The Archaeology of Brigg's Farm, Prior's Fen, Thorney, Peterborough

Post-Excavation Assessment

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The Archaeology of Brigg's Farm, Prior's Fen, Thorney, Peterborough

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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Summary

An open area excavation of 10ha was carried out a Brigg's Farm, Thorney between August and December 2008. The site was located in an archaeologically significant area close to the excavations of Fengate, Eye Quarry, Tower's Fen and Pode Hole. The site lay on the northern side of the Flag Fen basin on the edge of Thorney island at between 0.3m OD and 2.3m OD.

The excavation revealed remains dating from the Neolithic through to the Middle Bronze Age. There is potential for Iron Age activity but this is yet to be confirmed. Post-Medieval agricultural ditches known locally as claying or marl ditches extended across the whole site.

Neolithic occupation evidence was present in the form of flint scatters, small pits and finds within tree boles. A small number of Beaker pits were also present. Early Bronze Age remains were more extensive and included Collared Urn pits and a barrow with three associated cremation burials (four individuals) and an inhumation. Three further isolated cremations burials including one placed in a large urn were also discovered.

An extensive Middle Bronze Age field system formed of ditches and banks typical of this area was set out using the topographical influences as well as the earlier monuments. A subsequent Middle Bronze Age settlement occupied the higher ground at the northern limits of the site. The settlement included a large and deep-ditched rectangular enclosure with a small internal subdivision. To the north a small enclosure contained at least two post hole structures. A further possible round house was located to the east. A large assemblage of Deverel-Rimbury pottery and fired clay objects associated with salt making were recovered from three locations across site.

Two large as yet undated roundhouses with Iron Age characteristics appeared to be located within the Middle Bronze Age settlement area. There is currently no evidence of Later Bronze Age activity on the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 The excavation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology East on behalf of P.J.Thory Ltd. Works were carried out in advance of excavation for a reservoir and associated gravel extraction.

1.1.2 The excavation area was approximately 10ha and located within Prior's Fen, south west of Thorney village and south east of Willow Hall Lane. The area was subject to a desk based assessment including an aerial photographic survey and following evaluation both conducted by OA East in 2004. These investigations highlighted a potential Bronze Age barrow and Bronze Age field systems.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The British Geological Survey depicts the site lying on a boundary between river terrace deposits and Nordelph peat (BGS 1978). The site lies to the north of the Flag Fen basin as the ground rises to the north and east.

1.2.2 The northernmost boundary to the site lies at approximately 2.3m OD sloping down to the south and west to approximately 0.3m OD. Two spurs of higher land project towards the west above the fen (Fig.3).

1.2.3 Water levels rose to the *c.* 3m contour during the Iron Age (c.800 BC – 42 AD), falling back to the c. 2m level for much of the Roman period (Hall 1987).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 The terrace gravels immediately to the east of Peterborough have been, and still are, heavily exploited for construction purposes. Since the advent of PPG16 these quarries have been subject to increasingly intensive archaeological survey and excavation. The industrialisation of the Peterborough Fen Edge and the expanding brickworks on the northern tip of Whittlesey Island have led to further large scale archaeological excavation, making this one of the most intensively studied landscapes in the region. The principal sites relevant to the Brigg's Farm excavations are outlined below and located on Figure 2.

Eye Quarry, Eye

1.3.2 To the northwest of the site ongoing investigations at Eye Quarry have revealed an extensive Middle Bronze Age field system, a cremation cemetery and late Bronze Age settlement evidence in the form of Post-Deverel Rimbury pits, wells, houses and associated structures (Gibson and White 1998).

1.3.3 Romano British enclosures, possible small scale industrial activity and field systems in association with a suspected farmstead were also recorded (Patten 2004).

Pode Hole Quarry, Thorney

1.3.4 A series of excavations at Pode Hole Quarry, to the north east of Brigg's Farm and south of the A47, revealed a predominantly Early to Middle Bronze Age landscape characterised by barrows and later field systems.

1.3.5 Three barrows were excavated at Pode Hole all of which differed in their characteristics. The first, excavated in 1996 was located within a line of barrows identified by aerial photography. The barrow had survived to a height of 0.25m with a maximum diameter of 30m and with no evidence of a surrounding ditch. The outer material surrounding the mound was interpreted as spread material rather than *in situ* deposits. There was no central burial, however, on the north west side of the barrow the base of an Early Bronze Age urn containing cremated remains was found (Cuttler and Ellis 2001).

1.3.6 A further barrow excavated in 2002 was of a similar size with a maximum external diameter of 27m however it had a significant ditch of up to 4m wide with a maximum depth of 1m. Similarly, no central burial was identified but a piece of decorated collared urn was recovered from the ring ditch. Notably, a crouched inhumation and a small cremation were discovered 10m from the ring ditch.

1.3.7 Excavations in 2005 revealed a smaller example measuring 19m in diameter surrounded by a shallow ditch of between 0.12m and 0.32m wide again with no evidence of a central burial.

1.3.8 All phases of the Pode Hole excavations identified Middle Bronze Age field systems and frequent water holes with good waterlogged preservation.

1.3.9 Evidence for salt working was also identified by the presence of Briquetage container fragments and large sub rectangular pedestals found in association with Middle Bronze Age pottery was found in 2005.

1.3.10 No settlement evidence was found for this period, however, a small segmented ring ditch measuring 8.6m to 8.8m in diameter remained undated.

1.3.11 Only a small amount of Late Bronze Age to Roman pottery was recovered from these excavations.

Tower's Fen, Thorney

1.3.12 Tower's Fen is located opposite Pode Hole Quarry on the northern side of the A47. The archaeology is very similar with a clear extension of the Middle Bronze Age field systems spreading across both sites. Tower's Fen lacks the Early Bronze Age monuments of Pode Hole but there is still evidence for earlier activity from a water hole radiocarbon dated to the Early Bronze Age.

1.3.13 The field systems form a largely rectangular pattern and are often open-ended or incomplete. The boundary ditches were frequently not linked to one another but stopped short leaving a narrow gap. The ditches are likely to have been associated with hedge banks and evidence for coppicing was found in preserved wood found at the base of large watering holes and ponds.

1.3.14 No settlement could be directly linked to the field systems though finds of pottery, fired clay and charcoal suggest that a settlement area was relatively close by (Mudd and Pears 2008).

Fengate and Flag Fen, Peterborough

1.3.15 Extensive, and relatively frequent excavations have been undertaken on the western fen-edge of Peterborough from the 1970s to the present. Most significantly the numerous phases of work on Fengate and the Flag Fen platform.

Northey

1.3.16 Northey is separated by the canalised course of the river Nene from the western end of Whittlesey Island. Small scale excavation combined with aerial photographic survey in the 1980s and 1990s revealed a barrow, Middle Bronze Age droveway with upcast banks and evidence of saltworking.

Flag Fen

1.3.17 The Flag Fen post alignment and platform was discovered in 1982 and is one of the best known archaeological sites in the area. An extensive timber structure stretching between two areas of higher ground (Fengate to Northey) with a large platform along its length dating to the later Bronze Age. A large number of metal artefacts were recovered from the platform.

Southern Fengate

1.3.18 Sites in the southern Fengate area include Storey's Bar Road, Third Drove and Tower Works. The most significant discoveries from these sites are the Bronze Age settlement located within the Bronze Age field system. Later Bronze Age settlement including a substantial rectilinear building and Bronze Age gravel quarries.

Central and North Fengate

1.3.19 Sites include Global Doors, Paving Factory, Cat's Water and excavations at Third Drove. The first two sites confirm the extent of the Bronze Age field systems to the north. The Cat's Water site contained Later Neolithic and Bronze Age remains including a neolithic mortuary enclosure and Bronze Age field systems extending towards the fen edge. Extensive Iron Age remains were also found. Excavations at Third Drove helped to gain a greater understanding of the fen edge where a buried 'inlet' was discovered (Pryor 2001) .

Bradley Fen , Whittlesey

1.3.20 The Bradley Fen excavations are located to the southwest of Brigg's farm on the western margins of Whittlesey island between c. 0.5 and c. 6m OD.

1.3.21 Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity was recovered from a series of tree throws as well as pits containing Beaker and collared urn pottery. A small cremation contained the fragmentary remains of a collared urn.

1.3.22 Along the 0.7m contour four burnt mounds accompanied by large watering holes were identified with two log ladders and a wattle lining recovered from the watering holes.

1.3.23 An extensive field system consisting of 20 different fields which varied in form and dimension were identified between 0.5 and 1.5m OD. The field system was characterised by a fen-edge boundary with projections at 90 degrees towards to fen and at 45 degrees up slope with short cross boundaries creating the sub divisions. The fenward projections would have formed small fen-edge fields and in turn encompassed the burnt mounds and metalwork. The fen-edge boundary was not dug as a continuous ditch and was often incorporated into the diversions to the fen and up slope. There was also evidence that the ditches had up-cast banks.

1.3.24 A large amount of metalwork was found at Bradley Fen including a hoard of 20 fragments of bronze weapons and six individual bronze spears. The hoard was located to the south of the fen-edge boundary on a small oval-shaped mound covered in peat. Peat deposits below the hoard suggested that it had been deposited in saturated ground.

Iron Age

1.3.25 Four roundhouses and two pit clusters were identified as earlier Iron Age settlement features. On the northern part of site seven four post structures were discovered with one containing a post pit with a fully articulated adult skeleton. An interesting feature known as the 'boat' pit was also allocated to this period. It was a pit containing a possible wooden tank of which the base was made of part of a dug-out boat.

Romano-British

1.3.26 Above the 2.5m OD mark there was evidence for a Roman road, quarry and field system and small-scale settlement. The Roman road was thought to be an early phase of the Fen Causeway. The settlement consisted of a post ring and eves drip gully and curvilinear enclosure ditches (Gibson and Knight 2006).

Must Farm, Whittlesey

1.3.27 A large later Bronze Age timber platform preserved by waterlogging and fire was discovered at Must Farm, located 2km from the Flag Fen platform in deep fen deposits. The platform was built from large oak timbers over a small freshwater stream. Silting up over time caused a large section of the platform to fall into the stream. The platform was later repaired with ash posts and a surrounding palisade which trapped construction and occupation debris. A fire destroyed the platform preserving floor boards and roof beams. Amongst the remains were whole pots, metalwork, wooden bowls, glass beads, saddle querns and pieces of textiles, clumps of thatch, all of which had been affected by fire. After the destruction of the platform it was sealed by layers of alluvial deposits (Knight pers. comm.)

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Andrew Dennis and Sam Cowan who commissioned the archaeological work on behalf of P.J.Thory Ltd. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer. The site supervisor, surveyor and illustrator was Louise Bush. Additional survey support was provided by Gareth Rees. Machine watching and excavation was provided by Spencer Cooper. The site was excavated by Peter Boardman, David Brown, Hazel Butler, Graeme Clarke, Caoimhin O Coileain, Ben Davenport, Nick Gilmour, Steve Graham, Michael Green, Jonny Lay, Matt Lees, Ross Lilley, Dawn Mooney, Tom Philips, Meirion Prysor and Stuart Randall. Crane Begg provided the topographical survey. Ben Robinson of Peterborough Museum monitored the excavation.

2 Summary of Results

At present the archaeology of the site has been divided into four broadly temporal groupings: the monuments, burials and occupation remains of the Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age (2.1); the ditches of the Middle Bronze Age Field System that formalised this earlier landscape (2.2); the series of large waterholes or wells (2.3); and the Middle Bronze Age and later settlement that subsequently occupied the Field System (2.4). While those waterholes that bear a relationship to the Field System ditches either truncate or respect them, none held finds assemblages that conclusively date them as contemporary with the later settlement phase. A series of Radiocarbon dates will be obtained from both earlier and later settlement features, from burials, and from the waterholes, that will set these elements into a dated sequence.

2.1 Monuments and Scattered Occupation (Neolithic to Early Bronze Age)

Mesolithic/Early Neolithic Flint scatters

2.1.1 Mesolithic and Early Neolithic flint was recovered across the whole site as surface finds. The most significant number were found in the southernmost part of site between 1 and 1.5m OD.

Earlier Neolithic Pits (Fig.4)

2.1.2 Pit 990 was identified in the north eastern corner of site. It was 0.58m wide and 0.31m deep and contained two fills. It produced the largest single assemblage of Early Neolithic pottery and struck flint from the site.

2.1.3 A pair of small pits 2170 & 2172 were located to the south west of the later settlement area; the former contained a small number of pottery sherds including an incised fragment. A slighter larger pit located near by contained no finds.

2.1.4 Two tree throws to both south (2166) and north (1507) of these contained small assemblages of Etton-style Mildenhall pottery, with some incised rim sherds.

2.1.5 A group of small scattered pits at the centre of the later occupation area contained very small numbers of Earlier Neolithic struck flint (pit group 1385).

Later Neolithic Pits (Fig.4)

2.1.6 A pair of small pits (1428 & 1430) was located at the west of the later settlement area. The former (0.63m wide and 0.11m deep) contained a small quantity of Peterborough Ware and 7 struck flints.

2.1.7 A tree throw to the east, at the centre of the later settlement area, (1367) contained a slightly larger assemblage of Peterborough Ware (23 sherds) and struck flint (43 pieces) representing the largest assemblage of later Neolithic material from the site.

Beaker Pits (Fig.4)

2.1.8 Two groups of pits located in the northern part of site contained Beaker pottery (Groups 1391 and 1400). The pit groups were approximately 30m apart and each comprised of

groups of four broadly similar pits adjacent to each other. One pit in each group contained a small Beaker assemblage.

Collared Urn Pits

2.1.9 Three pits in a preliminary group of seven (Group 816) contained sherds of collared urn. The pits were arranged in two clusters approximately 2.5m apart, three in the northern group of which two contained collared urn pottery (27 sherds in total) and four in the southern group (27 sherds, with a further 10 recovered from a later ditch that truncated the pits). The four southern pits do not all belong to the same phase as the pit containing the pottery truncated two smaller pits and was itself truncated by a slightly larger pit to the south. The environmental samples from this group of features contained quantities of charred flax seeds – found nowhere else on the site.

Undated Pit Groups

2.1.10 A large pit group (**2144**) located to the north of the main field system produced no dating evidence but must lie beneath the northern bank of Ditch **2214**, suggesting a Collared Urn or earlier date.

Barrow and Associated Cremations (Fig. 4)

2.1.11 The barrow was initially identified at the desk-based assessment stage by aerial photographic survey. Prior to stripping the site the barrow was visible as an upstanding earthwork in the recently harvested field. Once stripped the barrow appeared as a slight 'mound' in the landscape surrounded by a large 'ditch' containing an upper fill of peat, most noticeable around the western and northern parts of the circuit (Plate 3). The barrow mound sealed an early inhumation burial, a possible primary cremation burial and natural features. There were two later cremations inserted into the mound material.

Pre-Barrow Features

2.1.12 Five tree boles, an inhumation and a cremation burial may pre-date the barrow.

Natural Features

2.1.13 Five tree boles were discovered beneath the ditch and mound of the barrow. They were generally irregular in shape, size and depth and contained no finds. One showed significant evidence of burning perhaps suggesting initial land clearance before the barrow was constructed.

*Inhumation **2178***

2.1.14 The poorly preserved skull and teeth of an adult were found to one side of, and slightly truncated by a subsequent cremation. No grave cut was visible and no further remains were recovered.

*Cremation **2067***

2.1.15 At the centre of the barrow, cremation pit **2067** contained the remains of an adult female and a child. The pit was 0.78m wide and 0.46m deep and contained four fills. The outer fill was heat affected making it red in colour suggesting that the individuals had been cremated in situ. The barrow mound material sealed this cremation.

*Barrow **2010***

2.1.16 The barrow was approximately 33m in diameter with the mound measuring 12.75 (north to south) to 14.6m across (east to west). The surrounding ditch had a maximum width of 9m and was between 0.2m and 0.44m deep. The ditch contained two fills, the upper fill was peat which was 'patchy' and varied in depth and the primary fill was a light grey sandy silt. The cut of the ditch appeared only to have been constructed with any precision on the inside, closest to the barrow, forming a well-defined slope. The ditch became gradually shallower away from the barrow until it was no longer visible and the fill spread out unevenly on the outer edge. The upcast material from the shallow ditch was placed on the inside of the ring ditch creating a mound which covered the original land surface and created a buried soil. The upcast material (2055) was a mid brown orange sandy silt and the buried soil (2065) was a mid grey orangey slightly clayey silt. Cut through the mound material were two cremation burials:

2.1.17 Cremation **2710** contained the remains of an adult male. It was inserted into the mound but was similar in character to **2067** with a heat affected outer fill suggesting that it had been cremated *in situ*. The pit measured 0.75m in diameter and was 0.48m deep (Plate 1, showing context 2718).

2.1.18 To the west, cremation **2040** truncated the upper fills of the earlier **2067.** It contained the remains of a sub adult. This cremation was slightly shallower at 0.38m deep and showed no evidence of being cremated in situ.

Isolated Cremations

2.1.19 Cremation **1500** was located in the north western part of the site at the edge of the cluster of early features. It measured 0.25m in diameter and was 0.15m deep.

2.1.20 Cremation **2137** was located approximately 70m to the northeast, within the early feature cluster. The feature contained cremated bone but was heavily truncated by both ploughing and burrowing to the extent that it had lost any identifiable cut.

2.1.21 Cremation **3301** was located in the south west corner of site at 1.35m OD. The cremation was placed entirely within a large Collared Urn (Plate 2). It is possible that this cremation was associated with a barrow similar to **2010** with a very shallow surrounding ditch which could have been lost through ploughing. The barrow would have had a significant position in the landscape overlooking the fen to both the south and the west.

2.2 Field Systems (Figs.5 & 7)

2.2.1 The Middle Bronze Age field system consisted of both segmented and continuous ditches that divided the landscape into fields and enclosures. The ditches would have been associated with banks and probably planted with hedges; it is the bank that is likely to have endured as the ditches would have silted up relatively rapidly, none showed any evidence for having been re-cut. When looking at the layout of these fields and enclosures it is important to consider the presence of archaeologically invisible boundaries such as banks which can now only be identified by contemporary or later features such as waterholes and pits which respect the bank or hedgeline. It is also possible that earlier, Beaker and Collared Urn features, could be seen to be respecting the lines of both visible and non-visible boundaries.

2.2.2 The layout of the field system appears to have two principal influencing factors. The topography significantly influences the ditches towards the south of the site with large fields radiating out towards the fen edge and extending towards a fen edge boundary

ditch arcing around the 0.5m OD contour. Further up slope towards the centre of the site the ditch alignment changes to follow a northwest to southeast alignment. Central to this alignment is a double ditch with an internal bank and hedge. Enclosures and fields extend on both sides of this boundary on both an east-northeast to west-southwest alignment as well as an east to west axis. This double-ditched boundary has a clearly tangential relationship with the principal monument on the site, barrow **2010.**

2.2.3 The excavated area can be divided into approximately eight relatively large fields and four smaller enclosures (at present the ditches and enclosures within the settlement area at the northeast are dealt with separately, see 2.4, Fig. 7). All the larger fields extend beyond the limits of the excavation and therefore accurate measurements of the areas enclosed are not possible. The shape of the fields appears to vary from rectangular to triangular due to the ditches projecting towards the fen edge at the south and southwest.

Field 1

2.2.4 Field 1 was located on the northwest side of the site, bounded to the south by a very shallow ditch (**2214**) aligned east to west dug in joining segments (segments not visible on plan). Its segmented nature indicates that drainage was not its prime function and its lack of depth indicates that a bank and hedge must have provided the main boundary. There was no evidence of a further ditch or bank enclosing the eastern edge of the 'field' and it is possible that the main north west to south east double ditched boundary to the south would have continued in some form bearing in mind the alignment of Enclosure 1.

Field 2

2.2.5 Field 2 was located to the east of Field 1. The southern boundary although appearing to be an extension of that of Field 1 was very different in character. Ditch **2122** was segmented in parts but dug as a single event to the east. Both the continuous ditch length and the individual segments were significantly deeper with very steep sides and a round based V-shaped profile (Fig. 9b, S.238). A notable feature was the relatively frequent occurrence of animal bone along the length of this ditch otherwise uncommon within the field system.

Field 3

2.2.6 Field 3 was formed by the southern boundary of Field 1, ditch **2104** at the south, and the double-ditched bank boundary **2271** at the east. The western boundary lay beyond the edge of excavation. Field 3 contained within it two smaller enclosures (Enclosures 3 and 4, see below).

Field 4

2.2.7 Field 4 was formed by the southern boundary of Field 2 (**2122**) and the double-ditched **2271** to the west. The southern boundary, formed by ditch **2104**, is on an east-northeast to west-southwest alignment, differing slightly from the northern ditch line. It appeared to have been dug as a single event, however it became significantly shallower to the east. Field 4 may have had further subdivisions as three short ditch or hedge features, all on a northwest to southeast alignment, were located within it (ditches **2463** and **2671**).

Field 5

2.2.8 Field 5 contained the barrow (**2010**) and was enclosed to the north by ditch **2104** and to the south by ditch **3001** oriented northeast to southwest and heading towards the fen edge. The eastern boundary of the field may have been a northward continuation, perhaps as a bank or hedge, of the segmented ditch **2696**. South of the barrow the field

system was influenced by the topography and the proximity of the fen edge and the fields to the south changed shape and character to reflect this.

Field 6

2.2.9 Field 6 contained cremation burial **3301** and was roughly triangular in shape with its southern and western boundary formed by a shallow, narrow ditch (**3159**) separating the higher ground to the northeast from the fen. The ditch was very similar in character to the southern boundary of Field 1. At its eastern end it turned 90 degrees to run northwest where the profile of the ditch was significantly deeper as ditch **3025** becoming shallower to the north as segmented ditch **2696**. The northern boundary of the field was formed by ditch **3001**.

Field 7 and Field 8

2.2.10 These fields were located on the eastern edge of site adjacent to Field 6 and were separated by shallow east to west boundary ditch **3070**.

	Enclosure 1	***Enclosure 2***	***Enclosure 3***	***Enclosure 4***
Length (m)	44.8	36.6	44	27.64
Width (m)	35.29	38.21	28.5	73.55
Area (m²)	1581	1398	1254	2032

Table 1: Enclosure measurements

Enclosure 1

2.2.11 Enclosure 1 was located to the north of the site on a northwest to southeast alignment. It was bounded on the western and part of the southern side by an L-shaped ditch (**632**) which terminated short of the full width of the enclosure. A wide very shallow feature (**875**) continued from the ditch terminus forming the rest of the southern boundary of this enclosure as well as the neighbouring Enclosure 2. This feature may represent a shallow deturfed area creating a bank. The eastern boundary of this enclosure was formed by a short double-ditched boundary **931/888**.

Enclosure 2

2.2.12 This enclosure was adjacent to Enclosure 1 and shared its southern and western boundaries.

Enclosure 3

2.2.13 Enclosure 3 lay in the southwestern corner of Field 3. The southern side of the enclosure was formed by long boundary ditch **2104** which extended across site on a north-northeast to south-southwest alignment. The other three sides of the enclosure appeared to have initially been dug as a continuous ditch (**2100**), however, a small section on the eastern edge had been relatively quickly backfilled with butt-ends re-excavated to create a narrow entrance with opposing terminals (Fig. 9b. S.247)

Enclosure 4

2.2.14 Enclosure 4 lay to the east of Enclosure 3 and was bounded to the east by the double ditch line **2271** and to the south by **2104**. The northern enclosing ditch (**2297**) butted up against both Enclosure 3 and the double ditch, terminating approximately 1m away from the ditches forming a narrow gap.

2.3 **Water Holes** (Fig. 6)

2.3.1 Twelve water holes, or wells, were identified across the site during the excavation. While they may vary in date they are discussed together here to aid comparison. Eight had no direct stratigraphic relationship with the surrounding field systems and/or settlement features. However, all tended to be situated on the edge of the fields and enclosures and some may mark the locations of their banks. Four water holes can be directly phased as truncating either the field system or later 'settlement-related' ditches. The lower deposits of all the features were waterlogged and some contained preserved wood (see Appendix A.5). Where possible column samples were taken for pollen analysis with the intention of providing a picture of land use across the period of their use, conceivably from the earlier Bronze Age through into the Iron Age.

2.3.2 No contemporary, datable finds assemblages were recovered from any of the water holes and C14 dating will be used to date those deposits that are found to contain good pollen preservation as well as plant macrofossil remains. For further information on contexts preliminarily identified for C14 selection see 5.6 and Table 7.

2.3.3 The features varied in size from approximately 3.5m to 7.5m wide and in depth from 1 to 2 metres. The levels at the bases of the wells only vary by a maximum of 0.5m with an average depth of minus 0.2m OD.

No.	*Cut*	*Max Width (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*OD at base*	*Pollen Samples*	*Location*	*Comments*
1	538	7.7	1.58	-0.21	+	Settlement area	
2	588	5.85	1.8	0.01	+	Settlement area	
3	660	4.8	2	-0.12	+	Settlement area	Contained structural timber
4	6	6.2	1.4	-		Field 2	Excavated in evaluation
5	2248	4.5	1.5	-0.24	+	Field 2	Contained log ladder
6	2122	3.5	1+	0.01		Field 4	
7	2350	7	1.75	-0.35	+	Field 4	
8	2488	3.71	1.75	-0.31	+	Field 3	Contained log ladder
9	2384	3.2	1.14	-0.11	+	Enclosure 3	
10	2525	2.94	0.82	-0.25		Field 4	
11	3061	3.56	1.32	-0.17	+	Field 6	
12	3189	3.47	1.69	-0.51	+	Field 6	

Table 2: Water holes

2.4 **Settlement** (Fig. 7)

An area of predominantly Middle Bronze Age (Deverel-Rimbury) settlement activity was located in the northeastern corner of the site at approximately 2 to 2.5m OD. The main alignment of ditches here runs due east/west with evidence of the underlying northwest to southeast axis to the south. The central feature appears to be a large rectangular enclosure (Enclosure 5) with double ditches and banks to north and south and a broad, deep ditch to the east. There was an internal subdivision in its northeast corner (Enclosure 7). To the northeast was Enclosure 6, formed by a deep, L-shaped ditch, and containing at least two post hole structures (Structures 1 & 2) and a large pit. To the east of this was another area of postholes representing a possible roundhouse (Structure 4).

A second, smaller L-shaped ditch lay at the eastern edge of excavation, delineating Enclosure 8. Further posthole structures lay in the area between these enclosures. Significant assemblages of finds materials were recovered from the ditches surrounding Enclosures 6 and 8 which included fired clay pedestals associated with salt working, loom weights and Deverel-Rimbury pottery.

Two large roundhouses with deep drip gullies would appear to be Iron Age in form but as yet have no definitive date. Roundhouse 1 lay within Enclosure 5 (truncating Enclosure 7) with Roundhouse 2 at the centre of the area to the east. Both features were 100% excavated but neither contained a datable finds assemblage.

