Archaeological Investigations on land to the south of Court Lodge Farm, Harrietsham, Kent

Site Code: HARR/2001/2

NGR Site Centre: 586802 153246

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Plate 1. Crop marks of circular 'henge' and rectangular ditched enclosure at NGR 586802 153246 -red arrows (Google Earth 2007)

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Summary

An archaeological investigation in 2011/2012 by the Kent Archaeological Field School of a site within the tract of land called the Holmsdale which runs along the west slope of the North Downs in Kent have discovered an enclosure with an internal circular ditch which has the attributes of a prehistoric henge, a type of ritual earthwork that takes its name from Stonehenge.

There are few, if any henges discovered in the south-east of England, and they seem to be a feature of Wessex Downs and not the South or North Downs. This enclosure is astride the Greenway, a pathway thought to date from the Neolithic and close to another prehistoric path, the Pilgrims Way. The outer rectangular enclosure and internal circular ditched feature, dated to the Early Iron Age faces the Greenway path and the site itself is situated on top of a sloping hill surrounded on three sides by fresh water springs and on its fourth by the prehistoric Greenway Path.

The archaeological site was identified by aerial photography and the uneven growth of crops noted during an area reconnaissance. Field-walking by the Kent Archaeological Field School earlier in the year of 2011 had retrieved prehistoric, Saxon and Roman pottery from the area of the postulated henge.

The inner enclosure, a ring ditch, has two entrances opposite each other, the one on the east side wider than the west. At 49m across this 3m wide ring ditch is about the same size as Stonehenge 1 in Wiltshire. There is no sign of a bank, which if this is a true henge would have been outside the ditch. However, the site is in a ploughed field where any remains above the chalk bedrock are likely to have been destroyed.

A small section was excavated in the ring ditch and it was found to slope down steeply to a narrow base about 80cm down. Early Iron Age pottery and worked flint was retrieved from the fill (Plate 3).

Excavation of two of the terminals exposed masses of Early Iron Age pottery mixed with charcoal and burnt human bone fragments, and it seems that the Early Iron Age cremations were dumped in the ring ditch close to both entrances.

A 3m wide topsoil strip of the central area failed to reveal any burials but did expose a large number of postholes which were not investigated and Neolithic worked flint tools were recovered from the chalk surface.

The archaeological investigation by the Field School is part of an ongoing study of the North Downs and already our fieldwork has identified numerous Bronze Age barrows and a Bronze Age cemetery. Features of the landscape are the numerous drove roads (Plate 2) leading from the North Downs and down to the fresh water springs and these with prehistoric human and animal activity can be dated by the Bronze Age barrows clustered round them.

Dr Paul Wilkinson FRSA., MCIfA.

Plate 2. Archaeological Investigation of the numerous drove roads leading downslope from top of the Downs to the still active freshwater springs in the vicinity of the 'henge' (looking NNE)

Plate 3: Archaeological Field School students trowelling back the chalk surface inside the 'henge' to expose archaeological features (looking NNW)

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 The Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS) were given permission by the landowner to investigate the cropmarks of potential ring barrows and enclosures along the west facing slope of the North Downs (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the excavation by machine and hand excavation of areas (Area 1) measuring about 150m in length and 130m in width. The investigations were carried out over the course of ten days in August 2011 and nine days in September 2012. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

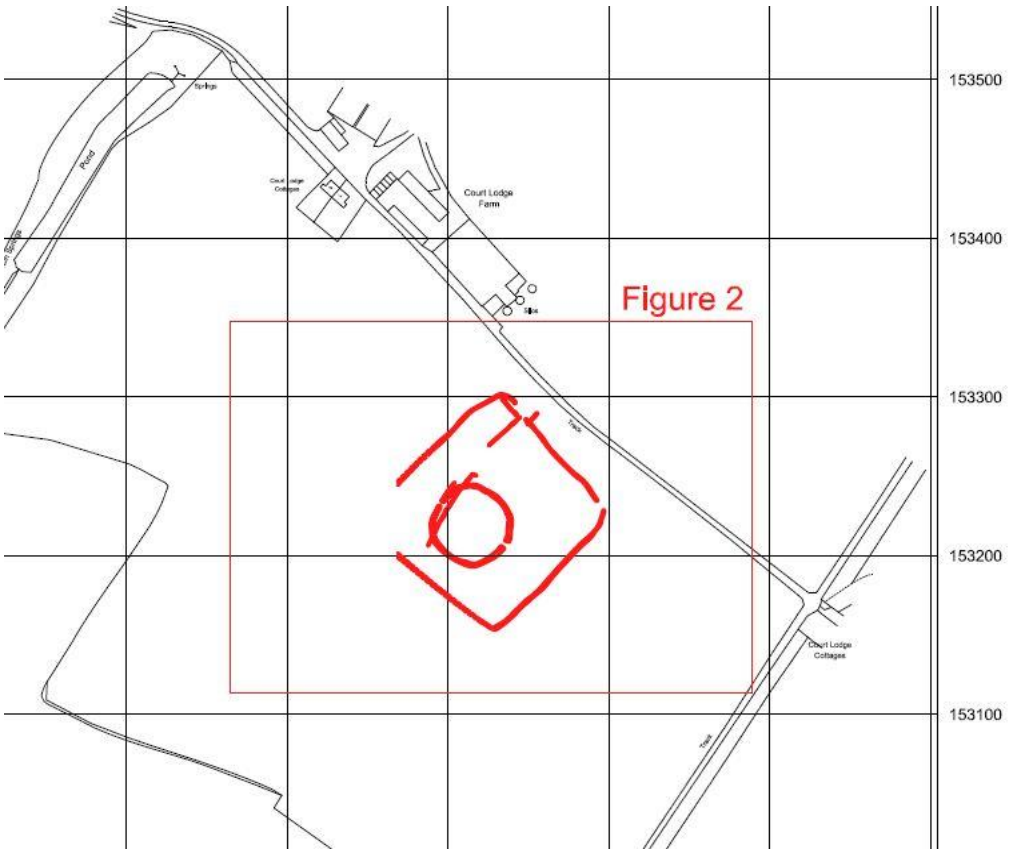
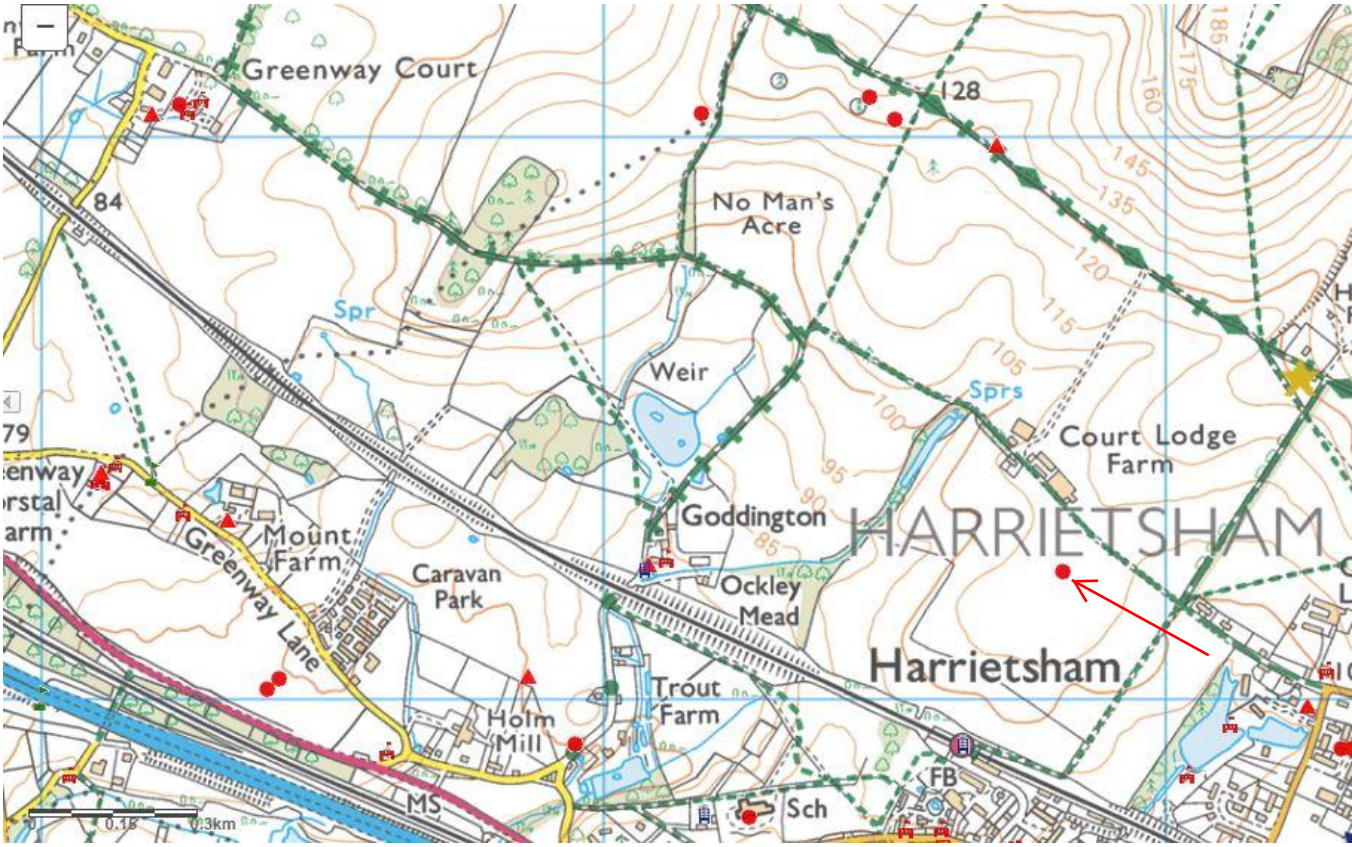


Figure 1. Site centre location at NGR 586802 153246

1.2 Site Description and Topography

1.2.1 The site is centred on NGR 586802 153246 and located just south of the prehistoric track or Greenway now called The Pilgrims Way (red arrow). About 300m to the west are located two freshwater springs north and south and joined by a large pond/lake (NGR 586559 153420). To the north is situated the modern Court Lodge Farm (NGR 586780 153417 and to the east Court Lodge Cottages and beyond the village of Harrietsham. To the west and about 550m from the 'henge' site is Little Goddington Farmstead and just to the north fresh water springs supplying Synden Pond at NGR 586111 153481.



1.2.2 MAP 1. KCCHER map showing the location of the archaeological site and the numerous fresh water springs. Contour heights are

shown and emphasises that the site is on a natural raised plateau with the 'henge' location highlighted with a red dot and arrow.

1.2.3 The circular internal enclosure is contained within a square enclosure which fronts on to the prehistoric track the Greenway (Pilgrims Way). There is a fair degree of acceptance amongst historians and archaeologists that this ancient prehistoric trackway ran along the edge of the North Downs. Hippsley-Cox suggested that it was one of the five principal pre-historic trackways believed to date from before 2000 BC. More recently, Oliver Rackham acknowledged as being one of the leading authorities on the British countryside states that the various ridgeways and the Pilgrims' Way in Kent are usually regarded as prehistoric main highways. Furthermore, Ivan D Margary articles entitled '*The North Downs Trackway and the Pilgrims' Way*' published in 1952 argues that 'this trackway is one of the most important in Britain, certainly the most important in south and south-east Britain because it was the main route by which early man could penetrate readily into this island from the Continent, and indeed early man '*probably began using it before the separation of the island had occurred.'*

1.2.4 Ground levels are level within the site at a height of approximately 109m Ordnance Datum (OD) on the square enclosure but falling away outside the enclosure to the NE to 108m and 107m to the SW and 105m to the NW and 106m to the SE.

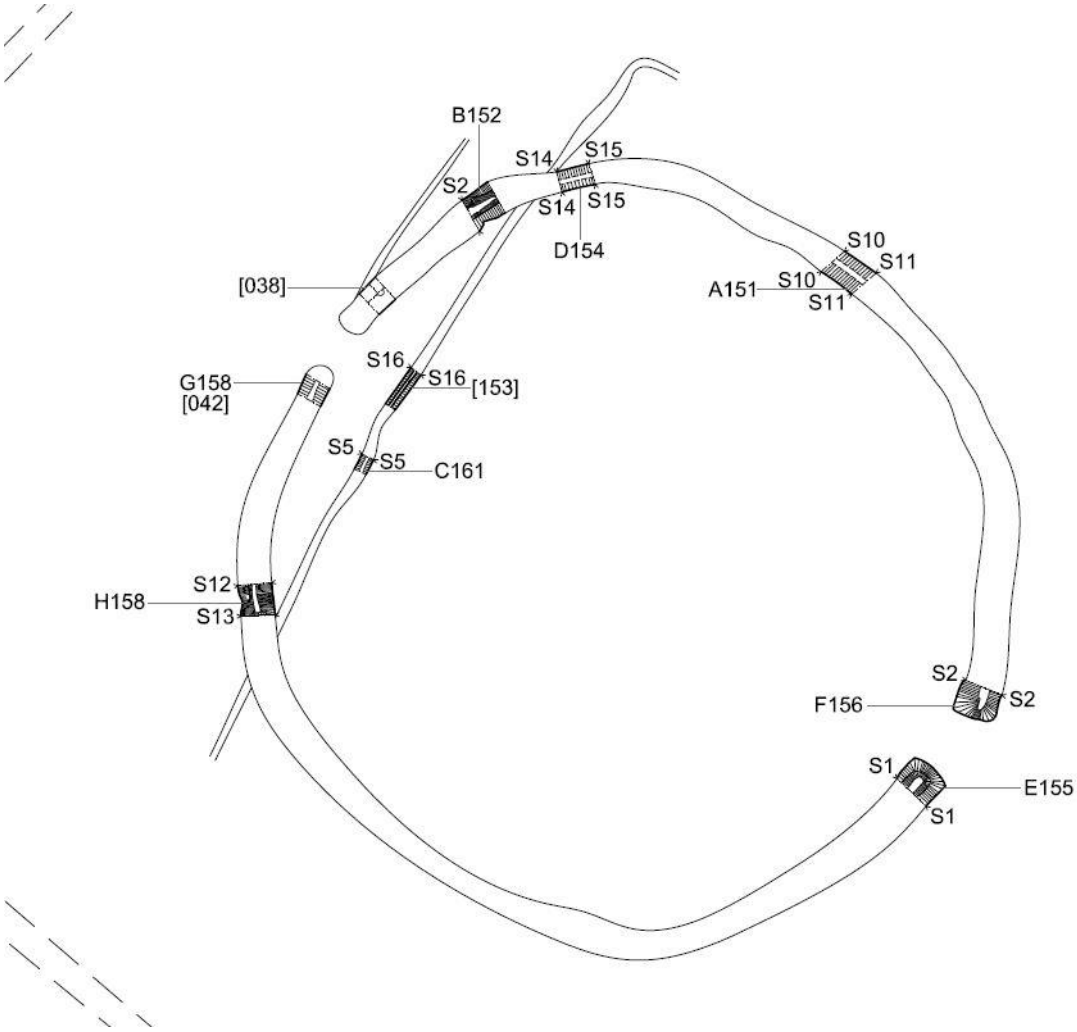


Figure 1: This plan drawing was completed after the area had been stripped of topsoil and had revealed archaeological features. There are two entrances, one facing west and a larger facing east. It can be postulated that the larger east facing entrance was orientated on the rising sun and was presumably a more important entrance/exit. The codes are for the east entrance sections are S1-S1 and S2-S2, Soil infill codes are F156 and E155. Underlying the west area are two linears dated by worked flint tools to the Neolithic.

1.2.5 The Geological Survey of Great Britain shows that the site is set on bedrock geology of West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation- Chalk. The geology revealed in the 2011/2012 excavations was Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel.

1.3 Scope of Report

1.3.1 This report has been produced to provide information regarding the results of the two seasons work in 2011 and 2012 of archaeological investigations on land at Harrietsham by the Kent Archaeological Field School.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

The site is located close to a number of archaeological sites that can be identified on the KCCHER database. The site lies in an area of archaeological potential and there are known archaeological remains within the specified survey boundary.

