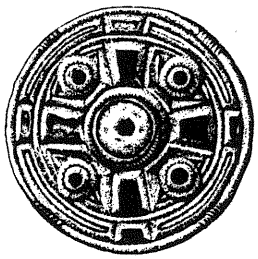

Archaeological Field Unit

Late Neolithic, Bronze Age and Late Iron Age Occupation at Butt Lane, Milton: A Training Excavation

Aileen Connor

1997

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 135

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MILCW 96

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Report No 135

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SUMMARY

Area D at Milton Landfill Site was archaeologically excavated between 15th July and 23rd August 1996. The work was undertaken by trainees under the direction and supervision of Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) Staff.

The excavation was in two areas, areas D1 and D2, archaeological features were present in both areas, but the more southerly area D1 had a higher density of features.

The site was characterised by earthfast features representing small timber structures, a hearth, several pits, and working hollows and at least one cremation. Small quantities of pottery were recovered from a cremation and hearth dating possibly as early as the Early Bronze Age, although the pottery in the hearth is likely to be residual. The small flint assemblage is suggestive of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age component, but appeared peripheral and may indicate greater activity beyond the area of the excavtion.

Bronze Age pottery dates a pit and nearby post hole on the northern area, but no other features could be conclusively attributed such a date.

The major component of the occupation is probably later Iron Age in date, and is interpreted as applying to all the post built structures, several pits and the hearth.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The excavation in 1996 on the proposed Milton Landfill Site was part of an overall strategy to excavate and record archaeological remains threatened by future development. Three areas (A, C and D) of high archaeological potential, and a fourth of lesser significance (B) were identified during evaluation trenching undertaken by the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit in 1995 (Bray and Reynolds 1997). This evaluation followed on from the unexpected discovery and subsequent excavation of Roman and Iron Age remains in 1994 and 1995 elsewhere on the Landfill Site (Reynolds 1994).

Subsequent to the evaluation (MILEW95), East Waste Ltd. agreed to contribute substantially towards the excavation of the three most significant areas of archaeological potential (A, C and D) over a period of three years. The first of the excavation areas to be investigated was area D, which lies close to Butt Lane, opposite Sun Close Farm. This document reports the findings from the excavation.

The proposed Milton Landfill Site is located approximately four miles north-east of Cambridge. Excavation area D is situated towards the north-west boundary of the proposed landfill site, approximately 100m south of Butt Lane, opposite New Close and Sun Close Farms. The field is currently farmed by Mr. Harold with whose agreement the work was undertaken. The field was under winter wheat at the time of the excavation.

Although the excavation was largely funded by East Waste Ltd., additional funding was received from individuals participating in a training excavation on the site.

2 GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The site lies on the third terrace river gravels of the River Cam. The underlying geology is Jurassic Gault Clay with sporadic capping of Pleistocene gravels, silts and marls (Worssam and Taylor 1969). The site lies at approximately 11m above ordnance datum and is generally flat. Topsoil was between 0.30 and 0.40m in depth across the site overlying subsoil which varied between 0.10m in the southernmost area (D1) and 0.30m deep in the north area (D2). Removal of the subsoil revealed a gentle downward slope towards Butt Lane and the trackway bounding the eastern side of the site.

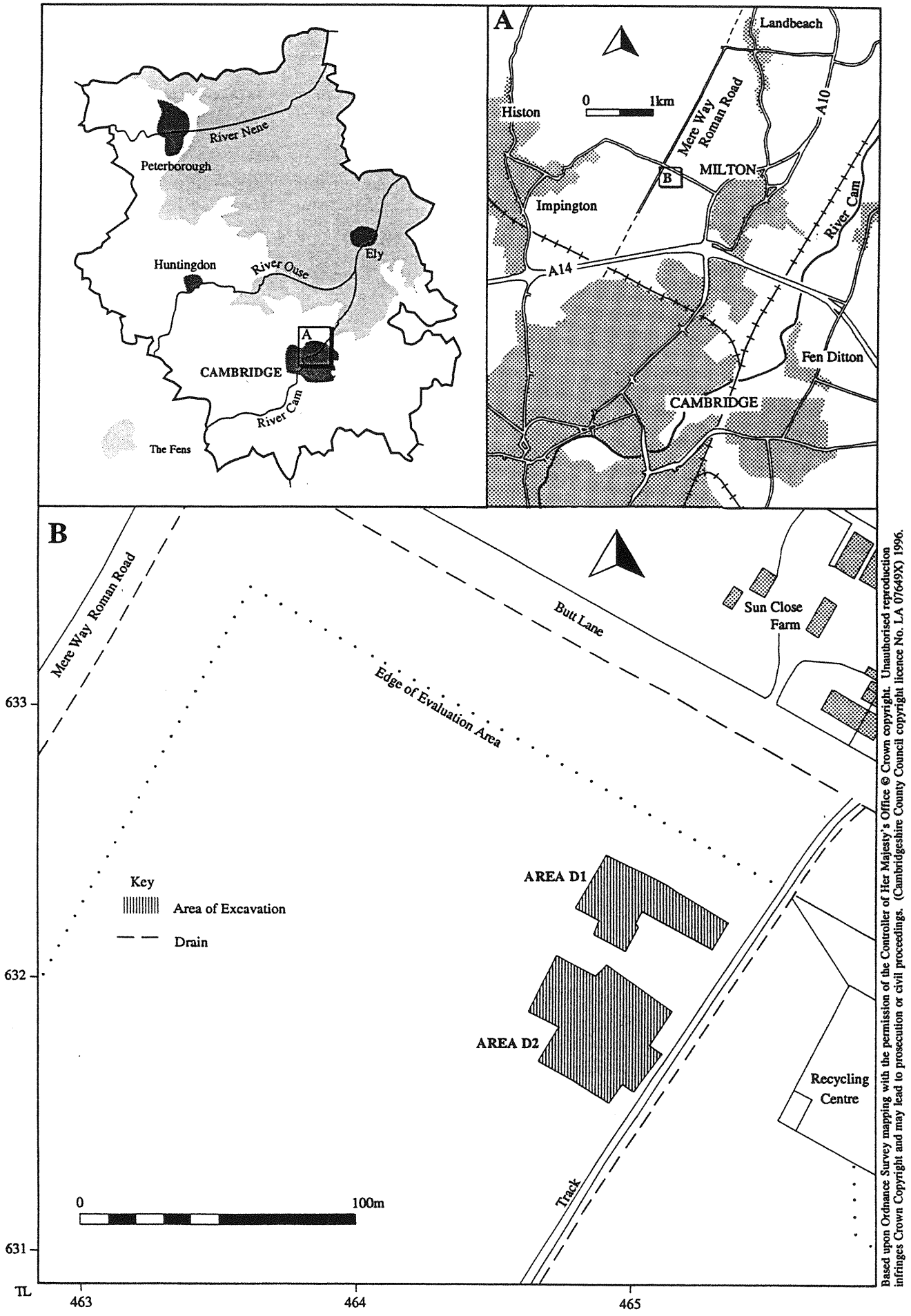

Figure 1 *Location maps*

3 THE TRAINING EXCAVATION

The excavation had two main aims: to excavate and record threatened archaeological remains, 'preserve by record'; to enable a wide range of inexperienced people the opportunity to learn some of the techniques involved in archaeological excavation, a 'training excavation'.

The following people participated as trainees in the excavation and carried out all the excavation and recording of the archaeological deposits under the close supervision and tuition of AFU staff, the number of weeks trainees participated in the excavation is noted in brackets :

Roderick Abbott (1), Ruth Batts (1), Charlotte Beach (1), Leannne Bellamy (2), Clare Bolton (1), Grace Bucknill (1), Oliver Burwood (1), Annie Breviss (1), Sarah Breviss (1), Laura Canning (1), Chris Chapman (1), Kate Chapman (1), Lesley Couch (1), Richard Cramp (1), Ben Croxford (2), Thomas Dubois (1), Andrew Egan (1), David Egan (1), Margrethe Felter (2), Gwan Ku Kim (2), Sarah Head (1), John Holloway (1), Neil Hughes (2), Lyn Jones (1), Angela Knapper (1), James Knowles (1), Ruth Kreuger (4), Jean Oliver (1), Robert Raine (2), Morgan Di Rodi (1), Debra Standing (1), Mark Sumner (1), Magdaleine Thompson (1), Emma Twigger (2), Marianne Wisbey (3).

Plate 1 *Some of the trainees and AFU staff*

A total of 35 participants joined in the excavation as paying trainees ranging from 12 to over 60 years of age. Each participant received an attendance certificate indicating the range of topics covered during their stay.

The first group of trainees commenced after initial machine stripping and clearance of the site. Four full time staff were employed to teach and supervise the twelve participants, under the direction of a full time Project Officer. The training programme involved hands-on experience supported by background theory, lectures on a wide range of topics and occasional outings to other sites and monuments in Cambridgeshire.

The training aspect of the project was considered very successful and questionnaires received from participants were largely complimentary; it is therefore intended to run the training excavation again in 1997, this time concentrating on Area C (Bray & Reynolds 1997).

4 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric

The area north of Cambridge has traditionally been seen as marginal during the prehistoric period. Much of the land is clay and therefore heavy to work, and, it has been thought, too heavy for prehistoric tools. This land, has therefore been thought of as being wooded. Until recently the evidence has done little to dispute this theory, little prehistoric evidence has been encountered in the Milton area; Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic evidence is absent from the vicinity of the landfill site, and although Bronze Age material was found at Impington, that is some distance away. Fieldwalking over the landfill site had produced only a small quantity of late Bronze Age or Iron Age pottery and a scatter of burnt flint. For the Iron Age, there is evidence of more activity, since there is a defensive late Iron Age ringwork at Arbury Camp (Hughes 1904; Alexander and Trump 1970; Evans 1991a, 1991b) and evidence of Iron Age fields. Evaluation in 1995, (Bray and Reynolds 1997) showed that there has been prehistoric activity dating to both the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods.

Aerial photographs of the site taken by Ben Robinson in 1996 have shown the presence of cropmarks on the proposed landfill site. Of particular significance is a large subrectangular enclosure on the west of the area, apparently earlier than Mere Way, which is likely to belong to the Iron Age period.

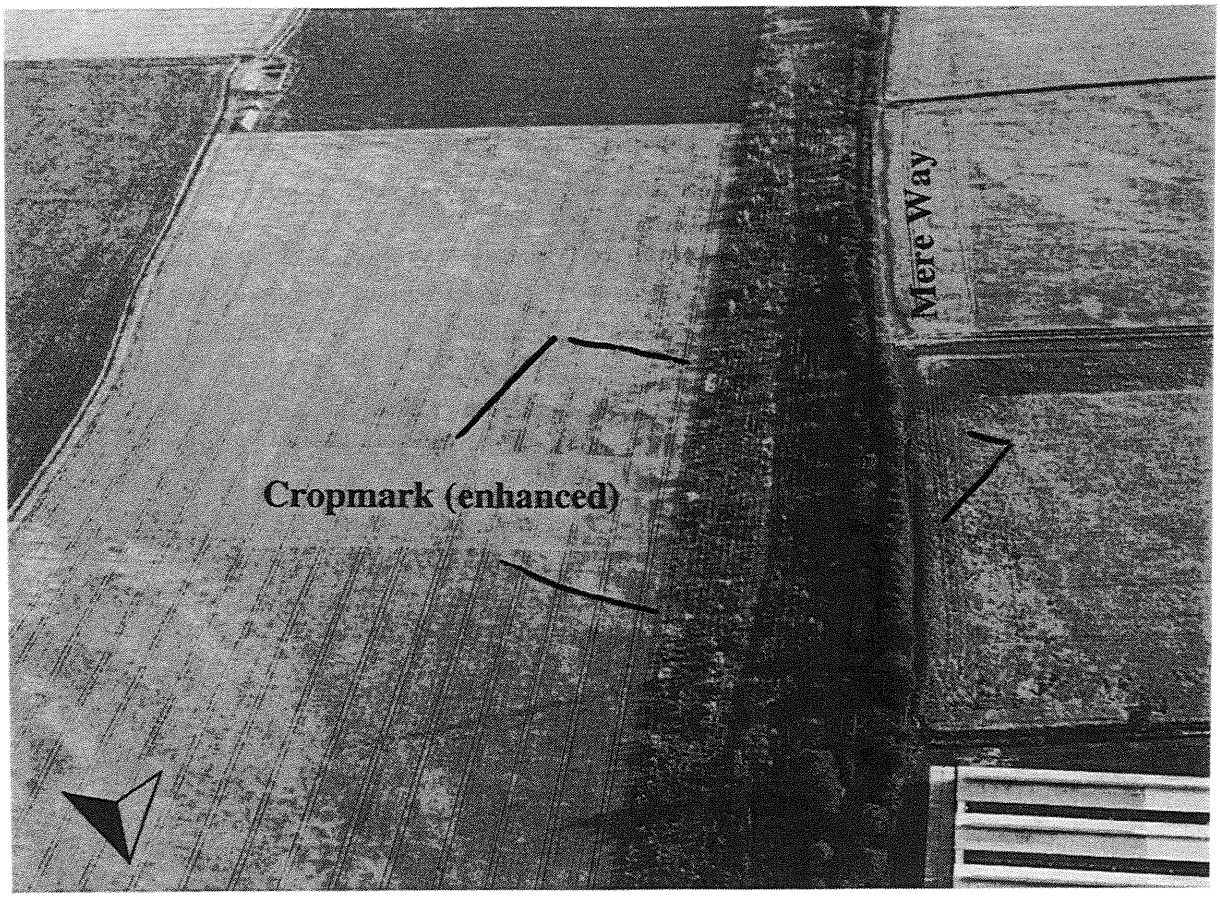

Plate 2 *Aerial photograph showing possible enclosure as a cropmark*

4.2 Roman

The Roman remains in the area to the north of Cambridge are relatively well documented. Roman Akeman Street, now known as Mere Way along part of its length, bounds the proposed Milton Landfill Site to the West. This road was the major route between Cambridge and Ely. Cremations were found adjacent to the road during work at Kings Hedges (Ette, 1993). Roman Villa buildings were found at Arbury during the construction of a housing estate (Frend, 1955; Alexander et al 1966, 1968, 1969, 1974). Roman farmsteads and kilns are located within the parish of Milton on the first and second river terraces (Bray and Reynolds, 1997). Most recently a large Roman site, including remains of a farming landscape, settlement, industrial and religious activity (Reynolds, 1994) and a Romano-British burial mound (Reynolds, forthcoming) was discovered on the landfill site and excavated under rescue conditions in 1994.

4.3 Saxon

The nearby parish of Chesterton has been identified as the location for an early Saxon royal estate (Haslam, 1984). Milton itself, however, has very little documented Saxon activity, although a bronze wrist clasp of the period was found whilst recording on MILEW III was being undertaken (Reynolds, forthcoming).

4.4 Medieval and Post-medieval

A short documentary search of the site was undertaken by Twigs Way, and the following is a summary of the report which is reproduced in full in appendix G.

The site was part of the 'South Field' from at least the 16th century until 1801, and possibly from the 13th century. It was part of the three open fields of the parish of Milton, and as such was under arable throughout the period. From the 17th century it was part of Mill Hill furlong. An Enclosure Award for Milton was made in 1801, and South Field was sub-divided at this time.

In the early 20th century fruit trees and bushes are recorded on part of the field, and land drains were inserted.

5 METHODOLOGY AND CONSTRAINTS

5.1 Excavation

Evaluation of the proposed landfill site in 1995 (Bray & Reynolds, 1997) had highlighted three areas of potential archaeological importance, indicated as areas A, C and D. Practical considerations led to a scheduled programme of work beginning with the excavation of area D in July and August 1996, areas A and C will be excavated in the summers of 1997 and 1998 respectively. In order to 'preserve by record' the remains assessed to be present in area D, excavation focused on the evaluation trenches XXVIII and its vicinity., and broadened out beyond these trenches in order to locate any peripheral activity. Two areas were mechanically stripped by a tracked excavator, spoil was removed to the edge of the site using a six wheeled tipper truck. Unfortunately the overburden in the northernmost area (D2) was rather deeper than had been anticipated by the evaluation thus extending the time taken to remove the topsoil from the site. The weather was extremely hot and dry during machining, and the wheat crop on the field had taken up most of the moisture from the underlying surface making identification of archaeological features difficult on initial machine stripping. Initial cleaning was then undertaken by a small team of AFU staff. Grid pegs were located across the site at 10 metre intervals using a Total Station Surveying Instrument. Archaeological deposits were excavated by trainees. Discrete features such as pits and post holes were half sectioned or quadranted where practicable. Certain features of greater potential (e.g. a possible cremation) were targeted for full excavation. Sections were placed across linear features at regular intervals. One large pit was incompletely excavated due to practical constraints (it was excavated to the maximum depth allowable for safety, and it continued beyond the edge of the excavation). All excavated deposits were ascribed an individual 'context' number and recorded using the AFU's recording system: individual deposits

were all described using single context recording sheets, pre-excavation plans were drawn using the Total Survey Instrument, post-excavation plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Photographs in monochrome and colour were taken to supplement the record. Where possible, trainees were encouraged to undertake all the recording steps under close supervision from AFU staff.

Fifty-five environmental samples were taken from a broad range of feature types, forty-two of these were processed by supervised trainees during the excavation.

It was impractical to undertake processing of finds in the field, but it is hoped to address this in 1997 in order to give trainees a broader range of the tasks involved in an excavation.

5.2 Post-Excavation

All finds collected from the site were washed, bagged and broadly catalogued, records were checked, consolidated and entered onto a site Database. These tasks were undertaken with the help of Ruth Kreuger who worked with the AFU after the excavation had finished as part of her work experience.

Pottery was analysed and reported on by Jonathon Last, animal bone has been identified to species by Lorrain Higbee. Duncan Schlee has scanned the residues from the environmental samples and recommended that no further work is necessary. Worked flint has been identified by Steve Kemp. A short documentary search was carried out by Twigs Way and the full report is kept in archive.

6 RESULTS

All context numbers ascribed to excavated deposits have been grouped according to their stratigraphic and interpretative associations. Context numbers are shown in normal text except where they refer to **cuts**, in which case they are shown in **bold.** Some context groups include context numbers assigned in the evaluation phase (MILEW95) these context numbers are shown in *italics*, and ***bold italics*** where they refer to cuts. The groups are numbered from 1 to 17, where groups are referred to in the text and on illustrations they are prefixed by the letter 'g'.

All context groups have been assigned to one of 7 phases as a means of giving chronological development to the site. The results are reported on by phase (earliest first where known) and by context group (in numerical order).

6.1 Phase 1 (context group 17)

Natural geology, a general number 999 was assigned to the natural subsoil consisting of mixed clays and sandy gravel. Contexts 24 and 176 were also assigned to natural geology.

6.2 Phase 2 (context group 4)

Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age?

Analysis of the ceramic assemblage identified a small number of pottery sherds in a probable cremation **143** which were thought to possibly date to the late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age. It was noted, however, that these fragments were so small that a definite attribution was impossible. Further fragments of a similar fabric were also identified in a hearth **60** (g3, phase 4) several metres to the north-west. Hearth **60** has not been attributed to this period, however, on the grounds that a small iron nail was also found in its lower fill, and whilst this may be intrusive, it would seem more likely that the tiny sherds from the upper fill of the feature are residual.

A second possible cremation **220** is also tentatively assigned to this early phase, although its attribution is based on similarity of character to **143**, rather than on evidence specific to the feature itself

6.2.1 Context group 4 (Subgroups 4.1, 4.2)

Two possible cremations in individual pits, subgroup 4.1 is almost certainly a cremation, subgroup 4.2 is less likely.

Subgroup 4.1 (143 3)

143 was a moderately shallow (0.21m) circular (0.58m diameter) pit filled by 3 a firm dark yellowish brown sandy silt in which moderate quantities of charcoal and calcined bone were found including one fragment identified as a possible human carpal. Pottery found associated with the bone was thought to be possibly late Neolithic or early Bronze Age in date. The feature is interpreted as a probable cremation.

