Excavation Report

An Iron Age Settlement at Cromwell Community College, Chatteris

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An Iron Age Settlement at Cromwell Community College, Chatteris

Archaeological Excavation

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Summary

Between March 12th-30th 2012, Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological excavation over a c.2,800m^2 area at Cromwell Community College, Chatteris (TL 3957 8520), in advance of construction of school sports pitches. An earlier archaeological evaluation on the site in September & October 2011 discovered a previously unknown Iron Age settlement (Lyons 2011). The subsequent excavation exposed almost the entirety of a small unenclosed settlement.

The settlement predominately dated to the Early Iron Age, although an earlier, potentially Middle Bronze Age ditch may have been incorporated into its layout. The settlement lay on flat land at between 8.5m and 9m OD on drift geology comprising sands and gravels with the fen edge c.1km to the west. There were up to 125 features dated possibly to the Early Iron Age period (c.64 pits, c.52 post holes, three pits or post holes and four possible boundary ditches) and two layers. Many of the features were truncated by medieval and later post-medieval ploughing activity; although the surviving post holes did not form any obvious structures, two possible 'four-post' structures were suggested.

Two radiocarbon dates, taken from cow and sheep bone recovered from a pit, produced a date range of mid 6th to 5th centuries BC. This feature also contained large quantities of unabraded Early Iron Age pottery from a few vessels. It was by far the deepest feature on the site at 0.7m deep with vertical edges. The pottery and radiocarbon dates from this unusual pit will help to refine our understanding of the development of pottery styles during this period. The remaining finds evidence included fired clay objects, such as a possible loom weight and fragments of clay lining from ovens or kilns that are indicative of domestic activity. There was little evidence for the re-cutting of features, or change of use. As a consequence it is suggested that the settlement was relatively short-lived.

After the abandonment of the Iron Age settlement it appears that the site remained in agricultural use until the present day; the presence of ridge and furrow indicates medieval and post-medieval farming.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at Cromwell Community College, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (centred on TL 3957 8520) (Fig. 1) following two phases of archaeological evaluation which recorded medieval pits and post holes in the north-western part of the subject site and an Iron Age settlement to the south (Lyons 2011). This excavation took place in the area of the Iron Age settlement in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas, Senior Archaeologist at Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (Thomas 2012) and a method statement by OA East (Macaulay 2012). The work fulfils the requirement of the Planning Application for development at the Community College (F/02005/11/CCC).

1.1.2 The investigation was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). 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.

1.1.3 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 subject site lies on the southern side of the town on flat land at between 8.5mOD and 9mOD. The solid geology is composed of undifferentiated fossiliferous mudstones and calcareous mudstones belonging to the West Walton and Ampthill Clay Formations, which are part of the Ancholme Group of the Middle Jurassic age (British Geological Survey 1995).

1.2.2 These beds are overlain by drift sediments composed of sands and gravels belonging to the March Gravels Member of possible Ipswichian age (BGS 1995). The March Gravels are coarse orange brown poorly sorted sandy gravels composed of rounded to irregular clasts dominantly of flint with sandstone/quartzite, limestone and ironstone and commonly cross bedded and shelly.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Introduction

1.3.1 A summary of the results of the archaeological evaluation conducted prior to the excavation is presented below. There follows a summary by period of sites within a 0.5km radius of the proposed development which were identified by a search carried out at the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) on 11th April 2011. Further sites, specifically an evaluation at Tithe Barn Farm in 2011, directly to the south of the site are also included (CHER ECB 3632). The records are presented in Figure 1. Other archaeological sites which lay further away from these searches have been referred to where relevant but not mapped in this report.

Cromwell Community College Archaeological Evaluation (CHER ECB 3572)

1.3.2 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in two separate phases: Phase 1 comprised the excavation of six trenches (Nos: 1-6) immediately to the south of the

school buildings where a new teaching block and other buildings were planned (Fig. 1). Phase 2 was located within arable fields lying to the immediate south of the school boundary and comprised seven Trenches (Nos: 7 – 16) over proposed sports pitches. Phase 1 revealed medieval and post-medieval pits and post holes within Trench 2, located nearest the town centre to the north-west. Phase 2 revealed evidence for a putative Mid and/or Late Iron Age settlement in Trenches 14 and 15, where several post holes and pits were recorded. Overlying the Iron Age remains were north to south and east to west aligned medieval furrows (Fig. 3; Lyons 2011).

Mesolithic/Neolithic

1.3.3 The majority of the earlier prehistoric settlement and finds evidence has been found in the southern and eastern part of Chatteris parish, over 2km from the subject site (Hall 1992). This includes scheduled Neolithic enclosures (DCB 163) to the east side of subject site and a flint scatter and Neolithic axe found to the west of the modern town.

1.3.4 During the Neolithic period a major river channel ran north to south approximately 1km to the west. Its associated tributaries passed within a few hundred metres of the site (Hall 1992, fig. 52). An evaluation 0.5km to the south at Tithe Barn Farm (Fig. 1, CHER ECB 3632) recorded a possible Early Neolithic post hole containing a flint blade and a number of residual Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flints including an Early Neolithic leaf shaped arrowhead (Atkins 2011). A Neolithic axe was recorded at Wood Farm (CHER 3699) 1km to the south of the site.

Bronze Age

1.3.5 There is a significant body of evidence for widespread activity within the parish during the Bronze Age. During this time peat fen encroached on the area and Chatteris' location several metres above sea level, on relatively dry ground, appears to have resulted in more extensive occupation of the island (Hall 1992). At this time it is suggested that the subject site was located at least 1km from the postulated fen edge (Hall 1992).

1.3.6 An evaluation at Tithe Barn Farm, directly to the south of the site (Fig. 3, CHER ECB 3632; Atkins 2011), recorded two probable minor Early Bronze Age sites, two substantial Middle Age Bronze Age settlements and associated field systems, but no Late Bronze Age remains. The Early Bronze Age sites comprised a well containing burnt flint similar to features dating to this period, 0.8km to the south-east (Fig. 3, trench 40) and a hollow containing 16 sherds from an Early Bronze Age urn and a single worked flint, 1km to the south (Atkins 2011, trench 3). The Middle Bronze Age remains were in a different location to these Early Bronze Age sites. One was recorded during fieldwalking by David Hall, with pottery, a flint scraper and fire cracked lithics recovered (Figs. 1 and 3, CHER 10901; Hall 1992, Chatteris site 28). The subsequent evaluation found Middle Bronze Age remains spread over a wide area and comprising several houses, pits and an associated field system extending over at least a 200m area and laying parallel, directly to the west of a north to south palaeochannel (Fig. 3, trenches 12,15 and 24-25). The second Middle Bronze Age site was 300m to the west of this settlement within an area of circular cropmarks, which were either round houses or barrows (Fig. 3, trenches 7 and 8; Atkins 2011). Three Middle Bronze Age waterholes were also recorded cutting a palaeochannel 250m to the south-east of the subject site (Fig. 3, trench 52).

1.3.7 A Middle to Late Bronze Age shield and socketed bronze spear-head were found to the south-west in 1870 (Fig. 1, CHER 3697) as were a Bronze Age dugout canoe and

rapier (Fig. 1, CHER 3777). Their location is vague and was probably several hundred metres further away to the west, closer to the fen edge and the postulated river (see 1.3.4 above). Other evidence of settlement in the immediate vicinity of the site is indicated by surface finds uncovered during fieldwalking along the route of the Chatteris bypass, *c*.0.4km to the north-east (Fig. 1, CHER 08771B) and also *c*.0.7km to the east of the site, where Bronze Age arrowheads were found (Fig. 1, CHER 05804).

1.3.8 Archaeological work 1km to the north of the subject site comprising an evaluation and subsequent excavation over an area c.100m by c.75m recorded five Early to Late Bronze Age pits (not illustrated; Roberts 2000; Cooper 2004; CHER CB 15323). Immediately to the north of this site a separate excavation found three Middle Bronze Age cremations, one of which was contained within a pottery urn (Thatcher 2008; CHER MCB 17496). These were not associated with settlement; such separation is a commonly observed trait of burial sites located along the fen edge (Hall 1992). Burials dating to this period are relatively numerous in the parish and include a dispersed barrow field of at least 15 barrows occupying the eastern half of the island towards the fen edge some distance from the subject site (Hall 1992).

1.3.9 In the Fenland survey, in addition to the possible settlement noted above, another two Bronze Age domestic sites were postulated within the parish further away from the subject site (not illustrated; Hall 1992, 90 and fig. 53, sites 11 (2km to the north-east) and 39 (2km to the south)). Numerous other Bronze Age artefacts have been recovered across the parish indicating widespread evidence for activity in this period. The evidence includes flint working sites, and a considerable amount of Bronze Age metalwork reported although the latter may derive from disturbed cemeteries it also demonstrates occupation nearby (Hall 1992),

Iron Age and Roman

1.3.10 The steady rise of the water table during the Middle and Late Bronze Age meant that during the Iron Age and Roman period Chatteris was an island surrounded by peat (Weaver 2006, 9). In Chatteris parish, Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery have been found together on several sites suggesting continuity of settlement into the Iron Age period (Hall 1992, 93). Hall, in his Fenland Survey of 1992 (and before subsequent discovery of further Iron Age settlements) emphasised that Chatteris was remarkable for its Iron Age sites with six areas of occupational remains and a further two cropmark sites which could be from this period (not illustrated; Hall 1992, fig. 54). These sites were located predominantly to the south-east (*c*.0.8km), east (1km) and north-east (*c*.3km) of the subject site. The two largest sites (Chatteris sites 26 and 10) were *c*.3km apart, covered 10 and 2.5 hectares respectively with the former producing pottery dating from the Late Bronze Age (*ibid*, 93). Several of these postulated Iron Age sites may have continued into the Roman period.

1.3.11 One of the six postulated settlements was 0.8km to the south-east of the site and here Late Iron Age and Roman pottery sherds were recovered suggesting long term occupation (Fig. 1, CHER 08803; Hall 1992, fig. 54 site 29). An evaluation on this site found ditches and pits dating from the Latest Iron Age to the Late Roman period (Fig. 3, Atkins 2011, trenches 29, and 37-38; CHER ECB 3632).

1.3.12 Another settlement was originally recorded as a cropmark and later during a geophysical survey, 0.8km to the south of the site (Fig. 1, CHER 10664; Walford 2008). A subsequent evaluation over this site in 2011 found these related to a Mid Bronze Age settlement (see above) and a Mid/Late Iron Age to Roman farmstead with enclosure, houses, ditches and pits (Figs. 1 and 3; Atkins 2011, trenches 5, 7-9, 11, 14 and 16;

CHER ECB 3632). Other Iron Age features found in this evaluation comprised a probable Mid/Late Iron Age cremation, 0.4km to the south of the subject site and two Iron Age watering holes, 0.2km to the south (Figs. 1 and 3; Atkins 2011, trenches 33 and 52 respectively).

1.3.13 Excavations in 2001 and 2006, 1km to the north of the subject site, found a previously unknown Early Iron Age to Late Roman settlement (not illustrated; Cooper 2004; CHER MCB 18461 and 18462; Thatcher 2008; Thatcher *et al* in prep; CHER MCB 17496).

1.3.14 Chatteris appears to have been an important area in the Roman period with evidence for settlement and a local economy based on stock rearing (Hall 1992, 94). Near to the subject site a Roman pottery scatter, indicative of further settlement, was found at what would have been the fen edge in the Burrow Lands (not illustrated; CHER MCB 10577). The settlements in Chatteris parish vary from a high status Roman villa at Langwood Farm more than a kilometre away (not illustrated; Evans 2003; CHER 09567) to the average status small farms such as that at New Road, Chatteris (not illustrated; Cooper 2004; CHER MCB 18461).

1.3.15 Aerial photography identified an undated circular enclosure 60m in diameter, 0.6km to the north-east, that may also date to this period (not illustrated; CHER 09481).

Early to Middle Saxon

1.3.16 There is very little evidence for Early to Middle Saxon activity in Chatteris. Thirteen probable Early Saxon pottery sherds and some Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware were found approximately 1km to the north (not illustrated; Thatcher 2008; CHER MCB 17496). A possible sunken featured building was found *c.*0.8km to the south-east during an evaluation (Figs. 1 and 3; Atkins 2011, trench 26; CHER ECB 3632).

Late Saxon and Medieval

1.3.17 The extreme northern, north-eastern and western part of the Chatteris parish was given to Ramsey Abbey by Athelstan Mannesson and King Edgar confirmed the gift in 974 (Hampson 1967). This abbey lay 0.5km to the north-west of the site (Fig. 1, CHER 3700). The remainder of the parish was the soke and belonged to the Abbot of Ely (Hampson 1967). The subject site lay within this latter manor and was subsequently given to Chatteris nunnery, which was founded by Eadnoth, former Abbot of Ramsey, between AD 1006 and 1008 (Hall 1992). In 1551 the manor and rectory were granted to Lords Clinton and Saye (*ibid*, 105). The manor then passed through several families. A Tithe Barn is located within the lands of the manor *c.*0.8km to the south of the subject site, and a moated site, possibly manorial is located approximately 1km to the south (Fig. 1, CHER 1097).

1.3.18 An extensive system of ploughed out ridge and furrow existed across the subject site, however, this can only be seen as cropmarks and by geophysical survey (Fig. 1, CHER 8911 and 11443; Fig. 3, Walford 2008). It is Midland-type strip cultivation, and a reconstruction of the medieval field pattern has been illustrated by Hall (1992, fig. 56).

Post-medieval and modern

1.3.19 The earliest surviving map of the development area is probably the 1819 Inclosure Map, where it is shown as part of Horselode Field and marked as 'Impropriator'; this refers to Charles Cholmondeley who was returned as impropriator in 1819 (not illustrated; Weaver 2006, 13, fig. 4; Hampson 1967, 107). An impropriator is a layman in possession of church property, presumably a relict name from when the site

belonged to Chatteris nunnery. This and later maps indicate that the subject site remained in agricultural use.

1.3.20 To the west of the subject site an evaluation uncovered a number of large pits which were interpreted as evidence for late post-medieval sand and gravel extraction (Fig. 1, CHER MCB 17442; Peachey 2006).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Kier Eastern who commissioned the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council, especially to Paul Whistler, Chris Swayling and Stephen Randall for Kier Eastern. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay and monitored by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council, Senior Archaeologist at the Historic Environment Team. Steve Critchley kindly metal-detected the site. Hazel White of Cambridgeshire County Council supplied HER information. I am grateful to Andy Chapman and Adrian Butler of Northamptonshire Archaeology who gave permission to use their geophysical evaluation data in this report (Fig. 3).

1.4.2 I am grateful for specialist analysis from Chris Faine, Carole Fletcher, Rachel Fosberry and Sarah Percival. Gillian Greer and Séverine Bézie drew the illustrations. The site was surveyed by Taleyna Fletcher. The fieldwork was carried out by the author assisted by John Diffey, Katherine Hamilton, Julian Newman, Stephen Porter, Helen Stocks-Morgan and Michael Webster.

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 and to fully record these (preservation by record), in advance of the development work on the site.