2.2 Historic Environment Records (HER) in the vicinity of the KAFs investigation

2.3.1 The KCCHER records show that there are designated assets in the vicinity of the archaeological investigation including the site subject of this report: 'During a geophysical survey a number of linear and rectilinear anomalies were recorded. These may represent an archaeological site' (TQ 96 SE 101)**.**

2.3.2 About 200m to north an Anglo-Saxon burial consisting of skeleton with glass beads, a ring of silver ware, a bronze armilla, a key and part of a knife, were found on the south side of Pilgrim's Way at Harrietsham by C.H. Halford. (1) [TQ 87245357] Burial sited at Lat 51 degrees, 15 feet long, nought degrees, forty-one feet E. (2) The siting by Authority 2 falls within a

small field of rough pasture. The ground has at some time been dug into and terraced in this area. No information regarding the burial could be obtained at Court Lodge Farm, owners of the land, or at Maidstone Museum. The present whereabouts of the finds are not known.

On 31.12.1932, a skeleton, accompanied by a buckle, a strap end and a knife, was found in a chalk pit on Court Lodge Farm, Harrietsham. The burial is dated as late Anglo-Saxon by N. Cook. (1) [TQ 86525403] Burial sited at Lat. 51 degrees, 15 feet, 16 inches Long. Nought degrees, 40 feet, 24 inches E. (2) Court Lodge Farm Manager states that when this part of the farmland was reclaimed from scrub recently, there was nothing to show that a chalk pit had ever existed here. The nearest pit of any size is at the field edge, 315.0m. to the WNW of the above given siting. The farm has had several owners since 1932 and nothing is known about the finds. (3) Additional bibliography. (4) TQ 85 SE 4

<1> *Arch Cant 45 1933 xliv* (OS Card Reference). SKE35167.
<2> *Letter (N Cook 18.3.1933) [File C R 8858]* (OS Card Reference). SKE46068.
<3> *D A Britain Index Kent 41a* (OS Card Reference). SKE39541.
<4> *F1 ASP 26-Jun-63* (OS Card Reference). SKE42309.
<5> *A Gazeteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites 1964 123 (A Meaney)* (OS Card Reference). SKE32782.
<6> *Field report for monument TQ 85 SE 4 - June, 1963* (Bibliographic reference). SKE4450.

2.2.4 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (KAFS 2011) as stated below;

- The primary objective of the archaeological investigation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by agricultural development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the Prehistoric period and also any medieval, earlier and later archaeological activity.
- The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with evaluation through trial trenching.

  (KAFS 2011: Section 6)

2.3 General Objectives

2.3.1 The general objectives of the archaeological fieldwork were therefore to;

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- Establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;

- Place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- Make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Archaeological Specification (KAFS April 2011) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2000).

3.2 Fieldwork

3.2.1 A total of two seasons (2011-2012) of archaeological investigation was undertaken by KAFS members under close control of an archaeologist. Each area was initially scanned by a metal detector for surface finds prior to hand excavation.

3.2.2 Each area was hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in

accordance with KCC and CIfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during hand excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling (Plates 1-16).

3.2.3 Backfilling was left to the landowner under archaeological supervision once all recording, survey and monitoring had been completed.

3.2.4 Pottery retrieved from site was washed and dried and sent over to Nigel Macpherson Grant a pottery specialist for analysis.

4 THE KAFS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN 2011 AND 2012

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The 2011/2012 excavations at Harrietsham revealed an important prehistoric site and work is ongoing on writing up the context narrative from the context sheets and site drawings of plan and Figure 3

4.1.2 The pottery found during the 2012/2011 excavations has been examined by Nigel Macpherson-Grant and have revealed a great deal (Appendix 1). The animal bone has been examined by Julia E M Cussans from Archaeological Solutions (Appendix 2).

4.1.3 Contexts with pot and bone include:

003 surface layer to south of west entrance

004 surface layer to north of west entrance

005 fill of possible (surface) cremation

006 possible surface of cremation north of west entrance

007 surface finds south east terminal

008 surface finds linear running south at edge of west entrance

009 surface finds south west ‘corner’

010 surface finds of possible cremation south of west entrance

011 fill of ditch by east entrance on north side

012 surface finds in south east ditch

013 surface finds from possible cremation on south west terminal

014 surface finds from possible cremation on north east terminal

015 surface finds east ‘horn’ ditch

016 ditch terminal fill north east horn

017- 21 not used

022 surface finds terminal ‘horn’ north west end

023 surface finds north ditch

033 layer under 006

034 surface find west (north) entrance

035 layer under 034

036 layer under 035

037 layer under 036

038 cut of west (north) entrance

039 find spot decorated pot south east terminal

040 northern extension to ‘henge’

4.2 Pottery Finds

4.2.1 A combined total of 1199 sherds (11kgs.292gms) of pottery was recovered from the Court Lodge Farm site (Figure 1).

Three broad phases of activity appear to be represented – *Earliest Iron Age, Late Iron Age-Roman* and *post-Roman*.

Phase 1 : Earliest Iron Age (EIA) – c.800-600 BC

This assemblage principally stems from only 22 excavated contexts – the north and south terminals of both the eastern and western inner ditch entrances, a few other inner and ditch sections and one or two internal features. The great majority of the inner enclosure ditch together with its intra-ditch features, and the outer enclosure ditch remain to be excavated or sampled in greater detail. As a result, despite the relatively high proportion of sherds recovered, this assessment does not contain a thorough review of fabric-form type equations, vessel class and form-type diameter ranges or of context-type sherd- and vessel-deposition quantities. For the same reason – close analysis of superficially different fabric types to determine the likely number of clay sources used during the life of the settlement, has not been undertaken. Detailed analyses of this type will be undertaken when the site is fully excavated. This assessment has been confined solely to the identification and quantification of sherd fabrics via macroscopic and x10 magnification, a preliminary context-based quantification of numbers of fine wares, coarse wares and decorated vessels – and the extraction of all drawable or noteworthy elements. Other than obvious examples, no attempt has yet been made to assess the number of inter-context same-vessel equations and any associated implications – or to refine the *likely*

number of vessels represented. Similarly, beyond the following basic review, no context-based wear-analysis has been undertaken to determine discard patterns and the implications of context-assemblage condition to determine the likely lifespan of the enclosure.

Assemblage condition

Overall, the initial visual impression is of a highly fragmented assemblage consisting mostly of small-medium sized sherds with relatively low quantities of larger elements. Although this may partly be due to the type of contexts excavated to date – mostly ditch fills - it is also a bi-product of contemporary potters' tendency to produce mostly thin-walled vessels. As a result many regional Earliest Iron Age assemblages are characterized by similarly degraded material. Interestingly, despite this degree of fragmentation, very few contexts produced small severely abraded bifacially-worn sherds – those that indicate exposure to weathering and daily activity-attrition over a long period of time within the life-span of the enclosure. Instead there are a number of medium-sized assemblages – *Contexts 006, 008-9, 011, 035, 039, 854* – with only a moderate degree of wear suggesting only short-term exposure before final seal. Together with these are a similar number of large-sized assemblages – *003-005, 007, 012-013* – with mixed wear-patterns – some fresh, some fairly worn – but frequently characterized by the presence of sherds with variably heavy unifacial wear. These are sherds that have been left as discarded, undisturbed and suffering the effects of frost action and rain for a fairly considerable time. A good example are the fragments of a large storage-jar thrown into *Context 012,* one of the upper fills of the west entrance's north-side

ditch terminal (Fig.1). Some sherds are virtually unworn and fresh, quickly sealed by other rubbish, but other sherds were left wholly or partially exposed. Most examples of this latter type of discard group were from upper ditch fills - and deposited late in the life of the enclosure or as a final abandonment clearance act.

Assemblage character

Partly because of the tendency referred to above for most EIA assemblages to consist of thinly potted vessels, but also the frequently rather rough-and-ready approach applied to the finish of many coarse wares – contemporary assemblages frequently appear to contain rather crude ceramic. The present assemblage is no exception and, in fact, appears to be exceptionally coarse – with roughly finished and lumpy surfaced coarse wares. This distinct impression is further enhanced by the low quantity of neatly decorated and well-produced fine wares. Many of the smaller bowls and beakers that would normally be provided with fine burnished surfaces are very minimally finished with only light irregular burnishes and, sometimes, no attempt at ensuring that rim forms remain consistently shaped around the whole circumference. Still perfectly adequate for their intended function but interestingly different from the region's norm. This visual impression is further reinforced by the following assessment of vessel-type quantities

Unmodified vessel class estimates

Number of fine wares represented = 44-47

Number of sub-fine wares represented = 28-29

Number of coarse wares represented= 343-400

These totals are slightly weighted in the absence of a detailed inter-context review of same-vessel equations. Similarly, particularly for the coarse wares, accuracy is further hampered by individual vessels' variable firing colours. An additional handicap, particularly with this type of thin-walled assemblage, is the high number of relatively small sherds that a single large storage-jar can frequently break into – and tall large-diameter jars are a characteristic of most EIA settlements. Here, although the estimates for the fine wares and sub-fine wares is likely to be fairly accurate, for the above reasons the present total for coarse ware vessels is almost certainly too high. Irrespective, the constant impression received from examining other contemporary regional assemblages is for a high proportion of coarse wares sherds/vessels compared with fine ware elements – and quite possibly a bi-product of a high fracture rate as a consequence of traditionally producing thin-walled pottery. Another interesting characteristic of the Court Lodge Farm assemblage is the apparently low number of decorated vessels recorded to date -

Number of decorated vessels by vessel class

Decorated fine wares = 2

Decorated coarse wares = 5

Admittedly the present assemblage is derived from only a small sample of the settlement's actual area and likely number of features – so the above statistics will alter and the current set of impressions may have to be modified. Even so there should be, with a medium-size assemblage

like this one, a higher number of decorated vessels – particularly coarse wares.

Fabrics

The 1190 EIA sherds sub-divide into 7 broad fabric groups. These are detailed in the following table -

Number of sherds per fabric type

Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware = 104 sherds

Flint-tempered ware = 408 sherds

Flint-tempered slightly sandy/sandy sandy ware = 528 sherds

Flint and grog-tempered ware = 91 sherds

Flint and grog-tempered sandy/slightly sandy ware = 19 sherds

Flint and organic-tempered ware = 1 sherd

Flint-tempered ware with FeO and sparse grog = 1 sherd

Of these, the assemblage is visually distinguished by the use of clays containing varying quantities of *greensand* – usually only with a fairly sparse amount of additional flint-tempering. This fabric type loosely divides into two sub-groups - vessels made using clays containing *profuse* greensand with only a sparse amount of additional flint-tempering – and those made with a clay type(s) containing only *moderate* greensand content with a higher proportion of flint fillers. This latter type was used for some fine wares but does also include a small quantity of coarse ware vessels. The first variant appears to have been preferred for the production of most of the settlement's fine wares - as epitomized by the fabric of a finely made and decorated fine ware bowl

from *Context 039*. This clay-type>vessel-class equation reflects a distinctly particular and conscious choice, one that was not only regionally traditional – in the sense of using well-prepared finely-tempered more malleable potting clays for fine wares – but in this case one that was almost certainly dictated by the clay type(s) and fabric recipes preferred for most coarse wares.

The majority of the assemblage's coarse ware component *appears* to sub-divide into sherds with a *non-sandy clay matrix* and those with a *sandy or slightly sandy matrix*. This sandy content is of a non-greensand type – and consists of either a fairly coarse quartz sand, or more frequently, of varying quantities of both fine quartz sand and fine black sand. Unfortunately with the latter type, the degree of content variation is high. So that sherds appearing to be solely flint-tempered in a fine silty clay matrix may actually come from vessels containing a small quantity of the finer sands., whereas others are borderline and some obviously different with a visually obvious fairly high sand content. This is almost certainly due to natural variations in the clays used but, coupled with probably fairly poor clay preparation and a high degree of sherd fragmentation, makes separation into genuinely different clay types visually difficult. A further classification difficulty is represented by the probably naturally-occurring presence of *calcitic inclusions*. Superficially, these look very like fragments of deliberately burnt and crushed flint. The actual number of sherds with this ingredient type, and therefore representing a fundamentally different clay source, can only be determined via a much more detailed level of analysis. As a result this inclusion type has not been included as a separate fabric group in the

above table at this stage. The above points indicate that after detailed analysis of the two main clay matrix types initially noted – fine silty and fine sandy – the number of sherds per fabric type are likely to alter. The same point applies to sherds with or potentially without calcitic inclusions – and the overall number of fabric types will almost certainly be modified. Irrespective, the presence of calcite grits - coupled with the traditional use of coarser-grade flint fillers for cooking and storage-vessels – results in a harsh fabric type unsuitable for the production of fine wares.

The remainder of the assemblage comprises a relatively small quantity of *minority wares* containing either consciously added filler types, such as grog or organic material, or noticeably different naturally occurring ingredients such as a high iron-oxide component. Of these, sherds containing *flint and grog* temper are the dominant category with, t date, only one example each for the other ware types.

One final interesting aspect is the apparently complete absence of vessel bases with an additional skin of profuse grits – from either being made on beds of grits or possibly set aside to dry on similar. This trait is a normally consistent characteristic of most contemporary regional assemblages for the period although, equally consistently, does not apply to every pot produced – some pots do have it, some do not - irrespective of whether they are fine- or coarse ware vessels. To date no attempt has been made to quantify this manufacturing trend elsewhere in the region, either as a percentage of all bases recovered or as percentages by vessel class or type - principally due to the current

absence of assemblages from completely excavated enclosures.

Fineware forms, decoration and surface treatment

The two decorated fine ware vessels are both from *bi-partite bowls* with fairly high-set rounded shoulders – one is the glauconitic sandy ware example already referred to from *Context 039* with 5 possibly 6 close-set fairly narrow incised horizontal lines (Fig.2), the other from *005* probably similar but with only one rather broad incised line visible. The bowl from *039* is well-made with an even but not highly burnished finish and neatly executed decoration. At present, this bowl is exceptional for the site and the only obvious example of a quality 'special occasion' vessel. Although the finish on the one from *005* - and some of the other undecorated fine wares - may originally have been similar – they are all now rather worn. Forms for the undecorated series are simple, with near-upright shoulder-rim profiles and slightly everted rims. There is also one example of a *hemispherical bowl* with an incurved internally beveled rim. To date, there are no large-diameter fine wares – most of those recorded coming from medium-diameter vessels. One part-profile from *013* is from a rather crudely-made small-diameter bowl or cup with a thin everted rim above a slightly flattened rounded body and traces of an irregular inner-rim bevel. Also, there is a regionally exceptional fairly neat fine ware cup or small bowl base from *005*. As with a modest number of EIA bowls this has a hollow dimpled or *omphalos*-type base – but in this example the vessel sides spring straight from the edges of the omphalos hollow (Fig.3) – rather than the omphalos being pushed up in the centre of the base.

In addition, there is a moderate quantity of more crudely-finished *sub-fine ware* type vessels. Of the few rims recorded in this class, there is at least one medium-diameter hemispherical bowl and another rather unusual vessel with a markedly incurving closed-form rim from a thin-walled round-shouldered or globular-bodied jar.

Summarising, with the exception of the excellent decorated fine ware bowl from *039* – and accepting that the current impression may be influenced by sherd condition – the overall trend amongst the fine wares appears to be a rather minimal degree of finishing – smoothed even and rather lightly burnished – perfectly adequate for daily use but lacking any indications that quality-finishes – neat vessel moulding and high glossy burnishes - was a major issue in the production of this settlement's drinking and serving vessels.

Coarse ware forms, decoration and surface treatment

As indicated above, the proportion of decorated coarse wares is higher than the associated fine wares – even so it still appears fairly low compared with other regional assemblages. The current range is mostly confined to jar rims – 1-2 with continuous bold finger-tipping or 'pie-crusting', a few with neat but flat-style cabling (as from *003*), most with rather poorly executed variations of these including a very crude and minimal example again from *003.* There is one good example of jar with fairly neat diagonal finger-tipping on its shoulder from the western entrance's late discard group *012* (Fig.4), and another single example of a jar with a body-band of finger-pinched decoration from *011*.