Subgroup 4.2 (220, 4)

220 was a moderately shallow (0.22m) circular (0.65m diameter) pit filled by 4 a firm dark yellowish brown sandy silt in which frequent flecks of charcoal and occasional fragments of burnt flint and calcined bone were found. The bone was unidentifiable and no dating evidence was found, and the feature had been truncated by a ?medieval plough furrow 31 (phase 6). The similarity of its dimensions, shape and fill to **143**, and the presence of small quantities of calcined bone and charcoal suggest the possibility that this feature is another cremation, possibly belonging to the same phase as **143**.

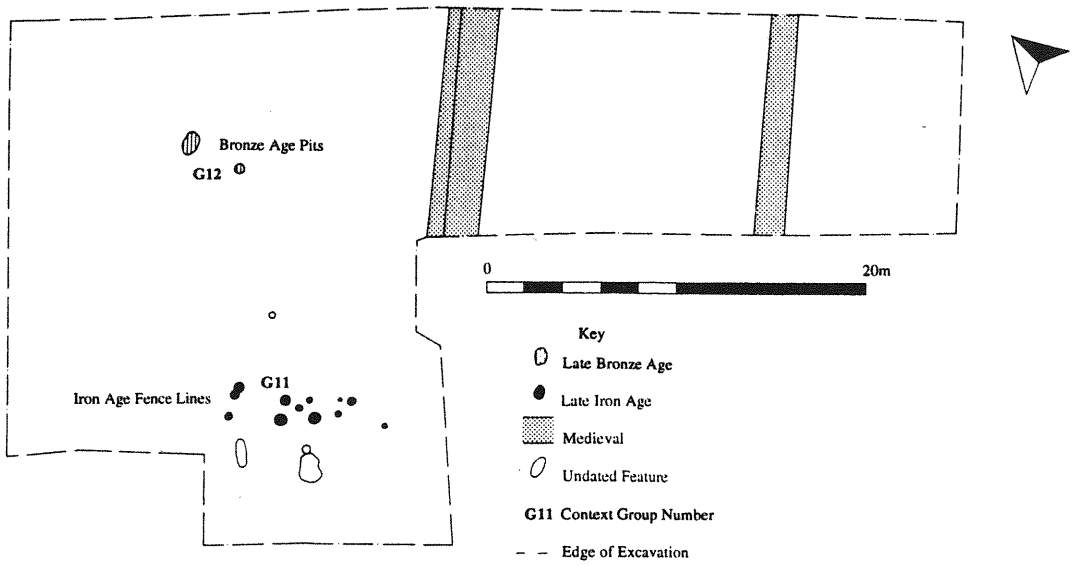

Figure 2 *Plan of area D2*

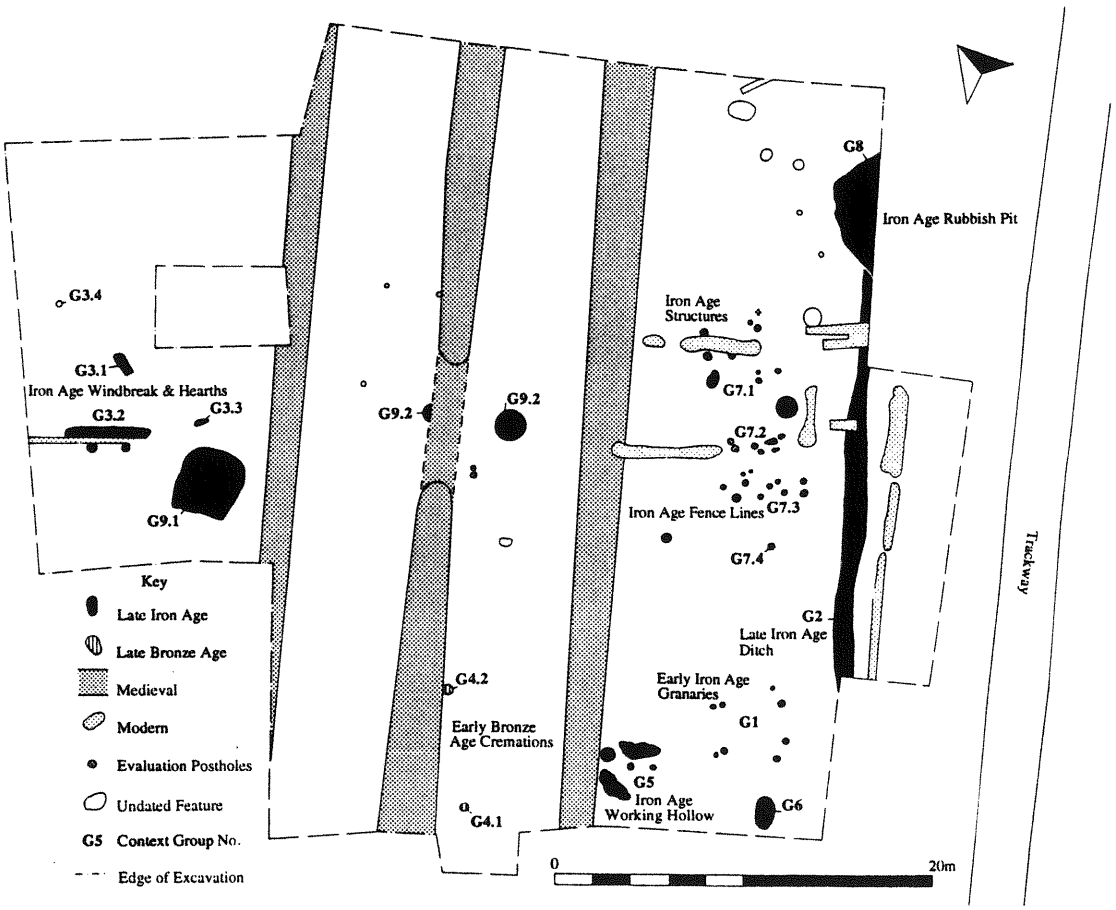

Figure 3 *Plan of area D1*

6.3 Phase 3 (context group 12)

Bronze Age?

Analysis of the pottery from the site suggests the possibility that a small Bronze Age component was present. The Bronze Age pottery was largely confined to one group of features, g12, although individual sherds of Bronze Age pottery were also found from other deposits which are generally considered to be late Iron Age or later and the sherds can therefore be regarded as residual. The features attributed to this phase are probably closely associated with each other, pottery from all features was very similar in character, and animal bone was also present in moderate quantities throughout these features. Pit **157/158** and hollow with stake holes **225** in particular may be closely associated and may have been used for a related function (Figs 4 & 7, Plate 3). The unusual funnel shaped pit **157/158** and hollow with stake holes **225** suggest some kind of deliberate, possibly associated function. Similar features were found at Barrington (T. Malim, pers com). Burnt daub and occasional charred bone and cereals within the backfills of the pit may indicate usage, perhaps as a cooking pit, although surrounding deposits did not appear to have been affected by heat and the burnt deposits within the fills may have been redeposited from elsewhere.

Plate 3 *Pit **157/158** with adjacent hollow **225** after excavation*

A small pit **153**, located a little over 2 metres to the south-east also contained similar deposits including burnt daub and pottery, suggesting at least a secondary association in the disposal of rubbish. The earliest fills of pit **157/158** and the fill of hollow **225** were very similar in character and may have been

deposited at the same time, suggesting the possibility that the primary function of the features was related (Fig 7). If the pit **157/158** had been used for cooking , the hollow and stake holes **225** may have held some kind of structure, perhaps a weather break or for holding pots or food close to the cooking area for example.

No other structural evidence was present which could be attributed to this period, although it is possible that a putative round house to the south-east (g7.2, phase 4) could be tentatively assigned an earlier date. Bronze Age activity is also thought to be present approximately 600 metres to the south in Area A, as attested during evaluation of the landfill site. The activity in this area is thought to represent either a managed muck-heap, a midden or rubbish deposit sealing a possible structure (Bray and Reynolds, 1997).

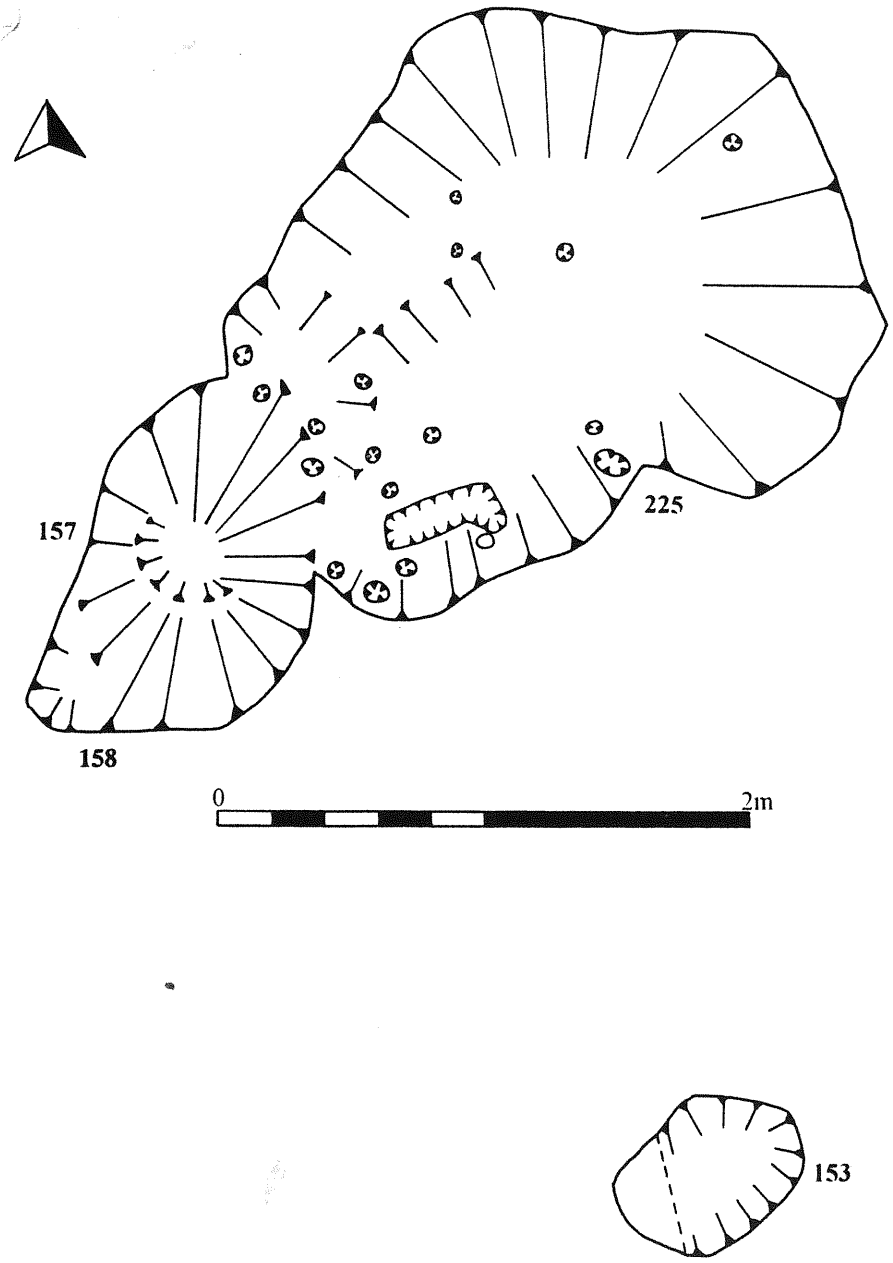

Figure 4 *Plan of group 12 features*

6.3.1 **Context group 12 (153** 38, **157** 39 151, **158** 132 148, **225** 142)
?Bronze Age pit, hollow, stake holes and post hole or small pit.

153 was a shallow (0.14m), subcircular (0.50m x 0.54m) post hole or small pit filled by 38, a soft, moderately stony dark yellowish brown clayey sand. Moderate quantities of charcoal, burnt daub, animal bone and several sherds of ?Bronze Age pottery similar to that found in nearby pit **58** were found in its fill.

157/158 was a moderately deep (0.44m) subovoid (1.60m x 1m) pit. The pit was funnel shaped, being much broader at the top than at the base where it was almost circular (0.40m diameter). The pit was excavated in quadrants, **157** refers to the west quadrant and **158** to the east quadrant. The pit was subsequently fully excavated. The west quadrant, 157, was filled by 39 and 151. The upper fill, 39, was a 0.14m thick deposit of soft olive brown clayey sand containing occasional flints and pebbles.. The earliest fill in this quadrant, 151, was a 0.25m thick deposit of light olive brown silty sand. The eastern quadrant. **158** was filled by 132 and 148. The upper fill 132 was a 0.19m thick deposit of soft dark olive brown clayey sand, probably the same as 131. This lay above 148, a 0.16m thick deposit of soft light olive brown silty sand, probably the same as 151. Finds from pit **157/158** included both burnt and unburnt bone fragments from cattle and sheep/goat, a fragment of calcined ?human tooth, burnt daub, charcoal, ?Bronze Age pottery and a small quantity of charred cereals from samples.

225 was a moderately shallow (0.16m) irregular oval (2.48m x 2.08m) depression to the north of pit **157/158**. Pit **157/158** had apparently cut **225** on its southern edge, although the interface between the two features was small, and the relationship therefore insecure. **225** was filled by 142 a soft light olive brown sandy silt, similar to the lower fills, 148 and 151, of pit **157/158**. One sherd of pottery was recovered from this deposit. Complete excavation of the deposit revealed a series of eighteen small circular cuts, ranging in diameter and depth from 0.06m to 0.12m. These possible stake holes appeared to be confined within **225** and most were clustered around its southern end at the junction with pit **157/158**.

6.4 Phase 4 (context groups 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11)

Later Iron Age

The majority of the ceramic assemblage suggests a late Iron Age date for the excavated deposits, with the assemblage representing a slightly later Iron Age date than that recovered from the evaluation trenches (Last, this report) and it will be interesting to discover whether there is movement over time around the landfill site from future excavations on Areas A and C. The date assigned to phase 4 groups is within the first century BC, although slight differences in the pottery assemblage between the fills of 239 (g8) and the ditch (g2) which cuts through it suggests more detailed phasing may be possible.

A large number of post holes have been interpreted as belonging with this phase, these are interpreted as representing several structures. In the south-east area of the site eight post holes (g1) are interpreted as possibly two phases of a four post structure (Figs 5 & 7). The structure may have been a raised platform, possibly used as a granary for storing grain or even as an excarnation platform (for laying out the dead until all the flesh had been stripped from the bones prior to final deposition, by burial, cremation, or simply scattering the bones). Two pits adjacent to the structure (g6) may be associated with it.

Pottery from the post holes belonging with this structure is mostly late Iron Age in date as is that from the adjacent pits. Several metres to the north of g1 was a group of post holes possibly representing several structures (Figs 3 and 6), g7.1 was a slightly larger six post structure with a small pit or post hole at its centre, this may represent a similar structure to g1, that is a granary or excarnation platform, a similar six post structure was found at Wanlip, Leicestershire, in this case the central pit was found to contain a cremation. Burnt daub fragments within the backfill of the post holes suggest an alternative interpretation, the post holes may represent a small wattle and daub building, perhaps with a thatched roof. An arc of post holes close by suggests that a possible round building (g7.2) either replaced or was replaced by g7.1. Alternatively the southernmost post holes of g7.2 may be associated with g7.3, a double alignment of post holes possibly representing a fence. Another double post hole alignment lay several metres to the north on a very similar orientation to g7.3, taken together these short lengths of fence suggest that the land was divided up into fields or paddocks, the fences may well have continued but have left no trace within the ground. A large pit (g8) contained by far the largest quantities of cultural material of any of the features in the excavated area, this may represent rubbish disposal by nearby occupants. Last notes the possibility that the ceramics from this pit may represent more than one phase, suggesting the long term use of the pit for rubbish disposal. The upper fills of the pit contained pottery in keeping with a later Iron Age tradition and similar to that from other features on the site. The lower fills, however, contained pottery of an earlier Iron Age tradition suggesting that the site may have been continuously occupied since the early Iron Age. A hearth or oven with possible associated wind break (g3), was sited 30 metres to the west of g7, perhaps this was the cooking area for the small group that may have lived here. Alternatively the possible windbreak may be a remnant of the system of fields or paddocks noted above. A number of pits (g9) have also been interpreted as belonging with this phase on the grounds of ?Iron Age pottery and burnt daub fragments from within the fills. Finally a group of pits and post holes which may represent a working hollow or some kind of small lean-to shelter (g5) was located at the south of area D1 and quite close to the four post structure. This too may have formed part of a small settlement located on the site.

6.4.1 **Context group 1: (subgroups 1.1, 1.2)**

This group of eight post holes may form a single 8 post structure or possibly two phases of a four post structure. The group has been divided into two with this latter interpretation in mind. The post holes have been separated on the grounds of their pattern in plan only since neither the character of their fills nor their dimensions can be used to distinguish the two groups satisfactorily. It is interesting to note, however, that the fills of the post holes on the west side of the structure are distinctive from those on the east. Those on the west are all filled by friable dark yellowish brown deposits, whereas those on the east are filled by firm deposits of varying colours, they are also distinguished by their dimensions, those on the west being the larger group, although this distinction did not include depths, since both actual and ordnance datum heights seemed to show no patterning whatsoever. It was not possible from either the pottery or stratigraphically to distinguish which of these subgroups was earlier, but it is assumed that four of the post holes must represent a renewal or replacement of the other four.

Pottery was recovered from six of these post holes, only **80** and **92** had no dateable finds. The pottery has been identified as later Iron Age except for some from post hole **121** which contained pottery thought to be Bronze Age or earlier. The presence of this pottery in only one of the group may be regarded as residual, since the post hole showed no other characteristics to distinguish it from the others.

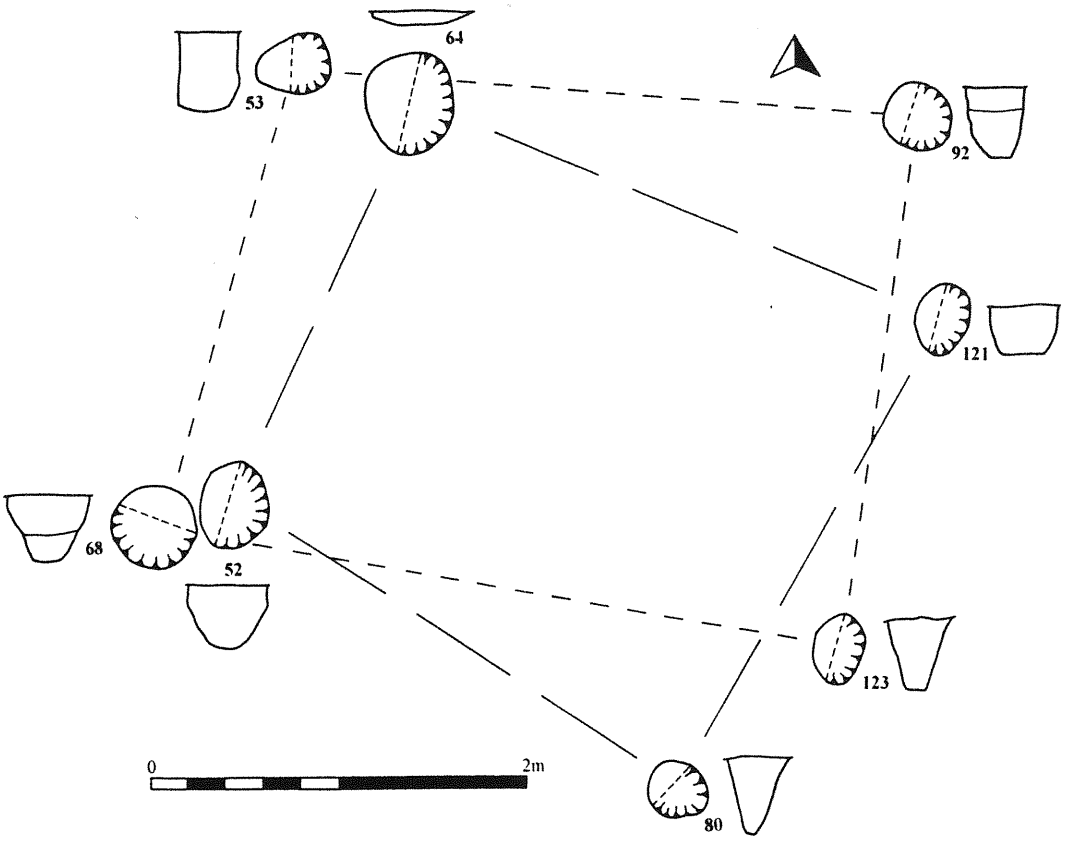

Figure 5 *Plans, profiles and interpretation of group 1 features*

An interpretation of what the building may have been used for is more difficult. Four post structures of this kind are common on sites throughout the Iron Age and are often interpreted as four posts holding a raised platform with a thatched roof above to store grain, that is they are thought to be granaries. Unfortunately there is no supporting evidence for this interpretation, such as charred grain in the post holes or nearby. There are other interpretations, however, including the use of such raised platforms as excarnation platforms on which to lay the dead for the purpose of the removal of the flesh from the bones prior to either cremation or the ritual deposition of the remaining bones. This method of disposal of the dead is often cited as used by primitive societies in the recent past and today, and is thought to be the normal method of disposal during the Iron Age (Cunliffe, 1995). Nearby probable and possible cremations (g4, phase 2) could add weight to this latter interpretation if it were not for the fact that the ceramic assemblage appears to suggest a huge hiatus in time, from a possible late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date for the deposition of the cremations, to a late Iron Age date for the removal of the raised platform.