Enclosures

Enclosure 5

2.4.1 Enclosure 5 was bounded to the north and east by a large ditch (**597**) with external bank. The east/west arm of the ditch had a smaller V-shaped ditch parallel to the north (**508**). The eastern arm of the ditch terminated at the south forming an entrance to the enclosure. Ditch **597** was between 2.8m to 3.95m wide and 1.05m to 1.3m deep and contained up to thirteen fills, the majority of which were redeposited natural silty gravels (Fig.9a, S.19). A small quantity (9 sherds) of Deverel-Rimbury pottery was recovered from the very upper fill of one of the ditch slots. The southern side of the enclosure was again formed by two ditches 4.7m apart with an internal bank. As with the pair on the northern side, the northernmost ditch was again the narrower between 0.61m and 1.25m wide and between 0.51m and 0.68m deep; it terminated some way to the west of the turn in **597**. The larger southern ditch (**681**) measured 1.2m - 1.9m wide and was between 0.52 to 0.96m deep. Alone among the major ditches on the site, **681** exhibited a clear re-cut, ditch **577** and it is this feature that is currently thought to have formed the enclosure. Ditch **577** terminated at the east, just before reaching Water Hole 3. Three cow heads were recovered from the basal fill of the terminal of the recut along with 16 sherds of Deverel Rimbury pottery weighing nearly 200g.

2.4.2 A geophysical survey was undertaken in an attempt to identify the extent of this enclosure to the west. A weakly magnetic linear anomaly (Fig. 11, 1) appears to align with the northern side of the rectangular enclosure (Appendix C).

Enclosure 6

2.4.3 Enclosure 6 was formed by L shaped Ditch **510** which terminated at (or at least within a metre of) the external bank of Enclosure 5 (Plate 4). The extent of the enclosure was uncertain as the ditch extended north into the baulk. This ditch was between 1.6m and 2.2m wide and was 0.95m deep (Fig. 9b, S.2, 14). The single largest finds assemblage from the site came from this feature and chiefly comprised pottery and fired clay artefacts, including pedestals associated with salt making and loom weights. Within the enclosure were two post hole structures (Structures 1 and 2) and Pit **821** which contained a further fired clay object (Fig.9a, S.131).

Enclosure 7

2.4.4 Enclosure 7 was located in the north eastern corner of the larger Enclosure 5. The northern and eastern sides would have been provided by the partially silted up enclosure ditch **597** and its bank. The western and southern sides were marked by a narrow curvilinear ditch, 0.67m to 0.75m wide ditch (**617**) with an entrance on the southern side measuring 2.5m across. The ditch terminated to the north at the edge of Enclosure 5 and it ran into the top of the silted ditch to the east. The enclosure was 14.1m from east

to west and 9.7m from north to south. Ditch **617** contained between three and five fills. The basal fills of the terminals were charcoal rich; approximately 20 sherds of Deverel-Rimbury pottery were recovered.

Enclosure 8

2.4.5 Enclosure 8 lay at the eastern limit of site. It was formed by narrow curvilinear ditch **520**, similar to that in Enclosure 7, though shallower. Only the western side of the enclosure lay within the excavation. The ditch was 0.54m to 0.75m wide and 0.21m to 0.25m deep and contained charcoal rich fills. A salt working pedestal and loom weight along with Deverel-Rimbury pottery was recovered.

Enclosure 9

Enclosure 9 was located on the western boundary of Enclosure 1. It was formed by a segmented curvilinear ditch (**1446**) forming a D shaped enclosure using the bank of Enclosure 1 as its straight edge. The ditch measured 0.5m to 0.81m wide and 0.2m to 0.53m deep, however it was heavily truncated in parts. The internal dimensions of the enclosure were 11.8m by 12.3m with a definite entrance to the south east.

Ditches

2.4.6 The ditches below form no obvious enclosures but due to their alignment they have been grouped with the settlement activity at this stage of assessment.

2.4.7 Ditch **681/702** was aligned east to west and appeared to head towards a more north easterly alignment as it became shallower and extended towards the eastern baulk. Ditch **681** measured between 1.4m and 2.31m wide and between 0.45m and 1.02m deep. It was subsequently recut along its western length to provide the southern boundary of Enclosure 5. Heading east Ditch **702** measured between 0.55m and 1.76m wide and between 0.2m and 0.63m deep.

2.4.8 Ditch **923** was aligned north northwest to south southeast and joined into Ditch **702** from the south. The ditch measured 1.2m to 1.4m wide and 0.55m to 0.78m deep. Two small sherds of pottery of uncertain date were recovered.

2.4.9 Ditch **687** ran parallel to Ditch 923 to the east. The ditch terminated approximately 2.5m south of Ditch **702** and measured 1.6m wide and 0.6m deep.

2.4.10 Ditches **940** and **1230** were located on the north western edge of site. They were aligned north-northeast to south-southwest; the only ditches in this area on such an alignment. The ditches formed two opposing terminals leaving a gap of approximately 5m. The ditches were 0.94m to 1.18m wide and 0.19m to 0.58m deep. Ditch **940** contained a small quantity of Bronze Age pottery of uncertain date.

Structures

Structure 1

2.4.11 A six post structure was identified within Enclosure 6. It was aligned north-northwest to south-southeast and measured 3.51m by 2.31m. The post holes were between 0.25m and 0.45m in diameter and 0.2m to 0.31m deep (Plate 4, Fig. 9b, S.63, 65).

Structure 2

2.4.12 A further post hole structure was identified to the east of Structure 1. Comprising of a group of sixteen post holes of variable widths and depths it is possible that there is more

than one structure in this location. The postholes cover an area of approximately 7.3m by 6.2m. A definitive shape to the structure/s has yet to be identified.

Structure 3

2.4.13 Structure 3 was located to the south and comprised of seventeen post holes of variable sizes. This again may form more than one structure.

Structure 4

2.4.14 Structure 4 lay to the east of Enclosure 6 and was formed by approximately 10 post holes, in a rough circle of 6m diameter, possibly representing a roundhouse. A further 6 post holes are also assigned to the group (Plate 5). The post holes forming the ring measured between 0.2 to 0.5m wide and 0.17m and 0.5m deep. A clear entrance/porch was not identified.

2.4.15 A fifth group of approximately 25 post holes lay between Structures 2 and 3 in the area of a large, presumably later, roundhouse gully (see below). Some, perhaps most, of these postholes will belong to this earlier phase but all will need to be viewed in relation to the later feature.

Roundhouse 1

2.4.16 Roundhouse 1 was formed by a circular drip gully with an entrance to the southeast which measured 1.58m across . The ditch was between 0.55m and 0.8m wide and between 0.2 and 0.46m deep. The internal diameter was 8.5m and contained five post holes and a pit. The phasing of the pit is currently uncertain. The roundhouse truncated Enclosure 7.

Roundhouse 2

2.4.17 Roundhouse 2 was formed by a circular drip gully with the entrance east facing and measuring 1.8m across (Plate 6). The ditch was between 0.43m to 1.46m wide and 0.16m to 0.46m deep. The ditch was at its widest at the back of the roundhouse. The internal diameter was 8.9m and contained 25 post holes which clustered slightly towards the north. The post holes comprised of more than one phase and/or structure as a single post hole truncated the gully to the north where the group continued beyond the limit of the roundhouse. Some of the post holes may also belong to an earlier phase (see above).

Pits

Pit Group **2310** (Fig.5, inset)

2.4.18 Pit Group **2310** was located some 200m to the southwest of the main settlement area, in Field 3, and comprised two rectangular pits and three associated post holes. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the features the easternmost pit truncated the field system ditch. These pits appear to have an industrial type function as they were full of charcoal, relatively frequent burnt stone and heated clay deposits. It is possible that these pits represent part of the salt making process. The truncated base of a small burnt stone mound, presumably waste from the process, was recorded within the top of the infilled ditch just to the south.

Feature Type	Cut No.	Length	Width	Depth	No. of Fills
Pit	2314	2.35	0.8	0.22	4
Pit	2391	1.9	0.85	0.17	3
Post hole	2420	-	0.18	0.1	1
Post hole	2437	-	0.3	0.12	1
Post hole	2439	-	0.25	0.1	1

*Table 3: Group **2310** Dimensions*

Pit Group **2609** (Fig.5)

2.4.19 Pit Group **2609** was located to the south of **2310** also on the west side of the double-ditched boundary. The group consisted of four pits and a post hole. The pits were similar in size and measured between 0.58m and 0.75m in diameter and between 0.23 and 0.35m deep. Pit 2610 contained an assemblage of 67 sherds (490g) of Deverel-Rimbury pottery as well as a fired clay object, the second largest assemblage on site.

2.5 Peat Development

2.5.1 The upper fills of archaeological features located below approximately 1.75m OD were formed of peat; there were, however, a few notable exceptions.

2.5.2 Water Hole 5 was located at approximately 1.25m OD but contained no peat deposits, being silt-filled to the surface, whilst Water Holes 4, 6 and 7, all in the same area contained upper fills of peat measuring up to 0.45m thick.

2.5.3 All other Water Holes including those above 1.75m OD contained thick deposits of peat. The three water holes in the settlement area were the only features to contain peat deposits in the northern part of the site. There were occasional finds of Post-Medieval clay pipes and pottery in the upper levels of these fills.

2.5.4 All of the Post-Medieval agricultural features had a single fill of peat.

2.5.5 There were clearly numerous phases of peat growth across the fen edge area which explain in part the variable fills in the archaeological features. Modern truncation by ploughing also needs to be considered.

2.6 Post-Medieval Agricultural Features (Fig. 8)

2.6.1 A large number of Post-Medieval agricultural features, locally known as claying ditches or marl ditches were found across the whole site. The ditches were approximately 0.4m to 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep (where excavated) with straight sides and a flat base and ran in parallel lines about 10m apart. There were three separate alignments (northeast to southwest, north to south and east to west) separating the site into three large fields from north to south.

2.6.2 The ditches had been dug using different methods and in clearly different phases, particularly noticeable in the central field (Fig. 8) The irregular segmented ditches had been excavated by hand whilst the regular, continuous ditches may have been dug using a steam plough.

2.6.3 The ditches had been dug to improve the drainage and mineral content of the peaty soil and reduce soil loss from the windy conditions in the fens.

3 Factual Data and Assessment of Archaeological Potential

3.1 Stratigraphic and Structural Data

The Excavation Record

3.1.1 All hand written records have been collated and checked for internal consistency, the site records have been transcribed onto an *MS Access* Database. Quantities of records are laid out in the table below.

Type	*Evaluation*	*Excavation*	*Total*
Context register	7	54	61
Context numbers	276	2086	2362
Plan registers	1	1	2
Section register	1	12	13
Sample register	1	40	41
Trench record sheets	20	0	20
Context sheets	173	2026	2199
Plans at 1:100	12	0	12
Plans at 1:50	5	226	231
Plans at 1:20	0	7	7
Plans at 1:10	0	8	8
Sections at 1:100	2	0	2
Sections at 1:50	1	0	1
Sections 1:20	13	25	38
Sections 1:10	4	324	328
Black and White prints	36 x 6	36 x 18	36 x 24
Colour slides	36 x 7	36 x 18	36 x 25
Colour print	36 x 4	0	36 x 4
Digital photographs	130	991	1121
Total station survey	Y	N	-
GPS survey	N	Y	-

Table 4: Quantification of written archive

Finds Quantification

3.1.2 All finds have been washed, quantified and bagged in accordance with Peterborough Museum archive guidance. Relevant finds will also be marked following consultation with Peterborough Museum. The catalogue of all finds is on an *MS Access* Database. Total quantities of each material type per feature type are listed in the table below.

Finds	Ditch slots	Pit	Water Hole	Roundhouse gully	Post holes	Inhumation	Cremation Burial <5mm	Barrow	Layer	Surface finds(kg)
Ceramic (vessel) (kg)	2.03	1.525	0	0.07	0.121	0	TBC	0	1.05	0.03
Fired Clay (kg)	3.45	0.37	0	0.241	0.548		0	0		0
Flint (kg)	0.96	0.522	0.029	0.95	0.023	0	0.002	0	0.63	1.76
Animal Bone (kg)	18.598	1.973	2.406	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H.S.R (kg)	0	0	0	0	0	+	8.676	0	0	0
Wood (kg)	0	0	All	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5: Quantification of finds by feature type

Environmental Quantification

Sample Type	Ditch (nr settlement)	Ditch	Pit	Water hole	Roundhouse gully	Post hole structure	Cremation	Barrow	Layer	Other
Flotation	25	9	47	25	14	39	15	7	4	3
Pollen/ micromorphology	0			10		0	0	1		

Table 6: Quantification of samples by feature type

Range and Variety

Features on the site consisted of pits, a barrow, inhumation and cremation burials, ditches, water holes and post holes. They range from a Neolithic to a potentially Iron Age date with the majority of features falling into the Middle Bronze Age (Deverel-Rimbury) period.

Feature Type	*No of Features*
Ditches (excluding segments)	28
Pit	81
Water hole	12
Structure	5 minimum
Post hole	150
Cremation	5/6

Table 7: Number of features by feature type

3.2 Artefact Summaries

Pottery (Appendix A.1 and A.2)

Summary

3.2.1 This report represents an assessment of an assemblage of 669 sherds of prehistoric pottery weighing 5285g (MSW 7.9g). The dominant form was large plain body sherds belonging to small and medium-sized barrel or bucket shaped urns.

3.2.2 The bulk of the assemblage was made up of Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury sherds and most of it came from ditched enclosures with some from pit related contexts. The second largest component of the assemblage was Collared Urn and interestingly, and by way of comparison almost all of this type of pottery came from pits . The next largest elements were Beaker and Mildenhall Wares.

3.2.3 A very large and almost complete Collared Urn containing cremated human bone was located within cremation burial **3301**. The vessel had been buried upright and consequently had lost most of its collar to plough truncation. The urn was found as an isolated cremation burial away from any obvious features and as such matches similar features located to the immediate south at Bradley Fen, Bradley Fen Farm and King's Dyke West (Gibson & Knight 2002 & 2006).

Statement of Potential

3.2.4 The Deverel-Rimbury pottery represents the most important component of the Briggs Farm prehistoric assemblage. The scale and domestic character of the material make it stand out but equally significant is the context of the assemblage. The fieldsystems of the Flag Fen basin have produced very little Deverel-Rimbury pottery from non-funerary contexts. The domestic Middle Bronze Age has been conspicuous by its absence especially when contrasted to the impressive domestic Beaker and Collared Urn assemblages found throughout the basin. Significantly the Briggs Farm material appears to have had a direct relationship to large enclosure ditches as opposed to the smaller linear fieldsystem boundaries. This relationship suggests something different from previously seen in the Flag Fen basin environs and perhaps has more in common with the Lincolnshire systems where discrete enclosures have been found 'hanging-off' pre-existing linear field boundaries (Hutton 2008; Murrell forthcoming).

Flint (Appendix A.3)

Summary

3.2.5 The 364 pieces of struck flint were recovered from a variety of features including Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pits and some of the Middle Bronze Age features. The greater part of the assemblage, exhibited technological traits consistent with Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries, but also well-represented were pieces more characteristic of Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flintworking traditions. A smaller component of the assemblage consisted of more-crudely worked cores and flakes and these may indicate the continuation of flintworking during the later second or first millennium BC.

Statement of Potential

3.2.6 The assemblage is relatively large for the region and has the ability to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of settlement and landscape exploitation of this area during the periods represented. It has the potential to increase understanding of occupation, mobility and landscape use of the area during the Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age periods and may inform on the nature of flintworking during the later prehistoric.

Fired Clay (Appendix A.4)

Summary

3.2.7 A total of 6.80kg of fired clay material was found in association with later Bronze Age pottery. Examination of the assemblage revealed that there are three major groups of fired clay material: ceramic debris resulting from salt production (briquetage), clay weights and undiagnostic fired clay fragments. In addition, there is a unique, complete ceramic ring. Ditch **510** produced the largest assemblage.

Statement of Potential

3.2.8 This is a most unusual assemblage of Bronze Age briquetage pedestals from the fen edge region, elements of which are currently unique to Brigg's Farm. Some are quite unique and others appear to be very similar to examples from the Essex coast. Having two different fabrics used to make the containers is also very unusual – organic-tempered briquetage containers are usually found in first millennium BC salt production contexts with shell-gritted/vesicular examples belonging to the Bronze Age period of the second millennium BC.

Worked Animal Bone (Appendix A.5)

Summary

3.2.9 Two significant pieces of worked animal bone were recovered from ditches **510** and **632**. A needle make from a Sheet/Goat distal metapodial and a possible handle/point from a sheep/goat metacarpal.

Wood (Appendix A.6)

Summary

3.2.10 Two log ladders and a structural timber were recovered from three water holes across sites (Water holes 2, 5 and 8).

Statement of Potential

3.2.11 A comparison with other similar items present in the literature may elucidate the function of the structural timber, and identify types of structure that may have been present on the site.

3.2.12 Over recent years, several log ladders have been recovered, often from gravel sites within or bordering the Cambridgeshire fens, but also in the Thames valley. A comparison with other known examples recovered from the area will add to our growing understanding of the construction, use and deposition of these artefacts.

3.3 Animal and Human Bone Summaries

Human Bone (Appendix A.7)

Summary

3.3.1 Six cremation burials (seven individuals) and an inhumation were recovered from the site. Three un-urned cremation burials and the inhumation were located within the barrow. One cremation located to the south of the barrow was buried in a large urn. A further partial femur was recovered ditch **577** in the settlement area.

3.3.2 The bone fragment size was relatively large (some pieces were 80mm long) making bone identification relatively straightforward and suggesting either little working of the pyre or care when collecting the bones for burial.

3.3.3 There is some evidence for an burning *in situ* from two of the cremation burials within the barrow

Statement of Potential

3.3.4 The nature of the site, the quantity and excellent preservation of cremated bone, the fact that the deposits are relatively undisturbed in conjunction with the careful and detailed excavation and on-site recording means that this assemblage offers great potential for furthering our understanding of funerary practices in the Bronze Age in the region.

Animal Bone (Appendix A.8)

Summary

3.3.5 Cattle are by far the most prevalent taxon making up 75% of the identifiable assemblage. Sheep/Goat represent only only 13.2% of the assemblage, with with pig and horse remains making up 5.4 and 1.5% respectively. Wild fauna are present in the form of red deer and small mammal remains. An intact, naturally shed red deer antler was recovered from Ditch **687**.

Statement of Potential

3.3.6 This is a relatively small and extremely fragmented assemblage, with relatively little potential for direct comparison with (often much larger) nearby sites; most notably Flag Fen and other large Bronze Age assemblages in the Fengate basin.

3.3.7 The preponderance of cattle remains is certainly interesting and warrants further analysis in the context of land use in the surrounding area.

3.4 Environmental Summaries

Environmental Remains (Appendix B.1)

Summary

3.4.1 A total of 198 samples were taken from features that include secure archaeological contexts within pits, ditches, watering holes, five cremations and one burial.

3.4.2 Monoliths for pollen analysis were taken where possible from water holes.

3.4.3 The charred plant remains recovered from these samples are limited and they are dominated by the cereal grains. Charred weed seeds are generally rare with an exception being the presence of flax (Linum usitatissimum) seeds in seven samples all from Early Bronze Age pits.

3.4.4 The poor representation of crop processing waste in the form of chaff suggests that the earlier stages of processing had taken place elsewhere, either in an unexcavated area of the site or the crops may have been brought in already cleaned.

3.4.5 Waterlogged seeds are common from the water holes although they are quite restricted in diversity. The assemblage appears to represent mainly a natural accumulation of plant remains from local vegetation. Bramble and elder are both plants that produce extremely durable seeds due to their tough outer coat (testa).

Statement of Potential

3.4.6 The preliminary appraisal of the initial processing of samples from this site have shown that there is potential for the recovery of plant remains. Several of the samples warrant the processing of further material in an attempt to recover a quantifiable assemblage.

Pollen (Appendix B.2)

Summary

3.4.7 Eleven monolith samples were taken for pollen analysis from ten Bronze Age? waterholes and one barrow layer during the excavation. The lithology of these samples will be recorded in the laboratory on proforma sheets. A single small subsample will be taken from each sample and its position in the core will be recorded. A rapid assessment will be made of the pollen in the subsamples and this will record the presence or absence of pollen and the state of preservation of the grains.

4 Research Aims and Objectives

4.1 National Research Objectives

4.1.1 Contribute towards an understanding of the change from communal monuments into settlement and field landscapes

Archaeological remains from the site range from Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity, including barrows with associated inhumation and cremation burials, through to field systems and settlement activity of the Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age?. Extensive C14 dating throughout the period along with pollen analysis will aim to accurately date this change as well as provide a picture of the environment and landscape over time (see 5.6 for C14 methodology).

4.1.2 Contribute towards an understanding of Middle Bronze Age settlement patterns

There is currently very little unequivocal evidence for Middle Bronze Age settlement within the eastern region. The potential identification of Middle Bronze Age enclosures, structures and/or houses on this site, alongside a relatively large contemporary finds assemblage, is of national importance.

4.1.3 Contribute towards an understanding of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age landscapes

The limited amount of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age remains from the site, at a height where occupation evidence from this period is relatively common, will provide an interesting comparison to surrounding sites.

The most significant, possible, Iron Age evidence from the site are the two roundhouses which appear to be Iron Age in form. These structures were constructed within the bounds of the Middle Bronze Age occupation area, seemingly respecting the eartlier enclosures. However, the excavation area here is limited at this point and had the excavation extended beyond the current baulk there could have been further roundhouses that clearly truncated the Middle Bronze Age features.

If the roundhouses prove to be earlier Iron Age there would be a significant hiatus in settlement activity on the site as there is no significant evidence for Later Bronze Age occupation.

4.1.4 Contribute towards an understanding of patterns of agriculture.

The analysis of pollen from the water holes will aim to identify land use during the construction and subsequent occupation of the field system, including periods of clearance, flooding and crop planting.

Faunal analysis shows that the predominant species within the Middle Bronze Age assemblage is cattle. Comparisons with other sites will aid our understanding of pastoral activity during this period.

Initial assessment of the environmental data suggests that crop processing was not directly carried out on the site, however, the presence of flax in several Early Bronze Age pits if of some interest (Appendix B.1)

4.2 Regional Research Objectives

4.2.1 Contribute towards an understanding of artefact production and distribution

Detailed analysis from specialists familiar with local and regional material will aim to identify any patterns in production and distribution.

The presence of an unusual assemblage of salt making pedestals made from two different types of fabric is of particular interest, as is the relatively large pottery assemblage (Appendices A.1 and A.4)

4.2.2 Contribute to an understanding of the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition.

There appears to be little evidence for the Later Bronze Age and pottery analysis and C14 dating of Roundhouse 1 aims to identify the presence/absence of Iron Age remains at Brigg's Farm. If Iron Age evidence if found whilst the LBA appears to be absent this would provide an interesting insight into the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition in this region.

4.3 Local Research Objectives

4.3.1 Contribute towards an understanding of the Bronze Age landscape in the Peterborough area

The Brigg's Farm site will 'fill in a gap' within the much studied fen edge in this area as it lies between the archaeology of the Flag Fen basin to the south west and the extensive quarries of Pode Hole, Eye and Tower's Fen to the north.

4.3.2 Contribute to the characterisation of archaeology from 0.5 to 2.5m OD within this area.

The topographic influence on the archaeology of the fen edge is widely acknowledged in this area. However studies of similar sites will highlight differences and similarities of features and activities occurring between 0.5 to 2.5m OD. The topographic survey conducted at Brigg's Farm will greatly aid to our understanding (Fig. 3).

4.3.3 Contribute towards an understanding of salt production and the associated artefacts in the area

The unusual and at times unique assemblage of fired clay objects associated with salt working recovered from this site will enable comparisons to be made between sites in the Peterborough area as well as fen edge sites in Essex and Lincolnshire.

4.3.4 Contribute towards an understanding of local pottery manufacture and distribution.

Further analysis aims to provide a greater understanding of the local types of Deverel-Rimbury and Etton Type Mildenhall pottery.

4.3.5 Contribute towards an understanding of environmental change from pollen samples taken from water holes.

The ten water holes sampled for pollen combined with C14 dates aim to characterise environmental change in this area from the Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age.

4.3.6 Contribute towards an understanding of barrow types, construction, function and longevity in the local area.

Analysis and C14 dating of the burial and three cremations will add to our understanding of the construction the barrow as well as provide a date range between the pre-mound burial and later inserted cremations.

4.4 Site Specific Research Objectives

4.4.1 To establish the date, development and phasing of the field system

C14 dating of features with a stratigraphic relationship with the field system will aim to achieve this objective.

4.4.2 To establish the date of development of the settlement area

Analysis of pottery, C14 dates and stratigraphic relationships.

4.4.3 To establish the date of Roundhouses

See 4.2.1

4.4.4 To establish the phasing of the water holes.

See 4.3.4 and aim to associate them with field systems, Bronze Age and possibly Iron Age settlement activity.

4.4.5 To establish predominant industries within the settlement area

Finds of salt making artefacts and loom weights

4.4.6 To establish the spatial distribution of salt making activity from 0.5 to 2.5m, the fen edge to the settlement area.

Several features have been identified as potentially being associated with salt making activity both within the settlement area and also further south within the field system.

5 Methods Statements

5.1 Stratigraphic Analysis

5.1.1 Context, finds and environmental data will be analysed using MS Access database. The specialist information will be integrated to aid dating and phasing. Group numbers will be allocated to feature types and added to the database.

5.2 Illustration

5.2.1 All site plans and selected sections will be digitised using AutoCAD and report and publication figures will be created by Adobe Illustrator. Finds recommended for illustration will be drawn by hand.

5.3 Documentary Research

5.3.1 Primary and published sources will be consulted from the HER record, aerial photographs and comparable sites locally and nationally.

5.4 Artefactual Analysis

5.4.1 Where appropriate finds will be sent to the relevant specialists for further analysis and the results will be incorporated in to the final report.

5.5 Ecofactual Analysis

5.5.1 The faunal remains,and human bone will be examined further by the relevant specialists. Environmental remains identified for assessment will be given to the relevant specialists. Pollen samples from the water holes will be analysed if sufficient material can be obtained for C14 dating.

5.6 C14 dating

5.6.1 Thirty samples from 28 contexts have been identified as potentially giving absolute dates to address setting out of the formalised landscape from the Early Bronze Age pits, burials and barrow to the construction and subsequent occupation of the field system.

Inhumation and Cremation burials

5.6.2 C14 dates from the sequence of four burials (five individuals) within the barrow will enable a greater understanding of the construction and subsequent time frame of the feature. The cremation in the collared urn located within Field 6 will also be dated to provide a comparison with the relative date gained from the pottery analysis. The further cremation burials will be dated to provide a full sequence across site.