Most of the above are from thin-walled medium-large diameter *storage-jars* or *cooking-pots*. The decorated storage-jar from *012* is from a high-shouldered sub-situlate jar suggesting that, in keeping with most contemporary regional assemblages, the majority of jars were *bi-partite* with high slightly rounded shoulders. Of these simple upright or, less frequently, flaring everted rims predominate – several with obvious inner-rim bevels. There are a few rough *hemispherical bowls* – mostly medium-large diameter, some with inner-rim beveling. There are also a few medium-diameter bowls or *basins* with more upright or outwardly angled slightly convex-bodied profiles – including a good example with a thin everted rim from the western entrance context *012* (Fig.5). One open-mouthed smallish bowl has internal sooting - either burnt food residue or from being used as a *lamp* (there is a good broadly contemporary example of the latter from the inter-tidal zone at Swalecliffe, near Herne Bay).

On all of these finishes are minimal, roughly wiped or smoothed – and in several cases insufficient to remove traces of earlier stages of pot formation. There are 2 good examples of the latter, both from *Context 012*. First – the basin Fig.5 – where the finishing process of vertical finger-smoothing is visible *over* two broad horizontal body zones with a shallow dip between. This clearly indicates that the basin was slab-built as opposed to coil-built. The latter technique is variably signposted in the Fig.4 decorated storage-jar – by linear traces of irregular roundish hollows which are the characteristic remnants of finger-pinching the original clay coils together – prior to smoothing down the surface (Fig.6). This latter characteristic is an epitomiser of regional EIA assemblages.

One final element is rather exceptional – and potentially very interesting. This is a sherd from a large-diameter coarse ware storage-jar from *Context 023*. It has a partially worn bright red-brown exterior surface skin (Fig.7). This is totally atypical of any other pottery from this assemblage and, superficially, totally atypical of any recorded contemporary regional assemblages. Again superficially, one might casually think the sherd has been re-fired – but neither the sherd's body nor surfaces give any indication of that possibility. The only other instance where this type of colouration can occur, for the period, is the use of iron-oxide rich slip. Normally, this occurs only on quality-ware fine ware bowls where there is a deliberate attempt to emulate the colour of costly contemporary bronze vessels. However, one aspect of recent research is the fairly frequent recording of sherds from large thin-walled sub-situlate jars with a tendency for slurried pale buff oxidized surfaces. This colouration is similar to the firing colour of the jar from *012*. The equation between colouration and vessel-type – themselves copying the form of broadly contemporary large bronze high-shouldered jars or *situlae* – is sufficiently frequent to suggest that it is quite deliberate. In one recent instance from near Dover – the external pot skin has a much higher degree of iron-oxide inclusions than its fabric – again implying deliberate productional differences. Until now – these instances have remained no more than unconfirmed possibilities. The present sherd will have to have its surface slip analysed – but the implication that some storage-jars were deliberately provided with bronze-like slips or control-fired surfaces is near-unavoidable.

Re-fired sherds

Nine sherds, from various contexts, have a pinkish-pale grey colouration from being lightly re-fired. Most EIA assemblages are characterized by a fairly high quantity of similar sherds together with others that are fairly heavily re-fired or semi-vitrified. The present low number from Court Lodge Farm may be due to the limited number of contexts examined to date. Although the full range of reasons for their occurrence of has not been critically determined – the evidence from a number of regional assemblages indicates that ceramic of this type is the bi-product of being involved with metallurgical and/or domestic activity in some way – possibly as broken sherds being re-used as hearth linings. Whilst this may also ultimately apply here – the limited degree of re-firing recorder could, in this case, equally well stem from unintentional inclusion in bonfires or fortuitous occurrence on the edge of hearths.

Other finds

No fired clay finds have been recorded to date – mould and perforated slab fragments associated with metallurgy, loom weights or spindle whorls associated with weaving. However, this initial evaluation produced several non-ceramic finds. These include a fragment from a copper alloy awl/pin from the south terminal of the eastern entrance (being separately assessed) and part of a shale arm bracelet from *Context 006*. The latter is in a good stable condition, with one-fifth of its original 10cms diameter present. It has a regular 10mm width with its thickness tapering from a thin 3mm.thick flattened ovoid section to a thicker 8mm.thick sub-rectangular section (Fig.8). The surfaces have been smoothed down to basically flat upper and lower faces, a rounded outer edge and slightly flattened inner edge. The tapering section is

probably due to the laminar structure of the parent shale block, resulting in an uneven shearing of the bracelet 'disc' from it. The bracelet has not yet been examined by a specialist but its dark brown colour suggests it is made of Kimmeridge shale from Dorset – rather than the black jet 'shale' of Yorkshire.

Initial review of regional parallels

Fine wares

The excellently-finished decorated vessel fragments from *Context 039* (Fig.2) is related to a range of decorated medium-large bowls and jars from a number of regional sites – including Monkton, Thanet 8-10 (Macpherson-Grant 1994 Figs.5-6), Highstead, Chislet 33, 183, 189, 212 (Couldrey 2007 Figs.59, 70, 73) and unpublished material from Minster Thanet, Hacklinge Holes Worth, Star Hill Bridge and Swalecliffe inter-tidal zone. The smaller bowl from *005* is similar to a further set of decorated bowls from Highstead, Monkton, Folkestone, Worth – and other sites. Other apparently undecorated medium-diameter bi-partite and hemispherical fine ware bowls from Court Lodge Farm, with their fairly upright rim-shoulder profiles, are similar to both plain and decorated examples from the same sites (eg. Highstead 212, Monkton 47-9). The unusually-formed bowl/cup omphalos base Fig.3 has a general parallel from Swalecliffe.

Coarse wares

The large storage-jar from the southern terminal of the western entrance with its single shoulder row of finger-tip impressions – *012* (Fig.4) – is initially best paralleled by similarly decorated jars from

Highstead – 19, 49, 114, 171 (Couldrey 2007 Figs. 58-9, 64, 69) – and Monkton 90, and to a lesser degree 96 (Macpherson-Grant 1994 Figs.15-16). Its pale buff-fired surfaces are similar to a number of regional examples but again, particularly, Highstead (eg. Highstead 188). The good deep basin part-profile from the same context, Fig.5, is basically similar to another from Highstead Enclosure A24 (Couldrey 2007 Fig.73, 208) – albeit here with a slightly more exaggerated beveled-rim. In addition to the latter, several other coarseware jar rims have more typical examples of internally beveled rims – eg. from *Context 007* and this is a typical EIA rim characteristic from many regional sites.

The above references are far from being an exhaustive survey of parallels – but are sufficient to confirm the general dating of this assemblage given below. In addition there is an interesting set of form variations, particularly among the fine ware bowls and cups, but also among some of the coarse wares, that can only be reviewed when illustrated.

Initial assemblage date and summary

At the current level of academic determination, all the EIA assemblages from the sites mentioned above can be broadly placed into the *Earliest Iron Age* – c.800-600 BC. On the basis of the typological equations with the pottery from these sites – the present assemblage from Court Lodge Farm can also be placed into that same period. There is no doubt about the range of parallels between the present site and those referred to – and there is no doubt as to the basic archaeological period represented. However, the sites technically placeable into that 200-year period do, or

may – with more regional comparative data - come from different chronological positions within it. The recent 2010 assemblage from Minster Hill, Thanet is a good case in point - with the decoration on one fine ware bowl suggesting a date between, arguably, c.900-700 BC rather than the one given above.

Although it may be slightly too early to be confident, the present assemblage does appear to have some slightly unexpected aspects - notably variations from the regional norm amongst its fine ware bowl forms and the low count of decorated vessels. What still has to be confirmed is whether these apparent variations are being *socially determined* – or *chronologically determined*. For the moment these two aspects, particularly the low quantity of decorated vessels, suggests a different chronological placement. In this case nearer to the previous period – the LBA - which is partially characterized by the near-dominant presence of undecorated pottery – hence its tradition name, 'Plainware'. This period is currently dated to between c.1150-800 BC. Here, the current range of parallels with other regional EIA assemblages coupled with the low count of decorated pots *could* indicate a relatively early date – again perhaps between c.900-700 BC.

Phase 2 : Late Iron Age-Roman – c.50 BC-350 AD

A thin scatter of 3 intrusive sherds represents this period - a small worn 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered coarse ware body sherd from *Context 013* its soft low-fired fabric suggesting that it *may* date from as early as c.75 BC but more probably somewhere between c.50 BC-25 AD, a small harder-fired grogged 'Belgic'-style coarse ware body sherd from *Context*

012 and datable to between c.50-125 AD – and a moderate-sized but worn body sherd from a tableware Colchester colour-coated jar/beaker from *Context 023*. Although this ware was produced from c.150 AD onwards, its hard-fired fabric suggests a Mid or Late Roman date, third-mid fourth centuries AD. The low quantity representing this general period, and their size and condition, all suggests that they arrived on-site in agricultural manure. Collectively they represent the establishment of a Late Iron Age high status site during approximately mid first century BC which continued in use throughout the Conquest-period AD, became Romanised and continued in occupancy until at least the mid third century, *possibly* as late as the mid fourth century.

Phase 3 : Late Medieval and later – c.1450 AD-1825 AD

Coupled with broadly contemporary roof-tile and brick fragments, a slightly thicker scatter of, again, worn and intrusive material represents this broad period. These were recorded from *Contexts 003, 007, 009, 012* and *Unstratified* surface collecting. None appears to pre-date c.1450/1475 AD. The pottery is all from coarse ware vessels – a few unremarkable Late Medieval and Post-Medieval red sandy wares but including one Medway area chalk-flecked earthenware of broadly c.1475-1550 AD date and one pink-buff Wealden-type datable to between c.1675-1750 AD. One red earthenware crock sherd with iron-flecked glaze, of c.1750-1825 AD date, is the latest element recovered. All the tile fragments are of later fifteenth-eighteenth century date, some in a red sandy fabric, most fragments in a pink-buff Wealden-type

E. Recommendations

1. The Court Lodge Farm EIA assemblage comes from a single-period

high status site. There *are* indications of earlier/later activity, but the evidence for it does not seriously impinge upon the relative feature purity of this settlement. Although there are quite a large number of EIA assemblages from the region, practically all of them come from multi-period occupation sites – with inevitable results in inter-period 'clouding' – a condition which makes the process of confidently allocating individual sherds and potentially diagnostic forms to a specific period much more difficult. Such a condition also tends to impede accurate assessment of inter-period based vessel-diameter ratio and form/decoration frequencies. Regionally, we need good assemblages from single-period sites – and for a number of demographic reasons we are short of them for most periods. For the present period, there are only 2 sites that meet this 'single-period' requirement – Monkton Court Farm and Northdown Primary School, both in Thanet. However, both of these are from incompletely excavated sites. So that – technically, Court Lodge Farm represents an excellent and much needed opportunity for complete enclosure – and ancilliary-feature - excavation and complete retrieval of its surviving artefactual record. With, as a result, the possibility of providing a good and archaeologically reliable contribution to regional studies of the period – particularly if its associated with the recovery of a good series of samples that can be submitted for radiocarbon assay.

2. It is therefore seriously recommended that the Court Lodge Farm enclosure be completely excavated before it is further reduced by plough action – and the resultant finds assemblage studied in a reasonably short period and brought through to full publication.

Plate 4: A sample collection of pottery sherds found at the KAFS excavations

Recording

4.1.1 A complete drawn record of the investigated areas comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and OD heights.

4.1.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography.

4.1.3 A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.

4.1.4 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown as [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench or area with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches or areas (i.e. Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Area 3, 301+, etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The site, as shown on Figures 1 & 2, provides the seasonal area layout and distribution of archaeological features.

5.1.2 The photographic archive illustrates the results for each individual archaeological investigation along with sections for excavated features.

5.1.3 Plates 1-15 consist of photographs of features and selected areas that have been provided to supplement the text.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising topsoil sealing an intact subsoil, which overlay the natural geological drift deposits.

5.2.2 The topsoil generally consisted of dark brown clay silt, moderate roots, and occasional small rounded stones, topped with grass, overlying the subsoil which consisted of medium orange brown

colluvial silt. Natural geology comprised mottled, brown, silty clay and gravel.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The KAFS archaeological evaluation on land at Harrietsham has recorded a henge-type structure dating from the Early Iron Age inside a rectangular enclosure which fronts on to a prehistoric track or way.

6.2 Conclusions

6.2.1 The archaeological investigation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification and has assessed the archaeological potential of land. The results from this work will be used to aid and inform the Landowner of any further archaeological mitigation measures that may be necessary in connection with any future development proposals.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 General

7.1.1 The Site archive, which will include: paper records, photographic records, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

8.1.1 The Kent Archaeological Field School would like to thank the landowners for commissioning the project and this report written by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA., FRSA and dated 23.08.2024.

PLATES

Plate 5: Initial field walking with Dr Paul Wilkinson examining a worked flint tool

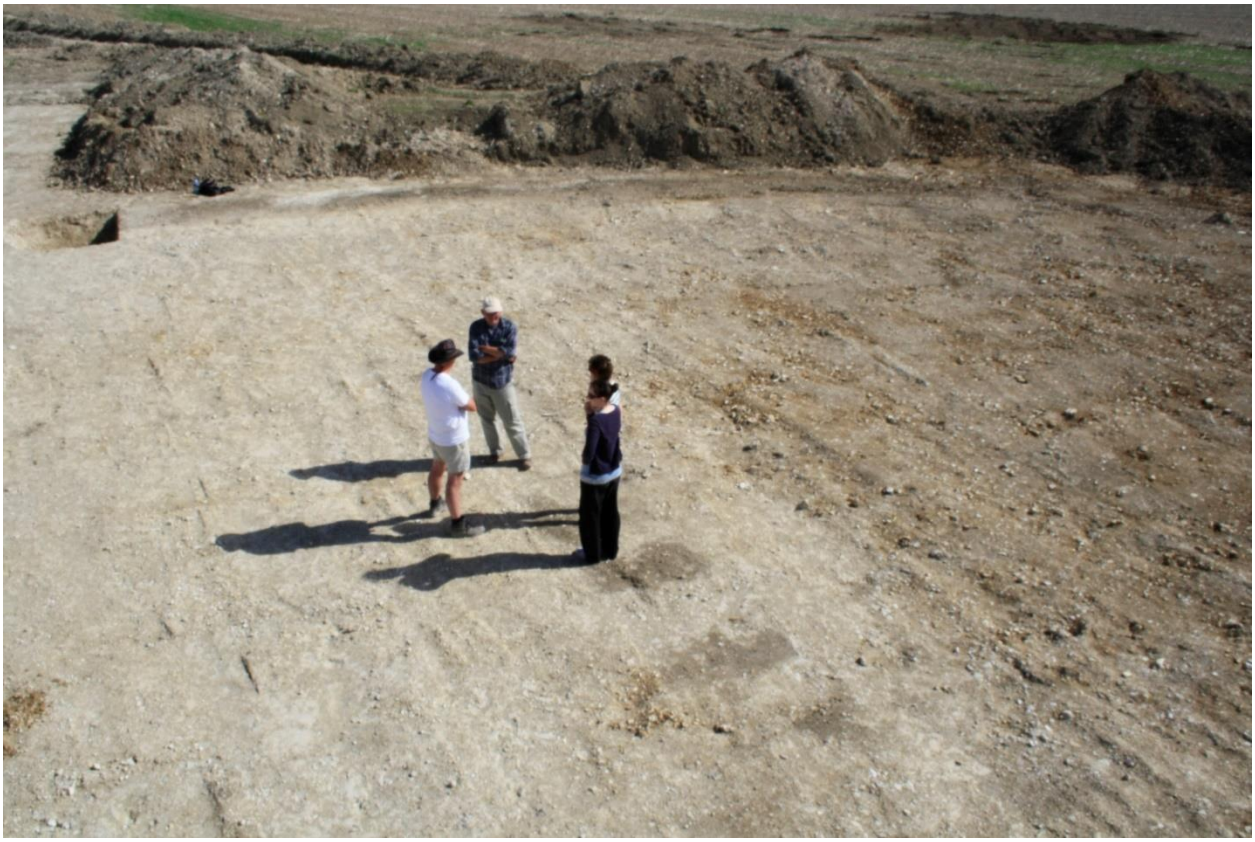


Plate 6. The site with the area stripped (looking NNE)

Plate 7: the ‘henge’ with west facing entrance (looking NNW)

Plate 8: The ‘henge’ with east facing entrance (looking SW)

Plate 9: The ‘henge’ with east facing entrance (looking NW)

Plate 10. Section of ‘Henge’ ditch with placed animal bone deposits (looking N)

Plate 11. Section 207 (looking NW)

Plate 12. View of Site (looking NNW)

Plate 13. West facing entrance with Neolithic ditch top left (looking SW)

Plate 14. Excavating prehistoric pot deposits

Plate 15. Section across ditch with prehistoric pottery sherds

Plate 16. Completed ditch section (looking west)

Plate 17. Early Iron Age ware

Appendix 1: Pottery

Context 012: Surface ditch - 7 sherds (weight : 63gms)

2 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

4 sherds EIA flint-tempered sandy/slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC)

1 sherd LM sandy ware (c.1450-1500/1525 AD probably; intrusive) and :

1 worked flint (weight : 14gms) – long semi-cortical flake, thick, narrow triangular section, patinated and re-worked (un-patinated) into a either blunt-nosed end-scraper or blunted for use as a blade. Maybe contemporary with EIA occupation.