Two shallow intercutting pits (g6) were located near to this building and may well have been associated with it.

Subgroup 1.1(52 7, **64** 9, **80 81, 121** 120,)

As noted above, it was impossible to distinguish which of the post holes might belong together from the character of their fills, finds or dimensions, however, patterning in plan would seem to suggest that **52**, **64**, **80** and **121** represent one phase of a four post building. The shape of the building would have been a trapezium with equal sides along the north and south. The dimensions of the building from centre to centre of the posts would have been 2.4m along the west side, 2.8m along the east side, 3m along the north side and 2.9m along the south side.

52 was a moderately deep (0.33m) circular (0.42m diameter) post hole filled by 7, a friable dark yellowish brown clayey sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks. A sherd of ?Iron Age pottery was found in the fill.

64 was a shallow (0.07m) subcircular (0.53m x 0.4m) ?post hole filled by 9, a friable dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. A sherd of ?Iron Age pottery was found in the fill.

80 was a deep (0.46m) subcircular (0.32m x 0.34m) post hole filled by 81, a firm dark greyish brown silty clay. A fragment of unidentifiable bone was found in the fill.

121 was a moderately deep (0.32m) circular (0.38m diameter) post hole filled by 120 a firm yellowish brown sandy silt. Sherds of ?Bronze Age pottery were found in the fill.

Subgroup 1.2 (53 8, **68** 6 76, **92** 10 102, **123** 122)
As with subgroup 1.1 above it was only possible to distinguish this group of post holes on grounds of plan. Post holes **53**, **68**, **92** and **123** make up the corners of a four post building which may have been replaced by, or be a replacement for building subgroup 1.1. The structure follows a very similar trapezoid shape to that interpreted for the subgroup 1.1 building. The dimensions of the building measuring between the centre of the post holes is estimated to have been 3.4m along the north side, 3.6m along the south side, 2.8m along the east side and 2.6m along the west side, and is therefore slightly larger than subgroup 1.1. It is not possible, however, to indicate whether the building would have increased or decreased over time.

53 was a deep (0.42m) subcircular (0.4 x 0.33m) post hole filled by 8, a friable dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. Sherds of ?Iron Age pottery were found in the fill.

68 was a moderately deep (0.34m) subcircular (0.44m x 0.46m) post hole filled by 6, and 76. The upper fill, 6, was a friable dark yellowish brown clayey sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecks, beneath this was 76, a friable yellowish brown clayey sandy silt. Sherds of ?Iron Age pottery were found in the upper fill.

92 was a moderately deep (0.39m) circular (0.32m diameter) post hole filled by 10 and 102. The upper fill, 10, was a firm reddish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. Below this was 102, a yellowish brown coarse sand and gravel with occasional charcoal flecks. An unidentifiable fragments of bone was found in the upper fill.

123 was a deep (0.49m) circular (0.34m diameter) post hole filled by 122, a firm brown sandy silt. Sherds of ?Iron Age pot were found in the fill.

6.4.2 Context group 3 (subgroups 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)

In the south-west of the excavated area was a shallow, oval feature showing signs of intense burning, including a considerable quantity of burnt daub and flint (g3.1), this possible hearth, or collapsed oven had little dateable material within its fills, a few tiny sherds of ?Bronze Age pottery are likely to be residual, since a small iron nail was also found associated with the feature. The presence of the iron nail leads to the conclusion that the feature must date to at least the late Iron Age and is likely to be associated with other structural features of Iron

Age date. Post holes (g3.3, g3.4), and a linear slot (g3.2) nearby may be more closely associated with the hearth/oven. The slot and possibly associated post holes may have held a fence which could have acted as a windbreak for the oven/hearth. Alternatively the structure may be associated with post hole alignments found elsewhere on the site (g7.2, g7.3), and may be a remnant of a system of fields or paddocks. Similarly post holes g3.3 and g3.4 may be remnants of a fenced field system, rather than having any direct associations with the hearth/oven (g3.1).

Subgroup 3.1 (Contexts: 60 34 59 75)
Hearth or oven

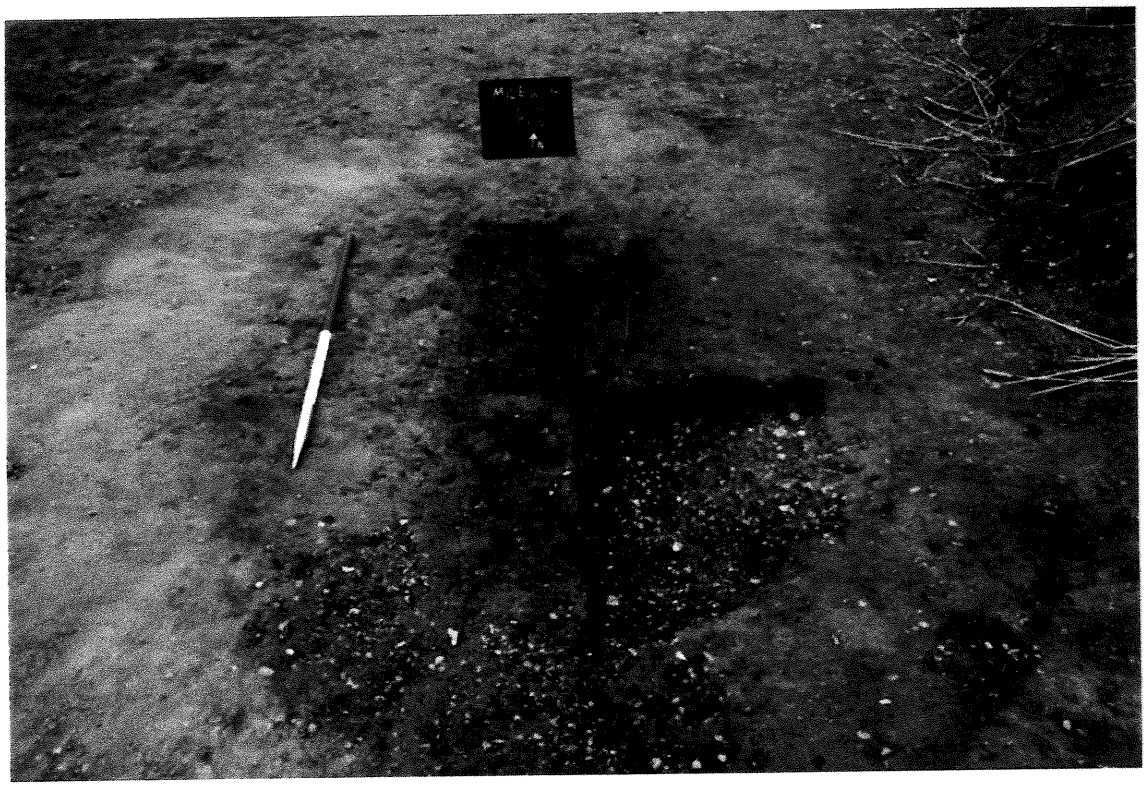

Plate 4 *Hearth **60** partially excavated*

60 was a shallow (0.12m) sub rectangular pit (1.03m x 0.7m) cut into natural. It contained three fills, 34, 59 and 75. The earliest fill, 75 was a firm dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional angular flints, 30mm thick. The deposit appeared to have been burnt or heated and except for this was very similar to the surrounding natural deposits suggesting that it had been caused by heat from an overlying fire. 59 lay above and was a firm brown silty sand including a large quantity of burnt daub fragments and occasional burnt flints and stones. The uppermost fill of the pit, 34, was a 90mm thick deposit of very dark greyish brown silty sand, it contained less burnt daub than 59, but burnt flints and stones were more frequent. The burnt daub was generally very small and fragmentary, although it was possible to see small possibly structural impressions on some pieces. A small number of very tiny sherds of pottery were found in this context, these are described as being very similar to sherds found in a cremation (g4) which may be early Bronze Age in date, however a tiny iron nail was also found in the lower fill of the feature, which unless intrusive probably dates the feature to at least the late Iron Age.

Subgroup 3.2 (Contexts: 221, 58 35 57, **62** 61, **91** 90, **97** 96, **99** 98 211 212 210, **101, 100, 113, 232** 233 234)
Beamslot and post holes, from which no dating evidence was recovered, however, its proximity to the hearth/oven suggests a tentative association with that structure, and therefore, a tentative date in the late Iron Age. The beamslot may have held a fence or lean to structure which was later replaced by a post built structure in the same location and possibly for the same purpose.

99 was a deep (0.44m) circular (0.5m diameter) post hole containing four fills, 98, 210, 211 and 212. The upper fill, 210 was an 0.08m thick deposit of firm olive brown silty sand and occasional fragments of burnt daub. It sealed 98, the fill of a post pipe (0.36m deep x 0.23m diameter), a firm dark greyish brown silty sand and 211/212 a firm olive brown stony silty sand. The post hole was cut through the eastern terminal of slot **221.**

101 was a moderately deep (0.18m) subcircular (0.32 x 0.4m)post hole with near vertical sides and an uneven base. It was filled by 100 and 113. The upper fill, 100 was an 0.09m thick deposit of soft brown sandy clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. Below was 113 an 0.09m thick deposit of soft yellowish brown sandy clay.

62 was a moderately shallow (0.10m) circular (0.10m diameter) possible stake hole with vertical sides and a sharply angled base. It was located in the base of **58**, and is likely to be contemporary with **58.** It was filled by 61 a soft brown sandy clay

91 was a shallow (0.14m) subcircular (0.42m x 0.35m) possible post hole with near vertical sides and a blunt tapering point at the base, filled by 90 and 198. The upper fill, 90, was a firm yellowish brown clayey silt. Below was 198, a firm yellowish brown clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks.

221 is the overall number assigned to a short (4.45m) linear with steep sided U shaped profile. The cut varied in depth between 0.09m and 0.18m. Several sections (58, 97, 232) were excavated through the feature.
58 (same as **97, 232**)was a shallow (0.18m) linear slot, with vertical sides and a flat base (0.5m wide). It was filled by 35 and 57. The upper fill, 35, was a soft yellowish brown sandy clay containing frequent fragments of burnt daub and moderate charcoal flecks. Below was 57 a soft, greyish brown sandy clay.
97 (same as **58, 232**) was a shallow (0.09m) linear slot with vertical sides and an irregular base (0.52m wide). It was filled by 96 a light olive brown clayey silt
232 (same as **58, 97**) was the moderately deep (0.38m) eastern terminal of slot **221**. It had vertical sides and a flat base (0.52m wide). A post hole, **99**, was located in this terminal, but had apparently been cut after the slot had been backfilled. The slot was filled by 233 and 234. The upper fill, 233 was a firm, very dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks, and occasional fragments of burnt daub. Below was 234, a firm, dark olive brown sandy silt with frequent flecks of charcoal and occasional fragments of burnt daub.

Subgroup 3.3 (contexts: 84 83 114**, 104** 103**, 106** 105)
Three possible post holes were located a short distance from the oven/hearth feature. They are tentatively interpreted as having an association with this feature.

84 was a very truncated shallow (0.11m) subcircular (0.34m x 0.23m) possible post hole. It had near vertical sides and a slightly concave base. It was adjacent to and earlier than **104,** and filled by 83, a possible post pipe, and 114. 83, the possible post pipe was a brown/dark brown silty sand, 114 was a strong brown silty sand. A sherd of ?Iron Age pottery was found in 83.

104 was a very truncated shallow (0.17m) circular (0.22m diameter) possible post hole with near vertical sides and a flat base. It was adjacent to **106**, and **84** which it truncated. It was filled by 103 a brown/dark brown silty sand.

106 was a very truncated shallow (0.09m) subcircular (0.10m x 0.21m) possible post hole, it had steep sides and a slightly concave base. It was filled by 105, a brown/dark brown silty sand.

Subgroup 3.4 (contexts **200** 199)
An isolated post hole was located 3.6m to the north-east of the hearth/oven and has tentatively been interpreted as associated with that feature. No dating evidence was recovered.

200 was a shallow (0.12m) subcircular (0.30m x 0.28m) possible post hole with vertical sides and an irregular base. It was filled by 199, an olive brown clayey silt.

6.4.3 **Context group 5** (contexts: **93** 5, **118** 45 117, **137** 136, **139** 138 152, **219** 172)
This group of features is made up of two irregular pits and three possible post holes situated in close proximity to each other. The irregular, oval shape of the two pits is somewhat reminiscent of a tree bowl, however, the presence of the possible post holes and small fragments of ?Iron Age pottery in the larger of the pits suggests that the features may well have been utilised, perhaps as a small shelter or lean to around a working are for example.

93 was a moderately deep (0.23m) circular (0.45m diameter) possible post hole with steep, slightly undercutting sides and a tapering, concave base. It was filled by 5, a firm yellowish brown sandy silt.

118 was a moderately deep (0.38m) irregular ovoid (2.1m x 1.1m) pit with steep sides and an irregular base. It was filled by 117 (=45), a soft brown/dark brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. Small sherds of ?Iron Age pottery were found in the fill.

137 was a shallow (0.14m) circular (0.3m diameter) possible post hole with steep, slightly undercutting sides and a flat base. It was filled by 136, a firm yellowish brown silty sand.

139 was a shallow (0.16m) circular (0.5m) possible post hole with steep, slightly undercutting sides and a flat base. It was filled by 138 and 152. 138 was a firm brownish yellow silty sand , while 152 was a soft dark yellowish brown silty clay.

219 was a shallow (0.2m) irregular ovoid (1.9m x 0.6m) pit with irregular sides and base. It was filled by 172 a firm silty sand

6.4.4 **Context group 6** (contexts: **116** 115, **208** 207)
Two shallow, subcircular pits were located close to structure g1. The pits were intercutting, suggesting two phases of use, which may have been associated with the two phases of use suggested for structure g1. Iron Age pottery was recovered from the backfills of **116**, the latest pit. No other finds were recovered from these very shallow pits, suggesting that they were unlikely to have been used for rubbish disposal, their function may have been associated with crop processing, given their close proximity to a possible granary.

116 was a shallow (0.22m) subcircular (0.95m x 0.51m) pit with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by 115 a firm dark yellowish brown sandy silt. Small fragments of ?Iron Age pottery were recovered from its fill. It truncated **208**.

208 was a shallow (0.18m) subcircular (0.67m x 0.45m) pit with gently sloping sides and an uneven base. It was filled by 207, a firm yellowish brown sandy silt. It was truncated by **116**.

6.4.5 **Context group 7 (subgroups 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4)**
This context group includes a number of post holes in close proximity, interpreted as belonging to the Later Iron Age period, on the grounds that several of them contained ?Iron

Age pottery, and those with no datable finds appeared to be associated. The post holes can be broken down into four subgroups (7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4), subgroups 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 each represents a separate structure. The interpretation of g7.1 and g7.3 is reasonably unproblematic, 7.2, however is more difficult and it is difficult to Know whether the post holes grouped under this number truly are associated with each other. If one interpretation, that they represent a round structure, is taken as correct, then there must be at least two phases of occupation represented by these post holes, since g7.1 and g7.2 interpreted as a round house could not co-exist. Subgroup g7.4 contains a single isolated post hole located south of g7.3, it does not appear to be related to any of the other structures, but had very similar characteristics, having evidence of a post pipe and Iron Age pottery to suggest some kind of association.

Subgroup 7.1 (Contexts **108/89** 88 107 , **111/109** 20 110 129, **112** 19 128, **184** 18 203, 230, ***290*** *293 294,* ***295*** *296 451,* ***297*** *298 452,* ***306*** *305*)
Eight post holes and one possible post hole (unexcavated) together formed a possible subrectangular structure. The eight excavated post holes were all very similar in character. They were all large, deep, steep sided circular cuts with evidence for post pipes and packing. Taking their spatial distribution and their character into account they almost certainly belong to a single structure. Two of the post holes at the corners of the east side of the building are likely to be replacements or additional supports to the corners. The central post or pit, probably had similar dimensions in plan, although this is unconfirmed as it was unexcavated and had been severely truncated by a post-medieval agricultural feature. Whether the post holes would have supported a raised platform structure similar to that in g1, or whether it would have been a more substantial building can only be a matter of conjecture, however, the post holes in this building were much larger and more substantial than those for g1 which may indicate that a more substantial building was erected here. Some of the post holes contained fragments of burnt daub suggesting that a wattle and daub structure must have existed nearby, and that this building may have had wattle and daub walls and a thatched roof. The dimensions of the building measuring from centre posts would have been 2.6m east-west x 2.7m north-south. It is likely that post hole **112** had replaced **184** at the south-east corner of the building on stratigraphic evidence. This information may be used in conjunction with the dimensions of the building to suggest that post hole **295** replaced post hole **297** at the north-east corner, whether these repairs to the structure at the same time, however, is impossible to know.

108 was a moderately deep (0.33m) circular (0.45m diameter) post hole with near vertical sides and a slightly concave base. It was filled by 107, a firm yellowish brown silty sand. A 0.2m diameter x 0.26m deep post pipe **89,** was observed in the post hole, whose fill, 88, was a dark yellowish brown silty clay. **108** was the post hole at the mid point of the west side of structure g7.1. ?Iron Age pottery was found in 88.

111 was a deep (0.46m) subcircular (0.99m x 0.58m) post hole with near vertical sides and a tapering concave base. It was filled by 110, a firm yellowish brown sandy clayey silt. On its north-eastern side it was filled by 129, a soft pale brown sandy silt. A post pipe, **109** was observed within the post hole, this was moderately deep (0.35m) and circular (0.36m diameter) with near vertical sides and tapering blunt base. It was filled by 20 a friable dark greyish brown silty sandy clay. **111** was the post hole at the south-west corner of g7.1. ?Iron Age pottery was found in 20.

112 was a deep (0.42m) subcircular(0.38m x 0.35m) post hole with vertical sides and a tapering base. It was filled by 19, a stiff yellowish brown sandy clay, which may represent a post pipe. Below was 128, a stiff brownish yellow silty sand with flecks of powdery ?chalk. Possibly truncated and replaced post hole **184** at the south-east corner of structure g7.1. ?Iron Age pottery and animal bone was found in 19.