Water holes

5.6.3 All the water holes with pollen samples have been identified as potential features for dating. These features will only be dated if they prove to contain usable pollen for analysis and/or they have a stratigraphic relationship with the field system.

Dating the Field System

5.6.4 Three features have been identified alongside the water holes as being able to date the field system. Ditch **3159** at the southwest of the site contained the only charred seeds identified across the whole field system. A tree bole truncated by ditch **3001** forming Field 6 and water hole **2488** which truncated the parallel ditches in the centre of site. A naturally shed Red Deer antler was found within ditch **687** – no contemporary settlement-related finds were recovered alongside and thus potentially the antler could date to the pre-settlement phase of the ditch system.

Structures

5.6.5 Three post hole structures and a ring gully have potential to provide dates for changes in the settlement activity. A correlation between the post hole structures and the date for ditch **510** would provide reliable evidence that they were contemporary features. Roundhouse 1 is stratigraphically later than Enclosure 8 but contained only a small sherd of potentially Iron Age pottery. An absolute date would enable further conclusions to be drawn about the presence/absence of Iron Age activity on this site.

Settlement activities

5.6.6 Up to nine samples can be taken from the settlement area excluding the structures. Three samples from different materials can be used to date ditch **510** which contained the largest assemblage of finds from the site including pottery, loom weight and salt making debris. The large Enclosure 5 will be dated from the assemblage of cow heads found in the base of the ditch. Enclosure 8 also contained a significant assemblage of material similar in content to that of Enclosure 5. Enclosure 7 was truncated by the possible Iron Age roundhouse therefore this date combined with a date from the fill of the roundhouse will hopefully secure the phasing. Pit group **816** contained flax seeds, collared urn pottery and one of the pits was truncated by ditch **754**. This pit group will date the Collared Urn settlement and also ditch **754**. Pit group **2609** also contained Deverel-Rimbury type pottery as well as interesting environmental results.

Master No.	Feature Type	Feature Name	Environmental Sample No.	Sample to be taken from:					
				Charred Plant Remains	Waterlogged Plant Remains	Charcoal	Animal Bone	Human Bone	Residue
Burials									
2075	Burial	The Barrow	-					+	
2040	Cremation	The Barrow	-					+	
2067	Cremation	The Barrow	-					+	
2710	Cremation	The Barrow	-					+	
3301	Cremation	Collared Urn						+	
Water holes									
538	Water Hole	Water Hole 1	21, 131 - 134		+				
588	Water Hole	Water Hole 2	26, 136 - 140		+				
660	Water Hole	Water Hole 3	29, 30		+				
2248	Water Hole	Water Hole 5	275		+				
2350	Water Hole	Water Hole 7	278		+				
2488	Water Hole	Water Hole 8	281, 292		+				

Master No.	Feature Type	Feature Name	Environmental Sample No.	Sample to be taken from:					
				Charred Plant Remains	Waterlogged Plant Remains	Charcoal	Animal Bone	Human Bone	Residue
2525	Water Hole	Water Hole 10	277		+				
3061	Water Hole	Water Hole 11			+				
3189	Water Hole	Water Hole 12			+				
Dating the Field System									
2214	Pit		255			+			
3001	Tree Bole				+				
3159	Ditch	Field 6		+					
Structures									
1201	Post Holes	Structure 4	78 - 80	+					
1241	Post Holes	Structure 1	61, 63	+					
1241	Post Holes	Structure 2	65, 68	+					
1331	Gully	Roundhouse 1	86, 87, 92	+					
Settlement Activities									
510	Ditch	Enclosure 6	20	+					
510	Ditch	Enclosure 6	-				+		
510	Ditch	Enclosure 6							+

Master No.	Feature Type	Feature Name	Environmental Sample No.	Sample to be taken from:					
				Charred Plant Remains	Waterlogged Plant Remains	Charcoal	Animal Bone	Human Bone	Residue
520	Ditch	Enclosure 8	-				+		
577	Ditch	Enclosure 5	-				+		
617	Ditch	Enclosure 7	51 - 55	+					
687	Ditch						+ (Antler)		
816	Pits		58, 59	+					
2609	Pits		282, 283, 287, 288	+					

Table 8: Samples selected for possible C14 dating

6 Report Writing, Archiving and Publication

6.1 Report Writing

6.1.1 Tasks associated with report writing are identified in Table 10.

6.2 Archiving

6.2.1 Excavated material and records will be deposited with, and curated by, Peterborough Museum in appropriate county stores under the Site Code THO BRF 08 During analysis and report preparation, OA East will hold all material and reserves the right to send material for specialist analysis.

6.2.2 The archive will be prepared in accordance with current OA East guidelines, which are based on current national guidelines

6.3 Publication

6.3.1 The publication journal and report structure are as yet to be confirmed.

7 Resources and Programming

7.1 Staffing and Equipment

Name	Initials	Project Role	Establishment
Michael Bamforth	MB	Wood Specialist	L-P Archaeology
Crane Begg	CB	Senior Illustrator	OA East
Barry Bishop	BB	Lithics Specialist	Freelance
Alasdair Brooks	AB	Find and Environmental Officer	OA East
Louise Bush	LB	Site Supervisor/Illustrator	OA East
Andrew Corrigan	AC	Technical Assistant	OA East
Natasha Dodwell	ND	H.S.R Specialist	Freelance
Chris Faine	CF	Animal Bone Specialist	OA East
Carole Fletcher	CFl	Finds Supervisor / Archive	OA East
Rachel Fosberry	RF	Environmental supervisor	OA East
Gillian Greer	GG	Illustrator	OA East
Elizabeth Huckerby	EH	Pollen/Plant Macro Fossil	OA North
Mark Knight	MK	Pottery Specialist	Freelance
Elaine Morris	EM	Fired Clay Specialist	Freelance
Richard Mortimer	RM	Project Manager	OA East
Alexandra Pickstone	AP	Project Officer	OA East
Elizabeth Popescu	EP	Editor/Publications Manager	OA East
	Assist.	Site Assistant	OA East
C14	SUERC	C14 dating	SUERC

Table 9: Project Team

7.1 Task Identification

Task No.	Task	Staff
Project Management		
1	Project management	RM
2	Team meetings	RM/AP
3	Liaison with relevant staff and specialists, distribution of relevant information and materials	RM/AP/AB/CF
Stratigraphic Analysis		
4	Update database and digital plans/sections to reflect any changes	AP/LB
5	Finalise site phasing	AP
6	Add final phasing to database	AP
7	Compile group and phase text	AP
8	Compile overall stratigraphic text and site narrative to form the basis of the full/archive report	AP
9	Review, collate and standardise results of all final specialist reports and integrate with stratigraphic text and project results	AP

Task No.	Task	Staff
Illustration		
10	Digitise selected sections	LB
11	Prepare draft phase plans, sections and other report figures	CB/LB
12	Select photographs for inclusion in the report	AP
113	Illustrate selected finds	
Documentary Research		
14	Reassessment of the HER record	AP
15	Reassessment of aerial photographic sources	AP
16	Examination of relevant published archaeological sources	AP
17	Examination, where possible, of relevant unpublished archaeological sources	AP
Finds Study		
18	Prepare pottery reports	MK
19	Prepare lithics report	BB
20	Prepare animal bone report	CF
21	Prepare fired clay report	EM
22	Prepare H.S.R report	ND
23	Prepare wood report	MB
24	Prepare miscellaneous finds report	AP/RM
25	Organise conservation of wood	AP
Environmental Remains		
26	Prepare environmental report	RF/EH
27	Prepare pollen/ micromorphology report	TBC
28	Integrate documentary research	AP
Report Writing		
29	Write historical and archaeological background text	AP
30	Edit phase and group text	AP
31	Compile list of illustrations/liaise with illustrators	AP
32	Write discussion and conclusions	AP
33	Prepare report figures	CB/LB
35	Collate/edit captions, bibliography, appendices etc.	AP
36	Produce draft report	AP
37	Internal edit	RM/EP
38	Incorporate internal edits	AP
39	Final edit	RM/EP
40	Send to publisher for refereeing	EP
41	Post-refereeing revisions	AP
42	Copy edit queries	EP
43	Proof-reading	EP
Archiving		
44	Compile paper archive	AP/Assist.
45	Archive/delete digital photographs	AC
46	Compile/check material archive	CF
47	Produce final report and illustrations	CB
48	Distribute report	AP

Table 10: Task list

Appendix A. Finds Reports

A.1 Pottery

By Mark Knight

A.1.1 This report represents an assessment of an assemblage of 669 sherds of prehistoric pottery weighing 5285g (MSW 7.9g). The assemblage comprised both large sherds in good condition as well as mineralised and laminating fragments and assorted crumbs. Nine fabric types were identified with the predominant inclusion being shell. Feature sherds included 74 rims, 38 base and 54 decorated fragments. Pieces with collars and pronounced shoulders were also present. The dominant form was large plain body sherds belonging to small and medium-sized barrel or bucket shaped urns.

Type	*Number*	*Weight*	*MSW*	*Fabric*
Neolithic	1	4	4.0	9
Mildenhall'	42	90	2.1	7
Peterborough Ware	25	57	2.3	7
Beaker	40	124	3.1	5
Collared Urn	67	685	10.2	6
Deverel-Rimbury	471	4234	9.0	1, 2, 3, 4
Bronze Age	17	78	4.6	4, 5, 6, 8
LBA	6	13	2.2	4, 8
Totals:	*669*	*5285g*	*7.9g*	*9*

Table 11: Assemblage Breakdown

A.1.2 The Bulk of the assemblage was made up of Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury sherds (80.1% by weight or 70.4% by number) and most of it came from either enclosure (46.9% by weight) or pit (29.2%) related contexts. Layer **857** produced 999 sherds (or 23.6% by weight) from a single medium sized vessel that has been included with the Deverel-Rimbury category but might actually belong to the Post Deverel-Rimbury series. The remaining 0.3% of the Deverel-Rimbury assemblage was recovered from post holes or a gully feature. The second largest component of the assemblage was Collared Urn (12.9%) and interestingly, and by way of comparison almost all of this type of pottery came from pits (93.1% by weight). The next largest elements were Beaker (2.3%) and Mildenhall Wares (1.7%).

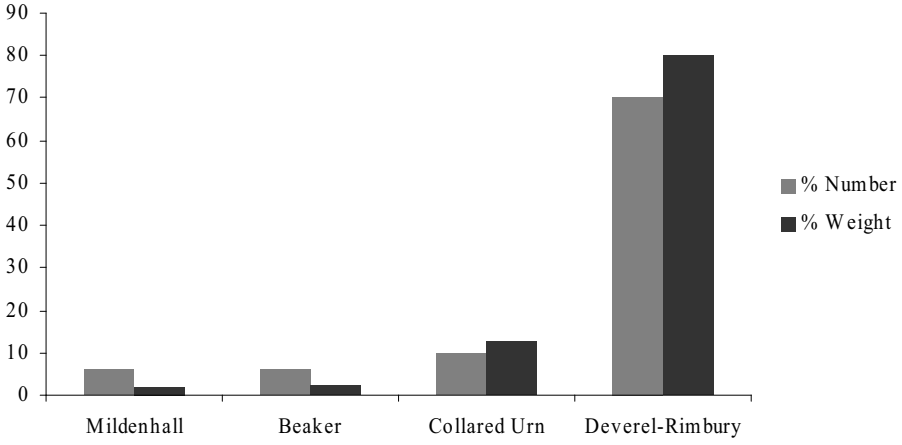


Chart 1: Percentage breakdown of main assemblage components

A.1.3 Comparative sherd sizes between types illustrated a marked difference between the earlier and later assemblages. The Mildenhall, Peterborough Ware and Beaker sherds for example were generally very small and often weathered or abraded (MSW between 2.1 and 3.1g). Conversely the Collared Urn and Deverel-Rimbury assemblages were made up of lots of 'big' and frequently fresh sherds (between 9 and 10.2g). The earlier material should be seen as essentially a background assemblage typical of so many of the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire gravel terrace sites (see Patten 2009 for example). The later material and particularly the Deverel-Rimbury would appear to represent the sites pertinent assemblages especially in relation to the dominant feature sets (field boundaries and enclosure ditches).

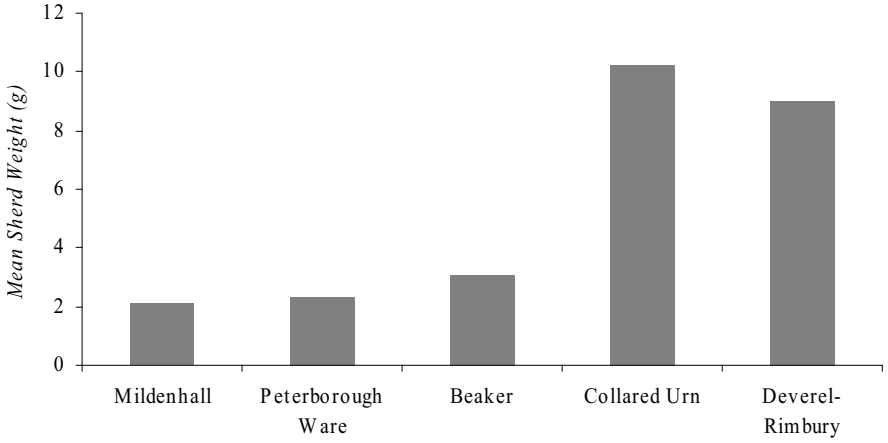


Chart 2: Mean sherd weights between the principle types

A.1.4 The following section has been divided into principle pottery types and describes key assemblages and relevant diagnostic attributes.

Mildenhall – (990, 1507 & 2166)

A.1.5 The Mildenhall assemblage was small but included classic Etton-style characteristics (Pryor 1998) including T-shaped and externally thickened rims with hints of incised lines along the rim top above plain neck zones. The fabric was equally Etton-type (abundant shell or abundant voids) as was the sherd colour dark reddy black. A similar diminutive Etton-style Mildenhall assemblage was recorded at Tanholt Farm, Eye (Patten 2009).

***Peterborough Ware –(*1367 & 1428)**

A.1.6 The Peterborough Ware fragments shared the same fabric as the Mildenhall pieces but included exaggerated forms (deep necks and pronounced shoulders) indicative of the later form.

***Beaker* – (1391 & 1400)**

A.1.7 Thin walled sherds, grog-rich fabric as well as comb-impressed and fingernail rustication represent familiar Beaker attributes. The material from pit feature [1400] consisted of small pieces of at least three different vessels including fine and rusticated forms an as such can be compared with similar domestic assemblages found elsewhere around the Peterborough fen edge (Gibson 1982; Beadsmoore 2005; Gibson & Knight 2006; Patten 2009).

Collared Urn

A.1.8 The bulk of the Collared Urn assemblage came from a small cluster of pits **816** and residually from a fieldsystem ditch **754** that truncated that cluster . Refits, or at least sherds from the same vessel, were identified between some of the pits within the cluster suggesting a coherent domestic assemblage. The pits produced rim, collar, neck and shoulder fragments decorated with cord-impressed and incised patterns (hurdle, herring-bone and lattice) and shared the same slightly 'soapy' grog fabric (Fabric 6).

Complete Collared Urn 3301

A.1.9 A very large and almost complete Collared Urn containing cremated human bone was located within cremation burial **3301**. The vessel had been buried upright and consequently had lost most of its collar to plough truncation. What remained of the vessel was a large plain biconical form with a tapered base. Its fabric was the same as the 'domestic' urns (Fabric 6). The urn was found as an isolated cremation burial away from any obvious features and as such matches similar features located to the immediate south at Bradley Fen, Bradley Fen Farm and King's Dyke West (Gibson & Knight 2002 & 2006).

A.1.10 With few exceptions domestic Collared Urn assemblages appear to be pretty much unique to the East Anglia's fen-edge (see Garner 2007). Comparative assemblages to Briggs Farm can be found immediately to the west at Tanholt Farm (McFadyen 2000) or immediately south at King's Dyke West, Whittlesey (Gibson & Knight 2002).

Deverel-Rimbury

A.1.11 Substantial Deverel-Rimbury assemblages (<100g) came from ditch contexts 514, 517, 530, 629 (ditch **510**), 690 (ditch **681**) and 959 (ditch **520**) and pit contexts 1514 (pit group **1009**) and 2611 (pit group **2609**).

A.1.12 The Deverel-Rimbury sherds included rim, body and base sherds belonging to relatively thin-walled (4-11mm) and small diameter (12-24cm) barrel (slightly closed) or bucket-shaped vessels. Rim forms were dominated by simple flattened profiles although simple rounded, internally bevelled an expanded types were also identified. The vast majority of the fragments were plain but some sherds retained single horizontal 'cordons' of fingernail or fingertip impressions. Decoration occurred just below the rim or around the girth. Another dominant characteristic was the abundant finely crushed shell visible in the surface of most of the sherds. Overall the assemblage had a uniform appearance that was in part accentuated by an absence of perhaps more familiar Deverel-Rimbury attributes such as applied or raised cordons, incised cable decoration or raised knobs

A.1.13 Analogous plain diminutive forms are illustrated in the Grimes Graves publication (Longworth, Ellison & Rigby 1988) together with the larger perhaps more familiar embellished varieties. The adjacent Tanholt Farm site has generated a similar size collection of Deverel-Rimbury but much of its assemblage belonged to cemetery contexts and consequently large bucket-types. Substantial assemblages on par with the Grimes Graves material have recently been recovered from Middle Bronze Age 'fieldsystem' sites immediately across the county boundary in southern Lincolnshire. At both West Deeping and Langtoft shell-rich Deverel-Rimbury assemblages have been recorded from ditch and enclosure contexts.

?Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.

A.1.14 Two contexts (1171 and 1302) produced small fragments of pottery made of a compact or dense fabric that looked different from the rest of the assemblage and had a distinctly 'late' appearance (Ditch **1149** and Roundhouse 1). Although too small to be unambiguously diagnostic these sherds may represent the sites only post 2nd millennium BC ceramics.

Discussion

A.1.15 The Deverel-Rimbury pottery represents the most important component of the Briggs Farm prehistoric assemblage. The scale and domestic character of the material make it stand out but equally significant is the context of the assemblage. The fieldsystems of the Flag Fen basin have produced very little Deverel-Rimbury pottery from non-funerary contexts. The domestic Middle Bronze Age has been conspicuous by its absence especially when contrasted to the impressive domestic Beaker and Collared Urn assemblages found throughout the basin. Significantly the Briggs Farm material appears to have had a direct relationship to large enclosure ditches as opposed to the smaller linear fieldsystem boundaries. This relationship suggests something different from previously seen in the Flag Fen basin environs and perhaps has more in common with the Lincolnshire systems where discrete enclosures have been found 'hanging-off' pre-existing linear field boundaries (Hutton 2008; Murrell forthcoming).

Fabric Series

Fabric 1 - Medium to medium hard with super abundant well crushed SHELL (sometimes rounded; compact fabric)

Fabric 2 - Medium with frequent small linear VOIDS (lost shell) and possible common GROG and rare small stones/burnt flint.

Fabric 3 - Hard with common small rounded SAND & possible common GROG (abrasive)

Fabric 4 - Medium hard with common small GROG and occasional to common SHELL/ VOIDS

Fabric 5 - Medium hard with common small to medium GROG (thin walled)

Fabric 6 - Hard with frequent medium GROG (soapy) rare voids

Fabric 7 – Medium with frequent small platelet VOIDS (lost Shell; red & black coloured fabric)

Fabric 8 - Medium hard with frequent very small GROG (mixed colours) & occasional SAND

Fabric 9 - Hard with common medium-large burnt FLINT

Catalogue

Context	Cut	Master No	Category	Feature Type	Weight (kg)	Number	Weight (g)	Rim	Base	Dec	Type	Fabric	Description
514	512	510	fill	ditch	0.121	6	119	3	0	1	DR	1, 2	Thumbnail cordon.
515	512	510	fill	ditch	0.04	1	36	1	0	0	DR	1	Also has BN
517	516	510	fill	ditch	0.008	3	7	0	0	0	DR	1	
517	516	510	fill	ditch	0.193	13	191	5	0	2	DR	1, 2, 3	Fabric 3 hard with common small rounded sand & possible common grog (abrasive). Has residue sherd for C14
518	516	510	fill	ditch	0.016	5	15	1	0	0	DR	2	simple rim
529	527	510	fill	ditch	0.099	7	97	0	0	0	DR	1	
530	527	510	fill	ditch	0.314	14	250	4	2	1	DR	1	rough finish - also base sherd with residue for C14
530	527	510	fill	ditch	0.195	11	192	3	0	0	DR	1	Medium to medium hard with super abundant well crushed shell (sometimes rounded)(compact fabric) Wall thickness 5-11mm.
530	527	510	fill	ditch	0.045	4	44	2	0	0	DR	1	
611	617	617	fill	ditch	0.017	7	16	0	0	0	DR	1	
619	618	520	fill	ditch	0.042	6	40	0	0	0	DR	1	
621	618	520	fill	ditch	0.053	7	52	0	0	0	DR	1	includes lost shell
629						14	208	6	5	0	DR	1	Abrasive. Burnt & unburnt
629	628	510	fill	ditch	0.003	5	44	1	1	0	DR	1	
629	628	510	fill	ditch	0.045	8	50	1	1	0	DR	1, 3	Box also has 68g of BC and a piece of BN
631	628	510	fill	ditch	0.006	2	5	0	0	0	DR	1	
634	646	597	fill	ditch	0.03	9	30	1	0	0	DR	1	Includes 'big' shell (Red fabric) & dense groggy rim
689	691	681	fill	ditch	0.054	1	53	0	0	0	DR	1	

Context	Cut	Master No	Category	Feature Type	Weight (kg)	Number	Weight (g)	Rim	Base	Dec	Type	Fabric	Description
690	691	681	fill	ditch	0.122	15	142	3	0	0	DR	1	Mineralised sherds
813	818	754	fill	ditch	0.013	3	12	1	0	1	CU	6	Cord-impressed lattice design (plus residual tiny Beaker sherd?)
814	818	754	fill	ditch	0.03	7	27	0	0	0	CU	6	Includes neck angle
816	830	816	fill	pit	0.023	5	22	1	0	1	CU	6	Cord-impressed lattice design same as 813
819	833	816	fill	pit	0.026	1	26	1	0	1	CU	6	?same as [820]
819	833	816	fill	pit	0.081	9	79	0	0	0	CU	6	
820	833	816	fill	pit	0.063	12	63	2	0	6	CU	6	Hard with frequent medium grog (soapy) Twisted cord impressed (Hurdle?)
857	0	857	layer	layer	1.008	139	999	3	3	2	DR	4	Has fingernail slashes along rim edge medium hard with common small grog and occasional to common shell/voids
937	940	940	fill	ditch	0.005	2	5	0	0	0	BA	5	
938	940	940	fill	ditch	0.001	1	1	0	0	0	BA	5	
949	950	520	fill	ditch	0.009	2	9	2	0	0	DR	2	Slight external thickened
959	960	520	fill	ditch	0.01	11	9	0	0	0	DR	2	
959	960	520	fill	ditch	0.262	33	252	4	1	0	DR	2	Medium with frequent small linear voids (lost shell) and possible common Grog and rare small stones/burnt flint. Includes burnt sherds. WT: 4-10mm
970	971	520	fill	ditch	0.013	9	12	0	0	0	DR	2	(BA)
980	981	520	fill	ditch	0.04	7	39	2	1	2	DR	1	Includes 2 body sherds with 'wheat-ear' impression
982	985	754	fill	ditch	0.002	1	2	0	0	0	CU	6	
989	990	990	fill	pit	0.016	12	15	0	0	0	EN	7	
989	990	990	fill	pit	0.011	8	10	1	0	0	EN	7	One externally thickened rim (could still be DR possibly)
1004	1007	1007	fill	pit	0.006	1	6	1	0	1	BA	4	Squared rim has trace of incised line/twisted cord-impressed line across the top of the rim (could be CU could be DR)
1015	1016	1010	fill	gully	0.003	1	2	0	0	0	DR	2	possible fingernail/tip dec.

