminal 4m from the western baulk before turning ninety degrees to the north-east whereupon it ran into the pond feature and could no longer be traced. A fragment of prehistoric pottery was recovered from this ditch.
- 3.4.3 A shallow irregularly shaped ditch (Boundary Ditch 2) shared an alignment with Boundary Ditch 1. This ditch (**350**), measuring up to 0.39m wide and 0.11m deep, may have been the remains of a hedged boundary and contained a single fragment of prehistoric pottery. A sub-rectangular pit (**223**), measuring 1.8m in length, 0.61m wide and 0.06m deep, located to the south, may also have been part of this boundary. It contained no datable artefacts.

Pits

- 3.4.4 Located in the south-east corner of the site was a sub-circular pit (**210**) that measured in excess of 0.1m wide and 0.24m deep and was truncated by a larger pit (**208**). This pit, circular in plan, measuring 1.74m in diameter and 0.48m deep, had steep sides, a flat base and contained 62 sherds of pottery dating to the Early Iron Age. Several of these sherds were from the same coarse ware jar which had evidence of sooting suggesting it had been used for cooking (Appendix B1). A single partial cattle humerus as well as charred cereal grains of wheat and barley were also recovered from this pit (Appendix C1; Plate 1; Figure 7, Section 208; Appendix C3).
- 3.4.5 Three pits (**213, 215 & 217**) were located two metres to the east and were partially covered by the baulk. All were circular with steep sides with a maximum width of 1.2m and depth of 0.38m. No datable artefacts were recovered from these features.

Postholes

- 3.4.6 Two postholes (**219** & **221**) were located between Pits **208** and **213**. Measuring up to 0.48m in diameter and 0.28m deep these features may have held posts associated with activity in and around the pits. They contained no datable artefacts.
- 3.4.7 Eleven other postholes were also attributed to this phase due to their location in proximity to Pit **208**. These features (**275, 282, 284, 286, 288, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314** & **354**) were located 10m to the north of the area of pitting and may have been the remains of one or two post-built structures. Three of the postholes may have been part of four-post-structure, with the fourth posthole truncated. If this was the case this structure would have measured 2m north-west to south-east by 2.5m north-east-south-west.

3.5 Period 2: Medieval mid 11th to 14th century (Figure 5)

Phase 2.1

Structure 1

- 3.5.1 A timber-framed building, measuring 5.65m wide and in 6.75m long, was constructed in the south-west corner of the site at this time. It consisted of eleven postholes and five slots for sill-beams and may have been part of a larger building (in excess of 8.3m long) evidenced by an unexcavated beam-slot located to the south-west (Figure 6; Plate 2).
- 3.5.2 The locations of the south-western, north-western and north-eastern walls were demarcated by beam-slots. The south-western wall (**345**) consisted of a single beam-slot, measuring 6.75m long, 0.4m wide and 0.41m deep, with steep sides and flat base. This beam-slot contained daub with wattle impressions which may indicate the construction of the wall above.
- 3.5.3 The beam-slot forming the north-western wall (**299**) measured 0.25m wide and 0.26m deep and was associated with two postholes (**530, 532**) at its south-western end. The north-eastern wall footing was formed from two steep-sided beam-slots (**264, 340**), measuring up to 0.60m wide and 0.40m deep, with a large posthole (**333**), measuring 0.38m wide and 0.28m deep, in between them. This posthole may have held a post supporting the central roof-beam.
- 3.5.4 The south-eastern wall foundation was formed by seven postholes (**268 522 379 524 361 361 359 357**) set into a trench or beam-slot (**375**). The postholes measured a maximum of 0.39m wide and 0.32m deep whilst the trench in which they were set measured 0.5m wide and 0.30m deep. A single small sherd of residual prehistoric pottery was recovered from this foundation.
- 3.5.5 A small beam-slot (**249**) extended perpendicular to **345** to the south-west. This measured 1.27m long, 0.40m wide and 0.11m deep, and may have represented part of an out-building or an internal wall. Two postholes (**528** & **526**) may denote part of an internal divide, located 1.18m from the south-western wall. Given the layout of the beams it is possible that there was a doorway to the south-east and one to the north-west.
- 3.5.6 A single sherd of residual prehistoric pottery, two fragments of daub and a fragment of bone from a dog were the only finds from this structure.

Boundary Features

- 3.5.7 Boundary Ditch 3 extended north-east from a terminal located 0.65m from Structure 1, forming a boundary along the upper-most limit of the pond (Figure 7, section 224). This

ditch measured a maximum of 2.15m wide and 0.69m deep and contained pottery dating from the 9th to 12th century (Appendix B2) as well as butchery waste from cattle and sheep and a horse mandible. No entrance through this ditch was uncovered in the excavation area although the western terminal implies that an entrance may have lain to the west, beyond the limit of the excavation area. An oyster shell was recovered from the terminal of this ditch (Appendix C2).

- 3.5.8 Several boundary features were located to the north-east of the pond. Boundary Ditches 5 and 6 (**387** & **326**) were orientated north-east to south-west and formed a discontinuous boundary separated by a gap of 7m. The south-western segment measured 8m in length, 1.07m wide and 0.21m deep and was filled by a dark brown soft silt. The south-western end of this ditch became gradually smaller until it terminated at the edge of the pond. The north-eastern segment, measuring in excess of 9m in length and a maximum of 1.22m wide and 0.4m deep, was filled by a particularly humic dark reddish-brown sandy silt (Plate 4). These ditches contained pottery dating from the 12th to 14th century, butchered cattle bone, and produced a significant quantity of charred grain and weed seeds. The north-westerly return of Boundary Ditch 6 may have been uncovered in evaluation Trench 6 (Ditch **8**).
- 3.5.9 Boundary Ditch 7 may have been part of a hedgeline (**489**), orientated north-west to south-east, forming a boundary between the pond and an area of cultivation to the east. It comprised a shallow ditch that was irregular in plan and measured 8.2m long, 0.5m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained pottery dating from the late 9th to the late 11th century. A large amount of charred wheat grain was recovered from the northern terminal of this feature.

Cultivation

- 3.5.10 Located to the north-east of the hedged boundary and to the north-west of the segmented ditched boundary, an area of deep linear scars in the natural chalk may represent ploughing and root action associated with crop cultivation. This cultivation was predominantly focused in the north-east corner of the site and may have represented activity within the corner of a field. It extended 16m from south-west to north-east and 12m from north-west to south-east. The cultivation also appeared to continue to the south-east of the segmented ditch maybe indicating that several plots lay to the north-east of the pond. It was unclear what crops were grown in the plots.

Phase 2.2

Structure 1

- 3.5.11 The building in the south-west of the excavation area was rebuilt during this phase (Figure 6). The foundations remained in the same place but many of the beams and posts were replaced (Figure 7, section 247). Seven new beam-slots were cut along with six new posts (Plate 3). The south-westernmost beam-slot (**533**) was probably still in use at this time and so the dimensions of the building remained the same as they had in the previous phase (5.65m wide and between 6.75m and in excess of 8.3m long).
- 3.5.12 Of the section of the building that was excavated, the south-western, south-eastern and north-eastern walls were replaced as well as the internal dividing wall. The beam-slot for the south-western wall (**382**), measuring 0.6m wide, 0.18m deep and 6.60m long, recut the previous beam-slot in the same location. Daub recovered from this beam-slot may indicate that the internal walls of this structure were of wattle and daub construction, common in medieval rural buildings. Three postholes (**243**, **245** & **253**) were located to the south-west of this beam-slot. These varied in size between 0.28m-0.83m wide and 0.08m-0.80m deep. These posts may have been roof supports, in

which case during this phase Structure 1 no longer extended to the south-west beyond this limit.

- 3.5.13 The south-eastern wall only had 2.2m of its length replaced. This beam-slot measured 0.34m wide and 0.19m deep. A posthole (**377**), measuring 0.26m wide and 0.32m deep, was located at the south-western end of the beam-slot on the intersection with the beam-slot for the internal wall.
- 3.5.14 The north-eastern wall footing was replaced by two beam-slots (**261, 256**) which were offset from each other by 0.25m (Figure 7, section 256). The north-western most measured 0.38m wide and 0.24m deep whilst the south-eastern most beam-slot measured 0.33m wide and 0.27m deep. A posthole (**331**), measuring 0.38m wide and 0.24m deep, located 0.4m to the north-east of the centre of this wall foundation may have held a post supporting the central roof beam in this phase. This posthole contained a large amount of charcoal which may indicate that this post was burnt *in-situ*.
- 3.5.15 The internal wall, which had previously been evidenced by two postholes, was replaced by three connecting foundation trenches (**297, 371 & 347**). The north-western most trench, measuring 0.42m wide by 0.24m deep, had vertical sides and was filled with a light grey-brown clay silt containing moderate chalk inclusions (Figure 7, section 347). A posthole (**301**), measuring 0.21m wide and 0.44m deep, was located 0.35m to the north-east of this trench along the line of the north-western wall footing. The central foundation trench measured 0.94m wide and 0.17m deep and also had steep sides and a flat base. It was associated with a posthole (**373**) which measured 0.36m wide and 0.14m deep. The south-eastern foundation trench, measuring 0.52m wide and 0.14m deep, may have been cut at the same time as that for the south-eastern wall footing (**266**).
- 3.5.16 These foundations contained pottery dating from the mid 11th to 14th century which may have fallen in as backfill around the beams or as beams were removed or degraded.

Structure 2

- 3.5.17 A post-built structure was constructed in this phase to the north-east of the pond. This structure consisted of 15 postholes (**55, 66, 68, 201, 389, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 419, 421, 431 & 433**). The building, which would have been of timber-frame construction, was sub-rectangular in plan, orientated north-east to south-west and measured 7.5m long and 4m wide (Plate 5). The postholes varied between 0.12m and 0.62m wide and 0.09m and 0.24m deep (Figure 7, sections 407, 409 and 433). Several of the postholes had been replaced or re-dug. The south-western wall footing had been truncated by later activity. This structure, containing pottery dating to the 11th to 13th century, may have been a barn or ancillary building. Several of the postholes contained charred grain.

Boundary Features

- 3.5.18 A ditch bounding the entire exposed pond area was cut at this time (Boundary Ditches 8 and 9). It was dug in at least four segments, one segment (Boundary Ditch 8, **226**) running east-north-east to west-south-west to the south of the pond and three (Boundary Ditch 9, **510 455 485**) running on an irregular course from south-east to north-west to the east of the pond. The ditch located to the south, measuring 0.80m wide and 0.25m deep, continued from the western baulk for 28m before turning to the north and terminating (Figure 7, section 224). This ditch had a steep 'U' shaped profile

with a concave base and contained pottery dating from the mid 11th to early 13th century along with butchered sheep bone. Several fragments of Roman and medieval roof tile were also recovered from this ditch. A pit or large posthole had been dug to the north of the terminal. This pit (**367**), measuring 0.75m diameter and 0.17m deep, was sub-rounded in plan and had a flat base. It may have been the location for a corner post marking the boundary.

- 3.5.19 The boundary continued to the north-west along an irregular course which may have followed the edge of the pond at the time of construction. The southern most segment (**510**), measuring 1.20m wide and 0.20m deep, ran from a terminus at the eastern baulk to its intersection with the next segment 14.30m to the north-west. The central segment (**455**) measured a maximum of 1.90m wide and 0.31m deep and ran for 18.50m before terminating (Plate 6). A large dump of pottery, dating from the mid 11th to early 13th century, mussel shell and a horse mandible were recovered from this segment. Only 1.90m of the northernmost segment of the boundary was exposed during excavation. It was narrower than the other segments, at 0.55m wide and 0.11m deep. A ditch uncovered during the evaluation (**70**) may be part of the south-western return of this boundary to the north of the pond, possibly indicating that the pond was completely bounded off at this time. This boundary contained pottery dating from the 11th to the 13th century as well as charred cereal grains.
- 3.5.20 A line of small pits or postholes (Hedge 1) (**445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 511, 513, 515, 517, 519, 319, 321, 437, 439, 441 & 483**) were recorded to the west of Ditch **455**. These pits, measuring between 0.4 and 0.8m in diameter and 0.07m to 0.36m deep, followed a slight curvilinear course for 14m on a north-west to south-east alignment and may indicate the location of a hedge or fence-line. Butchered cattle bone was recovered from this boundary.
- 3.5.21 Another hedgeline (Hedge 2) was evidenced by an irregular linear feature located to the east of Structure 2. This feature, measuring 1m wide, 0.16m deep and in excess of 3.80m long, was aligned north-east to south-west and showed signs of rooting at the base. It contained pottery dating from the 11th to 13th century. This formed a boundary associated with Structure 2 that continued to the north-east.

3.6 Period 3: Late medieval and post-medieval (Figure 5)

- 3.6.1 Both of the structures had fallen out of use by this time and activity was focused on several pits located in the area formerly used for cultivation.

Boundary Features

- 3.6.2 A hedged boundary (Hedge 3), located 1m to the east of phase 2.2 Boundary Ditch 9, was marked by two small ditches (**476 & 58**) and a line of five postholes (**393, 395, 397, 399, 401 & 403**). The postholes or pits, measuring a maximum of 0.47m wide and 0.22m deep, formed the northernmost segment of this boundary. The central segment was formed by a gully, measuring 6.60m long, 0.60m and 0.18m wide, that contained a dark greyish-brown silty fill and pottery dating from the 9th-11th century. After a gap of 1.50m, the hedgeline continued to the south-east in the form of another gully. This feature, measuring 3.55m long, 0.55m wide and 0.20m deep contained a dark grey-brown silty clay with pottery dating from the 11th to 12th century. This boundary truncated the remains of Structure 2.

Pits

- 3.6.3 Four pits were located within this boundary. The southernmost pit (**506**) truncated Structure 2 and the hedged boundary associated with it. This pit, measuring 5.6m long, 2m wide and 0.44m deep, was rectangular in shape and aligned north-east to south-west (Plate 7; Figure 7, section 506). It had steep sides and a flat base and contained pottery dating from the 11th to 13th century as well as the cranium and butchered tibia of a pink footed goose. This pit was similar in form to the clunch working pits found on a nearby site on Fordham Road and may have represented the same activity.
- 3.6.4 Located 4.20m to the north, a sub-rounded pit (**498**) measuring 1.40m in diameter and 0.15m deep may have been associated with small-scale chalk extraction. A second pit (**500**), measuring 1.35m wide and 0.30m deep, was dug later in the same location. Both pits contained pottery dating from the 15th to 18th century.
- 3.6.5 An undated feature (**491**), measuring 1.90m wide and 1.20m deep, was located to the north of the trench. It has been attributed to this phase of activity due to the fact that it appears to have been a large quarry pit which may have been associated with the clunch working pit to the south. This pit was sub-rectangular in plan, orientated north-west to south-east and had steep sides.