2.1.2 The brief required that there should be an attempt to reconstruct the history and use of the site and place the results within the context of the broader landscape of Chatteris (Thomas 2012). It stipulated that the importance of the site should be addressed using research priorities set out in the revised regional framework (Medlycott 2011).

2.1.3 The key project research aim is mapping the Iron Age activity within its '*Landscape and Settlement*'. As the project developed this extended to the Mid Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity and being able to characterise the settlement *(The characterisation of the form and development history of the settlement).*

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The proposed scheme entailed the construction of sports pitches, which would involve excavation to a depth of 0.5m to 0.75m below the present ground level (Thomas 2012). The depth of this work would have resulted in the truncation and destruction of the remains of the Iron Age settlement found by the evaluation. As a result, the Brief required an open area excavation totalling 2800m², centred on evaluation Trenches 14 and 15. Any discrete features extending beyond this may have needed to be investigated and the excavation area enlarged accordingly.

2.2.2 Before the start of the excavation a method statement report was written and approved by Kier Eastern (Macaulay 2012). This statement noted overhead electricity cables ran across part of the site. To comply with the UKPN GS6 document on safe working, the 360º tracked machine was fitted with a 5m height restrictor and a 20 ton moxy dumper was temporarily fitted with a chain to restrict the height the moxy could tip. Goal posts were erected 6m apart under the cables between which these two vehicles could access the site. A ground level barrier comprising wooden posts and netlon fencing was erected 10m to the south of the overhead cables creating an exclusion zone for machines. There was a further 1m gap between the excavation area and the fencing. The north-eastern corner of the proposed excavation was within the 10m exclusion zone and this part of the site was not excavated.

2.2.3 The machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360º type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and subsoil was excavated and removed separately by a dumper. 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. Plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. Ten bulk environmental samples were taken of pits and post holes.

2.2.5 The site survey was carried out by Taleyna Fletcher using a Leica GPS 1200.

2.2.6 The brief stipulated that that the results of the site should be made available to the public through a variety of media. During the excavation the site was filmed by Matthew Hall and his colleagues from Cambridgeshire County Council's 'ShapeYourPlace' and posted on the County Council's web page and a blog established at http://fenlandwittering.blogspot.co.uk/2012/03/iron-age-settlements-and-playing.html. A visit to the site was recorded by BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and broadcast on the 24th March.

2.2.7 Conditions for the excavation were generally dry and bright.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Early Iron Age settlement

3.1.1 A total of 125 possible Iron Age features and layers were found in the evaluation and excavation. These comprised *c*.64 pits and *c*.52 post holes, three pits or post holes, four ditches and two layers. A full context list can be found in Appendix A (Table 2).

3.1.2 The pottery was dated to the Early to Middle Iron Age and two radiocarbon dates from animal bone recorded within a pit produced a date range of mid 6th to 5th century BC. There was no obvious change of use or replanning of the site and so it is described below as one phase of activity. The results are presented below by area/group of features.

Boundary ditch

3.1.3 Two segments of a boundary ditch were visible crossing the excavation area on a north-east to south-west alignment. The northern segment (**2247**/**2026**/**2003**) was 12m long with well defined terminus' at either end. It was up to 0.80m wide and 0.33m deep with fairly steep sides, a slightly rounded base (Fig 7, S.202) and contained a naturally derived, light yellow grey sandy silt. Ditch section **2026** also contained a mid grey sandy silt (2028) from which two sherds (1g) of Iron Age pottery and a burnt flint piece were recovered.

3.1.4 A fired clay weight and intrusive lava quern fragments, presumably derived from the later medieval furrow which cut the ditch at this point (Fig. 2), were recovered from ditch section **2003**.

3.1.5 The south-western terminus of this feature (**2247**) may have represented part of an entrance in conjunction with the second segment of ditch, which continued for c.35m on the same alignment to the south (**2217**/**2045**/**2037**/**2029**/**2249**). This latter segment was very similar in size and profile (Fig 7, S 203), with the exception of its south-western terminus (**2217**) which was just 0.39m wide and 0.05m deep.

3.1.6 Early Iron Age ditches are extremely rare and it is possible that this feature actually dates to the Middle Bronze Age, forming part of a wider former field system that was later incorporated/respected by the Early Iron Age settlement (see Section 4, Discussion).

3.1.7 A fragmentary, undated ditch (**2089**) recorded *c*.30m to the east and aligned roughly perpendicular to this main boundary ditch, may have formed part of the same field system. Ditch **2089** ran north-west to south-east for *c*.6m, it was up to 0.9m wide, 0.15m deep and filled with a sterile very light greyish brown clay silt.

Pit group 1

3.1.8 A group of nine pits (**2111**, **2113**, **2187**, **2189**, **2192**, **2200**, **2220**, **2223** and **2225**), were recorded lying directly to the north of the probable entranceway of the boundary ditch within a *c*.8m by *c*.5m area . The nine pits were all discrete with none intercutting, although three (**2220**, **2223** and **2225**) seem to have cut a natural shallow, sterile, undated hollow (**2227**), measuring 6.25m by 5.5m in area and 0.1m deep.

3.1.9 These features were round or sub-rounded, ranging from 0.85m to 1.4m in diameter and from 0.04m to 0.29m in depth. They had gentle to moderately sloped sides (Fig 7, S.223 & 224) and contained single sterile deposits ranging from light orange brown to mid grey brown silt with a little clay. An assemblage of 16 sherds of pottery, weighing

38g, was recovered from three of the pits (**2187**, **2220** and **2223**), with the majority (12 sherds) derived from pit **2220**.

Post-hole and pit group 1 (Fig. 4)

3.1.10 These features were originally sampled in evaluation Trench 14. The excavation stage further investigated this area and as a result new features were uncovered (Plates 1, 2 and 3). There were a total of 17 features within this group with the excavation uncovering at least two separate periods of use.

3.1.11 The earliest activity seem to comprised seven post holes (**2253**, **2255**, **2257**, **2259**, **2261**, **2263** and **2267**) forming an alignment running north to south over a *c*.3m by 0.6m distance(Fig. 4), some of which were beneath later pits. They were between 0.20m and 0.70m in diameter and 0.05m and 0.44m deep, with steep sides and flat bases, filled by single light yellowy brown silty sand deposits. Seven pottery sherds were recovered from six of these features and included a sherd of Earlier Iron Age pottery. Post hole **2259** also contained part of a fired clay object.

3.1.12 The post holes were truncated by six intercutting pits. Stratigraphically, pits **1416**, **2251** and **1419** pre-dated pits **1405**, **1410, 1412** and **1414**. The former three pits were similar in size at up to 0.9m long and up to 0.31m deep but varied significantly in profile from gentle (**1416**) to steep (**2251**). The upper fill of pit **1416** contained some charcoal flecks and 13 sherds of Iron Age pottery, pit **1419** was sterile and pit **2251** produced a single small pottery sherd (7g).

3.1.13 The latest four features (**1405**, **1410, 1412** and **1414**) were significantly larger features. Pits **1410** and **1412** were intercutting, up to 1.75m in diameter and 0.36m deep with steep sides and flat bases. Both were filled by a greyish brown sandy silt and **1410** contained 16 sherds of Earlier Iron Age pottery and a few unidentified bone chips. Pit **1414** was 1.15m by 1m in diameter and 0.41m deep with steep sides and a flattish base with a single sterile fill.

3.1.14 Pit **1405** was markedly different to the other pits. It was circular and measured 1.35m by 1.3m in diameter and was 0.7m deep with near vertical sides and three fills (Fig. 4, S. 1402; Plate 3). Primary fill (1404) was a dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks, that contained a substantial assemblage of Early Iron Age pottery as well as some burnt animal bone. Secondary fill 1403 was a greyish brown silty sand, it too contained Iron Age pottery. The upper deposit (1402) was a paler greyish brown. Collectively there were 209 pottery sherds weighing 2.205kg, which represents 59.1% of the assemblage by weight (Percival, App B.3). Furthermore, this material was derived from only a few vessels, which suggests that it was a near primary assemblage with the pottery not travelling a large distance or too long a time before final deposition.

3.1.15 Animal bone (cattle and sheep/goat) was recovered from all three deposits with eleven of the fragments identified to species and some displaying butchery marks (Faine, App C.1). Two of the animal bones from context 1404 were radiocarbon dated to the mid 6th to 5th centuries BC (App C.2, Figs. 8 and 9). No flint or fired clay were recovered from the pit, which may suggest selective deposition within the pit. Likewise, soil samples from fills 1403 and 1404 during the evaluation produced only charcoal and no charred grains (Samples 102 and 103, Table 9).

3.1.16 Pit **1408** and post hole **2265** were located immediately to the east of this group. Pit

1408 was sub-circular measuring 1.3m by 0.85m and 0.37m deep. It contained two fairly homogeneous sandy silt fills from which 29 sherds (0.205kg) of Earlier Iron Age pottery were recovered. Post hole (**2265**) lay 1m to the east of the line of post holes and does not seem to have been part of this group. It was 0.2m by 0.15m across, 0.05m deep and contained 12 fragments of Iron Age pottery.

Post hole and pit group 2 (Figs. 3, 5, 6 and 7)

3.1.17 A total of eight features, tentatively identified as post holes, were recorded within this group (Figs. 5 and 6; Plates 2 and 4) (**2141**, **2143**, **2169**, **2176=2135**, **2235**, **2233, 2237** and **2239**) in a *c*.3m by *c*.3.5m area. They were seemingly randomly situated, often beneath larger pits and it is possible they represented lower fills/disturbance areas below the pits. They were between 0.2m and 0.6m in diameter and 0.03m to 0.26m deep with four of them being no more than 0.06m deep. All were backfilled with a mid to dark grey brown clay silt. Five sherds (22g) of Iron Age pottery were recovered from **2176=2135** with the remaining post holes sterile.

3.1.18 The post holes were cut by a cluster of eighteen probable pits (**2075**, **2077**, **2079**, **2081**, **2083**, **2130**, **2133**, **2137**, **2139**, **2146**, **2163**, **2165**, **2167**, **2171**, **2174**, **2241**, **2243** and **2245**) encompassing an area *c*.8m by *c*.5m in size. They were very similar in size and shape, being relatively small and sub-rounded with 16 of the pits intercutting. In diameter they ranged from 0.78m to 1.5m with a depth range of 0.06m to 0.42m (Fig. 6, Sections 217, 218 and 219). Their sides varied from gentle to near vertical and the bases gently rounded to flat. None of the features were irregular, as would be expected in 'tree bowls'. Fourteen were backfilled with single mid grey brown to dark grey brown clayey silt deposits, the remainder contained two fills each.

3.1.19 An assemblage of 200 sherds of pottery, weighing 0.574kg, was recovered from seventeen of the pits; although almost half of this material (88 sherds weighing 0.283g) was recovered from just three features (**2075**, **2081** and **2174**). Whilst two of the pits contained exclusively Earlier Iron Age pottery and five had Earlier Iron Age pottery as well as the undifferentiated Iron Age types, the dating evidence from these features would suggest that they were broadly contemporary.

3.1.20 Of note within this assemblage was a fine beaded rim found in Pit **2139** and 35 sherds derived from the same vessel. Three of the pits (**2083**, **2146** and **2167**) contained small fragments of fired clay (collectively five fragments (22g), including part of the lining of a hearth or oven) and two pits (**2146** and **2167**) each had a struck flint chunk. A soil sample from Pit **2081** produced three charred cereal grains and four possible bean fragments (Sample 209, Table 10).

3.1.21 These features were sealed by layer 2206, which was 0.10m to 0.12m thick and comprised a mid dark grey brown clay silt. Within this layer were 24 Iron Age pottery sherds (0.077kg) from a single vessel, nine fired clay pieces (0.51kg) including three pieces of hearth or oven lining and a struck flint chunk .

Isolated pits (Fig. 2)

3.1.22 To the east of post hole and pit group 1 were nine pits (**2009**, **2011**, **2013**, **2015**, **2021**, **2121**, **2148**, **2151** and **2161**) spread over a *c*.25m by *c*.15m area. Eight of these were between 0.68m and 1.7m in diameter and one (**2015**) was substantially larger at 2.8m by 0.9m in size. All the pits were relatively shallow at between 0.08m and 0.25m deep with gentle or moderately sloped sides (Fig. 7, S, 214). Six pits (**2009**, **2011**, **2013**, **2015**, **2021** and **2121**) produced pottery sherds (16 sherds weighing 0.058kg) with pit

2121 having the majority of the pottery (10 sherds [48g]). The pottery was broadly dated to the Iron Age, except pit **2013**, which contained a sherd of Earlier Iron Age date.

3.1.23 In the central part of the site over a *c*.20m² area delineated from pit group 1, post hole and pit group 1 up to post hole and pit group 2, were 30 pits and post holes. These features (**2005**, **2007**, **2017**, **2019**, **2023**, **2044**, **2054**, **2056**, **2058**, **2060**, **2062**, **2064**, **2066**, **2068**, **2085**, **2087**, **2091**, **2093**, **2113**, **2115**, **2117**, **2119**, **2123**, **2196**, **2198**, **2203**, **2208**, **2210, 2212** and **2229**) did not form any coherent plan or recognisable structures.

3.1.24 There were a mixture of possible post holes and small pits with the single exception of pit **2203** which, at 2.55m by 1.55m in area, was far larger than the others. The remaining features were between 0.13m and 1.25m in diameter and up to 0.26m deep except pit **2208**, which was 0.44m deep (Fig. 7, Sections 209, 210, 213, 221 and 222). The sides of these features were very variable with roughly equal numbers of gentle, moderate and steep sided features and only two having near vertical sides (**2005** and **2208**).

3.1.25 These features all contained single fills and only seven (**2005**, **2019**, **2023**, **2085**, **2119**, **2196** and **2208**) produced abraded Iron Age pottery (21 sherds weighing 0.059kg) with none of features containing more than four sherds. The features containing pottery were not located in any concentration and were found in various parts of the area. Pit **2208** contained four pottery sherds (0.015kg) and an Early Neolithic bladelet in its charcoal enriched backfill and two charred cereal grains (environmental sample 207; Table 10). Pits **2058** and **2119** were two other pits sampled and both contained charcoal but no charred grains (samples 201 and 204; Table 10).

Four-post structures and post holes(Fig. 2)

3.1.26 To the south of the three main pit groups and to the east of the boundary ditch there were a loose collection of 23 post holes (**1508**, **1510**, **1512**, **2032**, **2034**, **2036**, **2040**, **2042**, **2049**, **2051**, **2053**, **2071**, **2073**, **2097**, **2099**, **2101**, **2103**, **2105**, **2107**, **2109**, **2194**, **2214** and **2231**) and a small pit (**2095**) within a *c*.25m by *c*.15m area. These features lay in a distinct group and included two possible four-post structures (1 and 2).

3.1.27 Structure 1 comprised four post holes (**2097**, **2099**, **2101** and **2214**) (Plate 5) arranged in a sub-square shape measuring 2.80m/2.10m on its east to west axis by 2.75m/3.30m north to south. The post holes were between 0.35m to 0.45m in diameter and up to 0.21m deep with steep sides (60º) and slightly rounded or flat bases (Fig. 7, S. 211). Five sherds (46g) of Iron Age pottery from a single vessel were recovered from post hole **2101**. A soil sample from post hole **2101** produced charcoal, but no charred grains (Sample 202, Table 10).

