



Archaeological Field Unit

# **Iron Age Settlement and Ritual. An Archaeological Training Excavation at Limes Farm, Landbeach**

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**DRAFT**



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***Iron Age Settlement and Ritual. An Archaeological Training  
Excavation at Limes Farm, Landbeach***

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## SUMMARY

*A sample of the 25 hectare cropmark site at Limes Farm and Walnut Farm, Landbeach was the subject of an archaeological excavation during August and September 1999. Trainees directed and supervised by staff of Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) undertook the work. Landbeach lies to the north of Cambridge and the site is situated to the south west of the village (TL482644).*

*The aim of the work was to identify whether agricultural practices have impacted upon the preservation of archaeological remains. The work was successful in achieving this aim and recommendations for future cultivation methods have been made.*

*The site was first known from chance finds and later discovered to be of considerable size and complexity through aerial photography. Finds recovered from the site by chance and field walking, and the form taken by the crop marks, suggested a Romano-British origin for the settlement. This excavation has shown that the settlement had its origins at least in the Middle Iron Age period if not before.*

*18 trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator, two trenches (1 and 2) at the southern end of the study area were extended to form small areas. Areas 1 and 2, and trenches 3, 10 and 11 received detailed investigation, features in all the remaining trenches were described and planned, but were not excavated.*

*The site was characterised by features representing timber structures, pits, and a complex of intercutting ditches.*

*Pottery of Middle Iron Age character was recovered from most feature types in Areas 1 and 2 and a small component of 'Belgic' and Roman pottery was recovered from features in trenches 10 and 11.*

*The majority of the pottery from the site was a large and well-preserved Middle Iron Age assemblage composed predominantly of sand and sand with vegetable tempered fabrics. There was a notable absence of flint tempered fabrics which might imply a chronological differentiation. The assemblage is therefore tentatively attributed a late Middle Iron Age date of 300-50BC. A Middle Iron Age pottery tradition in south Cambridgeshire awaits satisfactory definition and the Limes Farm material provides an important addition to the corpus of material studied to date. The site stratigraphy allowed the Middle Iron Age pottery to be grouped into secure chronological phases and an attempt was made to identify trends within the period as a whole. A Late Iron Age phase dating from 50BC was identified and the opportunity taken to explore its implications. Pottery that apparently reached the site from elsewhere was also evident including a lugged pot from Bedfordshire and scored wares from Leicestershire or Northamptonshire. Animal skulls at Limes Farm suggest that some contexts witnessed special placed deposits; an attempt has been made to see if there were any counterparts in the ceramic record to these animal bone groups, but none were clearly apparent.*

*Although the earliest phase of activity was characterised by a complex sequence of ditches, these provided little direct dating evidence, but the ditches were stratigraphically earlier than an occupation phase dating to the Middle Iron Age. Primary filling of these ditches appears to have been natural silts derived from the sides of the ditches. The final fills contained occupation debris including pottery, animal bones and evidence for spinning and weaving. An articulated juvenile pig burial, and deliberate deposition of cow skulls was also associated with this latest ditch filling phase.*

*A Middle Iron Age occupation phase is indicated by the presence of at least one timber building, possibly associated with several pits, containing general rubbish including large unabraded pottery and animal bones.*

*A final phase of ditches replaced the Middle Iron Age occupation and were probably backfilled in the Late Iron Age.*

*To the south, in trench 10, evidence was found for ditch filling in the Roman period. The inhumation of a baby was also found associated with this latest phase of activity.*

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Since 1994 it has been an aim of the Archaeological Field Unit to carry out a training excavation to further its widespread educational and public objectives. In 1996 the AFU was able to realise this aim with a three season programme of training sponsored by East Waste Ltd. It is the aim of the AFU to continue to provide this service to the public, and a suitable excavation site and funding was successfully sought to provide a training excavation for 1999.

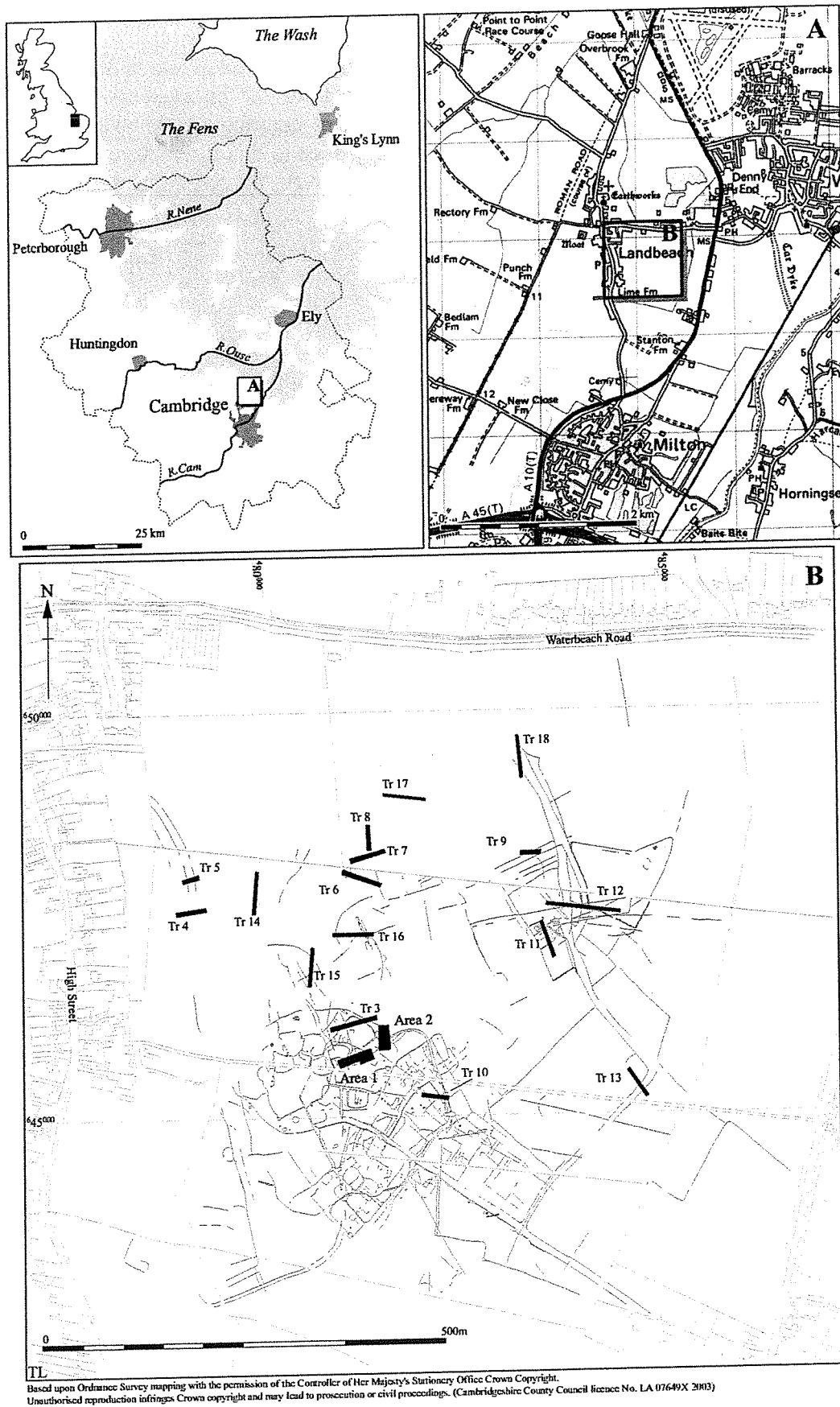
The fourth annual Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit training excavation took place during August and September 1999. Aileen Connor directed the excavation with the assistance of Dr. Twigs Way, Rebecca Casa Hatton and Andrew Hatton of the Archaeological Field Unit. The project used for the purpose was an assessment of Cambridgeshire County Farms Land at Limes Farm, Landbeach (centred on NGR TL482644). The County Farms Survey (Malim, 1990) highlighted the need for further work on this site, including evaluation and fieldwalking to determine whether any action should be taken for its preservation. The land was deemed suitable for use as a training excavation as it was not under threat from development but was under potential threat from agriculture. The site was made available for assessment at this time due to a recent change in tenancy. A new Farm management plan included advice on the future management and preservation of the archaeological remains on the land in question. The advice given as a result of this work included maximum depths for ploughing and a stop on pan busting and deep ploughing.

A project proposal was put together at the beginning of 1999 with a view to attracting funding. The project proposal was sent to a variety of sources and funding was attracted from South Cambridgeshire District Council, English Heritage and Cambridgeshire County Council's County Farms Estates, a contribution was also awarded by CBA Mid Anglia. Small sums were also attracted from local businesses Dickersons Ltd and Toilets plus. The remaining funding was made up from fees charged to students participating in the training excavation.

The aim of the training excavation was to provide a structured course concentrating on the basic principles of practical archaeological excavation within a real excavation situation. To place the excavation work into a wider context supporting talks by a range of specialists were arranged.

A decision to maintain a good student to teacher ratio was made in order to provide a high quality of service. Places on the training excavation were therefore limited to a maximum of five students to each tutor.

As part of a joint initiative with Cambridge University Board of Continuing Education, the option to join the Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS) was also offered to all students over 18.



**Figure 1** Location of Trenches showing Cropmarks from Aerial Photographs (in red).

Assessment of the excavated evidence subsequent to fieldwork showed that the Iron Age pottery assemblage recovered from the excavations was of particularly good quality, with high potential to contribute to knowledge of Cambridgeshire's Iron Age. In order to do justice to this assemblage English Heritage agreed to fund full analysis of the pottery, the results of which are presented in this report (section 7).

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

In the Project Design for this excavation it was noted that the site lies within a rich archaeological landscape on the southern fen edge and it was anticipated that the investigation would contribute towards an understanding of the landscape in which it is set. More particularly it was the aim of the project to contribute towards English Heritages Primary Aims (English Heritage 1997) and to take into consideration the research agenda for the Eastern Counties (Glazebrook et al, 1997). Four main aims were identified ;

### **Contribute to an understanding of the Iron Age to Roman transition**

In fact the majority of the excavated features were of Middle to Late Iron Age date with a very small proportion dated to the Roman Period. Although a contribution could be made to the understanding of the Iron Age to Roman transition this was, therefore, less marked than had been anticipated.

### **Contribute to an understanding of Roman Rural settlement**

It became apparent from the beginning of the excavation that the site had its origins somewhat earlier than had been anticipated and that the excavated features belonged largely to the pre-Roman Iron Age. Thus it was possible to meet this second aim only partially.

### **Promote public appreciation and enjoyment of archaeology**

The training excavation coupled with open days for members of the public and subsequent lectures was successful in fulfilling this aim.

### **Contribute towards the preservation of vulnerable sites**

The work undertaken on the site has shown that with careful monitoring of the agricultural regimes in use on the land, the archaeological deposits can be protected. Recommendations on restrictions to plough depth have been made to the Cambridgeshire County Farm Estates and these have been accepted.

## **AIMS OF THE POTTERY PROJECT**

The excavated remains included a surprisingly large and well preserved assemblage of Middle Iron Age pottery. The chronology of Iron Age ceramics is by no means fully understood in the East Anglian region. Assessment of the

pottery assemblage showed it to be of a type identified by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group as being of major significance:

*"Single period sites of different sub-phases within the Iron Age i.e. early, middle or Late Iron Age, should be given high priority for investigation in all regions in order for the regional ceramic phases to be clarified unhindered by major redeposition interference".*

Three main aims were identified for the pottery research:

**Attempt to define for the first time the Middle Iron Age pottery of south-east Cambridgeshire.**

The excavations at Limes Farm produced a significant quantity of Middle Iron Age pottery. Many of the contexts had large unabraded sherds with higher than usual mean sherd weights. These were not contaminated with earlier residual material, nor had they been disturbed and redeposited subsequently.

**Attempt to resolve the status of certain unusual wares as local products or imports.**

Typological analysis suggests that a lugged vessel from Limes Farm was an import from Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire or Northamptonshire. Vessels decorated in the East Midlands Scored Ware style are present; some of these may also represent pots that reached the site from further afield. Unlike Northamptonshire, East Midlands Scored Ware remained in vogue at Limes Farm and elsewhere in Cambridgeshire until the Late Iron Age. Although there are no perceptible changes in typology or fabric preferences in the Middle Iron Age at Limes Farm, the pottery suggests a settlement in touch with communities further afield, receptive to developments beyond its immediate horizons.

**Examine the introduction of wheel thrown and grog-tempered pottery in Late Iron Age Cambridgeshire.**

The presence of wheel-thrown pottery allowed the definition of a Late Iron Age phase on the site which commenced no earlier than c.50 BC. Even after the introduction of wheel-thrown pottery, the bulk of the vessels remained hand-made and testify to the tenacity of Middle Iron Age ceramic traditions in the region. The site was abandoned by the end of the 1st century BC.

### 3 GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

Landbeach lies on the edge of the fen which mostly lies to the north in High Fen and Frith Fen. High Fen has now mostly been quarried away for gravel. (Hall p127). To the west of the village is Roman Akeman Street and to the east is the Car Dyke, a Roman canal. These two route ways meet just to the north of Landbeach.

The site itself lies on the second terrace river gravels. The underlying geology is Jurassic Gault Clay (Worssam and Taylor 1969). The site lies at approximately 5.4m above ordnance datum and is generally flat, although remnant medieval headlands can be seen in some places. Topsoil was between 0.20 and 0.40m in depth across the site overlying subsoil which was approximately 0.20m thick.

The close location of these transport routes and the relatively well drained high ground of Landbeach would have made the parish particularly attractive to settlement in the Romano-British period, a continuation of use from earlier times.

### **3 THE TRAINING EXCAVATION**

The excavation had two main aims: to assess whether current farming practices posed any threat to extant archaeological remains; 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 :

Graeme Appleby (4), Samuel Baker (1), Trudi Buck (1), Louise Cater (1), Amandine Da Costa (2), Morgan di Rodi (1), Louise Dow (1), Terry Dymott (1), Jessica Earnshaw (4), Rachel Fosberry (1), Jackie Gibbs (2), Louise Hall (1), Jo Hayward (1), John Hensby (2), Ian Hill (1), Simon Houlton (1), Mark Houlton (3), Marko Hyypia (2), Esra Kaytaz (2), Tim Kearsey (2), Pat Knight (1), Clare Loveday (2), Geoff Oliver (1), Charles Rowland-Jones (1), Nadine Seymour (1), Rebecca Seymour (1), Chris Swain (2), Rebecca Thomlinson (2), Emily Wide (1), Mark Wing (1).

A total of 30 participants joined in the excavation as paying trainees ranging from 14 to over 60 years of age. Each participant received an attendance certificate indicating the range of topics covered during their stay. A small number of participants also chose to enter the Madingley Board of Continuing Education University accreditation scheme.

The first group of trainees commenced after initial machine stripping and clearance of the site. Three 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 outings to other sites and monuments in Cambridgeshire.

## **4 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **4.1 Prehistoric**

There is very little early prehistoric activity documented for Landbeach, with only two Neolithic axes (smr05234 and smr05347) recorded. Later prehistoric activity is also undocumented, apart from a few Iron Age pottery sherds (smr08594a). There are several undated crop mark sites recorded in the parish, some of which may have their origins in prehistory.

### **4.2 Roman**

The Roman remains in the area to the north of Cambridge are relatively well documented, and the archaeological remains from Landbeach are almost all Roman, and sited on the well drained gravels (Hall, 1996). Roman Akeman Street, now known as Mere Way along part of its length, forms the south-west and north-east parish boundaries. This road was the major route between Cambridge and Ely. Several sections have been excavated across the road, including a section dug by Mr J Bromwich in 1950 (smr5346). To the east in the parish of Waterbeach is the Car Dyke, a Roman canal which has had a number of sections excavated across it (Macaulay, 1994 and 1997). The nearby parish of Horningsea is the location of a large number of 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century kilns (smr05546) which also occur on the west bank of the Cam in Waterbeach and Milton.

A series of crop marks has been recorded in Landbeach (sites 4-10 in Hall, 1996), most of which lie to the north, in and close to the edge of the Fens. Reports of finds dating between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, coupled with the form of the crop marks, influenced the suggestion that these features were all Roman in date.

Fenland Survey sites 4 and 5 are the subject of this report. Site 4 is the complex lying to the south-west from which finds including lava quern fragments, oyster shells, Horningsea and other Romano-British pottery has been recorded. A drainage ditch dug in about 1960 is reported to have uncovered kiln bars which were sent to the Fitzwilliam museum (smr11567, Hall, 1996). Few artefacts have been recorded from the vicinity of Site 5 crop marks and it has been suggested that this complex and the outlying ditches of Site 4 were for stock rearing (Hall, 1996).

### **4.3 Saxon**

There is very little documented Anglo-Saxon activity, although an Anglo-Saxon brooch has been recorded (smr5357). Waterbeach on the other hand has much documented Anglo-Saxon activity including evidence of settlement.

The nearby parish of Chesterton has been identified as the location for an early Anglo-Saxon royal estate (Haslam, 1984).

#### **4.4 Medieval and Post-medieval**

Landbeach was first mentioned in Domesday as *Utbeche*, *Ut* meaning the outlying part from the main settlement (Waterbeach), and *beche* meaning a stream. Landbeach is on slightly higher and drier ground than Waterbeach and it is thought that Landbeach may have first been used for winter grazing by the people of Waterbeach. Jack Ravensdale (1974) has recorded the Medieval development of Landbeach in great detail.

The area of the excavation was known as Banworth Field and it has been suggested that the land may have been used for growing crops of Beans (Ravensdale, 1974).

### **5 METHODOLOGY AND CONSTRAINTS**

#### **5.1 Field walking**

The whole of the area covered by this cropmark complex was visited by Tim Malim for the County Farms Survey in the late 1980's (Malim, 1990). The limited amount of fieldwalking produced surprisingly few finds and it was recommended that the site would benefit from additional fieldwalking and a programme of trial trenching. During the winter of 1998-9 a fieldwalking survey was carried out on accessible parts of the site. This was undertaken by Mark Hinman, once again, surprisingly few finds were collected.

#### **5.2 Aerial Photo Survey (Fig.1)**

Prior to excavation, the well-known cropmarks were re-appraised by Rog Palmer of Air Photo Services (Archive Report). The area was mapped at 1:2500 and interpretation was attempted. From the cropmarks alone the site is one of several on the gravel terrace apparently linked by a network of tracks, many of which join the Roman Road, Akeman Street, to the west. An attempt to phase the site was made based on the alignments of the cropmarks. It was noted that a large irregular enclosure appeared to be on a different alignment to the majority of the other linear cropmark features. This was interpreted as a possible Roman camp but subsequent excavation has shown that it almost certainly belongs to a Middle Iron Age phase of occupation. A system of tracks was observed on which the majority of the remaining features seem to be based. The tracks and enclosures making up the majority of this phase of occupation suggest a village-size settlement. A third phase was suggested by the presence of a series of field boundaries on a completely different alignment to those features related to tracks. Naturally it was not possible to assign any



temporal phasing to these cropmark groups but it was hoped to test the phasing against excavated evidence.

### 5.3 Excavation

The crop marks covered an area of some 25 hectares on the land of two tenant farmers. Since the change in tenancy agreement was relevant to only the northern half of the land it was this area which was targeted for evaluation. Within this constraint parts of the area were not available for investigation due to farming needs (shown on fig. 1).

Within this constraint trenches were located to test the accuracy and proposed phasing of the cropmarks, coupled with testing those areas where crop marks were absent. Areas 1 and 2 were positioned to test an apparently complex knot of ditches which had the potential to supply good information about phasing. Other trenches were positioned to test feature intersections or to test whether the absence of cropmarks in some areas is a true reflection of what lies beneath the soil.

Over the two areas that were subject to excavation grid pegs were located at 5 metre intervals and later tied into Ordnance Survey using a Total Station Surveying Instrument. Trainees excavated archaeological deposits. Discrete features such as pits and postholes were half-sectioned or quadrantated where practicable. Sections were placed across linear features to establish profiles, dating and stratigraphic relationships where these existed. 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 by hand at a scale of 1:20, 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. The edges of the excavation and trenches were located to Ordnance Survey co-ordinates using a Total Survey Instrument. Temporary Bench Marks were established on the site using the Bench Mark (8.07m OD) located on the Church in Landbeach as the reference point. Where possible, trainees were encouraged to undertake all the recording steps under close supervision from AFU staff.

Ten environmental samples were taken from a broad range of feature types and most were processed by supervised trainees during the excavation. Sampling was undertaken with advice from Peter Murphy, English Heritage Environmental Co-ordinator for the Eastern Counties.

Much of the finds processing was undertaken by trainees in the field under the supervision of AFU staff as appropriate.

## 5.4 Post-Excavation

All finds collected from the site were washed, bagged and broadly catalogued, records were checked, consolidated and entered onto a site Database using Microsoft Access 97 software.

As a result of the excavations an important collection of Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered. Current research frameworks for the region identify the need to establish tighter dating for Iron Age ceramics, especially within Cambridgeshire. This large and well preserved pottery assemblage has therefore been analysed and the methodology used is described in section 7. The discovery of the pottery assemblage resulted in a re-defined project design which included objectives specific to the pottery assemblage including a major pottery study and an attempt to refine chronological development of MIA Ceramics through radiocarbon determination.

Ian Baxter (appendix 3) has assessed the animal bone assemblage. Although in general it proved to be too small for further work a group of cow skulls and a pig skeleton were noteworthy.

The first half of the report is organised following the standard practice of a hierarchically structured site narrative: post-excavation analysis of individual contexts, plans, sections and dating evidence, has provided the information to construct matrices, and to group contexts into interpretative elements described by area and chronologically by phase. A summary discussion of each phase is followed by the detailed description of each group. Group numbers are composed of phase, area and grouping, for example group 6.101 refers to phase 6, area 10, grouping 1. The second half of the report is devoted to the important pottery assemblage from the site.

## 6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

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**. The groups are identified as sub-sections of the phases.

All context groups have been phased as a means of showing the chronological development to the site. The results are reported on by area, phase (earliest first where known) and by context group (in numerical order). Full descriptions of the excavated contexts are kept in archive LANLF99, abbreviated descriptions can be found in Appendix 1, together with a list of finds by context.

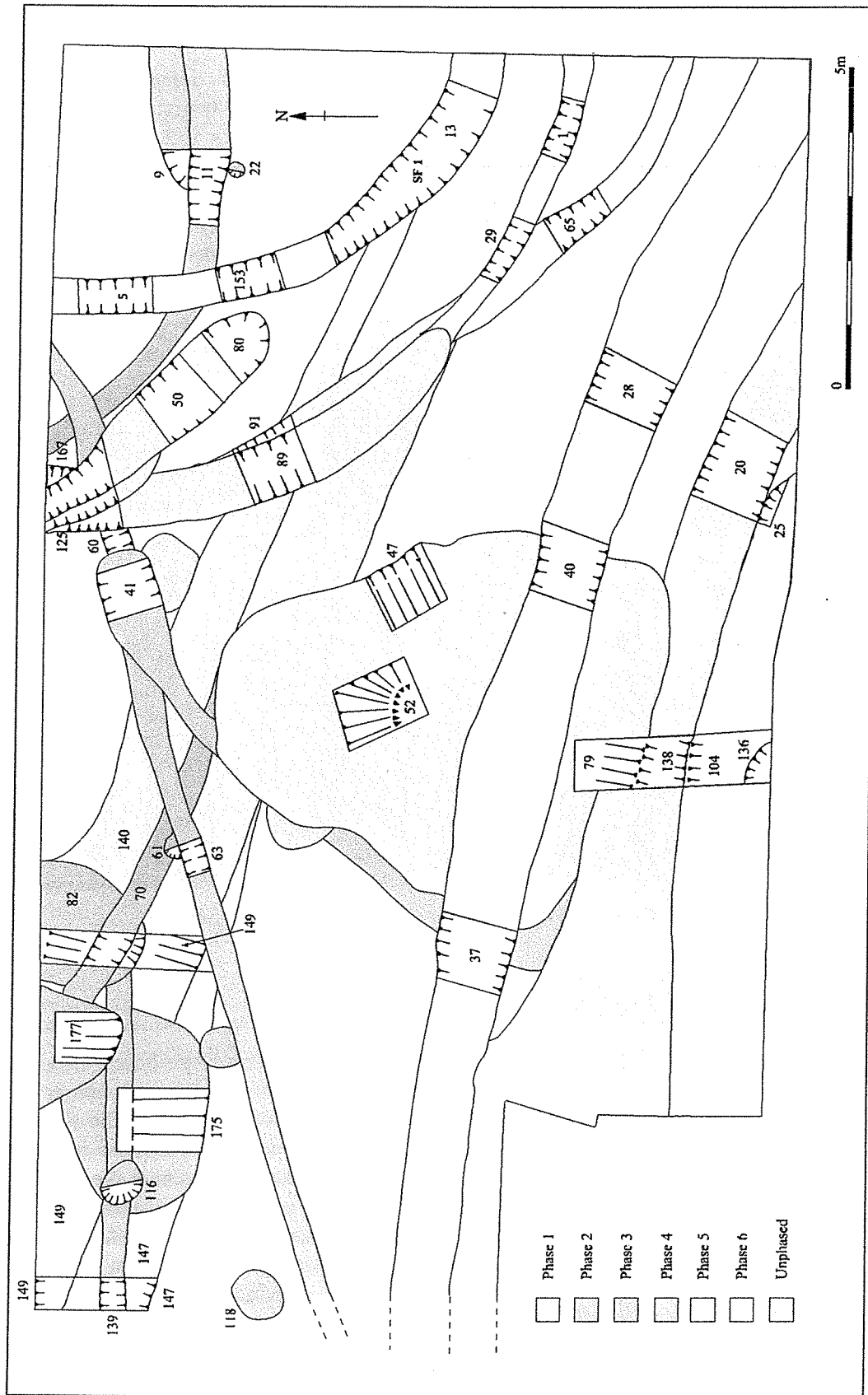


Figure 2 Area 1 All Phases

## 6.1 AREA 1 (Fig. 2 and 3)

Area 1 provided the longest stratigraphic sequence of deposits of the excavated areas. Six phases of activity were identified beginning with a possible Bronze Age ditch. A period of abandonment was followed in the Middle Iron Age by the construction of a probable roundhouse. The roundhouse appeared to have been rebuilt on several occasions and was associated with a large pit or watering hole. Finally Late Iron Age or Early Roman ditches possibly defining a track way were constructed.