Context	Cut	Master No	Category	Feature Type	Weight (kg)	Number	Weight (g)	Rim	Base	Dec	Type	Fabric	Description
1114	1115	923	fill	ditch	0.004	1	4	0	0	1	NE	9	Hard with common medium-large burnt flint (fingertip decoration PDR?)
1133	1138	754	fill	ditch	0.008	1	8	0	0	0	BA	4	Possible collar frag?
1148	1148	857	layer	layer	0.04	5	39	0	0	0	BA	4	
1152	1154	1149	fill	ditch	0.001	1	1	0	0	1	BA	6	cord-impressed?
1156	1158	923	fill	ditch	0.008	1	8	0	0	0	BA	8	Medium hard with frequent very small GROG (mixed colours) & occasional SAND
1171	1173	1149	fill	ditch	0.003	1	3	0	0	1	LBA	8	Thin-walled compact with incised line decoration (?LBA)
1183	1182	1201	fill	post hole	0.003	1	3	0	0	0	DR	1	
1196	1195	1201	fill	post hole	0.002	1	2	0	0	0	DR	2	
1208	1210	617	fill	ditch	0.005	4	5	0	0	0	BA	4	Plain body sherd (could be CU also)
1209	1210	617	fill	ditch	0.014	2	14	1	0	0	DR	1	
1225	1228	617	fill	ditch	0.022	7	21	1	0	0	DR	2	Pinched T shaped rim flattened top
1245	1248	816	fill	pit	0.201	13	198	2	0	1	CU	?6	incised herring-bone on collar and incised slashes on rim top. Also 2 collar frags
1245	1248	816	fill	pit	0.001	1	2	1	0	1	CU	6	small diameter
1246	1248	816	fill	pit	0.061	6	61	0	1	1	CU	6	Burnt, includes collar frag with incised/impressed herring bone design made with a shell edge?
1277	1279	816	fill	pit	0.131	5	130	0	0	0	CU	6	includes neck angle/shoulder
1278	1279	816	fill	pit	0.057	2	57	0	0	0	CU	6	?base and burnt
1302	1305	1331	fill	gully	0.004	3	4	1	0	0	LBA	4	medium with grog & voids thin walled PDR?
1378	1367	1367	fill	natural	0.037	23	37	0	0	0	PW	7	One deep neck/pronounced shoulder frag
1390	1391	1391	fill	pit	0.033	16	31	0	0	5	BK	5	twisted cord, finger nail (rows & pairs) small and abraded
1427	1428	1428	fill	pit	0.021	2	20	0	0	0	PW	7	red plain sherds

Context	Cut	Master No	Category	Feature Type	Weight (kg)	Number	Weight (g)	Rim	Base	Dec	Type	Fabric	Description
1441	1442	1009	fill	pit	0.063	6	62	0	0	0	DR	1	
1447	1448	1446	fill	ditch	0.029	4	28	0	0	0	DR	1	
1472	1473	1400	fill	post hole	0.094	24	93	3	1	18	BK	5	Medium hard with common small to medium grog (Thin walled 5mm, and compact)
1474	1475	1400	fill	post hole	0.002	1	1	0	0	0	DR	2	
1486	1487	1009	fill	post hole	0.006	7	6	0	1	0	DR	2	crumbs
1506	1507	1400	fill	natural	0.037	7	36	4	0	0	EN	7	Medium with frequent small platelet voids (lost Shell; red & black coloured fabric); Looks like Etton Mildenhall very feint hint of incised line decoration on rim?
1514	1442	1009	fill	pit	0.691	20	633	0	20	0	DR	1	All base refits as one (plus crumbs)
2171	2170	2166	fill	test pit	0.004	5	4	0	0	1	EN	7	One incised frag.
2176	2177	2177	fill	pit	0.034	8	34	1	1	1	DR	1	Includes compact grog tempered pieces of rim and nail impressed piece
2310	2314	2310	fill	pit	0.009	3	8	2	0	0	DR	2	Thin upright slightly inturned simple rim from a small urn, also out-turned rolled rim of same fabric
2334	2335	2271	fill	ditch	0.01	1	10	0	0	0	DR	1	
2470	2478	2271	fill	ditch	0.006	2	6	1	0	0	LBA	8	PDR? or DR (Grog)
2532	2488	2488	fill	water hole	0.003	1	3	1	0	0	CU	6	Plain black rim (similar to Langtoft CU)
2167	2166	2166	fill	tree bole	0.027	10	25	3	0	3	EN	7	Etton-style Mildenhall with incised dec on rim tops. Almost T-shaped rim
2611	2610	2609	fill	pit	0.685	67	491	4	0	2	DR	1	Feint fingernail/tip cordon on two sherds
2636	2638	2609	fill	pit	0.005	1	5	0	0	0	BA	4	Burnt
2637	2638	2609	fill	pit	0.008	1	7	0	0	0	DR	1	
3068	3069	3044	fill	gully?	0.003	1	3	0	0	0	CU	6	

Context	Cut	Master No	Category	Feature Type	Weight (kg)	Number	Weight (g)	Rim	Base	Dec	Type	Fabric	Description
3143	0	3136	surface finds		0.001	2	1	0	0	0	DR	2	crumbs

Table 12: Pottery Catalogue

A.2 Assessment report on the Collared Urn from Cremation Burial 3301

By Rob Law

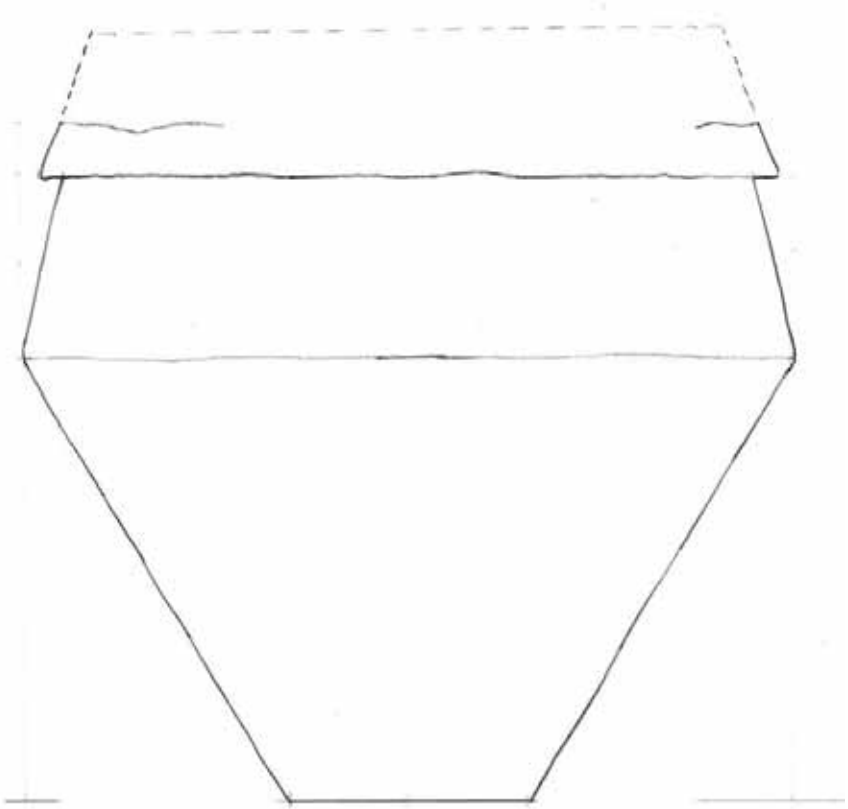
Dimensions: Height: c.38.5cm remains.
Width of base: c.13.5cm.
Width of mouth: N/A.
Fabric: Medium-hard. Moderate small- often flattened- pieces of grog. Small cork-like voids present on the vessel's interior and exterior surface.
Form: Group C
Decoration: None ?

Comments

A.2.1 The urn is in a fragile and fragmentary state. Apart from a single small undecorated rim sherd - made from a similar fabric to the rest of the urn and with a simple rounded profile - only sections from the lowest part of the vessel's collar remains. As sections of the collar's lower rim protrude up to 1.5cm from the vessel's neck, and angle towards the mouth at approximately 70 degrees, the collar is likely to have had the kind of deep 'hat-like' profile described by Burgess (1986:348). Although the width of the vessel's mouth remains unknown, one can estimate- given the diameter of the urn at the shoulder and at the top of its neck- that it would have been somewhere in the region of 40cm in diameter.

A.2.2 Although it is not possible to calculate the base to mouth ratio of this vessel, in terms of its size and overall proportions, it belongs to the category Group C: Collared Urns between 26-45cm tall with a base to mouth ratio of 1:2.1 and above (Law 2008: 157-162, Figure 4.21). Had the diameter of this particular vessel's mouth been around 40cm, its base to mouth ratio would have been 1:2.9, while standing over 38cm tall. Vessels belonging to Group C tend to be vase-shaped, with wide mouths, well defined collars, broad shoulders and a body that narrows towards a small base (ibid.). While this urn displays these formal characteristics (see Figure 1), unlike most Collared Urns from the Cambridgeshire region assigned to Group C, it appears to be undecorated (though decoration may have been present on those sections of collar destroyed prior to excavation). In general, Group C vessels tend to carry more complex decorative schemes than those urns assigned to Group A and Group B; schemes which cover more of the vessel's surface, and which are made using a wider range of decorative techniques.

A.2.3 Vessels belonging to Group C have been recovered from round barrows, bowl barrows, a flat grave, cemetery, and occupation context (ibid.). The other two undecorated Group C vessels from Cambridgeshire come from Manea [Longworth's no.89] and Great Wilbraham [no.76]; both having been recovered from barrow contexts.



The Collared Urn from Thorney (not shown to scale).

A.3 Lithics

By Barry Bishop

Introduction and methodology

A.3.1 The excavations at the above site resulted in the recovery of 364 pieces of struck flint and a small quantity of otherwise unmodified burnt flint fragments. This report quantifies the material, describes its basic characteristics, assesses its significance for the further understanding of activity at the site and recommends any further work required to achieve its full research potential. The material was rapidly scanned, catalogued and, where possible, a date range suggested. No metrical, technological or other analyses were attempted and any conclusions presented here may be superseded by a more thorough examination of the material.

Distribution and Dating

A.3.2 The 364 pieces of struck flint were recovered from a large and diverse range of contexts. Some of these, particularly the Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pits and some of the Middle Bronze Age features, may have contained flintwork that was at least broadly contemporary but it was likely that the majority of the assemblage had been residually deposited into later features. The assemblage was chronologically mixed. The largest part, perhaps the greater part of the assemblage, exhibited technological traits consistent with Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries, but also well-represented were pieces more characteristic of Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flintworking traditions. A smaller component of the assemblage consisted of more-crudely worked cores and flakes and these may indicate the continuation of flintworking during the later second or first millennium BC, these perhaps being associated with the extensive evidence for settlement identified at the site.

Significance

A.3.3 The assemblage is relatively large for the region and has the ability to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of settlement and landscape exploitation of this area during the periods represented, as well as adding to any future syntheses of the prehistory of this area.

Recommendations

A.3.4 This report is based on a preliminary examination and quantification of the lithic material recovered during investigations at the site. This has identified that it has the potential to increase understanding of occupation, mobility and landscape use of the area during the Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age periods and may inform on the nature of flintworking during the later prehistoric period, this perhaps being associated with the extensive settlement evidence identified.

A.3.5 The assemblage has been briefly examined and catalogued. In order for its potential to be fully realized further work is recommended. Further work should concentrate on a more detailed examination of the assemblage with the aim of :

- Identifying and establishing more precisely the chronology of flint use at the site
- Forming an understanding of the relationship between raw material acquisition, flint production, use and discard
- Establishing the range of products that may have been manufactured and how these may have been used during the periods of flint use
- Examining the discard practices undertaken during the different periods
- Exploring the technological choices made by those making and using flint implements and how these may inform on the role and significance that these assemblage held for those using them
- Discussing how the material compares and contrasts to other lithic assemblages from the region and the implications that this may have for broader settlement strategies and patterns of landscape exploitation

This will require:

- A re-examination and detailed cataloguing of the assemblage in order to identify the typological/technological signatures of the material from the different periods represented in order to understand the various ways in which flint was used at the site
- Examining the distribution patterns of the assemblages from the various periods represented in order to examine the spatial patterns of flint use at the site
- An understanding of the contextual and distribution patterns of the assemblages from contexts containing potentially contemporary flintwork
- A consideration of the potentially in situ assemblages' relationships with other deposited materials, involving the integration of data from other artefact categories, such as bone, pottery etc.
- Comparison of the typological/technological characteristics of other similarly dated but poorly understood assemblages from the region.

A.3.6 Following this further work, it is recommended that the findings are fully written up and, alongside illustrations of the most relevant pieces, included in any published account of the investigations.

Catalogue

Context	Feature Type	Master Number	Decortication Flake	Core Rejuvenation Flake	Flake	Chips	Flake Fragments	Blade	Blade-like Flake	Retouched	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Date	Description	burnt
501	Surface finds	501			1								M-EBA		
501	Surface finds	501								1			MEN	Long-end scraper	
501	Surface finds	501	1										UD		
501	Surface finds	501			2					1			MEN	backed blade	
501	Surface finds	501			1								N		
517	ditch	510								1			M-EBA	Serrate	
518	ditch	510								1			MEN	Edge trimmed blade. Burnt	
528	ditch	510								2			M-EBA	end-and-side scraper. Hammerstone/pounder	
541	ditch	520						1			2		M-EBA		
564	ditch	510										3	BA	all crude core fragments	
565	ditch	510								1			LNEBA	scraper	
570	ditch	510			1								BA		
571	ditch	510	1					1			3		Mostly BA	All crude minimally worked cores	
574	ditch	577			1								BA		
590	ditch	597						1					MEN	medial segment	
593	ditch	597						1					M-EBA		
629	ditch	510			1		1						N-BA		

Context	Feature Type	Master Number	Decortication Flake	Core Rejuvenation Flake	Flake	Chips	Flake Fragments	Blade	Blade-like Flake	Retouched	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Date	Description	burnt
629	ditch	510								1			M-EBA	scraper	
629	ditch	510	1		1						2		BA	Both cores crude and on flakes	
629	ditch	510						1					MEN	Burnt, possibly utilized	
631	ditch	510								1			N-BA	scraper	
634	ditch	597	1		1				1				N-BA		
667	water hole	588			1								M-EBA		
678	ditch	681								1			MEN	Long-end scraper	
689	ditch	681					1						UD		
690	ditch	681			1				1				M-EBA		
694	water hole	588						1					MEN		
726	ditch	681										1	UD	fragmented core	
736	water hole	660			1								UD		
747	water hole	660						1					MEN		
772	post hole	1241						1					MEN	burnt	
813	ditch	754	1		1								N-BA		
813	ditch	754								1			LNEBA	scraper	
813	ditch	754									1	1	N-BA		
819	pit	816			1			1		1		1	M-EBA	scraper. All pieces burnt	1
820	pit	816	1										UD		
820	pit	816									1		LNEBA	Centripetal	
831	pit	816			1			1					M-EBA		
835	ditch	577								1			M-EBA	circular scraper	

Context	Feature Type	Master Number	Decortication Flake	Core Rejuvenation Flake	Flake	Chips	Flake Fragments	Blade	Blade-like Flake	Retouched	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Date	Description	burnt
852	ditch	632			1						1		BA	Crude core on flake	
858	ditch	923									1		N-BA	Keeled - chopper-like	
872	ditch	520							1	1			M-EBA	Nosed' scraper	
872	ditch	520								1			LNEBA	side scraper	
911	post hole	1241							1				M-EBA	Possibly retouched	
921	pit	1241			1							1	UD		
930	buried soil	930			1						1		M-EBA	Discoidal	
937	ditch	940						3					MEN		
939	ditch	940	1										UD		
951	ditch	577			1			1					MEN		
965	ditch	923								1			MEN	Edge-trimmed blade fragment	
989	pit	990	4		3			3		3			N	2 X refitting edge trimmed flakes. Scraper. Many other flakes and blades appear utilized	
999	natural	998			1								BA		
1001	natural	998								1			UD	scraper	
1004	pit	1007			1								N-BA		
1035	gully	1010			1		1					1	UD		
1043	gully	1010										1	UD		
1077	gully	1046									1		MEN	multiplatformed blade core	
1119	ditch	940			1						1	1	M-EBA		

Context	Feature Type	Master Number	Decortication Flake	Core Rejuvenation Flake	Flake	Chips	Flake Fragments	Blade	Blade-like Flake	Retouched	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Date	Description	burnt
1130	ditch	754			1								M-EBA		
1130	ditch	754								1			M-EBA	Serrate	
1135	ditch	754						1					MEN	Possibly obliquely truncated but tip missing	
1135	ditch	754						1					MEN		
1145	ditch	597									1		BA	Minimal	
1170	ditch	1149						1					MEN	utilized	
1204	post hole	1201						1					MEN		
1206	ditch	998			4								M-EBA		
1209	ditch	617										1	UD		
1220	ditch	754	1										UD		
1229	ditch	1230			1								M-EBA		
1245	pit	816			1			1					LNEBA	Flake struck from polished implement	
1247	pit	816									1		M-EBA	burnt blade core	
1277	pit	816			1					1			LNEBA	Thumbnail scraper. All pieces burnt	
1302	gully	1331						1					M-EBA	burnt	
1308	gully	1331									1		BA	crude multiplatformed	
1341	pit	816			1		1			1			LNEBA	bifacially worked flake	
1342	pit	816	1		4		2						UD	All burnt	
1343	pit	816					1						UD		
1349	Surface finds	1349			1								M-EBA		

Context	Feature Type	Master Number	Decortication Flake	Core Rejuvenation Flake	Flake	Chips	Flake Fragments	Blade	Blade-like Flake	Retouched	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Date	Description	burnt
1350	Surface finds	1349	1										UD		
1351	Surface finds	1349			1								BA		
1352	Surface finds	1349								1			M-EBA	Scraper	
1353	Surface finds	1349	1								2		MEN + BA	Irregular centripetal core. Opposed platformed blade core	
1354	Surface finds	1349						1		1			MEN	edge trimmed/damaged	
1355	Surface finds	1349			1								UD		
1356	Surface finds	1349			1								N-BA		
1357	Surface finds	1349								1			M-EBA	Scraper	
1359	Surface finds	1349								1			M-EBA	Minimal piercer	
1366	natural	1367								2			M-EBA	Scraper. edge trimmed. From same nodule	
1366	natural	1367									1		M-EBA	Irregular but has produced some blades/ narrow flakes	
1378	natural	1367	3		6			1			2	1	M-EBA		
1379	natural	1367	2	1	7	1	1	9	2		2		MEN		
1379	natural	1367			1		1						UD		1
1387	pit	1385			1	1				1			MEN	Serrate	
1389	pit	1385		1						1			MEN	Edge trimmed blade	
1390	pit	1391	1		4					2			LNEBA	Bifacially worked flake. Small scraper	
1415	pit	1385			1								N-BA		

Context	Feature Type	Master Number	Decortication Flake	Core Rejuvenation Flake	Flake	Chips	Flake Fragments	Blade	Blade-like Flake	Retouched	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Date	Description	burnt
1415	pit	1385	1				2	1					M-EBA		
1427	pit	1391		1	3			3					M-EBA		
1429	pit	1391			1								M-EBA		
1432	natural	0			2						1		BA		
1447	ditch	1446								1			M-EBA	Scraper/edge rimmed flake fragment	
1452	natural	0						1					MEN		
1474	post hole	1400			1								UD		
1497	post hole	1009			1								N-BA		
1502	post hole	1009						1					MEN		
2019	Surface finds	0								1			M-EBA	scraper	
2020	Surface finds	2020			1								M-EBA		
2021	Surface finds	2020						1					MEN		
2022	barrow	2010			1	1							N-BA		
2025	natural	2010			1			1		1			M-EBA	scraper	
2050	Surface finds	1020								1			M-EBA	Serrate	
2051	Surface finds	2020						1					MEN		
2055	barrow	0						1		1			M-EBA	Burnt serrate	
2062	barrow	2010							1				M-EBA		
2066	barrow/buried soil	2010	1										UD		
2100	ditch	2100					1						UD		

Context	Feature Type	Master Number	Decortication Flake	Core Rejuvenation Flake	Flake	Chips	Flake Fragments	Blade	Blade-like Flake	Retouched	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Date	Description	burnt
2167	natural	2166			1					1			M-EBA	cf Plano-convex knife on blade	
2171	test pit	2166	1										BA		
2175	pit	2177										1	UD	burnt core fragment	
2175	pit	2177						1					MEN		
2175	pit	2177			1								N-BA		
2176	pit	2177	1										UD		
2214	ditch	2214			1								M-EBA		
2223	ditch	2214	1									1	N-BA		
2263	water hole	2248			1						1		N-BA		
2276	ditch	2122									1		BA	Crude centripetal	
2279	ditch	2122			1			1			1		M-EBA		
2283	ditch	2100								1			MEN	Truncated blade, possible part of composite tool	
2295		2020								1			EBA	Barbed and tanged arrowhead made on striped flint	
2296		2020									1		M-EBA	Blade/barrow flake	
2309	ditch	2297			1								N-BA		
2310	pit	2310			1								N-BA		
2324	ditch	2271								1			BA	edge trimmed/damaged	
2397	ditch	2297						1					M-EBA		
2470	ditch	2271									1		UD	single platformed	

Context	Feature Type	Master Number	Decortication Flake	Core Rejuvenation Flake	Flake	Chips	Flake Fragments	Blade	Blade-like Flake	Retouched	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Date	Description	burnt
2532	water hole	2488					2						UD	Burnt.	
2536	water hole	2488	2										UD		
2540	water hole	2488							1				MEN	Burnt, possibly serrated	
2548	Surface finds	2020						1					MEN		
2549	Surface finds	2020								1			N-BA	Denticulate	
2550	Surface finds	2020								1			LNEBA	piercer	
2551	Surface finds	2020						1					MEN	medial segment	
2552	Surface finds	2020					1						UD		
2553	Surface finds	2020			1								BA		
2554	Surface finds	2020								2			M-EBA	two scrapers	
2555	Surface finds	0						1					MEN	possible piercer	
2556	Surface finds	2020								1			M-EBA	serrate	
2557	Surface finds	2020						1					M-EBA		
2558	Surface finds	2020							1				M-EBA		
2559	Surface finds	0	1										UD	thermal' ventral -natural?	
2560	Surface finds	2020	1										UD		
2562	Surface finds	2020								1			Neo	Bifacially retouched flake - arrowhead blank?	
2563	Surface finds	2020						1		1			EN	Leaf shaped arrowhead/ laurel leaf	
2564	Surface finds	2020	1										M-EBA	Blade shaped	

Context	Feature Type	Master Number	Decortication Flake	Core Rejuvenation Flake	Flake	Chips	Flake Fragments	Blade	Blade-like Flake	Retouched	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Date	Description	burnt
2565	Surface finds	2020	1							1			M-EBA	bifacially retouched distal of thick blade - wedge?	
2566	Surface finds	2020					1	1					M-EBA		
2567	Surface finds	2020				1							M-EBA		
2583	ditch	2020									1		M-EBA	Small irregular bifacial centripetal	
2611	pit	2609										1	UD	Shattered core or natural	
3011	ditch	3001							1	1			M-EBA	Edge-trimmed flake fragment	
3055	water hole	3061									1		M-EBA	very small single platformed	
3068	gully?	3044								1			M-EBA	Serrate, distal used as piercer?	
3085	natural	3044										1	UD	burnt	
3097	ditch	3099			1								BA		
3101	buried soil	3001			2			1		2			M-EBA	Serrate. Scraper. the blade may be a worn serrate/edge trimmed	
3105	post hole	3103						1					M-EBA		
3136	Surface finds	3136			1								M-EBA		
3137	Surface finds	3136			1						1		MEN	small blade core	
3138	Surface finds	3136						1					M-EBA		
3139	Surface finds	3136						1					MEN		

Context	Feature Type	Master Number	Decortication Flake	Core Rejuvenation Flake	Flake	Chips	Flake Fragments	Blade	Blade-like Flake	Retouched	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Date	Description	burnt
3140	Surface finds	3136								1			M-EBA	Edge-trimmed	
3141	Surface finds	3136								1			M-EBA	Multiplatformed flake core	
3142	Surface finds	3136	1										M-EBA	Blade shaped	
3144	Surface finds	3136									1		BA	crude core on flake - probably a denticulated core-tool	
3145	Surface finds	3136								1			N	scraper	
3146	Surface finds	3136								1			LNEBA	circular scraper	
3147	Surface finds	3136								1			UPal-EN	Very large crested blade reused as burin	
3148	Surface finds	3136					1						UD		
3149	Surface finds	3136					1						UD		
3150	Surface finds	3136			1								M-EBA		
3151	Surface finds	3136			2								M-EBA	both burnt	
3151	Surface finds	3136								1			MEN	Long-end scraper	
3153	Surface finds	3136						1					MEN		
3154	Surface finds	3136								1			MEN	edge trimmed/worn serrated blade	
3155	Surface finds	3136								1			M-EBA	Long-end scraper	
3156	Surface finds	3136			1								M-EBA		
3157	Surface finds	3136						1					MEN		
3158	Surface finds	3136													1

Context	Feature Type	Master Number	Decortication Flake	Core Rejuvenation Flake	Flake	Chips	Flake Fragments	Blade	Blade-like Flake	Retouched	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Date	Description	burnt
3166	natural	3044								1			M-EBA	Bifacially worked oval flake - cf unfinished arrowhead	
3179	ditch	3159			1								M-EBA		
3190	ditch	3025			1								BA		
3226	Surface finds	3136			1								MEN		
3227	Surface finds	3136						1					MEN		
3228	Surface finds	3136								1			M-EBA	serrated blade	
3229	Surface finds	3136			1								UD	Struck from a hammerstone or pounder	
3230	Surface finds	3136									1		M-EBA	single platformed	
3232	Surface finds	3136								1			N	Fat' arrowhead - unfinished?	
3233	Surface finds	3136								1			M-EBA	scraper	
3254	ditch	3159		1			1	1					M-EBA		
3269	water hole	3061						2					MEN		
3280	buried soil	3281	1										UD		
3282	buried soil	3281			1								BA		
3295	ditch	3099										1	UD		
3319		3136	1		2		1	1					M-EBA		
3324	cremation	3301										1	UD		

Table 13: Flint catalogue

A.4 Assessment of Fired Clay Material

By Elaine L Morris

Introduction

A.4.1 A total of 6.80kg of fired clay material, often found in association with later Bronze Age pottery at Brigg's Farm, was submitted for rapid assessment. Examination of the assemblage revealed that there are three major groups of fired clay material: ceramic debris resulting from salt production (briquetage), clay weights and undiagnostic fired clay fragments. In addition, there is a unique, complete ceramic ring.

Briquetage

A.4.2 All four classes of Fenland region briquetage (Morris 2001, 41) are present: containers, support-pedestals, structural material, and miscellaneous fragments. The container sherds are in good condition, and two contexts have quite large pieces of base originating from shallow evaporation pans. What is most unusual, however, is that these container sherds are made from two different fabrics; some are made from an organic-tempered fabric which has a sandy clay matrix and others from a vesicular fabric which appears to have once had fragments of shell grit in the fabric. Wallsherds of these open pans range from thin (<7mm) to thick (16mm). The pedestals, which are one of many different types of supports used to raise ceramic containers or pans above the fire during evaporation, include well-known types with footplate bases and solid, round stems but two examples have flat bar-shaped tops, one of which is complete. One new pedestal type has a frilly, curved base and another is convex or lozenge-shaped in plan, rather than round-stemmed. Some of these pedestals were made from an organic-tempered, sandy fabric and others from a sandy fabric with remnant, natural flint detritus present. Fragments assigned to structural material or hearth fragments were recognised by their single extremely flat or wiped surface and the unwedged, layered appearance of the fabric.

A.4.3 This is a most unusual assemblage of Bronze Age briquetage pedestals from the fen edge region. Some are quite unique and others appear to be very similar to examples from the Essex coast. Having two different fabrics used to make the containers is also very unusual – organic-tempered briquetage containers are usually found in first millennium BC salt production contexts with shell-gritted/vesicular examples belonging to the Bronze Age period of the second millennium BC. The presence of hearth material (not oven material but open firing, direct heating system remnants) is not common during the second millennium BC. The vast majority of the briquetage collection was recovered from the north-east extension of the excavated area of the site where the number of features is densest.

Clay Weights

A.4.4 Fragments of several clay weights were recognised in the fired clay assemblage based on the presence of some identified as cylindrical (and one possible pyramidal) in form with perforations, and other fragments of weights by the similarity of their fabric preparation, fabric type and firing condition. The majority of weights were made from a silty clay matrix fabric containing quite rare pieces of flint detritus which had not been

removed from the natural clay during manufacture. When the weights were being made, the fabric was not well wedged to merge the natural bedding planes of the original clay or was simply roughly squeezed into shape as required. It seems that the weights had been made, in several cases, from saltwater due to the bleaching of the clay by the chlorine released from heating the salt in the fabric – or that these weights, normally referred to as loomweights or thatch weights, had actually been used as pedestal substitutes in the salt making process.

Ceramic Ring

A.4.5 Context 530 in ditch **510** produced a large fragment of cylindrical clay weight, three sherds of briquetage, and a complete, ceramic ring. This ring was made from the same fabric as the cylindrical weight, a silty clay matrix containing rare pieces of naturally-occurring flint detritus. It is highly likely that this ceramic ring is unique in the region.

Undiagnostic Fired Clay

A.4.6 As on most sites, many fragments, flakes and lumps of fired clay were found which cannot be assigned to any identifiable ceramic objects or activities.