3.1.28 Structure 2 lay immediately to the south and comprised post holes **2103**, **2107**, **2109** and **2231**. Although not totally symmetrical, it was slightly more regular in shape than Structure 1, at 2.3m/2.90m on its east to west axis by 2.35m/2.80m on its north to south axis. The post holes were fairly similar at between 0.30m and 0.50m in diameter and 0.23m to 0.30m deep (Fig. 7, S. 212). Three of the post holes had very steep to near vertical sides but the truncated fourth post hole only had gentle sides. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was found in post hole **2103**.

3.1.29 The remaining post holes (**1508**, **1510**, **1512**, **2032**, **2034**, **2036**, **2040**, **2042**, **2049**, **2051**, **2053**, **2071**, **2073**, **2105** and **2194**) and pit (**2095**) in this part of the site did not appear to form any structures although some were in rough lines that may have represented fence lines. Twelve of the possible 15 post holes had diameters between 0.28m and 0.46m, two were 0.65m and the third 0.76m in diameter. They survived to

between 0.07 and 0.27m deep with one 0.40m deep and this latter post hole (**2053**) possibly had a post pipe (Fig. 7, Sections 204, 205, 206, 207 and 208). More than half had vertical or near vertical sides.

3.1.30 Pit **2095** was noticeably larger in size with a diameter of between 0.92m and 1.15m and was 0.12m deep. More than half the features had a single dark backfill, either a mid to dark grey or a dark grey brown which was charcoal rich. It is possible the posts from these former post holes had been partly burnt. The quantity of artefacts within the post holes and pit was not large, but eight of these 16 features had at least one sherd of pottery in their backfill and collectively a total of 30 sherds (179g) were recovered including an Earlier Iron Age sherd from post hole **2042**. The sherds were mostly found in two features (**2040** & **2095**) with 13 sherds (80g) from post hole **2040** and 12 sherds (100g) from pit **2095**, including a decorated sherd (Plate 6). This latter pit also had a charred wheat grain (soil sample 203, Table 10). A struck flint chunk also was recovered from post hole **2040**.

Pit/ditch 2153 and post hole 2155

3.1.31 In the south-western corner of the site two possible prehistoric features (**2153** & **2157**) were recorded. Feature **2153** was a large shallow pit/ditch that was *c*.7m long, more than 1.2m wide and 0.17m deep. It was cut by an east to west aligned furrow (**2157**). To the south-west of **2153** lay post hole **2155**, which was 0.5m by 0.36m in diameter and 0.24m deep with near vertical sides (Fig. 7, S. 215). It was filled with a dark greyish brown clay sand. No finds were recovered from either of these features.

Pits and ditches west of boundary ditch

3.1.32 Three small, ephemeral pits (**2178**, **2180** and **2184**) lay to the west of the segmented boundary ditch. The pits were located over a 15m distance, between 0.42m and 0.95m in diameter and were only 0.12m to 0.19m deep. All three had single sterile light to mid grey brown backfills; this was in contrast to many of the post holes and pits to the east of the boundary ditch, which contained dark fills. No finds were recovered from these features.

3.1.33 Also within this part of the site were two north to south aligned ditches (**2182** and **2125**/**2127**). The westernmost ditch (**2182**) was only *c*.4m long, 0.35m wide and 0.1m deep. Within its light brownish grey silt deposit were six Iron Age pottery sherds (8g). Ditch **2125**/**2127**, although undated, may have been broadly contemporary with the main segmented boundary ditch as its southern terminus appeared to respect the possible entranceway formed by **2247** (see above, para. 3.1.5). Ditch **2125**/**2127** was between 0.45m and 0.85m wide and 0.05m to 0.17m deep with moderately sloped sides and a slightly rounded base.

3.2 Furrows

3.2.1 The site may have traversed a possible former boundary evidenced by the presence of both north to south aligned and east to west aligned furrows. These were also recorded by the geophysical survey undertaken prior to work at Tithe Barn Farm (Walford 2008) (Fig. 3). One of the furrows was sampled (**2025**) and proved to be 1.9m wide and 0.12m deep. Artefacts were retrieved from the top of the unexcavated furrows and comprised four pottery sherds (dating to the late medieval and 16th/17th centuries), four post medieval brick fragments and fragments of animal bone.

3.3 Later post-medieval and modern features

3.3.1 Several features that post-dated the furrows were also recorded. In the south-western corner of the excavation area were two north to south aligned ditches (**2156** & **2159**) lying *c.*12m apart, the former cut two furrows. Ditch **2159** was 0.77m wide and 0.07m deep. A number of modern artefacts, including a copper alloy ring (SF 205) and some brick fragments, were found on the surface of ditch **2156**.

3.3.2 During the evaluation, a small gully or drain was recorded in Trench 15 (**1504**, **1506** and **1514**). A fragment of oyster shell and a residual sherd of medieval pottery were recovered from **1506** and **1514**.

3.4 Finds Summary

3.4.1 A small to moderate finds assemblage was recovered by the evaluation and excavation (App B.1 - B.7). This included eight struck flints, of which six may be contemporary with the Early/Mid Iron Age settlement. Five medieval to modern metal objects were recovered from the topsoil, subsoil and a modern ditch.

3.4.2 The Early to Middle Iron Age pottery formed the largest part of the assemblage and comprised 618 sherds weighing 3.732kg, recovered from 58 features. The bulk of the Early Iron Age material was recovered from pit **1405**, with small quantities of pottery recovered from the remaining features.

3.4.3 Just four medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds were found from furrows and later features/layers. Intrusive lava fragments were found in one ditch. Four post-medieval brick fragments were found in three furrows. A small collection of 30 fired clay fragments (0.272kg) was found in Iron Age contexts. The identifiable fragments included part of a loom weight and fragments of lining from ovens or hearths from three features.

3.5 Environmental Summary

3.5.1 The environmental assemblage was also relatively small (App C.1 – C.3) and included forty animal bone fragments (0.5kg), eleven of those found in pit **1405**, were identifiable as cattle and sheep/goat remains. Two of the bones were Radiocarbon dated and the results are presented in Appendix C.2.

3.5.2 Seventeen baulk samples were taken (six from the evaluation and eleven during the excavation). Charcoal was recovered from most of the samples, three were found to contain very small quantities of charred cereal grain and four possible bean fragments were also recovered.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Early Iron Age

4.1.1 Archaeological investigations at the Cromwell Community College recorded a small, unenclosed Early Iron Age settlement on relatively high ground between 8.5m and 9m OD, *c.*1km from the nearest fen edge (Hall 1992, fig. 54). A contemporary settlement to the north was located at a similar distance from the fen edge (Cooper 2004, Thatcher 2008; Thatcher in prep). In contrast, a site at Burwell was only *c.*150m from the fen edge (Bailey with Popescu 2006).

4.1.2 The whole of the Early Iron Age settlement may have been within the excavation area, which encompassed an area measuring approximately 80m east to west and at least 35m north to south. The only direction where some of the settlement may have been untouched was to the north of the site, where an east to west aligned overhead electricity pylon precluded work. Despite this, the extent of the settlement was fairly confidently established by trenches directly to the north of the pylon line that found no archaeological remains, suggesting that any continuation of the settlement was for no more than *c.*15m. Furthermore, the surrounding evaluation trenches recorded only two small undated features (**803** and **1603**) in Trenches 8 and 16 respectively, and a general paucity of Iron Age artefacts outside the excavation area, even in the topsoil, with only a single Iron Age pottery sherd recovered from probable furrow **1205** (Trench 12), *c.*50m to the south-east.

4.1.3 It seems likely that the settlement was relatively short lived. A number of intercutting features were recorded but overall there was minimal phasing and very little evidence for re-cutting that might indicate changes in land use over an extended period of time. A short lifespan for the settlement may be corroborated by the radiocarbon dating of faunal remains from pit **1405**, which produced a date range of the mid 6th to 5th centuries BC (App. C.2). A date for the settlement within/around this *c.*150 year period is supported by the pottery, which was predominantly Early Iron Age with a possible Middle Iron Age component (App. B.3). The only definite earlier prehistoric artefact from the site was a residual Early Neolithic bladelet indicating that Neolithic and Bronze Age domestic occupation was far beyond the present excavation area.

Origins

4.1.4 The settlement appears to have been established immediately to the east of a boundary ditch aligned north-east to south-west. This ditch comprised two segments that extended for 50m and it is possible that further continuations may lie outside the excavation area. Two Iron Age pottery sherds recovered from this feature suggest that it was broadly contemporary with Early Iron Age pits and post holes recorded to the east; although these may be intrusive and the ditch could possibly be Middle Bronze Age in origin. One or perhaps two large Middle Bronze Age settlements, with associated field systems, have been found less than a kilometre to the south (Atkins 2011) and it is possible that the four ditches on this site represented part of that settlement. Although these Middle Bronze Age sites to the south did not last into the Late Bronze Age, the ditches may not have been backfilled and could have survived as distinct features. Establishing a date of origin for the ditches is important because field boundaries are extremely rare in the Early Iron Age period and unenclosed settlement is seemingly more typical in the eastern region at this time (Champion 1994, 131).

4.1.5 If, on the other hand, they date from the Early Iron Age then possible comparisons include a putative ditch found 1km to the north (Cooper 2004) and a ditch tentatively dated to this period found at the Fordham Bypass (Richard Mortimer, pers comm.). Apart from the one possible ditch, the Early Iron Age settlement recorded 1km to the north seems to have been unenclosed (Cooper 2006; Thatcher 2008; Thatcher in prep) and the nearby Burwell site was also unenclosed (Bailey with Popescu 2006).

4.1.6 There was no Late Bronze Age precursor for the site and no artefacts from this period were recovered. This small Early Iron Age settlement seems to have been contrary to a suggested localised pattern of continued occupation of some Chatteris sites from the Late Bronze Age into the Iron Age period (Hall 1992, fig. 54 sites 10 and 25). Field walking around Chatteris has led to the recovery of Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts from the same locations but as yet these sites have not undergone further investigation and so this theory is largely untested. The Early Iron Age settlement excavated 1km to the north of the site (Cooper 2004, Thatcher 2008; Thatcher in prep) recorded no earlier Late Bronze Age settlement with only one or two pits dating to this period on that site. This fits in with the wider East Anglian landscape where the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition appears to have been a period of marked change, with the abandonment of many Late Bronze Age field systems and population/settlement contraction (Medlycott 2011, 29). It might therefore be suspected that relatively few settlements continued from the Late Bronze Age period and it could be significant that the pottery from this site dates to the mid 6th to 5th centuries BC, about 150 years after this transition, when perhaps the population was starting to re-grow and new settlements be established.

Settlement character

4.1.7 Typically, open settlements in the eastern region consisted of post-built round-houses, two and four-post structures and pits (Bryant 1997, 25). On this site there were *c*.52 post holes, but only two four-post structures could be very tentatively identified. This may in part be the result of truncation by medieval and later ploughing that has in all likelihood entirely destroyed further post holes.

4.1.8 It is also the case that domestic structures have been very difficult to identify at other sites in the locality; for instance at the settlement 1km to the north (Cooper 2004; Thatcher 2008; Thatcher *et al* in prep) where clusters of Iron Age features, especially post holes, were recorded in several areas but did not form discernible structures. At Burwell 115 post holes were scattered across the excavation but only six structures (3 circular structures, 2 fence lines and a four post structure) were extremely tentatively identified (Bailey with Popescu 2006). On these sites it was suggested that the large quantity of post holes represented repeated re-building in the same location. Similar forms of settlement are noted further afield at Silfield, near Wymondham, Norfolk where dozens of unenclosed post holes were recorded, some of which formed four-post structures and fence lines (Ashwin 1996).

4.1.9 Two concentrations of inter-cutting features were recorded in the eastern part of this excavation (post hole and pit groups 1 & 2). Here, two or three phases of activity were in evidence and in both cases the sequence consisted of features interpreted as post holes cut by slightly larger pits. It was not entirely clear whether the post holes found at the base of the pits were 'real' or the result of disturbance. The remaining post holes were dispersed across the site with no apparent pattern to their distribution other than the afore mentioned four-post structures in the south-eastern part of the excavation, neither of which were very convincing. These sub-square structures are most

commonly interpreted as elevated storage structures, usually granaries, or excarnation platforms.

4.1.10 The number of pits (*c*.62) within the site is more than the other comparison sites. At Burwell there were just six pits found (Bailey with Popescu 2006), whereas at Prickwillow Rd, Ely a scatter of nineteen pits, presumably part of an open settlement, seems to have been dug between the 5th century BC and continued intermittently into the 3rd century BC (Atkins and Mudd 2003). It was noticeable that 58 of the 125 features (approximately 46%) contained at least one sherd of pottery. This comprised 37 pits, 17 post holes, two pits or post holes, and two ditches within the site. This is slightly unusual as within the other comparison sites, pits and post holes were largely sterile. At Burwell, for example, Early/Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from just 10 post holes out of 115 (approximately 8%) and these amounted to just 11 sherds (33g) (Bailey with Popescu 2006), whilst in the Early Iron Age settlement 1km to the north there were just 107 sherds from the 2006 excavations (1.165kg) with the vast majority of features dated by association (Thatcher 2008; Thatcher *et al* in prep).

4.1.11 Most of the artefacts and ecofacts were recovered from two distinct areas (post hole and pit groups 1 and 2; Table 1). These features were slightly deeper than average for the site but their function remains uncertain. Although the finds assemblage was fairly small, with just 3.732kg of pottery recovered.

Area	No. Features and layers	Quantity of pottery by sherd and weight	Quantity of other artefacts
Post hole and pit group 1	16	287 (2.6kg)	1 fired clay object (38g)
Post hole and pit group 2	27	229 (0.673kg)	14 fired clay fragments (73g) including four parts of hearth or oven lining; 3 flint chunks
Features and layers elsewhere	84	102 (0.459kg)	16 fired clay fragments (161g) including a possible loomweight and a fragment of hearth or clay lining; 1 flint bladelet, 3 chunks and a burnt flint piece
Total	**125**	**618 (3.732kg)**	

Table 1: ***Quantification of artefacts in main Iron Age feature groups***

4.1.12 Pit **1405**, which was stratigraphically one of the latest features in post-hole pit group 1, was markedly different in character; it was by far the deepest pit on site at 0.7m with vertical edges and contained 209 Early Iron Age pottery sherds (2.205kg) including a significant proportion of several vessels (App. B.3). This comprised just over one third by number and half by weight of the pottery. It also contained nearly all of the animal bone but none of the fired clay or flint. Two of the Burwell pits were similar but were larger at 1.75m and 1.2m deep respectively and these had vertical and/or undercutting sides (Bailey with Popescu 2006). The Burwell pits contained 201 sherds of pottery (2.710kg) and 1,031 sherds of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery (19.227kg) respectively, including several semi-complete pots and a pine marten mandible, pierced to form a pendant. This constituted 98% of the pottery recovered from that site.