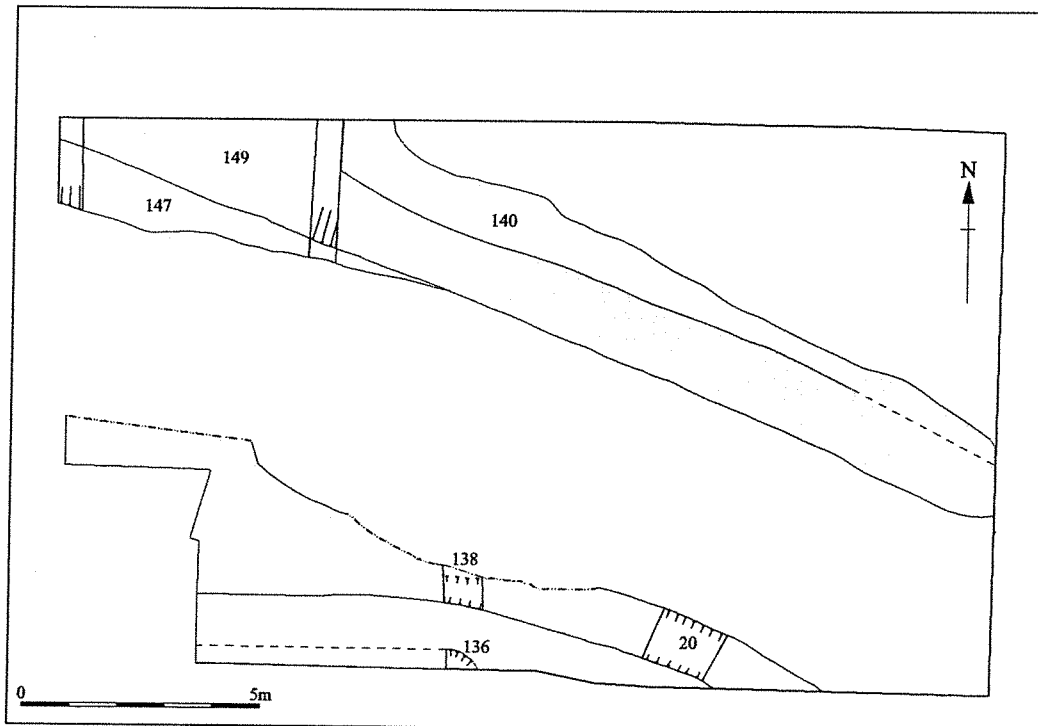
*Figure 3 East End of Area 1 Showing Excavated Features, Looking South*

### 6.1.1 Phase 1: Bronze Age? (Fig. 4)

Ditch 147 in area 1 may have been open during the Bronze Age based on a flint end scraper found in its very pale sandy fill. Although the evidence is limited, it is an important possibility since it would push the origins of the site back into the Bronze Age if not before. Although the possibility that the flint is residual can not be completely ruled out, its freshness, coupled with the fact that the ditch was stratigraphically earlier than any of the other features on area 1, would suggest otherwise. The size, profile and fills of the ditch were similar to a pair of east west orientated ditches found at the Babraham Road Park and Ride Site to the south of Cambridge, one of which was radiocarbon dated to the Bronze Age (Mark Hinman pers. Comm.).

The alignment of ditch 147 was apparently twice re-instated after it was mostly filled in. Ditches 149 and 140 were both much smaller features, although 140 was nearly as wide as the original ditch. No finds were

recovered from the excavation of these features, stratigraphically later than ditch 147 and earlier than ditch 139 and pit 175 (phase 2). The features may have been in use any time between the Bronze Age and the Middle Iron Age.



**Figure 4 Area 1 Phase 1**

**Group 1.1 Contexts: 147, 148, 174; 149, 150, 140, 141; ditch**

The stratigraphically earliest feature in area 1 was an approximately east west orientated ditch cut 147, at least 1.87 metres wide by at least 0.87 metres deep. The ditch had a flat based V shaped profile and was filled by yellowish brown moderately compacted sandy silt 148, and brownish yellow loose silty sand 174. Fill 148 contained a small quantity of animal bone and a single fresh and unabraded flint end scraper which may be Bronze Age in date. 167/89, 149 and 175 truncated ditch 147.

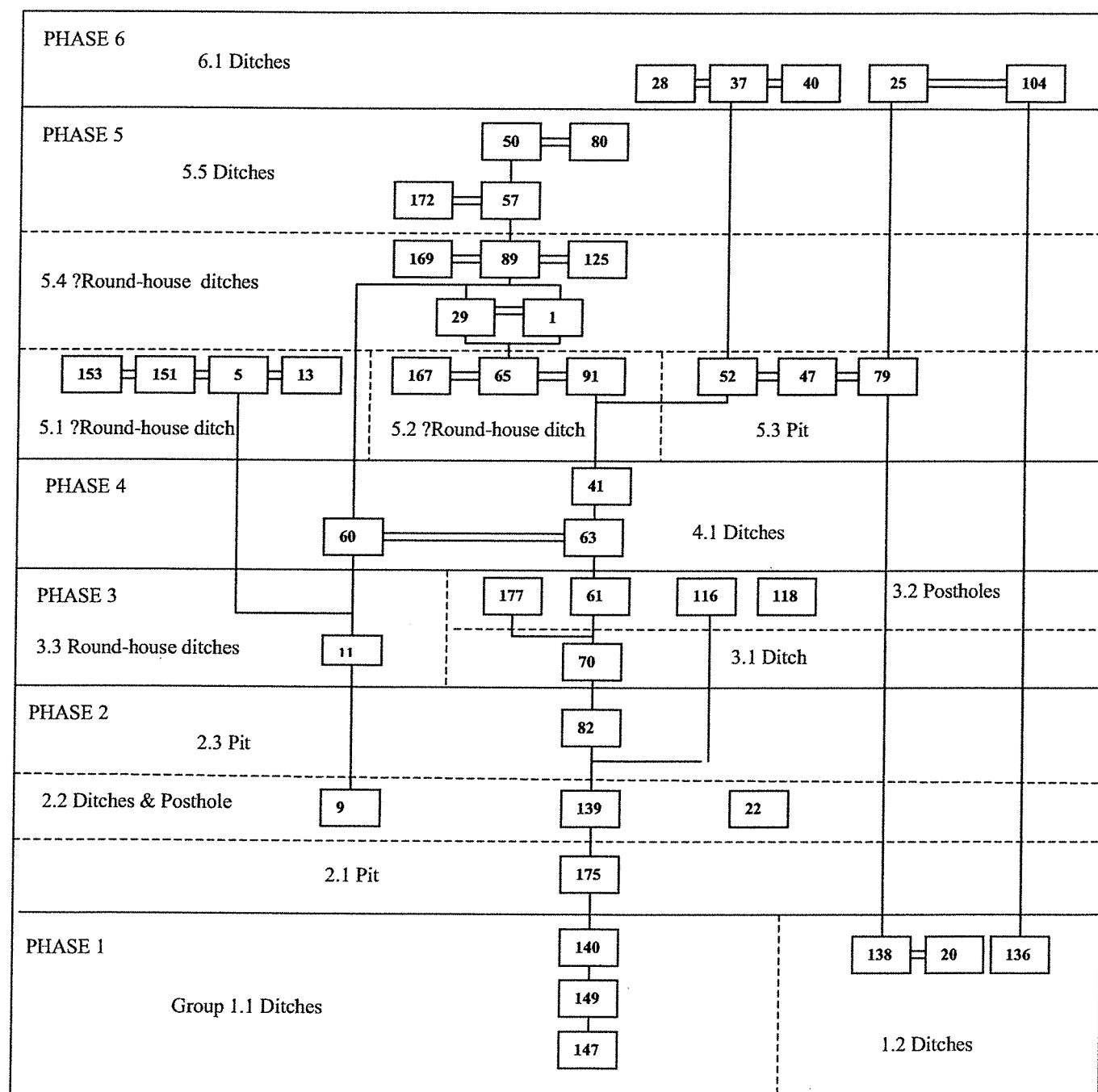
Ditch 149 had a U shaped profile that followed a similar orientation to ditch 147. The feature was not complete, as it had been truncated by later activity, its truncated width was 0.58m, and it was 0.44m deep. The ditch was filled by 150, dark yellowish brown moderately firm sandy silt. No finds were recovered. Ditch 149 truncated 147 and was cut by 140.

Ditch 140 had a wide gradual U shaped profile and followed a similar orientation to 147. It was 1.65m wide and 0.32m deep, filled by 141, dark yellowish brown moderately firm sandy silt. No finds were recovered. Ditch 140 truncated ditches 149 and 147, and was truncated by ditch 139 and pit 175.

**Group 1.2 Contexts: 138=20 filled by 137, 19, 18; 136 filled by 135. Ditches**

Ditch 138 = 20 had a wide moderately shallow, flat based U shaped profile and followed a similar orientation to phase 1.1 ditches. It was 0.5m wide and 0.30m deep, filled by 137= 19, yellowish brown soft sandy silt and 18, brown soft silty sand.

Ditch 136 was immediately adjacent to and on the same orientation as 138, it had a stepped U shaped profile, but its full width is unknown as it ran along the southern edge of the excavation area. The ditch appeared to be slightly curvilinear, but not enough was exposed to be certain. It was 0.8m deep, filled with 135, light olive brown loose sandy clay silt.



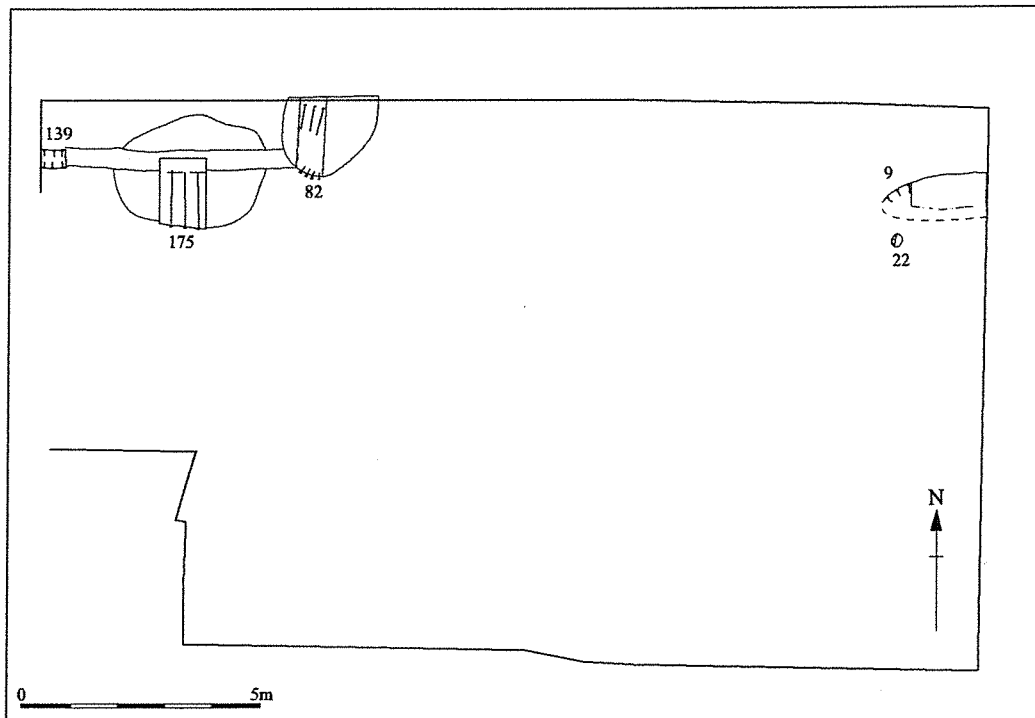
**Figure 5 Area 1 Feature Matrix**

## Phases 2-5: MIDDLE IRON AGE

The majority of the features in area 1 contained pottery that dates to the Middle or Late Iron Age (Sealey, below). The phases have been allocated based purely on stratigraphic and spatial characteristics. Features include pits, postholes and a series of curvilinear ditches that may represent the remains of several re-builds of a round-house, a large pit may be associated with the latter.

### 6.1.2 Phase 2 (Fig. 6)

Two shallow sub-circular pits, a narrow gully, a ditch terminal and a possible posthole have been allocated to phase 2. Although no finds were recovered from any of the features they were stratigraphically later than phase 1 ditches and earlier than phase 3 features. It is possible that ditch terminus 9 and possibly associated posthole 22 represent the earliest construction of a roundhouse or similar structure, the evidence is somewhat limited, but if the features do represent a roundhouse, then an entrance is suggested at the south-west.



**Figure 6** Area 1 Phase 2

#### **Group 2.1** Contexts: 175 filled by 176. Pit

Pit 175 was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides to a flat base. It was 1.01m in diameter and 0.39m deep filled by 176, very dark greyish brown moderately firm sandy silt, no finds. The pit cut into the top of ditch 140 phase 1.1 and was truncated by gully 139 phase 2.2.

**Group 2.2 Contexts:** 9 filled by 10, 22 filled by 23, 139 filled by 131, 132. Gullies and posthole

Gully 9 was linear in plan with a flat based U shaped profile, at least 0.85m wide and 0.21m deep. It had an east west orientation and was aligned with gully 139, the two features may be associated. Gully 9 terminated adjacent to posthole 22, this may be significant. The feature was filled by 10, dark yellowish brown sity sand, no finds.

Posthole 22 was circular in plan with a U shaped profile. It was 0.19m in diameter and 0.13m deep, filled by 23 dark yellowish brown silty sand, no finds. The feature was located adjacent to the end of gully 9 and may be associated with it.

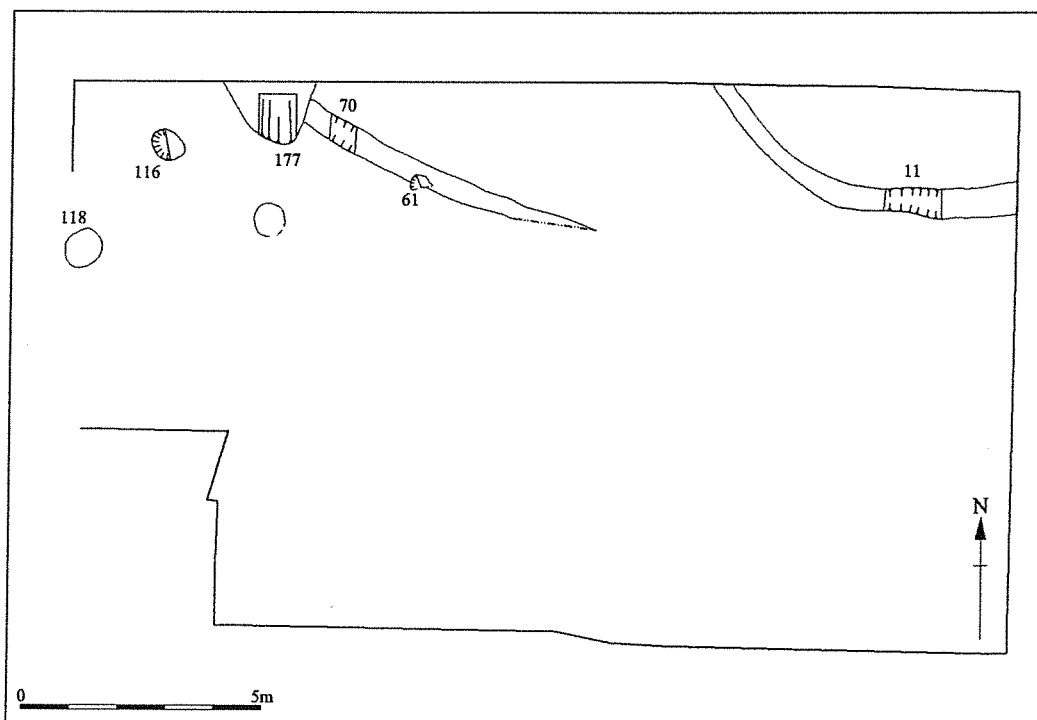
Gully 139 was linear in plan with a U shaped profile it was 0.4m wide by 0.3m deep. It was filled by dark greyish brown moderately firm sandy silt 131 and 132, 131 contained 24 large sherds of Iron Age pottery suggesting they were contemporary with the fill. Only a short length of the gully was visible in plan, it cut into the top of ditch 140 and pit 175 and was truncated by pits 82, 177 and posthole 116.

**Group 2.3 Contexts** 82 filled by 69. Pit.

Pit 82 was circular in plan with a flat base and irregular sides, it was 1.52m in diameter and 0.23m deep. It was filled with dark yellowish brown firm sandy silt 69, no finds.

### 6.1.3 Phase 3 (Fig. 7)

Curvilinear ditch 11 may be the earliest evidence for the construction of a roundhouse or similar structure, or if feature 9 (Phase 2) is accepted as representing a similar construction it may represent a re-build. Other features represented in Phase 3 include a pit, a shallow gully and a group of possible postholes which may represent a fence or the remains of a structure. Few finds were associated with this phase of activity, none were directly associated with the roundhouse, although one sherd of pottery was recovered from posthole 116 and pit 177 contained 39 sherds of pottery.



**Figure 7 Area 1 Phase 3**



**Group 3.1 Contexts: 70 filled by 71, 75. Gully**

Gully 70 was linear in plan with a flat base and moderately steep sides, it was 0.66m wide and 0.23m deep. The feature followed the same alignment as, and cut into the top of ditch 140, suggesting continuity from phase 2. It was filled with very dark greyish brown firm sand 71 and brown moderately firm silty sand 75, no finds.

**Group 3.2 Contexts: 61 filled by 62, 116 filled by 117, 118 filled by 119, 120; 177 filled by 130. Postholes and pit.**

Posthole 61 was probably circular in plan (although truncated) with a flat based U shaped profile. It was 0.3m diameter and 0.08m deep, filled by dark brown moderately firm sandy silt 62, no finds. The posthole cut into the top of gully 70 and was truncated by gully 63.

Posthole 116 was circular in plan with a wide U shaped profile. It was 0.54m diameter and 0.14m deep, filled by 117, olive brown moderately firm sandy silt with one sherd of probably Middle Iron Age pottery. The posthole cut into the top of gully 139.

Posthole 118 was circular in plan with a wide U shaped profile and gently sloping sides. It was 0.4m diameter and 0.18m deep, filled by 119, yellowish brown loose silty sand with animal bone fragments and 120, brown moderately firm sandy silt, no finds.

Pit 177 was sub-circular in shape with gently sloping sides and unknown base. It was at least 1m in diameter and 0.24m deep. The pit was filled by 130, brownish yellow moderately firm sandy silt with 39 pottery sherds with a relatively high mean sherd weight of more than 40 grammes.

**Group 3.3 Contexts; 11 filled by 12. Roundhouse?**

Ditch 11 was curvilinear in plan, it was located in the north-east corner of area 1 where it truncated ditch 9, phase 3.2. It was 0.51m wide and 0.17m deep. An approximately 9m segment of the ditch was visible within the trench. The curvature of the feature would suggest a diameter of approximately 8 metres, and may be a foundation trench for a small roundhouse. The ditch was filled by 12, brown silty sand with no finds.

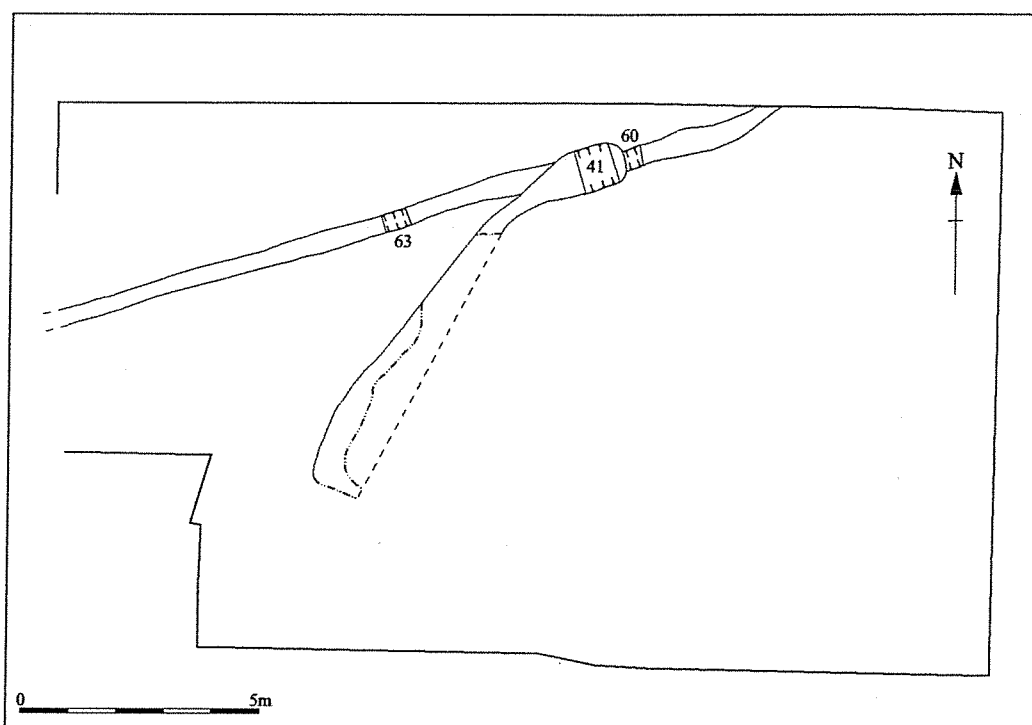
#### **6.1.4 Phase 4 (Fig. 8)**

Phase 4 is represented by two narrow, shallow ditches with some pottery and animal bone found in the excavated sections of the features. Since one of the ditches cut into the phase 3 roundhouse ditch it may be assumed that this structure was no longer standing in phase 4, although it may have been re-built (phase 5) since there is a hint that ditch 60 curves to avoid roundhouse ditch 5.

**Group 4.1 Contexts 41 filled by 43, 44, 48; 60 filled by 42; 63 filled by 64. Ditches.**

Ditch 41 was linear in plan with a complex profile, it was 1m wide and 0.46m deep. The feature followed an approximately south-west north-east orientation, it terminated at the north-east end where it widened. It was filled by yellowish brown and brownish yellow firm sandy silts 43, 44 and 48, animal bone was present in 43 and pottery in 48. The feature cut through ditch 60/63 and was truncated by pit 47/52/79 phase 5.3.

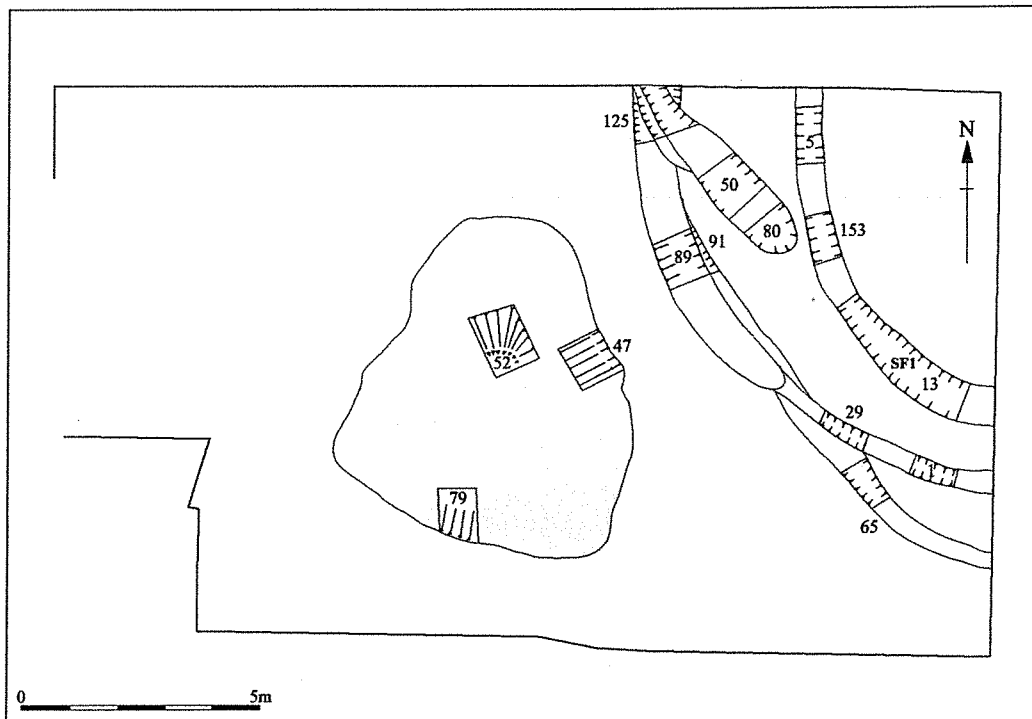
Ditch 60/63 was linear in plan with a flat based U shaped profile, it was 0.38m wide and 0.25m deep. The feature followed a near east-west orientation, it cut through ditches 11 and 70, and posthole 61, it was truncated by ditch 41. It was filled by 42/64, yellowish brown firm silty sand, animal bone was present in 42.



*Figure 8 Area 1 Phase 4*

#### 6.1.5 Phase 5 (Fig. 9)

Third and fourth episodes of building activity occurred in phase 5. An approximately 8 metre diameter roundhouse was built surrounded by a 12 metre diameter drainage ditch. The drainage ditch appears to have been re-cut on more than one occasion. There was no sign of an entrance within the area of the excavation so it may be assumed that any entrance into the building was located to the east or north. On the collapse or destruction of this latter building a fourth structure was built. Only a small length of ditch was located within the excavation area, the evidence is therefore limited, but this final building phase may have had an entrance at its south side, based on the position of the ditch terminus. This final building was constructed close to the position of the original phase 3 structure. Finds from the roundhouse ditches included pottery and an iron knife blade (sf1, Fig.10). The knife was found in the backfill of roundhouse ditch 13. Located close to the south-east of the building was a large irregularly shaped pit 47 etc. The pit may have started life as a watering hole or well, and may be associated with the earliest building construction. Of particular note were relatively large quantities of pottery and animal bone in its dark organic fills, including a preponderance of rims and bases that could be regarded as more than one might expect from a simple rubbish deposit.



**Figure 9 Area 1 Phase 5**

**Group 5.1** Contexts 5 filled by 6, 7, 8; 13 filled by 14, 15; 151 filled by 152; 153 filled by 154, 155. Roundhouse?

Ditch 5/13/151/153 was curvilinear in plan, it varied in width between 0.6m and 0.9m. It was 0.36m deep with a complex profile. It was filled by yellowish brown and dark yellowish brown sandy clay and sandy silt. An approximately 9 metre length was visible in the excavation area describing a gentle arc which can be estimated as part of an approximately 8m diameter circle. Associated with the ditch were a series of small 60mm diameter circular features, possibly stake holes, four were observed along the inner side of the ditch and two along the outer ditch. The feature may represent the remains of a foundation trench for a roundhouse, possibly built to replace phase 3.3 house 11. A second ditch 65/91 phase 5.2, with an approximate diameter of 12 metres was parallel to this ditch and may be a drainage ditch associated with it. Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from contexts 15, 152, 154 and 155, animal bone was recovered from context 6, a fragment of an iron knife blade (sf1 fig.10) was found in context 15, at the southern end of the ditch. The blade is 116mm long and has a convex cutting edge with two rivets set about 13mm apart in the tang which is the same width as the blade. Similar blades have been found at South Stanmore Farm (Richards & Pocock 1998), and at Great Abington in Cambridgeshire (Gilmour, 1999). The blade was lying horizontally in the upper fill of the ditch, an iron dagger or short sword was found in similar circumstances in the ditch of roundhouse 7 at Pennyland in Milton Keynes (Williams 1993).

**Group 5.2** Contexts 91 filled by 92; 65 filled by 66, 67; 167 filled by 168. Roundhouse?

Ditch 65/91/167 was curvilinear in plan, it was 0.7m wide and 0.31m deep with a steep sided flat based profile. It was filled by brownish yellow and dark yellowish brown sand and sandy silt, pottery was recovered from context 126. An approximately 11 metre length of the ditch was visible describing a gentle arc which is estimated to be part of a 12 metre diameter

circular ditch. The feature may represent a drainage ditch around phase 5.1 house 5/13/151/153.