3.7 Finds Summary

Ceramics

- 3.7.1 A total of 149 sherds of pottery was recovered from all of the works carried out on this site. Of these 65 dated to the prehistoric period and 84 were from the medieval period. Three sherds dated to the Saxo-Norman period, 75 sherds dated to the early medieval period and six sherds dated to the post-medieval period.
- 3.7.2 A total of 1.3kg of ceramic building material was recovered. Much of this consisted of daub from the footing of Structure 1. There was also a high Roman component including a tegula tile and a floor tile.

Lithics

- 3.7.3 A small prehistoric lithic assemblage of 0.18kg was recovered. This consisted predominantly of crudely struck pieces most of which had cortex remaining. Several pieces of burnt flint were also recovered.

Other

- 3.7.4 No metal work or items considered to be special finds were recovered.

3.8 Environmental Summary

- 3.8.1 1.1kg of animal bone was recovered from the site. Sheep, pig and horse were all identified along with a pink footed goose. A variety of shellfish was also recovered including mussels, oyster, cockles and whelks.
- 3.8.2 Charred remains were not widespread but indicated the presence of charred cereals, particularly wheat as well as barley and oats.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The excavations uncovered three periods of activity, beginning in the Early Iron Age and continuing until the post-medieval period with a hiatus from the Middle Iron Age to the Saxon period. The majority of features uncovered dated to the medieval period between AD1050 and AD1400 and may have been contemporary with the use of the priory which was active from c.AD1110 to c.AD1220.
- 4.1.2 Activity in all periods was located to the north-east and south of a large natural depression which has been interpreted as a pond. Finds recovered from the fills of the pond indicate that it filled in slowly from the prehistoric period, perhaps due to increased activity around its edges. This depression, which may have sporadically held water, contained trees and probably shrubby undergrowth, evidence of which can be seen at its base. The pond may have been a gathering point in prehistory, but by the medieval period efforts were made to separate the pond from activity taking place on the higher ground. This may have been to stop animals that were being watered in the pond from wandering in to the areas of crop cultivation and storage.

Period 1: Prehistoric

- 4.1.3 Pottery dating to this period was recovered from a pit (**210**) and several other features were phased by association or relative stratigraphy. Boundary Ditch 1 may represent the north-western corner of a settlement enclosure associated with Pit **210**. The pit is likely to have originally been used for storage before being filled with waste material which in this case consisted of pottery, animal bone and charred grains of wheat and barley.
- 4.1.4 A number of postholes located within the south-eastern part of the site may be indicative of structures associated with this period of occupation, although no dating was recovered. No discrete structures could be identified amongst the postholes but several were particularly shallow and so other structural evidence may have been truncated.
- 4.1.5 Domestic refuse in the pit, including butchery remains and cooking pots, coupled with the probability that some of the postholes were structural, strongly suggests that a settlement was located here in the Early Iron Age.
- 4.1.6 Prior to these investigations only a background scatter of prehistoric material had been found in Isleham (Ennis 2009; Lewis 2012). The Fen edge was of great importance to prehistoric communities who settled in this area to take advantage of the ecotonal environment and communications offered by the fen channels. This is the first evidence of settlement within Isleham itself and extends the known Iron activity in the area eastwards from the settlement known at Chalk Farm (Gdaniec et al. 1997). Regionally, this site also adds to the growing number of early Iron Age settlement sites, including the Fordham by-pass, Moulton and Landwade Road (Appendix B1).

Period 2, Phase 1: Medieval

- 4.1.7 There were two phases of activity during the medieval period, both of which consisted of low level agricultural land use including storage buildings. It is likely that the site was first used after the foundation of the alien Benedictine priory in the immediate post-conquest era.

- 4.1.8 Three sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery are probably residual on this site but are indicative of a possible earlier origin of Isleham than has previously been identified. A single sherd of Thetford ware pottery had been found in the village prior to these investigations (Lewis 2012; Blinkhorn 2011).

Structure 1

- 4.1.9 Only a fraction of the building's foundations were uncovered during excavation and so any further interpretation of its function can only be speculative. During the first phase of construction it is unclear whether one or two buildings were present but the spacing of the beam-slots and the location of Beam-slot **249** may indicate that these foundations were for a single building.
- 4.1.10 Construction was primarily from earth-fast sill-beams set in foundation trenches or beam-slots. The varying sizes of the beam-slots tends to suggest that they may have been re-used from elsewhere rather than cut specifically for this building. The south-eastern foundation appears to have been dug as a beam-slot which was then used to hold upright posts. This tends to suggest that the layout of the building was planned, perhaps for a specific function but that construction materials were gathered on a more ad-hoc basis. A doorway may have been located in a gap between beam-slots on the north-western side of the building. This may have led out to a gap in Boundary Ditch 3, which terminated just to the north of the structure.
- 4.1.11 Buildings with similar dimensions to Structure 1, internal divisions, and of sill-beam construction have been interpreted elsewhere as halls (Grenville 1997). However, in this case the piece-meal type of construction suggests that the building was not of high status and was more likely associated with agricultural activities such as storing grain, produce or animal fodder. The relatively low density of pottery recovered from the site as a whole is indicative of a rural agricultural or pastoral use for this building and this part of Isleham during the early medieval period. Environmental evidence indicates that cereals were being brought in to the site from outside and so were likely to have been stored in the vicinity.
- 4.1.12 The building may have been associated with activity at the priory. Although this area lies outside of the known bounds of the priory it is likely that the first activity at this site was stimulated by the Benedictine foundation 350m to the north. Similar buildings have been uncovered in the grounds of St. Mary's Priory, Huntingdon which was probably also founded in 12th century (Gilmour and Sperry 2009).

Boundary Features

- 4.1.13 Four boundary ditches were uncovered in this period. Boundary Ditch 3 separated Structure 1 from the pond. The terminal at its south-western end suggests that an entrance path from Structure 1 through this boundary lay just beyond the edge of the excavation.
- 4.1.14 Although no archaeological features from this period were uncovered to the east of Structure 1, it is possible that this area may have been used to grow crops or hold animals and so this ditch may have served primarily as a boundary to livestock.
- 4.1.15 Boundary Ditch 7 may have been part of a boundary to the north-east of the pond. This was a shallow ditch that may have been associated with a more extensive hedgeline, the remains of which have subsequently been truncated. This hedge may have extended as far as Boundary Ditch 5 and formed an enclosure around an area where crop cultivation was taking place.

- 4.1.16 The south-eastern extent of the area of cultivation, located in the north-east of the site, was bounded by Boundary Ditches 5 and 6. A substantial gap between these ditches may indicate that a series of entrance gates were located there.
- 4.1.17 These ditches had high organic content and contained large numbers of charred grains as well as relatively large assemblages of ceramic material. These findings may be indicative of deliberate backfilling of these ditches with midden material perhaps to increase the size of the field or change the land-use.

Cultivation

- 4.1.18 A series of linear, plough-like striations and rooting erosion marks located in the north-east of the excavation area have been interpreted as medieval cultivation features. Features such as these were primarily located in the north-east corner of the site and were distinctly absent from the south-east corner. This tends to suggest that the features uncovered at the north-east were not the result of modern or post-medieval agricultural practices. These features were also aligned with Boundary Ditches 5 and 6, a characteristic indicative of contemporaneity.
- 4.1.19 It is likely that the features derived from ploughing in a small field, bounded to the south-east by Boundary Ditches 5 and 6 and to the south-west by Boundary Ditch/Hedge line 7. The north-eastern boundary of the field may have been Ditch 8, uncovered in Trench 6 during the evaluation stage of works. If this was the case the boundaries would have formed a field 53m from south-west to north-east and in excess of 20m from south-east to north-west. Given that the cultivation marks cross the plot from south-east to north-west it seems likely that the field was longer (in excess of 53m) in that direction. The lack of archaeological features in evaluation Trench 5 tends to support the idea that this area was used for agriculture.
- 4.1.20 There was no evidence for the types of crops grown in this area. Weed seeds associated with cereal cultivation in heavy clay soils tends to suggest that cereals were not grown here. Pulses and beans were recovered in low numbers from the waste deposited in three ditches of this phase and so it is possible that these were grown here.

Period 2, Phase 2: Medieval

Structure 1

- 4.1.21 This building was re-built in this phase with most of the structural foundation elements replaced. This may be indicative of a change of design or that the previous phase of the structure had collapsed or fallen in to disrepair.
- 4.1.22 Much like the first construction phase, several different sized timbers appear to have been used in this phase also. As with the previous phase, the only beam-slot to run the width of the building was that excavated to the south-west (**282**). This implies that this part of the foundation was of more structural importance than the other foundations where several different lengths of sill-beam were used. Three large postholes in this area may also indicate that this area of the building was of major structural significance. This beam-slot and the one to the south-west were more substantial than the others, maybe indicating load bearing in this area, perhaps in the middle of the structure.
- 4.1.23 Considerably more pottery was recovered from these foundation features than those of the previous phase. This may be a symptom of there being a greater amount of refuse in the area at the time of the construction of the second phase of this building than the first. Material may have got in to the foundations as backfill around beams and posts.

- 4.1.24 A central posthole to the north-east of the building may have held a support post, presumably for a pitched roof. This posthole was interesting due to the fact that it contained a large amount of charcoal indicative of burning in-situ. No other evidence of fire was recovered from these foundations although it is possible that the final phase of this building burnt down after abandonment.
- 4.1.25 The function of the structure is likely to have continued to be related to agriculture or storage since no hearths or other evidence of domestic activity was uncovered. The entrance may have remained located in the north-western wall but the entrance through the boundary into the pond area had been filled.

Structure 2

- 4.1.26 A second structure was built to the east of the pond during this phase, truncating the backfilled Boundary Ditch 5. This structure was entirely post-built with no sill-beams. It was situated close to the southern corner of, and aligned with, the cultivated area used in the previous phase. This would suggest that the location of the boundary was still relevant despite the ditches being backfilled.
- 4.1.27 The construction of this building, using only a small number of posts, may indicate that unlike Structure 1, it had no load bearing capacity. It is unlikely to have had a raised floor for storage or the strength in the walls to withstand heavy loads piled against them. Therefore, it is probable that this structure was a small barn or shelter for animals. If this was the case then it is likely that Boundary Ditches 5 and 6 were filled in because crop cultivation in this area had finished and the land was being used for grazing animals instead.

Boundary Features

- 4.1.28 The ditch to the south-east of the pond had filled in by this time and had to be recut by Boundary Ditch 8. The need for a boundary to stop animals getting in, implies that crops may still have been being cultivated in the south-east corner of the site.
- 4.1.29 The boundary continued around the north-eastern edge of the pond as Boundary Ditch 9. This ditch was dug in segments, following the line of the edge of the pond and was much more substantial than its predecessor (Boundary Ditch 7). It was associated with an external hedge or fence (Hedge 1) which may have run up to a corner post between Boundary Ditches 8 and 9. Boundary Ditch 9 contained a large dump of pottery and shell suggesting that it may have been deliberately backfilled when it was no longer required. The assemblage of ceramic, shell, and animal bone recovered from these ditches is indicative of sporadic dumping of refuse and occasional artefacts transferred from middening on cultivated fields.
- 4.1.30 A linear feature, interpreted as a hedge (Hedge 2) ran from near Structure 2 on the same north-easterly alignment as former Boundary Ditch 6, quite probably replacing the previous boundary.

Period 3: Post-medieval

- 4.1.31 There was a hiatus of activity between the 14th and 16th century. Activity during this time is likely to have significantly decreased due to a decreased population associated with the abandonment of the priory and later the Black Death.
- 4.1.32 By the post-medieval period Isleham appears to have been expanding. A relatively sharp increase in the number of ceramics dating to the post-medieval period recovered

from test pitting across the village tends to indicate an increase in activity at this time (Lewis 2012).

- 4.1.33 The boundary ditches established in the medieval period were filled in by this time but the location of the north-western boundary continued to be marked by a series of pits and ditches which were probably associated with a hedged boundary (Hedge 3). There was no activity in the south-eastern part of the site at this time.

Quarrying and Clunch Working

- 4.1.34 Four pits were cut to the east of Hedge 3. A pit located to the north was deep and straight sided and is likely to have been a clunch quarry pit. Pits **498** and **500** were shallow and may have been quarry or storage pits. A pit truncating Hedge 2 shared many characteristics with those identified as clunch working pits on a nearby site (Newton 2010). The pit (**506**) was steep sided and flat based and had similar dimensions to those uncovered at the Fordham Road site to the south. Pits such as this were used for soaking the quarried chalk in order to soften it for cutting.
- 4.1.35 This area, formerly a cultivated field, may have been used for clunch extraction and working in the late Medieval/post-Medieval period during a period when Isleham village was beginning to expand.