4.1.13 It was noticeable that the other pits from the Community College site were shallower, up to 0.45m deep, and contained far fewer artefacts. This was similar to Burwell where the other four pits from that site were significantly smaller at between 0.12 to 0.48m deep and were all fairly sterile (Bailey with Popescu 2006).

4.1.14 Small quantities of fired clay, including fragments of lining from ovens or kilns and a possible loom weight, were recorded across the site and these are all indicative of domestic activity in the vicinity. Very little flint was recovered (eight worked flint of which six chunks may be contemporary with the settlement), and this is similar to the

contemporary site 1km to the north where just 28 struck flint were found in the 2006 excavation (Thatcher 2008). In contrast, sites at Burwell and War Ditches which dates from the end of the 5th or early 4th century BC, produced sizeable assemblages with 198 (including a few burnt) and 224 struck flint respectively (Bailey with Popescu 2006; Pickstone and Mortimer 2012). It is uncertain why so little flint has been recovered from these two settlements in Chatteris, but as negative evidence, both sites contribute to the former regional framework areas of potential study: the role of flint manufacturing in the region during the Iron Age (Bryant 2000, 17).

4.1.15 With the exception of the possibly deliberately deposited artefacts in pit **1405**, it is likely that the vast majority of the site's material culture was disposed of in ways that have not survived in the archaeological record. As a result it is not possible to draw any further conclusions about the nature of habitation or occupation, for instance whether this was permanent or seasonal. It does however seem to be the case that the relatively small finds assemblage and distribution of the archaeological features on this site are typical of small Early to Middle Iron Age sites in the locality.

4.1.16 Perhaps the greatest potential for the site lies in the pottery assemblage recovered from pit **1405**, which can be confidently dated by its association with the radiocarbon dated faunal remains recovered from the same pit. It has long been emphasised that 'the dating of Iron Age sites and artefact assemblages is currently problematic and it is not possible to date most to within 200 years, and for many this figure rises to 500 years or more' (Bryant 1995; Davies 1996; Sealey 1996, 47). Furthermore, these finds will make a valuable contribution to the regional research frameworks (Medlycott 2011), which state that the dating and chronology of the Iron Age is 'still a central concern' (Medlycott 2011, 29), also that 'the chronology of Early Iron Age pottery is vaguely known; the date when Middle Iron Age pottery makes its appearance needs finalising' (ibid, 29). Given that such Early Iron Age sites are rare and few are well dated (Bryant, 2000, 14), the assemblage at this site is of some significance.

A low order settlement

4.1.17 The settlement was very small in area, which suggests that it was at the lower end of the settlement hierarchy; presumably occupied by a single family. It is possible, even probable that the Early Iron Age settlement 1km to the north (Cooper 2004, Thatcher 2008; Thatcher in prep) and the Burwell site (Bailey and Popescu 2006) were also of this lower order. Settlement hierarchy in the Early to Middle Iron Age is important as, 'In particular, the potential should be considered for the recognition of patterns of differing social organisation which are linked to settlement form, such as have been identified within Oxfordshire (Hingley 1984) and north-east England (Ferrell 1997).' (Bryant 2000, 17). This site is therefore in contrast to higher order Early Iron Age agglomerate settlements, which comprised several extended families and appear to have been formed in this period in the region (Medlycott 2011, 29). The highest in the hierarchy were hill forts such as War Ditches, Cambridge.

4.1.18 The larger Chatteris Iron Age sites suggested through fieldwalking by Hall (1992) (sites 26 and 10) cover 10 hectares and 2.5 hectares respectively and may represent 'more important' settlements in the hierarchy i.e. agglomerate sites, but without excavation this can not be proven. It is possible that if sites 26 and 10 were in existence in the Early Iron Age period, they both expanded significantly in the Mid or even Late Iron Age period.

4.1.19 This present settlement should be viewed in relation to the parish of Chatteris, which seems to have been a well populated area in the Iron Age as a whole. David Hall, who

has field walked most of the fenland areas of Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire and Norfolk, emphasised the number of Iron Age settlements in this parish (at least six and two undated cropmark systems) and calling this total remarkable (Hall 1992, 93). Since this date, two further settlements have been found (this site, and another 1km to the north (Cooper 2004; Thatcher 2008; Thatcher *et al* in prep) and one of the two cropmarks, 0.8km to the south, has been dated to the Mid Iron Age (Atkins 2011). It is uncertain why there were so many Iron Age settlements in Chatteris.

Abandonment

4.1.20 The demise of the site probably dates to the Early Iron Age but it may have survived into the Middle Iron Age. This is slightly unusual as most Iron Age settlements in Cambridgeshire endured into the Roman period. However, abandonment in this period is not unheard of and also occurred at the Burwell site before the Late Iron Age (Bailey with Popescu 2006). In contrast, the Early Iron Age site 1km to the north continued through the Middle, Late Iron Age period into the Roman (Cooper 2004, Thatcher 2008; Thatcher in prep). At Ely, Prickwillow, the open Early/Middle Iron Age settlement became permanently occupied and partially enclosed from the 3rd century BC (Atkins and Mudd 2003). Other sites seem to expand at the end of the Early Iron Age; two Early Iron Age pits, as well as fragments of Early Iron Age residual pottery recorded at a nearby site at Chippenham indicate a presence which then expanded into at least three family units in the Middle Iron Age (4th or 3rd century BC) and continued into the Early Roman (Atkins 2012).

4.1.21 It was not possible to ascertain the reasons for the abandonment of the site. There was no evidence for its destruction, for instance that it burnt down, and it is possible that it fell out of use and that the family moved southwards in the Mid Iron Age period to a new site at Tithe Barn Farm, less than 1km to the south (Atkins 2011). A large area around Tithe Barn has been archaeologically evaluated (Fig. 3), but no Early Iron Age settlement has been found here, implying that the new Middle Iron Age site may therefore have a lot of land to farm.

4.2 Medieval to modern

4.2.1 A background scatter of medieval metal artefacts and pottery indicate that the excavation area was beyond the occupation area of medieval Chatteris. In the evaluation, pits dating to this period were found in the northernmost trenches (more than 200m to the north of the present excavation area) and it is likely these demarcate the southern extent of Chatteris.

4.2.2 The available evidence indicates that the site lay within a medieval/post-medieval field system. Ridge and furrow, typical of the medieval period, is recorded across the site, although only the furrows survive. The evidence from the excavation suggests that the furrows would still have been open into the 17th century and this was identical to the dating of the furrows at Tithe Barn Farm directly to the south (Atkins 2011). Ditches found cutting the furrows probably date to the 18th century and may indicate sub-division of the site at that time. The 1819 Inclosure map shows the site as part of a large field and it is likely that during this period it reverted to pastoral farming.

4.3 Future work

4.3.1 It is worth including the results of the present excavation into a report on any excavation at the adjacent Tithe Barn site. Failing that, a small note on the excavations

at the Cromwell Community School site should be published in the county journal, PCAS including drawing of the pottery from pit **1405**.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The excavation has revealed a relatively rare Early Iron Age settlement. Its importance is enhanced by the fact that probably the complete settlement was excavated. This was a minor, unenclosed site, presumably run by one family and was temporarily in use for a limited period of time. Despite the truncated nature of the remains, the work provides a useful comparison with other sites in the Chatteris area and further afield.

4.4.2 The excavation identified possible placed deposits in Pit **1405**, but mostly artefacts were fragmentary. However, the radiocarbon dating from this pit is of some importance as it has enabled the dating of a primary assemblage of ceramic pottery to the *c*.mid 6th century to 5th century BC, which is a valuable contribution to the regional research framework.

Appendix A. Context Inventory

Ctext	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Lth	Bth	Dpth
1402		1405	14	fill	pit				
1403		1405	14	fill	pit				
1404		1405	14	fill	pit				
1405		1405	14	cut	pit		1.35	1.3	0.7
1406		1408	14	fill	pit				
1407		1408	14	fill	pit				
1408		1408	14	cut	pit		1.3	0.85	0.37
1409		1410	14	fill	pit				
1410		1410	14	cut	pit		1.75	1	0.36
1411		1412	14	fill	pit				
1412		1412	14	cut	pit				
1413		1414	14	fill	pit				
1414		1414	14	cut	pit		1.15	1	0.41
1415		1416	14	fill	pit				
1416		1416	14	cut	pit		0.8	0.6	0.24
1417		1416	14	fill	pit				
1418		1419	14	fill	pit				
1419		1419	14	cut	pit		0.9	0.4	0.2
1502		1508	15	fill	post hole				
1503		1504	15	fill	gully				
1504		1504	15	cut	gully			0.25	0.1
1505		1506	15	fill	gully				
1506		1506	15	cut	gully			0.25	0.06
1507		1508	15	fill	post hole				
1508		1508	15	cut	post hole			0.6	0.23
1509		1510	15	fill	post hole				
1510		1510	15	cut	post hole			0.4	0.09
1511		1512	15	fill	post hole				
1512		1512	15	cut	post hole			0.25	0.07
1513		1514	15	fill	gully				
1514		1514	15	cut	gully			0.25	0.11
2000				layer	topsoil				0.35
2001				layer	subsoil				0.3
2002		2003		fill	ditch	boundary			
2003	2026 2247	2003		cut	ditch	boundary		0.8	0.31
2004		2005		fill	pit or post hole				
2005		2005		cut	pit or post hole		0.8	0.5	0.22
2006		2007		fill	post hole				
2007		2007		cut	post hole		0.4	0.32	0.17
2008		2009		fill	pit				
2009		2009		cut	pit		0.9	0.6	0.08
2010		2011		fill	pit				
2011		2011		cut	pit		0.68	0.6	0.09
2012		2013		fill	pit				
2013		2013		cut	pit		1.1	1.05	0.1
2014		2015		fill	pit				
2015		2015		cut	pit		2.8	0.96	0.2

Ctext	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Lth	Bth	Dpth
2016		2017		fill	pit				
2017		2017		cut	pit		0.56	0.36	0.07
2018		2019		fill	pit				
2019		2019		cut	pit		1.02	0.92	0.1
2020		2021		fill	pit				
2021		2021		cut	pit		1.7	1.55	0.14
2022		2023		fill	pit or post hole				
2023		2023		cut	pit or post hole		0.66	0.6	0.22
2024		2025		fill	furrow	agriculture			
2025		2025		cut	furrow	agriculture		1.9	0.12
2026	2003 2247	2026		cut	ditch	boundary		0.77	0.24
2027		2026		fill	ditch	boundary			
2028		2026		fill	ditch	boundary			
2029	2037 2045 2217 2249	2029		cut	ditch	boundary		0.86	0.24
2030		2029		fill	ditch	boundary			
2031		2032		fill	post hole				
2032		2032		cut	post hole		0.4	0.35	0.25
2033		2034		fill	post hole				
2034		2034		cut	post hole		0.34	0.3	0.08
2035		2036		fill	post hole				
2036		2036		cut	post hole		0.37	0.28	0.14
2037	2029 2045 2217 2249	2037		cut	ditch	boundary		0.76	0.15
2038		2037		fill	ditch	boundary			
2039		2040		fill	pit or post hole				
2040		2040		cut	pit or post hole		0.65	0.54	0.2
2041		2042		fill	post hole				
2042		2042		cut	post hole		0.46	0.44	0.26
2043		2044		fill	post hole				
2044		2044		cut	post hole		0.28	0.28	0.06
2045	2029 2037 2217 2249	2045		cut	ditch	boundary		0.95	0.23
2046		2045		fill	ditch	boundary			
2047		2045		fill	ditch	boundary			
2048		2049		fill	post hole				
2049		2049		cut	post hole		0.28	0.28	0.12
2050		2051		fill	post hole				
2051		2051		cut	post hole		0.35	0.3	0.17
2052		2053		fill	post hole				
2053		2053		cut	post hole		0.45	0.41	0.4
2054		2054		cut	pit		1.07	0.5	0.07
2055		2054		fill	pit				
2056		2056		cut	pit		0.4	0.36	0.09
2057		2056		fill	pit				
2058		2058		cut	post hole		0.31	0.3	0.1
2059		2058		fill	post hole				
2060		2060		cut	pit or treethrow		1.2	0.44	0.1
2061		2060		fill	pit or treethrow				
2062		2062		cut	post hole		0.13	0.12	0.06
2063		2062		fill	post hole				
2064		2064		cut	post hole		0.17	0.16	0.1
2065		2064		fill	post hole				

Ctext	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Lth	Bth	Dpth
2066		2066		cut	pit		0.3	0.29	0.03
2067		2066		fill	pit				
2068		2068		cut	pit or treethrow		0.67	0.54	0.03
2069		2068		fill	pit or treethrow				
2070		2071		fill	post hole				
2071		2071		cut	post hole		0.33	0.3	0.11
2072		2073		fill	post hole or pit				
2073		2073		cut	post hole or pit		0.76	0.6	0.22
2074		2075		fill	pit				
2075		2075		cut	pit		1.05	0.98	0.32
2076		2077		fill	pit				
2077		2077		cut	pit		1.2	1.15	0.18
2078		2079		fill	pit				
2079		2079		cut	pit		0.85	0.7	0.22
2080		2081		fill	pit				
2081		2081		cut	pit		1.23	0.95	0.35
2082		2083		fill	pit				
2083		2083		cut	pit				0.22
2084		2085		fill	pit				
2085		2085		cut	pit		1.25	0.97	0.13
2086		2087		fill	pit				
2087		2087		cut	pit		1.1	1	0.13
2088		2089		fill	?ditch				
2089		2089		cut	?ditch			0.9	0.15
2090		2091		fill	post hole				
2091		2091		cut	post hole		0.55	0.55	0.17
2092		2093		fill	post hole				
2093		2093		cut	post hole		0.4	0.28	0.15
2094		2095		fill	pit				
2095		2095		cut	pit		1.14	0.92	0.17
2096		2097		fill	post hole				
2097		2097		cut	post hole		0.4	0.4	0.16
2098		2099		fill	post hole				
2099		2099		cut	post hole		0.45	0.45	0.21
2100		2101		fill	post hole				
2101		2101		cut	post hole		0.45	0.45	0.07
2102		2103		fill	post hole				
2103		2103		cut	post hole		0.5	0.4	0.22
2104		2105		fill	post hole				
2105		2105		cut	post hole		0.45	0.26	0.11
2106		2107		fill	post hole				
2107		2107		cut	post hole		0.5	0.45	0.3
2108		2109		fill	post hole				
2109		2109		cut	post hole		0.3	0.3	0.11
2110		2111		fill	pit or treethrow				
2111		2111		cut	pit or treethrow		1.75	0.9	0.06
2112		2113		fill	pit				
2113		2113		cut	pit		0.85	0.75	0.07
2114		2115		fill	?post hole				
2115		2115		cut	?post hole		0.3	0.3	0.04