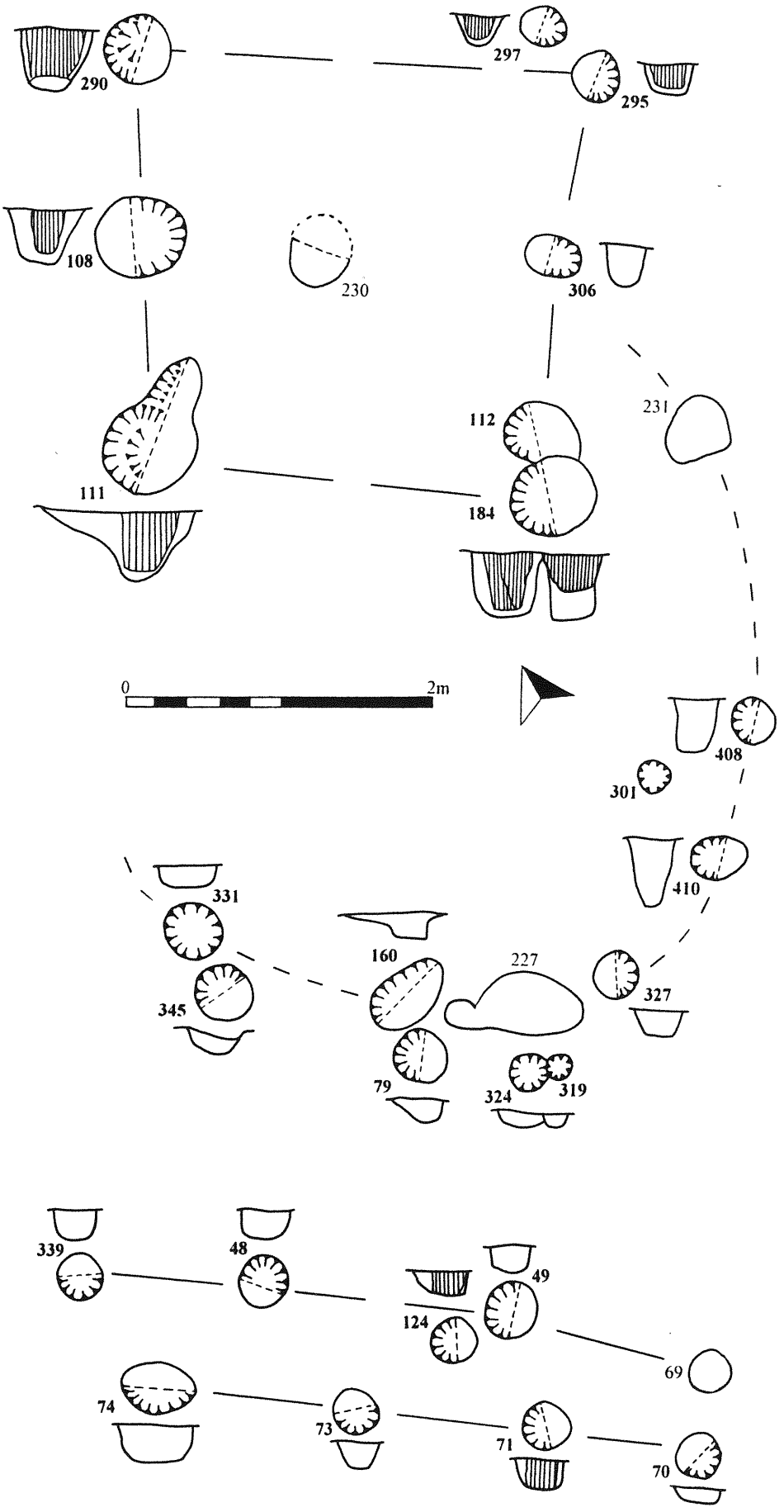

Figure 6 *Plan, profiles and interpretation of group 7 features*

184 was a deep (0.4m) circular (0.45m diameter) post hole with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by 203, a stiff yellowish brown slightly silty sand. A post pipe **204** was observed within the post hole, this was a moderately deep (0.33m) circular (0.34m diameter) cut. Two fills were seen within the cut with a vertical interface between them suggesting that they may represent a post and its replacement. The earliest was 205, a soft dark yellowish brown silty sand, the later fill was 18 (0.20m diameter), a soft very dark greyish brown clayey silty sand. It was truncated and probably replaced by post hole **112** at the south-east corner of structure g7.1.

230 (unexcavated) was at the centre of the ?rectangular structure g7.1. It was a circular (0.5m) deposit of brownish yellow sandy silt with occasional ?manganese flecks, which had been severely truncated by post-medieval agricultural activity (g14). It may have been a post hole or small pit.

290 (excavated 1995) was a moderately deep (0.37m) subcircular (0.45m x 0.42m) post hole with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by 316, post packing, a dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional daub fragments, and 317, post pipe, a dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. Small ?Iron Age pottery sherds, burnt daub, and animal bone fragments were found in the fills. ***290*** was the north-west post hole for structure g7.1

295 (excavated 1995) was a shallow (0.21m deep) subcircular (0.34m x 0.28m) post hole with steep, slightly undercutting sides and a concave base. It was filled by 451, post packing, and 296, a soft very dark greyish brown silty sandy clay. Occasional fragments of burnt flint were found in 296. ***295*** may supplement, replace, or be a replacement for ***297*** at the north-east corner of structure g7.1.

297 (excavated 1995) was a shallow (0.17m deep) circular (0.30m diameter) post hole with near vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled by 452, post packing, a compact dark brown silty clay, and 298, post pipe, a very dark greyish brown silty sandy clay. ?Iron Age pottery was found in 298. ***297*** may supplement, replace, or be a replacement for ***295*** at the north-east corner of structure g7.1.

306 (excavated 1995) was a shallow (0.23m) subcircular (0.37m x 0.26m) post hole . It was filled by 305, a dark greyish brown silty sandy clay with occasional small flecks of charcoal and fragments of daub. ***306*** was the mid post on the east side of structure g7.1.

Subgroup 7.2 (contexts: 17, **79** 16, **160** 159, 227, 231, ***301*** *302,* ***319*** *318,* ***324*** *323* ***331***,*330,* ***345*** *344,* ***408*** *407,* ***410*** *409*
A group of post holes, was situated immediately to the south of structure g7.1, these are difficult to assign to any one pattern, but the two most likely patterns are suggested and discussed here. A curve is evident on the double row of post holes, which include 17, 227, **160**, **331** and **345**, if this curve is then continued round to the north-east to include ***410***, ***408*** and 231, the arc forms almost half a circle. The addition of **306**, 230 and **111** from g7.1 takes this circle round even further. This circle of post holes might then have been formed by a round house type building. This tentative building would have been approximately 4.5m in diameter, which is perhaps somewhat small for a house of this type as several have been excavated of 10m and more in diameter (Darvill, 1987). Unfortunately, even if it were possible to confirm that these post holes do represent a round house it is not possible to indicate whether it was earlier or later than the rectangular building g7.1. Certainly the two buildings could not have co-existed, but stratigraphic and finds information are insufficient to define a sequence.

A second possibility is that these post holes are not part of a round house at all, but are instead part of a fenced field system, and that the apparent arcing of the posts is not real. In this case, ***331***, ***345***, **160**, **79**, 227, ***324***, **319** and 17 would form a double row of posts running parallel with and approximately 1.5m to the north of post hole alignment g7.3. ***410***, ***408*** and

231 would then form a second single line roughly at right angles and leading towards the north. In this alternative, structure 7.1 and the fence lines 7.2 and 7.3 could exist at the same time. The character of the post holes is not particularly helpful in trying to ascertain whether either of these alternatives is more likely, since they vary greatly in both dimensions and character of fill, although the lack of burnt daub in any of the fills may be significant, perhaps suggesting they are less likely to belong with a structure with wattle and daub walls.

17 (unexcavated) 0.28m diameter, soft very dark greyish brown clay sand silt with frequent charcoal flecks. Possible post hole fill

79 was a moderately deep (0.18m) circular (0.3m diameter) post hole with moderately steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by 16, a soft dark yellowish brown silty sandy clay.

160 was a moderately deep (0.19m) subcircular (0.55m x 0.39m) post hole with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by 159, a soft yellowish brown clayey silty sand with frequent gravel.

227 (unexcavated) subcircular (0.6m x 0.39m) deposit of dark yellowish brown silty sand. Possible fill of a post hole

231 (unexcavated) circular (0.25m diameter) deposit of soft dark brown silty sand. Possible fill of a post hole

301 was a moderately deep (0.18m) circular (0.20m diameter) post hole with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by *302*, a firm brown clayey silt with occasional flecks of charcoal.

319 was a shallow (0.09m) circular (0.15m diameter) post hole with slightly undercutting sides and concave base. It was filled by *318*, a soft dark yellowish brown clayey silt.

324 was a shallow (0.12m) subcircular (0.32m x 0.3m) post hole with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by *323*, a dark greyish brown clay silt with occasional flecks of charcoal. ?Iron Age pottery was recovered from its fill.

331 was a shallow (0.16m) circular (0.43m diameter) post hole with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by *330*, a firm olive brown silty gravel. The post hole was truncated by a post-medieval agricultural feature (g14).

345 was a moderately deep (0.28m) subcircular (0.44m x 0.40m) post hole with steep, slightly undercutting sides and a concave base. It was filled by *344*, a firm light olive brown sandy clayey silt.

408 was a moderately deep (0.37m) circular (0.4m diameter) post hole with vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled by *407*, a firm brownish yellow slightly silty sand.

410 was a deep (0.47m) circular (0.36m diameter) post hole with vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled by *409*, a firm yellowish brown slightly silty sand.

Subgroup 7.3 (contexts: **48** 47, **49** 14, **69**, **70** 12, **71** 13, **72**, **73**, **74**, **124** 15 127, **226**, ***320*** *321 322*, ***337*** *336*, ***339*** *338*, ***347*** *346*, ***364*** *365*.
A group of nine post holes formed a double alignment on an east-west orientation approximately five metres to the south of structure g7.1. The line is approximately five metres long and one metre wide. the post holes are fairly regularly spaced and staggered.

48 was a shallow (0.13m) subcircular (0.35m x 0.3m) post hole with vertical sides. It was filled by 47, a brown/dark brown sandy silt.

49 was a shallow (0.17m) subcircular post hole (0.32m x 0.27m) with vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled by 14, a loose dark brown clayey silt.

69 (unexcavated) was a circular (0.3m diameter) deposit of dark greyish brown silty sand, probably the fill of a post hole.

70 (=*364*) circular (0.35m diameter) post hole filled by 12, a dark greyish brown silty sand.

71 (=*320*) was a moderately deep (0.22m) circular (0.38m diameter) post hole filled by 13, a firm very dark greyish brown sandy silt.

72 (=**124**) post hole.

73 (=*347*) was a circular (0.27m diameter) post hole filled by silty sand

74 (=*337*) was a subcircular (0.35m x 0.30m) post hole filled by a very dark greyish brown sandy silt.

124 (=**72**) was a shallow (0.14m) subcircular (0.32m x 0.28m) post hole with tapering sides at the top becoming vertical towards a concave base filled by 15 and 127. 15, the post pipe, was a soft dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal. A vertical interface existed between 15 and the surrounding deposit 127, a loose, friable dark yellowish brown fine sand.

226 (=*339*) was a circular (0.28m diameter) post hole filled by a very dark greyish brown silty sand.

320 (=**71**) was a moderately deep (0.27m) circular (0.43m diameter) post hole with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by 322, interpreted as a post pipe, a very dark greyish brown sandy clay and 321, a dark brown sandy clay. Occasional fragments of animal bone were found in the fill.

337 (=**74**) was a moderately deep (0.26m) subcircular (0.52m x 0.45m) post hole with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by 336, a very dark greyish brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional animal bone fragments.

339 (=**226**) was a moderately deep (0.23m) circular (0.3m diameter) post hoe with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by 338, a very dark greyish brown sandy clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and burnt daub.

347 (=**73**) was a moderately deep (0.2m) subcircular (0.3m x 0.38m) post hole with steep, slightly undercutting sides and a concave base. It was filled by 346, a dark yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and a sherd of ?Iron Age pottery.

364 (=**70**) was a shallow (0.17m) subcircular (0.38m x 0.36m) post hole with steep, slightly undercutting sides and a concave base. It was filled by 365, a dark greyish brown clayey silt with common charcoal flecks , occasional fragments of burnt daub and a sherd of ?Iron Age pottery.

Subgroup 7.4 (contexts: **50** 63 11)
A single post hole was located to the south of the post hole alignment g7.3, its similarity in character and the presence of similar pottery within its fills leads to the conclusion that the post hole may be associated with the others in g7. Any associations are not spatially clear, however, and the post hole may represent an entirely separate structure.

50 was a moderately deep (0.34m) subcircular (0.44m x 0.36m) post hole with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by 63 a loose yellowish brown slightly silty sandy clay, above

was 11, possibly a post pipe, a compact very dark greyish brown sandy silt and gravel. ?Iron Age pottery was found in 11.

6.4.6 **Context group 8** (contexts: **239**, 235, 236, 238, **240**, 28, 206, 213, 228
Located on the eastern edge of the excavation was a large pit 239 and a small pit 240, both of which were truncated by ditch g2 (phase 6). The large pit was approximately subrectangular in shape, with dimensions in plan of at least 2.8m x 3m, and more than 0.7m deep from the machined surface (1.2m below ground level). It was not possible to complete excavation of this pit due to its close proximity to the edge of the excavation making it unsafe to excavate any deeper. The pit, contained a good assemblage of pottery and animal bone, however, as well as some potentially waterlogged deposits at a deeper level, it would therefore be useful to return to this pit and excavate it fully at a later date. The pit may have functioned as a rubbish pit over a long period of time, since pottery recovered showed distinct differences between upper and lower fills, the deposition of 236, a clean deposit, probably derived from local geology, suggests the possibility that the pit reached a hiatus in its use, allowing the natural redeposition of surrounding geology into the pit, or that a deliberate dumping of natural was made, perhaps to seal and cover earlier rubbish deposits. The pit may also have had a primary function as a well, although this is unclear without further excavation. Pottery in this pit was also interesting for its wide range of types and fabrics, which apparently reflected all those seen over the rest of the site, perhaps lending support to its interpretation as a rubbish pit which continued in use over a long period of time. It is also suggested that its close proximity to the possible house or houses, g7, described above, may indicate a close association, and that the occupants of the g7 structure or structures, may have deposited their rubbish in this nearby pit.

The pit was excavated in two segments, one two ascertain the profile of the pit if possible and a second to confirm profile, and in addition to ascertain the relationship of the pit with ditch g2 (phase 6).

239 was a deep (>0.7m) subrectangular (>3m x >2.8m) pit with steep sides and an unknown base as it was not fully excavated. It was filled by 28, 187, 188, 206, 213, 228, 235, 236, and 238. 28 was the number allocated to initial cleaning over pits 239 and 240. Below 28 in the northern excavated segment was 187, the upper fill in the northern excavated segment of the pit, this was an 0.16m thick deposit of soft and friable olive brown clayey sand with occasional small flints and pebbles. 187 may be the same as 188, the upper fill in the southern excavated segment, although it differs in its description. Below 187 was 213, an 0.35m thick deposit of soft and friable olive brown silty sand with moderate subrounded flints and pebbles. 213 may be the same as 206 in the southern excavated segment of the pit. Below 213 was 228, a soft very 'organic' dark olive brown silty clay with frequent charcoal. 228 may be the same as 235, excavated in the southern segment of the pit. Below 228 was a 0.10m thick band of redeposited natural against the edges of the cut.
Below 28, and truncated by **65** (g2, phase 6) in the southern excavated segment was 188 an 0.17m thick deposit of firm dark yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional small subangular stones
Below 188 was 206, a firm brown/dark brown clayey silt with frequent. subangular stones and chalk. 206 may be the same as 213 excavated in the northern segment of the pit although the descriptions differ. Below 206 was 235, a soft very 'organic' dark olive brown clayey sand with frequent pebbles, charcoal, animal bone and pottery fragments. 235 may be the same as 228 in the northern excavated segment, the descriptions are very similar. Below 235 was 238, a soft light olive brown clayey sand with occasional pebbles and charcoal. Also below 235 was 236, a firm yellowish brown silty sand which was notably less 'organic than 235, and may have derived from the natural, perhaps suggesting a hiatus in the use of the pit as a rubbish pit, or a deliberate deposition of natural clean soil to cover and seal rubbish deposits. No further excavation was undertaken below this level.

6.4.7 **Context group 9 (subgroups 9.1, 9.2)**
A group of pits, most of which contained some evidence to suggest they were backfilled during the same period as nearby structures. These have been subdivided into two subgroups, 9.1 and 9.2, described below.

Subgroup 9.1 (contexts: **191** 190)
This pit was only partially excavated, but its size, the irregularity of the sides, and homogeneity of the fill suggest that it may have been dug to extract gravel. Finds from its fill were very sparse, but a group of flint flakes which had probably derived from flint knapping suggest an association with nearby features where flint flakes and tools were found. It has been suggested in the flint report, however, that the flint assemblage would not be out of place in a late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age context. Unless the flint flakes are residual (a possibility given the apparent residuality in other features found in subgroup 9.2 below for example), then this feature may belong to an earlier phase.

191 was an incompletely excavated (>0.21m) large subrectangular (4.14m x 3.33m) pit, filled by 190, a light olive brown silty sand containing several flint chips, probably from flint knapping.

Subgroup 9.2 (contexts **171** 170 177 178, **182** 181)
Two shallow subcircular pits were excavated in close proximity to one another. Each contained ?Iron Age pottery, and 171 also contained burnt daub fragments, and a burnt flint scraper. It has been suggested that the scraper would have been made near a hearth, possibly using heat in the process of manufacture. The flint scraper may even have been made at the side of hearth g3.1 which was located approximately fifteen metres to the north-west. The presence of the burnt daub also establishes a tenuous link with the hearth, and perhaps with the six post structure g7.1, several post holes of which also contained burnt daub fragments.

171 was a shallow (0.23m) subcircular (1.02m x 0.82m) pit with vertical to slightly undercutting sides and a flat base, it was filled by 170, 177 and 178. The earliest fill was 170, a 0.06m thick deposit of yellowish brown clayey silty sand. Above was 177 a 0.05m thick deposit of light olive brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks, burnt flint and ?Iron Age pottery. 178 was the upper fill of the pit, this was a 0.13m thick deposit of friable olive brown silty sand with moderate flecks of charcoal, and occasional fragments of burnt daub, ?Iron Age pottery and a burnt flint scraper.

182 was a shallow (0.26m) oval (2m x 1.4m) pit with very irregular sides and an irregular base. It was filled by 181, a soft light grey silt with occasional charcoal fragments and ?Iron Age pottery.

6.4.8 **Context group 11** (contexts: **150** 149, **194** 43, **195** 189, **201** 41, **202** 42, **223** 193, **224** 222)
In the northern area of excavation (D2) a third post hole alignment was observed and excavated. This alignment was on the same orientation as post hole alignments g7.2 and g7.3. It was not as regular as either of these, however, and the post holes within the alignment were of widely differing dimensions, and were spaced at somewhat irregular intervals. Nevertheless it is still possible to observe a very similar alignment consisting of two roughly parallel rows of post holes or small pits. ?Iron Age pottery was recovered from a number of the post holes suggesting an Iron Age date for the alignment in keeping with alignments g7.2 and g7.3. The dimensions of the alignment are approximately eight metres long and one metre wide, making it rather longer than either of the other alignments, it may be that all three are part of a system of fences around Iron Age fields or paddocks.

150 was a shallow (0.15m) subcircular (0.42m x 0.32m) post hole with near vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by 149 a soft greyish brown sandy silt.

194 was a shallow (0.18m) subcircular (0.66m x 0.5m) post hole or small pit. It was filled by 43 a dark yellowish brown silty sand.

195 was a moderately deep (0.23m) subcircular (0.34m x 0.3m) post hole with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by 189, a soft olive brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal and ?Iron Age pottery.

201 was a shallow (0.15m) subcircular (0.42m x 0.36m) post hole with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by 41 a soft dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal.

202 was a moderately deep (0.26m) subcircular (0.55m x 0.38m) post hole with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by 42 a soft dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal.

223 was a moderately deep (0.22m) subcircular (0.70m x 0.63m) pit or post hole with near vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled by 193 a soft light olive brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and ?Iron Age pottery..

224 was a shallow (0.16m) subcircular (0.35m x 0.25m) post hole with vertical sides and flat base. It was filled by 222 a soft sandy silt with occasional charcoal, ?Iron Age pottery and animal bone.