4.2 Conclusion

- 4.2.1 Evidence for prehistoric settlement uncovered during the excavation is of great significance since sites dating to the Early Iron Age are rare in this area. This is the first direct evidence of prehistoric settlement in Isleham.
- 4.2.2 The few sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery adds weight to the evidence for a pre-conquest origin for Isleham but the primary expansion appears to have occurred post-conquest. The medieval activity uncovered is very likely to have been related to the alien Benedictine priory established 350m to the north shortly after the Norman conquest. The continued growth of the village in the later 13th and early 14th century may have been due to the system of Fen edge quays set up by the monks which bought in trade.
- 4.2.3 It may have been this trade that stimulated the construction of Structure 1 to store produce which had been bought in. The import of cereals into this area has been evidenced during this excavation. Evidence from this site indicates that a mixed pastoral and agricultural regime was maintained throughout the medieval period with animals, such as sheep and cows, being kept away from crops by ditches and hedges.
- 4.2.4 It is possible that crops became less important or less sustainable towards the end of the medieval occupation of this site. This can be seen by the transfer of land in the north-east from cultivated ground to a pastoral area with a byre or barn. This down scaling of activity may have been symptomatic of a decreasing population which led to a hiatus of activity from the 14th to the 16th century.
- 4.2.5 The post-medieval clunch quarrying and working is an indication that the fortunes of Isleham were picking up by this time and that new construction projects appear to have been under way.
- 4.2.6 Domestic activity was not uncovered on this site and is more likely to have been situated primarily to the north but also in Little Isleham to the south-west (Lewis 2012). Those working this land presumably bought refuse in from these areas sporadically to dump and also to backfill the ditches.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
2		layer	MOD					subsoil							
3	4	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.3	0.1	0.4	posthole		mid grey	silt				
4	3	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.3	0.1	0.4	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
5	6	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.4	0.15	0.4	posthole		mid grey	silt				
6	6	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.4	0.15	0.4	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
7	8	fill	2.2	D8	1.4	0.5		ditch	1050_1225	mid greyish brown	silty clay				
8	8	cut	2.2	D8	1.4	0.5		ditch				linear	steep	sharp to gradual	concave
9	9	fill	Un_T	PIT10	0.6	0.36	1.3	pit		mid greyish brown	silty clay				
10	10	cut	Un_T	PIT10	0.6	0.36	1.3	pit				sub-rectangular	vertical	sharp	flat
11	12	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.5	0.13		ditch		mid greyish brown	silty clay				
12	12	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.5	0.13	0	ditch				linear	steep	sharp	concave
13	14	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.3	0.1		posthole		mid reddish grey	silty clay				
14	14	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.3	0.1		posthole				sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave
15	16	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.55	0.1		posthole		mid reddish brown	silty clay				
16	16	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.55	0.1		posthole				sub-circular	steep	gradual	concave
17	18	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.45	0.15		posthole		mid reddish grey	silty clay				
18	18	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.45	0.15		posthole				sub-circular	steep	gradual	concave
19	20	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.4	0.2	0.6	posthole		mid reddish grey	silty clay				
20	20	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.4	0.2	0.6	posthole				sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	flat
21	22	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.3	0.13	0.45	posthole		mid reddish brown	silty clay				
22	22	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.3	0.13	0.45	posthole				sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	flat



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
23	23	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.25	0.05		posthole		mid reddish grey	silty clay				
24	24	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.25	0.05		posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
25	26	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.4	0.05		posthole		mid greyish brown	silty clay				
26	26	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.4	0.05		posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
27	27	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.3	0.08	0.4	posthole		mid brownish grey	silty clay				
28	28	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.3	0.08	0.4	posthole				sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	flat
29	30	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.32	0.08		posthole		mid brownish grey	silty clay				
30	30	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.32	0.08		posthole				sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave
31	32	fill	Un_B	PIT32	0.6	0.25	0.8	posthole		light greyish yellow	sandy clay				
32	32	cut	Un_B	PIT32	0.6	0.25	0.8	pit				linear	steep	sharp	concave
33	8	fill	2.2	D8	2.2	0.66		ditch		mid brownish grey	silty clay				
34	35	fill	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.2	0.05	0.3	posthole		mid grey	sandy silt				
35	35	cut	Un_T	Eval_PH	0.2	0.05	0.3	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
36	36	cut	3	ClunchPT	2.6	0.5		pit				linear	steep	gradual	flat
37	37	fill	3	ClunchPT	2.6	0.5		pit		mid yellowish grey	silty clay				
38	39	cut	3	PIT500	0.4	0.58	2	pit				sub-circular	steep	gradual	flat
39	38	fill	3	PIT500	0.4	0.38	2	pit	1470_1550	dark brownish grey	clayey silt				
40	41	cut	2.1	Cultvton	0.4	0.17	1	pit				sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	flat
41	41	fill	2.1	Cultvton	0.4	0.17	1	pit		light brownish grey	silty clay				
42	43	fill	2.1	Hedge3	0.6	0.18	9.8	ditch	1150_1350	dark greyish brown	silty clay				
43	43	cut	2.1	Hedge3	0.6	0.18	9.8	ditch				linear	gentle slope	sharp	concave
44	45	fill	2.1	Hedge3	0.6	0.15		ditch		dark greyish brown	silty clay				



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
45	45	cut	2.1	Hedge3	0.6	0.15		ditch				linear	gentle slope	gradual	concave
46	47	fill	Un_B	PIT47	0.4	0.1	1.8	pit		dark greyish brown	silty clay				
47	47	cut	Un_B	PIT47	0.4	0.1	1.8	pit				linear	gentle slope	gradual	concave
48	49	fill	Un_T	PH49	0.3	0.08	0.6	posthole		dark brownish grey	silty clay				
49	49	cut	Un_T	PH49	0.3	0.08	0.6	posthole				sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	flat
50	51	fill	Un_T	PH51	0.32	0.12		posthole		mid greyish brown	silty clay				
51	51	cut	Un_T	PH51	0.32	0.12		posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
52	53	fill	2.2	PH53	0.38	0.1		posthole	1050_1200	dark greyish brown	silty clay				
53	53	cut	2.2	PH53	0.38	0.1		posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
54	55	fill	2.2	STR2	0.2	0.1		posthole		dark greyish brown	silty clay				
55	55	cut	2.2	STR2	0.2	0.1		posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
56		layer	2.2	STR2	0.7	0.07	1.25			mid brownish grey	silty clay				
57	58	fill	2.2	STR2	0.55		3.55	posthole	1050_1200	dark greyish brown	silty clay				
58	58	cut	2.2	STR2	0.55	0.2	3.55	posthole							
59	60	fill	Un_B	PIT60	0.6	0.2	0.95	pit		mid greyish brown	silty clay				
60	60	cut	Un_B	PIT60				pit				sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave
61	62	fill	Un_B	PIT62	0.8	0.3		pit		mid yellowish brown	sandy clay				
62	62	cut	Un_B	PIT62	0.8	0.3		pit				sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave
63	64	fill	2.1	BD5	1	0.2		ditch		dark greyish brown	silty clay				
64	64	cut	2.1	BD5	1	0.2		ditch				linear	steep	sharp	concave
65	66	fill	2.2	STR2	0.56	0.12		posthole	1050_1200	dark brownish grey	silty clay				
66	66	cut	2.2	STR2	0.56	0.12		posthole				sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
67	67	fill	2.2	STR2	0.54	0.12		posthole		dark greyish brown	silty clay				
68	68	cut	2.2	STR2	0.58	0.12		posthole				sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave
69	69	fill	1	D70	1	0.25	1.6	ditch		dark greyish brown	silty clay				
70	70	cut	1	D70	1	0.25	1.6	ditch				linear	gentle slope	gradual	concave
71	72	fill	1	PH72	0.4	0.35	0.5	posthole	Prehist	mid brownish grey	silty clay				
72	72	cut	1	PH72	0.4	0.35	0.5	posthole				rectangular	vertical	sharp	flat
73	74	fill	1	PH74	0.4	0.2	0.6	posthole		mid brownish grey	silty clay				
74	74	cut	1	PH74	0.4	0.2		posthole				rectangular	vertical	sharp	flat
75	76	fill	Un_T	PIT76	0.5	0.38		posthole		dark reddish grey	silty clay				
76	76	cut	Un_T	PIT76	0.38	0.18	0.5	pit				rectangular			
77	78	fill	2.2	D78	0.5	0.09	1.4	gully	1050_1200	dark reddish brown	silty clay				
78	78	cut	2.2	D78	0.5	0.09	1.4	gully				curvilinear	gentle slope	imperceptible	concave
79	80	fill	Un_T	PIT80	1.3	0.1	1.4	pit		mid greyish brown	silty clay				
80	80	cut	Un_T	PIT80	1.3	0.1	1.4	pit				sub-circular	gentle slope	gradual	flat
81	82	fill	Un_T	PH82	0.4	0.16		posthole		mid reddish brown	silty clay				
82	82	cut	Un_T	PH82	0.4	0.16		posthole				sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave
83	84	fill	Un_T	PIT84	0.8	0.08		pit		mid reddish brown	silty clay				
84	84	cut	Un_T	PIT84	0.8	0.08		pit				rectangular	steep	sharp	flat
85	86	fill	Un_T	D86	0.55	0.2	1.7	ditch		mid greyish brown	silty clay				
86	86	cut	Un_T	D86	0.55	0.2	1.7	ditch				curvilinear	steep	gradual	concave
87	88	fill	Un_T	PIT88	0.7		1	pit		mid greyish brown	silty clay				
88	88	cut	Un_T	PIT88	0.7		1	pit				sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	flat



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
89	90	fill	Un_B	D90	0.8	0.2		ditch		mid greyish brown	silty clay				
90	90	cut	Un_B	D90	0.8	0.2		ditch				linear	gentle slope	sharp	irregular
91	91	fill	Un_B	D92	0.55	0.12	2	ditch		mid grey	silty clay				
92	92	cut	Un_B	D92	0.55	0.12	2	ditch				linear	gentle slope	sharp	concave
93	94	fill	Un_B	D94	0.8	0.05	1.4	ditch		mid grey	silty clay				
94	94	cut	Un_B	D94	0.8	0.05	1.4	ditch				linear	gentle slope	gradual	concave
95	96	fill	Un_B	PIT96	1.2	0.05	3.6	pit		mid grey	silty clay				
96	96	cut	Un_B	PIT96	1.1	0.05	3.6	pit				irregular	gentle slope	gradual	concave
97	98	fill	2.2	PIT98	0.4	0.35	1.3	pit	1050_1200	mid grey	sandy silt				
98	98	cut	2.2	PIT98	0.4	0.35	1.3	pit				sub-circular	moderate	sharp	concave
99	100	fill	Un_T	D100	0.36	0.12		ditch		light brownish grey	sandy silt				
100	100	cut	Un_T	D100	0.36	0.12		ditch				linear	steep	sharp	concave
101	100	fill	Un_T	D100	0.6	0.3		ditch		mid brownish grey	sandy silt				
102	102	cut	Un_T	D102	0.3	0.12	0.6	ditch				linear	steep	sharp	concave
105	106	fill	Un_T	D106	0.3	0.02	0.4	ditch		mid brownish grey	sandy silt				
106	106	cut	Un_T	D106	0.3	0.02	0.4	ditch				linear	gentle slope	gradual	irregular
107	108	fill	Nat	POND	1.6	0.5		ditch		mid reddish brown	sandy silt				
108	108	cut	Nat	POND				ditch				linear	steep	sharp	concave
109	110	fill	Un_T	PH110	0.45	0.08		posthole		mid greyish brown	silty clay				
110	110	cut	Un_T	PH110	0.45	0.08		posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
111	88	fill	Un_T	PIT88	0.8	0.22		pit		light yellowish grey	silty clay				



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
112	38	fill	3	PIT500	2	0.2		pit		mid greyish brown	silty clay				
113	113	fill	Un_B	D114	0.4	0.4		ditch		light yellowish grey	silty clay				
114	114	cut	Un_B	D114	0.4	0.4		ditch				linear	steep	sharp	concave
200	201	fill	2.2	STR2	0.35	0.17	0.5	posthole	Prehist	mid brownish grey	silty clay				
201	201	cut	2.2	STR2	0.35	0.17	0.5	posthole				rectangular	vertical	sharp	irregular
202	203	fill	2.1	Hedge3	0.45	0.19	0.4	posthole		mid brownish grey	silty clay				
203	203	cut	2.1	Hedge3	0.45	0.19	0.4	posthole				square	irregular	gradual	irregular
204	205	fill	2.1	Hedge3	0.35	0.08	0.5	posthole		mid brownish grey	silty clay				
205	205	cut	2.1	Hedge3	0.35	0.08	0.5	posthole				sub-rectangular	irregular	gradual	irregular
206	208	fill	1	PIT208	1.74	0.23		pit	Prehist	mid brownish grey	clayey sandy silt				
207	208	fill	1	PIT208	1.58	0.28		pit		mid grey	clayey silt				
208	208	cut	1	PIT208	1.74	0.48		pit				circular	steep	sharp	flat
209	2	fill	1	PIT210	0.1	0.24		pit		mid brownish grey	clayey silt				
210	210	cut	1	PIT210	0.1	0.24		pit				sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat
211	213	fill	1	PIT213	1.2	0.18		pit		mid brownish grey	clayey sandy silt				
212	212	fill	1	PIT213	1.05	0.24		pit		mid grey	clayey silt				
213	213	cut	1	PIT213	1.2	0.38		pit				circular	steep	sharp	concave
214	215	fill	1	PIT215	0.36	0.2		pit							
215	215	cut	1	PIT215	0.36	0.2		pit				sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat
216	217	fill	1	PH217	0.27	0.12		posthole		dark brownish grey	clayey				



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
											silt				
217		cut	1	PH217	0.27	0.12		posthole				sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat
218	219	fill	1	PH219	0.28	0.21	0.43	posthole		mid greyish brown	clayey silt				
219	219	cut	1	PH219	0.28	0.21	0.43	posthole				sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	flat
220	221	fill	1	PH221	0.15	0.19	0.26	posthole		mid greyish brown	clayey silt				
221	221	cut	1	PH221	0.15	0.19	0.26	posthole				rectangular	steep	sharp	flat
222	223	fill	1	PIT223	0.61	0.06	1.8	pit		light yellowish grey	clayey sandy silt				
223	223	cut	1	PIT223	0.61	0.06	1.8	pit				sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	flat
224	224	cut	2.1	BD3	1.25	0.54	1	ditch				linear	steep	sharp	concave
225	224	fill	2.1	BD3	1.25	0.54	1	ditch		mid brown	clayey silt				
226	226	cut	2.2	BD8	0.8	0.25	1	ditch				linear	steep	sharp	concave
227	226	fill	2.2	BD8	0.8	0.25	1	ditch		dark-mid brown	clayey silt				
228	228	cut	2.2	BD8	0.45	0.12	1	ditch				linear	gentle slope	gradual	concave
229	228	fill	2.2	BD8	0.45	0.12	1	ditch		mid brown	clayey silt				
230	230	cut	2.1	BD3	0.51	0.27	1	ditch				linear	gentle slope + vertical	sharp	flat
231	230	fill	2.1	BD3	0.51	0.27	1	ditch		dark greyish brown	clayey silt				
232	232	cut	2.2	BD8	0.45	0.2	1	ditch				linear	steep	sharp	concave



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
233	232	fill	2.2	BD8	0.45	0.2	1	ditch		mid brownish grey	clayey silt				
234	234	cut	2.1	BD3	0.65	0.25	1	ditch				linear	gentle slope	gradual	concave
235	234	fill	2.1	BD3	0.65	0.25	1	ditch		mid brownish grey	clayey silt				
236	236	cut	Nat	POND	0.6	0.08	1	ditch				linear	gentle slope	gradual	concave
237	236	fill	Nat	POND		0.08	0	ditch		light brown	clayey sandy silt				
238	238	cut	Un_B	PIT238	2	0.29	0	pit				sub-circular	irregular	sharp	irregular
239	238	fill	Un_B	PIT238	2	0.29	0	ditch		dark greyish brown	silty sand				
240	240	cut	2.1	BD6	1.15	0.4	1.5	ditch				linear	steep/undercut	sharp	flat
241	240	fill	2.1	BD6	1.15	0.4	1.5	ditch		light greyish brown	sandy silt				
242	240	fill	2.1	BD6	1.15	0.4	1.5	ditch	1050_1200	dark reddish brown	sandy silt				
243	243	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.4	0.45	0.5	posthole				sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	concave
244	243	fill	2.2	STR1_2		0.45	0	posthole		mid yellowish brown	clayey silt				
245	245	cut	2.2	STR1_2		0.08	0.28	posthole				sub-circular	steep	sharp	irregular
246	245	fill	2.2	STR1_2		0.08	0	posthole		mid yellowish brown	clayey silt				
247	247	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.23	0.42	1	beam-slot				linear	vertical	sharp	flat
248	247	fill	2.1	STR1_1		0.42	0	beam-slot		dark yellowish brown	clayey silt				
249	249	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.15	0.11	0.44	beam-slot				curvilinear	vertical	sharp	flat
250	249	fill	2.1	STR1_1		0.11	0	beam-slot		mid yellowish brown	clayey				