**Group 5.3** Contexts 47 filled by 46; 52 filled by 49, 68, 74; 79 filled by 78, 113. Pit.

Pit 47/52/79 had an irregular sub-circular shape in plan with a complex profile, it was gradually sloping at the top becoming steep, almost vertical near the base. The base of the feature penetrated the modern water table. The feature may represent a watering hole, possibly dug and in use in an earlier phase, subsequently used as a rubbish pit, perhaps by the occupants of the nearby roundhouse. The upper fill was a very dark greyish brown soft sandy silt, 46/49/78 containing a large assemblage of Middle Iron Age pottery, this lay above dark grey silty sand 68 containing pottery and dark yellowish brown soft sandy silt 113 and dark greyish brown sand 74, no finds were recovered from either of these primary fills.



*Figure 10 X-Ray of Iron knife (SF 1 shown at 1:1)*

**Group 5.4** Contexts 1 filled by 2, 3, 4; 29 filled by 35, 36; 89 filled by 90; 125 filled by 126; 169 filled by 144, 170, 171. Roundhouse?

Ditch 1/29 was curvilinear in plan, it was between 0.45m and 0.55m wide and 0.19m deep with a flat based U shaped profile. It was filled by light olive brown clay sand 2, 3, 35 and dark olive brown sandy clay 4, 30. No finds were found in any of these contexts. The ditch formed a gently curving arc, estimated to be part of a 12m diameter circular ditch. It may be a re-cut of ditch 65 phase 5.2.

Ditch 89/125/169 was curvilinear in plan, it was approximately 1m wide and 0.31m to 0.46m deep with a flat based stepped U shaped profile and appeared to terminate. It was filled by dark greyish brown sandy silt 126, dark greyish brown silt 171, and dark yellowish brown sandy silt 90 and 170. Pottery was found in context 126. This ditch may be a partial re-cut of ditch 1/29, possibly re-instating an entrance into the building on its south-west side.

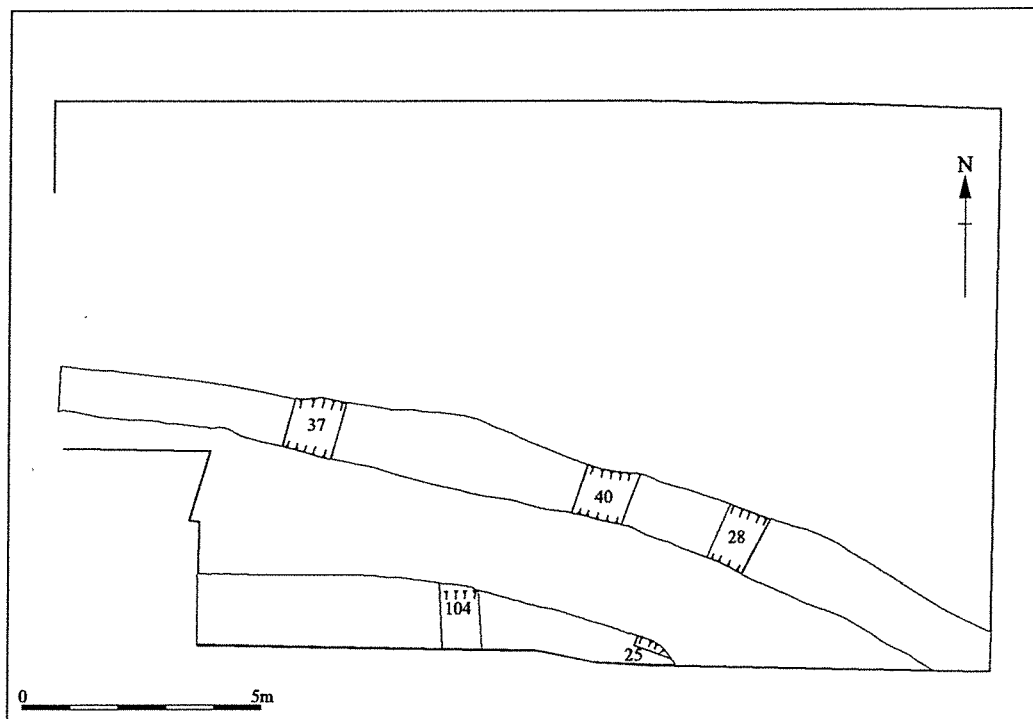
**Group 5.5** Contexts 50 filled by 51, 56; 57 filled by 58; 80 filled by 81, 93; 172 filled by 173.

Ditch 57/172 was linear in plan, it was truncated so its width and profile are unknown. It was filled by dark grey clay silt 58 and 173. The ditch had been truncated by 50/80, no finds were recovered from it.

Ditch 50/80 was linear in plan, it was approximately 1m wide narrowing to 0.55m and 0.30m deep. It was filled by dark grey clayey silt 51 and sandy silt 81/93. Middle Iron Age pottery was found in context 81.

#### **6.1.6 Phase 6: Late Iron Age (Fig.11)**

The backfilling of the watering hole in phase 5 may not have been the end of settlement activity. A pair of shallow ditches (28/37/40 and 25/104) were dug in this final phase, one of which cut into the top of the watering hole backfilled in phase 5. These ditches both appear to curve slightly as though avoiding something, possibly the roundhouse built in phase 5 or a structure to the South and beyond the excavation area. The ditches were approximately 2.5m apart and may be de-limiting one side of a drove way or track, or possibly a hedge bank. Similarly aligned and located ditches were identified as belonging to Phase 1 and the ditches identified in this latest phase may be a re-instatement of those.

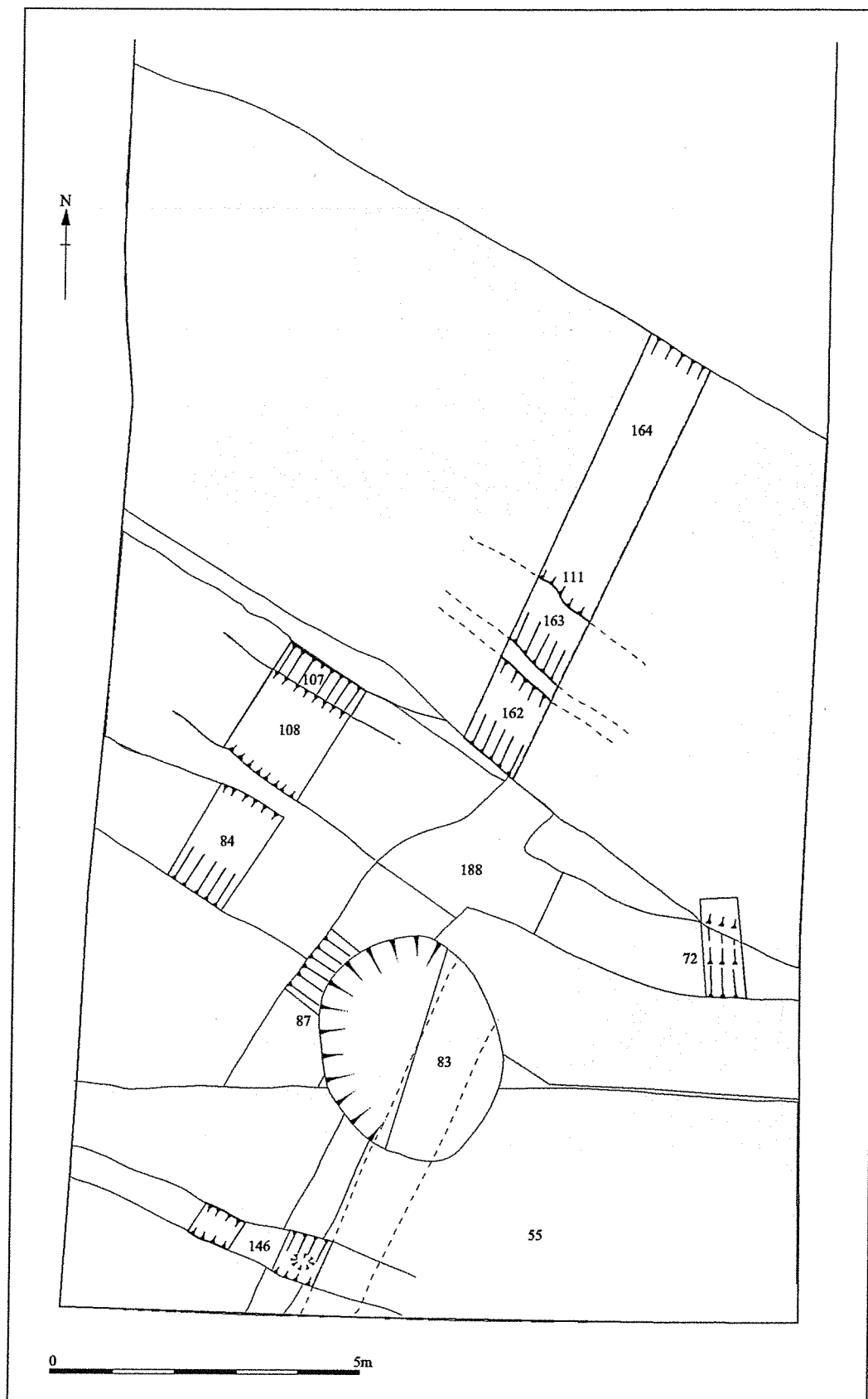


**Figure 11 Area 1 Phase 6**

**Group 6.1** Contexts 25 filled by 24; 28 filled by 26, 27; 37 filled by 36; 40 filled by 34; 104 filled by 103, 112. Ditches.

Ditch 28/37/40 was linear in plan with a shallow wide U shaped profile. It was 1.35m wide, at least 20m long and 0.32m deep. It was filled by dark yellowish brown silty sand 26, yellowish brown sand 27, dark yellowish clay sand 36 and dark brown sandy silt 34. The ditch truncated pit 47/52/79.

Ditch 25/104 was linear in plan and approximately parallel with 28/37/40. The ditch was 1.30m wide, at least 15m long and 0.6m deep with a wide U shaped profile. It was filled by dark brown sandy silt 24, olive brown silty sand 103 and light olive brown sandy silt 112. Pottery was found in contexts 103 and 112.



*Figure 12 Area 2 All Phases*

## 6.2 AREA 2 (Figs. 12, 13)

Area 2 was approximately 11m wide by 25m long, it was located to the east of Area 1. The features in this area were difficult to see due to the nature of their fills which were generally very pale sandy silts, individual features were difficult to disentangle. The majority of the features in Area 2 were intercutting ditches, most of which followed an approximately north-west south-east orientation. A single pit and a linear feature that may be structural were also present. Cultural material such as pottery and animal bone was present in relatively large quantities in the pit and in the upper fills of the ditches at the southern end of the area. Of particular note was a group of four cow skulls and a complete juvenile pig skeleton in the upper fill of ditch 87. The majority of the pottery from the features in Area 2 belonged to the Middle Iron Age, although there is a small Late Iron Age or Belgic component. The phases are thought to be broadly consistent with those allocated to Area 1 features.

### 6.2.1 Phase 2 (Fig. 14)

The earliest phase of activity on Area 2 was a ditch (84) that had been cut on an approximately north-west south-east alignment. Ditch 84 was probably filled in before a second ditch (38=107) was cut parallel with it just to the north. This second ditch had been re-cut at least once (108) on the same alignment. The ditches may be associated with the earliest phase of settlement identified to the west on Area 1. Finds associated with domestic settlement were recovered from the ditches including a fragment of a clay loom-weight. Pottery from the features is consistent with a Middle Iron Age date and was similar to the material recovered from the structural features in Area 1.



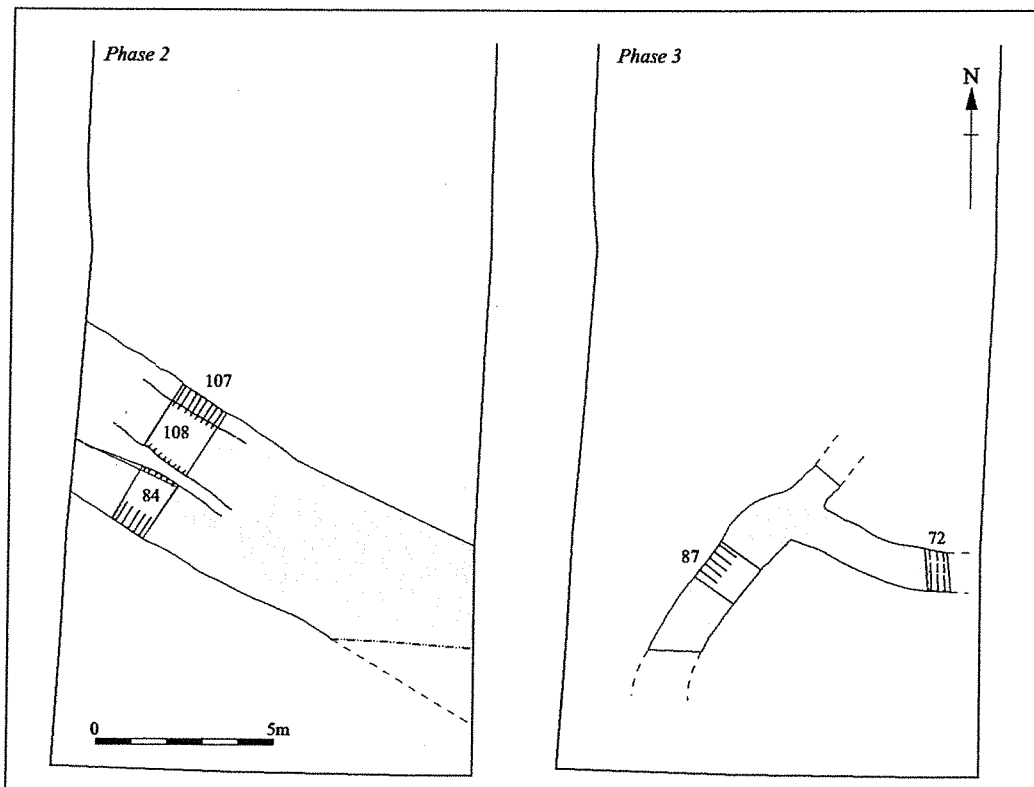
*Figure 13 Area 2 Under Excavation, Looking East*

**Group 2.21:** Contexts: 38=107 filled by 16, 77, 21, 88, 33, 109; 108 filled by 59, 73; 84 filled by 55, 105, 133.

Ditch 38/107 was linear in plan on an approximately north-west south-east orientation with a wide U shaped profile. It was approximately 2.5m wide and 0.8m deep. It was filled with dark greyish brown sandy silt 16, very dark grey sandy silt 21, dark olive brown sandy silt 33, dark yellowish brown coarse sand 77/88, yellowish brown silty sand 109. Ditch 107 was re-cut by ditch 108.

Ditch 84 was linear in plan on an approximately north-west south-east orientation with a wide U shaped profile. It was 2.1m wide and 0.7m deep, it was approximately parallel with and to the south of ditch 107. The ditch was filled with dark brown silty sand 55, yellowish brown slightly silty sand 105 and yellowish brown sand 133. Finds included a fragment of clay loom weight from context 55, pottery from contexts 55 and 105 and animal bone from contexts 105 and 133.

Ditch 108 was a re-cut of ditch 107. The ditch was linear in plan on approximately the same orientation as ditches 84 and 107, it had a wide U shaped profile. It was 1.5m wide and 0.7m deep. It was filled with dark brown silty clay 59 and dark brown clayey sand 73. Pottery was found in both contexts.



**Figure 14** Area 2 Phases 2 and 3

#### 6.2.2 Phase 3 (Fig. 14)

The second phase of activity identified on Area 2 was characterised by three ditches (72, 87, 166). The dating for this phase is Middle Iron Age based on the pottery although fragments of Belgic pottery were recovered from ditch 72. This pottery may be intrusive or the phasing allocated to the feature may be incorrect (see Phase 6 below). The relationship between the three ditches was not entirely clear, but 87 and 166 had both been cut across the earlier Phase 2 ditches. Ditch 87 and 166 may in fact be segments along the same ditch, although a slight kink in the west edge of the ditches suggests the convergence



of two or more features at that point, and ditch 87 clearly had a slot cut into its base which may have held a palisade. Ditch 72 also converged at the same point.

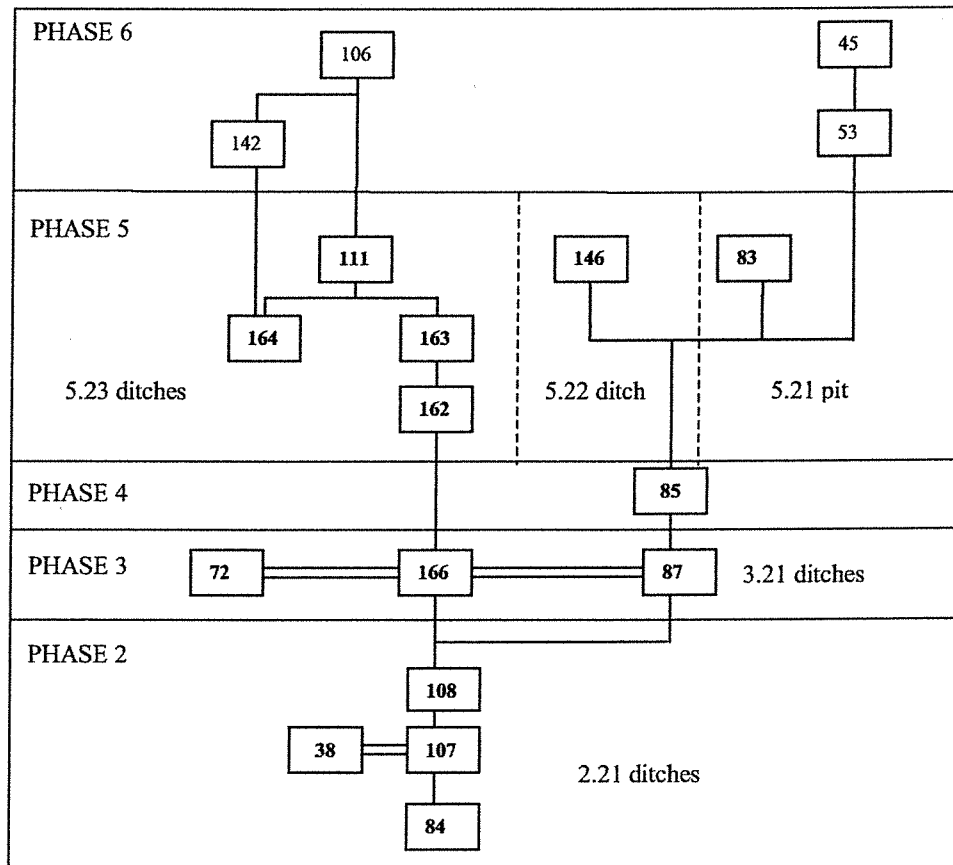


Figure 15 Area 2 Feature Matrix



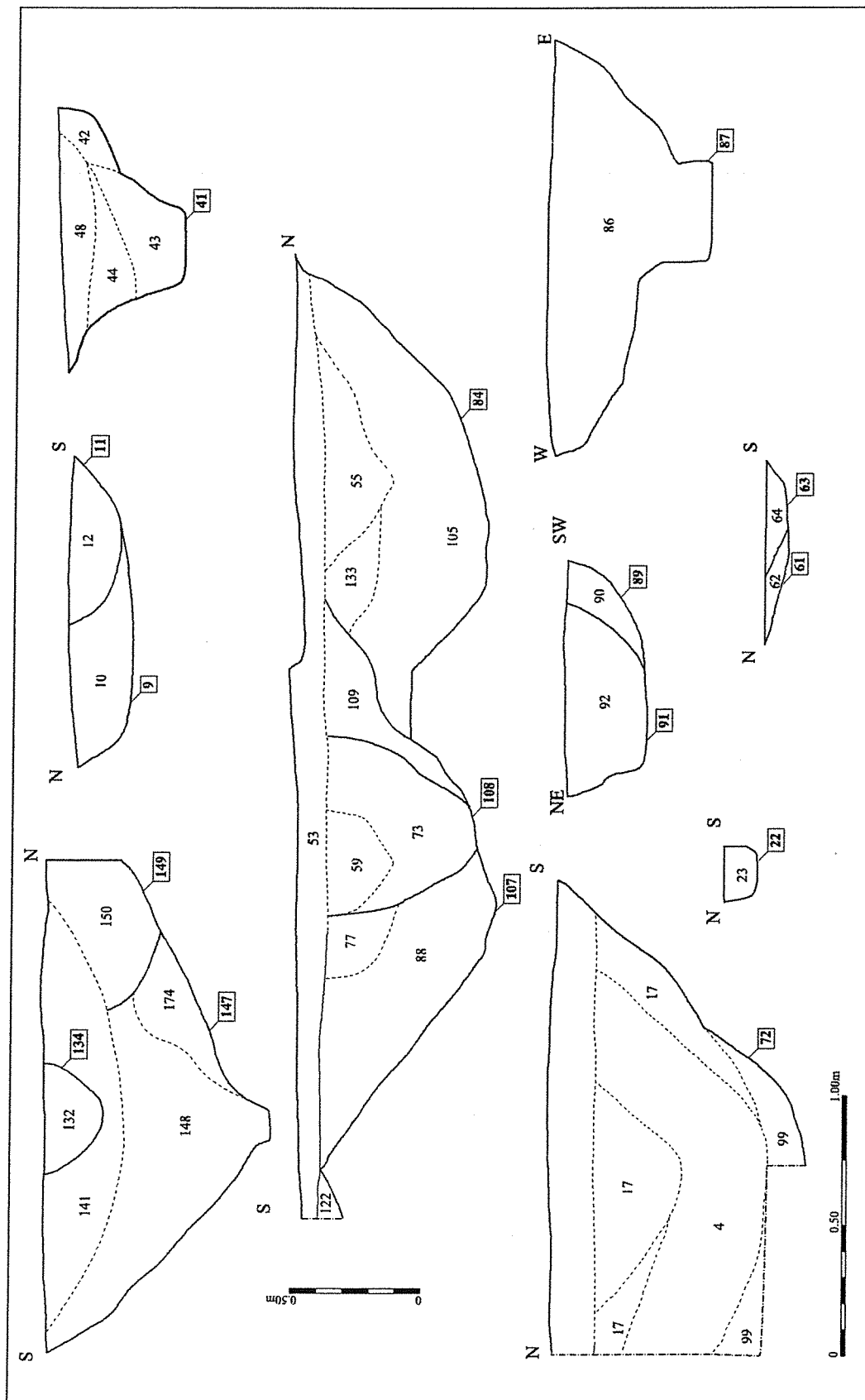


Figure 16 Sections

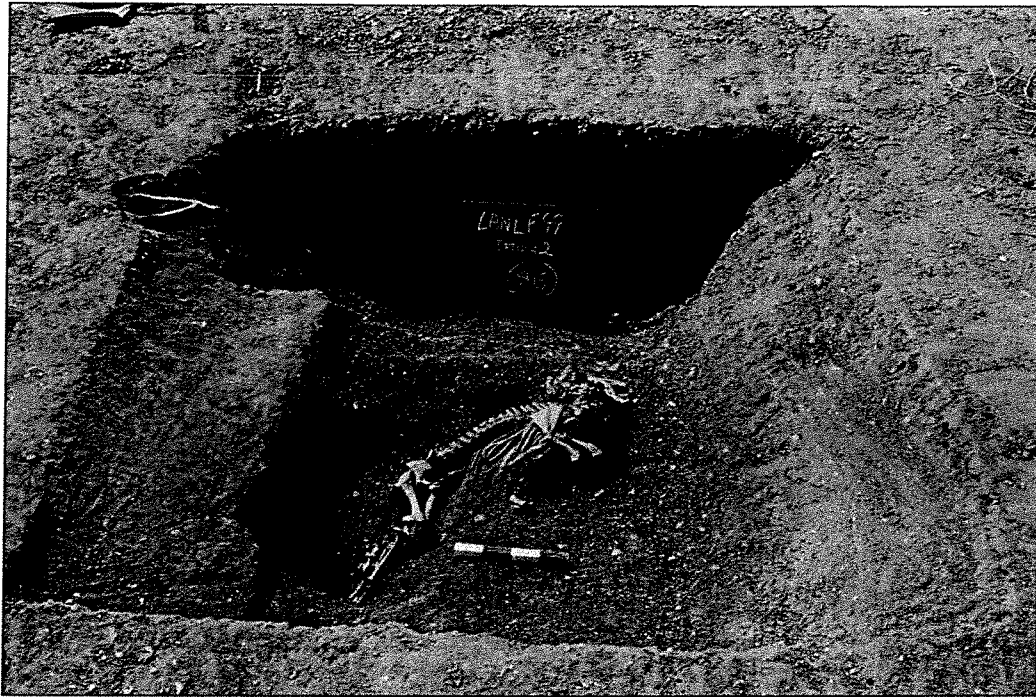
Of special interest in the area of convergence was a group of four small horned cattle skulls associated with articulating vertebrae and complete but disarticulated long bones. The bones were all found in the top few centimetres of the upper fill of the ditches. The skulls showed variable preservation; skulls 1 and 2 (figure 8) had the poorest preservation, whilst skulls 3 and 4 were much better preserved. The skulls were all found lying upside down and facing in alternate directions. A group of jumbled semi-articulating vertebrae, long bones and shoulder blades was found between and beneath skulls 3 and 4. No other bones were found immediately adjacent to skulls 1 and 2. The original purpose of this deposit is unclear. The bones may be the residual remains of an activity such as tanning, however, the position of the bones suggests that some thought had gone in to their deposition. All four skulls may be part of a single deposit, but the differential preservation between skulls 1 and 2 and skulls 3 and 4 suggests the possibility that the bones represent two or even more phases of deposition. The earlier deposit may have consisted of skulls 1 and 2 which may have been disturbed when skulls 3 and 4 were deposited with their associated long bones and vertebrae. The location of the deposit at the junction of three converging filled ditches may also be significant.



*Figure 17 Cow Skulls and Associated Bones in Detail, Looking South West*

Immediately to the south of the cattle deposit in ditch 87 was the complete skeleton of a juvenile pig found lying on its left side with its head at the north. The pig was found approximately 0.15m lower than the cattle skulls and it was not possible to determine whether there was any direct relationship between

the two deposits. In the base of ditch 72 another cow skull was found. It is therefore possible there was no link between this event and those in the top fills of 87/166.



