



Picket Farm, Picket Lane, South Perrot, Dorset.

Report on an Archaeological Fieldwalking Exercise and Evaluation, and an Assessment of the results



**PICKET FARM, PICKET LANE, SOUTH PERROTT,
DORSET.**

**REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWALKING AND
EVALUATION AND
AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS**

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REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWALKING AND EVALUATION AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at Picket Farm, Picket Lane, South Perrott, Dorset, centred on NGR 347070 105300 (Figure 1). Picket Farm lies 1 km south of South Perrott, a small village some 4km north of the small town of Beaminster in Dorset.

The presence of archaeological remains on the Site was first established through the activities of two local metal detectorists. They found a significant concentration of Roman coins associated with a few fragments of pottery. They reported their finds to the local Finds Liaison Officer, Ciorstaidh Trevathen-Hayward. On the basis of these finds, and the hilltop location of the Site, it was suggested that the distribution of coins might indicate the presence of a Roman temple.

A fieldwalking exercise undertaken as part of the project recovered small quantities of prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery and prehistoric worked flint, with much larger quantities of Post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material. None of these appeared to show any significant concentrations. A small-scale metal detector survey undertaken in the area of the known concentration of metalwork revealed the presence of a small number of Roman coins.

Geophysical survey using a gradiometer undertaken on the Site identified a number of anomalies amongst which was a roughly oval enclosure. On the basis of these results four trenches were excavated, with the two largest focussing on the ovoid enclosure. Sample excavation demonstrated that this was probably Late Neolithic in date, and that it had remained a focus for ritual activity into the Early Bronze Age – dumps of material in the partially silted ditch included a dump of charcoal (C14 dated to 1880 – 1680 BC calibrated) and a mixed dump of pottery (predominantly Collared Urn) and worked flint (including 18 retouched tools) in two interventions in the southern arc of the ditch.

The excavations suggest that the ditch of this monument may have been dug segmentally – evidence for this was identified in one intervention in the form of the terminus of one of these sections, whilst different depositional sequences around the circuit suggest that different segments were open at different times. The material removed from this circuit may have been mounded up to form a central bank – both the resistance survey and the excavation of a slot across the modern hedge bank suggested the presence of remnant mound material. There were few internal features of note, and no sign that the monument acted as a funerary monument.

The Site also appears to have been the focus of ritual activity in the Roman period, with the concentration of coins found by the metal detectorists apparently associated with the eastern side of the monument. Three Roman coins were recovered *in situ* within the trenches, all apparently placed in the base of a small purpose dug scoop. These were probably votive offerings. Two large irregular pits to the west of the ring ditch, possibly dug as quarry pits, may point to the mound being enhanced in the Roman period.

There are a number of parallels known for Roman ritual re-use of earlier monuments. These range from the deposition of artefacts in a similar fashion to those recovered at South Perrott to the construction of a Romano-Celtic shrine directly on top of a barrow at Haddenham (Hall and Coles, 1994, 114).

The ring ditch and mound were probably extant into the Post-medieval period – it seems no coincidence that it lies on the boundary between two fields, whilst the absence of any medieval or Post-medieval finds from the area of the ring ditch suggests that the mound was intact at this time, and only ploughed out subsequently.

In view of the significance of the results of this work, it is recommended that a programme of further analysis be undertaken with a view to the publication of a short article outlining the results of this investigation in an appropriate journal. This should provide the background to the project, a summary of the main findings, and a concluding discussion. Plans, sections and photographs may be used to provide illustrative accompaniment to the text as appropriate. The Site data contained within this assessment should be used to form the basis of the structural report.

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The extensive collaboration and enthusiastic support during the project by Roger and Anita Legg, the current owners of Picket Farm, is especially acknowledged.

The evaluation strategy was developed by Professor Mick Aston (Bristol University) and Miles Russell, and all fieldwork undertaken by Time Team's retained excavators with help from James Bridges, Keith Faxon, Dave Parry, Briege Williams, Paul Renn and Sharon Cook. The on-Site recording was undertaken and co-ordinated by Nicholas Cooke, assisted by Steve Thompson, both of Wessex Archaeology. The finds were processed on-Site by Steve Thompson.

The geophysical survey was conducted by John Gater, Fiona Robertson and Jimmy Adcock from GSB Prospection Limited. The field survey was undertaken by Dr Henry Chapman, University of Hull.

Wessex Archaeology co-ordinated the post excavation programme. This report was compiled by Nicholas Cooke. Specialist work and reporting was undertaken by Lorraine Mephram and Steve Thompson (finds), Stephanie Knight (animal bone), Nicholas Cooke (coins) and Matt Leivers (worked flint and stone) and J Anderson and C. Stephens (Geophysics). The illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Nicholas Cooke.

The progress of the work in the field also benefited from advice and discussion with various specialists, including Dr Richard Reece (Roman coins) Mark Corney (pottery) and Miles Russell (Neolithic and Bronze Age remains).