2 fragments brick (weight : 4gms) – small, rounded, worn, LM>PM

Comment : The EIA elements are small-moderate sized, variably worn but only 1 fairly heavily, the rest slightly or near-fresh. The LM sherd is battered and worn and technically intrusive.

Vessels represented : 1 sub-fine ware, 4-5 coarse wares

Drawable : 1 coarse ware base

Likely date : c.800-600 BC with Late Medieval and later intrusions

Context 023: Surface outer ditch - 1 sherd (weight : 18gms)

1 sherd LM>PM Medway chalk-flecked fine earthenware (c.1475/1500-1550 AD probable emphasis)

and : 2 fragments roof-tile (weight : 26gms) – 1 small, worn, red sandy fabric (LC15-C16 AD probably), 1 moderate-sized, fresh, pink-buff marly Wealden-type fabric (C17 AD probably)

Comment : Moderate-sized fairly worn body sherd

Likely date : ? intrusive LM and PM elements

Context 034: North side East entrance - 2 sherds (weight : 24gms)

1 sherd EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC)

1 sherd EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

Comment : 1 small sherd, 1 fairly large – the former near-fresh, the latter fairly worn

Re-fired sherds : 1 fairly heavily

Vessels represented : 1 fine ware, 1 coarse ware

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

C.2 : Excavated contexts :

Context: 003 – burnt soil area - 299 sherds (weight : 2569gms)

5 sherds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC; 3 same vessel)

120 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

140 sherds EIA flint-tempered sandy/slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC; 17 same vessel)

27 sherds EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 6 same vessel)

2 sherds EIA flint and grog-tempered slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC)

2 sherds PM red sandy earthenware (c.1575/1600-1700 AD range probably)

1 sherd PM pink-buff Wealden-type earthenware (c.1675/1700-1750 AD emphasis probably)

and :

1 PM iron tack/nail (weight : 2gms) – cut (square shank), little corrosion – C16-C17 AD probably

6 fragments PM roof-tile (weight : 117gms) – small-medium-sized. Two Wealden-type pale pink-buff (C16-C17 AD) – more worn than rest; 1 moderately worn, pink marly fabric, Wealden-type probably, C17 AD broadly: 3 red fabric, slightly worn, C17-C18 AD.

2 fragments stone (weight : 24 gms) – 1 coarse-grained, burnt, rotted, 1 fine-grained angular sliver

Comment : Majority small-medium sized sherds, a moderate quantity fairly large. Variable wear-pattern throughout with a high proportion of heavily and moderately worn elements – few are genuinely fresh. Many small elements are split, these and a fairly high proportion of whole sherds all share a similar trend for fairly heavy unifacial damage – firmly indicating deposition into an exposed static-ground context for a fairly considerable period of time before final seal. Other elements have some edge-into-face damage and are generally fairly worn. There are at least 17 sherds from the same base (some conjoining) and most of these and other less worn elements are probably broadly contemporary late-arrivals into-context.

Re-fired sherds : 1 very slightly

Vessels represented : 5 fine wares, 6 sub-fine wares, 50-100 coarse wares (very approximately)

Drawable : 1 fine ware bowl part-profile, 12 coarse ware rims (2 decorated), 11 coarse ware bases Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 004 - 57 sherds (weight : 411gms)

27 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; some same vessels)

19 sherds EIA flint-tempered slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC; 3 same vessel, some same vessels)

9 sherds EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 x same vessels)

Comment : All fairly small-moderate-sized sherds, a few sherds with fairly heavy unifacial damage, 1 with moderate edge-into-face damage, bulk only moderately worn – the latter possibly representing, since there appear to be a number of same-vessel elements, a one-off same-time late-phase deposit into a feature that, previously, may have remained open for some time.

Vessels represented : 5-7 fine wares, 2 sub-fine wares, 15-20 coarse wares

Drawable : 1 coarse ware bowl part-profile, 2 coarse ware jar rims, 3 coarse ware bases

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 005 - 49 sherds (weight : 339gms)

1 sherd EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC)

30 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 3 x same vessels – incl. 9 same vessel)

14 sherds EIA flint-tempered sandy/slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC; 7 same vessel)

2 sherds EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; same

vessel)

1 sherd EIA flint and grog-tempered slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC)

1 sherd EIA flint and organic-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

Comment : Mostly small-moderate-sized sherds, 1-2 fairly large. All are moderately-fairly heavily worn, with at least one group of same-vessel sherds (a base) share the same fairly heavy non-use unifacial wear internally. A small quantity of elements less worn latest arrivals - but not really near-fresh. Should represent accumulations of rubbish receiving medium-term exposure before final seal.

Vessels represented : 6 fine wares, 20-25 coarse wares

Drawable : 1 fine ware bowl rim, 1 fine ware shoulder,1 fine ware base, 4 coarse ware jar rims, 3 coarse ware bases

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 006 - 81 sherds (weight : 540gms)

2 sherds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC)

39 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 x same-vessels)

13 sherds EIA flint-tempered slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC)

5 sherds EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

1 sherd EIA flint and grog-tempered slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC)

and :

1 fragment shale bracelet (weight : 2gms) – broken, 1/5th radius,

tapering and thinning from sub-ovoid section to thin sub-rectangular section.

1 fragment lightly-fired daub/potting clay (weight : 7gms), fairly small, unweathered

Comment : Some small-fairly small sized sherds, mostly moderate-fairly large. Three-four sherds have partial unifacial damage, the majority are only moderately-slightly worn – and give the appearance of arriving as part of a near-contemporary discard group – maybe 'sweepings'.

*Vessels represented :*5 fine wares, 2 sub-fine wares, 25-30 coarse wares

Drawable : 1 fine ware base, 1 sub-fine ware base, 5 coarse ware rims (1 decorated), 2 coarse ware bases

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 007 - 64 sherds (weight : 766gms)

16 sherds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 x same vessels)

9 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 same vessel)

34 sherds EIA flint-tempered sandy/slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC; 3-4 x same vessels)

3 sherds EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

and :

2 fragments roof-tile (weight : 8gms) – both small, worn, 1 red sandy fabric (probably C15-EC16 AD), 1 Wealden-type pink marly fabric (C16-C17 AD broadly)

1 fragment iron slag (weight : 310gms) – large lump, underside

flat, upper-side with ‘burst bubble’ concavities

1 fragment tabular sandstone (weight : 131gms) – coarse-grained, flat underside, irregular upper face, one corner possibly deliberately shaped.

Comment : Moderate quantities each of small, moderate and large-sized sherds – with same-vessel elements from each category, although very few are conjoining sherds. One-two are heavily abraded overall – including the re-fired element, a few have partial unifacial damage – the majority, including all the large-sized sherds, are only moderately worn and represent the latest deposit into a feature open for a moderate period of time.

Re-fired sherds: 1 slightly

Vessels represented : > 4 fine wares, 3 sub-fine wares, 13-15 coarse wares

*Drawable :*1 sub-fine ware rim, 2 coarse ware rims, 1 coarse ware base

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 008 - 15 sherds (weight : 78gms)

3 sherds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC)

10 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 same vessel)

2 sherds EIA flint-tempered slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC)

and :

3 fragments sandstone (weight : 18gms) – small, ‘fresh’.

Comment : Small-moderate sized sherds, some of the smaller elements split and fairly heavily worn, others larger generally only

moderately or slightly worn. Elements deposited/arriving over a moderate period of time into an open context.

Vessels represented : 8-10 coarse wares

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 009 – SW corner ditch - 18 sherds (weight : 100gms)

7 sherds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC)

6 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

2 sherds EIA flint-tempered sandy ware (c.800-600 BC; ? same vessel)

2 sherds EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

1 sherd LPM red earthenware (iron-flecked glaze (c.1750/1775-1825 AD range; intrusive)

Comment : Mostly small sherds, 1 fairly large. One small sherd has complete surface abrasion overall, and the largest element (a base sherd) has fairly heavy unifacial damage. The remainder are variably worn, some with edge-burring, some fairly fresh. Should represent accumulations into an open context over a moderate period of time.

Vessels represented : 2 sub-fine wares, 12-14 coarse wares

Drawable : 1 coarse ware jar base

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 011 - 61 sherds (weight : 463gms)

3 sheds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC)

46 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 x same vessels)

7 sherds EIA flint-tempered sandy/slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC)

5 sherds EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 1 = **Context 012)**

and :

1 fragment rotted greensand (weight : 14gms) – fairly small, rounded

Comment : Mostly small-fairly small-sized sherds, a few moderate-sized, 2-3 fairly heavily worn overall, a small quantity with severe-moderate unifacial wear, remainder moderately worn. Overall wear-pattern suggests accumulations into an open context over a moderate period of time, the bulk of the less worn majority arriving towards the end of that period.

Re-fired sherds : 3 lightly

Vessels represented : 1 fine ware, 1-2 sub-fine wares, > 30-35 coarse wares

Drawable : 1 fine ware bowl rim, 2 coarse ware jar rims, 1 decorated coarse ware body sherd, 1 coarse ware base

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 012 – north side west entrance - 175 sherds (weight : 2728gms)

6 sherds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC; same vessel)

7 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 x same vessels)

157 sherds EIA flint-tempered slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC; 4 x same-vessels -121 same vessel)

5 sherds EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 4 same vessel, 1 = Context 011)

1 sherd ER 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered ware (c.50/75-125 AD emphasis probably)

1 fragment PM roof-tile (weight : 3gms) – small, worn, pink-buff marly Wealden-type fabric – C16-C17 AD

Comment : This context-assemblage consists predominantly of small-medium sized sherds, with a moderate quantity of larger elements - the majority from the same buff-fired large decorated coarse ware storage-jar. Although there is a variable wear-pattern amongst its sherds – with very few sherds free of wear (and these mostly small and originally buried elements) - the majority exhibit the same fairly heavy unifacial wear from being discarded into-context interior side upwards and remaining exposed to weather for some considerable time. A large proportion of this highly fragmented vessel is currently missing. In addition, there are parts of 3 other vessels – including a large coarse ware bowl part-profile – all 3 of which are near-fresh and unworn. Unfortunately, the position of these, particularly the bowl part-profile, were not recorded in relation that of the storage-jar – although the personal impression received is that the latter was stratigraphically above the bowl, implying that they may not be part of the same discard event. The storage-jar sherds appear to be part of a late-phase dump, fairly high in the fill of the ditch.

Vessels represented : 19-20 coarse wares

Drawable : 1 coarse ware storage-jar part-profile, 1 coarse ware rim, 1 coarse ware bowl part-profile, 1 coarse ware base
Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 013 - 128 sherds (weight : 1053gms)
3 sherds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC; 1 sherd = Context 013)
39 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 same vessel)
63 sherds EIA flint-tempered sandy/slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC; at least x 2 same-vessels)
21 EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)
1 sherd MIA-LIA>LIA 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered ware (c.75/50 BC-25 AD emphasis probably)
and :
2 fragments coarse-grained sandstone (weight : 13gms) – burnt, rotted
3 fragments tabular fine-grained sandstone (weight : 16gms) – small, unworn
Comment : Majority small-fairly small sherds, moderate quantity of moderate-sized elements. Many smaller elements split - these and other complete elements have fairly severe unifacial wear. This aspect is quite marked within this context-assemblage and firmly indicates rubbish being discarded into an open feature and left exposed, weathering and undisturbed for some time. Remaining sherds all moderately>fairly heavily worn with very few near-fresh elements.
NB : *Other inter-context sherd equations between this layer and*

Context 013 *'burnt layer' may become apparent with more detailed comparison*

Vessels represented : 5 fine wares, 1 sub-fine ware, 40-50 coarse wares

Drawable : 2 fine ware bowl part-profiles, 1 sub-fine ware rim, 6 coarse ware rims, 7 coarse ware bases

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 013 – within large flints and burnt layer - 47 sherds (weight : 555gms)

11 sherds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC; 9 sherds same vessel = Context 012)

10 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 4 same vessel)

11 sherds EIA flint-tempered sandy/slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC; 3 x same vessels)

1 sherd EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

14 sherds EIA flint and grog-tempered slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC; same vessel)

Comment : Mostly small-medium sized sherds, a few large. Mixed wear-pattern, at least 2 same-vessel sherd groups with fairly heavy unifacial wear, some with either heavy or light partial face damage, remainder moderately worn, a few near-fresh. Again more worn elements suggests medium-term exposure in an open feature. NB : *Other inter-context sherd equations between this layer and Context 012 may become apparent with more detailed comparison*

Vessels represented : 1 fine ware, 1 sub-fine ware, 15-17 coarse

wares

Drawable : 1 sub-fine ware bowl rim, 1 coarse ware bowl rim, 1 coarse ware base

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 015 - 1 sherd (weight : 1gm)

1 sherd EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC)

Comment : Small, slightly worn body sherd.

Vessels represented : 1 sub-fine ware

Likely date : c.800-600 BC probably

Context: 016 Posthole - 1 sherd (weight : 2gms)

1 sherd EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

Comment : Small moderately sherd

Vessels represented : 1 coarse ware

Likely date : c.800-600 BC probably

Context: 023 - 69 sherds (weight : 578gms)

9 sherds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC; 3 same vessel)

14 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 x same vessels)

34 sherds EIA flint-tempered slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC; 3 x same vessels, incl. 1 ? red-finished)

9 sherds EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 5 same vessel)

1 sherd EIA flint and grog-tempered slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC)

1 sherd ER North Kent fine grey ware-type (slightly sandy, c.75-125/150 AD; intrusive)

1 sherd MR-LR Colchester colour-coated ware (c.150/250-350 AD emphasis probably; intrusive)

and :

3 fragments PM tile (weight : 10gms) – pink marly Wealden-type, slivers, fairly worn, C16-EC17 AD probably - intrusive

Comment : Small- fairly small sized sherds predominate but also includes moderate quantities of medium-fairly large sized sherds. Variable wear-pattern – at least one set of same-vessel sherds is fairly heavily abraded bifacially, others – all sizes – have partial or complete unifacial wear, some large sherds, including one same-vessel set, are only slightly worn latest arrivals. Assemblage represents discards into an open feature over a period of time.