Recommendations

A.4.7 The briquetage, clay weights and ceramic ring require detailed analysis, cataloguing and reporting, while the undiagnostic fired clay can be scanned to be certain that no fragments of briquetage have been unrecognised during this rapid assessment. It is recommended that one sample of each briquetage fabric be selected for petrological analysis in order to compare to the pottery fabrics and to single samples from the general fired clay material because the latter are most likely to represent local clay resources utilised by the settlement occupants during the Bronze Age. This would mean approximately 10 samples (6 from fired clay materials; 4 from pottery fabric) would require consolidation prior to preparation as a thin section for examination using a polarising microscope.

A.4.8 Each pedestal type (5), container form type (4), the ring (1), and two of the clay weights (2) should be drawn to publication standard in order to illustrate the type series, some elements of which are currently unique to Brigg's Farm.

A.4.9 A full, publishable report should be written which discusses the range of fabrics and forms found in each group of material, present comparable examples in the region if possible, or discuss the similarity of these forms to examples from outside the region if necessary, particularly focussing on the impact of such similarities.

Context	Cut	Master Number	Feature	WT (kg)	Comments
517	516	510	ditch	0.097	Briquetage - pedestal (lozenge type); organic/sandy fab.
517	516	510	ditch	0.175	Briquetage - pedestal (solid cylinder type), stem
517	516	510	ditch	0.377	Briquetage - pedestal (lozenge type); organic/sandy fab.
517	516	510	ditch	0.374	Briquetage - various small frags of different types
528	527	510	ditch	0.028	Briquetage - container sherds; organic/sandy fab; TH2, TH4

Context	Cut	Master Number	Feature	WT (kg)	Comments
529	527	510	ditch	0.036	Briquetage - container sherds; 1 rim & 4 @ TH2, 1 @TH3, 1 @ TH4
529	527	510	ditch	0.066	Briquetage - miscellaneous class
529	527	510	ditch	0.037	Briquetage - structural material (hearth type - very flat surface)
530	527	510	ditch	0.294	Clay Weight - cylindrical type with v large perforation; silty fabric
530	527	510	ditch	0.053	Clay Ring - unoxidised firing condition; silty clay; practice piece/toy
530	527	510	ditch	0.036	Briquetage - container sherds; rim & bases; organic/sandy fabric
532	531	510	ditch	0.084	Briquetage - container sherds; bases - small fragments
532	531	510	ditch	0.091	Briquetage - container sherds; bases - big and beautiful
540	539	520	ditch	0.263	Briquetage - container sherds; organic/sandy fab; TH5-6
540	539	520	ditch	0.028	Briquetage - container sherds; flakes and fragments
540	539	520	ditch	0.214	Briquetage - pedestal; complete footplate & part of stem; org/sandy
570	569	510	ditch	0.023	Clay Weight - cylindrical type, frag of one end; silty fabric
570	569	510	ditch	0.01	Briquetage - container sherds; shelly/vesicular fabric - ?base
593	597	597	ditch	0.011	UNWASHED POTTERY - UNOXIDISED FIRING
621	?	?	?	0.021	?Briquetage - ?container sherds; organic-tempered into sandy fabric; frags.
629	628	510	ditch	0.334	Briquetage - pedestal (Essex-type); two joining pieces; organic/sandy
629	628	510	ditch	0.218	Briquetage - container sherds; body sherds and base fragments
629	628	510	ditch	0.085	Briquetage - container sherds; very fine base of shallow container (big)
629	628	510	ditch	0.064	?Clay Weight - ?cylindrical type fragment
629	628	510	ditch	0.064	?Clay Weight - ?cylindrical type fragment
826	821	821	pit	0.471	Briquetage - pedestal; unique form type - frilly, curled base, stem and bar
901	900	1241	post hole	0.015	Clay Weight - pyramidal type, frag; and two lumps of simple fired clay?
959	960	520	ditch	0.342	?Clay Weight - ?pyramidal type fragment or Briquetage pedestal?
980	981	520	ditch	0.134	Briquetage - pedestal; hand-squeezed stem type; broken both ends
980	981	520	ditch	0.004	Briquetage - container sherd; organic/sandy fabric
1004	1007	1007	pit	0.004	Uncertain fired clay
1011	1012	1010	gully	0.007	Briquetage - pedestal; stem fragment; sandy fabric

Context	Cut	Master Number	Feature	WT (kg)	Comments
1011	1012	1010	gully	0.002	Uncertain fired clay
1013	1014	1010	gully	0.002	Briquetage - container sherd; richly organic-tempered into sandy clay
1013	1014	1010	gully	0.03	Briquetage - miscellaneous class (organic-tempered into sandy clay)
1015	1016	1010	gully	0.001	Uncertain fired clay - sandy clay matrix fabric with occasional detritus
1095	1036	1010	gully	0.002	Uncertain fired clay - sandy clay matrix fabric with occasional detritus
1099	1100	1097	post pipe	0.009	Uncertain fired clay - unwashed lump - possibly sandy fabric
1145	1147	597	ditch	0.085	Briquetage - pedestal; hand-squeezed stem type; sandy fabric
1179	1177	1201	post hole	0.021	Uncertain fired clay - silty fabric; small fragments
1179	1177	1201	post hole	0.044	?Clay Weight - probably cylindrical; sandy fabric with detritus flint
1179	1177	1201	post hole	0.03	?Clay Weight - probably cylindrical, with perforation; silty fabric
1209	1210	617	ditch	0.132	Clay Weight - cylindrical; use of salt water in production due to WH bleaching
1225	1228	617	ditch	0.038	Uncertain Fired Clay - lumps; sandy fabric with detritus flint
1226	1228	617	ditch	0.06	Uncertain Fired Clay - lumps; sandy fabric
1227	1228	617	ditch	0.005	?Briquetage - ?container sherd; organic-tempered sandy fabric
1303	1305	1331	gully	0.012	Uncertain Fired Clay - lumps; sandy fabric
1304	1305	1331	gully	0.096	?Briquetage - ?pedestal; organic-tempered sandy fabric; stem/base frag?
1308	1309	1331	gully	0.103	?Clay Weight - ?cylindrical type fragment; sandy fabric
1324	1326	1331	gully	0.003	Briquetage - container sherd; organic-tempered sandy fabric
1375	1377	632	ditch	0.038	Uncertain Fired Clay - lumps; sandy fabric
1375	1377	632	ditch	0.118	Uncertain Fired Clay - lumps; silty fabric
1378	1367	1367	natural	0.213	Briquetage - container sherds; ?rim and body sherds; vesicular/shelly fabric
1378	1367	1367	natural	0.2	?Briquetage - ?structural material; ?hearth fragments
1387	1385	1385	pit	0.008	Uncertain Fired Clay - lump; sandy fabric with detritus
1387	1385	1385	pit	0.001	Briquetage - container sherd; organic-tempered sandy fabric
1409	1410	1097	post hole	0.004	Uncertain Fired Clay - lump; sandy fabric with detritus
1449	1451	1446	ditch	0.008	Uncertain Fired Clay - lump; silty fabric
1479	1478	1009	post hole	0.245	Uncertain Fired Clay - lumps; sandy fabric; one curved lump

Context	Cut	Master Number	Feature	WT (kg)	Comments
1506	1507	1400	natural	0.017	Uncertain Fired Clay - lumps; sandy fabric
1539	1541	1009	pit	0.011	Uncertain Fired Clay - lumps; ?sandy/silty fabric
2111	2114	2104	ditch	0.01	Uncertain Fired Clay - lumps; sandy fabric; one looks like a coprolite!
2175	2177	2177	pit	0.006	Uncertain Fired Clay - lump; sandy fabric
2300	2301	2271	ditch	0.02	Briquetage - ?pedestal; fragment with the appearance of briquetage
2311	2314	2310	pit	0.001	Uncertain Fired Clay - lump; silty fabric
2529	2531	2271	ditch	0.002	Uncertain Fired Clay - lump; sandy fabric
2611	2610	2609	pit	0.127	Briquetage - pedestal; hand-squeezed, stem & base; organic into sandy fabric
2636	2638	2609	pit	0.036	Uncertain Fired Clay - lumps; sandy fabric
2636	2638	2609	pit	0.005	Briquetage - container sherds; vesicular/?shelly fabric
2637	2638	2609	pit	0.01	Briquetage - container sherd; vesicular/?shelly fabric
2637	2638	2609	pit	0.02	Uncertain Fired Clay - lumps; sandy fabric
2651	2653	2609	pit	0.001	Uncertain Fired Clay - lumps; sandy fabric
2651	2653	2609	pit	0.011	MOST LIKELY THIS IS CHARCOAL/COAL
2705	2702	2696	ditch	0.297	Briquetage - structural material (hearth type - very flat surface); WH obvious
3215	3189	3189	pit	0.003	Uncertain Fired Clay - lump; silty fabric

Table 14: Fired clay catalogue

A.5 Worked Animal Bone

By Chris Faine

A.5.1 Two significant pieces of worked animal bone were recovered from the Briggs Farm, Thorney assemblage:

A.5.2 SF13 (570) Ditch **510**: Sheep/Goat distal metapodial. Length 68mm. Consists of lateral condyle and portion of diaphysis. Hole 40mm wide drilled horizontally through condyle. Proximal end tapered and polished, most likely ending in a point (although this portion is missing). Possibly a needle for use on hides?

A.5.3 SF19 (692) Ditch **632**: Sheep/Goat proximal left metacarpal. Length 81mm. Posterior portion of epiphysis and shaft missing but this most likely occurred during excavation. Possible hole drilled through vertically through proximal epiphysis, although due to post-ex damage this cannot be confirmed. Distal end roughly tapered/polished. Possibly used as a handle or point.

A.6 Wood

By Michael Bamforth

Introduction

A.6.1 This report has been compiled by Michael Bamforth of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Oxford Archaeology East.

A.6.2 This document aims to assess the potential of the waterlogged wood assemblage in terms of woodworking technology, woodland reconstruction, decay analysis, species identification, dendrochronology and conservation and retention.

A.6.3 A total of 112 discreet items were recorded at the offices of Oxford Archaeology East.

Provenance

A.6.4 The material was recovered during excavations carried out by Oxford Archaeology East at Briggs Farm, Thorney, Cambridgeshire, during winter 2008.

A.6.5 The waterlogged wood was all recovered from the fills of a series of features interpreted as wells, lying within a field system and assigned a Middle Bronze Age date (Pers. Comm. R. Mortimer)

Methodology

A.6.6 This document has been produced in accordance with English Heritage guidelines for the treatment of waterlogged wood (Brunning 1996) and recommendations made by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) for the retention of waterlogged wood.

A.6.7 All discreetly numbered items and those displaying evidence of modification or woodland management were recorded individually using the L _ P : Archaeology pro forma 'wood recording sheet' which is based on the sheet developed by Fenland Archaeological Trust for the post excavation recording of waterlogged wood. All records were then entered into a database.

A.6.8 Bulk collections or samples of natural wood were assessed as a whole. Every effort was made to refit broken or fragmented items. However, due to the nature of the material, the possibility remains that some discreet yet broken items may have been processed as their constituent parts as opposed to as a whole. The metric measurements were taken with hand tools including rulers and tapes, the toolmarks were measured using a profile gauge.

A.6.9 The system of categorisation and interrogation developed by Taylor (1998 & 2001) has been adopted within this report.

A.6.10 Joints and fixings are described in accordance with the Museum of London archaeological site manual (Spence 1994).

A.6.11 Items identifiable to species by morphological traits visible with the naked eye (oak and ash) were noted. Other items were sub-sampled to allow later identification to genus via microscopic identification as necessary.

Range and Variation

	Artefact	*Bark*	*Debris*	*Round Wood*	*Timber*	*Total*
Water hole 2			1	2		3
Water Hole 3		2	13	1	1	17
Water Hole 5	1	10	2	17		30
Water Hole 7			1	3	2	6
Water Hole 8	1		1	49	1	52
Water Hole 9				1		1
Water Hole 12				2		2
Unassigned				1		1
Total	2	12	18	76	4	112

Table 15: Frequency of wood categories

A.6.12 A broad variety of categories of material are present. The assemblage is dominated by roundwood (68%), the majority of which comes from an area of possible wattle work in Water Hole 9.

A.6.13 The second largest category of material is debris (16%). The debris includes seven woodchips, seven pieces of timber debris and four pieces of unclassified debris. The majority of the debris, including all the woodchips, was recovered from Water Hole 3.

A.6.14 None of the bark showed any evidence of woodworking.

A.6.15 The timber assemblage includes a large, multiply jointed beam of unknown function.

A.6.16 Two artefacts were recovered, both of which are assigned as log ladders.

Miscellaneous Material

A.6.17 Four hazelnuts that were described as having “floated to the top” during excavation of Water Hole 9 were noted.

A.6.18 Water Hole 5 produced a single acorn from context (2352).

Condition of material

A.6.19 If preservation varies within a discreet item, the section that is best preserved is considered when assigning the item a condition score. Items that were set vertically in the ground often display relatively better preservation lower down and a relatively poorer preservation higher up.

	Museum Conservation	*Technology Analysis*	*Woodland Management*	*Dendrochronology*	*Species Identification*
5	+	+	+	+	+

4	-	+	+	+	+
3	-	+/-	+	+	+
2	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+
1	-	-	-	-	+/-
0	-	-	-	-	-

Table 16: Condition scale use in this report

A.6.20 The condition scale developed by the Humber Wetlands Project (Van De Nort, Ellis, Taylor & Weir 1995 TABLE 15.1), will be used throughout this report. The condition scale is based primarily on the clarity of surface data. Material is allocated as core dependent on the types of analysis that can be carried out, given the state of preservation. The condition score reflects the possibility of a given type of analysis but does not take in to account the suitability of the item for a given process.

A.6.21 Using the above condition scale, the majority of the material scored a 4.

Condition	***Frequency***	***% of Assemblage***
0	0	0
1	0	0
2	3	2.7
3	36	32.1
4	73	65.2
5	0	0

Table 17: Condition of Material

A.6.22 This condition score reflects a well preserved assemblage. Technological analysis, an assessment of possible woodland management practices and species identification is possible throughout the assemblage.

A.6.23 Although the condition of the material would be suitable for dendrochronological analysis, none of the material has a sufficient number of rings to allow this type of analysis.

Statement of Potential

A.6.24 A complete catalogue of the recorded material can be found in Tables 18 to 22

Artefacts

A.6.25 Two log ladders were recovered from this site, from Water Holes 5 and 9. Over recent years, several log ladders have been recovered, often from gravel sites within or bordering the Cambridgeshire fens, but also in the Thames valley. A comparison with other known examples recovered from the area (Pryor 1978: FIG. 27, Taylor 2005) will add to our growing understanding of the construction, use and deposition of these

artefacts.

Bark

A.6.26 None of the bark recorded displayed any wood working evidence. Although it is likely that these items are naturally derived, it remains possible that they may have become detached as part of a woodworking process. This material has no potential to further our understanding of the site.

Debris

A.6.27 The majority of the debris was recovered from within Water Hole 3. Brief analysis of the debris, in terms of the species present, the type of woodworking represented and its distribution within the feature will allow what appears to be an area of woodworking activity to be characterised. Some of the debris shows evidence of degradation prior to burial. This may inform the site formation processes of this feature. Species identification of the non-oak material will inform regarding species selection and possibly the type of woodland being exploited.

Roundwood

A.6.28 A brief analysis of the roundwood in terms of woodworking, species selection and ring counts will allow a fuller understanding of woodland management practices, and possibly the type of woodland being exploited in the area.

Timber

A.6.29 The timber assemblage consists of four items. The majority of the woodworking evidence is basic in nature and can be rapidly characterised. A single item is heavily jointed (W014(752)Water Hole 3), displaying three mortise joints (one broken) and a halving lap joint. A comparison with other similar items present in the literature (Taylor 2001: 23, Bamforth 2008) may elucidate the function of this item, and identify types of structure that may have been present on the site.

A.6.30 None of the material displays a sufficient number of rings to be suitable for dendrochronological dating.

Toolmarks

A.6.31 Nine tool marks were recovered from three different items. Although brief analysis will allow a limited understanding of the type of tool utilised, this assemblage is too small to allow any meaningful statistical analysis.

Miscellaneous Material

A.6.32 The hazelnuts from Water Hole 9 probably represent naturally accumulated debris. However, it is worth noting that hazelnuts are a source of both food and oil (Usher 1974: 178).

A.6.33 Water Hole 5 produced a single acorn from context (2352), although this is again likely to be naturally accumulated debris, acorns can also be exploited as a food source (Usher 1974: 494).

New Research Questions and Potential of Data

A.6.34 No new research questions have arisen as a result of assessing the waterlogged wood assemblage.

Recommendations

A.6.35 A basic characterisation of the woodworking technology will be carried out, this will focus on the two Log Ladders from Water Holes 5 and 9, as well as the heavily jointed timber W014(752)Water Hole 3). All three of these items should be illustrated to provide a full record for archive. Analysis of the debris in Water Hole 3 is also suggested.

A.6.36 The toolmarks should be illustrated to provide a complete record for archive.

A.6.37 The material has been visually assessed for condition. Further scientific decay analysis is not required.

A.6.38 The 23 non-oak, individually recorded items should all be identified to species. A total of 62 pieces of roundwood from Water Holes 5 and 9 were assessed as a bulk assemblage. It is suggested that an approximately 30% sub-sample (20 items) are identified to species. Along with ring counts where possible, identification to species will provide information that may elucidate the issue of woodland reconstruction.

A.6.39 None of the material displays a sufficient number of rings for dendrochronology.

A.6.40 Two items are of sufficient interest and have sufficiently complex and well preserved woodworking to be recommended for conservation and subsequent retention:

A.6.41 Log Ladder (W001(2249)Water Hole 5) is the most complete example of this type of artefact preserved to date.

A.6.42 Multiply jointed timber (W014(752)Water Hole 3) displays two different types of jointing three mortises and a halving lap.

Catalogue

Wood Number	Feature	Context	Cut	Species	Wood type	Coppicing evidence	Tool Marks	Bark/Sapwood/ Heartwood	Conditional score	Type of woodworking	Woodworking notes	Function notes	Length (mm)	Undistorted diameter
W0001	Water Hole 5	2249	2248	Not identified	ARTEFACT	N	Y	BSH	3	TR	1 end/ 1 dir. 6 x steps. 2 x SB both 1 end/ 1 dir	Log ladder	1953	133
W0007	Water Hole 9	2592	2488	Not identified	ARTEFACT	N	Y	BSH	4	TR	1 2nd/ 2 dir/ 1 step	Log ladder	1215	1

Table 18: Artefact catalogue

Wood Number	Feature	Context	Cut	Species	Bark/sapwood/heartwood	Conditional Score	Type of wood working	Woodworking notes	Split type	Length (mm)	Max Breadth (mm)	Max Thickness (mm)
W0006	Water Hole 9	2591	2488	Not identified	BSH	3	SP		Rad 1/3	1210	98	45
W0005	Water Hole 7	2532	2350	Quercus sp.	H	3	SP		Rad (mod)	785	65	45

Wood Number	Feature	Context	Cut	Species	Bark/sapwood/heartwood	Conditional Score	Type of wood working	Woodworking notes	Split type	Length (mm)	Max Breadth (mm)	Max Thickness (mm)
W0014	Water Hole 3	752	660	Quercus sp.	H	4	SP TR	1 end/ 1 dir, halfing lap, mortise, mortise, broken mortise	Rad (mod)	1770	215	150
W0003	Water Hole 7	2352	2350	Quercus sp.	H	2	SP		Tan	1030	230	58

Table 19: Timber catalogue

Wood Number	Feature	Context	Cut	Species	Condition score	Length (mm)	Max breadth (mm)	Max thickness (mm)
W0021	Water Hole 3	752	660	Not identifiable	3	35	24	9

Table 20: Bark catalogue

Roundwood

Wood Number	Feature	Context	Cut	Species	Wood Type	Coppicing Evidence	Tool Marks	Damage Notes	Bark/Sapwood/ Heartwood	Condition Score	Type of Woodworking	Woodworking notes	Length (mm)	Diameter long (mm)	Diameter short (mm)	Undistorted diameter (mm)
W002	Water Hole 5	2249	2248	Not Identified	RW				SH	4	TR	Distal end/ 2 dir. Proximal end/1 dir to tapered point	1200			89
W004	Water Hole 7	2352	2248	Not Identified	RW	Straight and even			SH	4	SP/TR	1 end/ all dir. To tapered point. Other end is split to tapered point	653			36
W009	Water Hole 7	2352	2350	Not Identified	RW			Fragmented	BSH	4	TR	1 end/ 1 dir.	360+			29
W0012	Water Hole 7	2352	2350	Not Identified	RW	Straight and even			BSH	4	TR	1 end/ 2 dir to tapered point	130+			29
W0018	Water Hole 3	752	660	Not Identified	RW				BSH	4	TR	1 end/ 3 of 4 dir to tapered point	220			55
W0035	Water Hole 12	3303	3184	Not Identified	RW			Fragmented	BSH	2						
W0036	Water Hole 9	2660	2488	Not Identified	RW				BSH	4	TR	1 x SB trimmed	210	50	45	
W0037	Water Hole 8	2382	2384	Not Identified	RW				BSH	3	TR	1 end/ 1 dir to point	320			105
W0039	Water Hole 2	1549	588	Not Identified	RW			Fragmented	SH	2			145			130
W0040	Water Hole 12	3303	3184	Not Identified	RW	Straight and even	Y		BSH	4	TR	1 end/ 1 dir to point	620			108

Wood Number	Feature	Context	Cut	Species	Wood Type	Coppicing Evidence	Tool Marks	Damage Notes	Bark/Sapwood/ Heartwood	Condition Score	Type of Woodworking	Woodworking notes	Length (mm)	Diameter long (mm)	Diameter short (mm)	Undistorted diameter (mm)
W0043		2600		Not Identified	RW	Straight and even			BSH	3			360	48	33	
W0044	Water Hole 9	2646	2488	Not Identified	RW				BSH	4			730			25
W0045	Water Hole 9	2647	2488	Not Identified	RW	Straight and even			BSH	4	TR	1 end/ 1 dir to tapered point	590			83
W0049	Water Hole 2	1550	558	Not Identified	RW	Straight and even			BSH	3	TR	1 end/ 1 dir to blunt point	290			39

Table 21: Roundwood catalogue

Water Hole 5 [2248] (2352)

16 roundwood samples were assessed from this feature. All showed evidence of coppicing, being straight and even along their length. All were less than 120mm long. Diameters varied between 12-16mm.% items were selected to be identified to species.

Water Hole 9 [2488] (2645)

46 roundwood subsamples were assessed from this feature.

Of these, 13 were classed as natural roundwood, with lengths of less than 190mm and diameters varying between 8-10mm. 4 of these items were selected to be identified to species. Of these, 24 items were classed as roundwood, with lengths less than 170mm and diameters varying between 10-12mm. 6 of these were selected to be identified to species. Of these, 5 items were classed as roundwood, with lengths less than 350mm and diameters varying between 35-45mm. 2of these were selected to be identified to species. Of these, 4 items were classed as roundwood, with lengths less than 160mm and diameters varying between 10-15mm. These items had coppicing evidence, in that they were straight and even along their length. 2 of these items were selected to identifiable species.

Debris

Wood Number	Feature	Context	Cut	Species	Type of Debris	Damage Notes	Bark/Sapwood /Heartwood	Condition Score	Type of Woodworking	Woodworking notes	Split Type	Length (mm)	Max Breadth (mm)	Max Thickness (mm)
W0008	Water Hole 7	2352	2350	*Quercus Sp.*	Timber debris	Surface looks worn and rolled	H	3	SP	Split fades at 1 end	Rad/Tan /Sq	420	61	30
W0015	Water Hole 3	752	660		Wood chip	Surface looks worn and rolled	H	3	SP	-	Rad	95	38	19
W0016	Water Hole 3	752	660	*Quercus Sp.*	Wood chip	Surface looks worn and rolled	H	3	SP	-	Rad	85	38	12
W0017	Water Hole 3	752	660		Timber debris	Surface looks worn and rolled	H	3	SP	-	Rad	248	65	32
W0019	Water Hole 3	752	660	*Quercus Sp.*	Wood chip	Surface looks worn and rolled	H	3	SP	Cube	Rad/Tan	60	42	28
W0020	Water Hole 3	752	660	*Quercus Sp.*	Wood chip	Surface looks worn and rolled	H	3	SP	Cube	Rad/Tan	60	40	23
W0023	Water Hole 3	752	660	*Quercus Sp.*	Wood chip	Surface looks worn and rolled	H	3	SP	-	Tan	90	29	10
W0024	Water Hole 3	752	660	*Quercus Sp.*	Wood chip	Surface looks worn and rolled	H	3	SP	-	Tan	95	30	12
W0025	Water Hole 3	752	660	*Quercus Sp.*	Wood chip	Surface looks worn and rolled	H	3	SP	-	Tan	40	22	9
W0026	Water Hole 3	752	660	Not identified	Wood chip		SH	4	SP/TR	-	Off RW	55	25	12

Wood Number	Feature	Context	Cut	Species	Type of Debris	Damage Notes	Bark/Sapwood /Heartwood	Condition Score	Type of Woodworking	Woodworking notes	Split Type	Length (mm)	Max Breadth (mm)	Max Thickness (mm)
W0027	Water Hole 3	752	660	Not identified	Wood chip		SH	4	SP/TR	-	Off RW	65	29	9
W0028	Water Hole 3	752	660	*Quercus Sp.*	Timber debris	Surface looks worn and rolled	SH	3	SP	Off roundwood	Rad	240	48	25
W0029	Water Hole 3	752	660	*Quercus Sp.*	Timber debris	Surface looks worn and rolled	SH	3	SP	Off roundwood	Rad	245	38	15
W0030	Water Hole 3	752	660	*Quercus Sp.*	Timber debris	Surface looks worn and rolled	SH	3	SP	Off Roundwood	Rad	225	38	20
W0038	Water Hole 2	1549	588	Not identified	Timber debris		H	3	SP	-	Tan	180	45	30
W0041	Water Hole 9	2649	2488	Not identified	Timber debris		H	4	SP/TR	1 end/all dir to tapered point	Tan	295	58	22
W0047	Water Hole 5	2252	2488	*Quercus Sp.*	Unclassified		H	4	SP/TR	1 end/ 1 dir	Rad/Tan /Sq	104	30	29
W0048	Water Hole 5	2252	2488	*Quercus Sp.*	Unclassified		H	4	SP/TR	1 end/ 1 dir	Rad/Tan /Sq	255	44	13

Table 22:Debris catalogue

A.7 Assessment of the Human Bone

By Natasha Dodwell

Introduction

A.7.1 Cremated human bone was identified in six features across the site and a further two contexts contained unburnt bone. Three of the features, all unurned burials (**2067**, **2710** & **2040**), were located beneath, or cutting into, a small barrow mound (**2010**) at the end of a slight ridge extending toward the Fen edge. The others were seemingly isolated with two truncated, unurned burials on higher ground to the north (**1500** & **2137**), and an urned cremation within a large Collared Urn to the southwest at the end of a second ridge (**3301**). In addition to the cremated bone, a very poorly preserved human skull was identified below the barrow mound (**2718**) and a disarticulated fragment of femur shaft was recovered from a fill of part of a large rectangular enclosure within the Middle Bronze Age settlement area (575, Ditch **577**).