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REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWALKING AND EVALUATION AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at Picket Farm, Picket Lane, South Perrott, Dorset, centred on NGR 347070 105300 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 Picket Farm lies 1 km south of South Perrott, a small village some 4km north of the small town of Beaminster in Dorset. Picket Farm is owned by the Legg family, and permission to undertake the project was granted by Anita and Roger Legg.

1.1.3 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works, along with recommendations for further analysis and dissemination.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The Site comprises two fields to the south west of the farm, occupying a broad ridge aligned roughly west east. This ridge rises to a high point of some 159m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), where it is marked by a concrete Ordnance Survey pillar (height 159.57m aOD), which lies in the hedgerow forming the boundary between the two fields. From this high point, the ridge falls away fairly steeply to the north and south, dropping to heights of 135m aOD to the north of Picket Farm and 138m aOD on the road to the south. It slopes away more gently to the east, falling to some 157m aOD close to the water reservoir at the eastern edge of the eastern field.

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the Site is Lower Chalk, giving way to Upper Greensand. The soils comprise slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clays with similar fine loams over clayey soils of the Denchworth association (712b) (SSEW, 1983). The bottom of the hill gives way to Gault at the foot where it meets the River Axe that runs along the south of the area (British

Geological Survey, England and Wales Sheet 312, Solid and Drift Edition, 1:50,000, 1983). The Site lies some 400m to the north of the course of the River Axe, which runs from east to west, which dominates the hydrography of the area to the south of the Site. Springs to the north and north west of the Site feed small tributaries which flow northwards before joining the course of the River Parrett.

1.3 Historical background

- 1.3.1 The Site lies to the south of the medieval village of South Perrott. There is little evidence for archaeological remains in the vicinity of the Site, either in the Somerset or Dorset Sites and Monuments Records.
- 1.3.2 The presence of archaeological remains on the Site was first established through the activities of two local metal detectorists - Annie and William Weller. With the permission of the landowner, they undertook a metal detector survey of the land in and around Picket Farm. The greatest concentration of metalwork they recovered was from the field to the south west of the farm complex. Here, they found quantities of Roman coins and other metalwork, as well as a few sherds of Roman pottery, all of which appeared to focus on a relatively well defined area on top of the ridge, and close to the boundary between the two fields. The finds were taken to the Portable Antiquities officer for the Dorset area, Ciorstaidh Hayward-Trevarthen for identification and recording. Subsequent finds were also reported and recorded. A full list of these can be seen in Appendix 2.
- 1.3.3 The Site also came to the attention of Dr Miles Russell, of Bournemouth University, who visited the Site himself. He undertook some fieldwalking and found a number of fragments of Roman building material including roof tiles (imbrex and tegulae), along with some sherds of Roman pottery, predominantly dating to the 2nd and 3rd centuries. On the basis of the finds recovered and the location of the Site, Dr Russell suggested that it may mark the site of a Roman temple. It was he who brought the Site to the attention of 'Time Team' and suggested that it was a suitable candidate for investigation.

2 METHODS

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled and provided by Videotext Communications Ltd (Videotext Communications 2004). This contains a detailed description of the research aims of the project, as well as the methodologies to be employed in achieving these aims, and these are only reproduced in summary here. The archaeological works undertaken as part of the programme comprised fieldwalking survey, geophysical survey, and archaeological trial trenching.

2.2 Aims and objectives

Fieldwalking and metal detector survey

- 2.2.1 Fieldwalking was undertaken to the east of the boundary hedge dividing the two fields. The purpose of this exercise was to identify concentrations of anthropogenic material that could be used to identify the source of the concentration of metalwork found by metal detectorists, thought to be a Roman temple. In order to allow the results of this exercise to be directly comparable to the geophysical survey, it was necessary to utilise the same grid (rather than the Ordnance Survey grid).
- 2.2.2 Further fieldwalking was subsequently undertaken to the west of this field boundary in order to establish whether this could provide further evidence for the use of the area.
- 2.2.3 The main aim was to collect anthropogenic material from the surface of the field. Analysis of the distributions of this material could be used to identify areas of interest for further investigation. Used in conjunction with the results of the geophysical survey and the evaluation, these could also help provide a fuller picture of the archaeological remains identified.
- 2.2.4 The recovery of material during the course of fieldwalking is likely to have been significantly affected by the conditions in which it was undertaken. In both cases, the fields were under a young crop of maize, some 1m tall, planted in rows. This had a detrimental effect on visibility and hampered easy movement. The fieldwalking was undertaken in overcast conditions with some sunny spells.
- 2.2.5 A metal detector survey was undertaken in the westernmost squares of the eastern grid in order to establish whether further concentrations of coins could be identified in this area, in which concentrations of metalwork had earlier been recorded.

Geophysics Survey (by GSB Prospection Limited).