6.5 Phase 5 Late Iron Age/?Early Roman (Context Group 2)

A shallow ditch on an approximately north-south orientation, this ditch followed the same orientation as other linear features interpreted as medieval plough furrows (g13) and post-medieval agricultural features (g14). It was distinguished from both these, however, by the character of its fills, finds found within its fills and its location (it did not occur in the appropriate position relative to other medieval furrows to be interpreted as part of that group of features). Five sections were excavated across the ditch, each section was given different cut and fill numbers, although they are now interpreted as one feature. The ditch could be seen for 23 metres and varied in width from 0.84m to 1.60m and was 0.22m deep. The ditch continued beyond the edge of the excavation to the south, but its northern end within the excavation was difficult to identify due to the presence of a large deep pit (g8), which the ditch appeared to cut, although this relationship was uncertain. The ditch did not appear to continue north of the pit and may therefore either have terminated or turned eastwards before it reached the northern edge of the pit, this may also explain why the ditch could not be identified cutting through 187 and 188, the upper fills of the pit.

6.5.1 Context group 2 (contexts: **65** 56, **66** 55, **67** 54, **130** 119 131,)

65 had a shallow (0.27m) gradual U shaped profile (1.30m wide), filled by 65 a yellowish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal. It cut into the top of fill 206 in pit **239** (g8) to the north but was not visible within the other upper fills 187 and 188 of the pit.
66 had a shallow (0.22m) gradual U shaped profile (1.6m wide), filled by 55 a soft light olive brown clayey sand
67 had a shallow (0.22m) gradual U shaped profile (0.84m wide), filled by 54 a soft yellowish brown sand.

130 had a shallow (0.20m) gradual U shaped profile (1m wide), filled by 119 friable brown silty sand

6.6 Phase 6 Medieval (context group 13)

Three linear features were observed in both the north and south excavated areas on an approximately north-south orientation. These were all of a similar width, and where excavated their depths and profiles were consistent. They were all located an equal distance apart of 8.5m. The character of the features and their regular spacing suggests that they are the remnants of medieval plough furrows. A fourth possible furrow was located at the eastern edge of area D1, approximately 17m to the east of the most easterly of the three equidistant linear features. The area stripped was large enough to accommodate at least another three of these features at 8.5m apart, although no more were observed, however, the reasons for which are unclear.

6.6.1 Context group 13 (contexts: 31 33 37 51, **145** 135, **197** 196, **216** 215,)

30 was the soft yellowish brown silty sand fill of a shallow (0.14m) linear (>1.5m x >16m) cut with gradually sloping sides to an irregular concave base. It was probably the fill of a plough furrow.

31(= 33, 37, 51) shallow (0.15m) brownish yellow silty sand fill of a north-south linear (2.5m x >80m) cut, with irregular shallow sides and irregular concave base. Probably the fill of a plough furrow, a sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the surface of 37.

145 was a shallow (0.16m) linear (2m x >80m) cut with very gradual sides to a concave base. It was filled by 135, a firm dark yellowish brown fine sand.

197 was a shallow (0.13m) linear (0.9m x >80m) cut with very gradually sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It was filled by 196, a yellowish brown sandy clayey silt with occasional small brick fragments. It was immediately adjacent to and on the same alignment as **216**, but the relationship between the two was unclear.

216 was a shallow (0.15m) linear (1.05m x >80m) cut with very gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by 215, a soft brownish yellow silty sand, no finds were recovered. See **197** for comments.

6.7 Phase 7 Post-Medieval (context groups 14, 15, 16

Three groups of features were located on the excavated areas which could be attributed to the post-medieval period, probably 19th century and later. A group (g14) of linear features were thought to be post medieval agricultural features due to their character and finds recovered from their fills. These features were on a similar orientation to both the medieval plough furrows and the prehistoric features on the site, and had been mistakenly identified during the evaluation (MILEW95) as being prehistoric in date. A second post-medieval group of features were 19th and 20th century land drains (g15) which crossed the site at regular intervals. Several phases of land drains could be identified, but may be broadly described as 19th century or earlier drains on an

approximately north-south orientation and leading towards a now disused ditch along Butt Lane, and the modern land drains which are still in use and on an approximately east-west orientation, leading towards a ditch on the east side of the track which bounds the field to the east. The earlier drains were generally much shallower than the more modern ones and tended to follow the line of the medieval plough furrows, suggesting that the furrows could have been seen as earthworks when the drains were dug, and that the hollows created by the furrow had been utilised when laying out drainage pipes.

6.7.1 **Context group 14** (contexts: **82** 78, **87** 77, **95** 94, **126** 125, **183 155** 154 **175** 134 179, **185 174** 173 **217** 218)
Post-medieval agricultural features

82 was a shallow (0.1m) approximately north-south orientated linear (0.42m x 3.5m) with irregular sides and an uneven base. It was filled by 78 a soft, friable olive brown silty sand. It continued in a straight line from **87**, **95** and **126**. Post-medieval glass was recovered from its fill.

87 was a shallow (0.1m) approximately north-south orientated linear (0.42m x 5m) with gently sloping sides and an uneven base. It was filled by 77, a friable dark olive brown silty sand. It continued in a straight line from **82**, **95** and **126.** Post-medieval glass, slag and iron were found in its fill.

95 was a shallow (0.15m) approximately north-south orientated linear (0.5m x 2.64m) with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. It was filled by 94 a soft dark yellowish brown silty sand. It continued a straight line from **82**, **87** and **126**. Slag, clay tobacco pipe and mortar fragments were found in its fill.

126 was a shallow (0.15m) approximately north-south orientated linear (0.46m x >4.5m) with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by 125, a soft dark yellowish brown silty sand. It continued a straight line from **82**, **87** and **95**.

183 was the overall number assigned to a shallow (0.08-0.27m) interrupted linear (0.65m x 6m) on an approximately east-west orientation. It comprised cuts 155 and 175 described below. **183** was parallel with and five metres to the north of **185**.
155 (=175) was a shallow (0.15m) approximately east-west orientated linear (0.69m x 6m) with gradual, irregular sides and an irregular base. It was filled by 154 a loose, friable dark yellowish brown silty sand.
175 (=155) was a shallow (0.27m) approximately east-west orientated linear with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by 134, and 179. The upper fill, 134, was a soft brown/dark brown silty sand with brick fragments. The lower fill, 179, was a soft yellowish brown medium sand with occasional fragments of slag.

185 was the overall number assigned to a shallow (0.08m) interrupted linear (0.64m x 7m) on an approximately east-west orientation. It comprised cuts **174** and **217** described below. 185 was parallel with and five metres to the south of **183**.
174 was a shallow (0.08m) approximately east-west orientated linear (0.63m x 2.4m) with gradual sides and a flat base. It was filled by 173 a loose dark yellowish brown sandy silt.
217 was a very shallow (0.05m) approximately east-west orientated linear (0.6m x 1.8m) with gradual sides and a flat base. It was filled by 218, a soft mottled dark brown silty sand.

6.7.2 **Context group 15** (contexts **86** 85, **147** 146, **180**)
19th and 20th century land drains. The 19th century and earlier land drains all followed a similar approximately north-south orientation, only a small sample of these were excavated and recorded. The 20th century land drains followed an approximately east-west orientation,

excavation of these was only undertaken where necessary to prevent contamination of a nearby earlier feature.

86 was a moderately deep (0.3m) linear (0.59m x >50m) with vertical, irregular sides and a flat base. It was filled by 85 a soft yellowish brown sandy clay

180 was an unrecorded field drain.

147 was an unrecorded field drain filled by 146

6.7.3 **Context group 16** (contexts 1, 2, 29, 46, 131, 186)
Topsoil, subsoil and cleaning layers.

1 was a 0.43m maximum thickness deposit of compact very dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil, it overlay 2.

2 was a 0.3m maximum thickness deposit of compact olive brown sandy silt subsoil. It lay physically above and sealed all archaeological features.

46 was a cleaning Layer

186 was a cleaning layer.

131 was a cleaning layer.

6.8 Unphased

Several features were excavated but contained no indicators which could be used to phase them, these are described below.

140 was a shallow (0.08m) subcircular (0.28m x 0.2m) ?post hole with very steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by 133 a firm dark yellowish brown silty sand.

141 was a shallow (0.09m) subcircular (0.28m x 0.16m) ?post hole with vertical sides and an uneven base. It was filled by 36 a dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks, and 144, a dark yellowish brown sandy gravel.

156 was a shallow (0.06m) subcircular (0.28m x 0.23m) ?post hole with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by 25, a firm olive brown silty sand.

214 was a shallow (0.32m) oval (0.49m x 0.84m) pit with gentle sides and a flat base. It was filled by 32, a firm dark yellowish brown silty sand.

6.9 Unexcavated features

A small number of features were observed but unexcavated, these were ?pit fills 26, 21, 241, ?linear fill 27, ?post hole fills 22, 23, 40, 44, 229

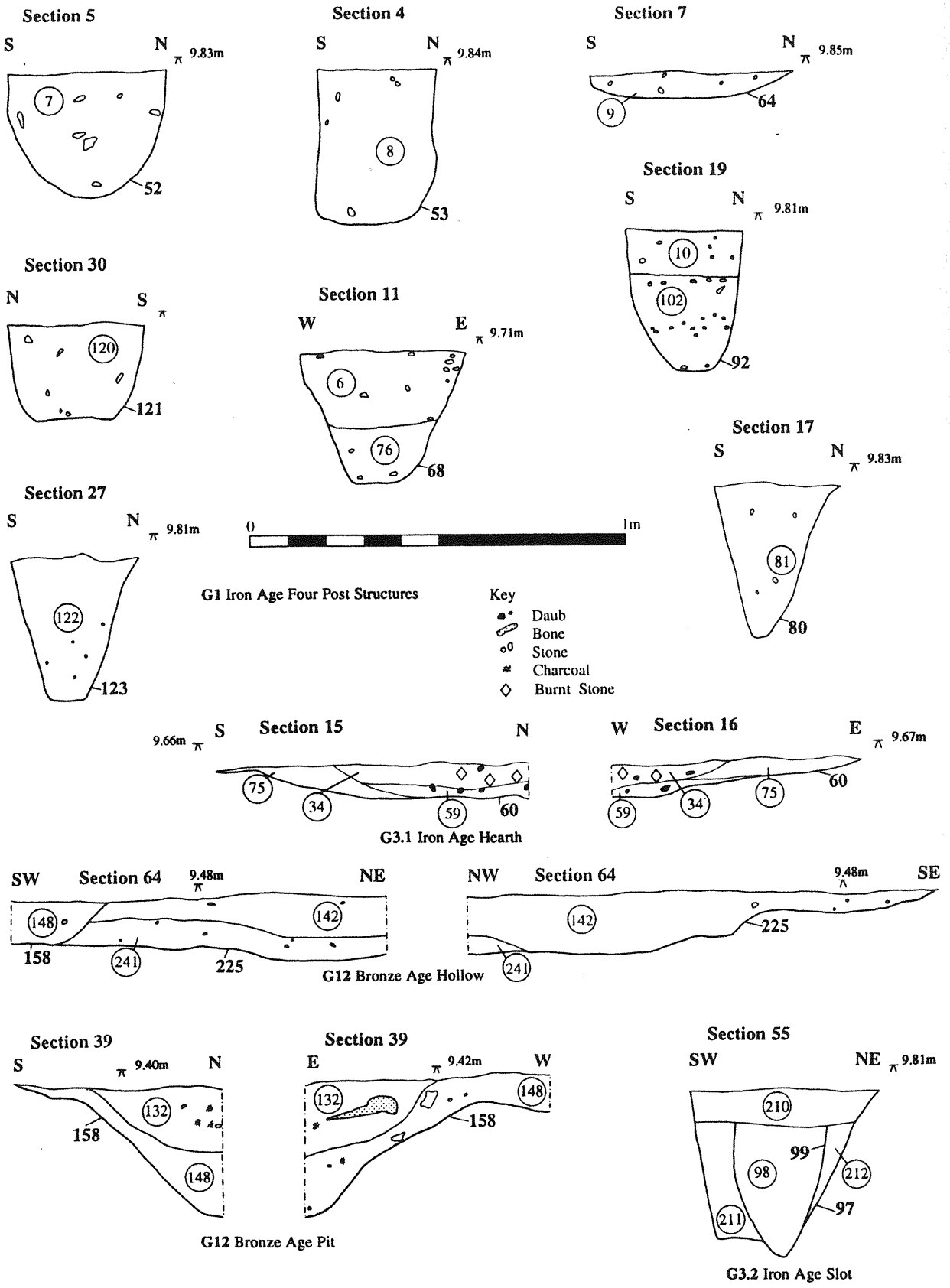

Figure 7 *Section drawings*

7 THE POTTERY

by Jonathon Last

Summary

The pottery from the Milton 1995 evaluation (phase V) and 1996 excavations (phase VI) is predominantly of later Iron Age date. The small mean sherd size and general lack of diagnostic elements makes more precise attributions difficult, with finer chronological information forthcoming only in terms of the presence and proportions of different fabric groups, principally the 'gritty' and 'sandy' types. The greatest density of material and largest sherds derive from pit 239, which is distinctive in terms of fabrics as well as preservation and presents some unusual features. In addition to the Iron Age material there is a group of coarse grog-tempered material which can probably be assigned to the middle Bronze Age.

7.1 Introduction

The pottery from Milton VI, like that from the Phase V evaluation, generally consists of poorly-preserved body sherds. The fabrics are usually friable although not soft: surfaces often remained resistant to scratching by fingernail. Other characteristics of the assemblage as a whole include the low frequency of diagnostic pieces (just 14 rim sherds) and of fine wares (slips, burnishes, and non-plastic decoration). Surface treatments are largely restricted to wiping or scraping of exteriors, producing fine striations, while decoration is limited to fingertip impressions, particularly on the tops of rims.

The biggest single group of finds came from the large feature 239 which was characterised by a relatively high proportion of shelly fabrics. The largest sherds and most diagnostic elements derive from this feature, which is discussed in detail below.

The remainder of the assemblage is sufficiently small and abraded that many of the fragments could be residual. The best way to differentiate contexts is again in terms of fabrics since variability is quite high, although their precise chronological significance often remains obscure. Most sherds have reddish-brown oxidised or partly oxidised surfaces with a grey core, but some are oxidised throughout and others completely unoxidised. Most significant variation, however, occurs in terms of the types and density of inclusion.

The fabrics can be divided into the same groups assigned for the MILEW95 evaluation assemblage (appendix), although the proportions differ somewhat. Group 1 fabrics (gritty, flint-or quartz-tempered) make up only 8% of the assemblage by count, while Group 2 (sandy) fabrics comprise around 50%. The remainder of the assemblage includes Groups 3 (5%), 4 (12%) and 5 (1%) while the distinctive Group 6 material here makes up almost 25% of the total number of sherds (Table 1). Hence there is a larger pre-Iron Age component (Group 6) than in the Milton V assemblage, primarily focussed on a small

number of features, but from the proportion of gritty and sandy fabrics, and the large number of sherds with at least occasional grog inclusions, the Iron Age material may on the whole be slightly later.

7.2 Diagnostic elements

Nothing in the assemblage suggests the presence of Neolithic or early Bronze Age material; the only possible exception is the pottery from the 'cremation' in pit 143, which includes some grooved decoration and a band of triangular impressions bordered by an incised line (Fig. 8.1). This is the only non finger-impressed decoration from the site and is somewhat reminiscent of Beaker motifs. The inclusions of sparse grog and sand do not rule this out but the sherds are so tiny and few in number that a definite attribution is not possible. However, further tiny fragments of a very similar fabric came from feature **60**, which is described not as a cremation but a hearth.

Diagnostic elements outside pits **158** and **239** (see below for these) came from the following contexts:
56 (ditch **65**) - 2 small rims, one in sandy fabric with possible fingertip impression, the other plain, probably inturned, with sand and grog.
181 (pit **182**) - 1 rim, everted, grog-tempered. Abraded but perhaps wheelmade and probably Belgic or Roman.

Other decorated fragments, apart from the possible cremation, came from:
34 (hearth **60**) - possible shallow groove on small body sherd.
115 (pit **116**) - possible fingertip impression on body sherd.
117 (pit **118**) - possible impression on small body sherd (but this could merely be a large void on the external surface).

This short list indicates the paucity of diagnostics and decoration generally.

7.3 Spatial Distributions

Of the minority fabric groups, flint-gritted wares, usually mixed with sand and other mineral inclusions, come from a variety of contexts which are not localised within the site (post-holes **50**, **68**, **84**, **112**, **195**; ditch fills 37, 54 and 119; pits **116** and **223**). No diagnostic sherds were found apart from one body in pit **116** which has possible shallow finger impressions. The only flint-gritted rim sherd comes from an unstratified context (1005E/1025N) and represents a straight but somewhat inturned form. The common, very coarse fragments of angular calcined flint, without other mineral inclusions, in this sherd set it apart from all the stratified material: it is probably later Bronze Age or early Iron Age in date.

The shell-tempered fabrics (Group 4) are also distinctive. Two broad fabric types are represented: one with sparse shell and sand (4a), the other with dense shell (4b). The former group at least may represent fossil shell naturally

occurring within the clay. As well as pit **239**, which included both types, the shelly wares derive from post-holes **109** (4b) and **112** (4a), which are relatively close to **239**, and ditch fills 54 (4a) and 119 (a tiny piece which could well be residual).

Group 3 fabrics of Iron Age type came from post-hole **64** and pit **182** only, although many of the sandy fabrics also have sparse or rare grog inclusions. Mixed fabrics with flint, grog and sand came from post-hole **89**, pit **116** and ditch fill 119. Group 6 fabrics with coarse grog/clay inclusions, a distinctive light-coloured, corky fabric, thick walls and cracked or crazed surfaces came from post-hole **121**, ditch-fill 65, pit **171** and especially from pit **158**. Some of the material from pit **239** is similar as well (see below). The majority of the pieces in **158** came from layer 132 with evidence of heavy burning, which may indicate this material acquired its distinctive appearance through heat damage.

In order to assess the distribution of different types of material I divided the site into different zones or groups of features. Several of the post-holes contained pottery, although, as mentioned, there is always the possibility of residuality and later intrusion in this type of feature. The two largest features (**158** and **239**) are considered separately.

7.3.1 South-east and east

Variety is certainly seen in the group 1 post-holes (**52**, **53**, **64**, **68**, **121** and **123**), most of which contained Iron Age fabrics of Groups 1, 2 and 3, but post-hole **121** contained several fragments of Group 6 wares with varying densities of coarse grog inclusions.

Pits **118** and **116** contain primarily Iron Age sandy fabrics as well as some gritty fabrics. The latter context is typical of the Iron Age assemblage here, with three plain sherds of different fabrics and colours. One has light brown surfaces and paste with moderate medium/coarse flint, sparse coarse grog and sparse fine/medium sand. A second sherd has a reddish-brown exterior, dark brown interior and grey core with moderate sand and sparse flint. The third is similar in colour but thicker, with common sand and a few voids which may indicate organic inclusions.

The eastern group of post-holes (**49**, **50**, **89**, **109**, **112** and **124**) also produced a variety of fabrics but related features seem to have similar material: later Iron Age shelly fabrics, of different type, are found in 109 and 112, which may form part of the same structure, while 49, 50 and 124 had sherds of Groups 1 and 2 only. But 89 contained a rather coarse flint-gritted sherd, which could be earlier.

7.3.2 Centre and west

In the central area pits **171** and **182** are the major features, and display some stratigraphy. The former has a late Iron Age sand-tempered sherd in its upper fill 170 but a mixture of coarser fabrics in the lower 177, including two thick

sherds of Group 6 type with sparse very coarse grog inclusions. One fragment is part of a flat base. Pit **182** contained only the abraded late rimsherd mentioned above. These adjacent circular features do not therefore appear to be contemporary.

In the west of the site only post-hole **84** had finds, again of sandy and gritty types. One group in the northern part of the site (**150**, **194**, **195** and **224**) had primarily Group 2 material, though **194** included an intrusive modern sherd. The adjacent pit **223** had rather coarse flint-gritted sherds similar to that from post-hole **195**.