Ctext	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Lth	Bth	Dpth
2116		2117		fill	post hole				
2117		2117		cut	post hole		0.45	0.45	0.1
2118		2119		fill	post hole				
2119		2119		cut	post hole		0.35	0.35	0.15
2120		2121		fill	pit				
2121		2121		cut	pit		0.85	0.35	0.12
2122		2123		fill	pit				
2123		2123		cut	pit		0.95	0.4	0.14
2124		2125		fill	ditch				
2125		2125		cut	ditch			0.45	0.05
2126		2127		fill	ditch				
2127		2127		cut	ditch			0.85	0.17
2128		2130		fill	pit				
2129		2130		fill	pit				
2130		2130		cut	pit		0.98	0.85	0.25
2131		2133		fill	pit				
2132		2133		fill	pit				
2133		2133		cut	pit		0.78	0.48	0.28
2134		2135		fill	post hole				
2135		2135		cut	post hole		0.4	0.4	0.26
2136		2137		fill	pit				
2137		2137		cut	pit		0.75	0.7	0.25
2138		2139		fill	pit				
2139		2139		cut	pit		1.2	0.9	0.32
2140		2141		fill	pit				
2141		2141		cut	pit		0.55	0.4	0.12
2142		2143		fill	pit				
2143		2143		cut	pit		0.48	0.3	0.12
2144		2146		fill	pit				
2145		2146		fill	pit				
2146		2146		cut	pit		1	0.9	0.23
2147		2148		fill	?pit				
2148		2148		cut	?pit		1.35	0.95	0.25
2149				finds unit					
2150		2151		fill	pit				
2151		2151		cut	pit		1.2	0.75	0.12
2152		2153		fill	pit				
2153		2153		cut	pit		7	1.2+	0.17
2154		2155		fill	post hole				
2155		2155		cut	post hole		0.5	0.36	0.24
2156				finds unit	ditch				
2157				finds unit	furrow				
2158		2159		fill	ditch				
2159		2159		cut	ditch			0.77	0.07
2160		2161		fill	pit				
2161		2161		cut	pit		1.04	0.64	0.18
2162		2163		fill	pit				
2163		2163		cut	pit		1	0.98	0.16
2164		2165		fill	pit				
2165		2165		cut	pit		1.2	1.1	0.21

Ctext	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Lth	Bth	Dpth
2166		2167		fill	pit				
2167		2167		cut	pit		0.95	0.82	0.15
2168		2169		fill	post hole				
2169		2169		cut	post hole		0.21	0.21	0.03
2170		2171		fill	pit				
2171		2171		cut	pit		1.4	0.95	0.25
2172		2174		fill	pit				
2173		2174		fill	pit				
2174		2174		cut	pit		1.2	0.9	0.32
2175		2176		fill	post hole				
2176		2176		cut	post hole		0.6	0.48	0.26
2177		2178		fill	post hole				
2178		2178		cut	post hole		0.42	0.42	0.12
2179		2180		fill	pit				
2180		2180		cut	pit		0.95	0.6	0.16
2181		2182		fill	ditch				
2182		2182		cut	ditch			0.35	0.1
2183		2184		fill	pit				
2184		2184		cut	pit		0.6	0.6	0.19
2185		2185		master number					
2186		2187		fill	pit				
2187		2187		cut	pit		1.4	1.1	0.15
2188		2189		fill	pit				
2189		2189		cut	pit		0.9	0.58	0.07
2190				finds unit					
2191		2192		fill	pit				
2192		2192		cut	pit		0.9	0.7	0.08
2193		2194		fill	post hole				
2194		2194		cut	post hole		0.43	0.4	0.27
2195		2196		fill	pit				
2196		2196		cut	pit		0.66	0.66	0.06
2197		2198		fill	post hole				
2198		2198		cut	post hole		0.27	0.27	0.09
2199		2200		fill	pit				
2200		2200		cut	pit		0.85	0.85	0.04
2201		2202		fill	pit				
2202		2202		cut	pit		2.55	1.5	0.09
2204		2205		fill	pit				
2205		2205		cut	pit		0.74	0.66	0.06
2206				layer					
2207		2208		fill	post hole				
2208		2208		cut	post hole		0.68	0.51	0.44
2209		2210		fill	post hole				
2210		2210		cut	post hole		0.47	0.4	0.26
2211		2212		fill	post hole				
2212		2212		cut	post hole		0.36	0.35	0.15
2213		2214		fill	post hole				
2214		2214		cut	post hole		0.4	0.35	0.06
2215				finds unit					

Ctext	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Lth	Bth	Dpth
2216		2217		fill	ditch	boundary			
2217	2029 2037 2045 2249	2217		cut	ditch	boundary		0.39	0.05
2218		2220		fill	pit				
2219		2220		fill	pit				
2220		2220		cut	pit		1.1	1.1	0.23
2221		2223		fill	pit				
2222		2223		fill	pit				
2223		2223		cut	pit		1.3	1	0.29
2224		2225		fill	pit				
2225		2225		cut	pit		0.87	0.72	0.16
2226		2227		fill	hollow				
2227		2227		cut	hollow		6.25	5.5	0.1
2228		2229		fill	post hole				
2229		2229		cut	post hole		0.8	0.7	0.07
2230		2231		fill	?post hole				
2231		2231		cut	?post hole		0.42	0.35	0.03
2232		2233		fill	post hole				
2233		2233		cut	post hole		0.2	0.17	0.04
2234		2235		fill	post hole				
2235		2235		cut	post hole		0.18	0.13	0.03
2236		2237		fill	post hole				
2237		2237		cut	post hole		0.32	0.26	0.06
2238		2239		fill	post hole				
2239		2239		cut	post hole		0.42	0.38	0.03
2240		2241		fill	pit				
2241		2241		cut	pit		0.8	0.55	0.06
2242		2243		fill	pit				
2243		2243		cut	pit		0.86	0.75	0.23
2244		2245		fill	pit				
2245		2245		cut	pit		1.5	0.7	0.42
2246		2247		fill	ditch	boundary			
2247	2003 2026	2247		cut	ditch	boundary		0.8	0.33
2248		2249		fill	ditch	boundary			
2249	2029 2037 2045 2217	2249		cut	ditch	boundary		0.75	0.2
2250		2251		fill	post hole				
2251		2251		cut	post hole		0.8	0.6	0.31
2252		2253		fill	post hole				
2253		2253		cut	post hole		0.4	0.4	0.31
2254		2255		fill	post hole				
2255		2255		cut	post hole		0.4	0.4	0.34
2256		2257		fill	post hole				
2257		2257		cut	post hole		0.7	0.5	0.05
2258		2259		fill	post hole				
2259		2259		cut	post hole		0.5	0.5	0.14
2260		2261		fill	post hole				
2261		2261		cut	post hole		0.2	0.2	0.25
2262		2263		fill	post hole				
2263		2263		cut	post hole		0.25	0.25	0.21
2264		2265		fill	post hole				
2265		2265		cut	post hole		0.2	0.15	0.05

Ctext	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Lth	Bth	Dpth
2266		2267		fill	post hole				
2267		2267		cut	post hole		0.6	0.44	0.62

Table 2: *Context list*

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Flint

Results

B.1.1 A very small collection of eight flint pieces were found in the excavation. The earliest flint was an Early Neolithic bladelet from post hole **2208**. Six struck chunks loosely dating to Bronze Age or Iron Age were found in five features/layers .Two were found in pit or post hole **2040**, and single examples from pit **2021**, pit **2146**, pit **2167** and layer 2206. One burnt flint piece was found in boundary ditch **2026**.

B.2 Metal objects

By Chris Faine

Introduction

B.2.1 Five metal objects were recovered from furrows and later ditches within the site. Four of the artefacts could be dated to the medieval or post-medieval period.

Metal Small Finds Catalogue

SF 200 (2000): A copper alloy buckle fragment. Plain oval frame with triangular forward edge. No visible pin notch. AD 1250-1400.

SF 201 (2000): Copper alloy bar mount. Very good condition. Two central knops with a florate pattern with single knop at each end. Two integral prongs on reverse. Post-Medieval (AD 1600 +).

SF 203 (2001): A copper alloy buckle fragment. Plain oval frame with offset bar. AD 1350-1400.

SF 204 (2001): A copper alloy solid cast button. Globular head with integrated shank. Post-Medieval (AD 1450 onwards)

SF 205 (**2156**): Copper alloy cast ring. Oval in cross section. Date uncertain.

B.3 Prehistoric Pottery

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

B.3.1 A small to moderate assemblage of 618 sherds weighing 3.732kg of Iron Age pottery was found during the excavations. This comprises 151 sherds (1kg) from the evaluation (Percival 2011; Table 3) and from the subsequent excavation there were a further 467 sherds weighing 2,732g (Table 4). The pottery from both phases have been amalgamated for this report. Nearly 99% of the sherds came from the fills of 37 pits, 17 post holes and two small pits/post holes (Table 6). The remainder of the sherds came from ditch fills, a layer, subsoil and unstratified surface collection (Table 7). The overall composition of the assemblage reflected the forms and fabrics found during the evaluation with some possible earlier Iron Age flint-tempered wares (*c*.6th century BC) alongside Mid Iron Age 5th to 3rd century Chinnor-Wandlebury forms.

Methodology

B.3.2 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with recommendations suggested in *The Study of Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and*

Publication specified by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion type (F representing flint, G grog, S shell and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds. PP partial profile, CP complete profile and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration, surface treatment, residues and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by OAE.

Fabric

B.3.3 Four main fabric types were identified, sandy, shell-tempered, chalk and flint (Tables 1 and 2). The excavation results is in keeping with the pottery found during the evaluation the majority of the assemblage is shell or sand-with-shell tempered.

Fabric Code	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
F1	Dense fine flint pieces in a sandy matrix	3	20
Q	Undiagnostic sand tempered	1	
QSI	Common rounded quartz sand with moderate fine-to-medium shell & platey voids	83	
S1	Dense fine-to-medium shell pieces	49	
S2	Dense medium-to-large shell pieces	15	
Total		**151**	**1000**

Table 3: *Quantity and weight of pottery by fabric in the evaluation*

Fabric Code	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
S1	Dense fine to medium shell pieces	113	765
S2	Dense medium to large shell pieces	62	542
C1	Common medium to large	20	456
QSG	Common quartz sand, sparse shell, sparse grog	91	311
QS1	Common rounded quartz sand with moderate fine to medium shell and platey voids	69	237
F1	Dense fine flint pieces in a sandy matrix	42	210
QF	Common quartz sand, sparse fine flint pieces	49	150
Q1	Common quartz sand	16	52
QQS	Common quartz sand, moderate quartz pieces,	1	4
QSM	Common quartz sand, sparse shell, sparse mica	1	4
Q	Undiagnostic sand tempered	3	1
Total		**467**	**2732**

Table 4: *Quantity and weight of pottery by fabric in the excavation*

B.3.4 Previous mid to later Iron Age assemblages found in Chatteris are predominantly shell-tempered (Chatteris 26, Hill 1995), the earlier pottery being mostly flint-tempered. However although previous earlier Iron Age pottery from the area has mostly been flint-tempered early shell-tempered assemblages are known from sites such as Lingwood Wells, Cottenham to the north of Cambridge (Hill 1999, 23). The underlying geology around Chatteris comprises Ampthill clays which naturally contain fossil shell and most likely provide the source for the shell-tempered wares.

B.3.5 Flint-tempered fabrics were found during the evaluation and also at Langwood Farm (Chatteris 25) from where substantial assemblages of earlier Iron Age pottery in similar

flint-tempered fabric were recovered (Cathie and Hill, 2000). The fabric contains numerous fine flint pieces.

B.3.6 In addition to the shell-tempered wares a number of sherds with chalk inclusions were recovered (Table 4). These are from a single, thick-walled vessel with fingertip-impressions on the shoulder found in pit **1405**. No chalk-tempered fabrics were found during the evaluation (Table 3). Hill notes that a single vessel in similar limestone-tempered fabric and also dated to the earlier Iron Age was found at Langwood Farm (Chatteris 25, Cathie and Hill, 2000) and suggests that the vessel was imported to the site from at least 20km away.

B.3.7 Fabric QSG, which contains sand and sparse shell with grog, was also not present within the evaluation assemblage but is found in the excavation assemblage. Grog has been found in small quantities within fabrics in earlier Iron Age decorated assemblages from the region such as Exning on the Cambridgeshire Suffolk border (M Brudenell pers. comm.) and a similar grog and shell tempered fabric was found at Chatteris 25 (Cathie and Hill, 2000).

Form

B.3.8 The assemblage contains rims from 26 vessels and bases from twelve in a range of coarse and finewares. A variety of rim forms are present (Table 5). Most have rounded rim endings, these tend to be thin and finely finished representing finewares, others are simple and flat or flattened (Hill 1995 fig.18,10), some decorated with fingertip impressions (Brudenell 2009, fig.5.5, 6) and form the coarseware component of the assemblage. Two rims are pointed, a fine beaded rim, found in pit **2139** is similar to examples from Wandlebury (Hartley 1957, fig.8, 51) and the coarse hooked and 'T'-shaped rims both with fingertip impressions on the rim top to vessels from Wandlebury and Fengate (Hartley 1957, fig.7, 25; Brudenell 2009, fig.5.5, 5 and 7).

Rim type	Number of vessels
Rounded	14
Flat	3
Flattened	3
Pointed	2
Bead	1
Hook	1
Rounded with external lip	1
'T' shaped	1
Total	**26**

Table 5: *Number of vessels by rim type*

B.3.9 Further sherds were found from a coarse closed jar with medium-length, upright neck and rounded shoulder, found during the evaluation. The shoulder is enhanced with an applied cordon decorated with sparse fingertip impressions similar to examples from Wandlebury (Hartley 1957, fig.8, 45). Other vessels are open jars with medium upright necks (Hartley 1957, fig.7, 2), including one fine bowl with a curved, sinuous profile similar to vessels found at Linton (Fell 1953, fig.4, 19 and 20).

B.3.10 Base forms include nine undecorated, simple base angles, two pinched-out or flared examples and one foot-ring base (Hartley 1957, fig.7, 34). . Pedestal bases are found at Wandlebury (Hartley 1957, fig.7, 16) and Linton (Fell 1953, Fig. 4, 28) and are believed to have been in use until the 4th century BC (Sealy pers comm). One sherd, from a closed globular vessel, has an applied un-pierced lug. The lug again finds parallel within

the Wandlybury assemblage, although these examples are pierced (Hartly 1957, fig.8, 68). Lugs are also found at Linton (Fell 1953, fig.5, 32) Fordham Bypass (S Percival forthcoming) and Langwade Road, Fordham (Braddock and Hill forthcoming). Lugs are found on contemporary assemblages from Suffolk but have not been widely found in Norfolk.

B.3.11 In addition to the fingertip ornamentation applied to the rim and shoulder of three vessels and three body sherds one sherd has incised geometric decoration (Plate 1). Similar decoration has been found at Wandlebury (Hartley 1957, fig.7, 6 & 9) and at Lingwood Wells, Cottenham (Hill 1999, fig.18, 2) and represent part of the fine ware component of the assemblage.