Red-finished : 1 coarse ware body sherd with *possible* iron-oxide slip – requires SEM analysis

Vessels represented : 2 fine wares, 3 sub-fine wares, 20-25 coarse wares

Drawable : 2 sub-fine ware bases, 3 coarse ware rims, 1 coarse ware base

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 033 - 43 sherds (weight : 332gms)

1 sherd EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC)

31 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 x same vessels)
11 sherds EIA flint-tempered sandy/slightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC)
and :
1 fragment daub (weight :5gms) – rounded, small
Comment : Mostly small-fairly small sherds, some fairly large. Variable wear-pattern – some small are split and fairly heavily worn, some with partial into-face damage, the largest – which includes sherds from the same vessels – are near-fresh and obviously the latest arrivals into a context-assemblage that has accumulated over a medium-fairly long term period.
Re-fired sherds ; 1 very lightly
Vessels represented : 3 fine wares, 35-40 coarse wares
Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 034 - 1 sherd (weight : 33gms)
1 sherd EIA flint-tempered ware with FeO and sparse grog inclusions (c.800-600 BC)
Comment : Fairly large body sherd, near-fresh – from an undisturbed contemporary context
Vessels represented : 1 fine ware
Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 035 - 31 sherds (weight : 271gms)
4 sherds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 same vessel)

14 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 x same vessels)
12 sherds EIA flint-tempered sandy/lightly sandy ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 same vessel)
1 sherd EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)
Comment : Mostly small, a few fairly large-sized, sherds. One sherd, lightly re-fired, is heavily worn, one small element has moderate unifacial damage, remainder are slightly edge-worn but with frequently fairly fresh. The bulk is broadly contemporary and any accumulation into a potentially open feature likely to be fairly short-term.
Re-fired sherds : 1 lightly
Vessels represented : 4-5 fine wares, 2 sub-fine wares, 14-16 coarse wares
Drawable : 1 fine ware bowl rim, 1 sub-fine ware bowl rim, 2 coarse ware rims, 1 coarse ware base
Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 036 - 3 sherds (weight : 10gms)
3 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 same vessel)
Comment : Fairly small sherds, near-fresh – should be from an undisturbed contemporary context
Vessels represented : 1 sub-fine ware, 1 coarse ware
Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 039 - 20 sherds (weight : 86gms)
16 sherds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware

(c.800-600 BC; same vessel)

3 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; same vessel)

1 sherd EIA flint-tempered fine sandy ware (c.800-600 BC)

Comment : Small-moderate sized sherds, a few with slightly worn edges and 1 from the decorated greensand fine ware with unifacial/plough-damage – rest only slightly worn or near-fresh and from a contemporary undisturbed context.

Vessels represented : 1 fine ware, 1 sub-fine ware, 1 coarse ware

Drawable : Decorated fine ware shoulder

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 041 - 6 sherds (weight : 47gms)

3 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

3 sherds EIA flint-tempered fine sandy ware (c.800-600 BC)

Comment : Two small, 4 moderate-sized sherds – 1 fairly worn, remainder lightly or near-fresh.

Re-fired sherds : 1 lightly

Vessels represented : 6 coarse wares

Drawable : 1 coarse ware rim

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 853 - 2 sherds (weight : 51gms)

2 sherds EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC; same vessel)

Comment : Moderate-fairly large sized sherds, near-fresh and from an undisturbed contemporary context.

Vessels represented : 1 large coarse ware (? buff-fired storage-jar)

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

Context: 854 - 18 sherds (weight : 174gms)

15 sherds EIA Medway-zone flint-tempered greensand ware (c.800-600 BC; 2 x same vessels)

1 sherd EIA flint-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

1 sherd EIA flint-tempered fine sandy ware (c.800-600 BC)

1 sherd EIA flint and grog-tempered ware (c.800-600 BC)

Comment : Some small, mostly moderate-sized, a few fairly large, sherds – moderately worn only – quantity of vessels represented suggests only relatively short-term accumulation or a deposit of one-off 'sweepings'.

Vessels represented : 1 probable sub-fine ware (flint and grog-tempered), 12-14 coarse wares

Drawable : 1 decorated coarse ware jar rim, 1 coarse ware base

Likely date : c.800-600 BC

D. Assessment :

D1. Period frequencies and implications

This initial excavation produced a moderate-sized assemblage consisting of 1199 sherds weighting 11kgs.292gms. It is, interestingly, almost entirely single-period consisting of predominantly Later Prehistoric with a few Late Iron Age, Roman and post-Roman sherds. Overall, the post-Prehistoric elements tend to be more worn and abraded than the Prehistoric – with all sherds probably being intrusive into Prehistoric contexts and few, if any, derived from contemporary features. The following table details the ceramic-based chronological sequence recorded to date (2011).

F. Bibliography

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Analyst : N.Macpherson-Grant 29.2.2012

Appendix 2: Animal Bone

CLF11 & 12, Court Lodge Farm, Animal Bone Assessment Report

Julia E M Cussans, Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Introduction

An assemblage of over 1200 bone fragments from more than 60 contexts was assessed and is reported on below. Without knowledge of the dating of the site the importance of the assemblage is difficult to assess but it did reveal a number of interesting features and initial impressions are that in terms of the animal bones present this may be a producer site. The findings of the bone scan are presented below along with suggestions for the assemblage potential and future work.

Method

The animal bone assemblage was assessed on a context by context basis and the results recorded on a bone scan pro-forma. The pro-forma took

into account observations on bone condition including general preservation, colour, abrasion, fresh breaks and gnawing. Mammal bones were quantified by species where possible or by size category where large indicates cattle or horse sized, medium is sheep/goat, pig or large dog sized and small mammal is cat or hare sized. Sheep and goat bones were only identified to species where identifiable skull fragments, particularly horn cores were present; for the majority of cases they were simply recorded as sheep/goat. The presence of bird, fish and other small fauna could also be noted. For the identified mammal species the dominance of particular body parts was noted as was the presence of butchery, ageable mandibles and teeth, unfused epiphyses, measurable bones and those displaying pathologies. The presence of such features was noted in a semi-quantitative manner (none, few, some, many). Further to this, notes were made on any particular points of interest.

As no further context or dating information was available at the time of writing all of the data were treated as a single group. Animal bone data were quantified in two ways, firstly by a basic fragment count of identified specimens (NISP) and secondly by counting the number of contexts a species was present in (frequency). The use of the frequency method offers a counterbalance to NISP figures which can be inflated where articulated remains are present and hence a single individual is represented by a large number of bones, or where some species are more likely to be butchered than others and hence broken down into a greater number of pieces. Further quantifications were made of the occurrence of body parts (head, vertebrae, limbs, feet or mixed), butchery, ageable jaws or teeth, ageable (unfused) epiphyses, measurable bones and

pathologies. These were quantified based on the number of contexts they appeared in as a percentage of the total number of context that particular species was found in.

Results

Bone preservation was mostly rated as ok on a scale from very poor to excellent, a small number of contexts were rated as poor and just three were rated as having good preservation. Bone pieces were generally quite large and just less than 40% of them were identifiable to species, the rest being recorded as either large or medium mammal. All of the contexts had some level of surface abrasion evident on the bones with over 60% of contexts recorded as having some or many of their bones abraded; this often appeared to be the result of root etching but weathering and other taphonomic factors may also have been in play. Over 75% of the contexts had been subject to canid gnawing, which in some cases was quite severe. Both the canid gnawing and surface abrasion are likely to affect the identification of other bone features in particular butchery marks and pathological lesions which may give clues to animal husbandry and carcass utilization. Canid gnawing is also likely to be more detrimental to more fragile bones or parts of bones, such as those of young or smaller animals and unfused epiphyses of larger animals; hence age data and species representation may be somewhat skewed where canid gnawing is prolific. A small number of burnt bone fragments were present.

A total of 1245 bone fragments were recorded from 64 contexts or sections. Quantification data are shown in table 1. Cattle were by far the most common species followed by sheep/goat, pig and then horse; dog

and red deer were represented by a small number of bones. No goats were positively identified, but one horn core fragment was positively identified as sheep. Red deer were represented by two antler fragments and one tooth row, it is not possible to say if shed antlers were collected in addition to the hunting of deer. A small number of chicken sized bird bones were recovered from a single context.

The body area representation data (table 1 and figure 1) is interesting and shows a high representation of head elements (including loose teeth); this was particularly notable for sheep/goat and horse. Where body area is recorded as mixed this usually involved a combination of head, feet and limb bones. The majority of ribs, vertebrae and long bone shaft fragments were recoded as large or medium mammal due to the difficulties in reliably determining these to species. However ribs and vertebrae were not particularly numerous. Limb bones appear to be the next most common element type after bones of the head; however it should be highlighted here that these data are based only on the number of contexts containing these bones and not on the number of bones themselves. For instance sheep/goat limb bones appear to be fairly common in the assemblage as in they are present in over 40% of the contexts containing sheep/goat bones; however for contexts where only a single body area was present bones of the head and loose teeth account for at least 38% of the total NISP, where as limb bones account for only 3.5% of the NISP. Contexts where more than one body area is present are more difficult to determine, but the overall impression for sheep/goat remains was that head elements were extremely common and limb bones were particularly rare. For cattle the different body areas appeared to be much more evenly

represented and pigs also appeared to be more broadly represented than sheep/goat or horse. It appears that there is some significant selection of elements taking place at the site and that certain body parts are being exported away from the site or deposited outside of the excavated features.

Other potentially interesting features of the bone assemblage are quantified in table 1 and figure 2; again these are on a context by context basis and not bone by bone. Butchery appears most common on cattle and pig remains with only a low occurrence on sheep/goat and horse. Ageable jaws and teeth are common for cattle, and pig, but most notably so for sheep/goat, again emphasising the high occurrence of head elements for this species in the assemblage. Unfused epiphyses are most common for pigs but not present in particularly high numbers for the other species. A small quantity of measurable bones is present and may be of some interest, at least for comparison with other sites in the area. Cattle bones were, in the main, noted as being small, possibly of cattle similar in stature to the Dexter breed and the sheep/goat remains were noted as being particularly slender or gracile, perhaps similar to the Soay or Shetland breeds; this would tend to indicate animals of a fairly primitive type, not being particularly improved for meat production. Very few pathologies or abnormalities were noted and only for cattle and sheep/goat. All of the pathologies noted focus on problems or malformations of the teeth and include dental calculus, uneven wear of teeth and a missing hypoconulid (3rd cusp) on a cattle lower third molar.

Sex determination is difficult in most domestic species but pigs can be easily sexed if the canine teeth are present. This assemblage contains two female canines, plus a jaw fragment with a female canine root socket; a likely male canine was also present although this was from a young animal and not fully developed.

A small quantity of articulated cattle remains were present indicating primary deposition in these features. Two groups (a forelimb and set of phalanges) were present in H 158/6 and an articulating astragalus and calcaneus (bones of the hind foot) were found in H 158/3. A small number of bones had been marked as possible human on their bags but no human bones were found to be present.

One worked bone was noted as being present, this was a medium mammal long bone shaft that had had its articulation removed, the end smoothed over and then appeared to have been purposefully blocked with clay or possibly chalk; the purpose of this is unknown. A piece of cattle pelvis that had been marked as a possible bone shovel was found to have no evidence of working or use wear and hence had not been used for this purpose, despite its convenient shape for such an implement.

Potential of the Assemblage

Without having further dating or contextual information about the site it is difficult to comment on its potential to inform on regional and national research agendas. However this is an interesting assemblage and despite the taphonomic issues of abrasion and canid gnawing it is information rich, particularly in its potential to inform on animal age and body part

distribution. Initial impressions are that this may be a producer site supplying other sites in the area, however further investigation would be needed to support or refute this assertion. The role of horses at the site is also interesting as their remains are dominated by head and foot elements, with little evidence for the presence of other body parts.

Future Work

Any future work should only be carried out in light of further contextual and dating information being made available; the date of the site may well influence the value of any future investigations. Further work on the assemblage should concentrate on the age distribution of the main domestic species and the distribution of body parts. More detailed analysis should also be made of the taphonomic factors affecting the assemblage and how these may affect the results of other analyses. Examination of animal stature would also be of worth.

Individual bones will be identified to element, species, bone part (proximal, distal etc.) and body side and recorded in an MS Access database using codes provided by NABONE (NABO 2008). Data on bone zone, fusion state, butchery, gnawing, bone erosion and weathering, sex, pathology (including non-metric traits), biometrics and tooth wear will also be gathered where possible. Bone identifications will be made using the in house reference collection at Archaeological Solutions and with the aid of reference manuals (e.g. Schmid 1972, Pales & Lambert 1971 a & b, Pales & Garcia 1981 a & b, Hillson 1992, Cohen & Serjeantson 1996). Bone fusion, butchery, burning and gnawing will be recorded following the NABONE guidelines (NABO 2008); bone weathering will be recorded

following Behrensmeyer (1978) and erosion following McKinley (2004). Bone measurements will be taken where appropriate following the guidelines of von den Driesch (1976). Tooth eruption and wear will be recorded following Grant (1982).

Following recording the data will be sorted and analysed by phase and species. Species will be quantified by NISP and minimum number of individuals (MNI). Age data from tooth eruption and wear and long bone fusion will be assessed. Bone fusion data will not be assigned to specific ages due to differences in maturation between modern and ancient populations but will rather be assigned to fusion groups (early, intermediate, late, final) following O'Connor (1989) to allow relative age to be assessed. Tooth eruption and wear age stages will be assigned following the methods of Halstead (1985) for cattle, Payne (1973) for sheep/goat and Hambleton (1999) for pig. Body part representation will be assessed following the method of Brain (1981) and through basic fragment counts. The occurrence of gnawing, erosion and weathering will be assessed on a context by context basis and may help inform on site formation and taphonomy. Butchery marks will be analysed to determine methods of carcass processing and any differences in the treatment of different taxa. Where appropriate biometrical data will be gathered to allow for comparisons with other sites or standard datasets (e.g. Davis 1996) and gain an impression of animal stature at the site.

A full report on the animal bone assemblage would include a method statement, an analysis of the recorded data on species quantification, age, sex and body part representation of the principal economic species, a

description of butchery practices and an indication of animal stature where possible. The report would conclude with a discussion of the site economy in relation to other appropriate sites from the local area.

Time estimate for completion of full recording, analysis and report writing

Recording – 5 days

Analysis – 2 days

Research – 2 days

Write up – 5 days

Total – 14 days

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			Contexts Containing																			
			Head/teeth		Vertebrae		Limbs		Feet		Mix		Butchery		Jaws/teeth		Epiphyses		Measurable		Pathology	
	NISP	f	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cattle	262	51	25	49.0%	1	2.0%	16	31.4%	15	29.4%	12	23.5%	12	23.5%	15	29.4%	7	13.7%	7	13.7%	3	5.9%
Sheep/Goat	113	37	27	73.0%	1	2.7%	16	43.2%	8	21.6%	0	0.0%	3	8.1%	17	45.9%	4	10.8%	5	13.5%	2	5.4%
Pig	65	24	13	54.2%	0	0.0%	13	54.2%	4	16.7%	1	4.2%	5	20.8%	7	29.2%	6	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Horse	30	13	11	84.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	23.1%	1	7.7%	1	7.7%	1	7.7%	0	0.0%	2	15.4%	0	0.0%
Dog	2	2	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Red Deer	3	3	3	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Large Mammal	587	57																				
Medium Mammal	178	35																				
Bird	5	1																				
Total NISP	1245																					

Table 1. Quantification of animal bone assessment data, f is number of contexts each species/taxon appears in.