7.4 Linear features

The linear features of various type at Milton frequently include modern ceramics (**86**, **87** and **95**) although the last of these also contained a sherd of late Iron Age or Roman type. Ditch **67** in the east of the site contained Iron Age sandy fabrics and a sherd of Roman grey ware. Iron Age material also came from contexts 37, 55, 56 and plough furrow **135** but clearly these assemblages should be treated with caution.

7.5 Pit 158

North of these features post-hole **153** had fragments of grogged fabrics of Group 6 type, resembling the assemblage from the adjacent pit **158**. This pit had four fills. 151 and 148 had a number of sherds of Group 6 (coarsely grogged) type, one of which (in 151) has a thickening which may represent part of a raised cordon. 132 had small fragments of similar type as well as abraded and indeterminate sandy fragments similar to some in posthole **50**, which also included an Iron Age gritty sherd. The upper fill 39 had numerous thick Group 6 sherds with light brown, oxidised surfaces and grey cores, including two rims: one appears to be slightly inturned and is pointed or internally bevelled with a finger-nail impression on the bevel; the other is upright, internally expanded and plain (Fig. 8.2). Of the remaining sherds one might be a fragment of a flat rim; another has a possible finger impression.

This assemblage helps to define the Group 6 material: thick-walled, straight-sided vessels with no sign of shoulders or carinations, flat bases (as in pit 171) and occasional finger impressions on rims and bodies. The grogged fabrics, lack of angular forms and scarcity of decoration suggest Urn-derived forms of middle to later Bronze Age date, perhaps akin to the possible domestic assemblage from Field OS 172 at Witton in Norfolk (Lawson 1983: 34-5). This should predate the 10th century BC, by when 'post-Deverel-Rimbury' plain ware assemblages with flint-tempered bowls and shouldered jars are found at sites like Cambridge Green End Road (Barrett 1980).

7.6 Pit 239

The other significant feature is pit **239** which in terms of ceramic typology and preservation also stands apart from the rest of the site (Table 2).

239 was dug in two sections and contains three main fills, although it was not bottomed. The lowest excavated deposits are represented by contexts 228 and 235. They include material of three overlapping types. The first includes common sand and rare/sparse very coarse grog; the second generally has sparse/moderate sand and varying amounts of grog as well as a little shell; the third has predominantly shell temper but in varying concentrations and often mixed with some grog and sand. Surface colours again vary. The most unusual feature is the presence of coarse grog akin to the Group 6 (Bronze Age) material, unusual because the predominantly sandy fabrics suggest, unlike the material from **158**, an Iron Age date. In some cases large grog fragments themselves are visibly shell-tempered, suggesting the crushing up of similar vessels for temper. The presence of fossil shell, often in sparse concentrations, within many of these sherds (41%), suggests a distinctly different clay source for this assemblage compared to the material from the rest of the site. None of the Group 6 sherds from **158** are shell-tempered.

Possible finger-tip impressions are found on body sherds of the sandy fabrics, although only one case is certainly decorative (Fig. 8.4); the others are shallow and may be manufacturing marks. Three rim-sherds are present, one reconstructed from four main fragments. The vessel profiles are all different, but each has fingertip decoration on the top of the rim although the nature of this varies. One rim (228A) is everted with fingertip impressions applied from either side to produce a cabling effect (Fig. 8.3). The fabric contains moderate coarse shell. The second (235A), which includes common sand, moderate grog and rare shell, is straight with the suggestion of a shoulder just below the break because the sherd thickens slightly at this point. Regularly spaced shallow fingertip impressions were applied on top of the rim in pie-crust fashion (Fig. 8.5). The third vessel (235B), with sparse shell and grog and rare coarse mineral fragments, is straight-sided with the rim expanded on both sides (especially the interior) to allow the application of a series of fingertip impressions which do not reach the edges of the rim (Fig. 8.6).

Also present in this fill layer were a number of sherds which refitted to form a simple flat base (235C) that had broken along the line of junction between wall and base (Fig. 8.7). This was similar in fabric to rim 235B. As well as the eight joining sherds of rim and base another seven body sherds of the same type were present.

The second excavated fill of **239** (206/213) included a similar range of fabrics (40% with shell) and two plain rims. One, tempered with shell and sand, is thick-walled, flat-topped and slightly everted; the second, primarily sandy but with rare shell and grog, is thinner, rounded in profile and straight-sided.

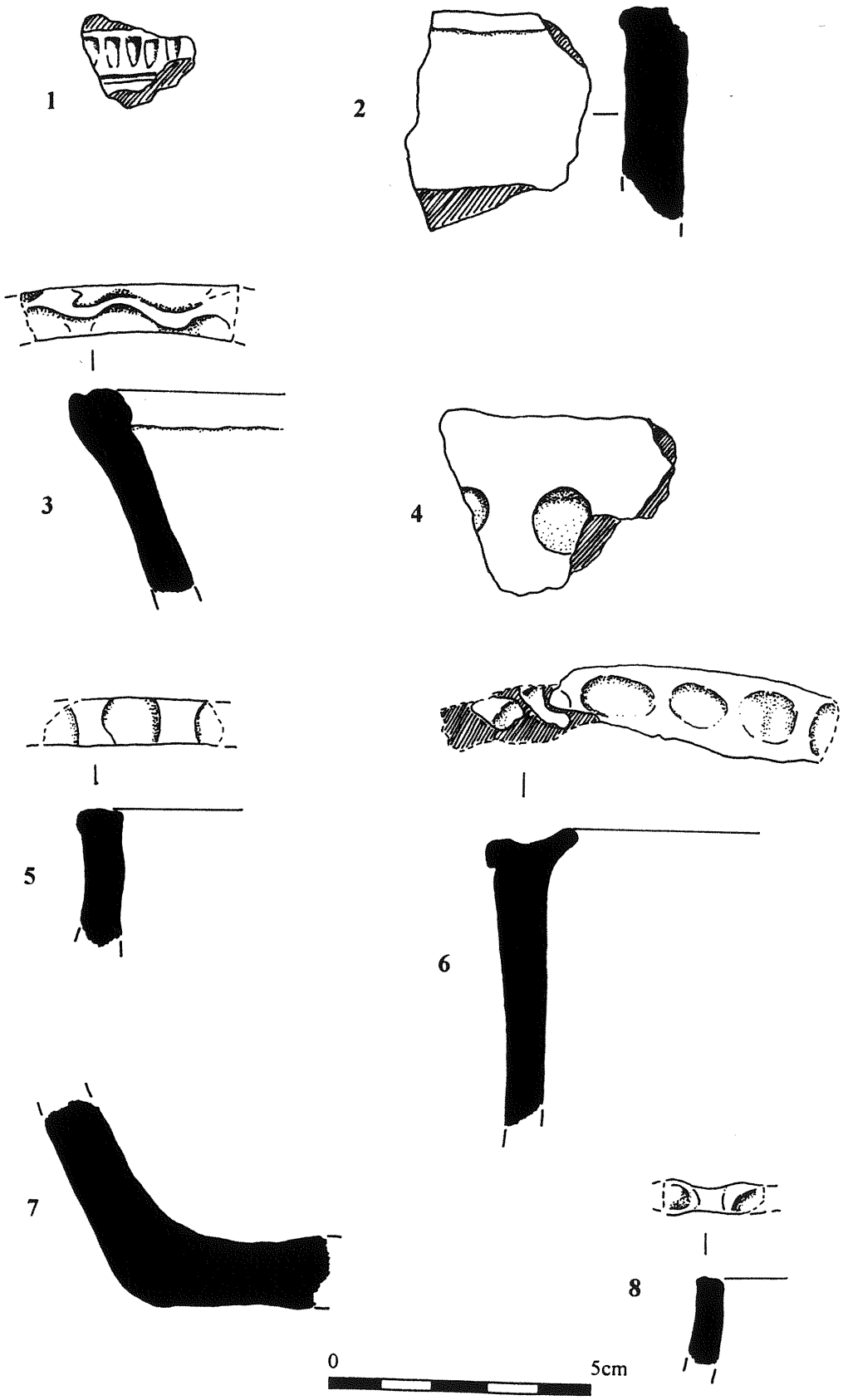

Figure 8 *Pottery illustrations*

The upper fill contexts (187/188) had fewer shelly fabrics (17%) and coarsely grogged ones as well as generally thinner-walled vessels (mean 6.6mm compared to 7.5mm for lower fill contexts). It appears more like the rest of the Milton assemblage and may therefore represent a later phase which accounts for the majority of the Iron Age features on the site. One abraded sherd of Group 6 type derived from this layer but the majority were sandy fabrics including a dark-faced sherd with a burnished exterior and fine cord impression. A single undecorated flat-topped, straight-sided rim-sherd with sand, shell and grog inclusions also came from this layer.

Context 28 was also within pit **239**. This had more shelly fabrics than 187/188 (36%) and included a rim-sherd of the earlier finger-impressed type. This was similar in form to 235A although in a much grittier fabric andwith the rim only thickened where the fingertips were applied (Fig. 8.8).

7.7 Conclusions

In general the Milton pottery is an unproblematic late Iron Age assemblage with the expected mixture of fabrics for a 1st century BC site. The major handicap is the lack of closed ceramic contexts with sufficient diagnostic elements for a more detailed assessment. The exceptions to this lack are unusual contexts since the pottery from pit **158** is clearly much earlier in date, while the assemblage from pit **239** consists of different fabrics from the rest of the site and it exhibits chronological differences between the lower and upper fills. The lower material appears to have a different clay source, and is characterised by coarse inclusions of various type and common fingertip impressions on rims. The presence of coarse grog and shell are both unusual in material of this period but the shell could, as mentioned, be a natural inclusion, perhaps related to the material from Fengate (although the Milton pottery has no resemblance to the decorated early Iron Age forms from Fengate). The shelly fabrics could equally well be a local phenomenon since 26% of the material from the evaluation at Greenhouse Farm, Cambridge was shelly (Woodward in Mould 1996: 12-13). Such local variation in fabrics has been noted elsewhere in the region: for instance 60% of the middle Iron Age fabrics from Letchworth were vegetable-tempered (Moss-Eccardt 1989).

There are some parallels between the Group 6 material from pit **158**, considered to be Bronze Age in date, and the assemblage from **239** in the use of coarse grog temper so perhaps we are seeing the local persistence of an earlier tradition into the middle/later Iron Age. Elsewhere in the region, pottery is overwhelmingly flint-gritted from the late Bronze Age onwards, such as at Lofts Farm, Essex (Brown 1988), with sandy fabrics introduced gradually from the 3rd century BC (Gregory 1991). Coarse jars with thickened, flat-topped rims are considered early forms within the later Iron Age assemblage from Fison Way, Thetford, but grogged wares occur only in the later contexts (ibid.).

Hence there are few parallels for the pit **239** assemblage, although at Framlingham in Suffolk four Iron Age sherds (<1% of the assemblage) were tempered with coarse grog and sand (Flemming in Martin 1993: 59-62). The rest of this assemblage had frequent decoration on the tops or edges of rims and is dated to the earlier Iron Age. The decoration does not help much, however, since cabling and finger impressions on the tops of rims are characteristic of many Iron Age assemblages in the region from West Harling (early) to Barley (middle/late Iron Age).

In conclusion, therefore, the recovery of a larger assemblage and comparisons with other well-dated sites in the Cambridge region would be helpful. However, in general terms the Milton pottery appears to show the persistence of old-fashioned forms alongside somewhat more innovative later Iron Age material - which is characteristic of eastern England beyond the zone of Belgic influence.

8 THE FLINTS

by Steve Kemp

8.1 Description

A total of eleven flint artefacts and a number of flint chips were presented for analysis following the excavations at Milton East Waste in 1996.

Only one formal tool can be identified; this is a scraper based on a 'non-flake' flint blank. The blank consists of a frost shattered flake from a flint cobble. The scraper retouch is in an abrupt form and occurs around 70% of the piece. This tool has been burnt.

Other artefacts include a very rough core fragment producing small irregular flakes of up to 22mm in length. The majority of the assemblage consists of flakes of which the average length for complete flakes is 20mm, whilst if broken flakes are included the average rises to 29mm. One of the longer broken flakes is a thinning flake probably from the manufacture of an axe or adze.

8.2 Raw Material

It is likely that the raw material for this assemblage was collected from the terrace gravels. This is suggested by the presence of a scraper manufactured on a frost shattered 'non-flake' flint blank and the number of natural flakes collected during the excavation which were produced on the dark grey brown flint which dominates the lithic assemblage.

8.3 Techniques

Only hard hammer techniques can be positively identified within the small number of flint flakes recovered.

The burnt scraper and a flake whose proximal and distal ends have been altered by heat indicate that firing was probably an important part of the manufacturing process.

The presence of a single thinning flake within the assemblage suggests that at least for the manufacture of adzes or axes only tertiary activities were taking place at this site. The blank was probably manufactured elsewhere and imported in to the site.

8.4 Conclusion

Due to the size of the assemblage recovered during the excavation little can be said concerning the temporal or cultural attributes of the assemblage. However, the manufacturing techniques and the forms produced would not be amiss in a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age context.

Knapping was certainly taking place on site, or in adjacent areas and probably consisted of the finishing or sharpening of axes ready for use and production of other tools for immediate use which were made using local raw materials.

The presence of a heavily burnt scraper suggests that activities were being undertaken around hearths which probably lay in areas adjacent to the excavation area. The use of fire in the manufacturing process is also attested to by the presence of the discarded fragment of a burnt flint flake. This evidence suggests that complex prehistoric features, such as heaths and round houses, may once have been present in this area.

Considering the types of activities represented it is surprising that so few artefacts have become incorporated into features; this seems to suggests that either the majority of the assemblage has been incorporated in to the topsoil and was not encountered during the excavation or that the site is marginal to the main late Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity area. Given that the site has been field walked and artefactual remains in the topsoil have been proven to be sparse the later scenario is more likely to be the case.

9 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The potential importance of the Milton East Waste landfill site was discovered in 1994 when significant Roman and Iron Age remains were uncovered by a routine watching brief. Rescue excavation was undertaken at that time (Reynolds, 1994). Subsequently a programme of archaeological work has been scheduled to assess the extent of those remains and whether there is evidence of activity elsewhere on the site. Evaluation in 1995, however, showed that the Roman presence did not appear to extend in any significant way to the north and west of the areas excavated in 1994, but instead, detected a significant prehistoric presence. It had previously been thought that the predominantly clay areas to the north of Cambridge were unoccupied during prehistory, and that the land had been marginal and largely given over to woodland, the evaluation results were therefore surprising and important for the understanding of this area of Cambridgeshire. Three area, A, C and D were thought to be of sufficient importance to propose a schedule of excavation.

The excavation of area D in 1996 has proved the prehistoric presence and has shown that there may have been a presence on this land since the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. This early activity is somewhat ephemeral, one cremation is thought to possibly belong with this phase, but there are also several pottery sherds and an assemblage of flint which would not be out of place in the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age period. The artefacts dating to this period, appear for the most part to be residual in later features, however, and it may be that features of this date may simply not have survived later activity. It should also be remembered though that despite an extensive trenching programme for the evaluation, large areas of ground were by necessity left untouched between the trenches. It is conceivable that evidence of this early activity exists somewhere beyond the edges of area D and between the evaluation trenches.

A Bronze Age presence is also in evidence in area D, for which the evidence is slightly stronger than for the Neolithic, although, once again it appears to be confined to only a small number of features. These features are quite substantial, however, and possibly relate to cooking, there was certainly animal bone and evidence of burning in close association with a series of nearby stake holes were perhaps evidence for a small shelter or wind break.

Evidence for a later Iron Age presence is much stronger, once again activity using heat is evident, although whether the Iron Age hearth was used for cooking, flint knapping or some other activity is not apparent. Post built structures which may represent granaries, a small rectangular hut and a possible round house also belong to this period, and a number of pits and possible fences were located nearby. This range of features suggest small scale domestic activity, and the excavation area may never have been the focus of a settlement but was perhaps an area where activities associated with farming were carried out in the fields.

The evidence of activity from the Neolithic to the later Iron Age in this area, coupled with the Iron Age and Romano-British activity nearby suggests that the Milton landscape was under continuous occupation from the Late Iron Age through to Romano-British times, with periods of earlier episodic use.

The evidence also suggests that the Roman presence was very peripheral in the vicinity of area D, the few Roman sherds found could easily be from a manuring scatter, perhaps suggesting the land was cultivated during the Roman period, but there is little to link this part of the landscape to the Roman fields and settlement discovered more than 500 metres to the south-east in 1994. The alignment of the possible Roman ditch is very similar to those around the main focus of Roman activity, but this may be coincidental, as has been seen in this report, there has been a strong tendency to follow this alignment from the Iron Age to the 19th century, only in the 20th century has a ninety degree shift been made, so that land drains no longer follow the approximate north-south alignment, but are now east-west.

The strong coincidence of alignment over such a long period of time is perhaps based on some natural feature of the landscape which is now no longer visible, but of which the Roman Road, Mere Way , lying some 200 metre to the west of area D, may have taken advantage. Mere Way still exerts a strong influence on the landscape, and the fields and roads nearby are all parallel or at ninety degrees to it. Another possibility is that the Roman Road was following a track way that already existed in the Iron Age, and may explain the coincidence of alignment of the Iron Age structures and fence lines in area D.

There is evidence to suggest that a different orientation may have dominated the landscape in an earlier period however. Aerial photographs taken of the proposed landfill site during the excavation of area D show the presence of several cropmarks. The strongest of these is a rectilinear cropmark which may be an enclosure, situated between 300 and 400 metres to the south of area D, and may be as much as 100 metres across. The cropmark feature is clearly earlier than Mere Way, and must, therefore belong to the Iron Age if not before. Area C is scheduled to be excavated in 1998, and is situated very close to the southern edge of the cropmark, and will therefore be ideally located to investigate this further.

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Appendix A

Discussion of pottery from Milton 1995 evaluation
by Jonathon Last

1 Fabric Groups and their chronology

The spot dating by M. Woudhuysen is generally adhered to but some points can be reiterated or expanded in the light of the 1996 work. The assemblage from Milton V is, as noted by Woudhuysen, composed mainly of small and abraded body sherds with a lack of diagnostic pieces and reconstructable profiles. Most vessels had oxidised exteriors, oxidised or unoxidised interiors and unoxidised cores which, as Woudhuysen again suggests, indicate low firing temperatures.

However, the pottery is not entirely flint or shell-tempered. The bulk of the assemblage can be divided into predominantly flint or quartz-tempered (Group 1 - Iron Age gritty) and predominantly sand-tempered (Group 2 - Iron Age sandy) material. Some fabrics within each group contain grog and there are a few mainly grog-tempered sherds (Group 3). In addition there is a shell-tempered component (Group 4), a group with mainly organic inclusions (Group 5) and the coarser grogged material referred to as "bronze-age or earlier" (Group 6).

The proportion of gritty and sandy wares in an assemblage is considered to have chronological significance. In Suffolk an early/middle Iron Age assemblage from Barnham has 40% flint-gritted fabrics, a slightly later assemblage from Great Bealings has 45% with flint and sand, but a late Iron Age group from Burgh has 90% sandy fabrics (Martin 1993). Flint-tempering probably persists until the 1st century BC but its popularity and the size of the flint fragments both seem to diminish from the 5th century onwards (Martin 1988). Grogged fabrics are also seen as characteristically late Iron Age in the region, not occurring at Little Waltham in Essex until the later 1st century BC (Buckley & Hedges 1987). Shell-tempered fabrics occur in small quantities through much of late Iron Age eastern England, with perhaps a concentration around Bletchley/Northampton (Martin 1988). Much of the Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery from Fengate, for instance, is made of clay with fossiliferous shell (e.g. Williams 1980).

At Milton V, of c 230 sherds, about 60% are primarily sandy (most with rare to sparse larger flint or quartz grits), some 20% are gritty (half of these mixed with sand), 5% grogged, 5% shelly and 5% with organic inclusions (Table 1). The presence of Group 3 and 4 sherds, and the predominance of sandy fabrics confirms a late Iron Age date, but there is a relatively high proportion of gritty sherds. This combined with the lack of wheelmade 'Belgic' or Roman material, except in a couple of cases (see below), and the relative scarcity of fine fabrics should date the bulk of the assemblage to the early/mid 1st century BC, but the known conservatism of the Fens and Fen-edge region could push it a little later[1].