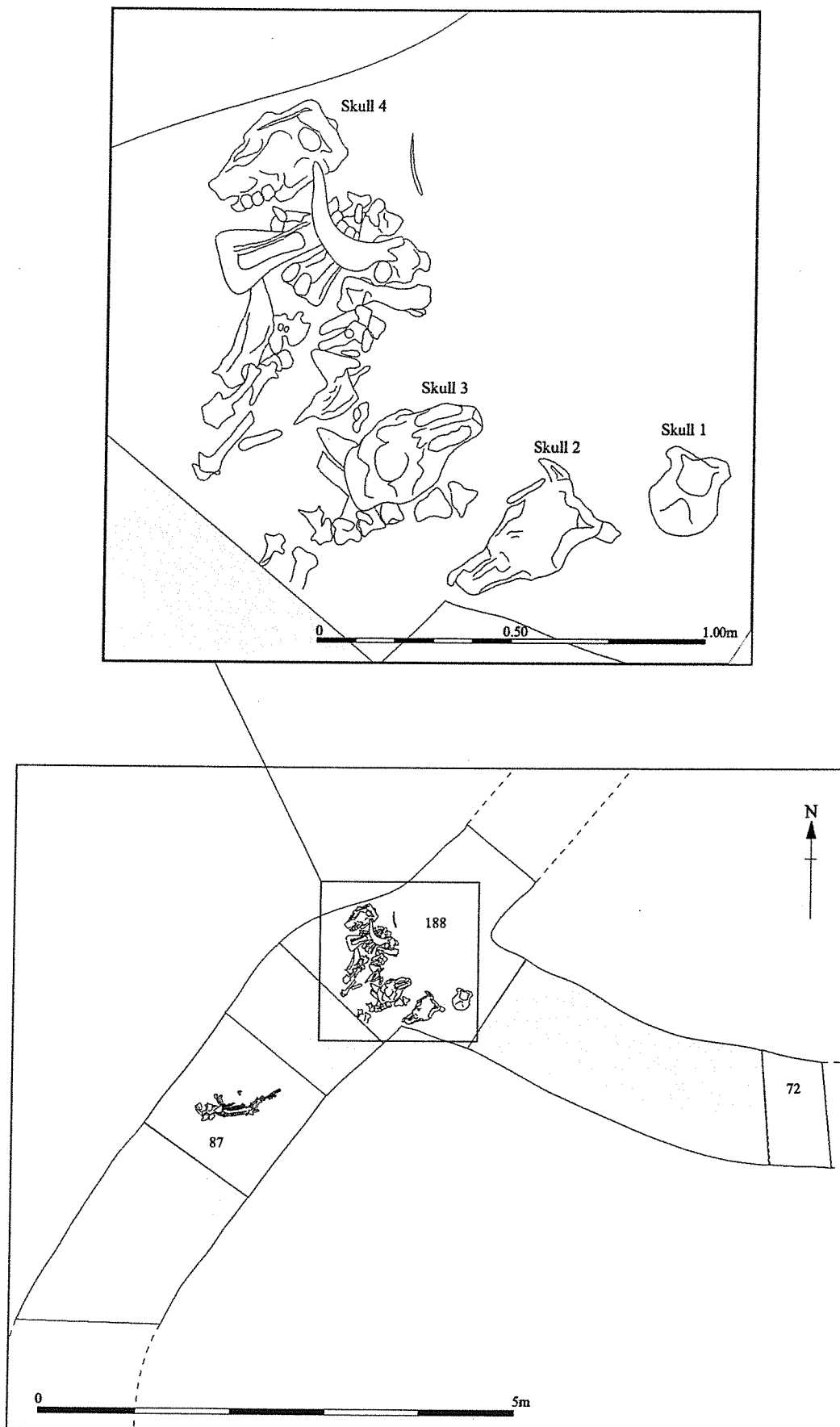
*Figure 18 Piglet Skeleton Detail, Looking North East*

**Group 3.21** Contexts: 87 filled by 86=188, 166 filled by 165; 72 filled by 17, 99.

Ditch 87 was linear in plan on an approximately north-south orientation. It was 1.56m wide by 0.63m deep. It had a U shaped profile with a vertical sided flat based slot in its base. The slot may have held a palisade. The ditch was filled by very dark greyish silty sand 86/188. Animal bone and pottery was recovered from the fill, of particular note was a complete juvenile pig skeleton and four cow skulls associated with semi-articulated ribs and long-bones. All of these bones were found to-wards the top of the ditch fill. The four cow skulls, although of varying preservation appeared to have been deliberately placed, and the burial of the nearby pig skeleton may also have been significant.

Ditch 166 was linear in plan, it appears to be a continuation of ditch 87, and may be the same feature. Very little of the feature had survived since it was truncated by ditch 162 to the north. The feature was 1m wide and at least 0.35m deep, it was only partially excavated. It was filled by dark brown slightly silty clayey sand 165, no finds.

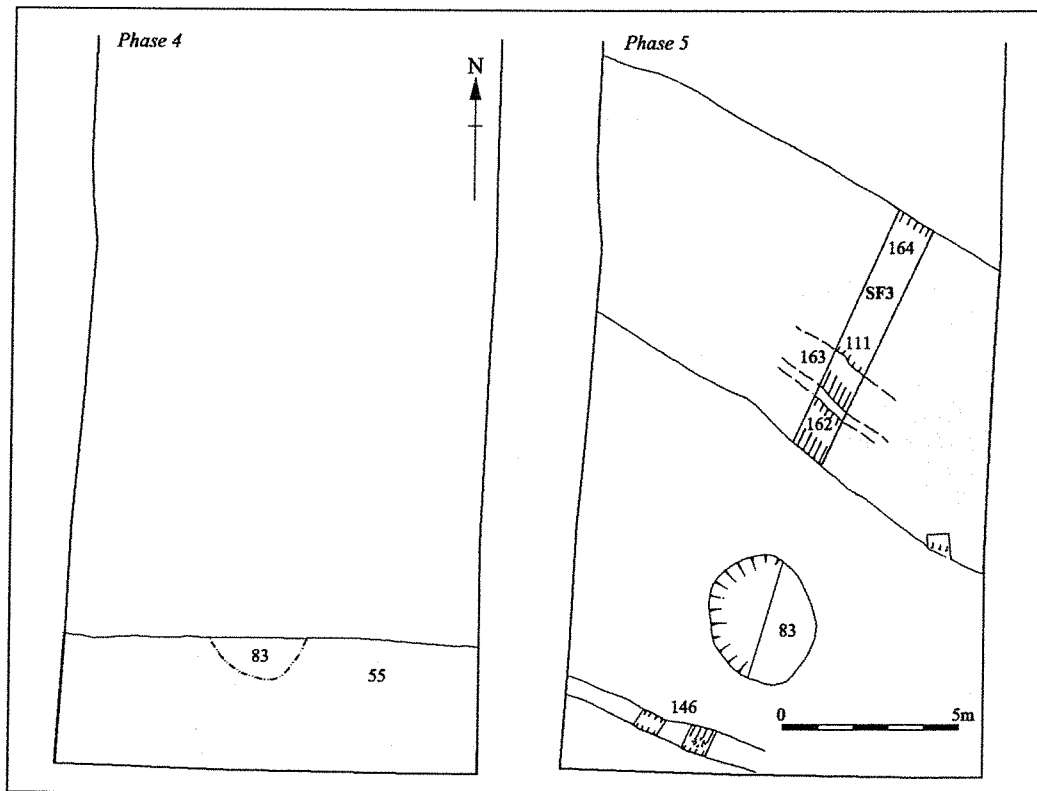
Ditch 72 was an approximately east west orientated linear feature. It was approximately 1.2m wide and 0.75m deep. It was filled by dark greyish brown clayey sand 17 and yellowish brown clayey sand 99. Pottery was found in both contexts and badly decayed cow skull was found at the base of the ditch in context 99. The ditch merged into 166 and 87 but it was not possible to determine a relationship between the three features which may have been contemporary, although pottery from ditch 72 was Late Iron Age in date and suggests a later backfilling date for this feature.



**Figure 19** Area 2 Phase 3 Showing Detail of Cattle Skulls

### 6.2.3 Phase 4 (Fig. 20)

A possible remnant buried soil, 55, was identified overlying ditch 84 (phase 3) and cut by pit 83 (phase 5). The layer was only a few centimetres thick



*Figure 20 Area 2 Phase 4 and 5*

### 6.2.4 Phase 5 (Fig. 20)

This phase was the only one identified on Area 2 that showed any structural evidence for activity directly related to settlement. A single pit 83 and a possible palisade trench 146 were stratigraphically later than the ditches identified as belonging to phase 3. Pottery from both the features suggests a Middle Iron Age date. It is likely that the features were associated with the main phases of settlement observed on Area 1, although precise concordance with area 1 features was not possible. The series of ditches (111, 162, 163, 164) to the north of the pit all follow the same alignment and appear to be re-stating a boundary. The penultimate re-cut of the boundary ditch 164 was the largest at about 4 metres wide by over 1.7 metres deep. The ditch contained pottery consistent with a Middle Iron Age date associated with a somewhat decayed Late Iron Age copper alloy brooch which may put the date of backfilling into the Late Iron Age.

**Group 5.21** Contexts: 83 filled by 54, 94, 187. Pit.

Pit 83 was circular in plan, its sides and base were difficult to determine as the feature cut through earlier ditch fills. It was approximately 3m in diameter and 0.6m deep. It was filled by very dark grey silty clay 54, dark yellowish brown clayey silty sand 94 and very dark grey

clay 187. Pottery was recovered from all of these fills, indeed the largest number and heaviest weight of pottery from the whole site was recovered from context 54 (Appendix 1 and Section 7).

**Group 5.22** Contexts: 146 filled by 101=102.

Ditch 146 was a narrow linear feature on an approximately east-west orientation, similar to that of ditch 84 et al. The feature was at least 5m long, 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep, it had near vertical sides and a flat base into which postholes had been cut. The ditch was filled by dark yellowish brown loose clayey sand 101/102 with pottery fragments.

The feature probably had a structural function, it may have held a palisade fence.

**Group 5.23** Contexts: 162 filled by 122; 163 filled by 134; 164 filled by 143, 145; 111 filled by 110.

A series of intercutting parallel ditches, all on the same north-west south-east orientation as phase 2 ditches 84, 107, 108. The ditches may be contemporary with the possible palisade trench 146 based on their alignment.

Ditch 111 was the latest feature in this group, it was linear with a U shaped profile, at least 13m long, 0.8m wide and 0.6m deep. It was filled by dark yellowish brown silty sand 110. No finds were recovered from either of the fills. Ditch 111 truncated ditches 163 and 164.

Ditch 162 was the earliest of this group similarly orientated linear features, it was 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep. The ditch was filled by loose brown slightly clayey silty sand 122 from which pottery was recovered. Wheel thrown pottery (fig.20.17) attributed to phase 3 context 17 may actually have belonged to ditch 162.

Ditch 163 was linear in plan with a wide flat based U shaped profile, 1.1m wide and 0.46m deep. It lay parallel with and to the south of ditch 111. It was filled by yellowish brown slightly silty sand 134 in which animal bone and pottery was found.

Ditch 164 was linear in plan with a steep sided profile, the feature was not excavated to its base, it was approximately 4m wide and had an augered depth of at least 1.7m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.8m at which point the water table was encountered, the fills removed by hand were dark greyish brown clayey sand 145 and dark yellowish brown silty sand 143. A further 0.9m was augered through mixed yellowish brown sand and gravel, possibly 145 and then into dark grey waterlogged clay and finally into dirty gravel which may be redeposited natural. No further depth could be augered due to the frequency of the gravel in the deposit. Pottery and animal bone was found throughout the ditch fills and a Late Iron Age copper alloy brooch was found in fill 45.

**Group 5.24** Contexts: 39, 95, 96, 100.

The machined surface of area 2 provided a very diffuse group of deposits which were difficult to distinguish, hence numbers were allocated to cleaning and layers where it was necessary to carry out limited excavation in order to define features more clearly.

Contexts 39/95/96/97/98/100 were cleaning layers overlying features 85, 87 and 146.

## 6.2.5 Phase 6

A small Late Iron Age component of pottery was recovered from layers 53 and 142 which were overlying phase 4/5 features in area 2. Late Iron Age pottery was also found in context 17 phase 3, this may have been incorrectly attributed to this context and is more likely to have been in phase 5 ditch 162. The presence of the pottery suggests that the land continued in use into the Late Iron Age but that the emphasis had shifted away from settlement perhaps towards agricultural activity.

**Group 6.21:** Contexts: 76, 45, 53, 106, 142.



Context 76 was a greyish brown silty clayey sand containing no finds, but very similar to layer 53, it overlay phase 5 ditch 83.

Context 45 was a yellowish brown silty clay layer overlying layer 53 and ditch 87. Animal bone was found in the deposit.

Context 53 was a dark greyish brown silty clay containing Late Iron Age pottery. It overlay ditch 108.

Context 106 was a dark yellowish brown sandy clay layer.

Context 142 was a dark brown silty clayey sand containing Late Iron Age wheel-thrown pottery.

### **6.3 TRENCH 3 (Fig. 1)**

Trench 3 was located to investigate linear crop marks to the north of Area 1. Linear ditches were observed running across trench 3 but were not excavated. The orientation of these ditches suggests that they were a continuation of the phase 5 ditches observed and excavated in area 2 to the south-east. Two intercutting postholes were located in this trench both of which were excavated. The fills of these postholes were very pale, there was no sign of any post pipe and no finds, it was therefore not possible to phase them in any meaningful way.

Posthole 115 was sub circular in plan with a flat based U shaped profile, it was 0.25m diameter and 0.27m deep. It was filled with dark yellowish brown soft silty sand 114 and light yellowish brown fine sand 121. 115 was the earlier of the two postholes, it was cut by 128. No finds were present.

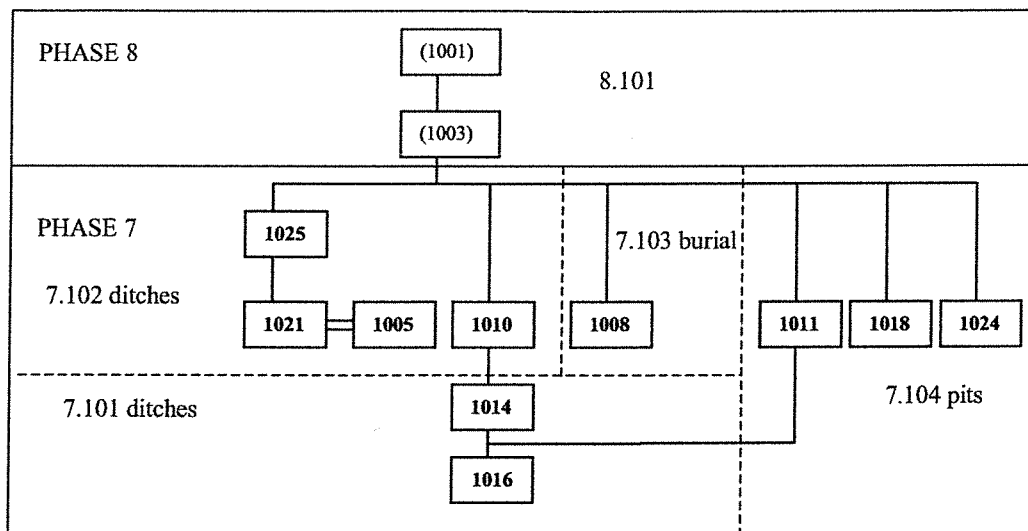
Posthole 128 was circular in plan with a U shaped profile, it was 0.37m diameter and 0.22m deep. It was filled with light olive brown soft silty sand 124, no finds were present.

### **6.4 TRENCH 10 (Fig. 1)**

Trench 10 was the most southerly trench, it was the only trench located on Field 4. It was located to investigate crop marks, and also because local knowledge indicated that Roman finds have been recovered from this field on a number of occasions. The trench was 35m long by 2m wide. The trench was excavated by a group of more experienced students under the guidance of Dr Twigs Way. Features within the trench consisted of ditches and the single burial of an infant human. One large ditch, 1025, within the trench can probably be located on the aerial photographs. Romano-British pottery was recovered from most of the features; some of the pottery was small and abraded, however, large sherds of pottery were recovered from ditch 1025.

#### **6.4.1 Phase 7**

Pottery from the features in this trench suggests a broad Roman date for backfilling. There was little or no evidence for earlier activity apart from the two earliest ditches (1014 and 1016).



**Group 7.101 Contexts: 1016 filled by 1015; 1014 filled by 1013**

Ditch 1016 was stratigraphically the earliest feature in trench 10, it was linear in plan on an approximately north-east south-west orientation. It was 2m wide and 0.47m deep with a stepped U shaped profile. It was filled by dark olive brown loose silty sand 1015, only one small abraded sherd of probably Roman pottery was recovered from the feature.

Ditch **1014** cut ditch **1016**, although the relationship was difficult to determine due to the presence of a post-medieval field drain. Ditch **1014** was linear in plan on a NNE-SSW orientation, it was 0.78m wide and 0.3m deep with a U shaped profile. It was filled by dark olive brown loose silty sand 113, no finds were recovered. Ditch **1014** was truncated by ditch **1010**.

**Group 7.102** contexts: **1005/1021** filled by 1006, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029; **1010** filled by 1009; **1025** filled by 1004, 1019, 1020.

Three ditches are described in this group, the earliest ditch, **1005/1021** was very wide and deep and may represent a boundary or land division, it may have been re-cut as **1025**. Ditches **1025** and **1010** were approximately 9m apart with very similar dimensions, orientation and profiles suggesting that the two features may have been contemporary and associated.

Ditch **1005/1021** was a large linear feature on a north south orientation. It was 4.8m wide and 0.82m deep with a wide U shaped profile. It was filled by light olive brown silty sand 1006/1026, dark olive brown silty clay 1027/1028 and yellowish brown soft silty sand 1029. Animal bone was found in context 1029 and pottery was recovered from 1006, 1028 and 1029.

Ditch **1025** was a linear feature on a north south orientation. It was probably a re-cut of ditch **1005/1021**. The ditch was 1.4m wide and 0.56m deep with a U shaped profile. It was filled by greyish brown silty sand 1004/1020 and very dark greyish brown sandy silty clay 1019. Pottery was recovered from all three contexts.

Ditch **1010** was a linear feature on the same orientation as **1005/1021** and **1025**. The ditch was 1.4m wide and 0.56m deep with a U shaped profile. It was filled by dark olive brown silty sand 1009. Pottery was recovered from this context.

**Group 7.103 contexts: 1008 filled by 1007**

**Pit 1008** was oval in plan with gently sloping sides, it was 0.48m wide by at least 0.75m long and 0.26m deep. The pit contained the near complete skeleton of an infant human lying in situ with its head at the south end of the pit. The surrounding fill 1007 was very dark greyish

brown loose silty clayey sand, residual finds from this context included a few pieces of animal bone and sherds of pottery.

**Group 7.104:** contexts: **1011** filled by 1012, **1018** filled by 1017, **1024** filled by 1022.

Three small pits or postholes were located within trench 10, they may indicate the presence of a structure, but no pattern was discernible.

Pit **1011** was sub-circular in plan with very gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.15m diameter and 0.11m deep. It was filled by dark yellowish brown slightly clayey sand containing pottery fragments.

Pit 1018 was sub-circular in plan with a U shaped profile. It was 0.21m in diameter and 0.08m deep, its size, shape and close proximity of three similar, but unexcavated deposits suggest that it may have been a posthole. It was filled by dark brown clayey sand 1017, no finds were recovered.

Pit **1024** was sub-oval in plan with uneven sides and base. It was 1.2m long, 0.85m wide and 0.06m deep. It was filled by dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay with an area of charcoal flecking towards the centre. No finds were recovered from the fill.

#### **6.4.2 Phase 8**

The archaeological deposits in trench 10 were sealed by a 0.15m thick deposit of yellowish brown silty clayey sand, although this deposit was observed in other areas, including areas 1 and 2, it was not present in all trenches. Two interpretations have been suggested for this deposit. Peter Murphy (Environmental Consultant) has suggested that the soil may have developed beneath stable vegetation such as pasture or natural scrub land. An alternative suggestion is that the layer was deposited by floodwater. Both interpretations imply abandonment some time during or soon after the Roman period. The finds were not sufficient to give a precise date. The latter interpretation also implies that the reason for abandonment was the onset of flooding.

**Group 8.101** contexts: 1001, 1003

Topsoil 1001 was dark greyish brown silty sandy clay, approximately 0.3m deep, overlying light yellowish brown slightly silty clayey sand subsoil 1003. A few fragments of pottery were found in the subsoil which was approximately 0.15m deep and sealed all the features in trench 10.

### **6.5 TRENCH 11 (Fig.1)**

Trench 11 was located to test crop marks, it was 46m long by 2m wide, possible ditches, pits and postholes were observed in the trench. The majority of the pottery recovered from excavated features dates to the Roman period. Excavation was limited but the density of cropmarks and exposed features in this and trench 12 adjacent suggest a small settlement of Roman date.

#### **6.5.1 Phase 7**

**Group 7.1** contexts: **157** filled by 179, 180, 181, 183; **184** filled by 156, 182; **179** filled by 158, 178.

Ditch **157** was the earliest excavated feature in trench 11, it was 2.2m wide and 0.3m deep. It was filled by olive brown clayey sand 179, 180, light olive brown clayey sand 181 and olive yellow fine sand 184. Pottery was found in context 180 and the ditch was truncated by **184**.

Ditch **184** followed the same orientation as **157**, and cut through it approximately along its' centre. It was 0.40m wide and 0.3m deep. It was filled by light olive brown medium sand 156 and olive brown clayey sand 182. Pottery was found in context 182.

Ditch 159 followed the same orientation as 157 and 184, and was located 8m to the north. It was 2m wide and at not fully excavated at 0.2m deep. It was filled by mid brown sandy silt 158 and 178, both contexts were stained red in patches, probably from mineral salts rather than from burning. Pottery was found in context 158.

## **6.6 Other Trenches**

Of the remaining trenches only trenches 16 and 17 contained no archaeological evidence at all. Each of the rest contained possible ditches, postholes and several instances of narrow curvilinear features which may represent drainage ditches around buildings. There was insufficient time to investigate the features in these trenches further, however, where surface finds were visible these were collected and located to individual deposits within each trench.

### **6.6.1 Trench 4 (Fig. 1)**

Trench 4 was located to test whether there was any evidence of a cropmark trackway continuing to the south even though there was no cropmark. Two ditches were located within the trench which are likely to represent the continuation of this track. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the surface of the most westerly ditch.

### **6.6.2 Trench 5 (Fig. 1)**

Trench 5 was located to test a trackway identified as a cropmark, the trench confirmed the presence of parallel ditches within the trench and showed that the ditches had been re-cut on more than one occasion.

### **6.6.3 Trench 6 (Fig. 1)**

Trench 6 was located to test a circular cropmark and an enclosure identified as a cropmark. The enclosure was confirmed by the trench, the presence of a circular ditch was unconfirmed although several linear features were located within the trench.

### **6.6.4 Trench 7 (Fig.1)**

Trench 7 was located to test whether the enclosure tested by trench 6 continued to the north. The trench confirmed that this was the case, and that the lack of cropmarks did not indicate an absence of features.

### **6.6.5 Trench 8 (Fig.1)**

Trench 8 was located to identify the extent of the rectangular ditches identified to the south. One ditch was located within the trench, this continued for the whole length of the trench. One sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the surface of the ditch.

### **6.6.6 Trench 9 (Fig.1)**

Trench 9 was located to test whether an absence of cropmarks reflected a lack of archaeological features. Five linear features and a possible posthole were

located within the trench showing that the lack of cropmarks did not indicate an absence of archaeological features.

**6.6.7 Trench 12 (Fig.1)**

A group of linear cropmarks was confirmed by trench 12, additionally, a curvilinear ditch was observed in this trench suggesting the presence of a possible roundhouse. One sherd of abraded Roman pottery was recovered from the surface of the most westerly feature in the trench.

**6.6.8 Trench 13 (Fig. 1)**

Parallel ditches, probably indicating a trackway were confirmed by trench 13, two other linear features and a possible pit were also present in this trench.

**6.6.9 Trench 14 (Fig. 1)**

Trench 14 was located to test a group of linear cropmarks, two east-west and north-south linear was located within the trench. One sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the surface of the north-south linear feature.

**6.6.10 Trench 15 (Fig. 1)**

Trench 15 confirmed the presence of cropmark ditches.

**6.6.11 Trench 16 (Fig. 1)**

Trench 16 was located to test whether the absence of cropmarks was a true reflection of the underlying archaeological deposits. The overburden was approximately 0.5m deep in this trench, no archaeological features were observed.

**6.6.12 Trench 17 (Fig. 1)**

A group of linear cropmarks was not confirmed by trench 17, although the trench was probably not excavated to a sufficient depth to expose the features.

**6.6.13 Trench 18 (Fig. 1)**

Two linear cropmarks, possibly representing a trackway were confirmed by trench 18.

**6.7 Discussion**

**The Middle Iron Age Settlement**

The archaeological deposits in Areas 1 and 2 clearly showed that a thriving settlement existed here during the Middle Iron Age. The excavated evidence showed that at least one circular structure was present, the complexity of the cropmarks in this part of the site would suggest that more were present but this was unconfirmed by the evaluation. The one circular structure present in the excavated area appeared to have been rebuilt at least four times. In each case a curvilinear drainage ditch was located which would have surrounded the structure of the house and kept it dry. In one case an inner ditch was also

present and showed evidence for the presence of a structure in the form of post or stake holes, and fragments of burnt daub. Whether the building was used for habitation or for some other purpose such as animal stabling, storage or cooking was unclear from the excavation. At Haddenham a series of similar roundhouse type structures were excavated in the 1980's (Evans and Hodder 1985). The phase II buildings both consisted of an inner wall foundation surrounded by an eaves drip or drainage gully, the smaller of the two buildings had similar dimensions to the Limes Farm structure. The smaller of the Haddenham buildings was interpreted as a cooking and storage area based on the presence of a hearth and other finds within it. No specific activity can be attached to the Limes Farm building, although large quantities of pottery, much of which was sooted, from nearby pits and ditches suggest that cooking may have been an important activity. Artefacts associated with spinning and weaving were also found so it is likely that the building was a focus of domestic activity. The fact that it was re-built in virtually the same position at least four times attests to its longevity of use. Roundhouses 210, 262, 334, 336 and 347 at Bancroft (Williams and Zeepvat, 1994) were similarly thought to represent the continuous re-building of a single structure, unfortunately phasing and dating was not possible for the building. Cleaning out and re-cutting of the drainage ditches is another feature which the Limes Farm building has in common with Bancroft roundhouses (ibid), and structures found at Pennyland in Milton Keynes (Williams 1993). Other similar examples of possible roundhouses include a ring ditch found at Thrapston Road, Brampton (Malim and Mitchell 1992).

Although it was evident from the cropmarks that a series of enclosures was present on the site, it has not been possible to disentangle the enclosures from the small percentage of enclosures exposed and excavated as part of this work. It was clear, however, that ditches were re-cut a number of times and boundaries re-instated over time. The enclosure ditches were most evident in Area 2 where it was possible to see that the later deposits within the ditches contained artefacts and other material most likely to be associated with settlement including loom weights, pottery and animal bones.

The final backfill of phase 4 ditches contained four small horned cattle crania, two of which were associated with articulating vertebrae and complete but disarticulated long bones. The skeleton of a juvenile pig was found lying on its left side in the same ditch. The position of the four skulls appeared to be somewhat deliberate. Each skull had been placed upside down and in opposition to its neighbour. The two skulls with no associated long bones or vertebrae appeared to be in poor condition as if they had been lifted and re-interred in the same place. The other two skulls were in much better condition and were found placed on top of the articulating vertebrae and complete long bones. Small fragments of pottery were found associated with the animal bones, but they did not appear to be deliberately placed.

Pottery (Section 7) found on the site appears to have affinities with a number of different traditions including East Midlands Scored Ware (generally thought to have a distribution north of the River Ouse) and the lugged jar which has

affinities with sites to the west. The wide range of pottery types perhaps suggests that this settlement had contacts outside the region.