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
											silt				
251	251	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.6	0.18	1	beam-slot				linear	vertical	sharp	flat
252	251	fill	2.2	STR1_2		0.18	0	beam-slot		light yellowish brow	clayey silt				
253	253	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.8	0.29	0.83	posthole				sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	concave
254	253	fill	2.2	STR1_2		0.29	0	posthole	1200_1500	dark reddish brown	clayey silt				
255	256	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.3	0.2	6	beam-slot	1250_1500	mid yellowish grey	clayey silt				
256	256	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.3	0.2	6	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
257	259	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.29	0.28	6	beam-slot		light/mid greyish br	clayey silt				
258	259	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.46	0.41	6	beam-slot		mid/dark grey	clayey silt				
259	259	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.46	0.41	6	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
260	261	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.33	0.24	6	beam-slot		mid yellowish grey	clayey silt				
261	261	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.33	0.24	6	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
262	264	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.29	0.3	6	beam-slot		light greyish brown	clayey silt				
263	264	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.64	0.6	6	beam-slot		mid/dark grey	clayey silt				
264	264	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.64	0.6	6	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
265	266	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.34	0.19	0	beam-slot		mid greyish grey	clayey silt				
266	266	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.34	0.19	0	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
267	268	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.22	0.13	0	beam-slot		dark brownish grey	clayey				



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
											silt				
268	268	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.22	0.13	0	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
269	269	cut	2.1	BD3	2.15	0.69	1	ditch				linear	steep	sharp	concave
270	269	fill	2.1	BD3	2.15	0.69	1	ditch	840_1150	mid brown	clayey silt				
271	269	fill	2.1	BD3	0.7	0.17	1	ditch		mid brown	clayey chalk				
272	273	fill	2.2	BD8	1.1	0.12	0	ditch	875_1100	mid greyish brown	clayey silt				
273	273	cut	2.2	BD8	1.1	0.12	0	ditch				curvilinear	steep	gradual	flat
274	275	fill	2.2	BD8	0.55	0.08	0.8	posthole	875_1100	light brownish grey	silt				
275	275	cut	2.2	BD8	0.55	0.08	0.8	posthole				sub-rectangular	gentle slope	imperceptible	concave
276	277	fill	2.2	BD8	0.76	0.3	0	ditch		dark greyish brown	clayey silt				
277	277	cut	2.2	BD8	0.76	0.3	0	ditch				linear	vertical	sharp	flat
278	278	cut	Nat	POND	0.64	0.01	0	ditch				irregular	irregular	sharp	irregular
279	277	fill	2.2	BD8	0.64	0.08	0	ditch		mid brownish grey	silty sand				
280	280	cut	Nat	POND	0.95	0.08	0	ditch				linear	irregular	gradual	irregular
281	280	fill	Nat	POND	0.95	0.08	0	ditch		mid brownish grey	silty sand				
282	282	cut	1	IA_PH	0.35	0.18	0	posthole				circular	gentle slope	gradual	concave
283	282	fill	1	IA_PH	0.35	0.18	0	posthole		mid brown	silt				
284	284	cut	1	IA_PH	0.31	0.12	0	posthole				circular	concave	70 degrees	flat
285	284	fill	1	IA_PH	0.31	0.12	0	posthole		mid brown	silt				



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
286	286	cut	1	IA_PH	0.29	0.1	0	posthole				circular	gentle slope	gradual	flat
287	287	fill	1	IA_PH	0.29	0.1	0	posthole		mid brown	sandy silt				
288	288	cut	1	IA_PH	0.29	0.18	0	posthole				circular	straight	80-90 degrees	flat
289	288	fill	1	IA_PH	0.29	0.18	0	posthole		mid brown	silt				
290	288	fill	1	IA_PH	0.12	0.18	0	posthole		light grey brown	chalky silt				
291	291	cut	2.1	BD3	0.5		0	ditch				linear	?	?	?
292	291	fill	2.1	BD3	0.5		0	ditch		mid brown	clayey silt				
293	293	cut	2.2	BD8	0.7	0.5	1	ditch				linear	moderate	sharp	concave
294	293	fill	2.2	BD8	0.7		1	ditch		mid brown	clayey silt				
295	295	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.62	0.39	1	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	concave
296	295	fill	2.1	STR1_1		0.39	0	beam-slot		light brownish grey	silty clay				
297	297	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.42	0.24	1	beam-slot				linear	steep/vertical	sharp	irregular
298	297	fill	2.2	STR1_2		0.24	0	beam-slot	1050_1200	light brownish grey	clayey silt				
299	299	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.25	0.26	0.8	beam-slot				linear	concave	gentle	concave
300	299	fill	2.1	STR1_1		0.26	0	beam-slot		light brownish grey	clayey silt				
301	301	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.21	0.44		posthole				circular	near vertical	sharp	concave
302	301	fill	2.2	STR1_2		0.44	0	posthole		mid brownish grey	clayey silt				



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
303	304	fill	2.2	BD8	0.29	0.15	0	posthole		dark greyish brown	clayey silt				
304	304	cut	2.2	BD8	0.29	0.15	0	posthole				circular	vertical	sharp	concave
305	306	fill	2.1	BD3	0.1	0.13	0	stake hole		dark greyish brown	clayey silt				
306	306	cut	2.1	BD3	0.1	0.13	0	stake hole				circular	vertical	sharp	concave
307	308	fill	2.2	BD8	0.3	0.08	0	posthole		mid greyish brown	clayey silt				
308	308	cut	2.2	BD8	0.3	0.08	0	posthole				circular	vertical	sharp	flat
309	310	fill	1	IA_PH	0.41	0.24	0	posthole		mid greyish brown	clayey silt				
310	310	cut	1	IA_PH	0.41	0.24	0	posthole				circular	vertical	sharp	concave
311	312	fill	1	IA_PH	0.38	0.27	0	posthole		mid greyish brown	clayey silt				
312	312	cut	1	IA_PH	0.38	0.27	0	posthole				circular	vertical	sharp	concave
313	314	fill	Un_T	PH314	0.22	0.1	0	posthole		mid greyish brown	clayey silt				
314	314	cut	Un_T	PH314	0.22	0.1	0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
315	315	cut	Nat	POND	0.55	0.25	0	posthole				sub-circular	stepped	sharp	irregular
316	315	fill	Nat	POND	0.55	0.25	0	posthole			silty sand				
317	317	cut	Nat	POND	0.65	0.1	0	pit				sub-circular	irregular	gradual	irregular
318	317	fill	Nat	POND	0.65	0.1	0	pit							
319	319	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.8	0.12	0	pit				sub-circular	gentle slope	gradual	irregular
320	319	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.8	0.12	0	pit			silty sand				
321	321	cut	2.2	Hedge1	1.3	0.14	0	pit				irregular	irregular	gradual	irregular



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
322	321	fill	2.2	Hedge1	1.3	0.14	0	pit			silty sand				
323	323	cut	Un_B	TB323	0.9	0.35	1.2	tree bowl				circular	irregular	gradual	irregular
324	323	fill	Un_B	TB323	0.7	0.22	0.75	tree bowl		light whitish yellow	silty sand				
325	323	fill	Un_B	TB323	0.85	0.17	1.2	tree bowl		mid reddish brown	sandy silt				
326	326	cut	2.1	BD6	1.22	0.3	1	ditch				linear	steep/vertical	sharp	flat
327	326	fill	2.1	BD6	1.22	0.3	1	ditch	1050_1200	dark reddish brown	sandy silt				
328	329	fill	Un_B	PH329	0.3	0.17	0	posthole		mid grey brown	clay silt				
329	329	cut	Un_B	PH329	0.3	0.17	0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
330	331	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.5	0.29	0	pit		dark greyish brown	clayey sandy silt				
331	331	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.5	0.29	0	pit				circular	steep	sharp	concave
332	333	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.38	0.24	0	beam-slot		light/mid yellowish	clayey silt				
333	333	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.38	0.24	0	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
334	335	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.66	0.51	0	beam-slot		mid brownish grey	clayey silt				
335	335	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.66	0.51	0	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
336	337	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.33	0.27	0	beam-slot		light/mid yellowish	clayey silt				
337	337	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.33	0.27	0	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
338	340	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.24	0.24	0	beam-slot		mid yellowish brown	clayey silt				
339	340	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.5	0.47	0	beam-slot		mid brownish grey	clayey silt				
340	340	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.5	0.47	0	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
341	343	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.44	0.14	0	beam-slot		light whitish brown	clayey silt				
342	343	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.4	0.33	0	beam-slot							
343	343	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.44	0.42	0	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
344	345	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.35	0.41	0	beam-slot		mid brown	clayey silt				
345	345	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.35	0.41	0	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
346	347	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.72	0.14	0	beam-slot		dark brownish grey	clayey silt				
347	347	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.52	0.14	0	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
348	349	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.94	0.17	0	beam-slot		dark brownish grey	clayey silt				
349	349	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.94	0.17	0	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
350	350	cut	1	BD2	0.39	0.08	4.5	gully				linear	irregular/straight	30-80 degrees	flat and undulating
351	350	fill	1	BD2	0.39	0.08	4.5	gully	Prehist	mid brown	silt				
352	352	cut	1	BD2	0.29	0.09	0	posthole				circular	irregular/straight	70 degrees	flat
353	352	fill	1	BD2	0.29	0.09	0	posthole		light brown	sandy silt				
354	354	cut	1	IA_PH	0.21	0.11	0	posthole				circular	concave	50 degrees	concave
355	354	fill	1	IA_PH	0.21	0.11	0	posthole		mid brown	silt				
356	357	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.2	0.3	0	posthole							
357	357	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.2	0.3	0	posthole				rectangular	vertical	sharp	flat
358	359	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.26	0.32	0	posthole		dark brownish grey	clayey silt				



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
359	359	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.26	0.32	0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	flat
360	361	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.23	0.28	0	posthole		dark brownish grey	clayey silt				
361	361	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.23	0.28	0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	flat
362	362	cut	1	BD1	1	0.42	3	ditch				linear			
363	362	fill	1	BD1	1	0.42	0	ditch	Prehist	mid brown	clayey silt				
364	364	cut	2.2	BD8	0.7	0.3	1	ditch				linear	moderate	sharp	flat
365	364	fill	2.2	BD8		0.3	0	ditch		mid greyish brown	clayey silt				
366	367	fill	2.2	BD8	0.75	0.17	0	pit		mid grey brown	clay silt				
367	367	cut	2.2	BD8	0.75	0.17	0	pit				circular	steep	sharp	concave
368	369	fill	MOD	PH369	0.22	0.32	0	posthole		dark grey brown	clay silt				
369	369	cut	MOD	PH369	0.32	0.22	0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
370	371	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.65	0.15	0	beam-slot		dark brownish grey	clayey silt				
371	371	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.65	0.15	0	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
372	373	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.36	0.14	0	posthole		dark brownish grey	clayey silt				
373	373	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.36	0.14	0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	gradual
374	375	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.5	0.3	0	construction cut		dark brownish grey	clayey silt				
375	375	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.5	0.3	0	construction cut				linear	steep	sharp	
376	377	fill	2.2	STR1_2	0.26	0.32	0	posthole		mid brownish grey	clayey silt				
377	377	cut	2.2	STR1_2	0.26	0.32	0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	flat



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
378	379	fill	2.1	STR1_1		0.06	0	posthole	Prehist	dark brownish grey	clayey silt				
379	379	cut	2.1	STR1_1		0.06	0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	flat
380	381	fill	2.1	STR1_1			0	construction cut		dark brownish grey	clayey silt				
381	217	cut	2.1	STR1_1			0	construction cut				linear	steep	sharp	?
382	382	cut	2.2	STR1_2			1	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
383	382	fill	2.2	STR1_2			0	beam-slot	840_1150	light yellowish grey	clayey silt				
384	381	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.46	0.12	0	beam-slot		dark brownish grey	clayey silt				
385	385	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.46	0.12	0	beam-slot				linear	steep	sharp	flat
386	387	fill	2.1	BD5	0.6	0.03	2	ditch		mid grey brown	clay silt				
387	387	cut	2.1	BD5	0.6	0.03	2	ditch				linear	gradual		flat
388	389	fill	2.2	STR2	0.12	0.15	0	posthole		dark grey brown	clay silt				
389	389	cut	2.2	STR2	0.12	0.15	0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
390	390	cut	1	BD1	0.9	0.18	1	ditch				linear	moderate	gradual	flat
391	390	fill	1	BD1	0.9	0.18	1	ditch		dark brown	clay silt				
393	393	cut	2.1	Hedge3	0.41	0.22	0	posthole				circular	stepped	sharp	concave
394	393	fill	2.1	Hedge3	0.41	0.22	0	posthole		mid brown	clay silt				
395	395	cut	2.1	Hedge3	0.41	0.1	0	posthole				circular	steep	gradual	irregular
396	395	fill	2.1	Hedge3	0.41	0.1	0	posthole		mid brown	clay silt				
397	397	cut	2.1	Hedge3	0.31	0.07	0	posthole				circular	gentle slope	gradual	concave
398	397	fill	2.1	Hedge3	0.31	0.07	0	posthole		mid brown	clay silt				



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
399	399	cut	2.1	Hedge3	0.47	0.07	0	posthole				sub-circular	gentle slope	gradual	concave
400	399	fill	2.1	Hedge3	0.47	0.07	0	posthole		mid brown	clay silt				
401	401	cut	2.1	Hedge3	0.25	0.09	0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	irregular
402	401	fill	2.1	Hedge3	0.25	0.09	0	posthole		mid brown	clay silt				
403	403	cut	2.1	Hedge3	0.2	0.1	0	stake hole				circular	gentle slope	gradual	concave
404	403	fill	2.1	Hedge3	0.2	0.1	0	stake hole		mid brown	clay silt				
405	405	cut	2.2	STR2	0.62	0.21	0.45	posthole				Sub-square	steep	sharp	flat
406	405	fill	2.2	STR2	0.62	0.21	0.45	posthole	1050_1250	mid brown	silt				
407	407	cut	2.2	STR2	0.37	0.13	0.41	posthole				Sub-square	steep	sharp	flat
408	407	fill	2.2	STR2	0.37	0.13	0.41	posthole		mid brown	silt				
409	409	cut	2.2	STR2	0.3	0.22	0.32	posthole				sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat
410	409	fill	2.2	STR2	0.3	0.22	0.32	posthole		mid whitish brown	silt				
411	411	cut	2.2	STR2	0.4	0.3	0.46	posthole				Sub-square	steep	sharp	flat
412	411	fill	2.2	STR2	0.4	0.3	0.46	posthole		mid yellowish brown	silt				
413	413	cut	2.2	STR2	0.4	0.24	0.45	posthole				Sub-square	steep	sharp	flat
414	413	fill	2.2	STR2	0.4	0.24	0.45	posthole		mid brown	silt				
415	415	cut	2.2	STR2	0.45	0.17	0.5	posthole				Sub-square	steep	sharp	flat
416	415	fill	2.2	STR2	0.45	0.17	0.5	posthole		mid brown	silt				
417	417	cut	2.2	STR2	0.35	0.09	0.28	posthole				sub-circular	gentle slope	gradual	irregular
418	417	fill	2.2	STR2	0.35	0.09	0.28	posthole		mid brown	silt				
419	419	cut	2.2	STR2	0.3	0.13	0.28	posthole				Sub-square	steep	sharp	concave
420	419	fill	2.2	STR2	0.3	0.13	0.28	posthole		mid brown	silt				