2 Distribution of Fabric Groups

Sherds tempered with flint or quartz only (Group 1a) came from post-hole 11, pits 90, 141 and 396, and beamslot 361 while those with flint and sand (Group 1b) came from post-holes 11 and 287, pits 94, 110 and 141, and beamslots 303 and 403. Sherds with sand and rare flint (Group 2b) came from post-holes 11, 174, 287, 290, 305, 323, 326, 346, 365 and 387, pits 88, 90, 104, 106, 108, 110, 141 and 181, beamslots 303, 328 and 359 as well as ditch-butt 398, features 94 and 96 and field-drain 12. Purely sand-tempered sherds (Group 2a), sometimes with a little grog, came from post-holes 11, 112, 174, 290, 297, pits 88, 90, 191 and 396, beamslots 343 and 361, as well as features 92 and 461, field-drain 12 and 'midden' 124. Group 3 sherds came from post-holes 11, 290 and 336, and midden 124. Group 4 fabrics were found in pits 90, 94, 108 and 141, as well as features 92 and 417.

Hence the fabric groups are not spatially or chronologically differentiated, although the post-holes and beamslots lack shelly fabrics. Numerous contexts contain both 'sandy' and 'gritty' sherds, and pit 90, for instance, produced material of Groups 1a, 2a, 2b and 4 . The sherds from post-hole 11 are primarily flint-tempered but this assemblage also includes grogged material, which implies that the flint-tempered fabrics do indeed endure well into the 1st century. Problems of residuality or intrusive later material are evident in some cases (e.g. 124 and 166) but there is also evidence for more than one Iron Age phase on the site. For instance, the presence of a large wheelmade fragment of Belgic type in pit 110, mixed with predominantly sandy sherds, suggests this assemblage is later than the mainly gritty fabrics in pit 90.

3 Forms and Decoration

Because of the abraded condition of much of the assemblage, forms are not generally recognisable. Rims are slightly everted and simple (e.g. features 108, 361, 396, 398), although one rim in post-hole 11 is thickened and apparently finger-tipped on top. Shoulders are generally slack (e.g. 396, 398), which again suggests a later rather than earlier Iron Age date for all of this material. Ditch 398 includes one more pronounced shouldered bowl fragment, but is also primarily a late group. The lack of globular bowls and decorated forms would, however, again put the Milton assemblage earlier than the late 1st century BC (within Cunliffe's [1974] 'jar continuum'). Decoration in fact is purely plastic and restricted to just the rim in 11 and a body sherd in 398 with a slight shoulder and fingertip impressions along it. Bases are simple (e.g. 110) or slightly footed (e.g. post-hole 346), apart from one fine footring in 398 in a non-local fabric with red surfaces, a grey core and common fine white quartz filler. Definitely later forms include a large fragment of a wheelmade jar rim, probably Belgic, from 110, and an abraded sherd of Roman grey ware mixed with earlier material in 166. Apart from this the assemblage appears to be entirely pre-Roman.

4 The Bronze Age material

The Roman sherd in 166 is almost certainly intrusive because that context primarily contains material of Group 6: coarse, thick-walled, light-faced sherds with grey cores and very coarse grog or clay inclusions. These comprise 6% of the total assemblage and occurred in 'midden' 124 and 128, mixed with Group 1 fabrics, and the underlying post-holes 129, 166, 168 and 170. Despite the occasional later piece, therefore, this is a clearly demarcated assemblage. Diagnostic pieces of Group 6 are conspicuously lacking but one body sherd in 129 has a thickening which seems to define a slight shoulder or change of angle. Grogged fabrics are associated with later Neolithic/earlier Bronze Age ceramics but the apparent lack of decoration and of angular/rounded profiles at Milton suggests the best regional analogy may be the middle/later Bronze Age pottery from a pit at Witton near North Walsham, Norfolk, which included bucket and barrel urns in soft, heavily-grogged fabrics (Lawson 1983).

Notes

1. J.D. Hill (pers. comm.) suggests the typical 'Middle Iron Age' forms run up to 1BC or later in south Cambridgeshire, and in this late phase may be contemporary with the use of wheel-turned grog-tempered pots in cemeteries.

TABLE 1: Proportions of inclusion types (by approximate sherd counts)

		Milton 95	Milton 96 (all)
Grp 1:	Flint only (1a)	20	5
	Flint & sand (1b)	22(18.3%)	12(6.4%)
	Flint & grog	5(2.2%)	3(1.1%)
Grp 2:	Sand & flint (2b)	103	25
	Sand (2a)	16(51.7%)	71(33.2%)
	Sand & grog	18(7.8%)	45(17.0%)
Grp 3:	Grog	12(5.2%)	12(4.5%)
Grp 4:	Shell (4a & b)	12(5.2%)	32(12.1%)
Grp 5:	Organics	11(4.8%)	0
Grp 6:	Grog/clay	13(5.7%)	60(22.6%)

TABLE 2: Proportions of inclusion types in the larger features at Milton 96.

		Major features excl. **239**	Pit **239**
Grp 1	Flint (1a)	1	1
	Flint & sand (1b)	11(8.9%)	6(7.7%)
	Flint & grog	3(2.2%)	0(0.0%)
Grp 2	Sand & flint (2b)	17	15
	Sand (2a)	20(27.4%)	20(38.5%)
	Sand & grog	24(17.8%)	18(19.8%)
Grp 3	Grog	11(8.1%)	2(2.2%)
Grp 4	Shell (4a & b)	3(2.2%)	25(27.5%)
Grp 5	Oganics	3(2.2%)	3(3.3%)
Grp 6	Grog/clay	42(31.1%)	1(1.1%)

Appendix B

Descriptions of Pottery by Context

3 Numerous fragments, most small, with dark grey-brown fabric and surfaces; 8-9mm thick; sparse sand and rare coarse mineral, sparse grog inclusions; traces of impressed and grooved decoration (Fig. 1.1).
1 sherd with orange surfaces and core; 5.5mm; sparse sand.

6 2 sherds with mid-brown surfaces, grey core; 6-7mm; flint and sand inclusions.

7 1 sherd with orange surfaces, grey core; moderate sand and sparse coarse mineral.

8 2 fragments with dark brown fabric, common sand.
3 fragments with sparse/moderate sand and rare grog.

9 1 fragment with light surfaces, light grey-brown core; moderate grog and sparse sand.

11 6 small, abraded fragments with common sand.
2 fragments with orange ext., dark grey int., grey core; moderate flint and sparse sand.

14 1 sherd with brown ext., grey int. and core; 8mm; common sand.

15 3-4 tiny fragments of sandy pottery.

19 1) orange surfaces, grey-brown core; moderate coarse grog and sparse sand.
2) ?rim sherd in grey-brown fabric; 5mm; moderate flint and sand, rare shell.

20 1 sherd with dark brown surfaces, grey core; 9mm; common shell.

28 1) light ext., dark brown int.; 8mm; sparse shell and sand, rare grog.
2) orange ext. and core, brown int.; moderate shell and sparse shell.
3) orange ext., brown int., grey core; 5mm; moderate sand, rare flint and grog.
4) light ext., dark int.; 8mm; sparse shell and sand.
5) light surfaces, grey mottled core; 9mm; sand and grog.
6) orange fabric; sand inclusions. Abraded.
7) rim sherd in dark grey fabric; 8mm; common coarse flint (Fig. 1.8).
4 sherds with moderate sand, sparse shell and sparse/rare grog. One with fingertip impressions ext. 2 other small fragments.

34 5 tiny fragments of dark fabric with ?sparse grog.

37 1 sherd with reddish brown ext., grey int. and core; 7.5mm; common sand and sparse coarse mineral.

38 4 small fragments of two types:
1) light surfaces, grey fabric, sparse sand and grog.
2) as 1) but surfaces darker.

39 15 large and c20 small sherds with pale brown surfaces, grey core; up to 12mm thick; sparse coarse/very coarse grog, rare sand and coarser mineral. Two rims (Fig. 1.2), one possible raised cordon fragment, one body with possible finger impression.

43 1 sherd in dark fabric with scraped ext.; moderate sand and sparse grog.
Fragment of modern glazed ware.

54 1) oxidised surfaces, grey core; sparse sand, rare shell and grog.
2) grey/orange surfaces, light grey core; moderate sand and rare coarse grog. ?Roman.
3 sherds with brown surfaces, grey core; common sand with sparse flint.
5 sherds as 4) but with moderate sand and rare flint.
2 sherds as 4) but with sparse sand and mineral, and sparse grog.

55 2 small sherds with sand inclusions; 1 with sand and grog.

56 1) ?rim sherd in sandy fabric with possible incised diagonal groove.
2) rim sherd with sand and grog inclusions; 5mm.
Several abraded fragments: 1 with sand and grog, 1 grog only, 2 with sand, 1 with flint and grog.

83 1 sherd in fine, hard fabric with common sand and rare coarse flint.

88 1 sherd with light fabric; 9mm; sparse coarse mineral and rare grog.

94 1 sherd with light grey surfaces, orange fabric, grog and sand. Residual in modern feature.

115 1) light brown; 5mm; moderate flint, sparse grog, sparse sand.
2) red-brown exterior, dark brown interior, grey core; 6mm; moderate sand, sparse flint.
3) mottled dark brown ext., dark brown int., grey core; 8-9mm; common sand and traces of organics (voids).
4) dark brown fabric; sand and flint. Possible shallow fingertip impressions.

5 sherds with sand and grog inclusions.

117 1 sherd with orange ext., grey int. and core; 6.5mm; common sand and traces of organics (voids in ext. surface).

120 5 fragments with oxidised fabric; 11-13mm; rare sand and sparse to moderate coarse grog.

122 4 fragments with oxidised ext., grey int. and core; 7mm; common sand, rare grog and rare coarse mineral.

132 4 fragments with oxidised surfaces; 10mm; sparse sand and rare grog.
3 fragments of oxidised sandy fabric with rare coarse mineral.

135 1 sherd with oxidised surfaces, mottled core; moderate sand, sparse grog, rare coarse mineral.

142 1 sherd with oxidised surfaces, grey core; sparse sand and grog.

148 2 small fragments as 39.

149 1 sherd with oxidised, sandy fabric.

151 3 sherds and 6 small fragments as 39, one with grey int., two with traces of possible raised cordon.

177 1) base sherd with pale brown fabric, thin light grey core; 10mm; sparse grog and rare mineral.
2) orange surfaces, grey core; 9mm; sparse sand and rare coarse flint.
3) pale brown surfaces, grey core; 5mm; sparse sand and grog.
4) orange ext., dark int. and core; 9mm; sparse sand and rare coarse grog.
5) pale brown fabric, thin light grey core; 10mm; sparse sand and rare coarse flint.

178 1 sherd with dark grey surfaces, mid brown core; 4.5mm; moderate sand and sparse coarse mineral.

181 1 ?wheelmade rim sherd (everted) with orange surfaces and core; 3.5-4mm; moderate grog, sparse sand, rare flint.

187 1) mottled brown ext., mottled light yellow-brown int, grey-brown core; 4.5-6mm; moderate sand; sparse grog.
2) flat base of steep-sided vessel with light yellow-brown fabric; 4.5mm; moderate sand, sparse grog.
3) red surfaces, grey-brown core; 6mm; moderate/sparse sand, rare/sparse shell; sparse grog. 2 sherds inc. 1 rim.
4) dark fabric; 6-9mm; common sand, sparse coarse mineral. 2 sherds.
5) dark fabric; 6mm; common sand, sparse grog.
6) dark grey-brown mottled surfaces, grey core; 6-7mm; moderate sand, sparse coarse flint.
7) dark ext., brown int. and core; 5-6mm; sparse sand. Exterior burnished with fine horizontal cord impression.
8) ext. absent, light grey int., yellow-brown core; moderate sand.
Also 11 small fragments of dark fabrics.

188 1) red mottled ext., dark grey-brown int. and core; 7-9mm; common sand, rare coarse mineral, moderate organic voids.
2) red-brown ext., dark int. and core; 8-9mm; moderate sand, sparse/moderate coarse flint.
3) brown ext., dark int. and core; 8mm; sparse sand, common/moderate coarse flint.
4) dark red-brown ext., grey int. and core; 8mm; moderate shell, rare sand.
5) brown mottled ext. and core; dark int.; 5mm; sparse shell, sparse sand.

6) dark fabric; 4-5mm; moderate sand, sparse grog, sparse small voids.
7) dark fabric; 6mm; moderate flint and sand; smoothed surfaces.
8) mottled; 5-6mm; common sand. 3 sherds
9) mottled oxidised surfaces, grey core; 8-9mm; sparse sand and grog. Possible finger impressions.
Also 4 small sherds in sandy fabrics and 8 tiny fragments.

189 1 sherd with orange ext., grey int. and core; 8mm; sparse sand, sparse coarse mineral.

193 1) brown surfaces, grey core; 10mm; sparse sand and sparse coarse mineral.
2) brown ext., grey int. and core; 7mm; sparse coarse flint, sparse sand.
3) oxidised fabric with thin grey core; sparse sand, sparse organic voids and rare grog.

206 1) mottled ext., mid brown int., grey core; 6-7mm; common sand and some fine voids. 2 sherds.
2) dark brown ext. and core, grey int.; moderate/common sand and flint. Possible impressions ext.
3) orange ext., grey int., light grey core; 8-9mm; moderate/common sand and flint.
4) dark fabric; c 9mm; moderate shell, sparse sand. Rim (abraded).
5) light brown ext., mid brown int., grey core; sparse sand, shell and organic voids (chaff).
6) light brown ext., mid brown int., grey core; common shell, sparse sand.
Also 10 sandy fragments, 3 shelly.

213 1) dark fabric; 7mm; common sand, rare coarse mineral.
2) brown fabric; 5-7mm; common sand, rare coarse mineral, rare grog.
3) mid brown ext., dark brown int., grey core; 6-7mm; moderate sand.
4) orange ext., dark brown int. and core; 10-13mm; moderate sand, sparse coarse mineral.
5) red-brown ext., dark brown int., grey core; 7mm; moderate sand, sparse coarse mineral.
6) dark ext. and core, mid brown int.; 6.5mm; common sand, rare coarse mineral, rare grog.
7) orange surfaces, grey-brown core; 10mm; moderate coarse mineral, moderate sand.
8) dark ext., brown int., common sand, rare coarse mineral.
9) orange ext., grey int. and core; 9mm; common shell, moderate sand.
10) light fabric; 4.5mm; moderate sand, rare coarse mineral, rare shell, rare grog. Straight rim (abraded).
Also 30 tiny fragments of different fabrics.

222 1) light brown ext., red-brown int., 14mm; common sand, sparse grog.
2) light brown ext., mid brown int., grey core; 7-8mm; sparse grog, sparse fine voids.
Also 1 sandy fragment.

228 1) dark; 8mm; common sand, rare coarse mineral, rare grog
2) red-brown ext., dark int. and core; 8-9mm; common sand, rare coarse mineral, rare grog. Finger impression ext.
3) brown surfaces, grey core; 6mm; common sand, some voids.
4) light surfaces, grey core; 5-7mm; moderate sand. Possible finger impressions.
5) light surfaces, light grey core; 6mm; moderate grog, sparse sand, rare shell.
6) 3 dark sherds; 5-9mm; common sand, rare coarse mineral, sparse grog.
7) light grey-brown surfaces, grey core; 5-9mm; sparse sand and organics, rare grog.
8) brown ext., grey int., 5mm; sparse sand, rare shell and grog.
9) red ext., grey-brown int. and core; 8mm; common shell, rare sand.
10) light brown ext., pale brown int., grey core; 9mm; sparse shell, sparse grog, sparse coarse mineral, rare organics.
11) Rim sherd with dark grey-brown ext., brown int., grey core; 8mm; moderate shell (Fig. 1.3).

235 1) red-brown ext., grey int. and core; 5-8mm; common sand, sparse grog, rare coarse mineral. Band of fingertip impressions (Fig. 1.4).

2) red surfaces, grey core; 9mm; moderate sand, sparse coarse mineral, sparse grog, rare shell.
3) brown ext., dark red brown int., grey core; 8mm; moderate shell, sparse sand.
4) brown surfaces, grey core; 7mm; common sand, rare coarse mineral.
5) brown mottled ext., dark grey int., grey-brown core; 5mm; moderate sand, sparse grog, rare coarse mineral, some fine voids. Possible base.
6) Rim sherd with brown surfaces, grey core; 7mm; common sand, moderate grog, rare shell (Fig. 6.5).
7) light brown ext., brown int.; 8mm; sparse sand, sparse grog, rare shell. Scraped exterior.
8) light yellow brown ext., dark brown int., mid grey core; 5-9mm; sparse shell, sparse grog, rare coarse mineral. Roughened exterior surface. Several refitting sherds of rim (Fig. 6.6).
9) light brown ext., dark yellow-brown int., grey core; 8-10mm; inclusions as 8). Several refitting sherds of base (Fig. 6.7).

Appendix C
Catalogue of Lithics

Context	SF No	Comments
187	11	Granite pebble
46		Fragment of flake. 11 x 20 mm. Slight abrasion. Dark grey brown coloured flint.
186		Flake. Distal end missing. 24 x 21 mm. slight abrasion. Dark grey brown coloured flint
28		a. Secondary flake with cortex on distal end. 26 x 18 mm. Very slight abrasion. grey brown coloured flint. b. Flake with slight patination. 20 x 19 mm. slight abrasion. Dark grey coloured flint.
1		Thinning Flake. Cortex on left edge. Distal end missing. 40 x 36 mm. Dark grey brown coloured flint.
190		5 flint chips probably from flint knapping. Brown to dark brown coloured flint.
196		Secondary flake. 25 x 29 mm. dark grey brown coloured flint.
151		a. Small Flake. 16 x 12 mm. Light grey coloured flint. b. Patinated Flake. 23 x 11 mm. Dark grey flint.
170	8	Irregularity (shape and thickness) of this distal-end of a larger long flake and the type of flint (colour light green/grey + texture) suggests that this is a natural long flake.
170		Long flake. Size and irregularity in shape suggests that this is not an attempt at formal blade production. 36 x 9 mm. Dark grey brown coloured flint.
178		Scraper non a non-flake blank. The scraper has been manufactured on a natural flake resulting from frost fracturing. Retouch is abrupt covering about 70% of the circumference of the piece (sides and distal end). Grey flint, however, the piece has been heavily burnt after manufacture suggesting use around a hearth. 30 x 39 mm.
3		Fragment of a flake. 14 x 16 mm. Grey brown coloured flint.
46		a. proximal end of a flake. Has slight patination and is burnt on proximal and distal ends of the piece. 28 x 18 mm. Grey brown coloured flint. b. Core fragment. Cortex covers about 40 % of the dorsal surface. Flake is probably natural, however, the piece is scarred by the removal of small thick flakes up to 26 mm in length..