It had been hoped to refine the pottery chronology by using radiocarbon dating, consequently a series of samples were selected from the best stratified sequences in Areas 1 and 2. The data was submitted to Dr Peter Marshall (English Heritage) for assessment. Unfortunately, although articulated bones were available in Area 2 these were not coupled with a sufficiently long stratigraphic sequence. In Area 1 the available samples were not suitable for the technique since the samples available could provide only a *tpq* for their contexts and would be unable to refine the dating any further than the pottery study. This line of enquiry was consequently abandoned, since "radiocarbon analysis is highly unlikely to be able to help in refining the dating of the pottery assemblage at Limes Farm and others in the region of a similar character" (Dr Peter Marshall pers. comm.).

### **Late Iron Age**

A small Belgic pottery component was recovered from the latest fills of a number of features in Areas 1 and 2. Some activity must, therefore have continued, although the settlement focus seems to have shifted by this time. The latest roundhouse on Area 1 may have continued to stand since later ditches appear to have respected it, but the building may by this time have been put to some other use, perhaps as a cattle shed or other agricultural purpose. The earlier ditches had all been backfilled by this time and the ground may well have been level. The small scale investigations carried out elsewhere on the site coupled with the excellent cropmarks suggest that occupation continued into the Roman period but that the settlement focus had shifted. The evidence points to this settlement shift starting in the Late Iron Age.

### **Roman Activity**

Although only limited evidence for Roman activity has been found from this work, it has shown that activity continued into the Roman period but appears to have shifted away from the Middle Iron Age settlement. Stray finds and excellent cropmarks suggests that there may have been two Roman settlement cores, one to the south in field 4 and a second, perhaps less substantial one to the north-east in the vicinity of trenches 11 and 12. Kiln debris and other Roman materials had previously been reported as having been found on the site, much of this material had been brought up by the plough and during cleaning out of drainage ditches during the 1950's and 60's. It was, however, difficult to locate exactly where the material came from.

## **7 THE POTTERY by P.R. Sealey**

### **7.1 Introduction**

The excavations produced 681 sherds weighing 13.243kg from 58 contexts. Nearly all of it is of Middle Iron Age type and date. Much of the material consists of large and unabraded sherds, with an average sherd weight of 19.4g. This figure has been depressed by a number of small and crumbly sherds. A clearer picture of the quality of the material is apparent from Tables 2-7 which give the sherd counts and weights for each fabric group by phase. Tables 3, 4 and 6 shows that the three Middle Iron Age phases with most pottery have average sherd weights of 14.7, 27.7 and 24.3g. This is on the high side for prehistoric pottery assemblages and suggests the material was used and broken close to the contexts from which it was retrieved.

Most of the prehistoric pottery came from pits, ditches and gullies. Pottery was also recovered from the foundations of a roundhouse and an associated post-hole. About half the Iron Age pottery came from three large groups: pits 47-52-79, 83 (phase 5) and 177 (phase 3).

Unusually for eastern England, the stratigraphy at Limes Farm allowed the material to be grouped securely into seven chronological phases. Phase 1 is late Bronze Age. Only a single sherd came from this phase and it is indistinguishable from the Middle Iron Age wares from the rest of the site. Phases 2-5 are Middle Iron Age. A Late Iron Age Phase 6 was identified. Areas 1 and 2 produced nearly all the Iron Age pottery. No Roman wares were found there and it is clear that the Iron Age pottery from Limes Farm is an assemblage not only uncontaminated by earlier material but also unobscured by later episodes of disturbance and redeposition. Elsewhere at Limes Farm a little Iron Age material was found associated with Roman pottery, a group described as Phase 7.

### **7.2 Report Objectives**

The primary objective of the prehistoric pottery project was to date the site. Once it became apparent the bulk of the pottery was Middle Iron Age, its affiliations with local pottery style zones were evaluated. A Middle Iron Age pottery tradition in south Cambridgeshire awaits satisfactory definition and the Limes Farm material provided an opportunity for research into this. The site stratigraphy allowed the Middle Iron Age pottery to be grouped into secure chronological phases and an attempt was made to identify trends with the period as a whole. A Late Iron Age phase was identified and the opportunity taken to explore its implications. Pottery that apparently reached the site from elsewhere was considered. Animal skulls at Limes Farm suggest that some contexts witnessed special placed deposits; an attempt was made to see if there were any counterparts in the ceramic record to these animal bone groups.



### **7.3 Methodology And Quantification**

All the sherds were examined macroscopically and with the aid of hand lens with a magnification of x 15 to establish the fabrics present. The material was sorted into fabrics on the basis of the inclusions present, their size and frequency of occurrence. As many of the fabrics had two or more inclusions with their own variations in size and incidence, the permutations became extensive and the initial sorting led to the identification of twenty-two fabrics. Patently this would have made an unwieldy published report and so these twenty-two fabrics were amalgamated to give eight basic groups. All the sherds from each context were counted, weighed (to the nearest gramme) and assigned to a fabric group. Sherd counts, sherd weights and mean sherd weights were then established for each fabric by phase. Calculations are correct to one decimal place.

### **7.4 Pottery Archive**

A separate archive for the pottery analysis has been produced, a summary of the archive is presented in appendix vii. It includes paper sheets giving hand-written quantified details of the original twenty-two fabric groups into which the pottery was divided for each individual context; these context sheets also record information on such topics as decoration and burnt residues. This information is also given in more summary form in a series of typed context sheets. There is an account of the original fabric series in the archive and how it was adapted to give the eight fabrics of the present report. The archive also includes details of the fabric groups present among the material with scored and combed decoration, with quantified details of their sherd counts and weights.

### **7.5 Fabric Groups**

Those of us who have divided prehistoric pottery into fabric groups know the difficulties all too well. A large sherd can show a size range and frequency of temper that varies widely across the pot; conversely a small sherd could be assigned to a fabric group one might not have selected had more of the vessel been available for study. Pottery reports candidly admit how one fabric can merge imperceptibly into another: one might ask if the potter would have been unduly concerned about this. Here the writer has decided to conflate the twenty-two fabrics identified in the course of sorting the pottery into a smaller and more manageable group of eight in the belief that this does no great injustice to the material; to have retained the original and much larger group of fabrics in the final report might have given the fabric categories a validity and coherence that would have been misleading.

All the fabrics are micaceous, apart from the shell-tempered group. Inclusions are described as temper whether or not there is reason to think they were

deliberate additions to the clay by the potter. The only inclusions that might be described as temper in the technical sense are those which do not occur naturally *i.e.* crushed burnt flint (which appears as angular white grains), chopped vegetable matter and grog (crushed pottery). Even some of these might be accidental additions introduced by the conditions in which the potter worked (Woudhuysen 1998,33). It was not possible to establish if the shell in the shell-tempered sherds was an addition to the clay or present in it naturally as fossil shell (Marney 1989,58). All the fabrics are soft (they can be scratched by finger-nail).

The cores of sherds are usually black (reduced); very often the inner faces are black as well. Some sherds have a black core and surfaces. Otherwise outer surfaces range from light to dark brown; sometimes they are red (oxidised), or mottled with brown, black and red. Occasionally both the inner and outer surfaces of pots are shades of brown on a black core. Gradual shifts in colour in the same pot make it inappropriate to record colour with Munsell charts. This composite description applies to all fabric groups; it can be amplified by reading the descriptions of illustrated sherds in the list at the end of the report. Each fabric has been given a letter code based on the initial letter or letters of its inclusions.

#### **Fabrics G and SG (grog, and sand + grog)**

This is a tiny group of fabrics which makes up less than 1 % of the assemblage (1 % by sherd count, 0.3 % by sherd weight). The sand is always fine with grains < 0.25mm; grey poorly-sorted grains of rounded grog in the size range 2-4mm give the fabric a soapy feel.

#### **Fabric S (sand)**

There is a fine version (the most common), with sand grains < 0.25mm. Sherds with sand grains 0.25-1mm are also present, with frequencies ranging from sparse (< 6 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>) to abundant (> 10 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>). A rarer, coarser version with sparse (< 6 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>) grains < 2mm is also present. The sand is rounded to sub-rounded.

#### **Fabric SV (sand + vegetable)**

There is a fine version (the most common), with sand < 0.25mm; a coarser variant has sand < 2mm, with frequencies ranging from sparse (< 6 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>) to moderate (> 6 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>). Vegetable matter is apparent as longer or shorter lengths of chopped grass or chaff, readily visible as impressions on both surfaces of pots and in the clay matrix. Generally such impressions are sparse to moderate, but with the occasional dense concentration. There is no correlation between sand grain size and the incidence of vegetable matter. This fabric is much the same as Fabric S, the only difference being the added vegetable matter.

#### **Fabric SF (sand + flint)**

The sand is fine, with grains < 0.25mm; the flint is well-sorted grains < 2mm.

**Fabric SH (shell)**

The shell ranges from fine grains < 1mm, through a coarser variant with shell < 2mm present in sparse (< 6 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>), moderate (> 6 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>) and abundant (> 10 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>) quantities, to a very coarse fabric with poorly-sorted moderate (> 6 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>) to abundant (> 10 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>) inclusions of shell < 6mm across. This is the only group of fabrics made from a non-micaceous clay.

**Fabric SSH (sand + shell)**

The sand is fine, < 0.25mm; the sparse (< 6 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>) shell inclusions are < 2mm.

**Fabric SRG (sand + ironstone)**

The diagnostic feature is the presence of very sparse (< 6 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>) well-sorted rounded and sub-rounded hard dark red-brown inclusions in the range 2-4mm. One is confident this is ironstone because a grain detached from its clay matrix reacted positively to a magnet. The sand is generally fine with grains < 0.25mm; sherds with sparse (< 6 grains per cm<sup>2</sup>) sand grains < 1mm are also present. Both the finer and coarser variants have sparse vegetable inclusions as described for Fabric SV.

The incidence of the fabrics is given in the tables below. Table 1 gives the composition of the assemblage as a whole; the following Tables 2-8 give the fabric compositions of the assemblage by phase. The absolute predominance of the sand and sand and vegetable-tempered fabrics emerges clearly (86.8 % by sherd count, 82.4 % by weight). The lack of an exclusively flint-tempered fabric is notable. Flint is only present in the rare Fabric SF (0.3 % by sherd count, 0.1 % by weight). This may have chronological implications and raises the possibility that the Middle Iron Age pottery from Limes Farm was in use towards the end of the period. There are no perceptible trends in the fabric composition by period and coupled with the lack of any sense of vital typological innovation, one is left with the impression of a conservative ceramic tradition - albeit one that was in touch with developments further afield.

fabric	sherd count	percentage	sherd weight	percentage	mn shrd wt
S	470	69 %	6701	50.6 %	14.3
SV	121	17.8 %	4205	31.8 %	34.8
G	3	0.4 %	20	0.2 %	6.7
SF	2	0.3 %	15	0.1 %	7.5
SRG	55	8.1 %	1844	13.9 %	33.5
SH	16	2.3 %	368	2.8 %	23
SSH	10	1.5 %	73	0.6 %	7.3
SG	4	0.6 %	17	0.1 %	4.3
totals	681		13243		19.4

*Table 1. Fabric Groups in the Prehistoric Pottery (weights are in grammes)*

fabric	sherd count	percentage	sherd weight	percentage	mn sherd wt
S	1	100 %	15	100 %	15
totals	1		15		15

*Table 2. Phase 1. Sherd Counts, Sherd Weights and Mean Sherd Weights by Fabric (weights are in grammes)*

fabric	sherd count	percentage	sherd weight	percentage	mn sherd wt
S	120	68.6 %	1103	42.9 %	9.2
SV	32	18.3 %	558	21.7 %	17.4
G	3	1.7 %	20	0.7 %	6.6
SF	2	1.1 %	15	0.6 %	7.5
SRG	13	7.4 %	766	29.8 %	58.9
SH	4	2.3 %	107	4.2 %	26.8
SSH	1	0.6 %	2	0.1 %	2
totals	175		2571		14.7

*Table 3. Phase 2 Sherd Counts, Sherd Weights and Mean Sherd Weights by Fabric (weights are in grammes)*

fabric	sherd count	percentage	sherd weight	percentage	mn sherd wt
S	71	83.5 %	1749	74.4 %	24.6
SV	8	9.4 %	525	22.3 %	65.6
SRG	3	3.5 %	43	1.8 %	14.3
SSH	3	3.5 %	34	1.4 %	11.3
totals	85		2351		27.7

*Table 4. Phase 3 Sherd Counts, Sherd Weights and Mean Sherd Weights by Fabric (weights are in grammes)*

fabric	sherd count	percentage	sherd weight	percentage	mn sherd wt
S	1	50 %	13	52 %	13
SV	1	50 %	12	48 %	12
totals	2		25		12.5

*Table 5. Phase 4 Sherd Counts, Sherd Weights and Mean Sherd Weights by Fabric (weights are in grammes)*

fabric	sherd count	percentage	sherd weight	percentage	mn sherd wt
S	137	61.4 %	2218	41 %	16.2
SV	52	23.3 %	2365	43.7 %	45.5
SH	2	0.9 %	124	2.3 %	62
SRG	26	11.7 %	667	12.3 %	25.7
SSH	6	2.7 %	37	0.7 %	6.2
totals	223		5411		24.26

*Table 6. Phase 5 Sherd Counts, Sherd Weights and Mean Sherd Weights by Fabric (weights are in grammes)*

fabric	sherd count	percentage	sherd weight	percentage	mn sherd wt
S	76	76.8 %	640	66.1 %	8.4
SV	12	12.1 %	253	26.1 %	21
SG	4	4 %	17	1.8 %	4.3
SH	1	1 %	10	1 %	10
SRG	6	6 %	48	5 %	8
totals	99		968		

*Table 7. Phase 6 Sherd Counts, Sherd Weights and Mean Sherd Weights by Fabric (weights are in grammes)*

fabric	sherd count	percentage	sherd weight	percentage	mn sherd wt
S	5	45.5 %	30	14.8 %	6
SV	2	18.2 %	62	30.5 %	31
SH	2	18.2 %	81	39.9 %	40.5
SRG	2	18.2 %	30	14.8 %	15
totals	11		203		

*Table 8. Phase 7 Sherd Counts, Sherd Weights and Mean Sherd Weights by Fabric (weights are in grammes)*

Fabric	sherd count	percentage	sherd weight	percentage	mn sherd wt
S	59	69.4	933	54.9	15.8
SV	14	16.4	430	25.3	30.7
SH	7	8.2	46	2.7	6.5
SRG	5	5.9	290	17	58
Totals	85		1699		

*Table 9. Sherd Counts, Sherd Weights and Mean Sherd Weights by Fabric for Unstratified Prehistoric Pottery (weights are in grammes)*

## 7.6 Manufacture

Two vessels from Phase 6 contexts and one vessel from phase 3 contexts are wheel-made (Fig.21 nos 44-45, Fig.20 no 17). All the remaining material (as far as one could tell) are hand-made vessels of Middle Iron Age type or date. A few sherds have signs of coil construction at the breaks in the form of grooves or the corresponding rounded form of the actual coil. A few sherds have vertical wipemarks, possibly to disguise and consolidate the coil construction. Wheel-thrown pottery was recognised as such on the basis of interior throw marks, a perfect symmetry of form or by the presence of absolutely regular horizontal burnishing on the outside. All three wheel-thrown vessels are set further apart from the Middle Iron Age pottery at Limes Farm by their typology. The interest and importance of these few vessels is out of all proportion to their meagre numbers.

## 7.7 Typology And Decoration

The pottery from this site of Middle Iron Age date and type is dominated by jars with gently rounded or slack s profiles, often with high shoulders and unemphatic necks. There is a limited range of forms present. A very few vessels have more or less straight sides that rise steeply from the base. Some of the rims rise directly from their shoulders without any neck constriction at all. Rims themselves show a great deal of diversity. Most are simple rounded features; others have neatly finished flat upper surfaces. Several have been thickened to give something approaching a bead rim, occasionally with an outer downward angle. Bases are invariably flat, sometimes with a splayed outer edge to give a waisted profile. Some are deep and thick, presumably to lend stability to the vessel. One base is dished and another has an artless hand-made foot-ring.

One vessel has a pair of lugs (Fig.20 no.15), set vertically half-way down a tall bowl with steep sides and a flat base. Lugs on Middle Iron Age pottery were not uncommon at another south Cambridgeshire site, Edix Hill; but there they were small and horizontal (with one possible exception) attachments to the pot (Woudhuysen 1998,35-6). The massive style of construction of the Limes Farm lugs is quite unlike anything else from the county. Lugs in general (including examples as big as ours) are more common in Middle Iron Age assemblages from Bedfordshire (Matthews 1976,figs 16 no.9,24 no.3,39 no.11,44 no.1; McSloy 1999,fig.14 nos 2 and 4), Buckinghamshire (Knight 1993,figs 91,93-4,97-8; Elsdon 1996,fig.100) and Northamptonshire (Avery *et al.* 1967,figs 24,26,32-3). The lugged pot from Limes Farm is a distinct oddity for the region and there is every possibility that it reached the site as an import from a community somewhere to the west. A further hint of links with counties to the west is provided by one of the more unusual rims from Limes Farm (Fig.21 no.37). Its finger impressed decoration has pushed the rim out externally in a way quite unlike the other decorated rims from the site. A similar rim from Bedfordshire (McSloy 1999,fig.14 no.6) provides a close parallel.

Decoration is not much in evidence on pottery of Middle Iron Age type and date at Limes Farm; the assemblage is basically a plain ware tradition. There is nothing like the fine and coarse ware dichotomy found in late Bronze Age and early Iron Age pottery in the region. About one in five of the rim sherds are decorated (ten of the fifty-five sherds, 18 %). Shallow finger tip impressions are found, sometimes with an impression of the finger nail as well. Regularly or irregularly spaced straight deep incisions are present on other rims, set obliquely across their flat tops. Burnishing of the rims is a rare feature.

Eighty-six sherds weighing 1798g of the entire prehistoric pottery assemblage (12.6 % by sherd count and 13.6 % by weight) have some form of combed or scored surface decoration. There is much variation in detail. At one extreme there are neat combed patterns of shallow fine lines set close together, often moving across the surface of the pot in curved parallel lines. At the other end of the spectrum there are deeply scored straight or curved lines made with a sharp edge. Some of these scored lines are executed in an entirely random and unstructured style. Others consist of roughly parallel lines up to as much as 20mm apart. Sometimes sets of these lines cut each other obliquely to give lattice patterns. These more deeply incised lines with their (to modern eyes) unstructured or lattice patterns bear an uncanny resemblance to the east Midlands scored ware found to the north (Elsdon 1992), such as the group from Grove Farm in Enderby (Leicestershire) (Clay 1992,42). Four sherds of east Midlands scored ware from Limes Farm are illustrated (Fig.19 no's 13, 14, Fig.20 no's 16, 24). The more relaxed and shallower combing looks like a rather different and possibly separate style, but it proved impossible to define where one began and the other ended. At Werrington in the north of the county, Rollo (1988,113) pointed out that although east Midlands scored ware was present, combed decoration was absent. Intuitively one suspects that the lighter combing at Limes Farm might be a local feature and that the more aggressively incised sherds were inspired by - if not represent actual imports of - east Midlands scored ware.

Despite the division of the Middle Iron Age pottery into a series of chronological phases on the basis of site stratigraphy, one could not discern any typological development over time in the assemblage. Nor were any trends discernible in the fabric groups. Even after the arrival of wheel-thrown vessels at Limes Farm, most of the pottery remained resolutely Middle Iron Age in type. One is left with the impression of a conservative ceramic tradition which remained substantially unchanged over a period of perhaps centuries.

Recognition of the Late Iron Age Phase 6 at Limes Farm turned on the identification of a handful of vessels that had been made on the wheel. Only three such vessels were present (Fig.21 no's 44-45, Fig.20 no 17). Two have splayed rims giving an almost trumpet-shaped mouth, quite unlike the Middle Iron Age rims from Limes Farm. A very similar rim from another Phase 6 context (Fig.21 no.40) might also be wheel-thrown, but too little survives to be able to tell. All three sherds have a perceptible thickening towards the outer edge of the rim, a rare feature among the Middle Iron Age pottery from the

site. The mouth of the vessel with the neat foot-ring curves out gracefully to give a cavetto rim, another novel typological departure. Below there is a cordon, a typical feature of the Late Iron Age wheel-thrown pottery with grog-temper variously described as 'Belgic' or Aylesford-Swarling (Thompson 1982). The character and significance of these Late Iron Age wares is explored further below.

## 7.8 Sources Of The Pottery

At Limes Farm the deeper pits and ditches had penetrated the surface gravels and reached the underlying Gault Clay. This would have provided potting clay and it is a reasonable presumption that most of the excavated pottery was made in the immediate vicinity. This is borne out by ethnographic research that shows most potters obtain their clays and tempers from within 5km of their homes, and nearly all of them from within 10km (Morris 1995,239; 1997,36).

The typological homogeneity of the Middle Iron Age pottery of Essex, Suffolk, south Cambridgeshire and neighbouring parts of Hertfordshire could not have taken place without the movement of potters or their products across wide areas. In a few cases the scientific study of tempers allows the identification of traded wares (Brown 1987,31,fig.15 no.34,32; Sealey 1996,50; Hill 1999b,25). In general however the tempers used (crushed burnt flint, sand, vegetable matter and so forth) are of little help in attempting to source pottery. This has led to a reluctance to postulate the trade or exchange of pottery across prehistoric Essex and East Anglia. But the possibility of identifying traded wares on the basis of their typology is evident from Essex, where a bowl imported from the European mainland in the late Bronze Age was recognised at Boreham (Brown 1999,fig.2.4 no.21,16).

On the basis of their typology, there is indeed reason to think that some of the vessels at Limes Farm reached the site from elsewhere. The vertically lugged bowl from pit 177 (Fig.20 no.15) is a solitary example of a vessel form found in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, but not apparently elsewhere in Cambridgeshire. A decorated rim is also reminiscent of Bedfordshire. Likewise the very few wheel-thrown pots from Late Iron Age contexts are outnumbered by traditional hand-made forms, suggesting the potter's wheel was not in use at Limes Farm and that these are three other vessels that may have reached the site from elsewhere.

Vessels decorated in the east Midlands scored ware style are present (see page 00). The striking correspondence in decoration between examples from Limes Farm and the heartland of the style zone raises intriguing possibilities. East Midlands scored ware reached as far west as Shropshire, perhaps as containers for some specialist product like cheese (Elsdon 1992,84). Although scored sherds are present in some quantity at Limes Farm, the site lies well away from the main concentrations of east Midlands scored ware at the southern edge of the distribution map (*op. cit.*,87). Although in the hand-specimen there



is apparently nothing exotic in the fabric of the scored ware from Limes Farm (apart perhaps from the shell and ironstone-tempered sherds), there remains a distinct possibility that some of the scored ware vessels at Limes Farm reached the site from further north. It is unfortunate that the scored ware is represented by undiagnostic body sherds that did not allow the identification of vessel forms typical of the east Midlands.

It is very difficult to know to what extent (if any) the shell-tempered ware from sites like Limes Farm is a local or an imported product. Iron Age pottery assemblages from the north of the county can consist exclusively of shell-tempered ware (Rollo 1988); the proportion of shell-tempered ware declines as one moves south through the county, to judge by sites like Little Paxton (Woodward 1995; 1998,18). At Limes Farm sherds tempered with shell or a combination of sand and shell account for 3.8 % by sherd count and 3.3 % by weight of the entire prehistoric pottery assemblage. We are used to the widespread trade in south-east Midlands shell-tempered ware in the Roman period and it is time to face the possibility that its Iron Age predecessor was exchanged well beyond its homeland as well.

The only other possibly exotic fabric at Limes Farm is Fabric SRG, with its sparse rounded ironstone grains. Wares tempered with ironstone are common in Middle Iron Age Northamptonshire (Barnett 2000,449) and some of the Fabric RSG vessels at Limes Farm may have come from that source.

## **7.9 Relative Chronology**

In Cambridgeshire the Iron Age pottery sequence begins with the Chinnor-Wandlebury and Darmsden-Linton pottery style zones (Cunliffe 1968,178-81,figs 1-4; 1974,39,325-6; 1978,41-2,359-60). Two of the sites - Wandlebury and Linton - used to define these styles actually lie within the south of the county (Hartley 1957; Fell 1953).

It is clear that the pottery from Limes Farm does not belong to the Chinnor-Wandlebury or Darmsden-Linton pottery style zones. At Limes Farm there is no sign of the tripartite carinated bowls or the tall, high-shouldered carinated jars with straight sides found at Wandlebury and Linton. Foot-ring pedestal bases, lugs, and turned-in rims are also rare or absent altogether at Limes Farm, as are haematite-coated vessels and geometric incised decoration.

The proximity of Limes Farm to Wandlebury and Linton prevents explanation of these differences in terms of a contemporary regional style. The Limes Farm pottery is different because it is different in date. As the Iron Age unfolds in Cambridgeshire, there is an increase in sand-tempering and a reduction in flint-tempering (Woudhuysen 1998,36-7). The same trend has been reported in neighbouring counties (Martin 1988,34; Sealey 1996,46-7,50) and is indeed typical of much of southern Britain from the middle of the first millennium BC (Rigby 1988,103). Bearing in mind the prevalence of sand temper at Limes Farm, its hand-made pottery must be placed after the

Chinnor-Wandlebury and Darmsden-Linton styles. As flint-temper is so rare at Limes Farm, there is every reason to regard it as a *developed* Middle Iron Age assemblage that should be placed after the emergence of a Middle Iron Age ceramic in south Cambridgeshire. This line of thought is confirmed by the presence at Limes Farm of definite Late Iron Age contexts articulated stratigraphically with Middle Iron Age groups, suggesting that the Middle Iron Age pottery does indeed lie towards the end, rather than the beginning of its currency.

phase	sherd count	Percentage	sherd weight	percentage	mn sherd wt
1	1	0.1 %	15	0.1 %	15
2	175	25.7 %	2571	19.5 %	14.7
3	85	12.5 %	2351	17.8 %	27.7
4	2	0.3 %	25	0.2 %	12.5
5	262	38.5 %	5845	44.2 %	22.3
6	60	8.8 %	534	4 %	8.9
7	11	1.6 %	203	1.5 %	18.5
unstrat	85	12.5 %	1699	12.6 %	20
totals	681		13243		

Table 10. Total Sherd Counts, Sherd Weights and Mean Sherd Weights by Phase (weights are in grammes)

The Late Iron Age (Phase 6) component at Limes Farm includes a few vessels that were made on the wheel and site stratigraphy shows these Phase 6 contexts lie at the end of the life of the site. In eastern England from north Kent to the Wash, the introduction of wheel-made pottery is inextricably linked with the appearance of Aylesford-Swarling or 'Belgic' grog-tempered pottery (Thompson 1982). At Limes Farm all the wheel-thrown vessels are sand, rather than grog-tempered and so we cannot interpret these few pots as a direct transplantation of the 'Belgic' tradition. In the same Late Iron Age contexts there is also some pottery tempered with sand and grog, but it is present only in meagre quantities, 4 % by sherd count and 1.8 % by weight. Even in these Late Iron Age contexts at Limes Farm, traditional hand-made vessels remain in the overwhelming majority and the few wheel-thrown pots bear the appearance of exotic novelties. Vessels in the style of east Midlands scored ware were still current in the Late Iron Age at Limes Farm; the same is true of north Cambridgeshire. In Northamptonshire, on the other hand, the scored ware found with Late Iron Age pottery is thought to be residual (Rollo 1988,116; Elsdon 1992,88).