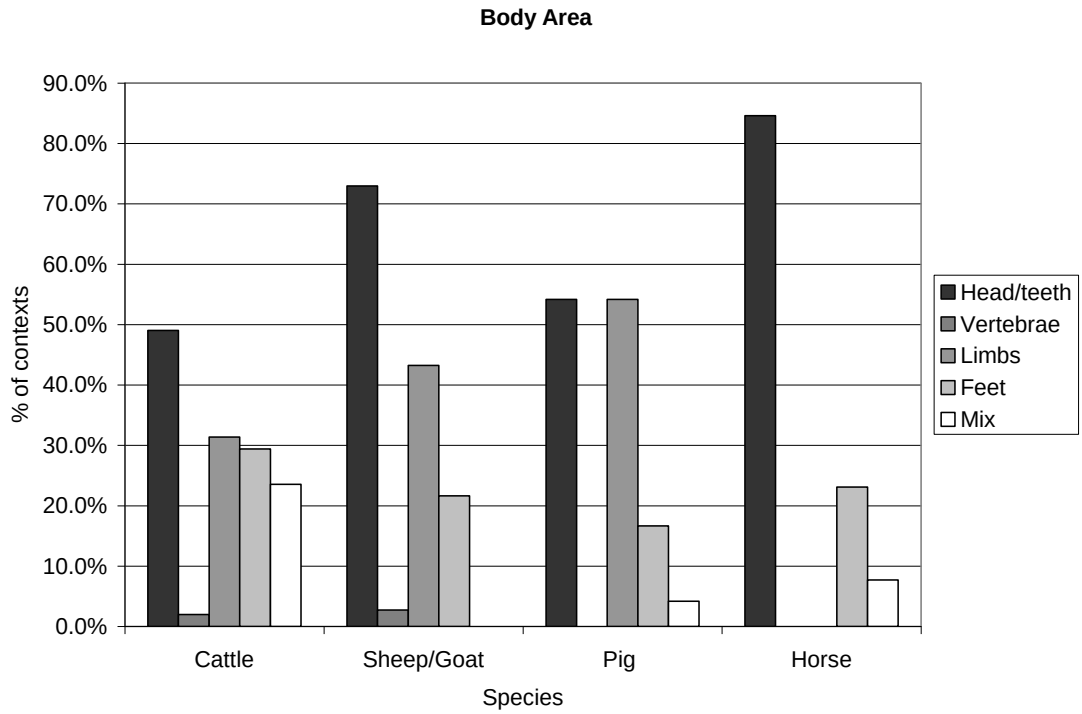

Figure 1. Body area representation by context.

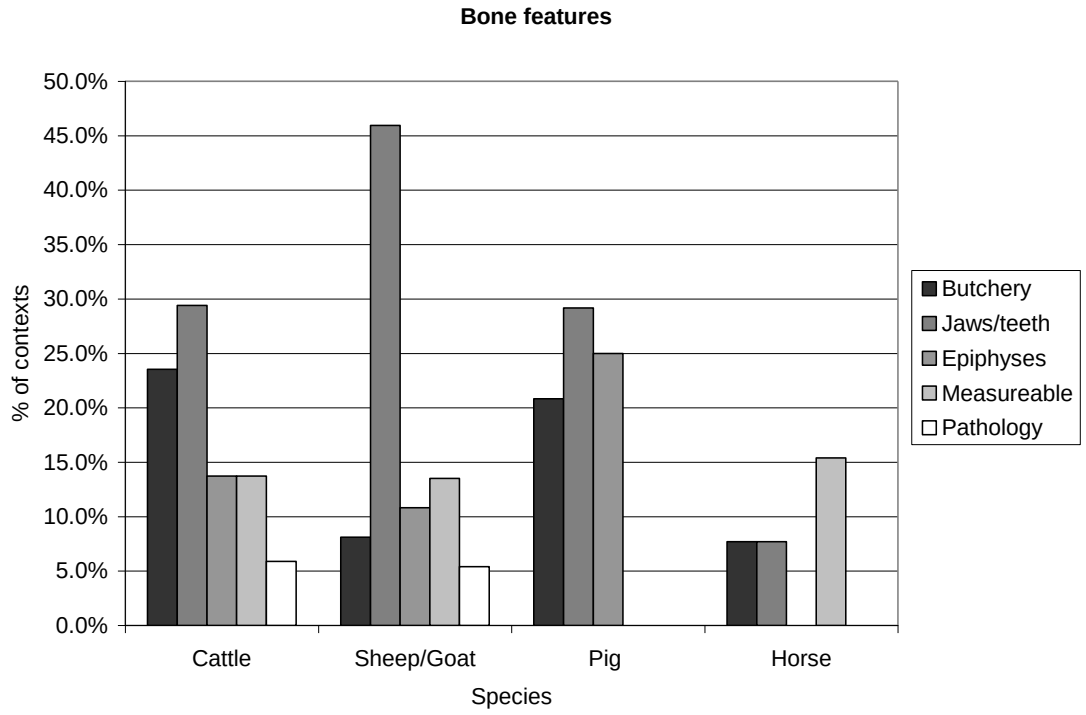

Figure 2. Representation of bone features by context.

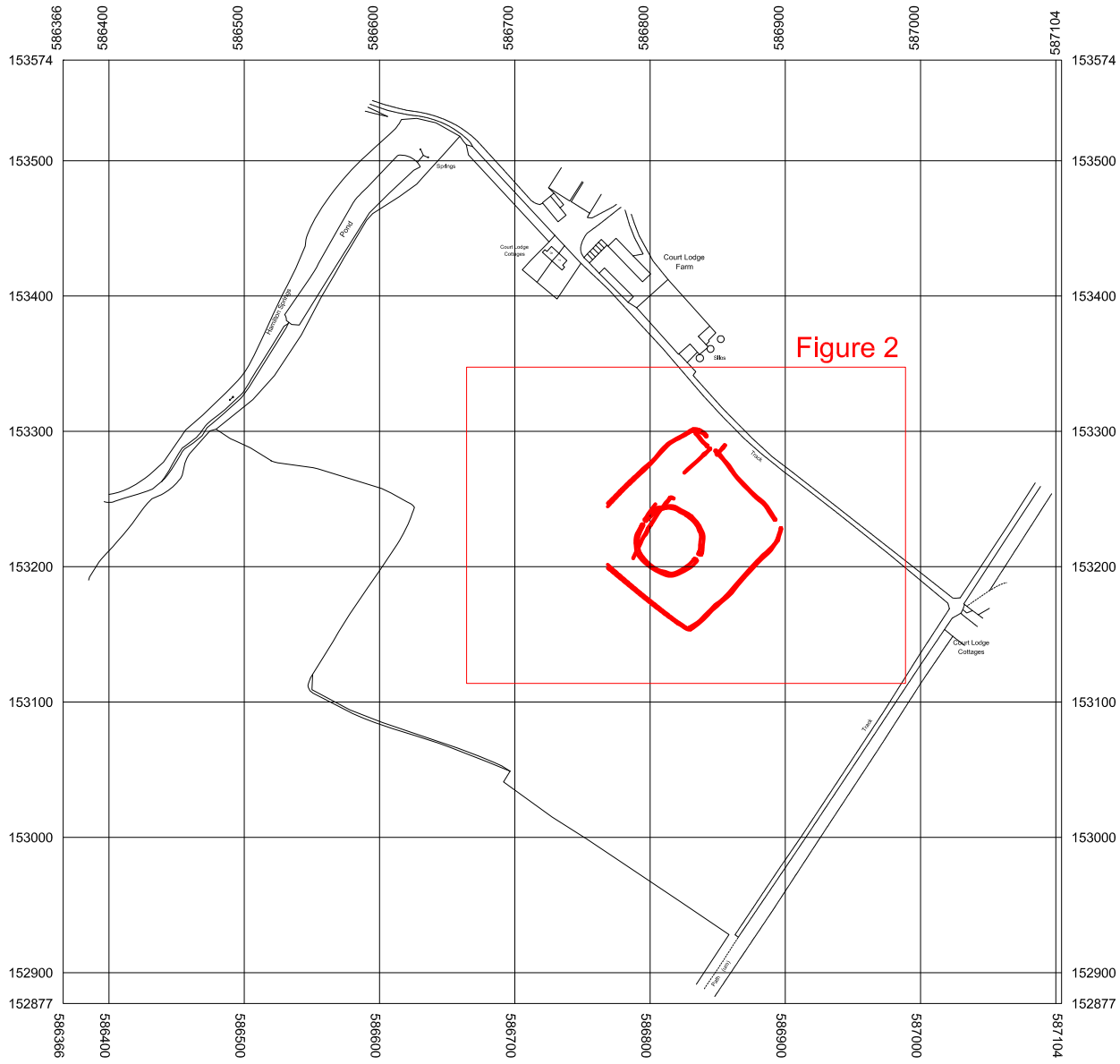

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Figure 1: Location of site

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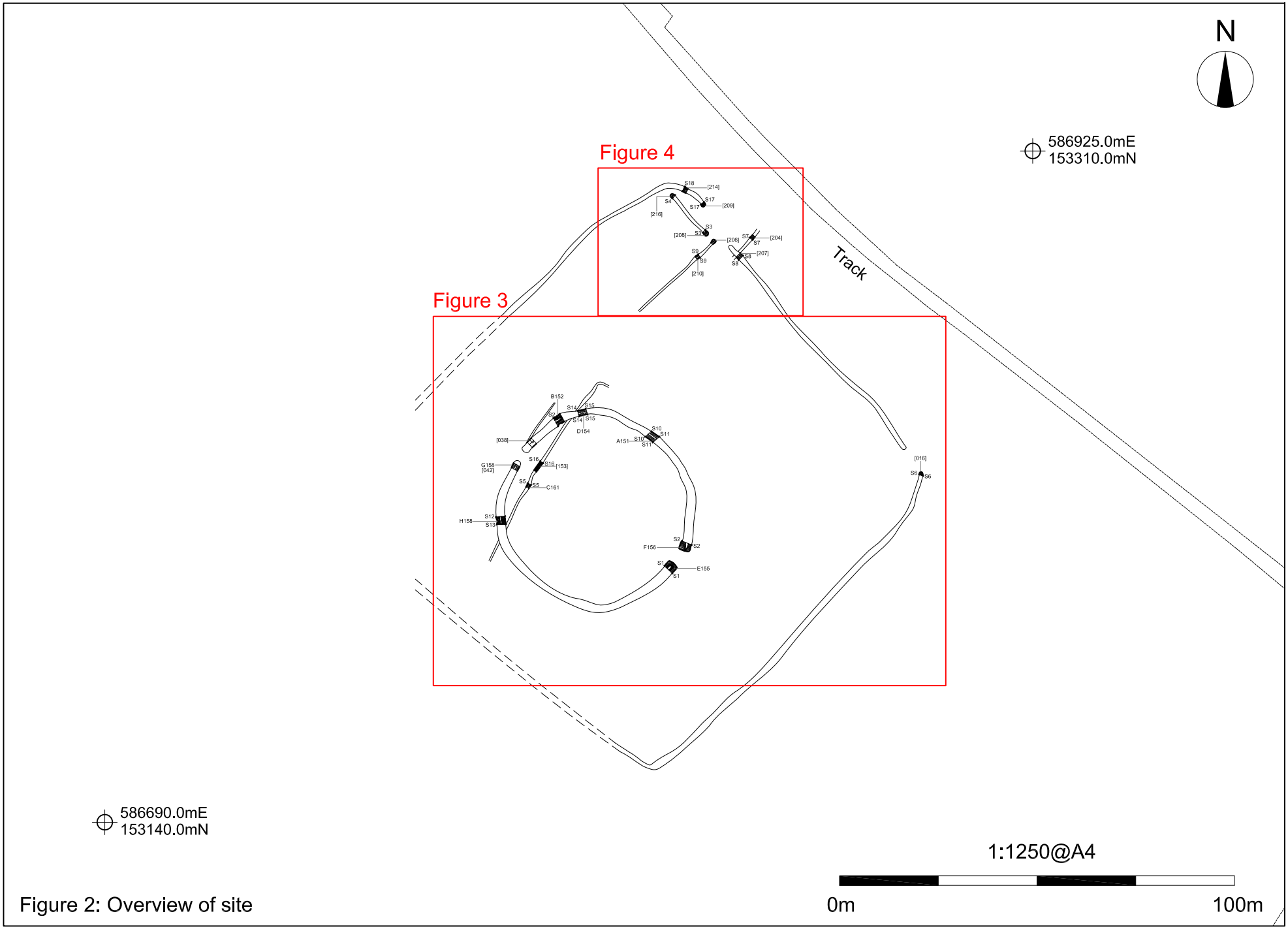

Figure 2: Overview of site

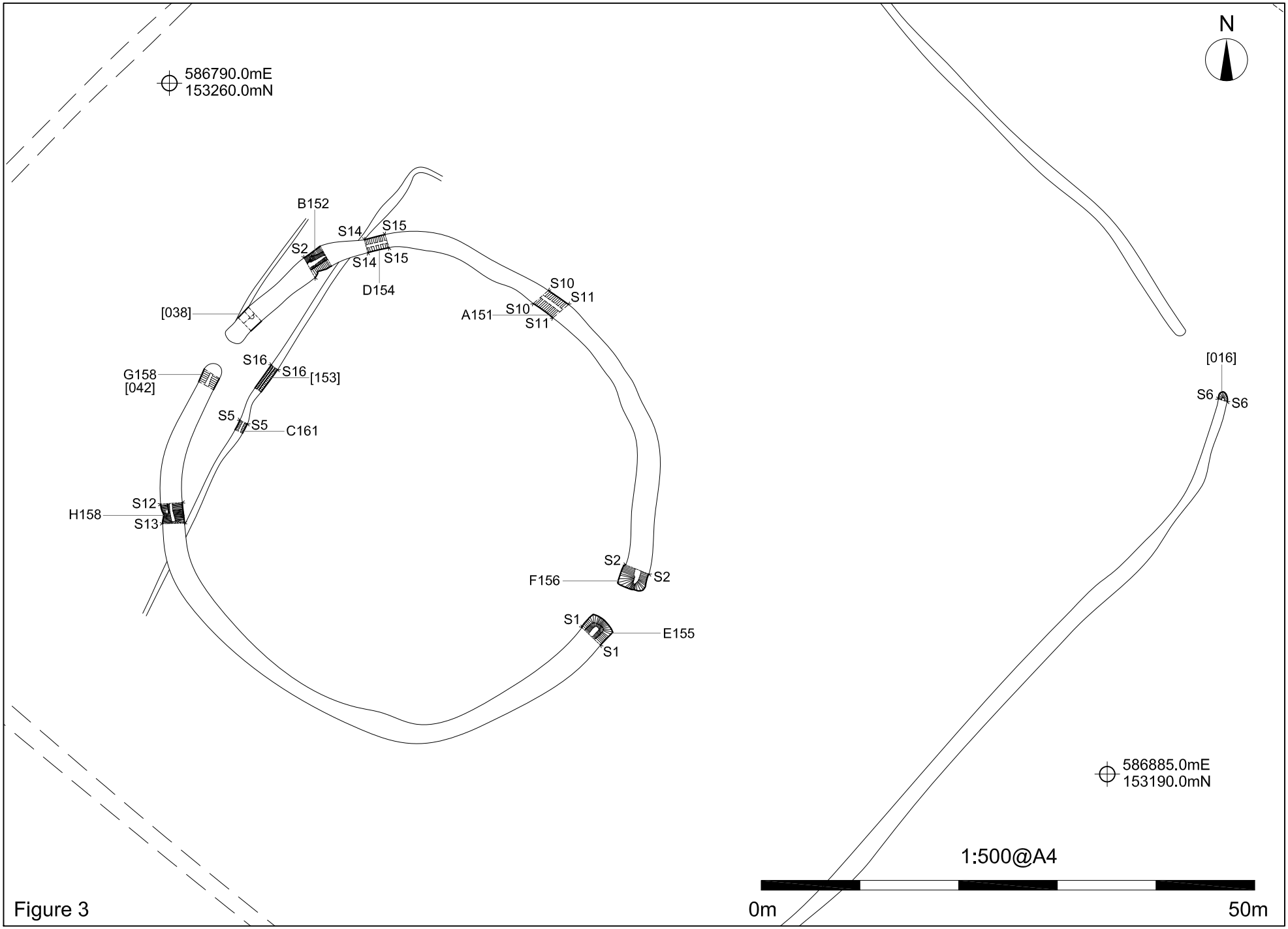
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Figure 3