Appendix D
Table of faunal remains
By Lorrain Higbee

Group	Cont	Comments
1	10	1 unid. frag < 1cm
1	81	1 unid frag. c.6 cms
1	120	1 unid frag 1 cm
2	55	3 unid frags 2-5 cms
2	131	1 unid frag c.6 cms
2	187	7 tooth frags + 2 unid frags c.3 cms. Cattle molar (3rd). Sheep/goat lower molar (1st or 2nd) not aged.
2	188	18 unid frags <1-6 cms. Cattle phalanx prima complete, surface weathered.
4.1	3	Several calcined (white) frags < 1cm. One ?human carpal (?triquetal) bone, needs # however.
6	115	3 unid frags <1-3 cms
7.1	20	Rib frag from cattle/horse sized animal ?gnawed at one end
7.1	46	2 unid < 1cm. Cattle protruberance only. Surface extremely weathered. Sheep/goat lower molar.
7.2	19	2 unid frags c. 1-2cm
7.3	13	Cattle tibia, metaphyses visible, therefore aprox 2-2 1/2 years old. Roughly chopped width ways. Surface weathered + 1 unid frag.
7.3	15	2 unid frags charred, c. 1-2cm
8	206	1 unid sheep/goat radius shaft only, roughly chopped width ways. Surface weathered.
8	213	14 unid + 1 charred frags. Sheep/goat mandible (processus coronoideus only) sheep/goat ulna - charred. Olecranin + introsseousspace chopped through widthways. Cattle humerus, proximal end only chopped on extreme medial edge.
8	228	5 calcined unid <1-5 cms + 10 unid <1-4 cms + 2 vertbrae frags. Cattle scapula with processus coronoideus chopped in dorsal direction. Sheep/goat radius shaft only.
8	235	2 charred, 1 calcined + 2 others all unid. Cattle distal metapodial, half of one condyle diagonally chopped. Cattle phalanx prima complete but slight osteophyte growth on condal side.
10.2	11	Sheep/goat tibia shaft only, roughly chopped at proximal end. Surface badly weathered (3 frags)
12	38	8 unid frags <1-2cm. Rib farg from cattle/horse sized animal modern breaks at both ends
12	39	Several unid frags <1-8cms. Sheep/goat single cordyle from distal metapodial (unfused) <24-28 months. Cattle pelvis in 3 frags - chopped through illium, acetubulum/pubis + on ischium. Surface weathered
12	132	2 unid frags <1-2 cms
12	148	1 unid frag < 1 cm. Poss ?human upper premolar frag. calcined needs # however
12	151	1 unid frag charred

Appendix E: Context List

Cont	Cut	Group	Phase	Category	Feature type
0001	- -	16	7	topsoil	
0002	- -	16	7	subsoil	
0003	0143	4.1	2	fill	cremation
0004	0220	4.2	2	fill	pit
0005	0093	5	4	fill	post hole
0006	0068	1.2	4	fill	post hole
0007	0052	1.1	4	fill	post hole
0008	0053	1.2	4	fill	post hole
0009	0064	1.1	4	fill	post hole
0010	0092	1.2	4	fill	post hole
0011	0050	7.4	4	fill	post hole
0012	0070	7.3	4	fill	post hole
0013	0071	7.3	4	fill	post hole
0014	0049	7.3	4	fill	post hole
0015	0124	7.3	4	fill	post hole
0016	0079	7.2	4	fill	post hole
0017	- -	7.2	4	fill	post hole
0018	0184	7.1	4	fill	post pipe
0019	0112	7.1	4	fill	post hole
0020	0109	7.1	4	fill	post hole
0021	- -	Unexcavated		fill	post hole
0022	- -	Unexcavated		fill	post hole
0023	- -	Unexcavated		fill	post hole
0024	- -	17	1	deposit	natural
0025	0156	Unphased		fill	post hole
0026	- -	Unexcavated		fill	pit
0027	- -	Unexcavated		fill	linear
0028	0239	8	4	fill	pit
0029	- -	16	7	deposit	topsoil
0030	- -	14	7	fill	plough mark
0031	- -	13	6	fill	plough furrow
0032	0214	Unphased		fill	pit
0033	0060	13	6	fill	plough furrow
0034	0060	3.1	4	fill	hearth
0035	0058	3.2	4	fill	linear
0036	0141	Unphased		fill	post hole
0037	- -	13	3	fill	plough furrow
0038	0153	12	3	fill	post hole
0039	0157	12	3	fill	pit
0040	- -	Unexcavated		fill	post hole
0041	0201	11	4	fill	post holes
0042	0202	11	4	fill	post hole
0043	0194	11	4	fill	post hole
0044	- -	Unexcavated		fill	post hole
0045	- -	5	4		
0046	- -	16	7	deposit	cleaning layer
0047	0048	7.3	4	fill	post hole
0048	0048	7.3	4	cut	post hole
0049	0049	7.3	4	cut	post hole
0050	0050	7.4	4	cut	post hole
0051	- -		6	fill	linear
0052	0052	1.1	4	cut	post hole
0053	0053	1.2	4	cut	post hole
0054	0067	2	5	fill	ditch
0055	0066	2	5	fill	ditch
0056	0065	2	5	fill	ditch

Cont	Cut	Group	Phase	Category	Feature type
0057	0058	3.2	4	fill	linear
0058	0058	3.2	4	cut	linear
0059	0060	3.1	4	fill	hearth
0060	0060	3.1	4	cut	pit
0061	0062	3.2	4	fill	stakehole
0062	0062	3.2	4	cut	stakehole
0063	0050	7.4	4	fill	post hole
0064	0064	1.1	4	cut	post hole
0065	0065	2	5	cut	ditch
0066	0066	2	5	cut	ditch
0067	0067	2	5	cut	ditch
0068	0068	1.2	4	cut	post hole
0069	0069	7.3	4	cut & fill	post hole
0070	0070	7.3	4	cut	post hole
0071	0071	7.3	4	cut	post hole
0072	0072	7.3	4	cut	post hole
0073	0073	7.3	4	cut	post hole
0074	0074	7.3	4	cut	post hole
0075	0060	3.1	4	fill	Oven
0076	0068	1.2	4	fill	post hole
0077	0087	14	7	fill	gully
0078	0082	14	7	fill	gully
0079	0079	7.2	4	cut	post hole
0080	0080	1.1	4	cut	post hole
0081	0080	1.1	4	fill	post hole
0082	0082	14	7	cut	gully
0083	0004	3.3	4	fill	post hole
0084	0084	3.3	4	cut	post hole
0085	0086	15	7	fill	Field drain
0086	0086	15	7	cut	Field drain
0087	0087	14	7	cut	gully
0088	0089	7.1	4	fill	post hole
0089	0089	7.1	4	cut	post hole
0090	0091	3.2	4	fill	post hole
0091	0091	3.2	4	cut	post hole
0092	0092	1.2	4	cut	post hole
0093	0093	5	4	cut	post hole
0094	0095	14	7	fill	gully
0095	0095	14	7	cut	gully
0096	0097	3.2	4	fill	Slot
0097	0097	3.2	4	cut	Slot
0098	0099	3.2	4	fill	post hole
0099	0099	3.2	4	cut	post hole
0100	0101	3.2	4	fill	post hole
0101	0101	3.2	4	cut	post hole
0102	0092	1.2	4	fill	post hole
0103	0104	3.3	4	fill	post hole
0104	0104	3.3	4	cut	post hole
0105	0106	3.3	4	fill	post hole
0106	0106	3.3	4	cut	post hole
0107	0108	7.1	4	fill	post hole
0108	0108	7.1	4	cut	post hole
0109	0109	7.1	4	cut	post hole
0110	0111	7.1	4	fill	post hole
0111	0111	7.1	4	cut	post hole
0112	0112	7.1	4	cut	post hole
0113	0101	3.2	4	fill	post hole

Cont	Cut	Group	Phase	Category	Feature type
0114	0084	3.3	4	fill	post hole
0115	0116	6	4	fill	pit
0116	0116	6	4	cut	pit
0117	0118	5	4	fill	pit
0118	0118	5	4	cut	pit
0119	0130	2	5	fill	ditch
0120	0121	1.1	4	fill	post hole
0121	0121	1.1	4	cut	post hole
0122	0123	1.2	4	fill	post hole
0123	0123	1.2	4	cut	post hole
0124	0124	7.3	4	cut	post hole
0125	0126	14	7	fill	ditch
0126	0126	14	7	cut	ditch
0127	0124	7.3	4	fill	post hole
0128	0112	7.1	4	fill	post hole
0129	0111	7.1	4	fill	post hole
0130	0130	2	5	cut	ditch
0131	0130	2	5	deposit	cleaning layer
0132	0158	12	3	fill	pit
0133	0140	Unphased		fill	post hole
0134	0175	14	7	fill	slot
0135	0145	13	6	fill	plough furrow
0136	0137	5	4	fill	post hole
0137	0137	5	4	cut	post hole
0138	0139	5		fill	post hole
0139	0139	5		cut	post hole
0140	0140	Unphased		cut	post hole
0141	0141	Unphased		cut	post hole
0142	0255	12	3	fill	shallow pit
0143	0143	4.1	2	cut	cremation
0144	0141	Unphased		fill	post hole
0145	0145	13	6	cut	furrow
0148	0158	12	3	fill	pit
0149	0150	11	4	fill	post hole
0150	0150	11	4	cut	post hole
0151	0157	12	3	fill	pit
0152	0139	5	4	fill	post hole
0153	0153	12	3	cut	post hole
0154	0155	14	7	fill	ditch
0155	0155	14	7	cut	ditch
0156	0156	Unphased		cut	post hole
0157	0157	12	3	cut	pit
0158	0158	12	3	cut	pit
0159	0160	7.2	4	fill	post hole
0160	0160	7.2	4	cut	post hole
0170	0171	9.2	4	fill	pit
0171	0171	9.2	4	cut	pit
0172	0219	5	4	fill	pit
0173	0174	14	7	fill	ditch
0174	0174	14	7	cut	ditch
0175	0175	14	7	cut	ditch
0176	- -	17	1	deposit	natural
0177	0171	9.2	4	fill	pit
0178	0171	9.2	4	fill	pit
0179	0175	14	7	fill	ditch
0180	0180	15	7	cut & fill	field drain
0181	0182	9.2	4	fill	pit

Cont	Cut	Group	Phase	Category	Feature Type
0182	0182	9.2	4	cut	pit
0183	0183	14	7	master no.	ditch
0184	0184	7.1	4	cut	post hole
0185	0185	14	7	master no.	ditch
0186	- -	16	7	deposit	cleaning layer
0187	0239	8	4	fill	pit
0188	0239	8	4	fill	pit
0189	0195	11	4	fill	post hole
0190	0191	9.1	4	fill	pit
0191	0191	9.1	4	cut	pit
0192	0191	9.1	4	fill	pit
0193	0223	11	4	fill	pit
0194	0194	11	4	cut	post hole
0195	0195	11	4	cut	post hole
0196	0197	13	5	fill	furrow
0197	0197	13	5	cut	furrow
0198	0091	Unphased		fill	post hole
0199	0200	3.4	4	fill	post hole
0200	0200	3.4	4	cut	post hole
0201	0201	11	4	cut	post hole
0202	0202	11	4	cut	post hole
0203	0184	7.1	4	fill	post hole
0204	0204	7.1	4	cut	post pipe
0205	0184	7.1	4	fill	post hole
0206	0239	8	4	fill	pit
0207	0208	6	4	fill	pit
0208	0208	6	4	cut	pit
0209	- -	17	1	deposit	natural
0210	0099	3.2	4	fill	slot
0211	0099	3.2	4	fill	post pipe
0212	0099	3.2	4	fill	post pipe
0213	0239	8	4	fill	pit
0214	0214	Unphased		cut	pit
0215	0216	13	5	fill	furrow
0216	0216	13	5	cut	furrow
0217	0217	14	7	cut	ditch
0218	0217	14	7	fill	ditch
0219	0219	5	4	cut	pit
0220	0220	4.2	2	cut	pit
0222	0224	11	4	fill	post hole
0223	0223	11	4	cut	pit
0224	0224	11	4	cut	post hole
0225	0225	12	3	cut	pit
0226	0226	7.3	4	cut & fill	post hole
0227	0227	7.2	4	cut & fill	post hole
0228	0239	8	4	fill	pit
0229	0229	Unexcavated		cut & fill	post hole
0230	0230	7.1	4	cut & fill	post hole
0231	0231	7.2	4	cut &fill	post hole
0232	0232	3.2	4	cut	slot
0233	0232	3.2	4	fill	slot
0234	0232	3.2	4	fill	slot
0235	0239	8	4	fill	pit
0236	0239	8	4	fill	pit
0238	0239	8	4	fill	pit
0239	0239	8	4	cut	pit
0240	0240	8	4	cut	pit

Appendix F Contexts with Finds

Cont	Pot	Sample	Cereals	Charcoal	Bone	Burnt Bone	Burnt Daub	Burnt flint	Burnt stone	Worked flint	Brick /tile	Slag	Glass	Metals	Tobacco pipe	Mortar	Shell	Cont
0001										yes								0001
0003	yes					yes				yes								0003
0004			yes			yes		yes										0004
0006	yes																	0005
0007	yes																	0006
0008	yes																	0007
0009	yes																	0008
0010					yes													0010
0011	yes		yes		yes		yes											0011
0013					yes													0013
0014	yes																	0014
0015	yes					yes	yes											0015
0019	yes		yes		yes	yes												0019
0020	yes				yes	yes	yes											0020
0028	yes									yes								0028
0032										yes								0032
0034	yes			yes			yes	yes	yes									0034
0035												yes						0035
0037	yes																	0037
0038	yes				yes		yes											0038
0039	yes			yes	yes	yes	yes				yes							0039
0043	yes									yes								0043
0046					yes			yes		yes	yes		yes	yes Fe	yes		yes	0046
0054	yes																	0054
0055	yes				yes			yes										0055
0056	yes																	0056
0059							yes											0059
0075														yes Fe				0075
0077									yes			yes	yes	yes Fe				0077
0078			yes										yes					0078
0081					yes													0081
0083	yes																	0083
0088	yes									yes								0088
0094	yes									yes		yes			yes	yes		0094
0098							yes											0098
0100				yes														0100
0115	yes		yes	yes	yes													0115
0117	yes																	0117
0119																	yes	0119
0120	yes				yes													0120
0122	yes																	0122
0131					yes						yes							0131

Cont	Pot	Sample	Cereals	Charcoal	Bone	Burnt Bone	Burnt Daub	Burnt flint	Burnt stone	Worked flint	Brick /tile	Slag	Glass	Metals	Tobacco pipe	Mortar	Shell	Cont
0132	yes				yes													0132
0134										yes	yes							0134
0135	yes										yes	yes						0135
0138			yes															0138
0142	yes		yes															0142
0148	yes		yes		yes		yes											0148
0149	yes									yes								0149
0150																		0150
0151	yes		yes			yes				yes								0151
0154														yes Cu				0154
0170	yes									yes								0170
0173																	yes	0173
0177	yes																	0177
0178								yes		yes								0178
0181	yes		yes				yes											0181
0186										yes		yes	yes					0186
0187	yes				yes		yes	yes		yes								0187
0188	yes				yes					yes								0188
0189	yes						yes											0189
0190								yes		yes								0190
0193	yes																	0193
0196							yes											0196
0206	yes				yes		yes		yes									0206
0213	yes				yes	yes				yes	yes							0213
0222	yes																	0222
0228	yes			yes	yes	yes	yes											0228
0235	yes				yes	yes	yes			yes								0235

Appendix G
Documentary Search
by Twigs Way BSc, MA, PhD, AIFA

1 Introduction

As part of the 1996 Excavation at Milton East Waste, a brief documentary search was carried out to supplement the archaeological record for the post medieval period.

The search had two main aims; firstly to examine generally the post medieval history of the area excavated in 1996, and secondly to specifically look for evidence of post medieval disturbance likely to result in the creation of lengths of interrupted linear features of the type that had been observed in the east area of the site during the excavations.

2 Sources

The search was concentrated in the local archival repositories of the Cambridgeshire Record Office (CRO), the Cambridgeshire Collection (Cam.Coll.), the Cambridge University Library (CUL) and the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP).

Primary sources included and excellent run of field surveys and terriers from the seventeenth and eighteenth century (CRO L35/2,3,4,5), the original Enclosure Award and Map (CRO Q/RDc4), and a much later series of sale catalogues for Milton Estates (CUL Maps PSQ 18.91; 194; 354 and PSQ 19.233; 59). In addition relevant OS Maps from the 1st edition onwards, and a series of vertical and oblique aerial photographs were checked for nineteenth and twentieth century changes to the landscape and layout. A full list of both primary and secondary sources consulted is kept in archive.

It should be noted that although some limited documentary work on the general area had been carried out in 1990 as part of the initial evaluation report (Oetgen 1990), this was the first time that such a range of primary sources had been consulted. The current search was also specifically focused on the area of the 1996 excavations.

3 Results and Discussion

The location of the 1996 excavations was relatively easy to locate with reference to long-standing landmarks within the parish. The site lies just to the north of Chesterton Parish (prior to changes to the parish boundary in 1912), and a short distance to the east of the north-south Roman Road. This Roman Road is variously recorded as 'Street Way' (RO L35/1 in VCH ix, 178), 'Beach Way' (CRO L35/5)[1], and 'Mayre' or Mere Way (probably from Mayre Balk CRO L35/2).

The earliest references to this area of the parish of Milton are within the field surveys and field terriers dating from 1599, 1637, 1707 and 1791 (CRO L35/2,3,4,5 respectively). In these surveys it is recorded as forming part of the South Field, which, in the seventeenth century, covered some 340 acres. This field was divided into selions in separate 'ownership' within different blocks or 'furlongs'. The early field surveys list each selion and furlong, and the 1996 excavations may be located within the area of Mill Hill furlong. This furlong is recorded as being under 'arable' cultivation throughout the period covered by the field books. The VCH (VCH ix, 183) suggests that the cropping regime in the parish had been the same since the thirteenth century.

An Enclosure Award was made in 1801 (CRO Q/RDc4), until which time the area had remained arable and within the South Field. At Enclosure the South Field was sub-divided, and the area of the 1996 excavations fall within what was Allotment no.161. Allotment 161

is described as consisting of 50a 3r)p 'situate in the south field', allotted to Eliz. Taylor, freehold, boundary fences to be made and maintained by the said E. Taylor.

The next record of the area is an 1838 Sales catalogue of an 'Estate within the Parishes of Milton, Landbeach and Girton' (CUL Maps PSQ 18.91). This shows the area of 'Allotment 161' now subdivided into four Lots of between approximately 16 and 12 acres each. The area of excavation falls within Lot 1 (16a3r0p). All four lots are described as being 'arable land', although no indication of exact crop type is given. The area is described as having been 'recently under drained with tiles'.

The 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map of 1886 (Sheets XL6 and XL7) shows the area still subdivided, but with Lots 3 and 4 (east of the 1996 excavation) amalgamated. This amalgamation and re-instatement of the field boundaries appears to have occurred several times in the twentieth century, always along the same boundary.

Throughout the period up until the nineteenth century the area under discussion had always been referred to as arable, and certainly up until Enclosure, it was under cereal crop. However, in the 1903 Land Tax Assessment (CRO Maps), the area lying immediately east of the Roman Road is recorded (amalgamated) as comprising 32-3-10 of arable land containing 35 fruit trees, fruit bushes and other things growing.

Ordnance Survey Mapping in 1925, 1927 and 1950 show little change in the area, and none in the immediate area of the 1996 excavations. This is despite the suggestion made in the 1990 report (Oetgen 1990) that the area may have formed part of small holdings, which it was thought might explain some of the linear features found in the 1996 excavations.

As a further check on twentieth century land use, aerial photographs dating from 1964 onwards were consulted (CUCAP 74/64; CUCAP CAW 77-78; CUCAP CLJ 59, 63-66 and 78-79). However, these again showed the area under arable cultivation.

4 Conclusion and Archaeological Implications

It has been possible to clearly identify the area as having formed part of the 'South Field' from at least the sixteenth century until 1801, and possibly from the thirteenth century. As part of one of the three open fields of the parish, it was under arable cultivation continuously during that period, from the seventeenth century, as part of Mill Hill furlong. This period is well evidenced archaeologically by the remains of ridge and furrow which were recovered across the entire site in 1996.

By the very early twentieth century there appear to have been fruit trees and/or bushes growing on at least part of the field, and archaeologically it must be expected that some disturbance occurred during that period, probably down to the level below subsoil, perhaps combined with the 'making' of hollows or trenches typically associated with orchard or fruit cultivation. There is also a record of the field drains being inserted at this period, some of which were found during the excavation.

However, this documentary search failed to recover any specific record of constructions or trenching which would be associated with interrupted linear features found in the excavations and thought to be post-medieval.

Notes

1. VCH Cambs. ix. 177 onward, appears to be confused as to the location of 'Beach Way', which is clearly recorded on both the Enclosure Map (1801) and an 1826 'Map of Cambridgeshire and its Environs' (Cambs.Coll) as being the Roman Road south of Butt Lane.

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