## 7.10 Middle And Late Iron Age Absolute Chronology

The absolute chronology of the Middle Iron Age pottery from Limes Farm can be tackled by considering first what we know of the date of the Early Iron Age Darmsden-Linton and Chinnor-Wandlebury styles that preceded it.

Stratigraphic evidence from the well at Lofts Farm (Essex) shows Darmsden-Linton pottery developed there after the late Bronze Age wares on the site (Brown 1988). A calibrated radiocarbon date for this Darmsden-Linton assemblage gives a date in the 9th century BC, but this is felt to be too early (Needham 1996, 255 *pace* Martin 1993, 38). Radiocarbon dates are of little help in refining our chronologies for the initial Iron Age anyway because of the relatively flat character of the Pearson and Stuiver calibration curve for the period c.750-400 BC (Bowman 1990, 55, 57). A more fruitful line of approach may lie with Hodson (1962, 142) and Barrett (1978, 286-7), who suggested that the pedestal bases of what we now call Darmsden-Linton and Chinnor-Wandlebury pottery (and indeed other wares in southern Britain) were modelled on continental prototypes of 6th century BC and later date. Subsequently important evidence for the date of Darmsden-Linton pottery has come from the large assemblage excavated at Fordham (Cambridgeshire), kindly shown me by Dr J. D. Hill (Connor, forthcoming). A series of luminescence dates worked out by S. M. Barnett centre on 542 BC and show the site was occupied in the 6th and 5th centuries BC. Similarities between the tripartite fine ware bowls in Darmsden-Linton pottery and the La Tène I ceramics of the Marne confirm that it was still in vogue then (Bretz-Mahler 1971, pls 109 and 114). In absolute terms, this means c.475-400 BC (Hatt & Roualet 1977, 11, 13, 17). Barrett suggests that pedestal bases may have lasted until the 4th century BC in Britain. This is borne out by the association of a c.350 BC La Tène Ib brooch with a Chinnor-Wandlebury pedestal-base bowl from Ravensburgh (Hertfordshire) (Dyer 1976, 157, 423). But after the mid to late 4th century BC, evidence for the continued production of Darmsden-Linton and Chinnor-Wandlebury pottery is wanting and it seems reasonable therefore to assign the Middle Iron Age pottery at Limes Farm to the period after c.300 BC.

The Late Iron Age phase 6 at Limes Farm sees the introduction of wheel-thrown pottery which has affiliations with the grog-tempered wheel-thrown 'Belgic' wares of the Aylesford-Swarling culture (Thompson 1982). There is no consensus at present about when this pottery made its first appearance in Britain. The Baldock (Hertfordshire) report puts the earliest grog-tempered wheel-thrown material there in the early to mid 1st century BC (Stead & Rigby 1986, 273-7). Haselgrove (1997, 58) has gone even further and claimed that 'Belgic' pottery was current in eastern England from as early as the late 2nd century BC. In view of the importance of the topic to the chronology of Limes Farm, the problem will bear further examination.

The problem turns on the chronology of the earliest brooches associated with 'Belgic' pottery in Britain. The first brooch regularly found in cremation graves in south-eastern Britain is the rare *Knotenfibel* or boss-on-the-bow type, Feugère 8b; some of these *Knotenfibeln* are Almgren 65 (Stead 1976, 402-10; 1998, 345-7; Feugère 1985, 237-8). In a review of Feugère 8b brooches, Fitzpatrick (1997, 96, 203-4) has adjusted their chronology to c.70/60-40/30 BC. A grave with 'Belgic' pottery from Chilham Castle (Kent) has a pair of *Knotenfibeln* with typologies reminiscent of the Nauheim brooch and possibly therefore earlier than c.50 BC (Stead 1998, 347). Many of the

*Knotenfibeln* listed by Stead (1976) are old discoveries with meagre documentation; the associated pottery has not always been recorded. In a few cases the pottery is not wheel-thrown grog-tempered 'Belgic' and continues to defy allocation to category or style zone. So although the evidence assembled by Stead has a direct bearing on when the urned cremation rite was introduced to Britain, it needs to be used more cautiously when assessing the date at which grog-tempered wheel-thrown pottery first made its appearance.

The Chilham Castle discovery leads to the question of Nauheim brooches and their bearing on the appearance of 'Belgic' pottery. The true Nauheim brooch is in fact rare in Britain. On the mainland of Europe the type makes its first appearance at the end of the 2nd century BC but has a floruit of c.70/60-30/20 BC (Feugère 1985,223-6). Its supposed presence at Wheathampstead (Hertfordshire) has been claimed as evidence for 'Belgic' pottery there in the early 1st century BC (Haselgrove & Millett 1997,287). The brooch came from a trench which produced considerable quantities of wheel-thrown grog-tempered pottery. But its stratigraphical relationship with this pottery is ambiguous: it was found "at a high level in the trench which contained most of the pottery" (Wheeler & Wheeler 1936,150,pl.52 no.1). Thompson (1979) also accepted the brooch as a Nauheim, adding mysteriously that examination showed it to be closer to continental brooches than the drawing published by the Wheelers suggested. But Nauheim brooches always have a v-shaped bow with straight sides. None of those published by Feugère (1985) has a bow like Wheathampstead with its wide rounded foot and slightly concave sides. A more subtle evaluation of the Wheathampstead brooch is available in the unpublished corpus of brooches by M. R. Hull housed at Colchester Museum. There it is pointed out that the form of the bow anticipates the much later Langton Down type (Hattatt 1985,36-7 no.268; 1987,42-3 no.768). Wheathampstead is in fact a rare hybrid of the Nauheim and Langton Down types. The only comparable brooch from Britain with a dated context comes from West Stow (Suffolk), where it is early to mid 1st century AD (West 1990,68 no.149,fig.52). The Langton Down brooch developed on the continent c.20/10 BC (Feugère 1985,266-7), at the very end of the Nauheim series and so rare hybrids such as Wheathampstead can hardly be earlier than c.25 BC. Quite apart from its dubious stratigraphy, the Wheathampstead brooch cannot justify pushing the chronology of 'Belgic' pottery back towards the late 2nd or early 1st century BC.

A brooch of more immediate Nauheim ancestry from an Aylesford-Swarling context was found in a pot from the cemetery at Aylesford (Kent) itself. Its typology sets it apart from continental Nauheims and the piece was made in Britain (Stead 1984,fig.20 no.6,59; Hull & Hawkes 1987,197,pl.S6 no.2).

So what does the brooch evidence have to say about the start of 'Belgic' pottery in north Kent, Essex, Hertfordshire and parts of neighbouring counties? Priority must be given to the *Knotenfibeln* because they are much more common than the few brooches of Nauheim origin. As *Knotenfibeln* were current c.70/60-40/30 BC, it is to that period that we should assign the introduction of 'Belgic' pottery. The Wheathampstead brooch is too late to

shed any light on the question and the solitary brooch of Nauheim ancestry from Aylesford is insufficient testimony to push the start of the cemetery back to the early 2nd century BC (when Nauheims first appear).

The only published *Knotenfibel* associated with 'Belgic' pottery from a settlement context is the specimen from Ditch 1 at Brickwall Hill (Hertfordshire) (Rook 1970,25-7). The excavator recognised that some of the pottery was pre-'Belgic' and Thompson (1982,646) confirms that the group is typologically early. It is a snapshot of the *start* of Aylesford-Swarling in Britain. Understandably the adoption of the new style was a gradual process. Two coin hoards of the first half of the 1st century BC, from Essex and west London, associated with pre-'Belgic' pottery, vindicate this view (Sealey 1996,55; Tyers 1996,139-40). However important *Knotenfibeln* may be in defining the start of the phenomenon, in terms of associations with 'Belgic' pottery they are still outnumbered by brooches of Augustan and later date and so there is still no reason to think that 'Belgic' pottery was widespread until after c.50 BC.

The Westhampnett (West Sussex) cemetery (Fitzpatrick 1997) confirms this late chronology. Unlike the classic areas of Aylesford-Swarling pottery in north Kent, Essex, Hertfordshire and parts of neighbouring counties, where 'Belgic' pottery often completely displaced Middle Iron Age ceramic traditions, in West Sussex only selected elements of Aylesford-Swarling were grafted onto existing traditions. What is interesting about Westhampnett is its early date, c.90-50 BC. The ceramic grave goods include elements drawn from the Aylesford-Swarling tradition. But although 39.5 % of the pottery is grog-tempered, very few vessels are wheel-made and only one pot (27351 from grave 20650) would have been described as a pedestal urn if found elsewhere in the Aylesford-Swarling heartlands of the south-east (Mephram 1997,115-22,125,130-2). The 'Belgic' component of the Westhampnett cemetery can hardly be described as developed Aylesford-Swarling and is in keeping with other evidence from the south-east suggesting that the tradition only emerged in the second quarter of the 1st century BC.

Cambridgeshire was on the periphery of the 'Belgic' pottery phenomenon and there is a feeling that adoption of the pottery came late and sporadically in the county (Thompson 1982,17). Radiocarbon dates from the Haddenham V enclosure in the Cambridgeshire fens show that Middle Iron Age pottery remained in use there until the late 1st century BC, with no hint of wheel-thrown pottery (Evans 1997,224). The tenacity of Middle Iron Age ceramic traditions is also apparent from Wardy Hill, occupied from the 1st century BC until the first decades AD. In the final stages of the history of the site, only about a fifth of the pots are wheel-made: the rest are hand-made (Evans 1992,24-5). In the very south of the county, hand-made pottery continued until the Roman period at Edix Hill (Woudhuysen 1998,38). It is clear from other sites in Suffolk and Norfolk that hand-made wares of Middle Iron Age type could also survive there until the 1st century AD and the Roman invasion (Martin 1988,34,72; West 1990,63,68; Gregory 1991,158,160,189). Hill (1999a,202) has understandably questioned the validity of a Middle Iron Age

for the region at all, and suggested replacing it with a twofold division of the Iron Age into an earlier and a later phase, but 'Belgic' pottery *is* present in south Cambridgeshire in the Late Iron Age and this justifies the retention of the traditional terminology.

It is important to bear in mind as well that the earliest 'Belgic' pottery in the south-east comes from graves; contemporary pottery assemblages from settlements can be more conservative. In south Essex only 'Belgic' pottery is found in cremations; on adjacent settlement sites it is a distinct minority element in groups dominated by shell-tempered ware (Thompson 1988). Further north at Maldon Hall Farm, a cremation grave with a silver *Knotenfibel* (and hence dated c.70/60-40/30 BC) has an impressive suite of eight 'Belgic' pots, with no less than five pedestal urns (Lavender 1991,203-8). Yet only 2.75 km to the north-east, on the major Late Iron Age settlement of Elms Farm at Heybridge (Atkinson & Preston 1998), the writer has seen (through the good offices of J. Compton) large pottery assemblages with imported Roman table crockery (and hence later than c.25 BC) in which 'Belgic' pottery is outnumbered by hand-made vessels in sandy fabrics of 'pre-Belgic' Middle Iron Age type. The same disparity has been reported from north-west Essex and south Cambridgeshire where small cremation cemeteries of 'Belgic' pottery established in the 1st century BC (Hill *et al.* 1999; Crossan *et al.* 1990) were created in a landscape where contemporary settlement pottery assemblages manifest striking variety. At the more conservative end of the spectrum is Wendens Ambo (Essex), where 'middle' Iron Age pottery remained dominant until the early Roman period (Hodder 1982,25). Yet further north at Castle Hill in Cambridge, the pottery from a Late Iron Age settlement founded after c.15 BC has no sign of Middle Iron Age material and is thoroughly Aylesford-Swarling in its typology, with imported Gallo-Belgic wares (Farrar *et al.* 1999).

In the circumstances it seems reasonable to put the start of the Late Iron Age at Limes Farm no earlier than c.50 BC. The quantity of pottery from Limes Farm falls away sharply in the Late Iron Age and activity on the site came to an end then, by (let us say) the end of the 1st century BC.

### 7.11 Abington-Duxford Pottery

When Cunliffe (1968,182) first defined his Darmsden-Linton pottery style zone, a dearth of subsequent Iron Age pottery made him understandably wary about the identification of other regional groupings for the counties between the lower Thames and the Wash. Since then evidence has accumulated but a reluctance to attempt the definition of regional pottery styles for the Middle Iron Age of East Anglia has stood in the way of progress.

The Middle Iron Age pottery from Limes Farm is important because it is a homogeneous group uncontaminated with earlier material and not obscured by subsequent redeposition. A Middle Iron Age pottery tradition in south Cambridgeshire awaits satisfactory definition (Woudhuysen 1998,37-8) and

Limes Farm provides the answer. It is proposed here to call the Middle Iron Age wares from the south of the county the Abington-Duxford pottery style zone, after two sites there where similar pottery has been reported (Fox 1924, pl.1 for Abington Pigotts; Lucas 1997, fig.26 nos 4 and 8-11, 57-8 for Duxford). Abington-Duxford pottery has also been reported from Site 5 at Foxton (Lucas 1997, 59, fig.29 nos 5 & 7).

Looking south across the county boundary to neighbouring Middle Iron Age sites, there are similarities to the Limes Farm pottery in the large assemblages from Barley (Hertfordshire) (Ozanne 1961) and Wendens Ambo (Essex) (Hodder 1982, 24-9). It is also clear that the style of Middle Iron Age pottery found at Limes Farm has close affinities with assemblages from right across Essex and Suffolk, as represented by sites such as Little Waltham (Essex) (Drury 1978, 51-85) and Burgh (Suffolk) (Martin 1988, 37-9, 46-7).

## 7.12 Evidence Of Function And Use

Nineteen of the 681 sherds (2.8 %) had black deposits. Details are given in Table 11. They consist of thin patches of black matter less than a millimetre thick, sometimes with a cracked surface. One knows these residues were formed in antiquity because they do not run over the edge of the break on the sherd. Only seven sherds have the residue on the inside surface. On the other twelve sherds it is on the outside and (with one exception) always in the same position, running from the rim down across the neck towards the shoulder. This adherent matter gives every impression of being the remains of burnt foodstuffs. To have consistently stuck to the outsides of pots on and below the rims, it was presumably a thick and viscous fluid rather like (say) porridge.

Reservations have been expressed about the value of analytical work to identify organic residues in pottery on the grounds that a vessel might have been used for several different contents in the course of its life and that post-depositional contamination may distort the results (Barber & Ashmore 1990, 141). Nevertheless progress has been made on burnt residues of the kind found at Limes Farm. Examination of a residue from the Middle Iron Age village at Little Waltham (Essex) showed it to be the remains of a vegetable gruel (Evans 1978). Four Middle Iron Age pots with burnt residues buried at a spring in Stock (Essex) had contained a starchy preparation derived (in all likelihood) from a cereal, in water; salt had been added. The preparation had evidently been boiled until it burnt (Hedges 1979, 77). A cereal product has also been identified in a burnt deposit on a *c.*AD 40-60 sherd from another Essex site (Evans 1987). Residues of this kind are seldom reported in East Anglia and the number of such sherds from Limes Farm is unusual. But the region has nothing comparable to Mount Farm (Oxfordshire), where burnt residues were found on 6 % of the Iron Age sherds (Lambrick 1984, 169).

Another aspect of pottery function and use embraces the part played by ceramics in ritual, more specifically the question of the structured deposition of broken or complete pottery in archaeological contexts (Hill 1995). The

presence of animal skulls at Limes Farm raised the possibility of ritual deposition and the pottery assemblage was examined with that in mind. There were no groups of large sherds that had been arranged in any of the pits or ditches, as at Middle Iron Age Barley (Hertfordshire), where the remains of two pots had been neatly stacked inside each other in a pit (Cra'ster 1965,1). Nor were there groups of pottery that had any strikingly anomalous features, with the possible exception of the upper fill of pit 47-52-79 which had sherds from the bases of eight pots (rims were also present). The demonstration of ritual placed deposits is most compelling when recurrent patterns of deposition can be identified. Unlike Wessex, or indeed Sussex (Hamilton 1998), pits in East Anglia seldom produce the variety and range of artefacts and bone to allow one to test the hypothesis. One regrets that Limes Farm has not produced evidence to advance the debate.

context	fabric	date	Position	drawn
16	S	Phase 2	Exterior	Fig.19 no.6
21	S	Phase 2	Exterior	Fig.19 no.3
21	S	Phase 2	Interior	not drawn
55	SV	Phase 2	Exterior	Fig.19 no.7
59	SV	Phase 2	Interior	not drawn
131	SH	Phase 2	Exterior	Fig.19 no.12
131	SRG	Phase 2	Exterior	Fig.19 no.10
46	S	Phase 5	Exterior	Fig.20 no.20
53	SRG	Phase 6	Exterior	Fig.21 no.37
53	SV	Phase 6	Interior	not drawn
53	S	Phase 6	Interior	not drawn
54	S	Phase 5	Interior	Fig.21 no.31
54	S	Phase 5	Interior	not drawn
78	SV	Phase 5	Exterior	Fig.20 no.29
34	SV	Phase 6	Exterior	Fig.21 no.39
17	S	Phase 3	Interior	Fig.20 no.18
895/605	SV	unstratified	Exterior	Fig.21 no.49
95	S	Phase 5	Exterior	not drawn
97	SV	Phase 5	Exterior	Fig.21 no.38

*Table 11. Details of Sherds with Black Residues*

### 7.13 Summary And Conclusions

The excavations at Limes Farm produced a significant quantity of Middle Iron Age pottery. Many of the contexts have large unabraded sherds with higher than usual mean sherd weights. It was not contaminated with earlier residual material, nor had it been disturbed and redeposited subsequently. Study of the pottery allows the definition of a Middle Iron Age ceramic for south Cambridgeshire, called here the Abington-Duxford style. It is part of a wider pottery style zone found across Essex, Suffolk and parts of Hertfordshire. Abington-Duxford pottery was current c.300-50 BC. The presence of wheel-



thrown pottery allowed the definition of a Late Iron Age phase on the site which commenced no earlier than c.50 BC. Even after the introduction of wheel-thrown pottery, the bulk of the vessels remained hand-made and testify to the tenacity of Middle Iron Age ceramic traditions in the region. The site was abandoned by the end of the 1st century BC. Typological analysis suggests that a lugged vessel from Limes Farm was an import from Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire or Northamptonshire. Vessels decorated in the east Midlands scored ware style are present; some of these may also represent pots that reached the site from further afield. Unlike Northamptonshire, east Midlands scored ware remained in vogue at Limes Farm and elsewhere in Cambridgeshire until the Late Iron Age. Although there are no perceptible changes in typology or fabric preferences in the Middle Iron Age at Limes Farm, the pottery suggests a settlement in touch with communities further afield, receptive to developments beyond its immediate horizons. No evidence was forthcoming from the sherd material to suggest structured or placed deposition of prehistoric pottery. The only possible anomaly was the presence of bases from eight vessels in the upper fill of pit 47-52-79. An unusually high proportion of sherds had traces of a black residue, presumably a burnt foodstuff; the most common position for such deposits was on the exterior of rims.

#### **7.14 List Of Illustrated Pottery**

*unless indicated otherwise, all vessels are hand-made*

Fig.22 no.01. Fabric S. The core is dark grey; the inner and outer surfaces are light red-brown. Phase 2.21. Context 21. Fill of ditch 38-107.

Fig.22 no.02. Fabric S. Black throughout. Phase 2.21.. Context 21. Fill of ditch 38-107.

Fig.22 no.03. Fabric S. Black throughout. Black residue on exterior. Phase 2.21. Context 21. Fill of ditch 38-107.

Fig.22 no.04. Fabric SF. The core is dark grey; the outer surface is dark brown, the inner is light brown. Phase 2.21. Context 33. Fill of ditch 38-107.

Fig.22 no.05. Fabric S. The core is black; the inner and outer surfaces are dark grey-brown. Phase 2.21. Context 33. Fill of ditch 38-107.

Fig.22 no.06. Fabric S. The core and outer surface are black; the inner surface is mottled light and dark grey. Black residue on exterior. Phase 2.21. Context 16. Fill of ditch 38-107.

Fig.22 no.07. Fabric SV. The core is black; the inner surface is light grey-brown, the outer is mottled black and brown. Black residue on exterior. Phase 2.21. Context 55. Fill of ditch 84.

Fig.22 no.08. Fabric SH. The core and inner surface are black; the outer surface is light red-brown, speckled white with shell. East Midlands scored ware. Phase 2.21. Context 55. Fill of ditch 84.

Fig.22 no.09. Fabric SH. The core is black; the inner and outer surfaces are grey, speckled white with shell. Phase 2.2. Context 131. Fill of gully 139.

Fig.22 no.10. Fabric S. The core is black; the inner and outer surfaces are mottled red-brown. Phase 2.2. Context 131. Fill of gully 139.

Fig.22 no.11. Fabric SRG. The core is black; the inner surface is dark grey, the outer is mottled light red-brown and grey. Black residue on exterior. Phase 2.2. Context 131. Fill of gully 139.

Fig.22 no.12. Fabric SH. The core is black; the inner and outer surfaces are grey, speckled white with shell. Phase 2.2. Context 131. Fill of gully 139.

Fig.22 no.13. Fabric S. The core and inner surface are black; the outer surface is dark brown. East Midlands scored ware. Phase 3.2. Context 130. Fill of pit 177.

Fig.22 no.14. Fabric S. The core and inner surface are black; the outer surface is dark brown. East Midlands scored ware. Phase 3.2. Context 130. Fill of pit 177.

Fig.22 no.15. Fabric SV. The core is black; the inner surface is dark brown, the outer is mottled light and dark brown and black. Phase 3.2. Context 130. Fill of pit 177.

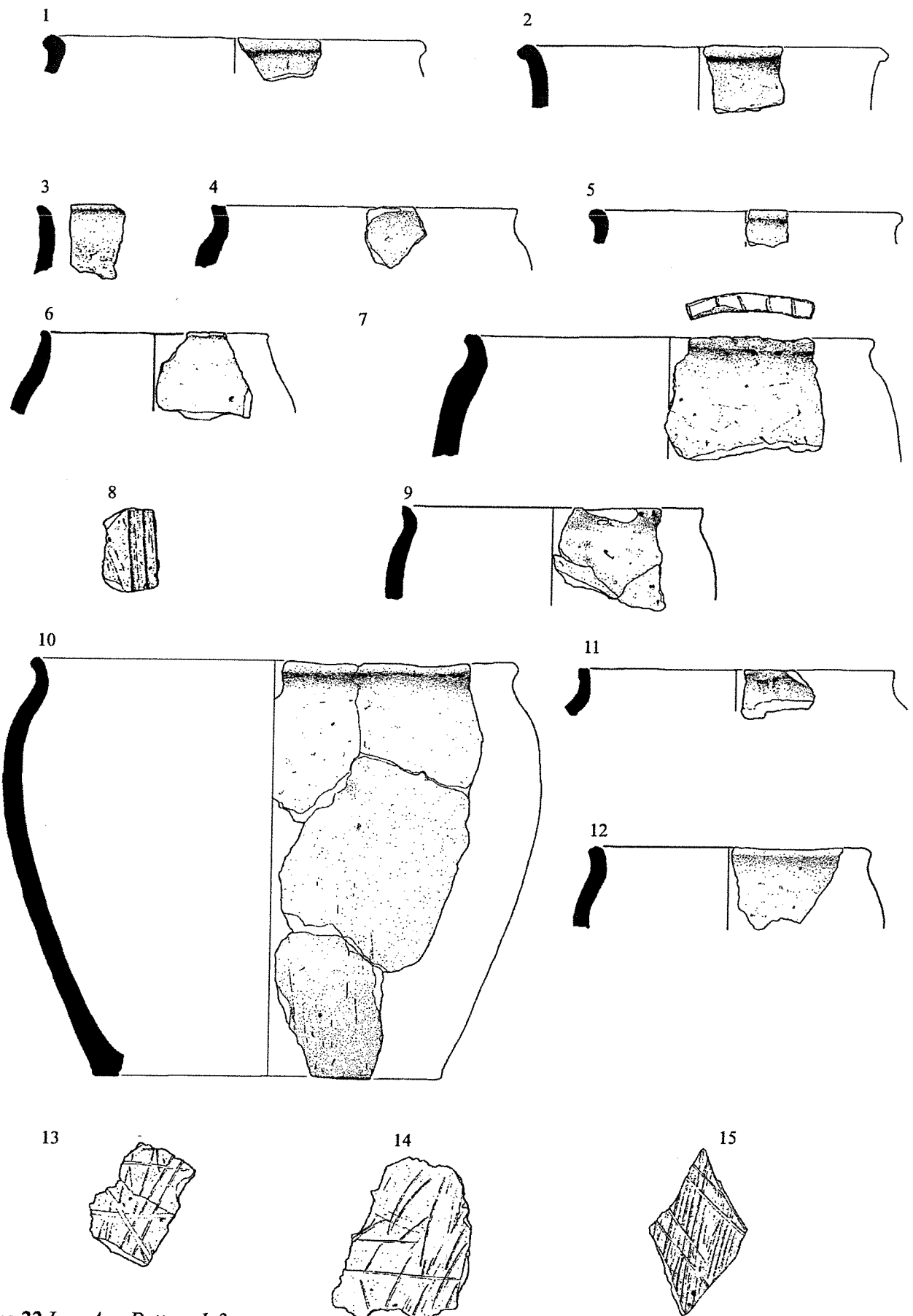
Fig.23 no.16. Fabric S. The core and inner surface are black; the outer surface is mottled light brown and grey. East Midlands scored ware. Phase 3. Context 17. Fill of ditch 72.

Fig.23 no.17. Fabric S. The core is grey; the inner and outer surfaces are light red-brown and grey. Wheel-thrown. Phase 3. Context 17. Fill of ditch 72.

Fig.23 no.18. Fabric S. The core and inner surface are black; the outer surface is dark brown. Black residue on interior. Phase 3.21. Context 17. Fill of ditch 72.

Fig.23 no.19. Fabric SV. The core and inner surface are black; the outer surface is mottled light and dark grey. Phase 5. Context 46. Upper fill of pit 47-52-79.

Fig.23 no.20. Fabric S. Black throughout. Black residue on exterior. Phase 5. Context 46. Upper fill of pit 47-52-79.



**Figure 22** Iron Age Pottery 1:3

Fig.23 no.21. Fabric SV. Black throughout. Phase 5. Context 49. Upper fill of pit 47-52-79.

Fig.23 no.22. Fabric SV. The core is light brown; the inner and outer surfaces are mottled brown and grey. Phase 5. Context 49. Upper fill of pit 47-52-79.

Fig.23 no.23. Fabric S. The core is grey; the inner and outer surfaces are black. Phase 5. Context 49. Upper fill of pit 47-52-79.

Fig.23 no.24. Fabric SH. The core is black; the inner surface is dark grey, the outer is light red-brown speckled white with shell. East Midlands scored ware. Phase 5. Context 49. Upper fill of pit 47-52-79.

Fig.23 no.25. Fabric SV. The core and inner surface are black; the outer surface is mottled brown and dark brown. Phase 5. Context 49. Upper fill of pit 47-52-79.

Fig.23. no.26. Fabric SV. The core is black; the inner surface has light grey-brown patches, the outer is light brown. Phase 5.3. Context 49. Upper fill of pit 47-52-79.