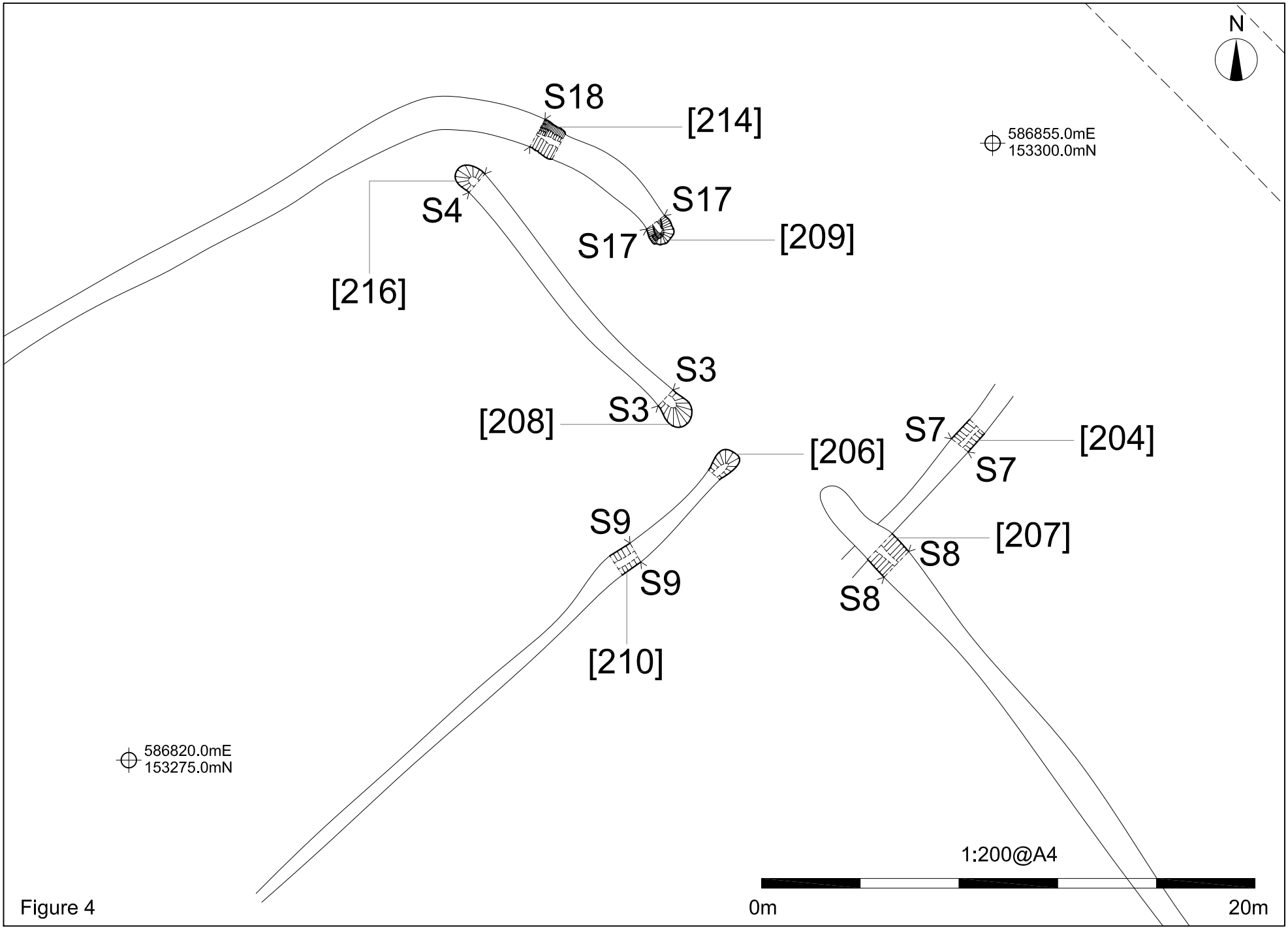
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Figure 4

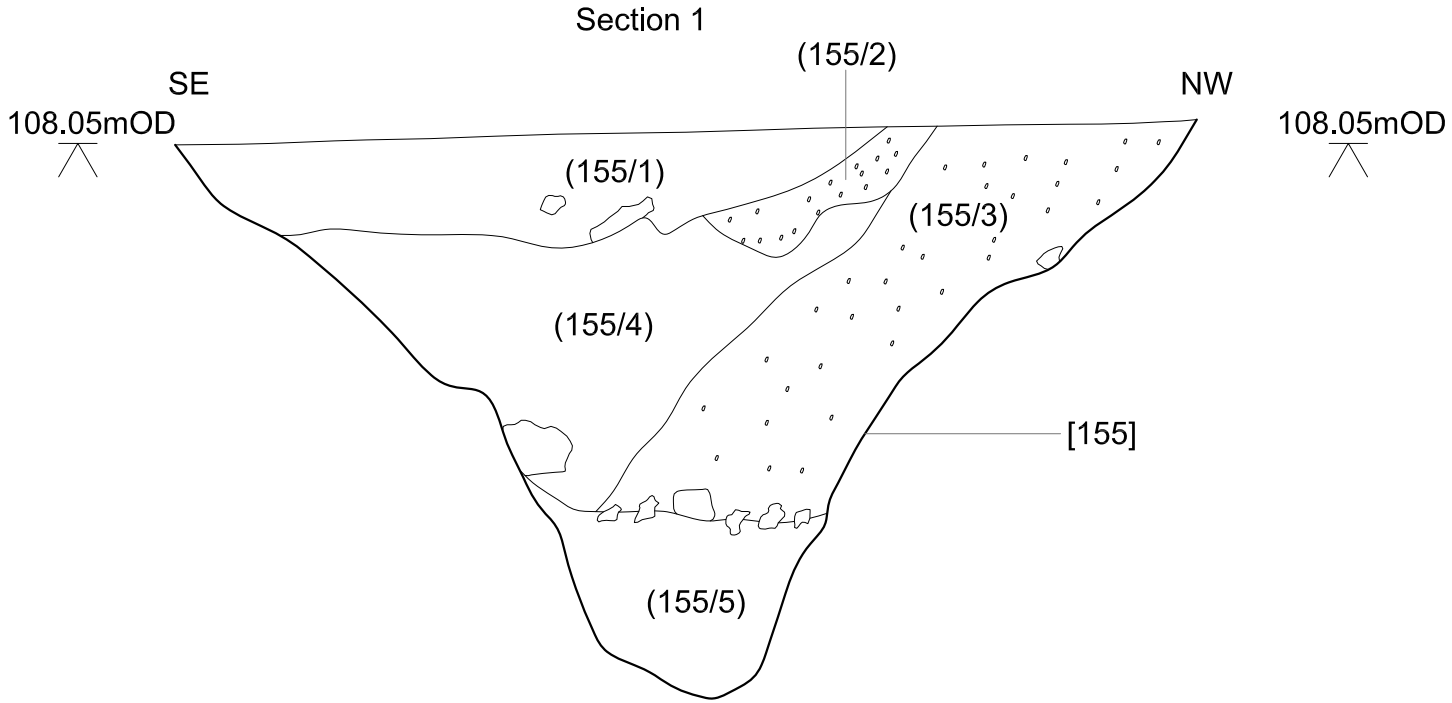

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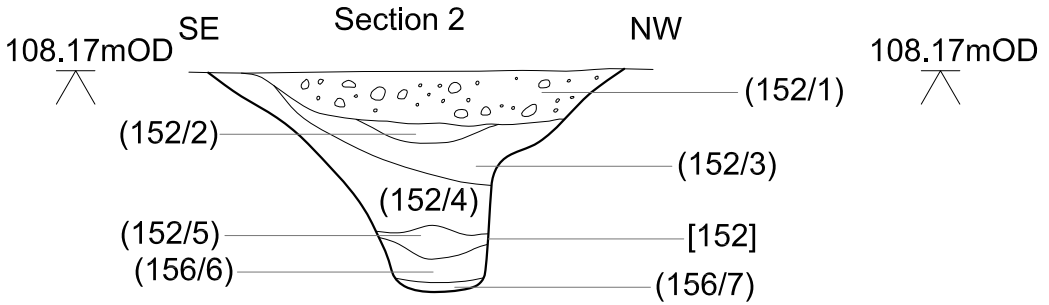
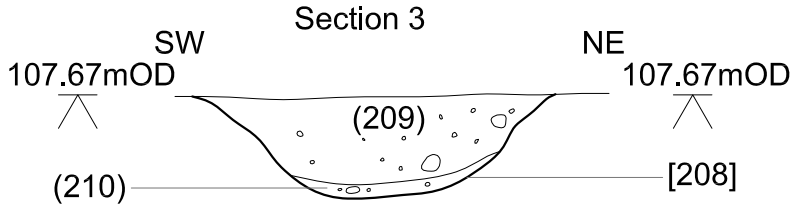
Figure 5: Sections





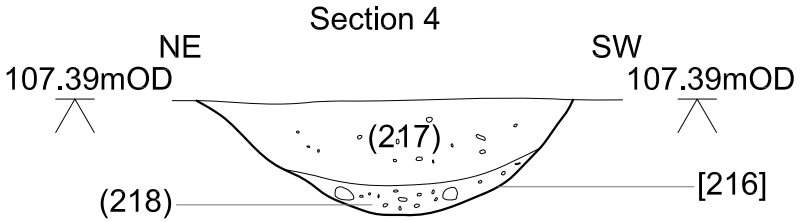


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Figure 6: Sections

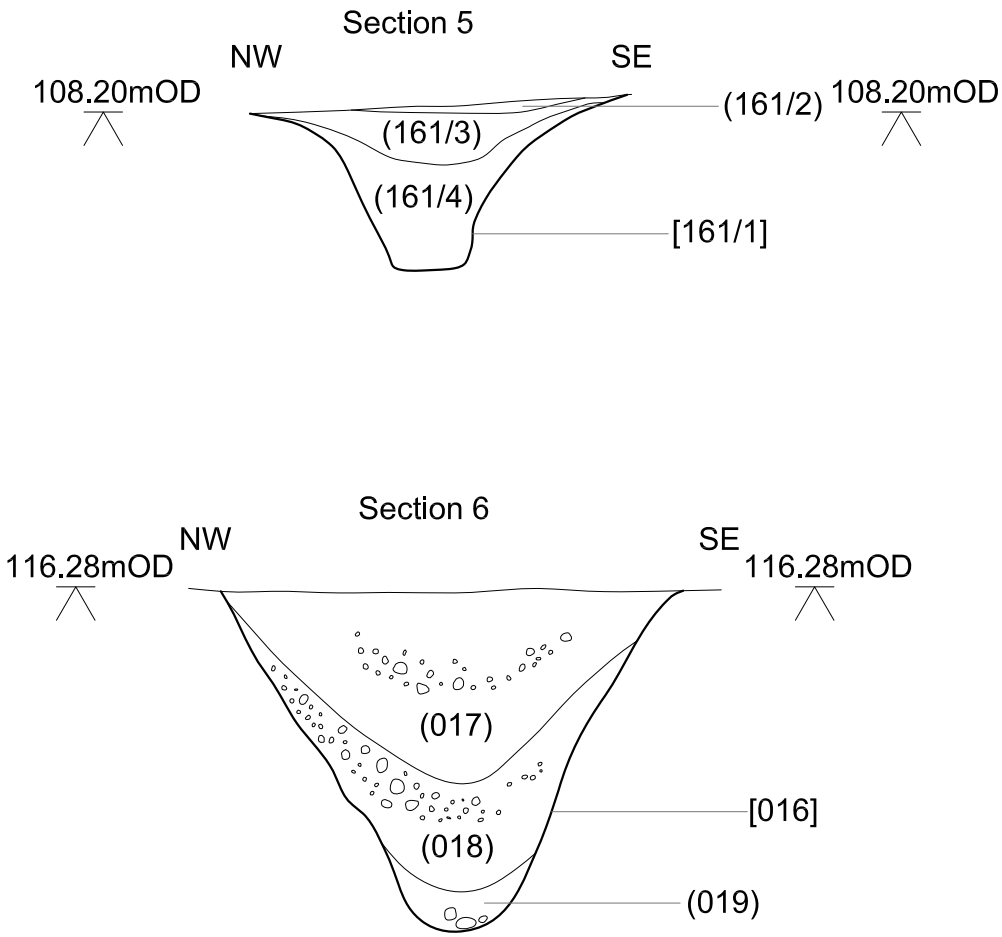

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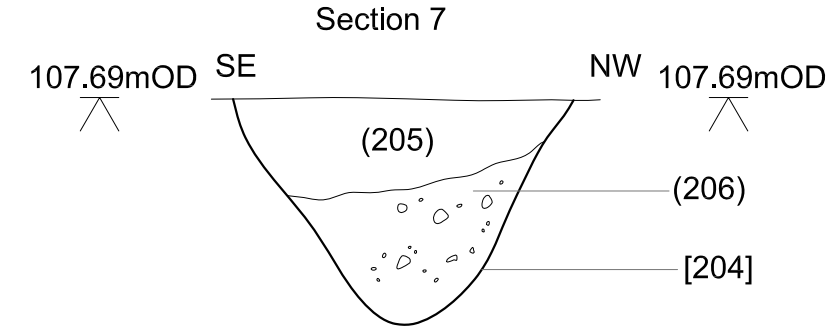
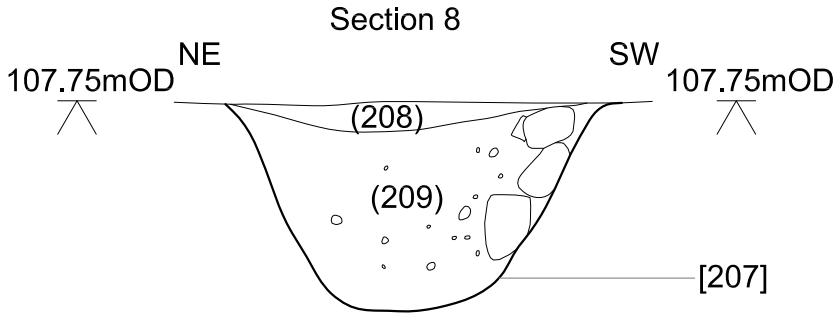
Figure 7: Sections





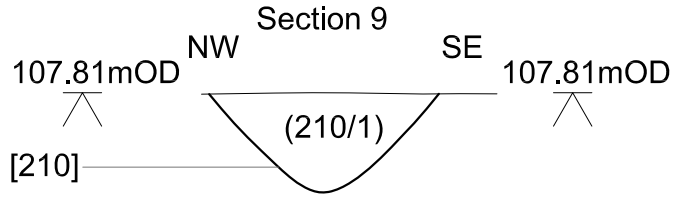


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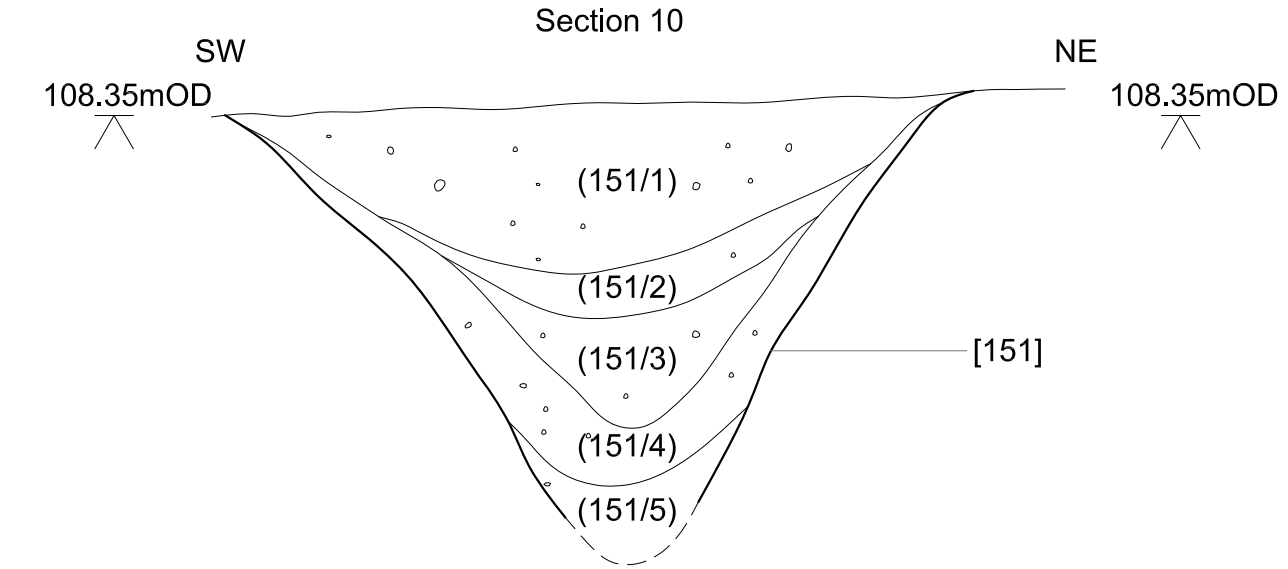
Figure 8: Sections