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
421	421	cut	2.2	STR2	0.3	0.22	0.3	posthole				Sub-square	steep	sharp	concave
422	421	fill	2.2	STR2	0.3	0.22	0.3	posthole		mid brown	silt				
423	423	cut	2.1	BD5	1.07	0.21	1	ditch				linear	gentle slope	gradual	flat
424	423	fill	2.1	BD5	1.07	0.21	1	ditch	1150_1350	dark brown	silt				
425	425	fill	2.1	Cultvton	6.5	0.22	11	cultivation		mid grey brown	sandy clay				
426	425	cut	2.1	Cultvton	6.5	0.22	11	cultivation				linear	irregular	gradual	irregular
427	427	fill	2.1	Cultvton	6.5	0.22	11	cultivation		mid grey brown	sandy clay				
428	427	cut	2.1	Cultvton	6.5	0.22	11	cultivation				linear	irregular	gradual	irregular
429	429	fill	2.1	Cultvton	6.5	0.22	11	cultivation	1050_1225	mid grey brown	sandy clay				
430	429	cut	2.1	Cultvton	6.5	0.22	11	cultivation				linear	irregular	gradual	irregular
431	431	cut	2.2	STR2	0.35	0.19	0.35	posthole				square	gentle slope	sharp	concave
432	431	fill	2.2	STR2	0.35	0.19	0.35	posthole		mid brown	silt				
433	433	cut	2.2	STR2	0.4	0.21	0.35	posthole				Sub-square	steep	sharp	concave
434	433	fill	2.2	STR2	0.4	0.21	0.35	posthole	1050_1200	mid brown	silt				
435	435	cut	MOD	PH435	0.4	0.17	0.4	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	concave
436	435	fill	MOD	PH435	0.4	0.17	0.4	posthole		light yellowish brown	silt				
437	437	cut	2.2	Hedge1	1.5	0.3	0	pit				sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat
438	437	fill	2.2	Hedge1	1.5	0.3	0	pit		mid grey brown	clay silt				
439	439	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.8	0.36	0	pit				sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat
440	439	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.8	0.36	0	pit		mid grey brown	clay silt				
441	441	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.75	0.24	0	pit				sub-circular	steep	sharp	irregular



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
442	441	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.75	0.24	0	pit		mid grey brown	clay silt				
443	443	cut	2.1	BD7	0.5	0.22	0	ditch				curvilinear	steep	gentle	concave
444	443	fill	2.1	BD7	0.5	0.22	0	ditch	875_1100	dark brownish grey	silt				
445	445	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.4	0.22	0	posthole				sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave
446	445	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.4	0.22	0	posthole		dark greyish brown	silt				
447	447	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.5	0.16	0	posthole				sub-circular	steep	gentle	flat
448	447	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.5	0.16	0	posthole		dark greyish brown	silt				
449	449	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.43	0.19	0	posthole				sub-circular	steep	gentle	concave
450	449	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.43	0.19	0	posthole		dark greyish brown	silt				
451	451	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.38	0.07	0	posthole				sub-circular	steep	gradual	concave
452	451	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.38	0.07	0	posthole		dark greyish brown	silt				
453	453	cut	2.2	Hedge1			0	posthole				sub-circular	steep	gradual	concave
454	453	fill	2.2	Hedge1			0	posthole		dark greyish brown	silt				
455	455	cut	2.2	BD8	2	0.26	1	ditch				linear	gentle slope	gentle	flat
456	455	fill	2.2	BD8	2	0.26	1	ditch		mid brownish grey	clay silt				
457	457	cut	2.2	BD8	1.25	0.2	1	ditch				curvilinear	gentle slope	gradual	concave
458	457	fill	2.2	BD8	1.25	0.2	1	ditch		mid brownish grey	clay silt				
459	459	cut	2.2	BD8	0.5		0	posthole				sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat
460	459	fill	2.2	BD8	0.5		0	posthole		mid greyish brown	clay silt				
461	462	fill	MOD	PH462	0.35	0.23	0	posthole		dark grey brown	clay silt				
462	462	cut	MOD	PH462	0.35	0.23	0	posthole				sub-circular	steep	gradual	concave
463	464	fill	Un_T	PH464	0.43	0.26	0	posthole		mid greyish brown	clay silt				
464	464	cut	Un_T	PH464	0.43	0.26	0	posthole				sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
465	466	fill	Un_T	PIT466	0.52	0.29	0	pit		mid brownish grey	clay silt				
466	466	cut	Un_T	PIT466	0.52	0.29	0	pit				circular	steep	sharp	concave
467	468	fill	Un_T	PIT468	0.8	0.3	0	pit		mid brownish grey	clay silt				
468	468	cut	Un_T	PIT468	0.8	0.3	0	pit				sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave
469	470	fill	2.1	Cultvton	0.93	0.28	0	cultivation		mid brownish grey	clay silt				
470	470	cut	2.1	Cultvton	0.93	0.28	0	cultivation				linear	steep	gradual	irregular
471	473	fill	2.2	Hedge2	0.71	0.12	0	ditch		light brownish grey	clay silt				
472	473	fill	2.2	Hedge2	1.04	0.16	0	ditch	1050_1225	mid brownish grey	clay silt				
473	473	cut	2.2	Hedge2	0.56	0.16	0	ditch				linear	gentle slope	gradual	concave
474	475	fill	2.1	Cultvton	0.56	0.16	0	cultivation		mid brownish grey	clay silt				
475	475	cut	2.1	Cultvton	0.56	0.16	1	cultivation				linear	steep	gradual	irregular
476	476	cut	2.1	Hedge3	0.56	0.16	1	ditch				linear	gentle slope	gradual	irregular
477	476	fill	2.1	Hedge3	0.56	0.16	1	ditch		dark brown	silt				
478	478	cut	2.1	Cultvton	0.7	0.18	3	cultivation				linear	irregular	gradual	irregular
479	478	fill	2.1	Cultvton	0.7	0.18	3	cultivation		light reddish brown	silty loam				
480	480	cut	2.2	BD8	2.5	0.31	1	ditch				linear	gentle slope	gradual	concave
481	480	fill	2.2	BD8	2.5	0.24	1	ditch	1050_1225	mid brown	silt				
482	480	fill	2.2	BD8	0.7	0.11	1.5	ditch	1050_1225	dark brown	silt				
483	483	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.58	0.11	0	pit				sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	flat
484	483	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.58	0.11	0	pit		mid grey brown	silt				
485	485	cut	2.2	BD8	0.55	0.11	2.7	ditch				linear	gentle slope	imperceptible	concave



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
486	485	fill	2.2	BD8	0.55	0.11	2.7	ditch		light grey brown	clay silt				
487	487	cut	2.2	BD8	0.28	0.12	1	ditch				linear	steep	sharp	concave
488	487	fill	2.2	BD8	0.28	0.12	1	ditch		mid grey brown	clay silt				
489	489	cut	2.1	BD7	0.48	0.09	0	ditch				curvilinear	steep	gradual	flat
490	489	fill	2.1	BD7	0.48	0.09	0	ditch		mid grey brown	clay silt				
491	491	cut	3	QUARRY	1.9	1.2	3.25	pit				sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	
492	491	fill	3	QUARRY		0.58	1.7	pit		mid brown	clay silt				
493	491	fill	3	QUARRY	1.9	0.4	0	pit		light brown	clay silt				
494	491	fill	3	QUARRY	1.9	0.25	3.25	pit		mid brown	clay silt				
495	495	cut	MOD	D495	0.32	0.3	1	ditch				linear	steep	sharp	concave
496	495	fill	MOD	D495	0.32	0.3	1	ditch		dark brownish grey	silt				
497	498	fill	3	PIT498	1.4	0.15	1.8	pit	16th_18thC	mid brownish grey	clay silt				
498	498	cut	3	PIT498	1.4	0.15	1.8	pit				sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat
499	500	fill	3	PIT500	1.35	0.3	2	pit	16th_18thC	mid greyish brown	clay silt				
500	500	cut	3	PIT500	1.35	0.3	2	pit				sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat
501	502	fill	MOD	PH502	0.25	0.18	0	posthole		dark reddish brown	clay silt				
502	502	cut	MOD	PH502	0.25	0.18	0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	flat
503	506	fill	3	ClunchPT	1.86	0.44	0	pit	1050_1225	light brown	silty clay				
504	506	fill	3	ClunchPT	0.75	0.08	0	pit		mid greyish brown	clay silt				
505	506	fill	3	ClunchPT	0.78	0.43	0	pit		mid yellowish brown	silty clay				
506	506	cut	3	ClunchPT	2.06	0.44	5	pit				rectangular	steep	sharp	flat
507	508	fill	2.1	Cultvton	0.4	0.05	2.75	ditch		mid greyish brown	clay silt				
508	508	cut	2.1	Cultvton	0.4	0.05	2.75	ditch				linear	gentle slope	gradual	flat



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
509	510	fill	2.2	BD8	1.2	0.2	0	ditch		mid brownish grey	chalky silt				
510	510	cut	2.2	BD8	1.2	0.2	0	ditch				curvilinear	gentle slope	sharp	concave
511	511	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.5	0.23	0	posthole				sub-circular	steep	sharp	irregular
512	511	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.5	0.23	0	posthole		dark grey brown	sandy silt				
513	513	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.5	0.25	0	posthole				Sub-square	steep	gradual	concave
514	513	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.5	0.25	0	posthole		dark grey brown	sandy silt				
515	515	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.4	0.2	0	posthole				sub-circular			
516	515	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.4	0.2	0	posthole		dark grey brown	sandy silt				
517	517	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.35	0.1	0	posthole				sub-circular			
518	517	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.35	0.1	0	posthole		dark grey brown	sandy silt				
519	519	cut	2.2	Hedge1	0.4	0.15	0	posthole				sub-circular			
520	519	fill	2.2	Hedge1	0.4	0.15	0	posthole		dark grey brown	sandy silt				
521	522	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.36		0	posthole		mid brownish grey	clay silt				
522	522	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.36		0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	flat
523	524	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.39		0	posthole		mid brownish grey	clay silt				
524	524	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.39		0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	flat
525	526	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.36		0.52	posthole		mid brownish grey	clay silt				
526	526	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.36		0.52	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	flat
527	528	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.4		0	posthole		mid brownish grey	clay silt				
528	528	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.4		0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	flat
529	530	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.4		0	posthole		mid brownish grey	clay silt				
530	530	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.4		0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	flat
531	532	fill	2.1	STR1_1	0.36		0	posthole		mid brownish grey	clay silt				



Context	Cut	Type	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth	Length	Description	Dating	Colour	Fine component	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
532	532	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.36		0	posthole				circular	steep	sharp	flat
533	533	cut	2.1	STR1_1	0.7		4.6	beam-slot				linear			
534	0	fill	Nat	POND	15	0.2	26	pond	16th_18thC	light grey brown	silty clay				
535	0	fill	Nat	POND	15	0.5	26	pond		mid reddish brown	silty clay				

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Prehistoric Pottery

By Matt Brudenell

Introduction

- B.1.1 A total of 65 sherds (879g) of prehistoric pottery, with a mean sherd weight of 13.5g, were recovered from the excavations. The pottery was recovered from five contexts relating to four features, three of which dated to the medieval period and yielded single residual sherds of prehistoric ceramic (ditch 232, 25g; ditch 426, 18g; beam slot 247, 19g). Two of the residual sherds were base fragments of Early Iron Age date (c. 600-350 BC), whilst the third sherd from beam slot was possibly Late Iron Age (c. 50 BC- AD 43) and was heavily abraded. The bulk of the assemblage, however, derived from pit 208, which yielded a homogeneous group of Early Iron Age pottery (62 sherds, 817g), dated c. 600-350 BC. Overall the pottery was in a good condition, though small sherds (measuring less than 4cm in size) dominated: 75% by sherd count.
- B.1.2 This report provides a quantified summary of the assemblage, which focuses on the description of material from Pit **208**. All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2009). After a full inspection of the material, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size.
- B.1.3 Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric group. Sherd type was recorded, along with evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were described, and assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. The quantified data is presented on an Excel data sheet held in the site archive, and partially summarised in the tables below. Sherds weighing less than 1g were classified as crumbs, and are not discussed in this report (17g in total, all from Pit **208**).

The Assemblage

Assemblage characteristics: fabrics, forms and surface treatment

- B.1.4 A total of eight fabrics were identified in the assemblage belonging five basic fabric groups (Table 1). Despite this variety, the assemblage was essentially dominated by sherds in flint and sand tempered fabrics (FQ1-3, 87.8% by weight), which are typical of the Early Iron Age - the grade and sorting of the flint varying along a spectrum of coarse to fine and sparse to common, linked largely to the quality of ware and the size of the vessel.
- B.1.5 The remaining pottery in the assemblage comprised sherds with flint (F1-2, 8.9%), flint and grog (FG1, 0.5%), shell (S1, 0.6%), or sand (Q1, 2.2%) as the principle inclusion – the latter being a Late Iron Age fabric.

Fabric type	Fabric group	No./ (wt.) sherds	% of fabric (by wt.)	No./wt. sherds burnished	% of fabric burnished (by wt.)	MNV	MNV burnished
F1	Flint	1/3	0.3	-	-	1	-
F2	Flint	11/76	8.6	11/76	100.0	1	1
FG1	Flint and grog	1/4	0.5	-	-	-	-
FQ1	Flint and sand	43/728	82.8	-	-	3	-
FQ2	Flint and sand	4/29	3.3	2/7	24.1	-	-
FQ3	Flint and sand	3/15	1.7	2/7	46.7	1	-
Q1	Sand	1/19	2.2	-	-	-	-
S1	Shell	1/5	0.6	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	65/879	100	15/90	10.2	6	1

Table 1. Quantification of prehistoric pottery.

MNV = minimum number of vessels, calculated as the total number of different rims and bases (3 rims, 3 bases).