Fig.23 no.27. Fabric SV. The core is black; the inner surface is brown with a dark grey patch, the outer is mottled grey. Phase 5.3. Context 49. Upper fill of pit 47-52-79.

Fig.23 no.28. Fabric SV. The core and inner surface are black; the outer surface is dark grey. Phase 5.3. Context 78. Upper fill of pit 47-52-79.

Fig.23 no.29. Fabric SV. Black throughout. Black residue on exterior. Phase 5.3. Context 78. Upper fill of pit 47-52-79.

Fig.24 no.30. Fabric SV. The core is black; the inner surface is light grey-brown, the outer is dark brown with some black patches. Phase 5.21. Context 54. Fill of pit 83.

Fig.24 no.31. Fabric S. The core is black; the inner surface is black to dark brown, the outer is mottled light brown, dark brown and grey. Black residue on interior. Phase 5.21. Context 54. Fill of pit 83.

Fig.24 no.32. Fabric S. The core is dark grey; the inner and outer surfaces are light yellow-brown. Phase 5.21. Context 54. Fill of pit 83.

Fig.24 no.33. Fabric S. The core and outer surface are black; the inner is light grey-brown. Phase 5.21. Context 54. Fill of pit 83.

Fig.24 no 34. Fabric S. The core is black, the inner surface is grey, the outer surface is light to dark brown. Phase 5.21. Context 54. Fill of pit 83.

Fig.24 no.35. Fabric S. The core and inner surface are black; the outer surface is grey. Phase 5.1. Context 155. Roundhouse foundation trench.

Fig.24 no.36. Fabric S. Black throughout. Phase 5.24. Context 39.

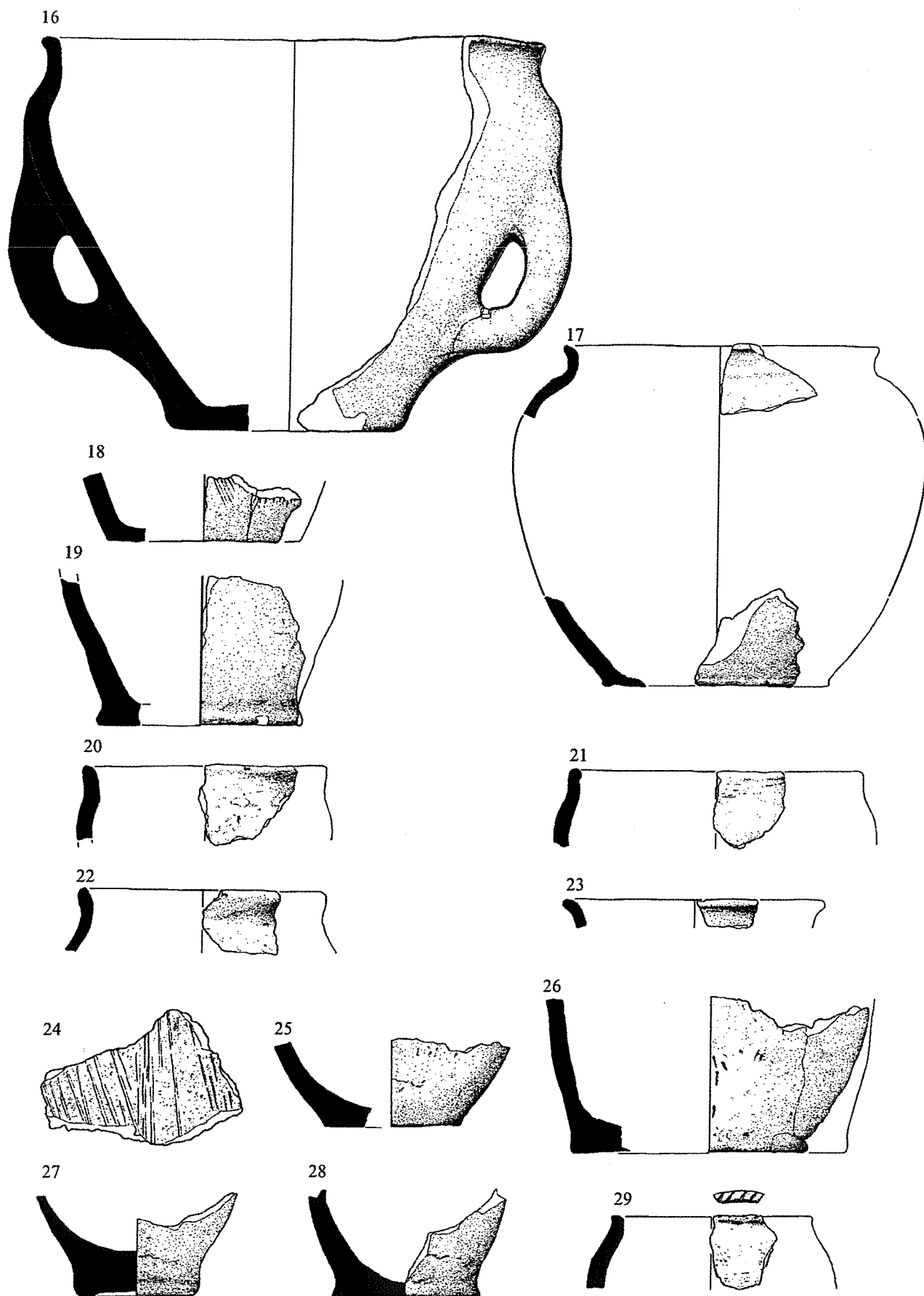


Figure 23 Iron Age Pottery 1:3

Fig.24 no.37. Fabric S. The core is grey; the inner and outer surfaces are light brown. Phase 5.24. Context 95.

Fig.24 no.38. Fabric SV. The core is black; the inner surface is mottled light grey-brown, the outer has brown and black patches. Black residue on exterior. Phase 5.24 Context 97.

Fig.24 no.39. Fabric SV. The core is black; most of the inner and outer surfaces are black as well, except for the brown rim and exterior of the neck. Black residue on exterior. Phase 6.1. Context 34. Fill of ditch 28-37-40.

Fig.24 no.40. Fabric S. The core is light grey; the inner and outer surfaces are light brown. Phase 6.1. Context 36. Fill of ditch 28-37-40.

Fig.24 no.41. Fabric SRG. Black throughout. Black residue on exterior. Phase 6.2. Context 53. Layer overlying ditch 108.

Fig.24 no.42. Fabric SV. The core and inner surface are black; the outer surface is mottled light brown, grey and black. Phase 6.2. Context 53. Layer overlying ditch 108.

Fig.24 no.43. Fabric SV. Black throughout but with a grey patch on the outside of the rim. Phase 6.2. Context 53. Layer overlying ditch 108.

Fig.24 no.44. Fabric S. The core is light grey; the inner and outer surfaces are red-brown. Wheel-thrown. Phase 6.2. Context 53. Layer overlying ditch 108.

Fig.24 no.45. Fabric S. The core is dark grey; the inner surface is red-brown, the outer is dark brown and black. Wheel-thrown. Phase 6. Context 142. Layer overlying ditch 164.

Fig.24 no.46. Fabric S. The core is black; the inner surface is black, the outer is mottled brown and black. Unstratified. Grid 890/650.

Fig.24 no.47. Fabric S. The core and outer surface are black; the inner surface is brown. Unstratified. Grid 890/650.

Fig.24 no.48. Fabric S. The core is dark grey to black; the inner surface is brown, the outer is mottled brown and black. Unstratified. Grid 890/650.

Fig.24 no.49. Fabric SV. The core is black; the inner surface is brown, the outer is mottled brown and black. Black residue on exterior. Unstratified. Grid 895E/605N.

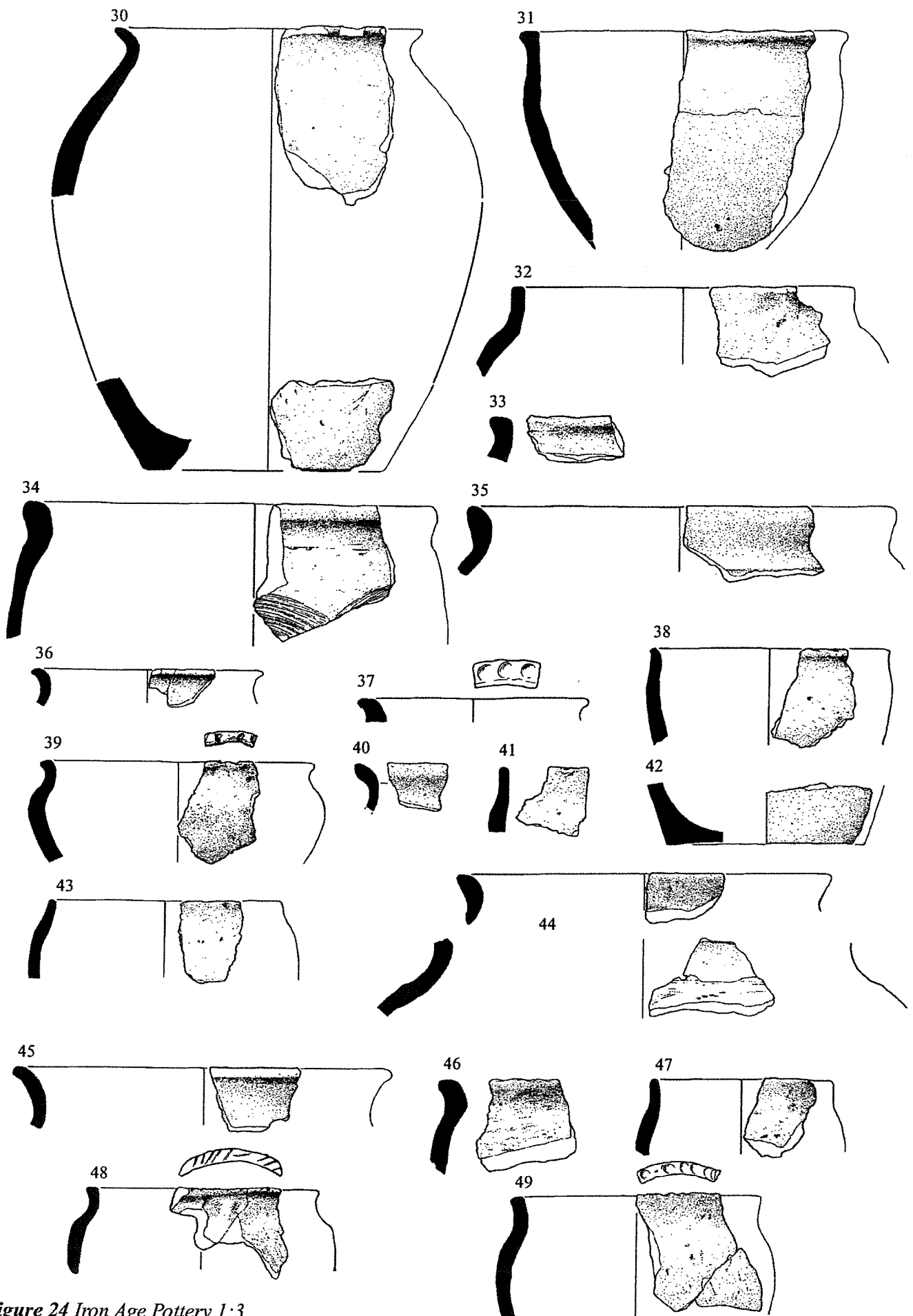


Figure 24 Iron Age Pottery 1:3

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

In the Project Design for this investigation it was noted that the site lies within a rich archaeological landscape on the southern fen edge and it was anticipated that the investigation would contribute towards an understanding of the landscape in which it is set. More particularly it was the aim of the project to contribute towards the Primary Aims of English Heritage (English Heritage 1997) and to take into consideration the research agenda for the Eastern Counties (Glazebrook et al, 1997).

Having excavated the site it became apparent that the sample chosen provided more information about the Iron Age landscape and only touched the Roman period, it was also apparent that an unexpectedly well preserved assemblage of Middle Iron Age pottery had been collected from the excavations. These were subject to assessment and were found to be of sufficient importance to warrant full analysis. The project aims were thus amended as follows to include three aims specific to the pottery assemblage:

*Attempt to define for the first time the Middle Iron Age pottery of south-east Cambridgeshire.*

*Attempt to resolve the status of certain unusual wares as local products or imports.*

*Examine the introduction of wheel thrown and grog-tempered pottery in Late Iron Age Cambridgeshire.*

*Contribute to an understanding of the Iron Age in Cambridgeshire*

*Promote public appreciation and enjoyment of archaeology*

*Contribute towards the preservation of vulnerable sites*

### **Aims of the Pottery Study**

The success of the project in fulfilling the specific pottery aims is discussed in full in section 7. In summary, the study of the pottery has certainly allowed research into the definition of a Middle Iron Age ceramic tradition for south Cambridgeshire, and provides a firm foundation on which future work can build. Unfortunately the samples collected for radiocarbon dating did not fulfil the criteria necessary to further refine the chronology of pottery of this period and this must await a similar pottery assemblage coupled with articulated bones in a long stratigraphic sequence. Analysis of the assemblage has apparently resolved the second aim as it has been suggested that the unusual pottery wares turned up as imports and indicate “a settlement in touch with communities further afield, receptive to developments beyond its immediate horizons”.

Thirdly, the presence of wheel-thrown pottery allowed the definition of a Late Iron Age phase on the site which commenced no earlier than c.50 BC. Even



after the introduction of wheel-thrown pottery, the bulk of the vessels remained hand-made and testify to the tenacity of Middle Iron Age ceramic traditions in the region. The site was abandoned by the end of the 1st century BC.

#### **Contribute towards the preservation of vulnerable sites**

The areas excavated showed that preservation of archaeological deposits is good especially in areas 1 and 2. Although no horizontal deposits such as floors survived there was a wide range of features cut into the natural sands and gravels, including ditches, pits and postholes. Pottery and animal bones from within the features were well preserved, although environmental remains were not so well preserved. The area was field walked prior to the trenching phase, but produced few finds. This is surprising given the quantity and quality of the remains found beneath the topsoil, which may be partly explained by the depth of the archaeological deposits which in some areas were sealed beneath a layer of sub-soil up to 0.15m thick. This may be sufficient to protect the underlying archaeological deposits and prevent material from being brought to the surface by modern ploughing. Indeed anecdotal evidence suggests that the only time that large quantities of pottery had been collected from the site was either during times when particularly deep ploughing was used or when drainage ditches were being dug or cleaned out. Recommendations for this site have therefore included that no deep ploughing or drainage works should be carried out on the site.

The spread of the trenches over the northern half of the site has shown that the visibility of cropmarks is variable over the site. Archaeological deposits in the area to the north of the drain (field 2 on figure 1) were demonstrated by trenches 7, 8 and 9 to be more extensive than the cropmarks indicate. To the south of the drain (field 3 on figure 1) the cropmarks are generally a good indicator of the underlying archaeological deposits, although trench 4 proved the presence of archaeological features in spite of the absence of cropmarks. As might be expected, the more densely cropmarked areas were found to be even more complex when excavated as demonstrated by the presence of a series of intercutting roundhouses in area 1 and complex of intercutting ditches and pits in area 2.

The preconception for the cropmark area, based on its character and past finds, had been of a Romano-British settlement, possibly beginning in the Late Iron Age. This programme of work has demonstrated that, although parts of the cropmarks are certainly Roman in date some areas clearly date to a much earlier period. Trenches 10, 11 and 12 all contained material suggesting a Roman date, however, pottery from areas 1 and 2 was overwhelmingly Middle Iron Age in date, and there is even a suggestion that occupation of the site can be traced as far back as the Bronze Age.

#### **Contribute to an understanding of the Iron Age in Cambridgeshire**

Additional information has been gathered from the trenching that an evaluation would not normally be expected to contribute. Not least is the excellent assemblage of Middle Iron Age pottery (see section 7). Areas 1 and

2 provided an opportunity to look at the detail of a relatively complex sequence of stratigraphy, showing the development and use of the site throughout the Middle Iron Age and possibly extending back to the Bronze Age. The presence of a series of possible roundhouses and associated pits gives an insight into the longevity of the settlement. Nearby ditches contained what may arguably be described as structured deposits, particularly in the case of the group of four cattle skulls and associated bones, perhaps indicating a view of the world outside the functional. Unlike other sites where structured or special deposits have been found, however, the pottery from Limes Farm did not appear to fall into the same category.

Analysis of the pottery (section 7) has shown that the settlement at Limes Farm was likely to have had contacts beyond its immediate environs. One vessel, a vertically lugged pit from pit 177 (Fig 20 no.15) is paralleled in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, but not apparently elsewhere in Cambridgeshire. There is also a possibility that some of the scored ware vessels at Limes Farm reached the site from further north, although the scored ware was only represented by undiagnostic body sherds so it was not possible to make any comparisons with the typical vessel forms of the east Midlands. The possibility that the shell-tempered wares were an imported product is also raised as a possibility

The investigation has also added some important details to the overview of the site provided by the cropmark plots. It is now clear that the site is made up of several small activity areas. Some of these areas are likely to be Roman in origin, such as that exposed in trenches 11 and 12, and some areas are Middle Iron Age in origin such as that exposed in Areas 1 and 2. Although stray finds have clearly demonstrated a strong Roman presence in Field 4, an earlier origin cannot be ruled out by the very limited work done as part of this evaluation.

### **Promote public appreciation and enjoyment of archaeology**

By carrying out the investigations as part of a training excavation people from different backgrounds were brought together and given the opportunity to experience hands on archaeology. In addition, members of the public were encouraged to visit the site for guided tours and students were encouraged to share their newly acquired knowledge and enthusiasm. The fieldwork has been followed up by public talks to local societies and continues to be used as a resource for explaining and promoting archaeology to members of the public.

In conclusion, the evaluation provided answers to questions about the preservation and extent of archaeological deposits on the northern half of an extensive cropmark. In addition it has provided an unexpectedly interesting Middle Iron Age pottery assemblage analysis of which has built a firm foundation on which further pottery studies in the region can rely. It has also provided detailed evidence of Middle Iron Age settlement near the southern

Fen edge and continues to provide an excellent resource for the promotion of archaeology to members of the public.

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**Appendix 1 Context Descriptions and Iron Age Pottery Totals (weights in grammes)**

Ctxt	Cut	Phase	Area	Cat.	Type	Width	Depth	Description	Finds
1	1	5.4	1	Cut	Ditch	0.45	0.18	curvilinear, flat based U profile	Animal bone
2	1	5.4	1	Fill	Ditch			light olive brown, clay sandy silt	
3	1	5.4	1	fill	Ditch			light olive brown, clay sand silt	
4	1	5.4	1	fill	Ditch	0.47	0.19	dark olive brown, sandy clay silt	
5	5	5.1	1	cut	ditch	0.56	0.36	linear, complex profile	
6	5	5.1	1	fill	ditch	0.21	0.11	yellowish brown, sandy clay silt	
7	5	5.1	1	fill	ditch	0.07	0.07	dark yellowish brown, sandy clay	
8	5	5.1	1	fill	ditch	0.55	0.24	brown sandy clay	
9	9	2.2	1	cut	ditch	1.05	0.21	linear, flat based U profile	
10	9	2.2	1	fill	ditch	0.85	0.21	dark yellowish brown, silty sand	
11	11	3.3	1	cut	ditch	0.51	0.17	curvilinear, U profile	Animal bone
12	11	3.3	1	cut	ditch	0.51	0.17	brown, silty sand	
13	13	5.1	1	cut	ditch	0.68	0.35	curvilinear, complex profile	
14	13	5.1	1	fill	ditch	1.7	1.2	olive brown, sandy clay silt	
15	13	5.1	1	fill	ditch	0.68	0.28	very dark grey brown, silty sandy clay	
16	38	2.21	2	fill	ditch			dark greyish brown and olive brown, sandy silt	
17	72	6.2	2	fill	ditch	1.85	0.75	dark greyish brown, clayey sand	
18	20	1.2	1	fill	ditch	0.25	0.15	brown, silty sand	
19	20	1.2	1	fill	ditch	0.45	0.17	light yellowish brown, silty sand	
20	20	1.2	1	cut	ditch	1	0.17	linear, shallow wide U profile	
21	38	2.21	2	fill	ditch			very dark grey brown, sandy silt	30 pot sherds, animal bone
22	22	2.2	1	cut	posthole	0.19	0.13	circular, U profile	
23	22	2.2	1	fill	posthole	0.19	0.13	dark yellowish brown, silty sand	
24	25	6.1	1	fill	ditch	2	0.1	dark brown, sandy silt	
25	25	6.1	1	cut	ditch	2	0.1	linear, shallow wide U profile	
26	28	6.1	1	fill	ditch	0.97	0.24	dark yellowish brown, silty sand	1 pot sherd, animal bone
27	28	6.1	1	fill	ditch	0.97	0.29	yellowish brown, sand	

Cxt	Cut	Phase	Area	Cat.	Type	Width	Depth	Description	Find
28	28	6.1	1	cut	ditch	0.97	0.32	linear, flat based V profile	
29	29	5.4	1	cut	ditch	0.55	0.19	curvilinear, U profile	
30	29	5.4	1	fill	ditch	0.5	0.19	dark olive brown, clay silt	Animal bone
31	31	5.1	1	cut	ditch	1.05	0.47	curvilinear, complex profile	
32	31	5.1	1	fill	ditch	0.22	0.16	light olive brown, clay sand silt	
33	38	2.21	2	fill	ditch			dark olive brown	14 pot sherds, animal bone
34	40	6.1	1	fill	ditch	1.15	0.15	dark brown, sandy silt clay	7 pot sherds
35	29	5.4	1	fill	ditch			light olive brown, clay sand silt	
36	37	6.1	1	fill	ditch			dark yellowish brown, clay sand	4 pot sherds
37	37	6.1	1	cut	ditch		0.15	linear, shallow wide U profile	
38	38	2.21	2	cut	ditch	1.4		linear, wide U profile (same as 107)	
39		5.24	2	layer				cleaning layer	7 pot sherds
40	40	6.1	1	cut	ditch	1.15	0.15	linear, wide flat based U profile	
41	41	4.1	1	cut	ditch	1	0.46	linear, complex profile	
42	41	4.1	1	fill	ditch	0.17	0.25	yellowish brown, silty sand	
43	41	4.1	1	fill	ditch	0.55	0.21	yellowish brown, clayey silt	
44	41	4.1	1	fill	ditch	0.65	0.2	brownish yellow, sandy silt	Animal bone
45		5.24	2	layer				yellowish brown, silty clay sand	
46	47	5.3	1	fill	pit	1.14	0.65	very dark greyish brown, sandy silty	21 pot sherds, animal bone
47	47	5.3	1	cut	pit	1.14	0.65	clay circular, U profile	
48	41	4.1	1	fill	ditch	0.93	0.11	dark yellowish brown, sandy silt	2 pot sherds, ceramic spindle whorl (sf4), animal bone
49	52	5.3	1	fill	pit			very dark greyish brown, sandy silty	63 pot sherds, animal bone
50	50	5.5	1	cut	ditch	1.05	0.5	linear, complex profile	
51	50	5.5	1	fill	ditch	1.05	0.23	dark grey, clayey silt	
52	52	5.3	1	cut	pit	1.14	0.94	rectangular, complex profile	Animal bone, burnt daub
53		6.2	2	layer				dark greyish brown, silty clay sand	39 pot sherds, animal bone
54	83	5.21	2	fill	pit	2.8	0.6	very dark grey, silty clay	89 pot sherds
55	84	2.21	2	fill	ditch	1	0.3	dark brown, silty sandy clay	
56	50	5.5	1	fill	ditch	0.39	0.21	dark yellowish brown, sandy silt	39 pot sherds, clay loom weight fragment (sf5), animal bone

Ctxt	Cut	Phase	Area	Cat.	Type	Width	Depth	Description	Findings
57	57	5.5	1	cut	ditch	0.3	0.1	linear, U profile	19 pot sherds, animal bone
58	57	5.5	1	fill	ditch	0.3	0.1	dark grey, clay silt	
59	108	2.21	2	fill	ditch	0.45	0.3	dark brown, silty clayey sand	
60	60	4.1	1	fill	ditch	0.17	0.25	linear, unknown profile	
61	61	3.2	1	cut	posthole	0.3	0.08	circular, flat based U profile	
62	61	3.2	1	fill	posthole	0.3	0.08	dark brown, sandy silt	
63	63	4.1	1	cut	ditch	0.38	0.08	linear, flat based U profile	
64	63	4.1	1	fill	ditch	0.38	0.08	very dark brown, sandy silt	
65	65	5.2	1	cut	ditch	0.7	0.31	linear, flat based U profile	
66	65	5.2	1	fill	ditch	0.39	0.09	brownish yellow, sand	
67	65	5.2	1	fill	ditch	0.7	0.23	dark yellowish brown, silty sand	5 pot sherds, animal bone 4 pot sherds, animal bone
68	52	5.3	1	fill	pit			dark grey, silty sand	
69	82	2.3	1	fill	ditch			dark yellowish brown, sandy silt	
70	70	3.1	1	cut	ditch	0.66	0.23	linear, flat based U profile	
71	70	3.1	1	fill	ditch			very dark greyish brown, sandy silt	13 pot sherds, animal bones
72	72	6.2	2	cut	ditch			linear, wide stepped U profile	
73	108	2.21	2	fill	ditch	0.75	0.7	dark brown, clayey sand	
74	52	5.3	1	fill	pit			dark greyish brown, sand	
75	70	3.1	1	fill	ditch			brown, silty sand	1 pot sherds 10 pot sherds, animal bone
76	85	4.21	2	fill	ditch?	0.5	0.25	greyish brown, silty clayey sand	
77	107	2.21	2	fill	ditch	0.3	0.3	dark yellowish brown, coarse sand	
78	79	5.3	1	fill	pit		0.4	dark grey, silty sand	
79	79	5.3	1	cut	pit	0.8	0.6	sub-circular, gradual U profile	3 pot sherds
80	80	5.5	1	cut	ditch	0.92	0.32	curvilinear, complex profile	
81	80	5.5	1	fill	ditch	0.92	0.22	sandy silt	
82	82	2.3	1	cut	pit	1.52	0.23	circular, flat based U profile	
83	83	5.21	2	cut	pit	1	0.45	circular, unknown profile	linear, lazy U profile cancelled
84	84	2.21	2	cut	ditch	2.1	0.75	linear, lazy U profile	
85								cancelled	