Plate 6: ***Incised decorated sherd from pit (2095)***

Distribution

B.3.12 The bulk of pottery was found in the fills of pits and post holes, with over 59% coming from a single pit (**1405**) (Table 6). The deposition of the pottery is typical of many Iron Age sites in East Anglia comprising incomplete, fragmentary vessels derived from domestic occupation. The pottery does not represent the complete assemblage as used at the site and may represent a sample selected from a primary deposit, perhaps a midden. The pattern seen here, with one pit containing a substantial assemblage whilst others contain little or no pottery is repeated at many sites and may reflect slight differences in the time between when the pottery was used and its eventual deposition within the pit fills, similar to that postulated for the earlier prehistoric pit groups at Kilverstone, Norfolk (Garrow *et al* 2006).

Feature type	Feature	Quantity	% quantity	Weight (g)	% weight	No of vessels	Pottery date
Pit	1204	1	0.2%	1	0.0%		Iron Age
	1405	209	33.8%	2205	59.1%	5 ?+	Earlier Iron Age
	1408	29	4.7%	205	5.5%		Earlier Iron Age
	1410	16	2.6%	72	1.9%		Earlier Iron Age
	1416	13	2.1%	55	1.5%		Iron Age
	2005	4	0.6%	11	0.3%		Iron Age
	2009	1	0.2%	4	0.1%		Iron Age
	2011	1	0.2%	1	0.0%		Iron Age
	2013	1	0.2%	3	0.1%		Earlier Iron Age
	2015	1	0.2%	1	0.0%		Iron Age
	2019	4	0.6%	7	0.2%		Iron Age
	2021	2	0.3%	1	0.0%		Iron Age
	2023	2	0.3%	11	0.3%		Iron Age
	2075	20	3.2%	104	2.8%		Earlier Iron Age and Iron Age
	2077	6	1%	11	0.3%		Earlier Iron Age and Iron Age

	2081	33	5.3%	106	2.8%	3	Earlier Iron Age and Iron Age
	2083	8	1.3%	38	1%	2	Iron Age
	2085	3	0.5%	8	0.2%		Iron Age
	2095	12	1.9%	100	2.7%	3	Earlier Iron Age and Iron Age
	2121	10	1.6%	48	1.3%		Iron Age
	2130	13	2.1%	45	1.2%		Iron Age
	2133	10	1.6%	8	0.2%		Iron Age
	2137	3	0.5%	10	0.3%		Iron Age
	2139	6	1%	14	0.4%	1	Iron Age
	2141	1	0.2%	1	0.0%		Iron Age
	2146	15	2.4%	56	1.5%		Earlier Iron Age and Iron Age
	2163	3	0.5%	11	0.3%		Iron Age
	2165	3	0.5%	5	0.2%	1	Iron Age
	2167	27	4.4%	40	1.1%	1	Earlier Iron Age and Iron Age
	2171	10	1.6%	28	0.8%		Iron Age
	2174	35	5.7%	73	2%	1	Iron Age
	2187	1	0.2%	1	0.0%		Iron Age
	2196	1	0.2%	4	0.1%		Iron Age
	2220	12	1.9%	29	0.8%		Iron Age
	2223	3	0.5%	8	0.2%		Iron Age
	2241	1	0.2%	3	0.1%		Earlier Iron Age
	2243	1	0.2%	2	0.1%		Iron Age
	2245	6	1%	20	0.5%	1	Earlier Iron Age
Pit or post hole	2040	9	1.5%	44	1.2%	2	Iron Age
	2073	1	0.2%	5	0.2%		Iron Age
post hole	1508	1	0.2%	12	0.3%		Iron Age
	1510	3	0.5%	20	0.5%		Iron Age
	2042	1	0.2%	2	0.1%		Earlier Iron Age
	2053	2	0.3%	6	0.2%		Iron Age
	2071	1	0.2%	2	0.1%		Iron Age
	2101	5	0.8%	46	1.2%	1	Iron Age
	2103	1	0.2%	4	0.1%		Iron Age
	2119	3	0.5%	3	0.1%		Iron Age
	2176	5	0.8%	22	0.6%		Iron Age
	2208	4	0.6%	15			Iron Age
	2251	1	0.2%	1	0.0%		Iron Age
	2253	1	0.2%	2	0.1%		Iron Age
	2255	1	0.2%	7	0.2%		Iron Age
	2257	2	0.6%	4	0.1%		Earlier Iron Age and Iron Age
	2261	1	0.2%	4	0.1%	1	Iron Age
	2263	1	0.2%	3	0.1%		Iron Age
	2265	12	1.9%	29	0.8%		Iron Age
	2267	1	0.2%	13	0.3%		Earlier Iron Age

Table 6: ***Quantity and weight of pottery from the pits and post holes***

B.3.13 The remainder of the sherds came from ditch fills, layer (2206) and subsoil (2001) and represent redeposited material disturbed from the pit fills or original sites of deposition.

Feature type	Feature	Quantity	% quantity	Weight (g)	% weight	No of vessels	Pottery date
Ditch	2026	2	0.3%	1	0.0%		Iron Age
	2182	6	1%	8	0.2%		Iron Age
Layer	2206	24	3.9%	77	2.1%	1	Iron Age

Subsoil	2001	1	0.2%	8	0.2%		Iron Age
Unstratified	99999	2	0.3%	14	0.4%		Earlier Iron Age and Iron Age

Table 7: ***Quantity and weight of pottery from the other features***

Discussion

B.3.14 The assemblage is of earlier and Mid Iron Age date. The earlier pottery is comparable with the decorated earlier Iron Age pottery from Chatteris 25 (Cathie and Hill, 2000) and Lingwood Farm, Cottenham (Hill 1999) and to Wandlebury, one of the site types for Cunliffe's Chinnor-Wandlebury group and dated by him to the fifth to third centuries BC (Cunliffe 2010, fig A:12). Recent analysis by Matt Brudenell has suggested that the styles represented within the Chinnor-Wandlebury group originated perhaps in the 6th century BC (M Brudenell pers. comm.). The incised decorated bowl (Plate 1) falls happily within a group of similar earlier Iron Age shell and sand-tempered grooved and incised vessels identified by Brudenell distributed along the western fen-edge (Brudenell pers. comm.) being found at both Linton and Lingwood Farm. The incised bowl is form traditionally associated with the West-Harling Fengate group dated by Cunliffe to the 8th to 6th centuries (Cunliffe 2010, fig. A:5) however recent radiocarbon analysis on residue on pottery from West Harling proposes that the style maybe somewhat later than the date suggested by Cunliffe again being deposited around the 6th century BC (M. Brudenell pers. comm.). A similar date is suggested for the CHCCC12 assemblage.

B.3.15 The presence of a mix of vessels from several of Cunliffe's pottery style zones within a single assemblage has been noted at many earlier Iron Age sites (Hill 1999, Needham 1996, Martin 1993) and shows that the mixing of styles was commonplace, underlining the longevity of many of the vessel forms and perhaps suggesting widespread interconnections between peoples living in East Anglia during the earlier Iron Age (Hill 1999, 25).

Recommendations

B.3.16 The dating of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery is notorious uncertain, with only a general date range given. As a consequence has been a priority in all the regional frameworks that significant/primary pottery assemblages where there are not residual material should be radiocarbon dated (Bryant 1997; Bryant 2000 and Medlycott 2011). Pit **1405** produced an interesting assemblage of Earlier Iron Age pottery and it is therefore recommend that two radiocarbon dates are obtained from the pit.

B.4 Medieval to Post-Medieval Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Results

B.4.1 Four medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds (106g) were found in the excavation. Three small sherds (5g) from furrow 2149 including a post medieval red ware sherd dating to the 16th/17th centuries. A large sherd of a late medieval jug fragment (101g) in furrow 2215 possibly derives from Essex.

B.5 Quern

By Rob Atkins

Results

B.5.1 A small quantity (36g) of undiagnostic lava quern fragments were found in boundary ditch **2003**. The quern stone could date to any time from the Roman to medieval period.

B.6 Brick

By Rob Atkins

Results

B.6.1 Four post-medieval brick fragments were recovered from three furrows. A small fragment of post-medieval brick (2g) was found in furrow **2025**. Three fragments were finds recovered from the top of furrows and later ditches (2156 [40g] and 2157 [35g]), all are in a hard orange fabric and date to the 17th to early 19th centuries.

B.7 Fired Clay

By Rob Atkins and Richard Mortimer

Results

B.7.1 A small collection of fired clay (30 fragments weighing [0.272kg]) was recovered from eight contexts. There were part remains of two objects, fragments of kiln or hearth lining as well as undiagnostic fragments were found in eight contexts.

Context	Feature	Comments	No/Weight (kg)
2002	Boundary Ditch **2003**	Orange sandy fabric surface and a reduced core with rare small flint inclusions up to 3mm in length. Part of a possible weight. It had been broken and then re-fired. It is a possible small loomweight *c*.65mm-70mm diameter	13/0.122
2012	Pit **2013**	Orange surface with reduce core. Undiagnostic	1/0.005
2082	Pit **2083**	Yellow/red mixed. Undiagnostic	1/0.003
2144	Pit **2146**	Orange surface with reduce core. Lining of hearth or oven	2/0.015
2152	Pit **2153**	Orangey brown fabric with rare small flit inclusions. Two smoothed sides. Lining of hearth or oven.	1/0.035
2166	Pit **2167**	Yellow/orange. Undiagnostic	2/0.004
2206	Layer 2206	Three fragments in an orange surface with reduce core – all have lining of hearth or oven Undiagnostic comprised two fragments in a burnt orange/red clay with some small flint inclusions, one fragment in yellow clay and three reduced grey clay fragments	9/0.51
2258	Post hole **2259**	Orange brown clay fragment with frequent small flint inclusions up to 3mm in length. This is part of an object. There is a slight curve lining on one side. Unlikely to be a weight as diameter would be too large.	1/0.38
Total			**30/0.272**

Table 8: ***Fired Clay***

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal bone

By Chris Faine

Introduction

C.1.1 A very small collection (0.5kg) of animal bone totalling 40 fragments, of which 11 were identifiable to species, was recovered from the excavation. All material was recovered from contexts dating from the Early to Middle Iron Age as well as some fragments from furrows.

C.1.2 All the identifiable bone (11 fragments) were found in a single feature, Early Iron Age pit (**1405**). The majority of these were cattle with slightly smaller numbers of sheep/goat. Identifiable cattle remains consist of butchered upper limb bone fragments (femur and humerus) along with loose teeth and rib fragments. No juvenile elements were identified. A single rib fragment from context 1404 displayed cut marks. In addition a burnt portion of distal phalanx was recovered from context 1402 along with smaller unidentifiable burnt fragments.

C.1.3 Sheep remains consist of lower limb elements and loose ribs. A single mandible was recovered from context 1403 from an animal round 2-6 months of age at death.

C.1.4 Pit **1410** contained just bone chips, none were identifiable.

C.2 Radiocarbon date for animal bone from pit 1405

By Rob Atkins

Introduction

C.2.1 A cow and a sheep bone, both from context 1404 (pit **1405**) were dated at the radiocarbon dating laboratory, Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC), Glasgow. The results follow the calibrated age ranges determined using the University of Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OXCal 4.17 (Bronk Ramsey 2009). Atmospheric data derived from Reimer et al 2009 and the samples were calculated using the IntCa109 curve.

C.2.2 The result of the cow bone (SUERC-41907 (GU28038), 2436 +- 25 BP) produced at 68.2% probability a date of 721-415BC and at 95.4% probability a date of 750-406BC (Fig. 8). The result of the sheep bone (SUERC-41906 (GU28037), 2414 +- 24BP) produced at 68.2% probability a date of 511-410BC and at 95.4% probability a date of 731-402BC (Fig. 9). The wider dates suggest an Early Iron Age date, probably sometime in the middle of this period. This can be seen in the two radiocarbon dates producing similar main peak dates centred on *c.*545-402BC.

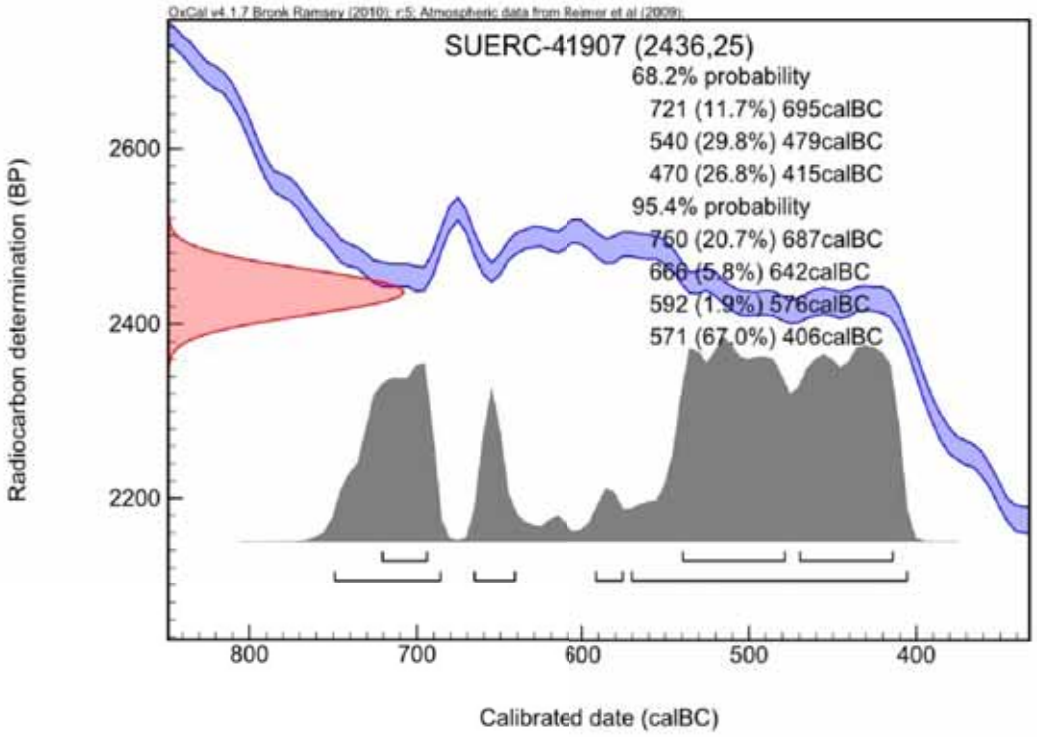

Fig. 8: Radiocarbon date for cow bone from pit 1405

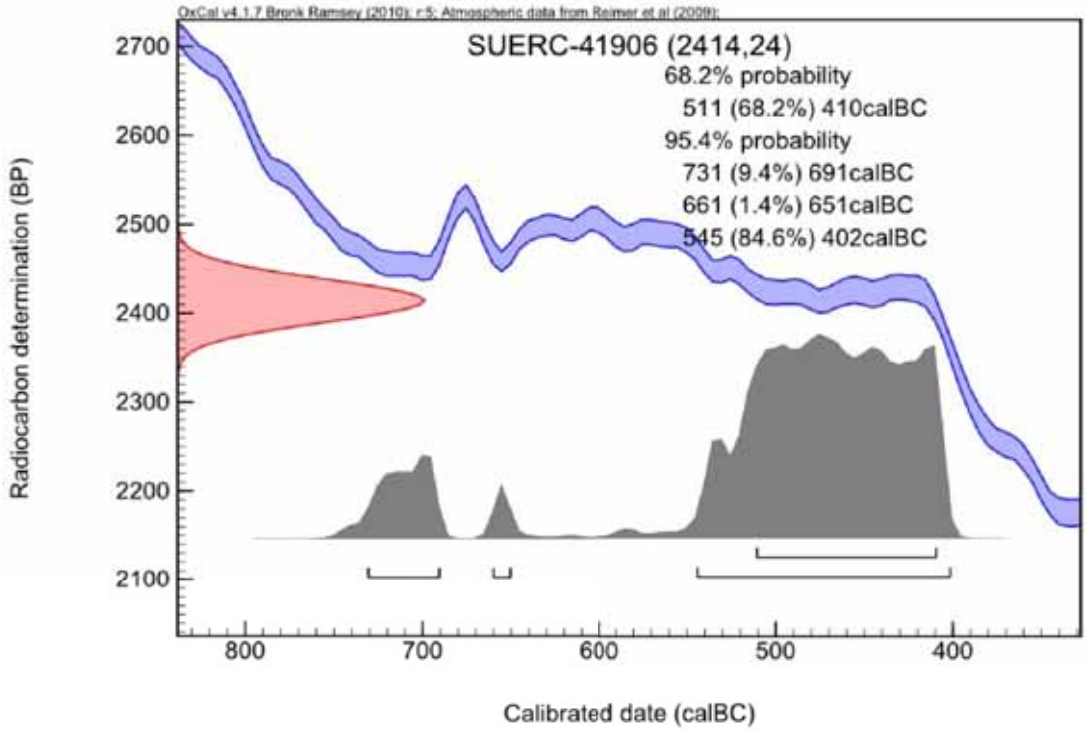

Fig. 9: Radiocarbon date for sheep bone from pit 1405

C.3 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.3.1 A total of seventeen environmental soil samples were taken, six during the evaluation and eleven samples during the excavation. Features sampled include pits and post holes

Methodology

C.3.2 The total volume of each sample were processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) 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 at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 10. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection.

Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Flot Contents	Residue Contents
101	1507	1508	Pit	Charcoal	Pottery, charcoal
102	1404	1405	Pit	Charcoal	Pottery, animal bone, calcined bone, charcoal
103	1403	1405	Pit	Charcoal	Pottery, animal bone, calcined bone, charcoal
104	1409	1410	Pit	Sparse charcoal	No finds
105	1406	1408	Pit	Charcoal	No finds, charcoal
106	1415	1416	Pit	Charcoal	Pottery, charcoal

Table 9: Environmental sample results from evaluation

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Flot Contents	Residue Contents
200	2039	2040	Post hole	Charcoal	No finds, charcoal
201	2059	2058	Post hole	Charcoal	No finds, charcoal
202	2100	2101	Post hole	Charcoal	No finds, charcoal
203	2094	2095	Pit	Single charred wheat grain	No finds, charcoal
204	2118	2119	Post hole	Charcoal	No finds, charcoal
205	2154	2155	Post hole	Charcoal	No finds, charcoal
206	2041	2042	Post hole	Charcoal	No finds, charcoal
207	2207	2208	Post hole	Two charred cereal grains	No finds, charcoal
208	2224	2225	Pit	Charcoal	No finds, charcoal
209	2080	2081	Pit	Three charred cereal grains, four fragments of possible bean	No finds, charcoal
210	2173	2174	Pit	Charcoal	No finds, charcoal

Table 10: Environmental sample results from excavation

Evaluation

C.3.3 Five of the six samples from the evaluation are charcoal rich (Table 9). The exception is sample 4 which contains sparse charcoal only. The charcoal appears to be of wood and no other plant remains are present. Burnt bone was recovered from Samples 102 and 103 from pit **1405** along with several fragments of unburnt bone. It has not been ascertained at this stage whether the bone is human or animal.

Excavation

C.3.4 All of the 11 samples from the excavation contain charcoal (Table 10). Occasional charred cereal grains were recovered from post hole **2208** and pit **2095** and cereal grains and possible bean fragments are present in pit **2081**.

Discussion

C.3.5 The environmental samples have produced a small assemblage of charred plant remains that is dominated by wood charcoal and includes occasional cereal grains. Although they are present in small quantities, these food plants, along with other dietary remains namely animal bone are probably derived from low-density deposits of domestic refuse. The samples provide evidence of burning in the form of wood charcoal suggesting that a significant burning event(s) occurred within this area.

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-134905		
Project Name	An Early Iron Age settlement at Cromwell Community College, Chatteris		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	12-03-2012	Finish	28-03-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CHACCC12	Planning App. No.	F/02005/11/CC
HER No.	CHER 3740	Related HER/OASIS No.	CHER 3572

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Field Observation (periodic visits)	☐ Part Excavation	☐ Salvage Record
☐ Full Excavation (100%)	☐ Part Survey	☐ Systematic Field Walking
☐ Full Survey	☐ Recorded Observation	☐ Systematic Metal Detector Survey
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	☐ Test Pit Survey
☒ Open-Area Excavation	☐ Salvage Excavation	☐ Watching Brief

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
Settlement	Iron Age -800 to 43	Pottery, Animal bone	Iron Age -800 to 43
furrow	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
	Select period...	Flint	Late Prehistoric -4k to 43

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Fenland	Cromwell Community College off Eastwood Road Chatteris	
Parish	Chatteris		
HER	Cambridgeshire County Council		
Study Area	12ha	National Grid Reference	TL 3957 8520

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas, Cambridgeshire County Council
Project Design Originator	Steven Macaulay, OA East
Project Manager	Steven Macaulay
Supervisor	Rob Atkins

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
CHACCC12	CHACCC12	CHACCC12

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☒	☒	☒
Ceramics	☒	☒	☒
Environmental	☒	☒	☒
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☒	☒	☒
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☒	☒
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☒	☒
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☒ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☐ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☒ Geophysics	☒ Correspondence
☒ Images	☒ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☐ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☒ Map
☒ Survey	☒ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☒ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☐ Survey

Notes:

Plans

Limit of Excavation

Deposit - Conjectured

Sondages/Machine Strip

Intrusion/Truncation

Illustrated Section S.14

Archaeological Feature

Excavated Slot

Furrow

Cut Number **118**

Deposit Number 118

Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Cut Conjectured

Deposit Horizon

Deposit Horizon Conjectured

Intrusion/Truncation

Top Surface/Top of Natural

Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing

Cut Number **117**

Deposit Number 117

Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD

Stone

Burnt Fleck

Charcoal

Sample Number 200

Convention Key

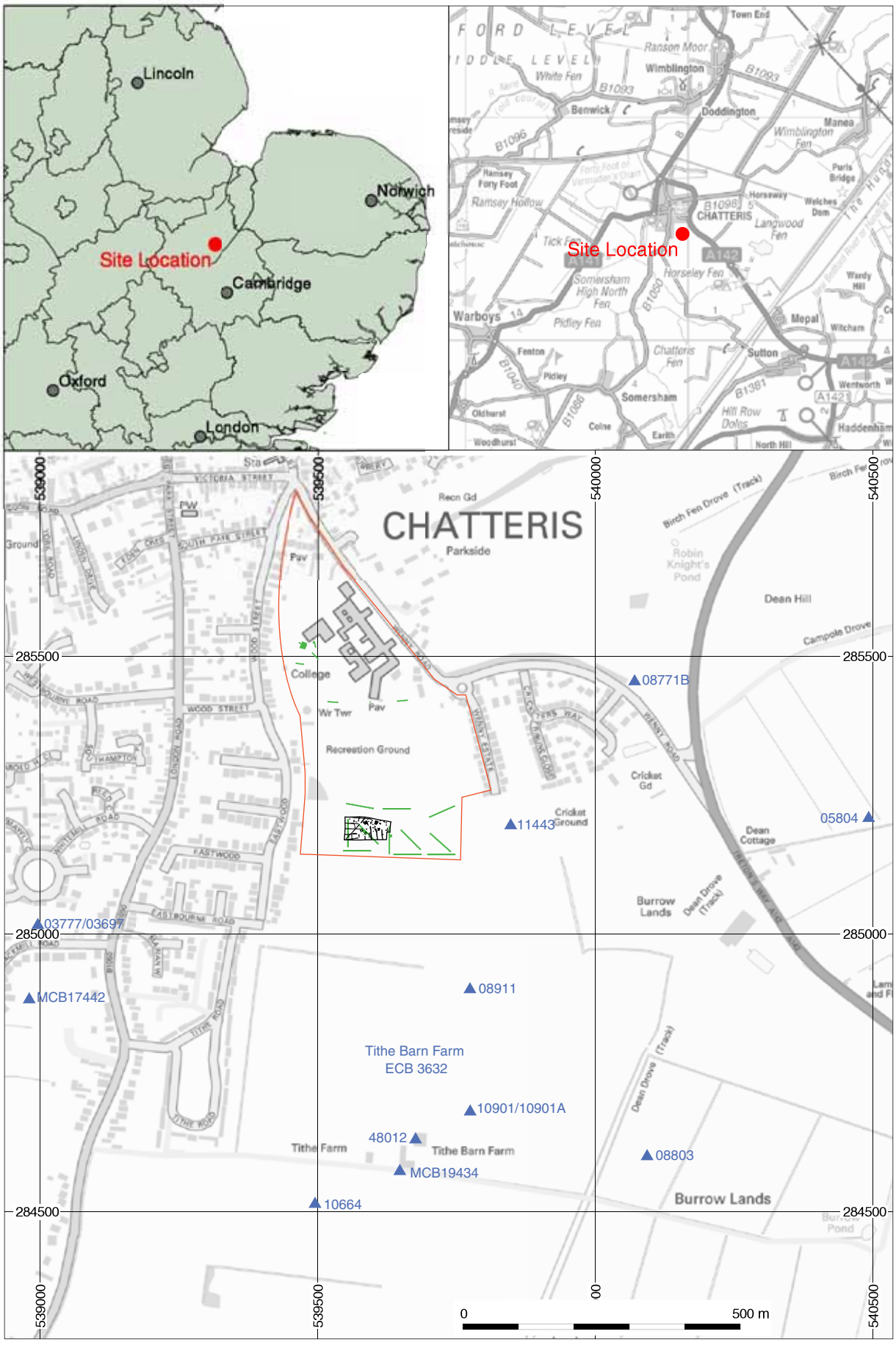

Figure 1: Site location showing development area (red), evaluation trenches (green), excavation (black) and HER entries (blue)

Figure 2: Plan of all features

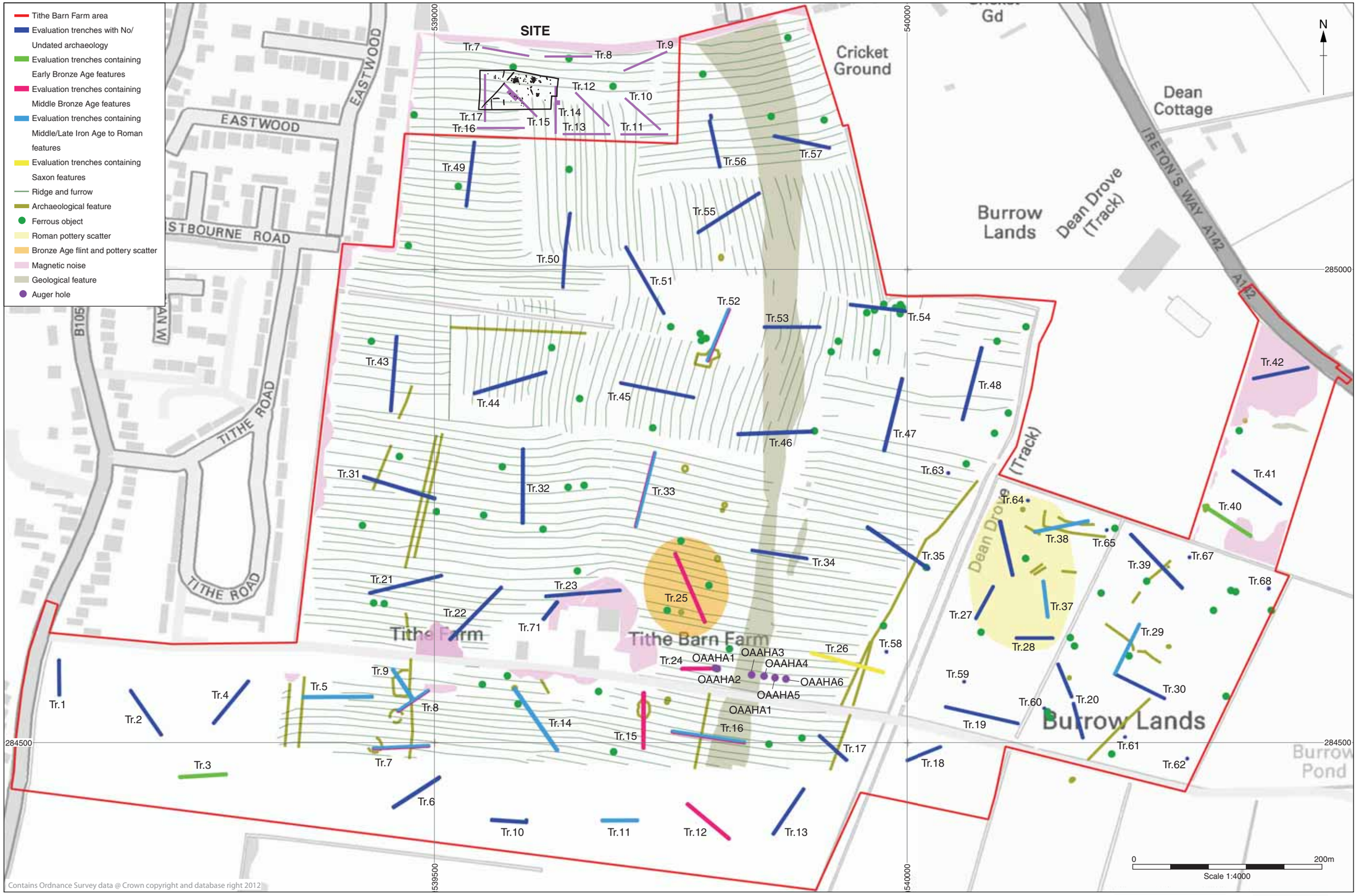

Figure 3: Location of trenches in both the development area and Tithe Barn Farm including geophysics interpretation (courtesy of Northamptonshire Archaeology)