Methods of Excavation and Analysis

A.7.2 In all of the unurned cremation burials the fills were excavated in spits and in quadrants so that any possible patterning in the distribution of skeletal elements might be recognised in post excavation analysis. In addition, for two of the cremation burials, cuts **2710** and **2067**, single bones or small groups of elements were plotted and bagged individually as an additional aid to analysing the distribution of elements and to avoid further fragmentation of the bone. For the urned burial, cut **3301**, the vessel was lifted and its fill excavated in the same manner but in laboratory conditions. All of the soil from the features containing cremated bone, including the fill of the pot, were wet sieved and the burnt bone fragments >5mm were separated from the gravels and any charcoal.

A.7.3 For this assessment all of the cremated bone >5mm was weighed and then scanned in order to determine how many individuals were represented in each feature, and to give an approximate age and sex to each individual where possible. These results are provisional and further work is necessary which will be outlined below.

Results

A.7.4 The results are summarised in tabular form at the end of this report.

Unburnt human bone

A.7.5 An extremely fragmentary adult skull (**2718**) was identified below the mound of the barrow truncated by cremation burial (**2710**). No other bone was identified but the poor preservation of the skull and teeth may suggest that a complete skeleton was originally buried here and that the acidic soil has destroyed the rest of the body. If so, this skull may represent the primary burial associated with the monument.

A.7.6 A disarticulated fragment of femur shaft came from the fill Ditch **577** (Enclosure 5) within the Middle Bronze Age settlement.

Cremated Human bone

A.7.7 One urned cremation burial, four unurned cremation burials and a disturbed cremation

burial were identified across the site. Three of the unurned burials were associated with the barrow and two of these show evidence of burning on the cut edges suggesting that the pyre was constructed directly over the cut (see below). The presumed primary cremation burial **2067**, is of particular interest as it contains the cremated remains of two individuals; an adult female and an immature individual. Because of the way it was excavated it was possible to determine that the remains of the two individuals where quite separate with the majority of the child's bones at the base of the cut.

A.7.8 From the six deposits containing cremated human bone just over 6.5kg of bone >5mm was recovered. Cut **2137** had been disturbed by probable animal activity and only contained 20g of bone. However the other four burials with a single adult individual contain between 591g and 2577g of cremated bone, close to the expected weight; the weight of cremated adults has been recorded as falling between c. 850g and 5400g (Bass & Jantz 2004; Murad 1998; Warren & Maples 1997) with most authors giving a mean of around 2.5kg.

A.7.9 In all five of the undisturbed cremation burials the bone fragment size was relatively large (some pieces were 80mm long) making bone identification relatively straightforward and suggesting either little working of the pyre or care when collecting the bones for burial.

A.7.10 The presumed primary cremation burial **2067**, lay at the centre of the barrow and was sealed by the mound material. Although the edges of the cut do not show evidence of direct burning, in that the soil has not been scorched pink or orange (as it has in **2710**) the edges are described as being lined with a baked silt. This, combined with the large pieces of burnt wood and evidence for partially articulated skeletal elements within the feature suggests that the pyre may have been built directly over the pit. Pyres constructed above pits, where the cremated body falls into the pit with the burnt timbers, and where the pit, with its scorched edges, becomes the grave cut, is a funerary practice known in the Roman period as a bustum type burial. In the last decade this type of pit/pyre burial has been identified in Cambridgeshire, as a Bronze Age funerary practice, at sites close to the Fen edge at Barleycroft, Bradley Fen and Over (Dodwell 1998, 2006 and forthcoming).

A.7.11 The second 'bustum-type' burial (**2710**) lay slightly to the east and appeared to have been truncated, suggesting that it may have been cut in through mound material. A third cremation deposit (**2040**) had been dug in to the mound material above and on the western side of the primary cremation.

Recommendations for further work

A.7.12 The nature of the site, the quantity and excellent preservation of cremated bone, the fact that the deposits are relatively undisturbed in conjunction with the careful and detailed excavation and on-site recording means that this assemblage offers great potential for furthering our understanding of funerary practices in the Bronze Age in the region.

A.7.13 It is therefore recommended that the unsorted residues should be scanned for small bones, particularly for teeth and that detailed osteological analysis, following procedures as outlined by McKinley (2002 and 2004), should be undertaken. Whilst scanning the cremated material, it became apparent in several features that elements from a particular region of the body were clustered together e.g. metacarpals and

longbones of the forearm. With reference to the phenomena of pit/pyre burials in Cambridgeshire which is discussed above more detailed analysis of any potential patterning needs to be undertaken.

A.7.14 Obtaining C14 dates from each of the burials will help in any discussion relating to the relationship between the burials in the barrow and those which are seemingly isolated.

Summary Table of Results

Cut/Master No	Depth	Fills	Location	Deposit type	Total weight <5mm	Age/Sex	Comments
		575	Ditch	disarticulated femur shaft		adult	from ditch of enclosure no 5
1500	0.15m	1503-5*	Isolated	unurned cremation burial	591g	adult	
2040	0.31m	2038-9, 2058-9 *	Barrow	unurned cremation burial	1123g	Subadult/young adult	Fills correspond to spits
2067	0.46m	2069 –72	Barrow	Unurned cremation burial	2609g	Adult female & immature	*In situ* burning. Primary cremation burial
2137	0.1-0.22m	2136	Isolated	cremation related feature (disturbed burial)	20g	Subadult/adult	Animal/root disturbance
2710	0.48m	2708-9, 2717-8, 2720-1	Barrow	Unurned cremation burial	1756g	Adult male	*In situ* burning. Cuts into the mound
		2718	Barrow	inhumation		adult	?primary burial. Only skull & teeth survive
3320	0.40m	3311, 3315-17, 3321-25*	Isolated	Urned cremation burial	2577g	Adult ? male	Within large Collared Urn

Table 23:Burial catalogue

A.8 Animal Bone

By Chris Faine

Introduction

A.8.1 Identifiable faunal material was recovered from 64 contexts, with a further 26 contexts containing no identifiable elements. Three hundred and ninety-four fragments were recovered with 128 identifiable to species (35% of the total sample).

The Assemblage

A.8.2 Recovery: the bones forming this assessment were collected by hand.

A.8.3 Residuality and contamination: no information regarding residuality or contamination is available to the author at this time.

A.8.4 Context: Faunal material was recovered from a variety of features including pits and linear features largely dating from the middle Bronze Age.

A.8.5 Preservation: the preservation of the assemblage is generally poor, with elements frequently water damaged and concreted.

A.8.6 Storage and quantity: the hand collected animal bones are stored in 5 long bone boxes measuring 38x25.5x13cm. The bones are washed and bagged by context. The total weight of the hand-collected bone is 25.51 Kg.

Assessment

A.8.7 Methods: All “countable” bones were recorded on a specially written MS Access database. The overall species distribution in terms of fragments (NISP) is shown in Table 24. The numbers of ageable mandibles and measurable bones are recorded in Tables 25 and 26. The counting system is based on a modified version of the system suggested by Davis (1992) and used by Albarella and Davis (1994). Completeness was assessed in terms of diagnostic zones (Dobney & Reilly, 1988). Ageing was assessed via tooth wear (Grant, 1982).

A.8.8 Variety: In terms of fragments (NISP) cattle are by far the most prevalent taxon making up 75% of the identifiable assemblage. Sheep/Goat represent only only 13.2% of the assemblage, with with pig and horse remains making up 5.4 and 1.5% respectively. Given the small sample size a relatively large number of ageable cattle and sheep/goat mandibles were recovered. Wild fauna are present in the form of red deer and small mammal remains. An intact, naturally shed red deer antler was recovered from context 685 (Ditch **687**)

Potential and recommendations

A.8.9 This is a relatively small and extremely fragmented assemblage, with relatively little potential for direct comparison with (often much larger) nearby sites; most notably Flag Fen and other large Bronze Age assemblages in the Fengate basin (Pryor, 2001). However, within the assemblage itself it should certainly be possible to produce an accurate age profile for the cattle and sheep/goat populations. This, along with further spatial analysis should help characterise the nature of the site. The preponderance of cattle remains is certainly interesting and warrants further analysis in the context of land use in the surrounding area.

Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	Other	Total
98	17	7	2	4	128

Table 24: Number of “countable” bones (NISP)

Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Total
19	3	4	26

Table 25 : Number of ageable mandibles

Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Other	Total
29	11	4	2	46

Table 26: Number of measurable elements

B.1 Initial Environmental Assessment

By Rachel Fosberry

Summary

B.1.1 Extensive sampling from this excavation phase has produced excellent results. Nearly two hundred samples were taken from a variety of features including several waterlogged features and five cremations. The samples show that there is good potential for further study and include an early discovery of flax seeds from Early Bronze Age features.

Introduction

B.1.2 A total of 198 samples were taken from features within the excavated areas of the site in order to investigate the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of these archaeological investigations.

Total number of bulk samples	*Samples from cremations*	*Monoliths/pollen samples*	*Waterlogged samples*
198	19	11	28

Table 27:Number of samples

B.1.3 Features sampled include secure archaeological contexts within pits, ditches, watering holes and nine cremations.

B.1.4 Monoliths were taken from several of the deeper features.

Sample No.	Feature	Cut No.	Feature Type	Comments
135	Water Hole 1	538	Water Hole	pollen sample
139	Water Hole 2	588	Water Hole	monolith from base of large Bronze Age pit
141	Water Hole 3	660	Water Hole	monolith from base of pit
201	Water Hole 12	3189	Water Hole	pollen sample taken from section
207	Water Hole 11	3061	Water Hole	column sample for pollen analysis
269	Water Hole 9	2388	Water Hole	2 pollen tins taken from base and middle of watering hole. Wood present in feature
273	Water Hole 5	2248	Water Hole	column sample with basal fill (2264) and above organic fill (2252) in pit [2248]
279	Water Hole 10	2525	Water Hole	as <277> pollen sample just in case
285	Water Hole 7	2350	Water Hole	monolith from base of watering hole
314	Barrow		ditch	from barrow ditch
286	Water Hole 8	2488	Water Hole	monolith from watering hole. Beneath preserved wood

Table 28:Number of monolith samples

Methodology

B.1.5 The volume of bulk soil samples collected was between 10 – 60L

B.1.6 10 litres of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The entire volume of each cremation sample was fully processed. The flots were collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residues were washed through a 0.5mm mesh. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residues were passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for ecofacts (e.g. animal bone, fish bone, charcoal, shell, etc..) and artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification. Identifications were made by the author without comparison to the OA East reference collection and should be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant classification follows Stace (1997).

Quantification

B.1.7 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

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

B.1.8 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

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

B.1.9 Summary tables have been included within this report

Results

Preservation

B.1.10 Many of the plant remains, predominantly cereal grains, were preserved by carbonisation.

B.1.11 28 samples were preserved by waterlogging (survival due to anioxic conditions).

Plant Remains

Cereals

B.1.12 Charred cereal grains are present in approximately 25% of the bulk samples. Preservation is variable with many of the grains being identified as cereals by their distinctive honeycomb internal structure. Several of the grains have been tentatively identified as Spelt wheat (Triticum spelta) or Emmer wheat (T. dicoccum) based on their morphology. Quantities vary with most samples containing less than ten grains. None of the samples contain more than a hundred grains (a quantifiable assemblage), however further processing should enable sufficient recovery.

B.1.13 Chaff elements occur as glume bases in only two samples.

Sample No.	***Master No.***	***Context No.***	***Cut No.***	***Type***	***Sample Size***	***Comments***
136	588		588	Water Hole 2	20	Waterlogged fill of large Bronze Age pit
270	2310	2310	2314	pit	20	Stones, possible clay lining. May be industrial

Table 29:Samples containing glume bases

Weed seeds

B.1.14 Charred seeds are generally rare and include vetches (Vicia sp.) and goosefoot (Chenopodium sp). An exception is the presence of flax (Linum usitatissimum) seeds in seven samples all from Early Bronze Age pits.

B.1.15 Charred tubers of Arrhenatherum elatius (False oat-grass) occur in four samples, three of which are cremations.

B.1.16 Waterlogged seeds are more abundant. Elder seeds (Sambucus sp) and bramble (Rubus sp.) are particularly common.

Sample No	Master No	Context No	Cut No	Feature Type	Sample size	Comments	Flot Volume (m)	Preservation	Cereals	Weed seeds	Small bones	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal >2mm	Flot Comments
58	816	1245	1248	Pit	20	Fill of probable EBA pit	80	charred	0	##	0	+++	++	Flax ## *Chenopodium sp.*
59	816	1246	1248	Pit	30	fill of probable EBA pit	100	charred	0	##	0	+++	++	Flax ##
75	816	1277	1279	Pit	60	Upper charcoal rich fill of EBA pit	1	charred	0	##	0	++	++	Flax ## *Chenopodium* ##
76	816	1278	1279	Pit	20	Fill of EBA? Pit with large pieces of charcoal	1	charred	0	##	0	++	++	Flax # *Chenopodium* ##
82	816	1341	1344	Pit	30	Upper fill of pit	10	charred	0	##	0	+++	++	Flax ## *Chenopodium* ##
83	816	1342	1344	Pit	60	Fill of pit containing a lot of charcoal	2	charred	0	##	#	+++	++	Flax # *Chenopodium* #
84	816	1343	1344	Pit	40	Basal fill of pit	2	charred	0	##	0	++	++	Flax # *Chenopodium sp.*

Table 30:Samples containing flax

B.1.17 Charred tubers of *Arrhenatherum elatius* (False oat-grass) occur in four samples, three of which are cremations.

Sample No	*Master No*	*Context No*	*Cut No*	*Feature type*	*Charcoal <2mm*	*Charcoal >2mm*
101	1500	1503	1500	Cremation	+++	+++
213	3301		3301	Cremation	+++	+++
23	632	632	633	Ditch	++	+++
266	3301	3325	3301	Cremation	+++	+++

Table 31:Samples containing charred tubers

B.1.18 Waterlogged seeds are more abundant. Elder seeds (*Sambucus* sp) and bramble (*Rubus* sp.) are particularly common.

Sample No	Master No	Context No	Cut No	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Weed Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal >2mm	Flot Comments	Residue Volume (ml)	Small animal Bones	Fired Clay	Residue comments
21		545	538	Water hole 1	2	2			##			Uncharred sambucus and rubus seeds	2800			No finds
26		586	588	Water hole 2	20	2			##			Abundant sambucus, also chenopodium and urtica	2300			No finds
29		750	660	Water hole 3	120	60			###			Sambucus, rubus sparse insects	2000			Lots of wood including 1 very large fragment. No finds
30		752	660	Water hole 3	80	120			##			Sambucus, berries, shrubby bits	4300			Lots of wood no finds
37		3032		pit	60	80			#			Shrubby bits	2000			Lots of wood
38		3024		pit	50	60			#			Orange, fine organic, sambucus	1100			Lots of wood
131		1545	538	Water hole 1	35	50			###			Rubus, sambucus	600			charcoal no magnetic
132		1546	538	Water hole 1	80	80			###			Few insects, rubus, sambucus	200			Lots of wood no magnetic
133		1547	538	Water hole 1	500	500			###			Few insects, rubus, sambucus	1800			Lots of wood no finds
134		1548	538	Water hole 1	40	40			###			Good weed seeds inc. Urtica, Carex, Chenpodium, Stellaria	1800			Lots of wood no finds
136			588	Water hole 2	50	50		#	###		#	Good weed seeds inc. Racnunculus, Urtica, Carex, Chenopodium,	1000			no finds

Sample No	Master No	Context No	Cut No	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Weed Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal >2mm	Flot Comments	Residue Volume (ml)	Small animal Bones	Fired Clay	Residue comments
												Stellaria.. Good insects				
137			588	Water hole 2	25	25			###			Same as 136 but no quite so rich	5000			no finds
138			588	Water hole 2	70	70			###			Same as 136 pick one or two for assessment	600			Lots of wood no finds
140		1565	588	Water hole 2	120	120			###			Fine sediment rubus sp, sambucus sp and good insects	1600			Lots of wood no finds
202		3215	3189	Water hole 12	30	30			###			Rubus sp, ranucunculus sp, chenpodium sp, nothing different	1800		+	Wood present not removed some charcoal
203		3204	3189	Water hole 12	35	35					#	No seeds	600			no finds
204		3209	3189	Water hole 12	30	30			###			Similar seeds- few insects	700	+		
206		3269	3061	Water hole 11	40	40			###	#	#	Single glume base – charred in a waterlogged sample	2500			no finds
211		3270	3061	Water hole 11	20	20			###			A few different seeds	4300			wood
274		2252	2248	Water hole 5	80	80				#	#	Lots of roots	800			no finds
275		2574	2525	Water hole 10	130	130			###			Few insects, rubus sp., sambucus sp. Woody bts	800			Lots of wood no finds
277		2519	2525	Water hole 10	60	60			##			Good insects, rubus sp.	3200			Wood fragments
278		2352	2350	Water hole 7	200	200			###			Rubus sp,berries, bit different	2800			Lots of wood no finds
280		2612	2350	Water hole 7									0			

Sample No	Master No	Context No	Cut No	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Weed Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal >2mm	Flot Comments	Residue Volume (ml)	Small animal Bones	Fired Clay	Residue comments
281		2597	2488	Water hole 7	250	250			###			Very shrubby, thorns. Rubus sp.	1900			Pretty much entirely wood, lots of seeds, nuts not removed no finds
292		2661	2488	Water hole 8	80	80			##			Few rumex sp	2100			A few wood fragments

Table 32:Samples containing waterlogged seeds

Charcoal

B.1.19 Wood charcoal predominates providing evidence of burning with the potential of carbon dating and/or species identification. The cremation samples all produced charcoal.

Samples No	Cut No/ Master No	Context No	Spit No	Sample size (l)	Comments	Flot Volume (ml)	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm
101	1500	1503			Small cremation, lots of bone burnt and unburnt	2	+++	+++
213	3320	3323		30	Inside cremation urn SF 25 Comprises 0.05m deep splits, all with individual context numbers. Top portion of urn base block lifted	450	+++	+++
214	3301	3311		70	Backfill of cremation cut, around urn SF 25. contains bone	1	++	++
251	2137	2136		c25	Cremated bone within fill of area of rooting. Very disturbed	30	+++	+++
266	3301	3325		5	Fill of cremation. From under vessel 3320 SF 25. charred wood. HSR	120	+++	+++
299	2040	2038	Spit 1		Barrow cremation includes skeletal remains	15	++	++
299	2040	2039	Spit 2		Barrow cremation includes skeletal remains	30	++	++
299	2040	2058	Spit 3		Barrow cremation includes skeletal remains	25	++	++
299	2040	2059	Spit 4		Barrow cremation includes skeletal remains	30	++	++
300		2055			Layer from barrow mound	3000	+++	+++
301	2710	2708		50	Top fill of cremation lots of charcoal in big lumps	2000	+++	+++
302	2710	2709			Fill of cremation some bone	200	+++	+++
307	2710	2717		25	Layer from cremation deposit	350	+++	+++
308	2710	2720		30	Layer from cremation, split into four buckets from different quadrants	250	+++	+++
309	2710	2721		40	Bottom fill of cremation	300	+++	+++
311	2067	2069		15	Cremation, upper fill	150	+++	+++
312	2067	2070			cremation	130	+++	+++
313	2067	2071			cremation	300	+++	+++
316	2067	2072			cremation	400	+++	+++

Table 33:Samples containing charcoal

Ecofacts and Artefacts

Metalworking residues

B.1.20 Despite several samples being taken specifically for metalworking residues, no hammerscale or slag was recovered from these samples.

Cremated bone

B.1.21 All of the cremation samples produced burnt bone.

Bone

B.1.22 Small fragments of animal bone are present in only fourteen of the residues.

Sample No	Master No	Context No	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample size (l)	Comments	Small animal bones	Large animal bones
20	510	517	516	ditch	20	Charcoal and possible macro		+
25	510	629	628	ditch	20	Charcoal ditch fill		++
48	397	1124	1147	ditch	20	Ashy charcoal dump deposit in big ditch		+
58	816	1245	1248	pit	20	Fill of probable EBA pit		++
59	816	1246	1248	pit	30	Fill of probable EBA pit		+
68	1241	799	798	Post hole	10	Charcoal stained fill		+
97	1446	1449	1451	gully	20	Gully terminus opposing [1448], really dark, organic fill, charcoal		+
100	1009	1486	1487	Post hole	10	Fill of post hole in area associated with metal working activity		+
204	3189	3209	3189	pit	20	Fill of pit, organic and charcoal	+	
262	2177	2176	2177	pit	20	Fill of pit containing charcoal and burnt bone		+
282	2609	2609	2610	pit	20	Small pit with a lot of Bronze Age pot and Bone		+
283	2609	2611	2610	pit	30	Charcoal rich, a lot of pot, some burnt bone. Initially thought to be a possible cremation		++
291	2609	2614	2610	pit	40	Pottery rich small pit		+
310	2020	2068		Buried soil	10	Buried soil on barrow. Check for % of charcoal in all barrow samples		++

Table 34: Samples containing animal bone

Pottery

B.1.23 Small sherds of pottery were recovered from nineteen of the residues including from some undated features.

Sample No	Master No	Context No	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample size (l)	Comments	Pottery
20	510	517	516	ditch	20	Charcoal and possible macro	+
25	510	629	628	ditch	20	Charcoal ditch fill	+
40	520	959	960	ditch	20	charcoal	+
41	857	857	-	layer	20	Dark charcoal layer containing lots of BA pot	+
46	990	989	990	pit	20	Basal charcoal rich fill of small BA pit, lots of flints	+
53	617	1225	1228	ditch	20	Dark charcoal deposit	+
58	816	1245	1248	pit	20	Fill of probable EBA pit	+
60	816	1247	1248	pit	<2	Fill of probable EBA pit	++
80	1230	1234	1235	Post hole	9	Pit fill some charcoal	+
84	816	1343	1344	pit	40	Basal fill of pit	+
93	1400	1398	1400	pit	10	Dark burnt silt/charcoal. Isolated post hole or small pit looked like cremation but no bone	+
95	1385	1389	1388	pit	10	Very charcoal rich possible flint	+
97	1009	1449	1451	gully	20	Gully terminus opposing 1448 really dark organic fill charcoal	+
98	1391	1427	1428	pit	20	Fill of shallow pit containing worked flints and fragile pot possibly Neolithic	+
99	1009	1479	1478	Post hole	1	Fill of small post hole. Look for hammer scale. Contained metal slag	+
111	1009	1516	1442	Post hole	<2	Sand bedding layer beneath clay lining of ?metalworking pit heat affected	++
258	2144	2152	2155	pit	20	Pit fill. charcoal	+
288	2609	2637	2638	pit	20	A lot of burning and fired clay	+
291	2609	2614	2610	pit	40	Pottery rich small pit	+

Table 35:Samples containing pottery

Fired Clay

B.1.24 Nineteen of the residues contained fragments of fired clay/burnt daub

Sample No	Master No	Context No	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample size (l)	Comments	Fired clay
24	520	621	618	ditch	20	Charcoal-rich ditch fill	+
25	510	629	628	ditch	20	Charcoal ditch fill	+
40	520	959	960	ditch	20	charcoal	++
53	617	1225	1228	ditch	20	Dark charcoal-rich deposit	+

Sample No	Master No	Context No	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample size (l)	Comments	Fired clay
54	617	1226	1228	ditch	10	Mixture of clay, charcoal and burnt clay	+++
55	617	1227	1228	ditch	20	Mid grey more ash than charcoal	+
57	1010	1095	1036	gully	20	Burnt material in top of roundhouse gully. Included burnt stone (not in sample)	+
68	1241	799	798	Post hole	10	Charcoal stained fill	+
74	1097	1099	1100	Post hole	20	Post pipe in post hole burnt silt stones, loomweight, cuts M.1010 gully	+
82	816	1341	1344	pit	30	Upper fill of pit	+
85	632	1375	1377	ditch	20	Burnt fired clay chucked into enclosure ditch or burnt there, can enviro help	+++
86	1331	1303	1305	ditch		Dark fill of roundhouse ditch terminus	+
97	1446	1449	1451	gully	20	Gully terminus opposing 1448 really dark organic fill	+
116	1097	1409	1410	Post hole		Post hole fill	+
202	3189	3215	3189	pit	20	Fill of pit, organic and charcoal	+
284	2310		2314	pit	10	Clay lining from pit	+
287	2609	2636	2638	pit	40	A lot of burning and fired clay	+
288	2609	2637	2638	pit	20	A lot of burning and fired clay	+
296	2609	2651	2653	pit	30	A lot of burning and charcoal. In situ burning?	+

Table 36:Samples containing fired clay

Contamination

B.1.25 Modern roots were present in most of the samples

Discussion

B.1.26 The charred plant remains recovered from these samples are limited and they are dominated by the cereal grains. Although present in small quantities, they do indicate that cereals were being locally utilised.

B.1.27 The poor representation of crop processing waste in the form of chaff suggests that the earlier stages of processing had taken place elsewhere, either in an unexcavated area of the site or the crops may have been brought in already cleaned.

B.1.28 The waterlogged deposits were more productive. Waterlogged seeds are common although they are quite restricted in diversity. The assemblage appears to represent mainly a natural accumulation of plant remains from local vegetation. Bramble and elder

are both plants that produce extremely durable seeds due to their tough outer coat (testa).

Conclusions and recommendations

B.1.29 The preliminary appraisal of the initial processing of samples from this site have shown that there is potential for the recovery of plant remains. Several of the samples warrant the processing of further material in an attempt to recover a quantifiable assemblage.

B.1.30 Further processing of samples containing chaff is recommended as such material aids identification of cereals present.

B.1.31 Radiocarbon dates have been requested samples containing either waterlogged and charred plant remains (see Table 8 for C14 samples). Advice needs to be sought regarding the choice of suitable material for dating.

The following table lists samples that have been selected for further processing and assessment based on their plant macrofossil content and the significance of the feature and interest of the archaeological feature.