Ctxt	Cut	Phase	Area	Cat.	Type	Width	Depth	Description	Find
86	87	3.21	2	fill	ditch	1.56	0.63	very dark greyish brown, silty sand	24 pot sherds, articulated skeleton of juvenile pig
87	87	3.21	2	cut	ditch	1.56	0.63	linear, U with vertical sided profile, flat based slot in base	
88	107	2.21	2	fill	ditch	1.35	0.78	dark yellowish brown, coarse sand	
89	89	5.4	1	cut	ditch	0.15	0.31	curvilinear, unknown profile	
90	89	5.4	1	fill	ditch	0.15	0.31	silty sand	
91	91	5.2	1	cut	ditch	0.76	0.31	curvilinear, flat based V profile	
92	91	5.2	1	fill	ditch	0.76	0.31	sandy silt	
93	80	5.5	1	fill	ditch	0.44	0.1	silty sand	
94	83	5.21	2	fill	pit			dark yellowish brown, clayey silty sand	
95		5.24	2					cleaning layer, same as 39	
96		5.24	2					sondage through 83 and 85	
97		5.24	2					sondage through 83 and 85	
98		5.24	2					sondage through 83 and 85	
99	72	6.2	2	fill	ditch	0.75	0.15	yellowish brown, clayey sand	8 pot sherds
100		5.24	2					sondage through 83 and 85	5 pot sherds
101	146	5.22	2	fill	ditch			greyish brown sandy silt	2 pot sherds, animal bone
102	146	5.22	2	fill	ditch	0.6	0.4	dark yellowish brown, clayey sand	2 pot sherds
103	104	6.1	1	fill	ditch	1.4	0.3	olive brown, silty sand	1 pot sherds
104	104	6.1	1	cut	ditch	1.4	0.6	linear, wide shallow U profile	1 pot sherds
105	84	2.21	2	fill	ditch			yellowish brown, slightly clayey sand	5 pot sherds, animal bone
106		5.23	2	deposit	layer		0.23	dark yellowish brown, sandy clay	1 pot sherds, animal bone
107	107	2.21	2	cut	ditch	2.6	0.8	linear, wide U profile	Animal bone
108	108	2.21	2	cut	ditch	0.75	0.7	linear, U profile	
109	107	2.21	2	fill	ditch	0.8	0.3	yellowish brown, silty sand	10 pot sherds
110	111	5.23	2	fill	ditch	0.8	0.6	dark yellowish brown, silty sand	
111	111	5.23	2	cut	ditch	0.8	0.6	linear, U profile	
112	104	6.1	1	fill	ditch	1.4	0.2	light olive brown, sandy silty clay	2 pot sherds
113	79	5.3	1	fill	pit	1	0.2	dark yellowish brown, sandy silty clay	

Cxt	Cut	Phase	Area	Cat.	Type	Width	Depth	Description	Find
114	115		3	fill	posthole	0.25	0.2	dark yellowish brown, silty sand	
115	115		3	cut	posthole	0.25	0.27	sub-circular, flat based U profile	
116	116	3.2	1	cut	posthole	0.54	0.14	circular, wide U profile	
117	116	3.2	1	fill	posthole	0.54	0.14	olive brown, sandy silty	1 pot sherd, animal bone
118	118	3.2	1	cut	ditch/pit	0.9	0.18	unknown, wide U profile	
119	118	3.2	1	fill	ditch/pit	0.4	0.15	yellowish brown, silty sand	
120	118	3.2	1	fill	ditch/pit			brown, sandy silt	
121	115		3	fill	posthole	0.25	0.1	light yellowish brown, fine sand	
122	162	5.23	2	fill	ditch	1.3	0.5	brown, slightly clayey silty sand	1 pot sherds
124	128		3	fill	posthole	0.37	0.22	light olive brown, silty sand	
125	125	5.4	1	cut	ditch	1	0.31	linear, flat based, stepped U profile	
126	125	5.4	1	fill	ditch	1	0.31	dark greyish brown, sandy silt	3 pot sherds, animal bone
128	128		3	cut	posthole cleaning	0.37	0.22	square, U profile	
129			1						
130	177	3.2	1	fill	pit	0.99	0.24	brownish yellow, sandy silt	2 pot sherds
131	139	2.2	1	fill	ditch		0.19	dark greyish brown, sandy silt	39 pot sherds
132	139	2.2	1	fill	ditch	0.4	0.3	dark greyish brown, sandy silt	24 pot sherds, animal bone
133	84	2.21	2	fill	ditch	0.51	0.25	yellowish brown, slightly silty sand	5 pot sherds, animal bone
134	163	5.23	2	fill	ditch	1.1	0.46	yellowish brown, slightly silty sand	Animal bone
135	136	1.2	1	fill	ditch		0.8	light olive brown, sandy clay silt	1 pot sherd
136	136	1.2	1	cut	ditch		0.8	curvilinear, stepped U profile	
137	138	1.2	1	fill	ditch	0.5	0.3	sandy silt	
138	138	1.2	1	cut	ditch	0.5	0.3	linear, flat based U profile	
139	139	2.2	1	cut	ditch	0.4	0.3	linear, U profile	
140	140	1.1	1	cut	ditch	1.65	0.32	linear, wide U profile	
141	140	1.1	1	fill	ditch	1.65	0.32	dark yellowish brown, sandy silt	
142		6.2	2	Layer		3.1	0.6	dark brown, silty clayey sand	4 pot sherds, animal bone
143	164	5.23	2	fill		1.6	0.55	dark yellowish brown, silty sand	Animal bone
144		5.4	1	fill	ditch	0.7	0.4	brownish yellow, sandy silt	Iron hook or nail (s12)

Cxt	Cut	Phase	Area	Cat.	Type	Width	Depth	Description	Finds
145	164	5.23	2	fill	ditch	2	0.55	dark greyish brown, clayey sand	Copper Alloy brooch fragment (sf3)
146	146	5.22	2	cut	ditch	0.6	0.4	linear, U profile	
147	147	1.1	1	cut	ditch	1.87	0.87	linear, complex flat based V profile	
148	147	1.1	1	fill	ditch	1.4	0.87	yellowish brown, sandy silt	Animal bone
149	149	1.1	1	cut	ditch	0.58	0.44	unknown, U profile	
150	149	1.1	1	fill	ditch	0.58	0.44	dark yellowish brown, sandy silt	
151	151	5.1	1	cut	ditch	0.36	0.2	curvilinear, flat based V profile	1 pot sherds, animal bone
152	151	5.1	1	fill	ditch	0.36	0.2	brown, silty sand	
153	153	5.1	1	cut	ditch	0.62	0.32	curvilinear, flat based V profile	
154	153	5.1	1	fill	ditch	0.41	0.19	brown, silty sand	1 pot sherd, animal bone
155	153	5.1	1	fill	ditch	0.62	0.13	very dark greyish brown, sandy silt	1 pot sherd, animal bone
156	157	6.111	11	fill	ditch?		0.1	light olive brown, medium sand	
157	157	6.111	11	cut	ditch?		0.3	linear, wide flat based U profile	Animal bone
158	159	6.111	11	fill	ditch	2	0.11	brown with red mineral stains, sandy silt	Animal bone
159	159	6.111	11	cut	ditch	2	0.2	linear, wide flat based V profile	
162	162	5.23	2	cut	ditch	1.3	0.5	linear, lazy U profile	
163	163	5.23	2	cut	ditch	1.1	0.46	linear, wide flat based U profile	
164	164	5.23	2	cut	ditch	4	0.6	linear, unknown profile	
165	166	3.21	2	fill	ditch?	0.3	0.2	dark brown, slightly silty clayey sand	Animal bone
166	166	3.21	2	cut	ditch	0.35	0.2	linear, wide U profile	
167	167	5.2	1	cut	ditch	0.38	0.45	linear, complex profile	
168	167	5.2	1	fill	ditch	0.38	0.45	brownish yellow, sandy silt	
169	169	5.4	1	cut	ditch	0.55	0.46	linear, flat based U profile	
170	169	5.4	1	fill	ditch	0.55	0.25	dark yellowish brown, sandy silt	
171	169	5.4	1	fill	ditch	1.15	0.26	dark greyish brown, silt	
172	172	5.5	1	cut	ditch	0.8	0.26	linear, flat based U profile	
173	172	5.5	1	fill	ditch	0.8	0.26	very dark greyish brown, silt	
174	147	1.1	1	fill	ditch	0.33	0.2	brownish yellow, silty sand	
175	175	2.1	1	cut	pit	1.01	0.39	sub-circular, unknown profile	



Ctxt	Cut	Phase	Area	Cat.	Type	Width	Depth	Description	Findings
176	175	2.1	1	fill	pit	1.01	0.21	very dark greyish brown, sandy silt	Animal bone
177	177	3.2	1	cut	pit	0.99	0.24	circular, unknown profile	
178	159	6.111	11	fill	ditch	1.8	0.2	red stained sandy silt	
179	157	6.111	11	fill	ditch		0.15	olive brown, clayey sand	
180	157	6.111	11	fill	ditch			olive brown, clayey sand	
181	157	6.111	11	fill	ditch			light olive brown, clayey sand	
182	157	6.111	11	fill	ditch	0.35	0.3	olive brown, clayey sand	
183	157	6.111	11	fill	ditch	0.65	0.17	olive yellow, fine sand	
184	184	6.111	11	cut	ditch	0.35	0.3	linear, V profile	
185			1	deposit	layer			cleaning layer	
186			1	deposit	layer			cleaning layer	6 pot sherds
187	83	5.21	2	fill	pit			very dark grey, clay	2 pot sherds
188			2	fill	ditch			dark grey sandy silt	19 pot sherds, 4 cattle skulls and associated bones
189			1	deposit	layer			cleaning layer	6 pot sherds
1001		8.101	10	deposit	layer			dark greyish brown, silty sandy clay	Skeletal remains of human infant
1002			10	deposit	layer			mottled sands and gravels	
1003		8.101	10	deposit	layer			light yellowish brown, slightly silty	
1004	1005	7.102	10	fill	ditch	4.8	0.23	greyish brown, silty sandy clay	
1005	1005	7.102	10	cut	ditch	4.8	0.82	linear, wide U profile	
1006	1005	7.102	10	fill	ditch	4.8	0.07	light olive brown, silty sand	
1007	1008	7.103	10	fill	pit	0.48	0.26	very dark greyish brown, silty clayey	
1008	1008	7.103	10	cut	pit	0.48	0.26	oval, wide U profile	
1009	1010	7.102	10	fill	ditch		0.56	dark olive brown, silty sand	
1010	1010	7.102	10	cut	ditch	1.4	0.56	linear, U profile	
1011	1011	7.104	10	cut	pit?	1.15	0.11	sub-circular, very wide U profile	Animal bone
1012	1011	7.104	10	fill	pit?	1.15	0.11	dark yellowish brown, slightly clayey	
1013	1014	7.101	10	fill	ditch		0.3	dark olive brown, silty sand	
1014	1014	7.101	10	cut	ditch	0.78	0.3	linear, U profile	
1015	1016	7.101	10	fill	ditch		0.47	dark olive brown, silty sand	

Cxt	Cut	Phase	Area	Cat.	Type	Width	Depth	Description	Find
1016	1016	7.101	10	cut	ditch	2.02	0.47	linear, stepped U profile	8 pot sherds
1017	1018	7.104	10	fill	stake hole?	0.15	0.08	dark brown, clayey sand	
1018	1018	7.104	10	cut	stake hole?	0.15	0.08	sub-circular, U profile	
1019	1025	7.102	10	fill	ditch		0.56	very dark greyish brown, sandy silty	
1020	1021	7.102	10	fill	ditch			dark yellowish brown silty sand	
1021	1021	7.102	10	cut	ditch			yellowish brown silty sand	Animal bone
1022	1024	7.104	10	fill	pit	0.85	0.06	dark yellowish brown, sandy silty clay	
1023		moder	10	fill	ditch			dark greyish brown silty sand	
1024	1024	7.104	10	cut	pit	0.85	0.06	sub-oval, complex profile	
1025	1025	7.102	10	cut	ditch	1.4	0.56	linear, U profile	
1026	1021	7.102	10	fill	ditch			yellowish brown silty sand	Animal bone
1027	1021	7.102	10	fill	ditch			yellowish brown sandy silt	
1028	1005	7.102	10	fill	ditch		0.21	dark olive brown, silty clay sand	
1029	1005	7.102	10	fill	ditch			yellowish brown, silty sand	

## Appendix 2 Pottery Totals by Context and Fabric Type

Context	Fabric	Total Sherd Count	Total Sherd Weight	Mean Sherd Weight	Comments	Phase/Group
15	Q1	7	272	38.86		5.1
16	Q1	12	67	5.58	3 sherds (8g) scored and combed ware	2.21
16	Q1 & SV	6	31	5.17		2.21
16	Q1 & SH2A	1	2	2.00		2.21
16	ALL	19	100	5.26		2.21
17	Q1	37	251	6.78	3 sherds (80g) scored and combed ware	6.2
18	Q1	1	15	15.00		1.2
21	Q1	27	220	8.15	1 sherd (12g) scored and combed ware	2.21
21	G	3	20	6.67		2.21
21	ALL	30	240	8		2.21
26	Q1	1	17	17.00		6.1
33	Q1	9	60	6.67	2 sherds (5g) scored and combed ware	2.21
33	Q2A	3	30	10.00		2.21
33	Q1 & F3A	2	15	7.50		2.21
33	ALL	14	105	7.5		2.21
34	Q1	5	76	15.20	1 sherd (42g) scored and combed ware	6.1
34	Q1 & SV	2	51	25.50		6.1
34	ALL	7	127	18.1		6.1
36	Q1	2	5	2.50		6.1
36	Q2A	2	16	8.00		6.1
36	ALL	4	21	5.3		6.1
39	Q1	7	91	13.00		5.24
46	Q1+SV	4	205	51.25		5.3
46	Q1	17	220	12.94		5.3
46	ALL	21	425	20.24		5.3
48	Q1+SV	1	12	12.00		4.1
48	Q2A	1	13	13.00	1 sherd (13g) scored and combed ware	4.1
48	ALL	2	25	12.5		4.1
49	Q1	35	208	5.94		5.3
49	Q3A	22	85	3.86		5.3
49	Q1+SV	18	1146	63.67		5.3

## Appendix 2 Pottery Totals by Context and Fabric Type

Context	Fabric	Total Sherd Count	Total Sherd Weight	Mean Sherd Weight	Comments	Phase/Group
49	Q2A+IRS+S V	7	189	27.00		5.3
49	SH3B	1	118	118.00		5.3
49	ALL	63	1746	27.7		5.3
53	Q1	23	187	8.13	2 sherds (9g) scored and combed ware	6.2
53	Q1+SV	10	202	20.20		6.2
53	Q1+IRS	2	28	14.00		6.2
53	Q1+G	4	17	4.25		6.2
53	ALL	39	434	11.1		6.2
54	Q1	52	1045	20.10	6 sherds (210g) scored and combed ware	5.21
54	Q2A	6	88	14.67		5.21
54	Q1+SV	5	42	8.40		5.21
54	Q2A+SV	9	684	76.00		5.21
54	Q1+IRS	10	371	37.10		5.21
54	Q2A+IRS+S V	1	28	28.00		5.21
54	Q2A+IRS+S V	1	7	7.00		5.21
54	Q1+SH1A	4	30	7.50		5.21
54	Q1+SH2A	1	5	5.00		5.21
54	ALL	89	2300	25.8		5.21
55	Q1	19	154	8.11		2.21
55	Q2A	2	54	27.00		2.21
55	Q1+SV	14	310	22.14		2.21
55	Q1+IRS	3	78	26.00		2.21
55	SH2A	1	24	24.00	1 sherd (24g) scored and combed ware	2.21
55	ALL	39	620	15.9		2.21
59	Q1	13	132	10.15	1 sherd (43g) scored and combed ware	2.21
59	Q2A	1	12	12.00		2.21
59	Q1+SV	4	47	11.75		2.21
59	Q2A+IRS	1	16	16.00		2.21
59	ALL	19	207	10.9		2.21
67	Q1	2	13	6.50		5.2
67	Q1+SV	1	4	4.00		5.2
67	Q1+SV+IRS	1	9	9.00		5.2
67	SH1B	1	6	6.00		5.2
67	ALL	5	32	6.4		5.2

## Appendix 2 Pottery Totals by Context and Fabric Type

Context	Fabric	Total Sherd Count	Total Sherd Weight	Mean Sherd Weight	Comments	Phase/Group
68	Q1+SV	4	16	4.00		
73	Q1	10	106	10.60	3 sherds (48g) scored and combed ware	2.21
73	Q1+SV	3	34	11.33		2.21
73	ALL	13	140	10.8		2.21
77	Q2A	1	24	24.00		2.21
78	Q1	3	19	6.33		5.3
78	Q1+SV	4	198	49.50		5.3
78	Q1+IRS	2	27	13.50		5.3
78	Q1+IRS+SV	1	6	6.00		5.3
78	ALL	10	250	25		5.3
81	Q1+SV	2	10	5.00		5.5
81	Q1+SV+IRS	1	15	15.00		5.5
81	ALL	3	25	8.3		5.5
86	Q1	15	221	14.73	1 sherd (2g) scored and combed ware	3.21
86	Q2A	3	133	44.33		3.21
86	Q1+IRS	3	43	14.33		3.21
86	Q1+SH2A	3	34	11.33		3.21
86	ALL	24	431	17.9		3.21
94	Q1	4	32	8.00		5.21
94	Q2A	3	31	10.33		5.21
94	Q1+SH2A	1	2	2.00		5.21
94	ALL	8	65	8.1		5.21
95	Q1	5	60	12.00		5.24
97	Q1	1	41	41.00		5.24
97	Q1+SV	1	29	29.00		5.24
97	ALL	2	70	35		5.24
99	Q1	2	47	23.50		6.2
100	Q2A	1	76	76.00		5.24
100	SH1B	1	16	16.00		5.24
100	ALL	2	92	46		5.24
101	Q1	1	2	2.00		5.22

## Appendix 2 Pottery Totals by Context and Fabric Type

Context	Fabric	Total Sherd Count	Total Sherd Weight	Mean Sherd Weight	Comments	Phase/Group
102	Q1	1	2	2.00		5.22
103	Q1	2	28	14.00		6.1
103	Q1+IRS	2	12	6.00		6.1
103	SH3B	1	10	10.00		6.1
103	ALL	5	50	10		6.1
105	Q1+SV	1	21	21.00		2.21
109	Q1	9	108	12.00	1 sherd (21g) scored and combed ware	2.21
109	Q1+SV	1	49	49.00		2.21
109	ALL	10	157	15.7		2.21
112	Q1+IRS	2	8	4.00		6.1
117	Q1+SV	1	6	6.00		3.2
122	Q1	1	101	101.00		5.23
126	Q1+SV	3	40	13.33		5.4
129	Q1	1	18	18.00		
129	Q2A+SV	1	123	123.00		
129	ALL	2	141	70.5		
130	Q1	4	779	194.75		3.2
130	Q2C	28	390	13.93	28 sherds (390g) scored & combed ware	3.2
130	Q2B+SV	7	519	74.14		3.2
130	ALL	39	1688	43.3		3.2
131	Q1	10	104	10.40		2.2
131	Q2A	2	21	10.50		2.2
131	Q2A & IRS	9	627	69.67		2.2
131	SH2A	2	45	22.50		2.2
131	SH2C	1	38	38.00		2.2
131	ALL	24	880	36.7		2.2
132	Q1	2	11	5.50		2.2
132	Q2A+AV	3	66	22.00	3 sherds (66g) scored and combed ware	2.2
132	ALL	5	77	15.4		2.2
134	Q1	1	15	15.00		5.23

## Appendix 2 Pottery Totals by Context and Fabric Type

Context	Fabric	Total Sherd Count	Total Sherd Weight	Mean Sherd Weight	Comments	Phase/Group
142	Q1	4	59	14.75	1 plain wheel-thrown rim	6.2
145	Q1	1	28	28.00		5.23
152	Q1+SV	1	12	12.00		5.1
154	Q1+SV	1	8	8.00	1 sherd (8g) scored and combed ware	5.1
155	Q1	1	57	57.00		5.1
185	Q1+SV	5	62	12.40		U/S
185	Q1+IRS	1	11	11.00		U/S
185	ALL	6	73	12.2		U/S
187	Q1+IRS	2	15	7.50		5.21
188	Q1	18	165	9.17	5 sherds (43g) scored and combed ware	
188	Q2A	1	14	14.00		
188	ALL	19	179	9.4		
189	Q2A	1	59	59.00		U/S
189	Q1+SV	5	105	21.00	1 sherd (43g) scored and combed ware	U/S
189	ALL	6	164	27.3		
1012	Q1	2	3	1.50		7.104
1012	SH3A	1	3	3.00		7.104
1012	ALL	3	6	2		7.104
1019	Q1	3	27	9.00		7.102
1019	Q1+SV	2	62	31.00		7.102
1019	Q1+IRS	2	30	15.00		7.102
1019	SH2A	1	78	78.00		7.102
1019	Roman	1	15	15.00		7.102
1019	ALL	8	197	24.6		7.102
U/S	Q1	41	580	14.15	4 sherds (187g) scored & combed ware	U/S
U/S	Q2A	2	8	4.00		U/S
U/S	Q1+SV	5	95	19.00	1 sherd (1g) scored and combed ware	U/S
U/S	Q2A+SV	2	16	8.00		U/S
U/S	Q2A+IRS	4	279	69.75	4 sherds (279g) scored & combed ware	U/S
U/S	ALL	54	978	18.11		U/S

### Appendix 3 Radiocarbon dating

Samples were selected for a radiocarbon dating assessment in order to further refine the chronology of Middle Iron Age pottery in Cambridgeshire based on the Limes Farm assemblage. The selected samples are listed in the table below and see appendix 3.

Quantity of Animal Bones from contexts selected for Radiocarbon dating

Context	Same As	Quantity (weight in grammes)
26	34, 36	10
34	26, 36	83
36	26, 34	29
44		18
46	49, 78	245
48		218
49	46, 78	564
53		618
54		1957
55		951
71		29
78	46, 49	683
86	188	1548 (articulated)
94		158
105		95
187		168
188	86	11751

The sample data was supplied to Dr Peter Marshall, Assistant Scientific Dating Co-ordinator, English Heritage who supplied the following assessment.

Figure 1 shows a model based on the sequence from Area 1, which although it did not contain articulated bones did seem to offer the best potential for dating. Given that most of the contexts from this area only contained animal bone that could contain *tpq* for their contexts, a programme of radiocarbon analysis would not be able to refine the dating of the site any more than that based on the pottery assemblage. Most importantly a programme of radiocarbon dating would not be able to refine the dates of contexts containing Late Iron Age pottery in the so-called Belgic tradition.

Area 2 did not contain a sequence of suitable materials for dating, although it did have two contexts with articulating animal bone deposits. Simulated radiocarbon dates on these clearly illustrates the need for good sequences to overcome problems in refining Iron Age chronologies, an actual date of 50 BC (2062 +/- 50 BP) will give a calibrated result of 230 cal BC – cal AD 50 and of AD 50 (1932 +/- 50 BP) to 40 cal BC – cal AD 220.

In summary then radiocarbon analysis is highly unlikely to be able to help in refining the dating of the pottery assemblage at Limes Farm and others in the region of a similar character.



## Appendix 4 Assessment of the Animal Bones by Ian L. Baxter BA (Hons) MIFA

**Recovery:** all the animal bones were collected by hand.

**Residuality and contamination:** Contamination and residuality do not seem to represent a problem for the bulk of the assemblage, i.e. the material from Areas 1 and 2. Abraded Romano-British pottery from the later features in Trench 11 may have been secondarily deposited.

**Context:** animal bones mainly derive from ditches and pits, but some bones were also recovered from postholes.

**Preservation:** the preservation of the bone surface is on average fairly good, although in a few contexts some badly damaged bones have been noted alongside well preserved specimens. The level of fragmentation is variable ranging from complete bones to small splinters. Gnawing marks have been noted, which suggests that some bones have not been found in the same place where they were first discarded. However, the presence of a quite a few bones in articulation indicates that some are in primary deposit.

**Storage and quantity:** the animal bones are stored in 8 cardboard boxes of the following size: 52x26x16cm. Most boxes are quite full. The bones are washed and bagged by context.

The total weight of the hand-collected animal bone is 26Kg. This is distributed in the different phases as follows:

Middle Iron Age: 23Kg

Romano-British: 3Kg.

The animal bones from Limes Farm are presently stored at the headquarters of the Cambridgeshire County Council archaeological Field Unit in Cambridge.

**Table 1. Limes Farm, Landbeach. Hand-collected assemblage. Number of “countable” bones (Davis 1992; Albarella *et al* 1997) used for assessment and estimates of their total.** The estimated total is calculated on the basis of the percentage of bone weight used for assessment: this is approximately 33%.

PERIOD	COUNTABLE BONES						Comments
	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Others	Bird	Total	
Middle Iron Age Assessment	28	35	17	3	1	84	Includes horse, dog/fox
Middle Iron Age Estimated total	84	105	51	9	3	252	
Romano-British Assessment	2	2	-	-	-	4	
Romano-British Estimated total	6	6	-	-	-	12	
<b>TOTAL (assessment)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>88</b>	
<b>TOTAL (estimated)</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>264</b>	

Period	Ageable Mandibles				Measurements					
	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Total	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Pig	Others	Bird	Total
Iron Age Assessment	2	10	2	14	12	18	3	-	-	33
Middle Iron Age Estimated total	6	30	6	42	36	54	9	-	-	99
Romano-British Assessment	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Romano-British Estimated total	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	6
<b>TOTAL assessment</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>TOTAL estimated</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>105</b>

## Assessment

**Methods:** 30% of the total weight of bones from the Middle Iron Age and Romano-British deposits have been selected for assessment. Numbers of “countable” bones, ageable mandibles and measurable bones are recorded in Table 1. The counting system is based on a modified version of the system suggested by Davis (1992) (Albarella *et al* 1997).

**Variety:** the Middle Iron Age assemblage is dominated by the most common domestic animals. Sheep/goat are predominant but cattle and pig are also frequent. Horse is infrequent and canids are only represented by immature remains that could belong to either fox or domestic dog. Bird bones are rare and probably belong to wild duck species.

Four small horned cattle crania were found in one ditch associated with articulating vertebrae and complete but disarticulated long bones. The skeleton of a juvenile pig was found lying on its left side in another ditch.

**Quantity:** this is a small assemblage. The Romano-British assemblage is too small to provide much quantitative information.

## Potential and Recommendations

**Potential:** there is not enough material to permit a comparison between different areas of the site, though the animal bones may still provide information on the use of specific features or on the interpretation of specific contexts. These assemblages could also provide useful information about the size and type of the animals, butchery and, possibly the kill-off pattern. Whether they will be sufficient to draw conclusions about this specific site or not, ageing and metric data will be useful as part of a more general database about Iron Age sites in the region.

**Recommendations:** the assemblages from Areas 1 and 2 may be worth full investigation. The material from Trench 10 (Romano-British) would need to be more tightly dated and will have to be scanned to check for any specimens of particular interest.

## **Identification of contexts containing articulated/articulating animal bone for purpose of radiocarbon dating**

### **Introduction**

A total weight of 23 kg of animal bones was recovered from Iron Age contexts. Articulated groups of bones had previously been observed in contexts 86 and 188 respectively consisting of a juvenile pig skeleton and three adjacent cattle thoracic vertebrae in anatomical relation. It was decided to re-examine the animal bone from all other Iron Age contexts with the aim of identifying any other articulating elements suitable for radiocarbon dating.

### **Results**

The bulk of the animal bone consists overwhelmingly of long bone shaft, vertebrae and rib fragments, together with the isolated articular ends of bones and complete smaller skeletal elements that do not articulate and which derive from an indeterminate number of separate individuals. This is typically the case with assemblages of the period, with the exception of a relatively small number of more or less complete skeletons, crania and associated elements forming the so-called "special deposits" (Hill, 1995). Only two further articulating elements were found, comprising a sheep (*Ovis f.domestic*) left distal humerus and proximal radius fragment from context 49, which is equivalent to contexts 46 and 78. These bones have been separately bagged and labelled as suitable for radiocarbon dating.

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