B.1.6 Flint and sand fabrics

FQ1: Moderate to common coarse burnt flint (mainly 2-4mm) in a dense sandy clay matrix

FQ2: Moderate to common medium burnt flint (mainly 1-2mm) in a dense sandy clay matrix

FQ3: Moderate to common finely crushed burnt flint (mainly 0.25-1mm) in a dense sandy clay matrix

B.1.7 Flint fabrics

F1. Moderate medium burnt flint (mainly 1-2mm)

F2. Moderate to common fine burnt flint (<1.5mm)

B.1.8 Flint and grog fabrics

FG1: Sparse coarse burnt flint (2-4mm) and sparse to moderate medium grog (1-2mm)

B.1.9 Shell fabrics

S1: Moderate to common medium and coarse shell (1-3mm)

B.1.10 One vessel form could be reconstructed. This was a partial profile of a weakly shouldered coarseware jar in fabric FQ1, derived from pit **208** (context 206). The jar displayed a flat-topped externally-expanded rim, and was decorated with quite widely spaced double fingertip impressions on the shoulder (one impression above the other). The jar had a rim diameter of around 24cm, through only c. 16% of the rim circumference remained intact. Soot on the neck and shoulder suggest the jar was used for cooking. Two other vessel rims and three bases were also identified in the assemblage. Both rim sherds derived from pit **208** (context 206), with one decorated with a fingertip impressed neck. Two of the bases were residual, though pit **208** (context 206) yielded fragments of a burnished foot-ring base (7cm in diameter), around 75% of which was intact. All burnished sherds in the assemblage derived from this feature and context.

The assemblage from Pit 208

B.1.11 Of the 62 sherds (817g) derived from pit **208**, all but one (8g, context 207 - a slightly angular shoulder sherd) came from context 206. Although most of the sherds were small and potentially derived from a number of different vessels, by weight, 74% of pottery the belonged to just two pots – the aforementioned decorated coarseware jar, and the fineware burnished foot-ring base. Eight medium and large-sized sherds (534g) were identified as belonging to the jar, with five found to refit. The fineware base was represented by ten sherds (74g - which almost certainly belonged to a bowl), four of which refit. Overall, there is nothing to imply that these vessels were specially selected for deposition. Both are largely incomplete, but slightly less fragmented than the other pieces of pot from the pit.

Discussion

- B.1.12 With the exception of one possible Late Iron Age sherd, residual from beam slot 247, all the prehistoric ceramics from the excavation date to the Early Iron Age. Of interest is the assemblage from pit 208, which was fairly substantial, and contained the partial profile of a decorated coarseware jar and burnished foot-ring base. The latter is crucial in dating, as these base forms only make an appearance in the Early Iron Age ceramic repertoire from the beginning of the sixth century BC. The assemblage can therefore be dated c. 600-350 BC, and finds parallel with a number of larger securely dated groups of material from the surrounding area, including assemblages from Moulton (Brudenell 2011), Landwade Road (Hill in Connor in prep.) and the Fordham Bypass site (Percival 2005; Sealey 2005).

B.2 Post-Roman Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.2.1 The excavation produced a small pottery assemblage of 84 sherds, weighing 0.912kg, recovered from 30 contexts including pottery recovered from the evaluation (Table 2). The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded. The average sherd weight from individual contexts is low-moderate at approximately 11g.

B.2.2 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the summary catalogue by context are:

Fabric	Full name	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (kg)	% of Assemblage by weight
CSTN	Cistercian ware	1	0.002	0.2
DNEOT	Developed St Neots	20	0.093	10.2
EMEMS	Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware	31	0.566	62.1
GRIM	Grimston-type ware	1	0.006	0.7
HEDI	Hedingham Fineware	1	0.024	2.6
NEOT	St Neots	8	0.056	6.1
PMR	Post-medieval Redware	5	0.100	10.9
SCSSW	South Cambridgeshire Smooth Sandy ware	11	0.026	2.9
SW	Sandy ware	3	0.008	0.9
THET	Thetford-type ware	3	0.031	3.4

Table 2 Quantification of post-Roman pottery by fabric type

Methodology

B.2.3 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.

B.2.4 Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed (Table 3). All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis. The archives are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

B.2.5 The material from the evaluation has been included in the assemblage totals above. Fabrics identified in the evaluation phase included Developed St Neots and South Cambridgeshire Smooth Sandy wares. The evaluation assemblage was described as primarily early medieval-mid 11th to 12th century (Spoerry and Rees 2012). Both Developed St Neots and South Cambridgeshire Smooth Sandy wares are also present in the main excavation assemblage alongside a small number of medieval fabrics including Grimston-type ware and Hedingham Fineware.

B.2.6 The much larger assemblage recovered from the nearby site at Fordham Road, Isleham (Newton 2006; Thompson 2006) was dominated by Ely type wares, which are absent

from this assemblage. Essex fabrics are common in the Fordham Road assemblage, although these appear to be mainly high medieval wares including Heddingham Fineware, here represented by only a single sherd. The bulk of this assemblage (c.62% by weight) are Essex fabrics, however these are early medieval Essex wares. A comparison of the sites indicates that although there is an early medieval element at Fordham Road the bulk of the assemblage is high medieval and represents later development than that recorded at Isleham Recreation Ground.

- B.2.7 The main phase of pottery deposition for the site appears to have been, as indicated in the evaluation, the early medieval period with a small number of later sherds indicating some medieval activity in the 13th and 14th centuries. The post-medieval assemblage is represented by a single Cistercian sherd recovered from the evaluation and five sherds of Post-medieval Redware recovered from pits **498**, **500**, and the pond **534**.
- B.2.8 The assemblage was phased by the excavator, however the periods are too small to warrant statistical analysis and will therefore only be discussed in broad terms. Period 2 is broadly medieval (mid 11th-mid 14th century) with the majority of the contexts containing medieval pottery falling into this group. There are several contexts that produced earlier material, mid 9th-mid 12th century and four features **38**, **498**, **500** and **506** recorded in Period 3 (Post-medieval).
- B.2.9 Period 2 is subdivided by the excavator into Phase 2.1 and 2.2 relating to activity on the site and related to the development of the structures on the site. The Phase 2.1 features are mainly boundary ditches with the majority of the contexts that produced pottery being from Phase 2.2, which include ditches, pits and the two structures identified during the excavation.
- B.2.10 Phase 2.1 produced 13 sherds weighing 0.114kg from six features. A single posthole **72** associated with boundary ditch **70** produced a small abraded South Cambridgeshire Smooth Sandy ware sherd, while Boundary Ditch 3 produced a single sherd from a Thetford ware jar (10th-mid 12th century). Boundary **326**~~387~~ produced eight sherds of pottery including Developed St Neots, South Cambridgeshire Smooth Sandy ware and a single sherd of Heddingham Fineware (mid 12th-mid 14th century).
- B.2.11 Boundary Ditch 7 produced a single sherd of St Neots from **433**, while from cultivation layer 429 a single sherd of Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware (mid 11th-early 13th century) was recovered.
- B.2.12 Phase 2.2 produced 59 sherds of pottery weighing 0.684kg from eight features. The largest number of sherds were recovered from boundary ditch **226**, which produced 31 sherds, weighing 0.601kg, c.65% of the total post-Roman assemblage. This includes both body and rim sherds from Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware vessels including jars and 10 sherds from **480** (contexts 481 and 482) which give a near complete profile of a shallow flared bowl that was pierced (pre-firing) below the rim. Context 481 also produced a sherd giving a near complete profile of a shallow carinated Developed St Neots bowl. The overall date of the feature is mid 11th-early 13th century.
- B.2.13 Ditch **8** produced seven sherds including a rim sherd from a Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware bowl (late 12th-end of the 13th century) alongside Developed St Neots. The sherds are similarly abraded suggesting they may be contemporary, dating the context to the late 12th-mid 13th century. Ditch **78** produced a small sooted body sherd from a Developed St Neots jar while Hedge 2 produced three sherds from several Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware jars (mid 11th-early 13th century).
- B.2.14 The two structures identified during excavation each produced a small amount of pottery. Structure 1 had two phases of construction, of these only phase 2 produced pottery, a mixture of early medieval and medieval material. The earliest pottery

recovered was two small body sherds from a Thetford-type ware vessel of the mid 9th-mid 12th century from **382**. Cut **297** produced sherds of Developed St Neots and South Cambridgeshire Smooth Sandy ware, while **256** produced a single sherd from a Grimston-type ware glazed jug (mid 13th-end of 15th century) which suggests that there is some high medieval activity associated with this structure.

- B.2.15 Structure 2 produced four sherds of pottery with a total weight of 0.012kg recovered from four different sections, including material recovered from the evaluation. Three of the sherds are Developed St Neots, the fourth is South Cambridgeshire Smooth Sandy ware. The pottery can be dated to the mid 11th-mid 13th century.
- B.2.16 Period 3 produced 12 sherds of pottery including residual Early Medieval Essex Micaceous Sandy ware alongside Post-medieval Redware bowls, drinking vessel and a single sherd from a Cistercian ware drinking vessel. Hedge 3, produced four sherds of pottery including Developed St Neots and South Cambridgeshire Smooth Sandy ware (mid 11th-early 13th century) from **43**.
- B.2.17 Vessel forms present are as expected for the period and for rural medieval sites. However, for what is mainly an early medieval assemblage there is a predominance of bowls (by weight) over jars which would have been used for both storage and food preparation as indicated by the sooting that survived on some sherds. Many of the bowl sherds are also sooted, suggesting they were also used in food preparation. The reason for the larger numbers of bowls than jars is not clear although it may relate to the use of one of the structures.
- B.2.18 The low levels of pottery recovered suggest that although the pottery is domestic in origin, with vessels used for both food preparation and storage, these sherds appear to have been recovered from a non-domestic location, and as such represent rubbish deposition or relate to agricultural or other activities.

Context	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (kg)	Phase	Assessment date range
7	DNEOT		5	0.01	2.2	Late 12th-mid 13th century
	SCSSW	Bowl	1	0.009		
	SCSSW	Jar	1	0.001		
39	CSTN	Drinking Vessel	1	0.002	3	Late 15th-mid 16th century
42	DNEOT		1	0.003	3	Late 12th-mid 13th century
	SCSSW		3	0		
52	DNEOT		1	0.001	2.2	Mid 11th-mid 13th century
57	DNEOT	Jar	1	0.002	2.2	Mid 11th-mid 13th century
65	DNEOT		1	0.003	2.2	Mid 11th-mid 13th century
71	SCSSW		1	0.001	2.1	Mid 11th-early 13th century
77	DNEOT	Jar	1	0.003	2.2	Mid 11th-mid 13th century
97	DNEOT		5	0.001	2.2	Mid 11th-mid 13th century
242	NEOT	Jar	1	0.03	2.1	Mid 11th-early 13th century
	SCSSW	Jar	1	0.004		
254	SW		2	0.005	2.2	Mid 11th-mid 14th century
255	GRIM	Jug	1	0.006	2.2	Mid 13th-end 15th century
270	THET	Jar	1	0.022	2.1	Mid 9th-mid 12th century
272	NEOT		1	0.002	2.2	Late 9th-end 11th century
274	NEOT		1	0.001	2.2	Late 9th-end 11th century

Context	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (kg)	Phase	Assessment date range
298	DNEOT		1	0.001	2.2	Mid 11th-early 13th century
	SCSSW		1	0.001		
327	DNEOT		1	0.002	2.1	Mid 11th-mid 13th century
327	DNEOT	Jar	1	0.002	2.1	Mid 11th-mid 13th century
383	THET		2	0.009	2.2	Mid 9th-mid 12th century
406	DNEOT		1	0.004	2.2	Mid 11th-mid 13th century
424	HEDI		1	0.024	2.1	Late 12th-mid 14th century
	NEOT	Jar	2	0.007		
	SCSSW		1	0.001		
429	EMEMS		1	0.006	2.1	Mid 11th-early 13th century
434	SCSSW		1	0.003	2.2	Mid 11th-early 13th century
444	NEOT	Jar	2	0.008	2.1	Late 9th-end 11th century
472	EMEMS	Jar	3	0.025	2.2	Mid 11th-early 13th century
481	DNEOT	Bowl	1	0.062	2.2	Mid 11th-early 13th century
	EMEMS	Bowl	4	0.113		
	EMEMS	Jar	9	0.086		
	NEOT	Jar	1	0.008		
482	EMEMS	Bowl	6	0.233	2.2	Mid 11th-early 13th century
	EMEMS	Jar	7	0.094		
	SCSSW		1	0.002		
497	PMR	Bowl	2	0.047	3	16th-18th century
	PMR	Drinking Vessel	1	0.002		
499	PMR	Jar	1	0.005	3	16th-18th century
	SW	Jar	1	0.003		
503	EMEMS	Jar	1	0.009	3	Mid 11th-early 13th century
534	PMR	Bowl	1	0.046	Natural	16th-18th century

Table 3: Post-Roman Pottery Summary

B.3 Ceramic Building Material

By Gareth Rees

Introduction

B.3.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from the excavation of the site at Isleham Community centre. The consisted of seven fragments of tile weighing a total of 0.6kg and 0.7kg of fired clay\daub (Table 4).

The Assemblage

- B.3.2 Of the seven fragments of tile, six dated from the Roman period whilst one may have been a piece of a medieval or post-medieval roof tile.
- B.3.3 Two fragments of the Roman CBM are of particular note. A fragment of tegula roof tile was recovered from context 534, a fill of the pond.
- B.3.4 A fragment of floor tile was recovered from the foundations of Structure 1 (263). One side of this tile was blackened. This may have occurred during production or it may indicate that this tile was part of a hearth.
- B.3.5 Daub and burnt clay was recovered from two contexts (296 and 383). Both of these contexts were part of Structure 1. Plant impressions were visible on the daub recovered from a beam-slot of the first phase of the building (296). These impressions may indicate that the daub originated as part of the wattle and daub internal structure of a wall. Given that this material is not very durable and doesn't tend to travel far from source it is likely that it derived from the walls of Structure 1.