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Sample No	Master No	Context No	Cut No	Feature Type	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Small Bones	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments
Water holes												
134	538	1548	538	Water hole				###				Several weed seeds inc urtica sp. Carex sp. Chenpodium sp, stellaria sp.
136	588		588	Water hole		#		###			#	good weed seeds inc Racnunculus, Urtica, Carex, Chenopodium, Stellaria.... Good insects
138	588		588	Water hole				###				Same as 136 – pick one of the two for assessment
206	3061	3269	3061	Water Hole	#			###				Single glume base – charred in water logged sample
278	2350	2352	2350	Water hole				###				Rubus, berries, bit different
211	3061	3270	3061	Water hole				###				a few different seeds
Pits												
31	816	819		pit				##		##	##	nice seeds, rumex, trifolium, stellaria
58	816	1245	1248	pit				##		###	##	FLAX ##, Chenopodium
59	816	1246	1248	pit				##		###	##	FLAX ##
82	816	1341	1344	pit				##		###	##	FLAX ##, Chenopodium ##
83	816	1342	1344	pit				##	#	###	##	FLAX #, Chenopodium #, other seeds
84	816	1343	1344	pit				##		##	#	FLAX #, few other seeds
75	816	1277	1279	pit				##		##	##	FLAX ##, Chenopodium ##
76	816	1278	1279	pit				##		##	##	FLAX #, Chenopodium ##

Sample No	Master No	Context No	Cut No	Feature Type	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Small Bones	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments
46		989	990		##							Single grain and nutshell
282	2609	2609	2610	pit	##					###	##	Cereals, charcoal rich
283	2609	2611	2610	pit	##					###	##	different cereals
287	2609	2636	2638	pit	##					###	##	good preservation
288	2609	2637	2638	pit	#					###	##	different cereals
296		2651	2653	pit	#		#			###	###	5 grains , chenpodium
270	2310	2310	2314	pit	#	#				###	###	charcoal rich
38		3024		pit				#				orange, fine organic, sambucus
37		3023		pit				#				shrubby bits, sambucus
Ditches												
20		517	516	ditch	##			#		###	###	predom charcoal with occ. grain
23		632	633					#		##	###	Tuber fragment
33		835	840	ditch				#		##	###	
48	597	1142	1147	ditch	##			#		##	##	vicia, moderate charcoal
52		1209	1210	ditch	#			#		#	#	sparse charcoal
51		1208	1210	ditch	#			#		###	###	charcoal rich
55		1227	1228	ditch	#			#		###	###	charcoal rich
54		1226	1228	ditch	#			#		###	##	charcoal rich
53		1225	1228	ditch	#					###	##	moderate charcoal
85		1375	1377	ditch	#					###	#	four grains, moderate charcoal
97	1446	1449	1451	gully	##					###	###	good cereals, charcoal rich
200	3159	3175	3177	ditch				###		##	#	sparse charcoal
Structures												
74		1099	1100							###	###	Lots of charcoal
78	1201	1191	1190	post hole	#			#		###	##	single grain, Fallopia?, Fumaria?

Sample No	Master No	Context No	Cut No	Feature Type	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Small Bones	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments
79	1201	1181	1180	post hole	#			#		###		single grain, Ranunculus?
80	1230	1234	1235	post hole	#			#		##		single grain, chenopodium
61	1241	905	904	post hole	#					##	##	good preservation of grains – v.dense internal structure
65		794	789	post hole	#					###	##	moderate charcoal
68		799	798	post hole	#					###	#	moderate charcoal
63	1241	901	900	post hole	##			#		###	##	Grassland seeds, moderate charcoal
86	1331	1303	1305	ditch	#			##		###	##	good weed seed assemblage
87	1331	1311	1312	ditch	#			#		##	##	moderate charcoal, un-id seed
92	1331	1328	1330	ditch	#			##		###	###	Vicia ##, charcoal rich
Cremations												
101	1500	1503	1500	cremation				#		###	###	Single tuber
213	3301		3301	cremation				##	0	###	###	
266	3301	3325	3301	cremation				##		###	###	9 tubers, rumex, vicia
316	2067	2072	2067	cremation						###	###	100ml scanned – strange vitrification

Table 37: Samples selected for further processing and assessment

B.2 Methodology for Pollen Analysis and Environmental Assessment

By Elizabeth Huckerby

Introduction

B.2.1 Eleven monolith samples were taken for pollen analysis from ten BA waterholes and one well during the excavation. The lithology of these samples will be recorded in the laboratory on proforma sheets. A single small subsample will be taken from each sample and its position in the core will be recorded. A rapid assessment will be made of the pollen in the subsamples and this will record the presence or absence of pollen and the state of preservation of the grains.

Methods statement pollen regarding the initial assessment

Laboratory Preparation

B.2.2 The subsamples will be prepared in the laboratory for pollen assessment using the following methodology. Subsamples of a standard size (1ml in volume) will prepared for pollen assessment and analysis using the standard technique of heating with hydrochloric acid, sodium or potassium hydroxide, sieving, hot hydrofluoric acid, and Erdtman's acetolysis to remove carbonates, humic acids, large particles, silicates, and cellulose, respectively. The samples will then stained with safranin, dehydrated with tertiary butyl alcohol and mounted in 2000 centistoke silicone oil (Method B of Berglund and Ralska-Jasiewiczowa (1986). Tablets containing a known number of *Lycopodium* spores will be added to the known volume of sediment at the beginning of the preparation so that pollen and spore concentrations can be calculated (Stockmarr, 1972).

B.2.3 The pollen will be assessed and recorded from five regularly spaced transects over each of two complete slides, to reduce the possible effects of differential dispersal under the coverslip (Brooks and Thomas 1967). If pollen is abundant fewer transects will be used and a sum of at least 100 land pollen types will be recorded. The state of preservation of the pollen grains will be noted and all easily identifiable pollen will be recorded. Identifications will be aided by keys in Moore *et al*. (1991) and Faegri *et al*. (1989) and small modern reference collections held by Oxford Archaeology North and Sylvia Peglar. Cereal-type grains will be defined using the criteria of Andersen (1979). Indeterminate grains will be recorded using groups based on those of Birks (1973) as an indication of the state of pollen preservation. Charcoal particles >5 microns will also be recorded following the procedures of Peglar (1993). Other identifiable inclusions on the pollen slides (fungal spores, remains of dinoflagellate cysts, foraminfera, turbellarian eggs, pre-Quaternary spores, etc.) will also be registered. Plant nomenclature will follow Stace (1997).

Presentation of the assessment results

B.2.4 The results from this rapid assessment will be submitted in tabular form to Richard Mortimer, the project manager. If pollen is preserved in the fills from all or some the features, a selection for further analysis will be made following consultation between project manager and Elizabeth Huckerby, OA North environmental manager.

Methods statement pollen regarding full analysis.

Additional sampling

B.2.5 The cores will be resampled and additional subsamples will be taken for pollen analysis. This additional sampling will take into account the results of the pollen assessment, the lithology of the sequences and any radiocarbon dating. The position of each subsample within the cores will be recorded.

Laboratory Preparation

B.2.6 The preparation of the subsamples will follow the methodology outlined above. However pollen will be counted from equally spaced traverses across whole slides at a magnification of x400 (x1000 for critical examinations) until a minimum sum of 450 terrestrial pollen and spores is reached, if possible. Identifications will be aided by keys (Moore *et al*.,1991; Faegri *et al*., 1989) and small modern reference collection. Cereal-type grains will be defined using the criteria of Andersen (1979). Indeterminate grains will be recorded using groups based on those of Birks (1973) as an indication of the state of pollen preservation. Charcoal particles >5 microns will also be recorded following the procedures of Peglar (1993). Other identifiable inclusions on the pollen slides (fungal spores, remains of dinoflagellate cysts, foraminfera, turbellarian eggs, pre-Quaternary spores, etc.) will also be registered. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

Analysis of results

B.2.7 The results will be presented as a pollen and spore diagram with taxa expressed as percentages of the total land pollen and spore sum (sumP). Aquatic taxa and other palynomorphs and charcoal particles will be presented as percentages of sumP + sum of the category to which they belong. Calculations and diagrams will be made using the programs TILIA and TILIA-GRAPH in TGView (Grimm, 1990). The pollen diagram will divided into pollen assemblage zones (PAZ) using the program CONISS in TGView and by visual examination. The zone boundaries will be placed midway between the upper subsample of a zone and the basal subsample of the zone above.

Presentation of the analysis results

B.2.8 A written report will be produced, which will include the pollen diagrams. The pollen data will be interpreted and both the local and more regional vegetation and landuse patterns will be discussed and compared with the published and unpublished literature for the fenlands. This report will be included in an integrated environmental report.

Further assessment and analysis of waterlogged and charred plant remains.

B.2.9 The samples selected by Rachel Fosberry, the OA East environmental coordinator will be processed at OA East and submitted to the OA North environmental team for further assessment and analysis. The archaeologists have requested that a number of samples not selected as suitable for further analysis during the initial assessment, because the plant remains are insufficient to provide a quantifiable assemblage, will be examined to extend our knowledge of the environment and economy of the site.

Methodology

B.2.10 The preparation of the additional samples for the analysis of charred and plant remains are described in the assessment report. The flots will be examined with a Leica MZ6 binocular microscope and charred and waterlogged remains will be identified and quantified. Identification will be aided by Katx *et al* (1965), Beyerinck (1947), Stace (1997), Cappers *et al* (2006) and by comparison with modern reference collection held at OA North (some modern seeds are supplied by the Hohenheim Botanic Gardens, Stuttgart) and plant nomenclature follows Stace (ibid).

Charred plant remains

B.2.11 The charred plant remains will be counted as it has been shown that there is a direct relationship between the proportion of cereal grains, chaff fragments and weed seeds with the nature of activity on the site. The data will be recorded in tabular.

Waterlogged plant remains

B.2.12 The waterlogged plant remains will be recorded on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is rare (less than 5 items in I litre of sample) and 5 is abundant (more than 100 items in I litre of sample). A selection of each waterlogged type will be extracted from the flots and where possible identified. The waterlogged plant remains will be recorded on a scale, because it is considered that any additional information concerning the plant assemblages from the individual contexts relative to the time required to sort and count all waterlogged remains is minimal. The data will be recorded in tabular form.

Matrix components

B.2.13 Other remains identified in the flots for example wood and charcoal fragments will be recorded on the same scale as the waterlogged plant remains.

Insect analysis

B.2.14 Samples suitable for insect analysis will be sent to the relevant specialist

Radiocarbon dating

B.2.15 Material suitable for radiocarbon dating will be extracted by the environmental team at OA North. It is proposed to date between twenty and twenty two samples. The material will be submitted to Dr Gordon Cook at the Scottish Universities Environmental Centre (SUERC) at East Kilbride for AMS dating.

Environmental Reporting

B.2.16 The OA North Environmental team will present the results of the analysis of the charred and waterlogged plant remains, pollen ,wood? and charcoal? as a written integrated environmental report with the relevant tables and diagrams. The integration of the individual analyses will allow a more comprehensive understanding of the economy and environment of the site in the Bronze Age. This is of particular importance in understanding the taphonomy of the pollen and the interpretation of the data from archaeological features.

APPENDIX C. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

By Peter Masters

Abstract

C.1.1 A gradiometer survey was undertaken at Brigg's Farm, Thorney, Cambridgeshire on behalf of OA East in November 2008 in order to record the extent of a partially excavated rectangular Enclosure 5.

C.1.2 An area covering c.1ha was surveyed in the area of the likely extent of the enclosure.

C.1.3 The geophysical survey results produced few significant archaeological anomalies. The western extent of the rectangular enclosure was only partially detected due to the truncation or masking of the underlying features by the claying ditches.

C.1.4 Two arc shaped anomalies were recorded possibly denoting the presence of possible round houses, one of which appears to lie within the north-west corner of the rectangular enclosure.

C.1.5 An amorphous shaped anomaly was detected on the eastern side of the survey area indicating an area of possible burning, which may reflect the presence of a kiln/hearth like feature.

C.1.6 A series of parallel linear anomalies were detected denoting the presence of claying or marl ditches, typical of this area.

Introduction

C.1.7 OA East commissioned the Centre for Archaeological and Forensic Analysis, Cranfield University to undertake fluxgate gradiometer on land at Brigg's Farm, Thorney, Cambridgeshire. This work was undertaken on the 10th November 2008.

C.1.8 The purpose of the survey was to assist in defining the character and extent of partially excavated Enclosure 5.

C.1.9 The survey methodology described in this report was based upon guidelines set out in the English Heritage document 'Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation' (EH 2008).

Location and description

C.1.10 The site is located to the east of Peterborough (Fig 1). The site lies on the northern side of the Flag Fen basin on the edge of Thorney Island at between 0.3m OD and 2.3m OD. The area of survey is a flat and is currently under arable cultivation.

C.1.11 The underlying geology is comprised of silty sandy gravel. The magnetic susceptibility of these types of geologies tends to be variable (Gaffney & Gater 2003, 78; EH 2008, 15, 10; Clark 1990, 92).

Methodology

Gradiometry

C.1.12 Gradiometry is a non-intrusive scientific prospecting technique used to determine the presence/absence of some classes of sub-surface archaeological features (e.g. pits, ditches, kilns, and occasionally stone walls). By scanning the soil surface, geophysicists identify areas of varying magnetic susceptibility and can interpret such variation by presenting data in various graphical formats and identifying images that share morphological affinities with diagnostic archaeological as well as other detectable remains (Clark 1990).

C.1.13 The use of gradiometry is used to establish the presence/absence of buried magnetic anomalies, which may reflect sub-surface archaeological features. The area survey was conducted using a Bartington Grad 601 dual fluxgate gradiometer with DL601 data logger set to take 4 readings per metre (a sample interval of 0.25m). The zigzag traverse method of survey was used, with 1m wide traverses across 20m x 20m grids. The sensitivity of the machine was set to detect magnetic variation in the order of 0.1 nanoTesla.

C.1.14 The data was processed using Archeosurveyor v.1.3.2.8. The results are plotted as greyscale and trace plot images (Figs. 10 and 11).

C.1.15 The enhanced data was processed by using zero-mean functions to correct the unevenness of the image in order to produce a smoother graphical appearance. It was also processed using an algorithm to remove magnetic spikes, thereby reducing extreme readings caused by stray iron fragments and spurious effects due to the inherent magnetism of soils. The data was also clipped to reduce the distorting effect of extremely high or low readings caused by discrete pieces of ferrous metal.

Interpretation and analysis of Results

C.1.16 About 1ha was surveyed using gradiometry technique in order to locate the full extent of a partially excavated ditched enclosure.

C.1.17 The gradiometer survey has detected a number of anomalies majority of which appear to be of non-archaeological value.

C.1.18 A zone of high magnetic variation (Fig. 11, circled pink) has been recorded adjacent to eastern field boundary. This is probably due to modern magnetic disturbances caused by being in close proximity to a fence within the hedgeline.

C.1.19 A series of parallel linear anomalies (Fig. 11, yellow) were detected aligned north-east to south-west denote the presence of claying or marl ditches. These align clearly with the excavation evidence to the south.

C.1.20 Traces of possible archaeological anomalies can be seen in the resultant grey scale image (Figs 10 and 11). A weakly magnetic linear anomaly (Fig. 11, 1) appears to align with the northern side of the rectangular enclosure.

C.1.21 A curvilinear anomaly (Fig. 11, 2) was detected to the west side of the drains and appears to align with the east-west aligned curvilinear ditch excavated immediately to the south of the rectangular enclosure. A second curvilinear anomaly was detected to the south of anomaly 2 and probably reflects the remains of a ditch-like feature although its relationship to the other features is uncertain.

C.1.22 A rectilinear anomaly (Fig. 11, 3) was detected on the east side of the survey area, which appears to resemble the remains of a ditch-like feature. Its relationship to the excavated enclosure is uncertain.

C.1.23 Two arc shaped anomalies (Fig. 11, 4) were recorded in the resultant plot and may denote the remains of ring ditches of round houses. The easternmost one appears to lie within the north-west corner of the rectangular enclosure.

C.1.24 An amorphous shaped anomaly (Fig. 11, 5) was recorded on the eastern side of the survey area. Its response appears to reflect an area of possible burning and may indicate the presence of burnt material or could represent the remains of a kiln/hearth like structure.

C.1.25 Other ephemeral anomalies (Fig.11, orange lines) merely reflect plough score lines.

C.1.26 No further anomalies were recorded of an archaeological nature.

Conclusions

C.1.27 The survey has identified relatively few significant anomalies and the majority appear to be of an ephemeral nature.

C.1.28 The full extent of the excavated rectangular Enclosure 5 was only partially detected by gradiometer and this may be due to the claying or marl ditches truncating and masking the western end of the enclosure.

C.1.29 Fragmented or partial remains of possible ring ditches were recorded in the resultant survey may reflect the presence of round houses.

C.1.30 Beyond the claying ditches, a curvilinear ditch was detected and appears to align with the curvilinear ditch excavated immediately to the south of the enclosure.

C.1.31 A possible area of burning was recorded at the eastern end of the survey area, which could represent the remains of a kiln/hearth like feature or is more likely to indicate the presence of modern debris.

C.1.32 Other ephemeral features appear to reflect plough score marks.

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-56412		
Project Name	Excavation at Brigg's Farm, Thorney, Peterborough		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	26-08-2008	Finish	11-12-2008
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	THO BRF 08	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	To be assigned	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Pits	Neolithic -4k to -2k	Pottery	Neolithic -4k to -2k
Pits	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Pottery	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700
Cremations	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Fired Clay	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700
Inhumation	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Flint	Neolithic -4k to -2k
Barrow	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Flint	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700
Ditches	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Stone	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700
Water Holes	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Animal Bone	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700
Round houses	Uncertain		Select period...
Ditch	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Peterborough UA	Brigg's Farm, Willow Hall Lane, Thorney, Peterborough, PE6 0QN	
Parish	Thorney		
HER	Peterborough, Museum		
Study Area	10 ha	National Grid Reference	TL 2500 0050

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Ben Robinson, Peterborough Museum
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay OA East
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer OA East
Supervisor	Alexandra Pickstone OA East

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Peterborough Museum	OA East Offices	Peterborough Museum
THO BRF 08	THO BRF 08	THO BFR 08

Archive Contents/Media

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

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

Notes:

Plans

Limit of Excavation

Illustrated Section S.14

Archaeological Deposit

Excavated Slot

Modern Deposit

Other Features

Cut Number 118

Contour 0.5

Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Cut-Conjectured

Deposit Horizon

Deposit Horizon - Conjectured

Intrusion/Truncation

Top Surface/Top of Natural

Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing

Cut Number 118

Deposit Number 117

Ordnance Datum 1.25m OD

Wood

Convention Key

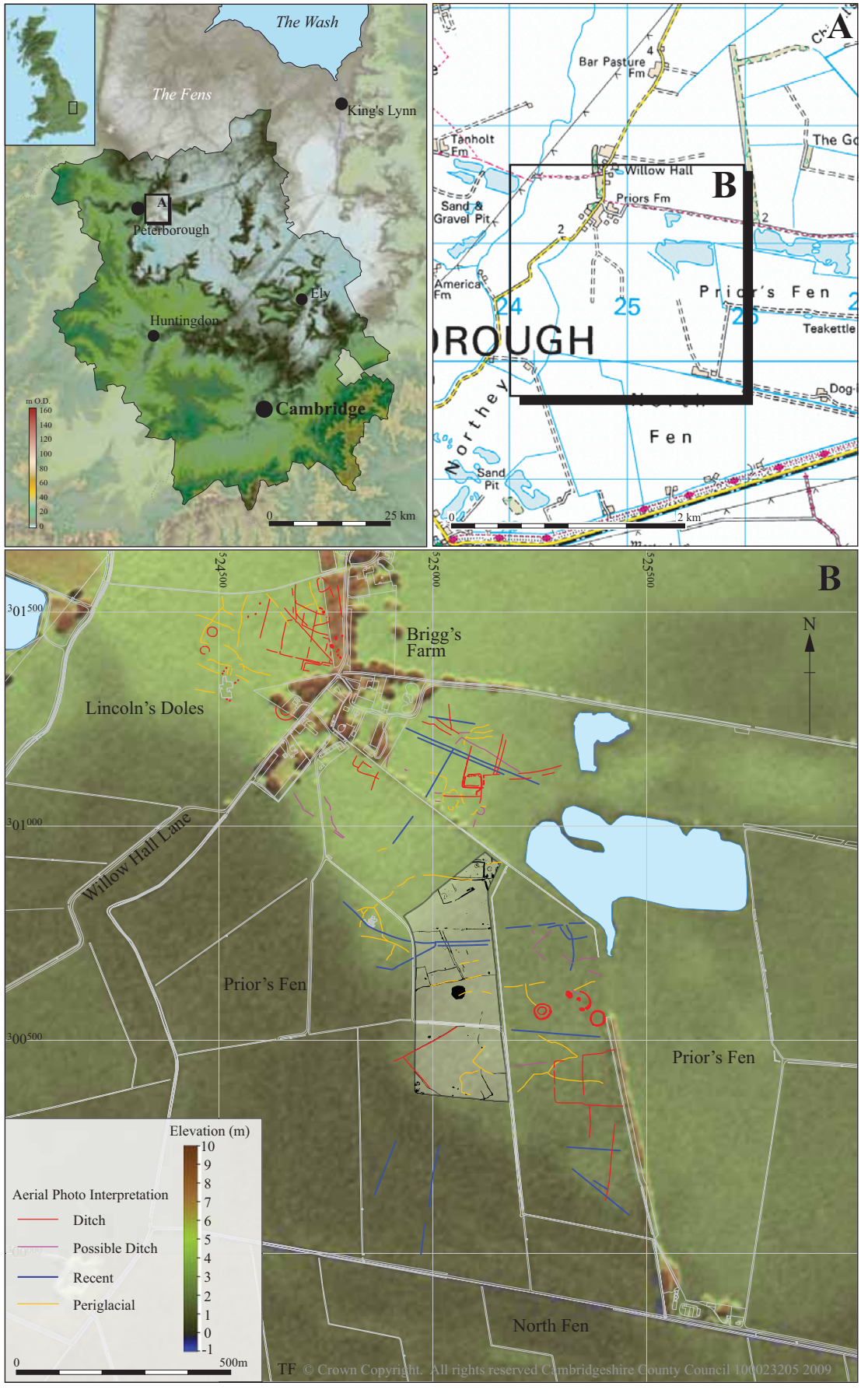


Figure 1: Location of site (black) with aerial photography overlain

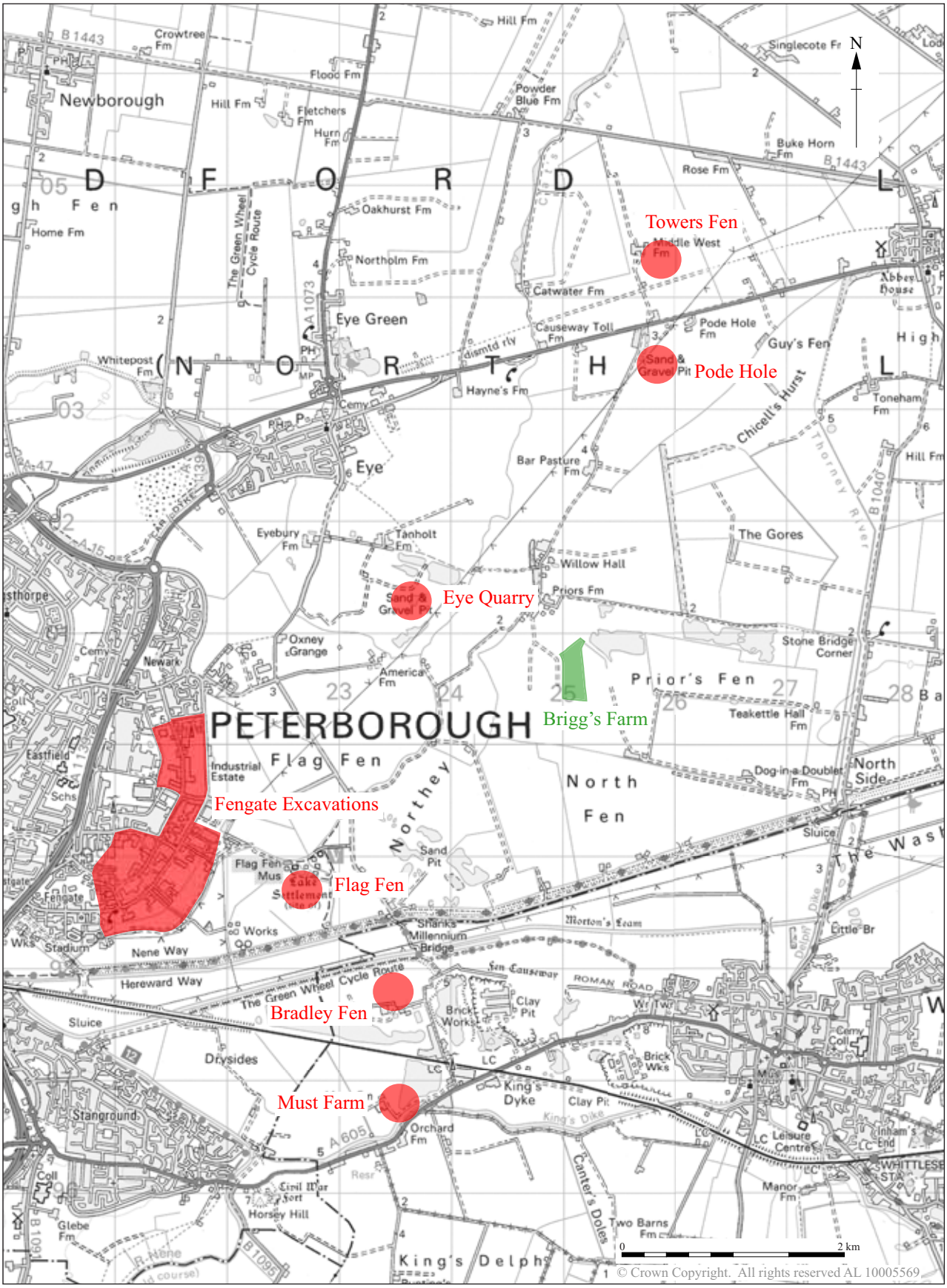


Figure 2: Location of key archaeological excavations in the Brigg's Farm area

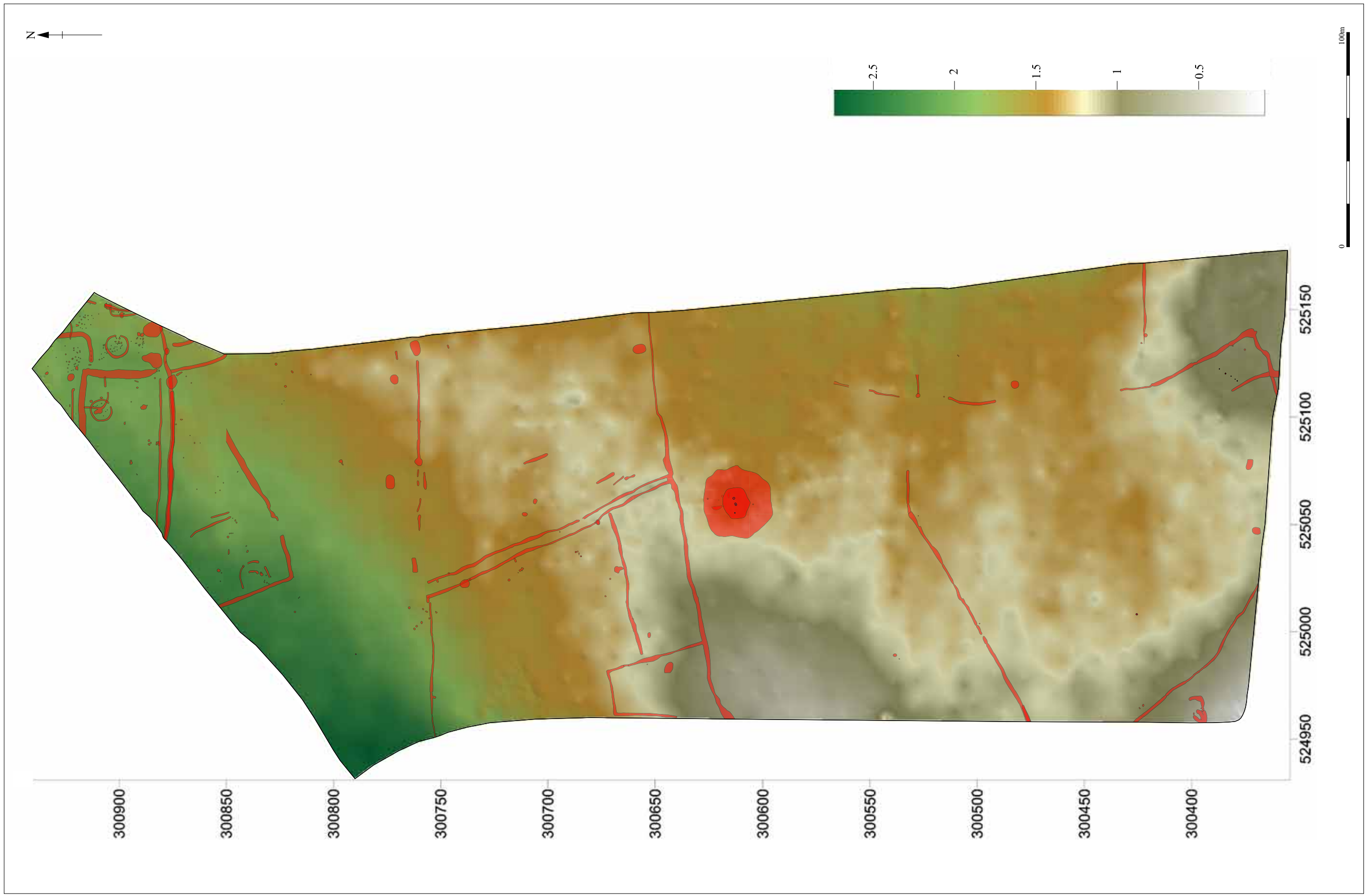


Figure 3: Topographic map (scale 1:1,250)