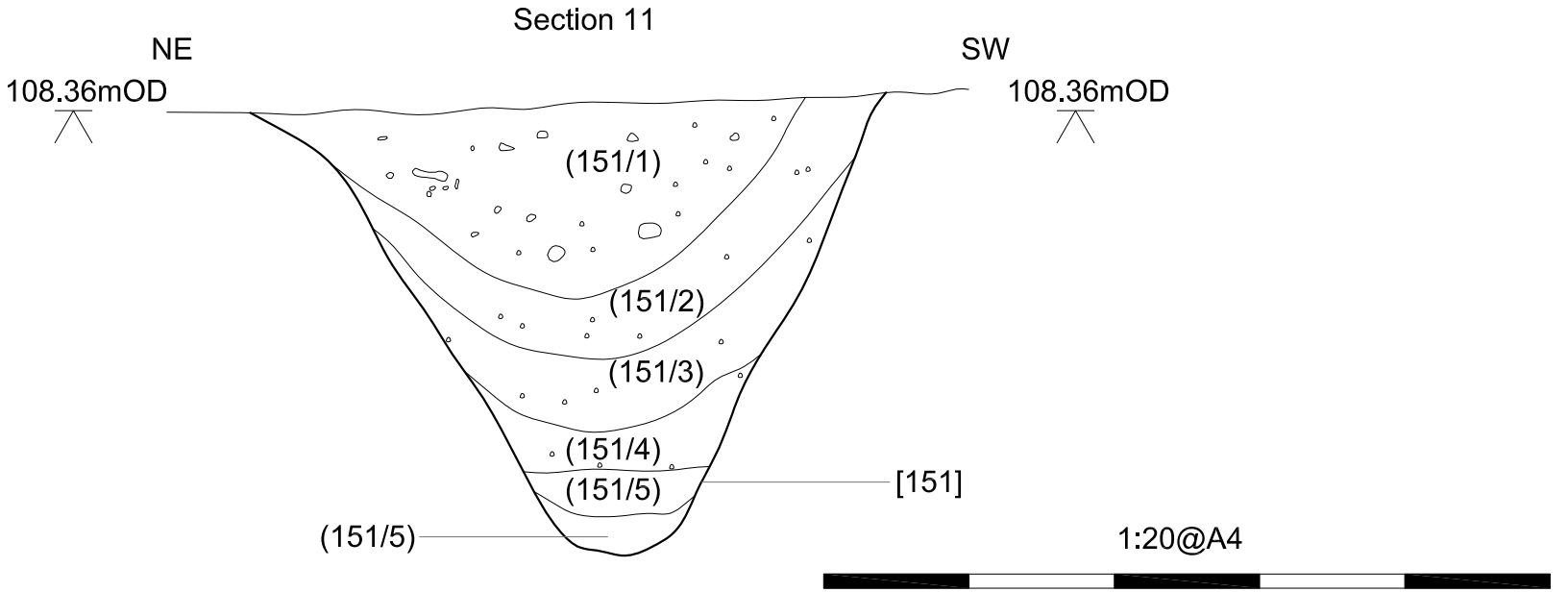


Figure 9: Sections

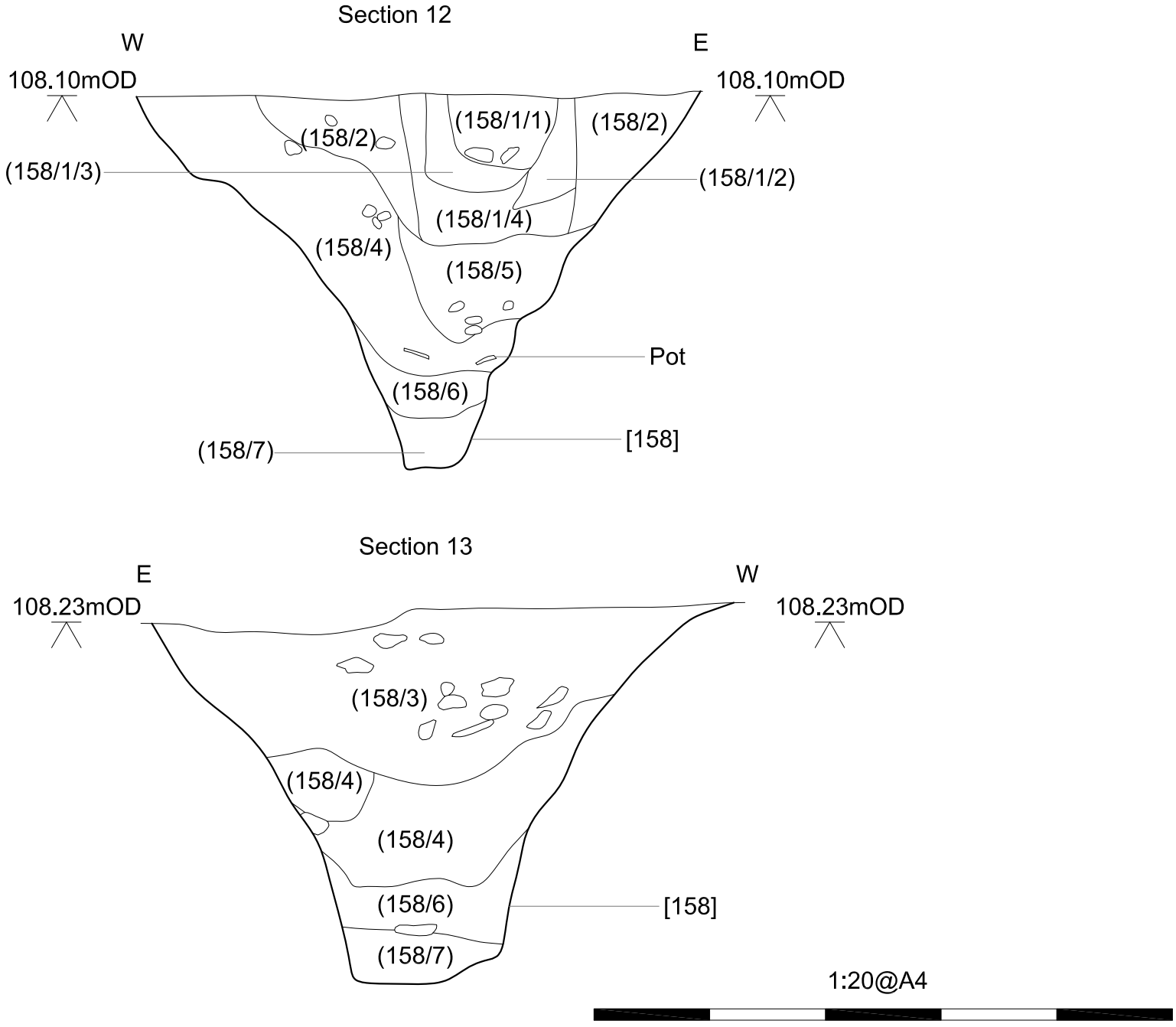


Figure 10: Sections

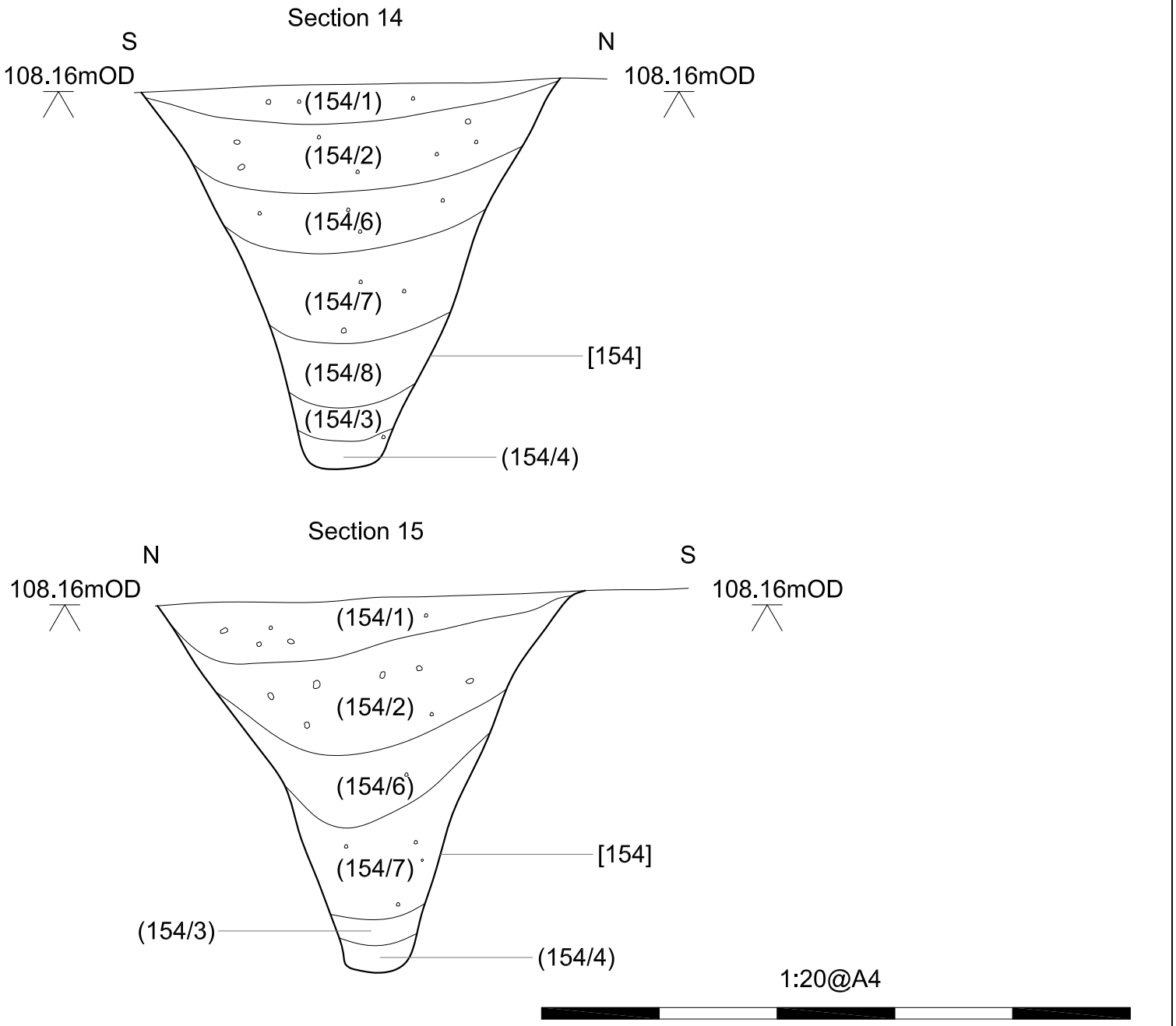
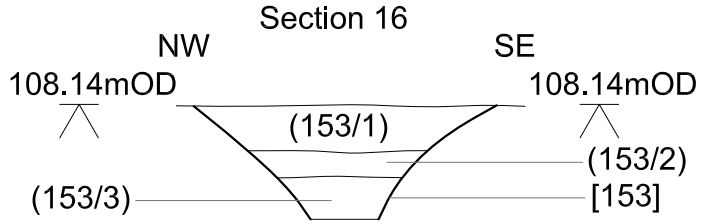
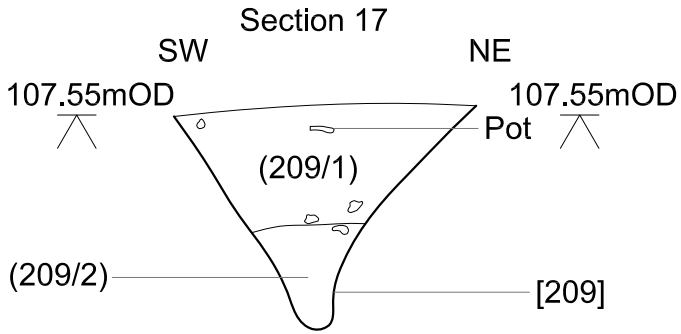


Figure 11: Sections





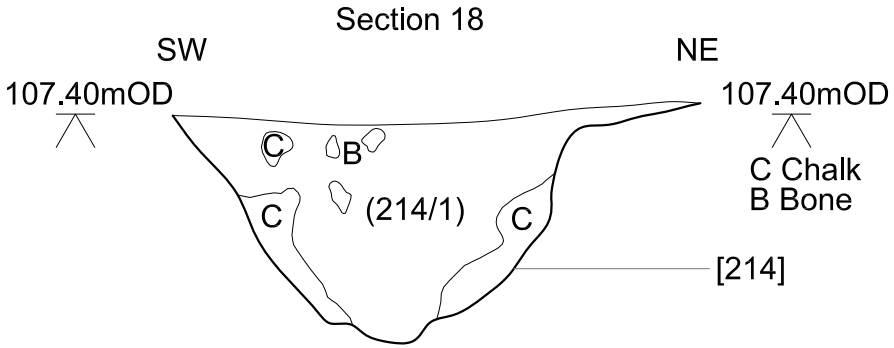


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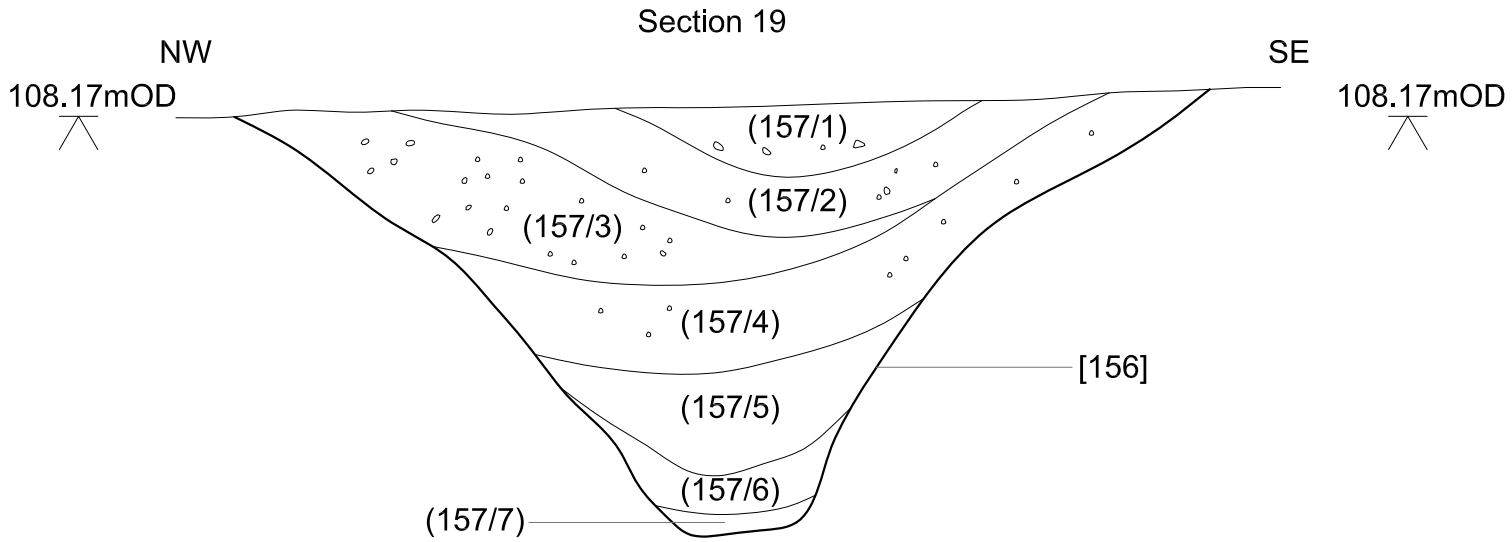
Figure 12: Sections



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0m 2m

Figure 13: Sections