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight (kg)	Phase	Group
39	CBM	Tile	0.01	3	Pit 500
229	CBM	Roof tile (med\post-med)	0.03	2.2	Boundary Ditch 8
242	Fired clay		0.01	2.1	Boundary Ditch 6
263	CBM	Floor tile (Roman)	0.08	2.1	Structure 1
296	Fired clay	Daub	0.17	2.1	Structure 1
383	Fired clay	Daub	0.63	2.2	Structure 1
424	CBM	Roof tile (Roman)	0.11	2.1	Boundary Ditch 5
482	CBM	Tile (Roman)	0.14	2.2	Boundary Ditch 8
534	CBM	Tegula roof tile (Roman)	0.23	-	Pond

Table 4. Quantification of ceramic building material

Discussion

- 4.2.7 The total assemblage of less than a kilo of daub, six roof tile fragments and a single piece of floor tile is small and represents predominantly intrusive material. The daub is likely to have originated in the medieval period as part of the walls of Structure 1.
- 4.2.8 No Roman pottery was recovered from the site indicating that the tile is likely to have been brought in either by accident, or deliberately reused in the construction of the medieval buildings on the site. There is not enough tile remaining to infer that the medieval structures were either built from or roofed with reused Roman material. However, it is likely, given the proximity of a Roman villa, that reuse of material was common during the early medieval period. This is particular apparent in the priory church, the only remaining standing priory building, which has a large amount of Roman material integrated into it.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bone

Chris Faine

- C.1.1 The low levels of pottery recovered suggest that although the pottery is domestic in origin, with vessels used for both food preparation and storage, these sherds appear to have been recovered from a non-domestic location, and as such represent rubbish deposition or relate to agricultural or other activities.
- C.1.2 1.1kg of animal bone was recovered from the excavation at Isleham recreation ground. Thirty eight fragments were recovered in total with 16 identifiable to species (39.4% of the total sample).
- C.1.3 All identifiable material was recovered from medieval contexts with the exception of a single partial cattle humerus from Iron Age Pit **208**, fill (206). Cattle is the most prevalent taxon with remains being recovered from contexts **270** (Boundary Ditch 3), **327** (Boundary Ditch 6), **424** (Boundary Ditch 5), **438** (Hedge 1) and **534** (Pond). These consisted of portions of butchered adult lower limb elements. A single juvenile tibia fragment was recovered from context **424**.
- C.1.4 Sheep remains were recovered from context **270** (Boundary Ditch 3) and again consisted of lower limb elements along with a mandible from an around 2-6 months old at death. A single pig mandible was recovered from context **276** (Boundary Ditch 8) and came from an animal around 2-3 years of age. Two horse mandibles were recovered from contexts **270** and **482** (Boundary Ditch 8), both from animals no younger than 5 years of age.
- C.1.5 Only one fragment of dog was recovered in the form of a 4th metacarpal from context **248** (Structure 1). A single cranium from a pink footed goose (*anser brachyrhncus*) along with a butchered goose tibia was also recovered from pit fill **503**. If the crania is not present identifying this species from bones is extremely difficult (the species has been identified from Saxon Flixborough via DNA analysis; Barnes et al. 2000). Pink footed geese winter in Britain being commonly feeding on marshes, and pasture land close to the coast.

C.2 Shell

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and Methods

C.2.1 A total of 0.62kg of marine shell was recovered from seven contexts during excavations at Isleham Community Centre (Table 5). This small assemblage is from ditches, a pit and a posthole and is the result of both hand collection and shell recovered from environmental samples. The shells were quantified and examined in order to assess the diversity and quantity of these ecofacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological investigations.

Results

Species	Common name	Habitat	Total weight (Kg)	Total number of contexts
<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Oyster	estuarine and shallow coastal water	0.11	1
<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	Mussel	intertidal, salt water	0.493	6
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	common whelk	Salt water, sublittoral	0.006	1
<i>Littorina littorea</i>	common periwinkle	intertidal, salt water	0.007	1
<i>Cerastoderma edule</i>	Cockle	intertidal, salt water,	0.012	2

Table 5. Archaeomalacological quantification

- C.2.2 Mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) shells predominate in this small assemblage. The only significant assemblage of mussel shells is from Sample 26, fill 482 of **480**. All of the bivalve shells were unhinged.
- C.2.3 Oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) are represented by a single upper valve from fill 270 of ditch **269** measuring 10cm x 9cm and showing evidence of encrustation. These calcareous tubes are made by small marine worms of the Serpulidae family (Winder 2010).
- C.2.4 Cockles (*Cerastoderma edule*), whelks (*Buccinum undatum*) and periwinkles (*Littorina littorea*) occur in low numbers (less than ten specimens per context).

Discussion

- C.2.5 The majority of the shells are moderately preserved and do not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed. Mussel shells predominate in this assemblage and would have been collected from the low and mid intertidal zone from the coast and transported inland.
- C.2.6 Oysters are a bivalve mollusc that have an oval shaped left valve that is concave in shape with a rough, scaly surface and a right valve that is flattened and has a smoother surface. During the preparation of oysters the right (lower) valve is often prised off and possibly discarded separately, with the meat being left in the right valve. Oysters can have a fairly long shelf-life of up to around two weeks; however, they should be consumed when fresh, as their taste reflects their age. The single oyster shell recovered from this site is interesting in that it has an encrustation but a single specimen precludes further interpretation of this species as a dietary constituent.

- C.2.7 Shellfish are common in medieval times as fish and shellfish were religiously consumed on Fridays and during Lent. The shells would have been discarded in middens away from habitation or buried in pits/ditches due to their smell.

Further Work and Methods Statement

The presence of marine shell shows that these species are a food resource that was exploited. The assemblage has been fully quantified and no further work is required.

C.3 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.3.1 Twenty-five bulk samples were taken during excavation at Isleham Community Centre. Features sampled include ditches, pits and post-holes dating primarily to the early medieval period. A single pit was thought to be late Early Iron Age in date.
- C.3.2 Previous samples from the evaluation phase had produced significant charred plant remains and mineralised material was also present.
- C.3.3 The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether plant remains are present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal.

Methodology

- C.3.4 One bucket (up to ten litres) of each of the selected samples were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 6. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (1997).

Quantification

- C.3.5 For the purpose of this assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens ##### = 100+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance:

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

f = fragment cty = cotyledon

Results

Preservation

- C.3.6 Plant remains are preserved by carbonization (charring) and preservation is generally poor to moderate. Very little charcoal was recovered from the samples other than in Sample 18, fill 330 of post hole **331** which may represent the burning of a post *in-situ*. No mineralised remains were encountered in this phase of excavation.

Cereals

- C.3.7 The main cereal types are represented with wheat (*Triticum* sp.) predominating over barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and oats (*Avena* sp.). Chaff elements are extremely rare.

Weed seeds

- C.3.8 The majority of the weed seeds are carbonised and include seeds of plants found growing amongst crops (segetals) include corn-cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), bromes (*Bromus* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), and grass seeds (Poaceae). Carbonised seeds generally occur as single or less than ten specimens per sample.

Phase 1

- C.3.9 A single sample, Sample 30, fill 206 of pit 208 contains a few poorly preserved cereal grains that have been identified as wheat and barley.

Phase 2.1

- C.3.10 Of the eight samples taken, the two most productive samples were taken from ditch fills. Sample 17, fill 242 of Ditch **240** contains numerous charred cereal grains of wheat along with oats and a few barley grains. Many of the grains were too poorly preserved for identification to species. The weed seeds recovered are likely to have been harvested along with the cereals. Sample 21, fill 424 of Ditch **423** also contains a significant quantity of charred grain but with fewer accompanying weed seeds. These two samples were taken from the termini of opposite ditches and it is likely that the contents are from the same origin.
- C.3.11 A sample from the terminus of Hedge **489** (Sample 28, fill 444 of Ditch **443**) also produced evidence of charred cereal grains.
- C.3.12 The other samples from this phase were taken from beam-slots, post holes and a cultivation feature and contain small quantities of cereal grains that cannot be considered as significant.

Phase 2.2

- C.3.13 Fourteen samples were taken from a variety of features. They produced either low quantities of cereal grains or did not contain plant remains other than sparse charcoal. The only exception being charcoal-rich Sample 18 as previously noted.
- C.3.14 Samples 14, fill 272 of Ditch **273** and sample 26, fill 482 of Ditch **480** were taken from different areas of what may be the same ditch and contain similar assemblages of cereal grains. Sample 15, fill 276 was taken from nearby feature **277** and similarly contains charred grain.

Discussion

- C.3.15 The charred plant remains are dominated by cereal grains with wheat grains occurring most commonly. The most productive samples are from the north of the site and it is likely that this is an area used for the disposal of burnt plant remains throughout the medieval period. Ditch termini in particular seem to be rich in cereal remains although this may be as the result of sampling bias. The cereal grains are most likely to have been accidentally burnt while being dried prior to storage or during cooking over open fires prior to being deliberately deposited in the ditches. Free-threshing wheat has been identified and would most probably have been ground into flour. Barley was often used

for animal fodder but may have been used for human consumption in the form of bread, stews and soup and it was also used for the brewing of beer although no germinated grains were recovered to suggest brewing activities. Oats may have been grown as a crop or may have occurred as contaminants of a another crop; without the diagnostic floret bases it is not possible to determine whether the oats are a cultivated or wild species. The lack of cereal chaff elements in this assemblage suggest that the grain had been imported onto the site in a fully processed state. Pulses are present in low numbers and have mainly been identified as peas and beans. Pulses are likely to be under-represented in the archaeobotanical record as they are less likely to become charred prior to storing and during cooking.

- C.3.16 The assemblage also includes a small number of seeds of weeds commonly encountered growing alongside cereal crops on cultivated soils and were most likely harvested with the cereal crop. Most of the seeds are of a similar size to the cereal grains and would not have been removed by sieving. The species included allow some insight into cultivation conditions; corn gromwell is associated with an autumn sown crops and the presence of stinking mayweed suggests that at least one of the crops were grown on heavy clay soils. Weeds mixed in with the cereal crops would have been a major concern for medieval farmers and they would have either had to pull out or hoe by hand. Inevitably the harvested crop would be contaminated with weed seeds which would either be picked out by hand or tolerated although this would have affected the quality of the flour.

Statement of potential

- C.3.17 The charred plant assemblage indicates that a range of crops were utilised on this site with wheat predominating. It appears that domestic refuse was being discarded into some of the ditches. The samples from beam-slots and postholes generally contain a background scatter of charred plant remains that may have accumulated naturally in the features or been included in back fill. None of these plant remains can be considered as significant.

Further work and methods statement

- C.3.18 The site at Isleham Community Centre has produced a significant charred cereal assemblage although preservation is variable and it is likely that the deposits are of mixed refuse. The significance lies in the actual recovery of charred grain as samples from other excavations in the area at Fordham Road (Fryer, 2006 and Fosberry, 2004) have produced only low densities of cereal grains.
- C.3.19 A few of the samples have produced a quantifiable assemblage and there is additional unprocessed soil that could be used for analysis. Sample 17, fill 242 of Ditch **240** is the sample most likely to provide additional information and Samples 21, 28 and 26 could also be considered.



Sample No.	30	10	11	17	20	21	22	32	12	28	13	16	18	19	23	24	31	33	34	35	14	15	26	27	25	29	
Context No.	206	248	258	242	363	424	427	378	265	444	270	202	330	346/ 348	420	414	298	406	434	200	272	276	482	316	463	484	
Cut No.	208	247	259	240	362	423	428	379	266	443	269	203	331	347/ 349	419	413	299	405	433	201	273	277	480	315	464	483	
Feature Type	pit	beam-slot	beam-slot	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	cultivation	post hole	beam-slot	hedge/ditch terminus	Ditch	Post hole	pit/post hole	beam-slot	post hole	post hole	post hole	post hole	post hole	post hole	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	post hole/pit	post hole	post hole/pit	
Phase	1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	Un_B	Un_T	Un_T	
Volume processed (L)		10	10	10	9	9	10	7	10	10	10	9	10	10	7	10	8	7	5	10	8	9	10	10	10	10	
Cereals																											
Avena sp. caryopsis				##		#																					#
Hordeum vulgare L. caryopsis	#			#		#													#								#
Hordeum vulgare L. rachis internode																											#
Triticum sp. caryopsis				#	#																#						#
free-threshing Triticum sp. caryopsis	#	#		####		###	#	#		###					#	##		#	#	#	##	##	##	#	#	#	#
cereal indet. caryopsis		#		###		##				#						#		#	#					#	#		#
Other food plants																											
Pisum sativum L.				#		#				#											#f						
Large Fabaceae indet.				#														#									



Dry land herbs																										
Anthemis cotula L. achene		#																								
Bromus spp. caryopsis				#				#																		
Caryophyllaceae indet. [1-3mm] seed				#																						
Lithospermum arvense L. nutlet				##		#																				
medium Poaceae indet. [3-4mm]	#			##													#		#		#					
Polygonaceae indet. achene				#																						
Rumex sp. achene				#																						
Tree/shrub macrofossils																										
Sambucus nigra L. seed																										
Other plant macrofossils																										
Charcoal <2mm		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++		++	+++ +		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	++	+
Charcoal >2mm			+	+		+				++		++	+++ +					+	+		+	+	++		+	
Charcoal >10mm										++		+	+++					+							+	
Charred root/stem																							+			
Other remains																										
molluscs	##	##	##	##	##	###	##	#	##	##	###	##		###	##	###	#	#	#	#	##	##	##	###	##	##
Volume of flot (litres)	15	35	15	55	30	20	10	1	40	10	10	10	100	15	5	5	5	2	5	5	10	20	15	5	15	5

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-155490		
Project Name	Isleham community centre		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	19-11-2012	Finish	06-12-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ISLMIL12	Planning App. No.	09/00475/FUM
HER No.	ECB 2762	Related HER/OASIS No.	oxfordar3-128411

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Public Building

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
PITS & DITCHES	Medieval 1066 to 1540	CERAMIC	Medieval 1066 to 1540
Buildings	Medieval 1066 to 1540	CERAMIC	Iron Age -800 to 43
Pit	Iron Age -800 to 43	CERAMIC	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901

Project Location

County	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE	45 Mill Street Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5RY	
Parish	ISLEHAM		
HER	CAMBRIDGESHIRE		
Study Area	0.14ha	National Grid Reference	TL 6425 7403

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	DAN MCCONNELL
Project Design Originator	JAMES DRUMMOND-MURRAY
Project Manager	JAMES DRUMMOND-MURRAY
Supervisor	GARETH REES

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA EAST	OA EAST	OA EAST
ISLMIL12	ISLMIL12	ISLMIL12