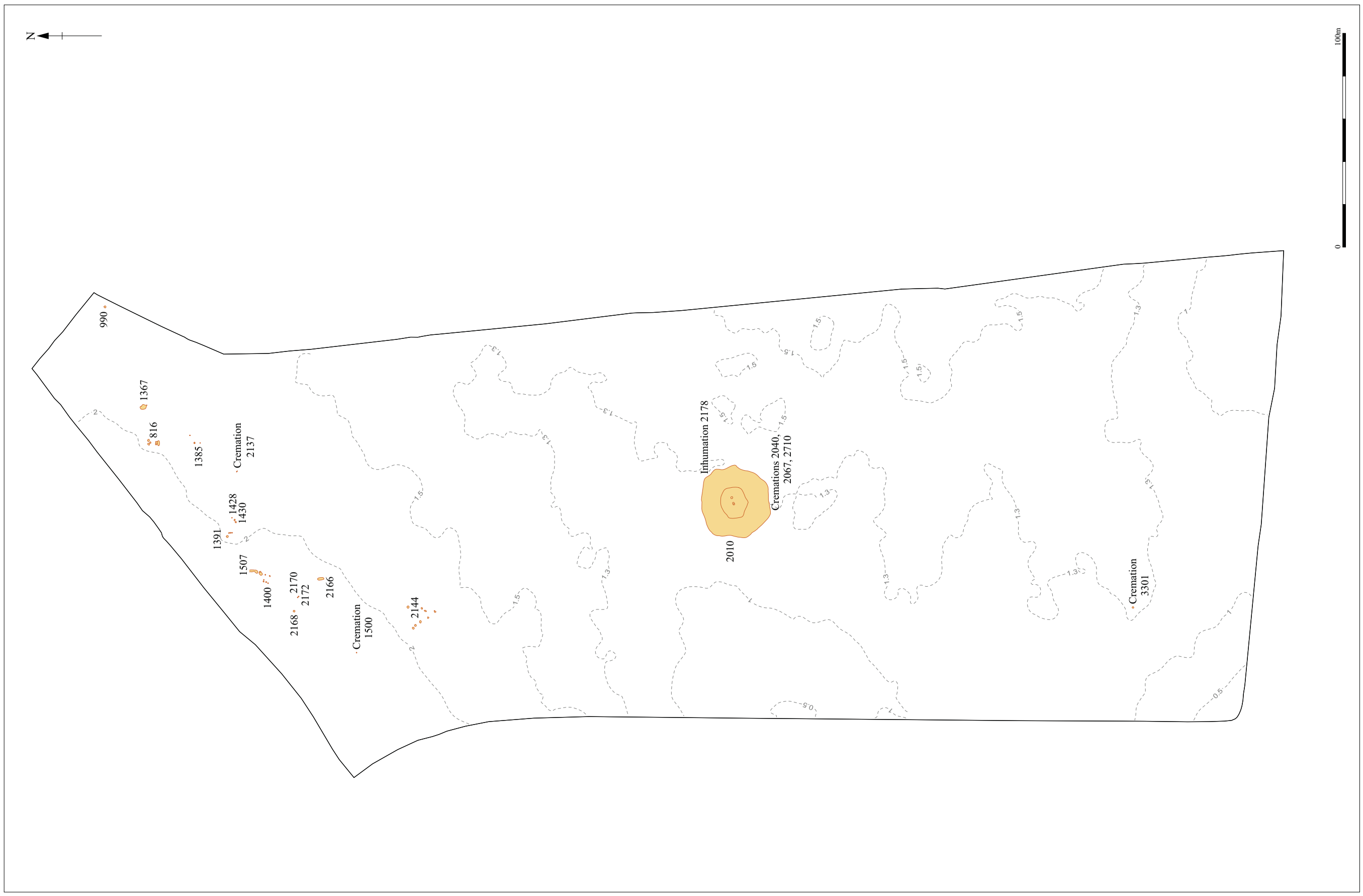


Figure 4: Plan of Neolithic and early Bronze Age pits, cremations and barrow (scale 1:1,250)

Figure 5: Plan of field system and enclosure ditches (scale 1:1,250)

Figure 6: Plan of water holes (scale 1:1,250)

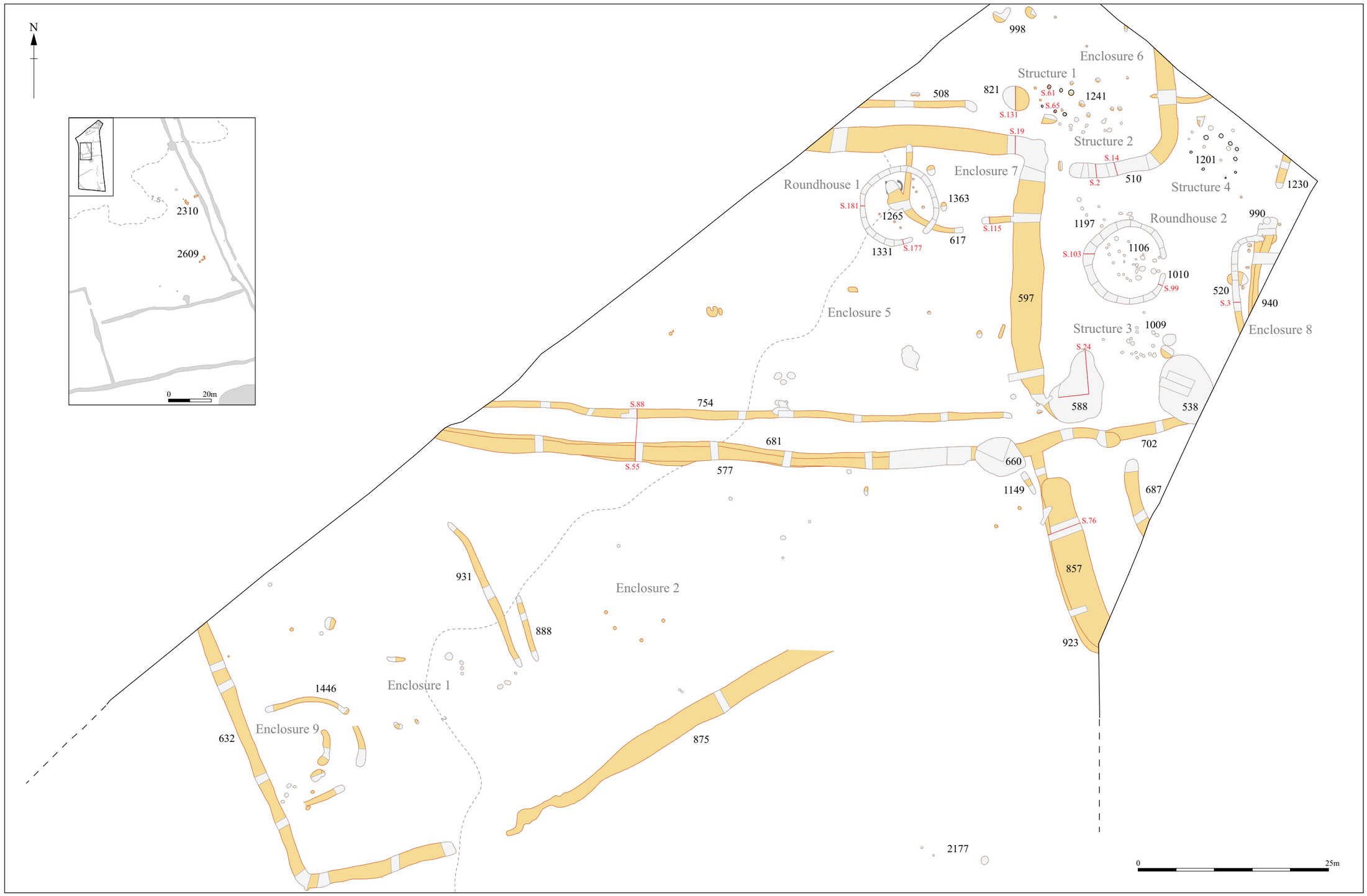


Figure 7: Plan of settlement area (scale 1:500) (Inset scale 1:1,250)

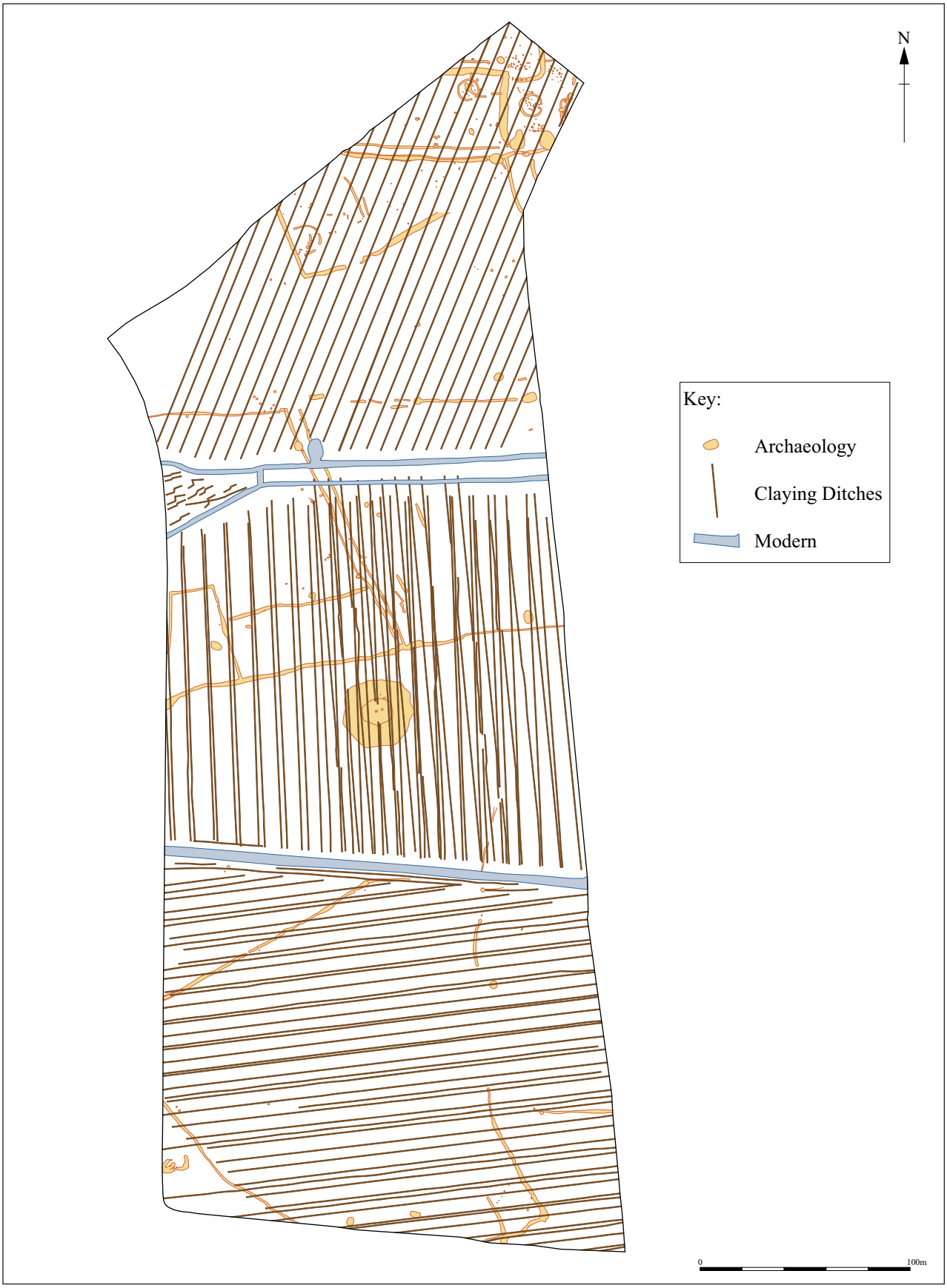


Figure 8: Plan of post-medieval claying ditches (scale 1:2,500)

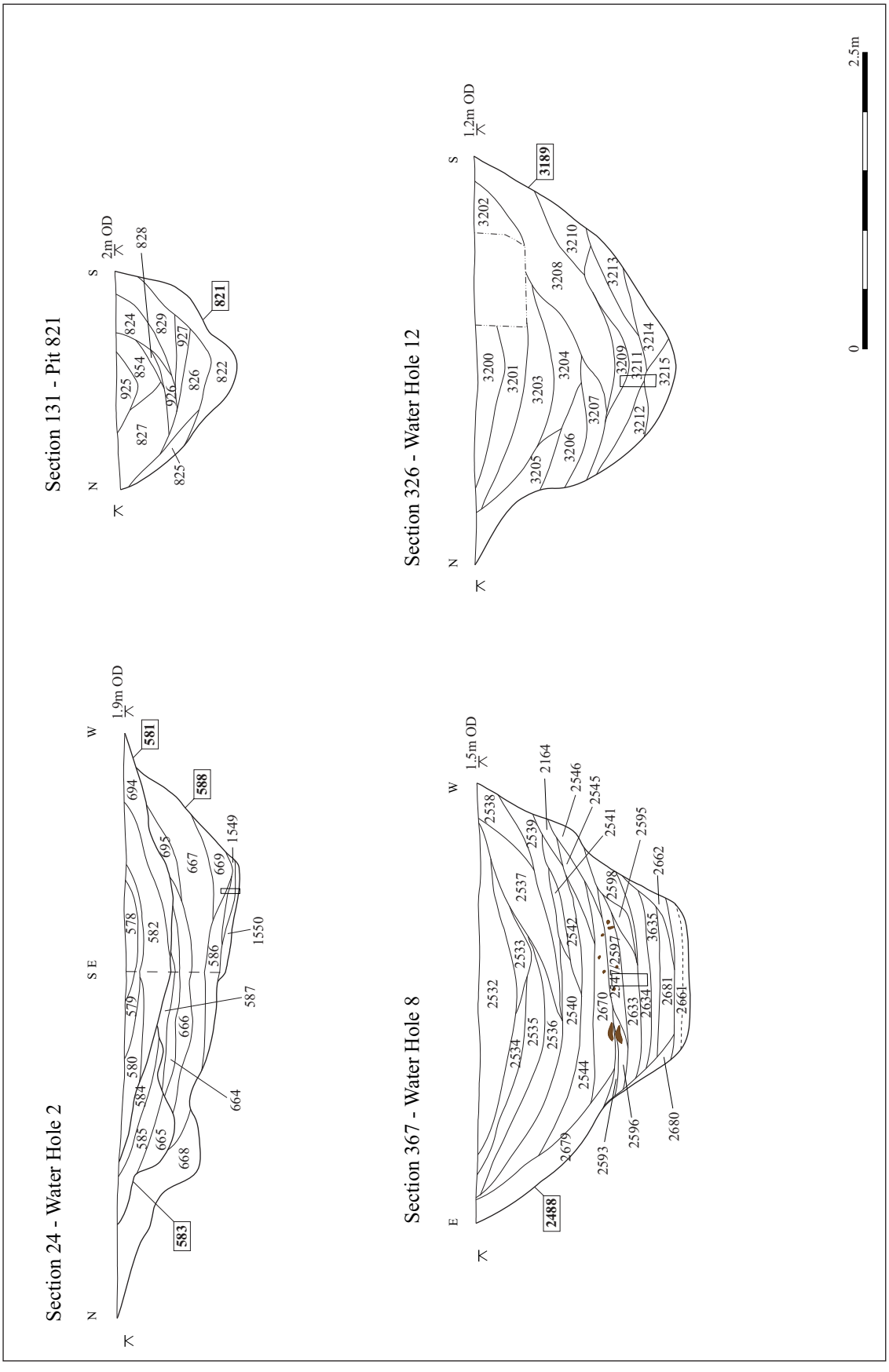
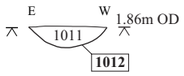


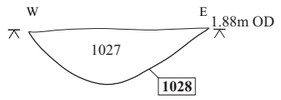
Figure 9a: Sections (scale 1:50)

Roundhouse 2

Section 99

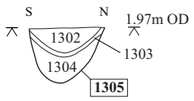


Section 103

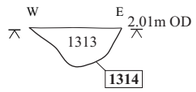


Roundhouse 1

Section 177

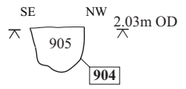


Section 181

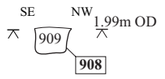


Structure 1

Section 63

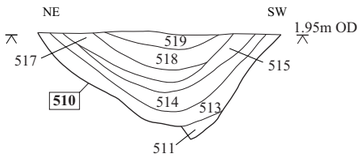


Section 65

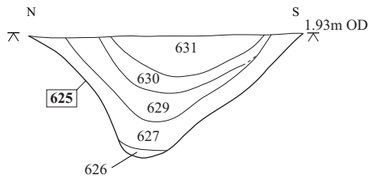


Enclosure 6 - Ditch 510

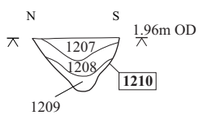
Section 2



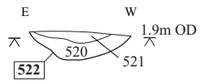
Section 14



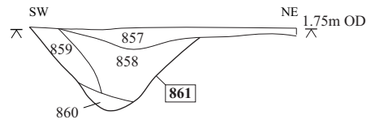
Section 115 - Enclosure 7
Ditch 617



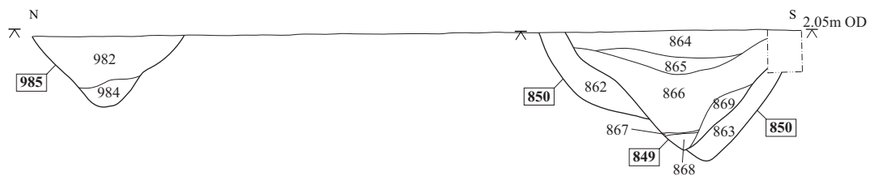
Section 3 - Ditch 520



Section 76 - Ditch 923



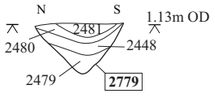
Section 88 and 55 - Ditch 2271



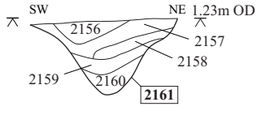
Section 280 and 244 - Ditch 2271

Enclosure 3 - Ditch 2100

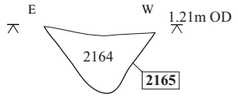
Section 358 - Ditch 2104



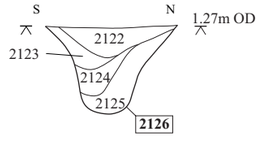
Section 247



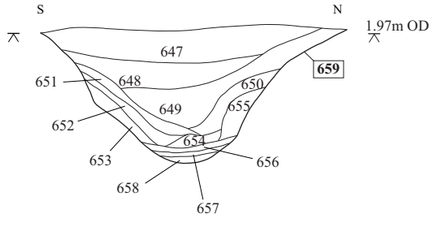
Section 248



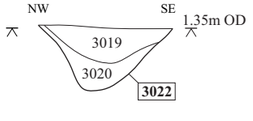
Section 238 - Ditch 2122



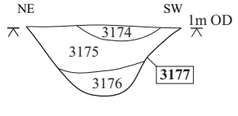
Section 19 - Enclosure 5
Ditch 597



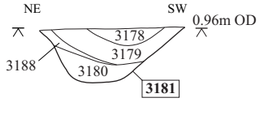
Section 303 - Ditch 3301



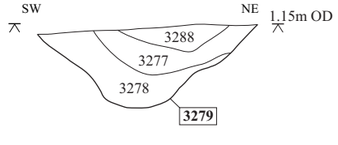
Section 321 - Ditch 3159



Section 322 - Ditch 3159



Section 332 - Ditch 3025



0 2.5m

Figure 9b: Sections (scale 1:50)

Figure 10: Geophysics interpretation (P. Masters, CAFA, 2008) (scale 1:1000)

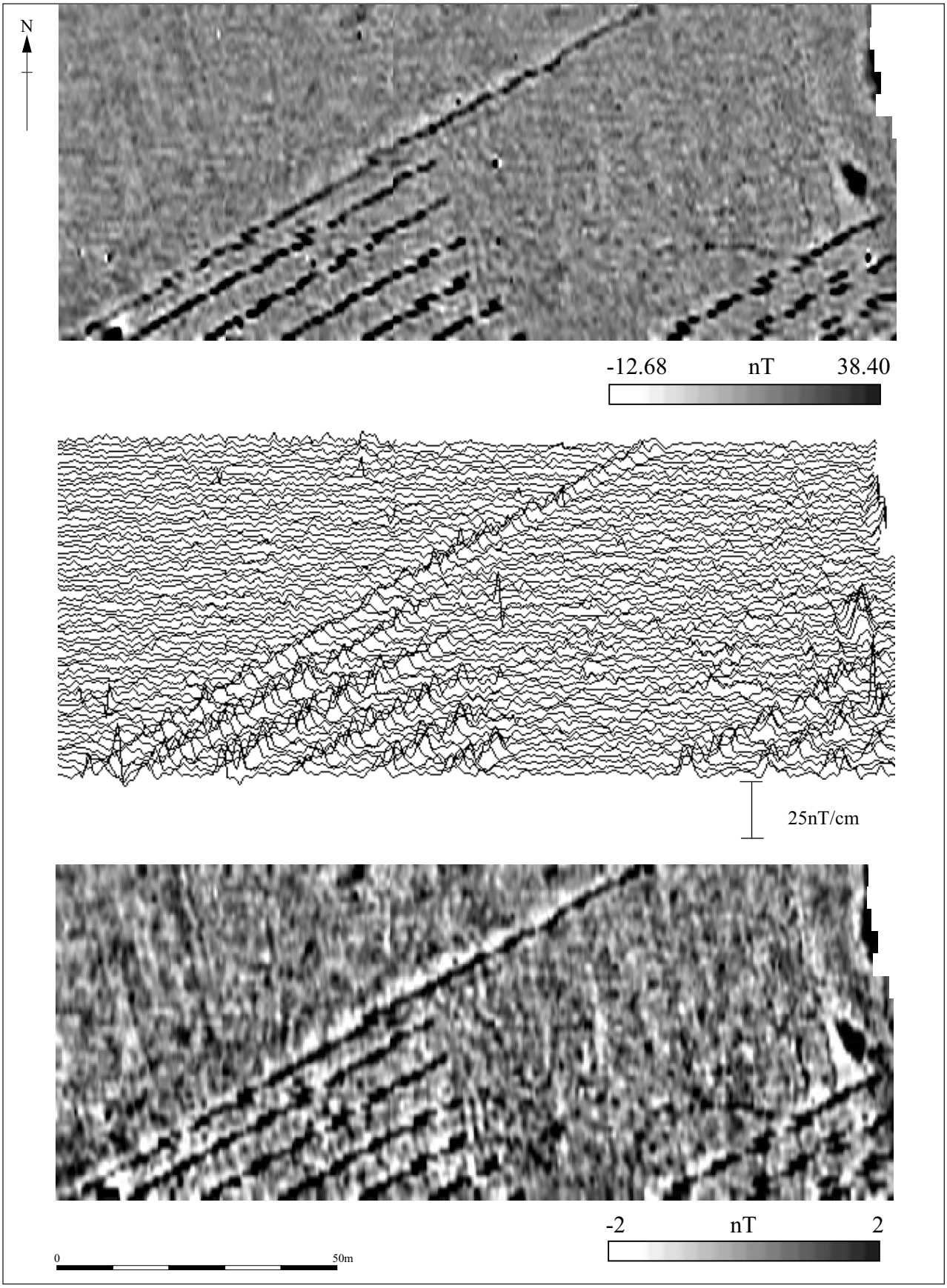


Figure 11: Gradiometer Survey – Grey scale and trace plots of raw and enhanced data (P. Masters, CAFA, 2008) (scale 1:1000)

Plate 1: Cremation 2710 (fill 2718)

Plate 2: Cremation 3301

Plate 3: Barrow 2210

Plate 4: Ditch 510 with structures 1 and 2

Plate 5: Structure 4

Plate 6: Roundhouse 2

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