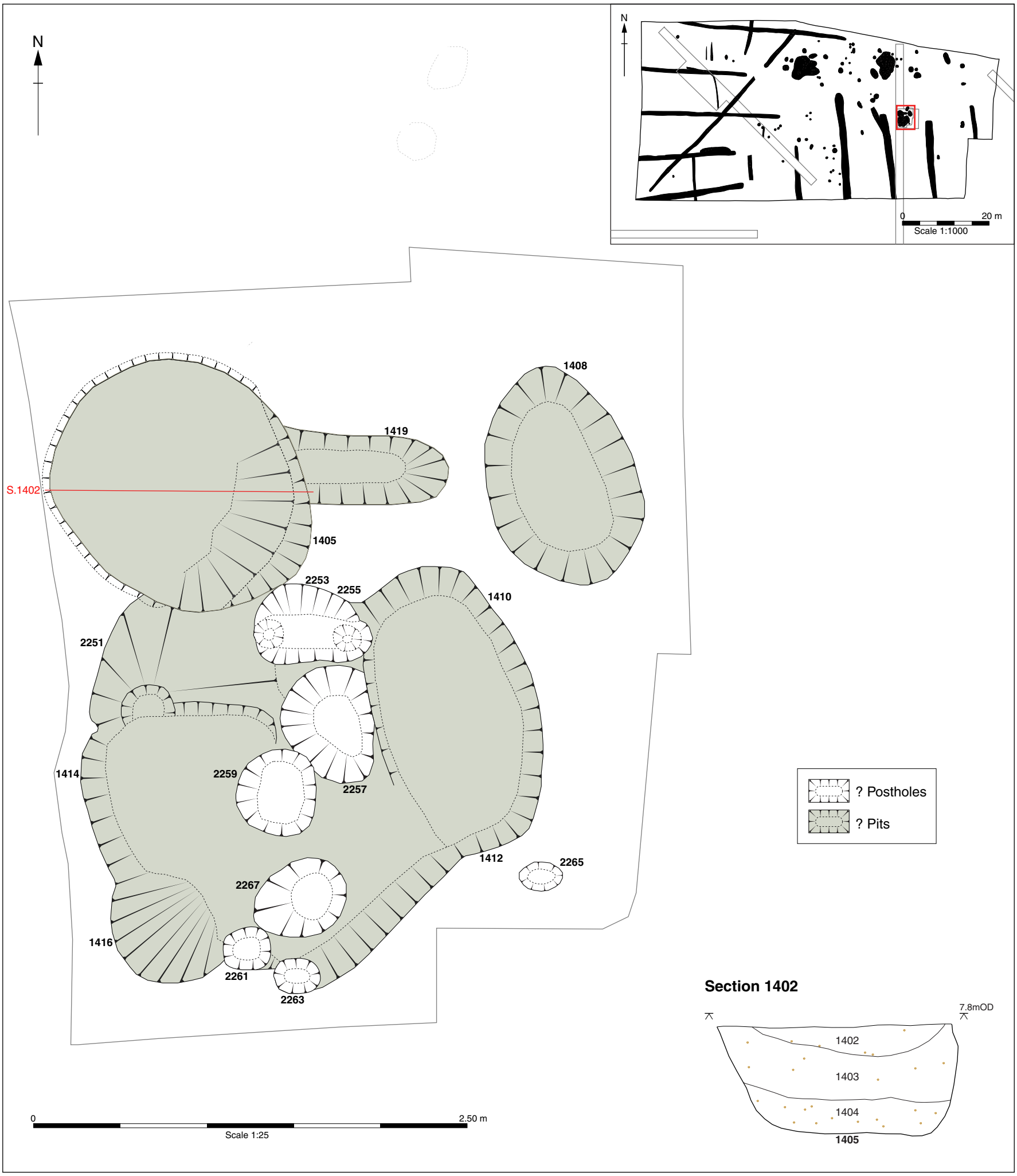

Figure 4: Plan of post hole and pit group 1 with section drawing

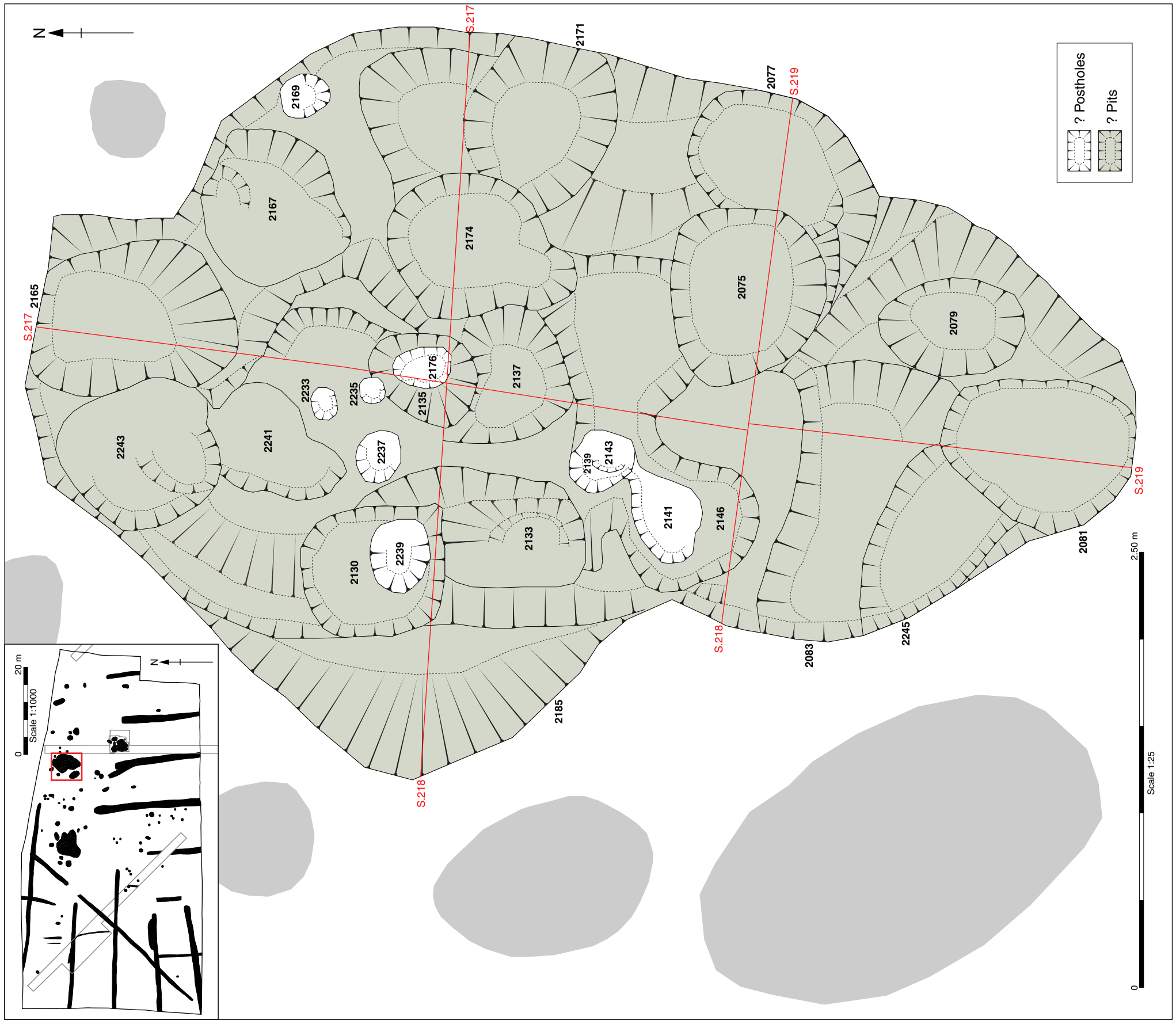

Figure 5: Plan of post hole and pit group 2

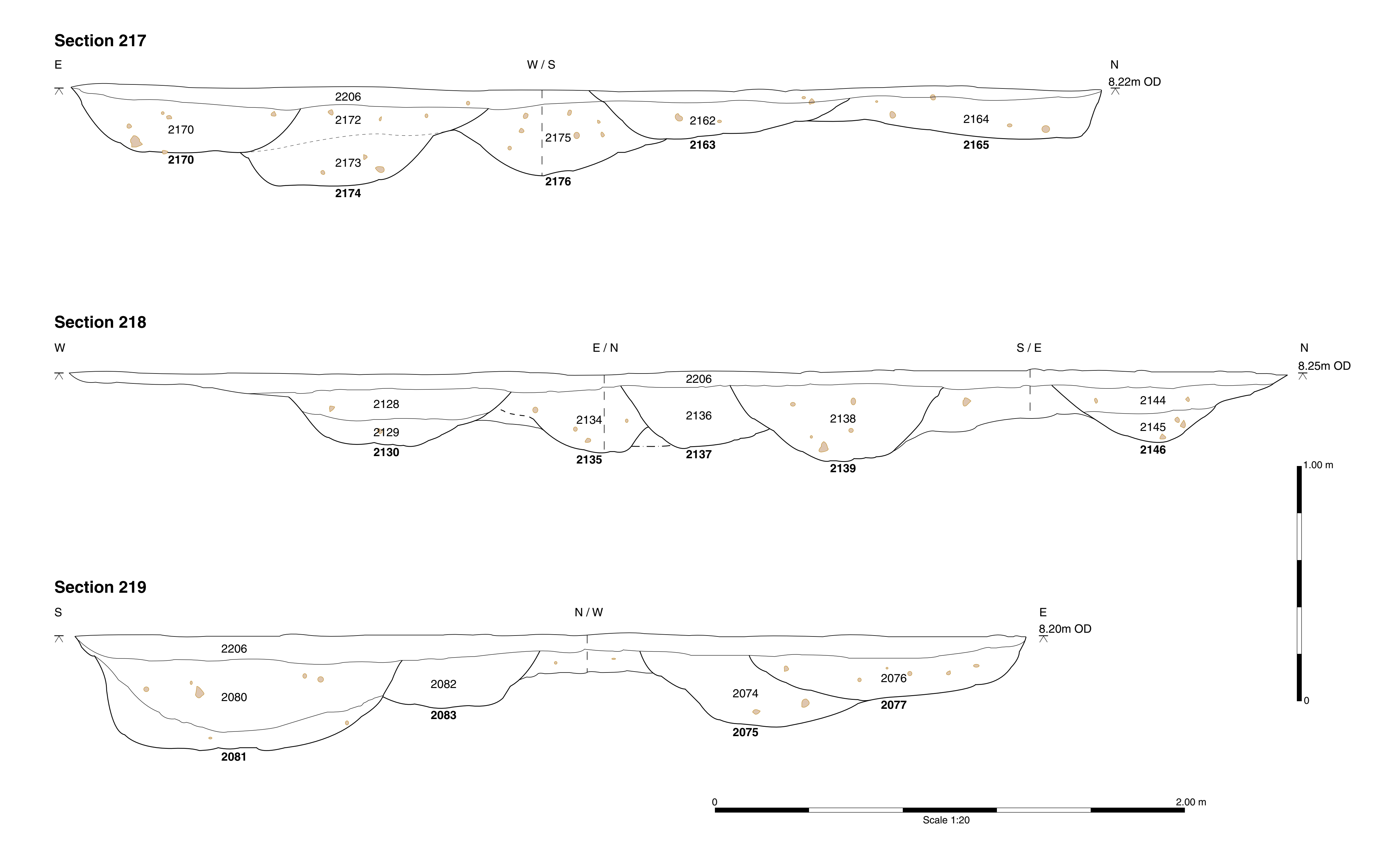

Figure 6: Sections of post hole and pit group 2

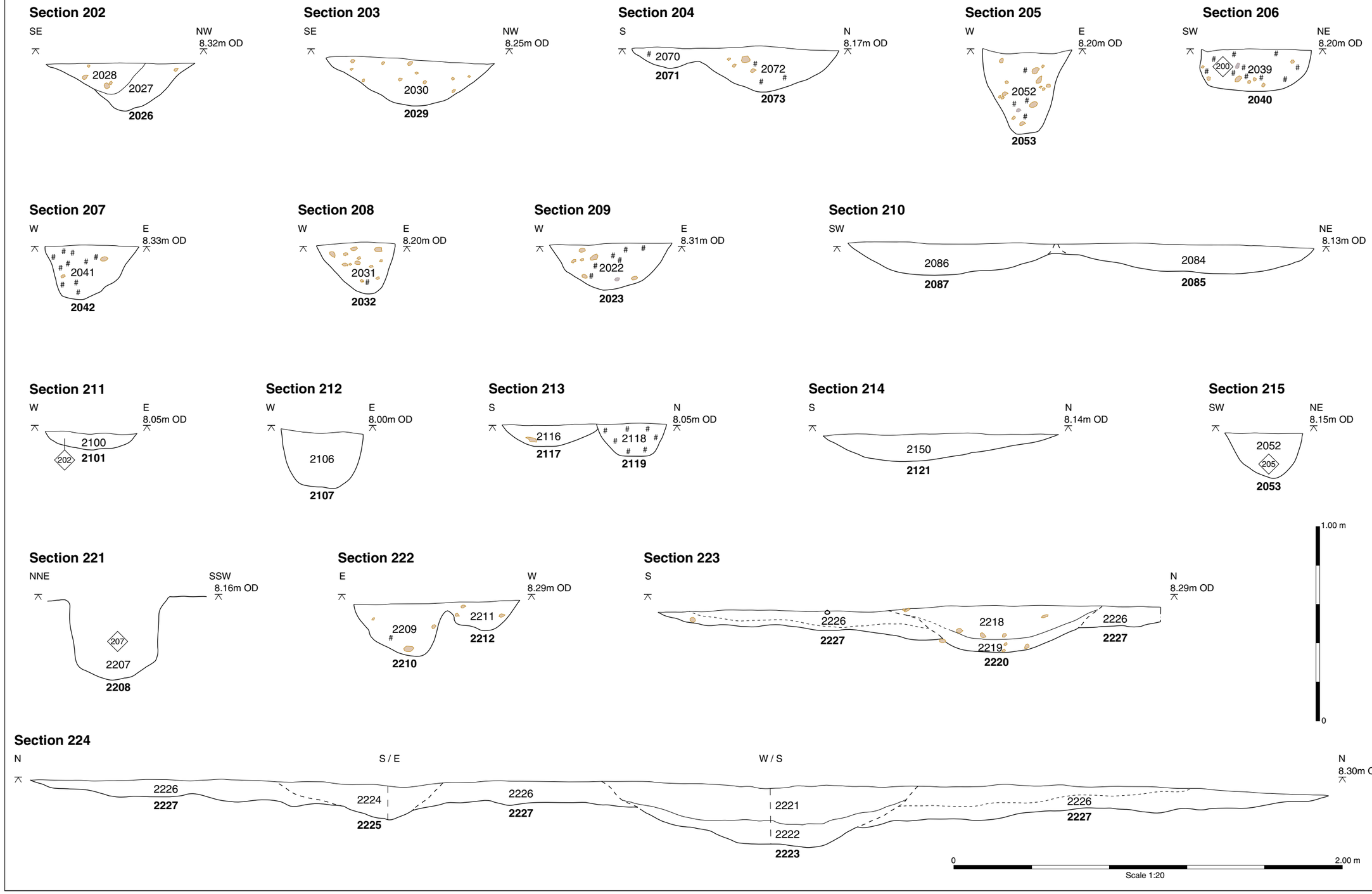

Figure 7: Selected sections

Plate 1: Post hole and pit group 1 looking south

Plate 2: Post hole and pit groups 1 and 2 being excavated looking south

Plate 3: Pit **1405** looking south

Plate 4: Post hole and pit group 2 looking north

Plate 5: Possible four-post structure **2097**, **2099**, **2101** and **2214** looking west

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