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey



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Figure 1: Site location

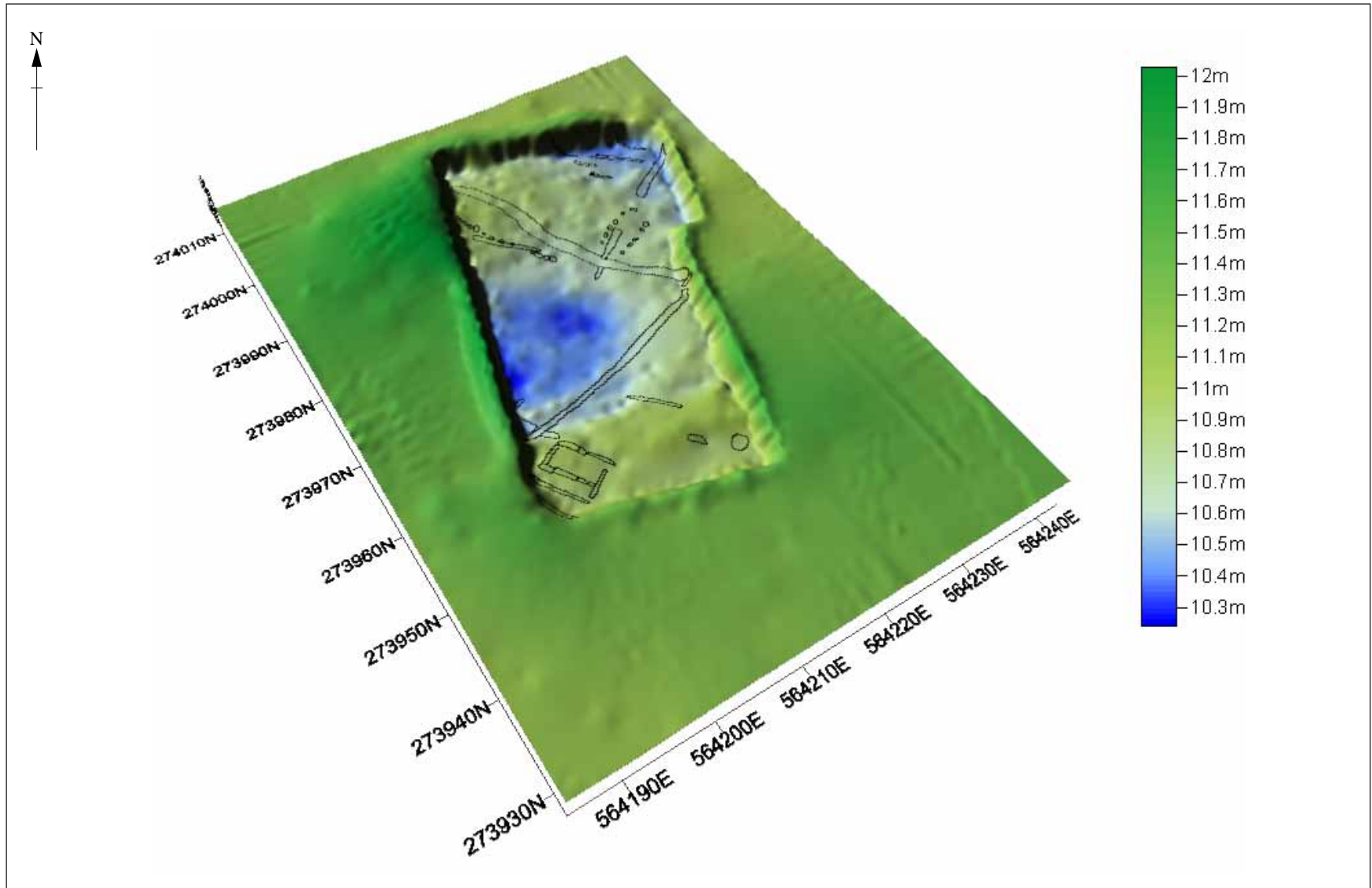


Figure 2: Digital terrain model of excavation area



Figure 3: Trench Plan (all periods)



Figure 4: Period 1 and undated features

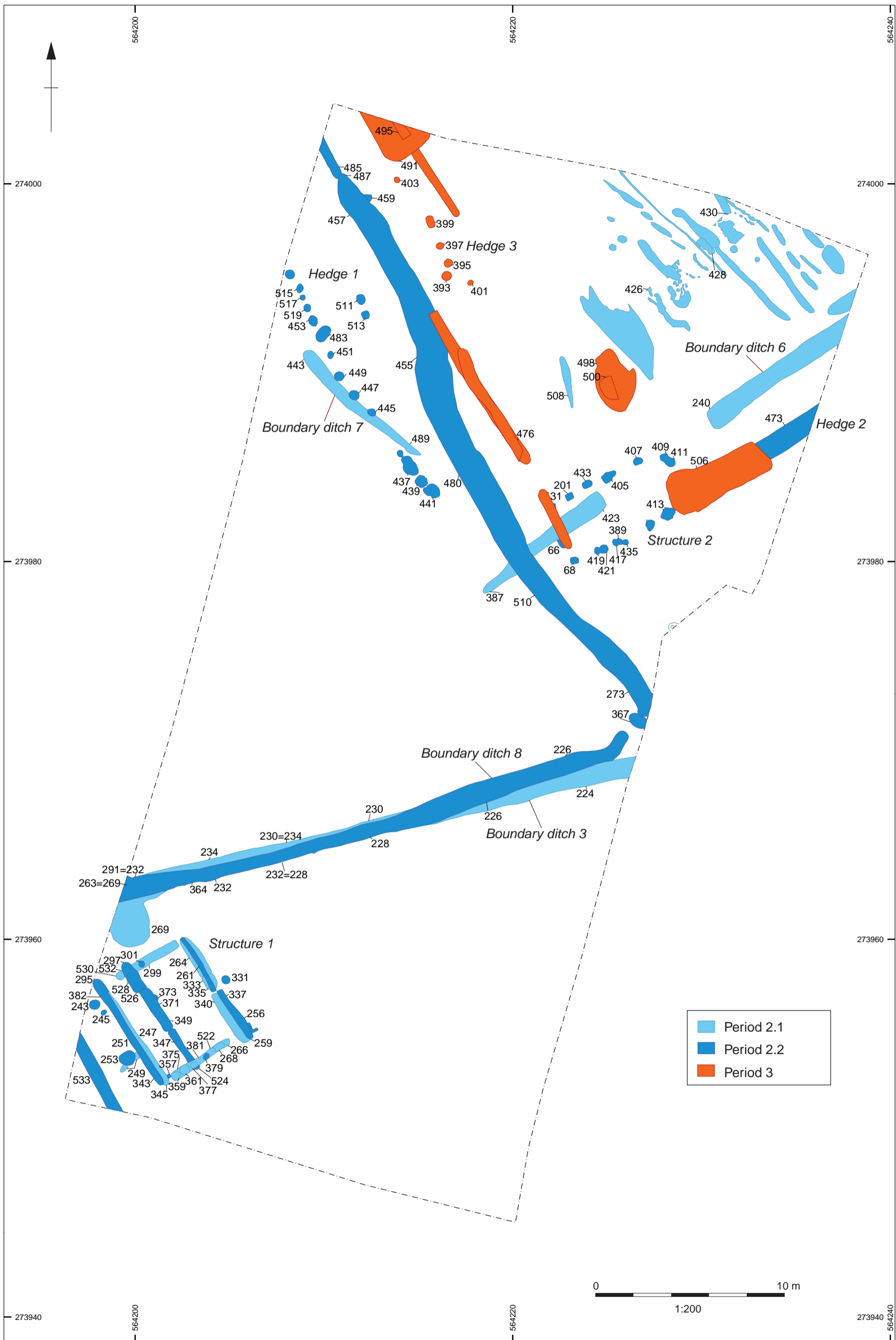


Figure 5: Periods 2 and 3

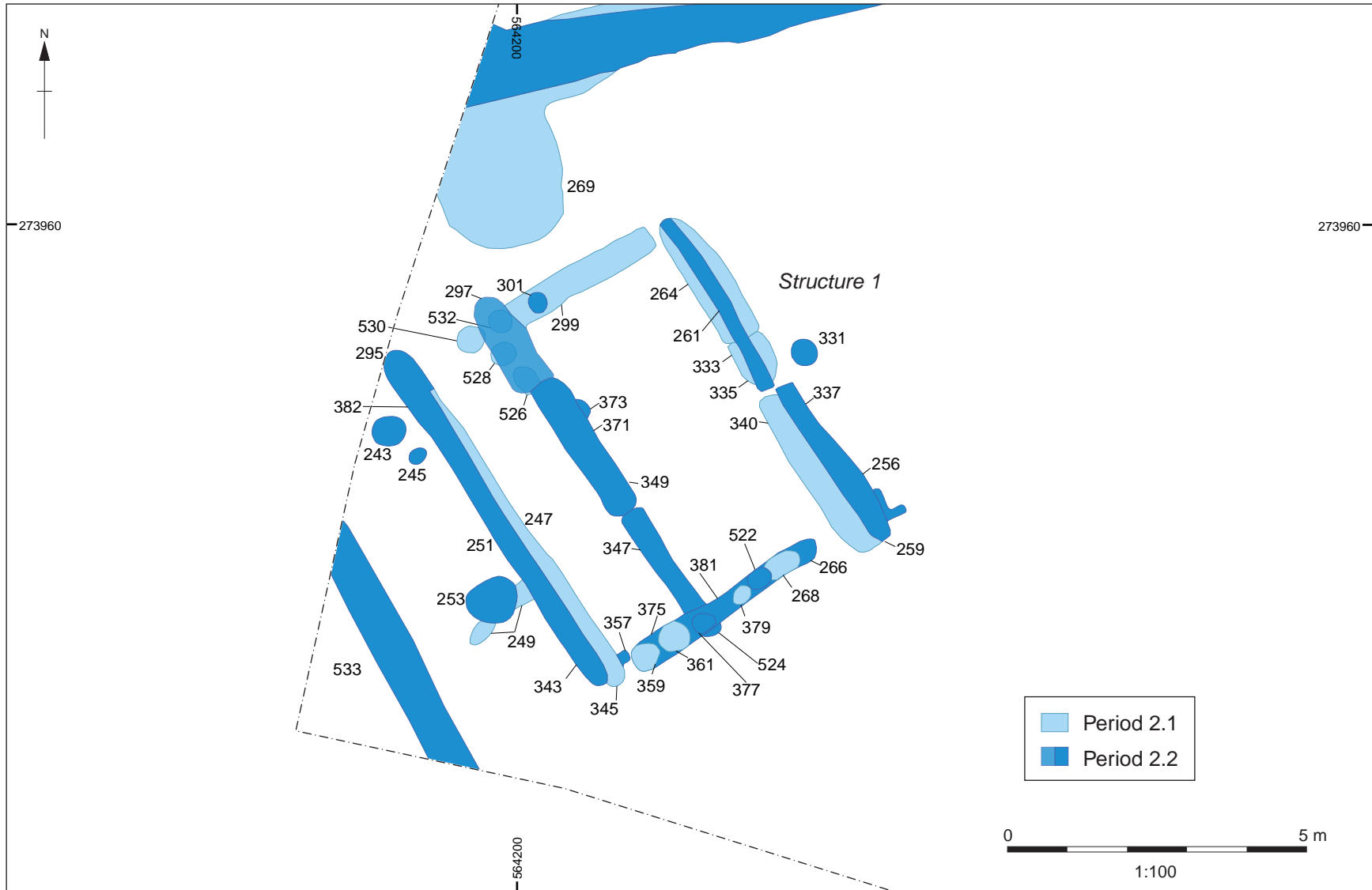


Figure 6: Structure 1 phase plan

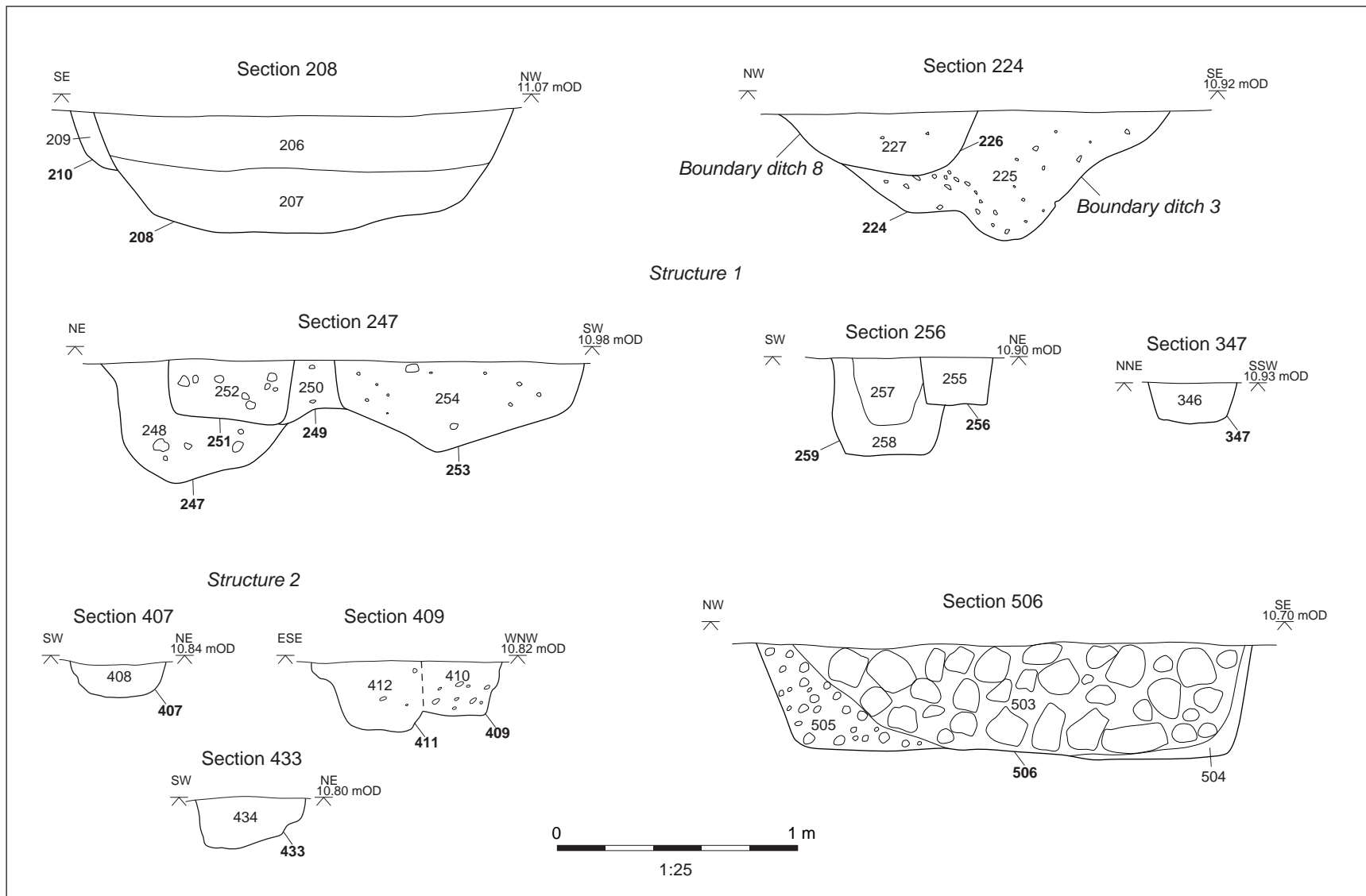


Figure 7: Selected sections



Plate 1: Iron Age pit **208** facing north-west



Plate 2: Structure 1, pre-ex. facing north-west



Plate 3: Structure 1, during excavation. Facing south-east



Plate 4: boundary Ditch 6. Facing north-east



Plate 5: Structure 2. Facing south



Plate 6: Boundary Ditch 9 and hedge 3. facing south-east



Plate 7: 'clunch pit 506. Facing east



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