- 2.2.6 A detailed report on the Geophysics survey has been prepared by GSB Prospection Limited, and forms part of the Site archive (GSB, 2004). Its aims and objectives are included here in summary form. Three areas (Figures 6 and 7), covering some 2.5 hectares of the two fields were surveyed using a Bartington GRAD 601-2 fluxgate gradiometer, whilst a small area was also subject to resistance survey, using a Geoscan RM15. Conditions for survey were generally poor - the fields were under a maize crop at the time. The height of the crop made it difficult for the operator to walk at an even pace and the instrument was held slightly higher than normal in order to reduce buffeting. The data do not appear to have been affected by this; however, weaker anomalies may not have been detected due to the distance between the ground surface and the instrument sensors.

Excavation.

2.2.7 The stated aim of this project was to ascertain the significance of the archaeological material previously found on the Site (Videotext Communications, 2004, 4). The project offered the opportunity to use a number of archaeological techniques to examine the archaeological potential of the area. The main aim identified in the Project Design (Videotext Communications, 2004, 4) for the work was:

- to test the hypothesis that the location could have been of some religious significance for the Romans through evaluation of the finds and further excavation.

2.2.8 Within this general aim, the project offered the opportunity to establish whether there were any Roman architectural features associated with the coin assemblage and other Roman material found in the fields to the south west of Picket Farm. Should a Roman structure be located during the course of the work, an attempt would be made to establish how this related to the wider Roman landscape, both spatially and chronologically. It was also suggested that the work carried out during this project would form an important resource for the landowners for the future management and interpretation of the Site.

2.2.9 A number of specific objectives were also set out in the Project Design. These included:

- To test the hypothesis that the coin and pot finds are evidence of a Roman structure, possibly a religious Site such as a temple.
- To establish what sort of structure there was in terms of layout, and how it relates to other sites in this category of building.
- To determine whether the Site stood alone or within a wider complex of buildings, or whether it had a surrounding platform for public observation.
- To ascertain the status of any building and its relevance to both Romans and Iron Age inhabitants.
- To understand the material finds in relation to any building and how they were used by the Romans.
- To place the Site within a wider context.

2.2.10 The project design stipulated that the techniques to be used in this investigation would include fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial trenching.

2.3 Fieldwalking methods

2.3.1 The fieldwalking was undertaken in two areas - Grids 1 and 2 (See Figure 2). Both exercises were undertaken on grids subdivided into squares some 10m². This grid was laid out by Dr Henry Chapman using a Trimble Real Time

Differential GPS survey system. These squares were marked out using garden canes and hazard tape, allocated numbers and individually walked. In order to maximise the collection of material from each square, and mindful of the poor visibility afforded by the crop on both fields, collection was undertaken for a fixed period of time. Each square was walked for a 5-minute period, and all material collected placed in a pre-numbered finds bag. Fieldwalking was undertaken by members of the Time Team crew and volunteers from the local community.

- 2.3.2 Once collection had been undertaken, all bags were collected by members of the Post-excavation team. All artefacts were scanned rapidly and, where appropriate, spot dated in order to provide a rapid chronological framework and distribution plot of material whilst on Site. Subsequently, the material was processed at Wessex Archaeology and computerised plots drawn up. Both fieldwalking exercises were undertaken on 3rd July 2004.

2.4 Evaluation methods

- 2.4.1 Four trenches were excavated by machine as part of the evaluation exercise. The size of these trenches varied in length and width according to their location and purpose. The location of the trenches was determined by Mick Aston in consultation with associated specialists and guided by the results of the geophysical survey and the fieldwalking in order to answer specific aims and objectives of the Project Design.
- 2.4.2 All trenches were excavated using a JCB wheeled excavator equipped with a mechanical backhoe fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine work was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological deposits, or where natural deposits were encountered. All trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits were planned, recorded and representative samples excavated by hand.
- 2.4.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts, drawings and samples. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at 1:20, and all sections were drawn at 1:10. All features and deposits were photographed, using both digital and manual cameras (black and white and colour slide). All principal strata and features were related to Ordnance Survey datum and a photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained.
- 2.4.4 A sufficient sample of all deposits was examined to allow the resolution of the principal questions outlined in the aims and objectives above. Other deposits were recorded and preserved *in situ* but not excavated.

Environmental samples were recovered from the interventions excavated as appropriate, including both bulk soil samples and monolith samples.

- 2.4.5 The work was carried out over 3rd – 6th July, 2004. All spoil was metal detected by recommended local metal detectorists. At the completion of the work all trenches were reinstated using the excavated spoil from the trenches in accordance with the requirements of the farmer.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section reports on the results of the fieldwalking exercise, the geophysical survey and the trenching undertaken as part of the ‘Time Team’ investigations on the Site. Details of individual excavated contexts and features, a full geophysical survey report (GSB 2004) and results of artefact analysis are retained in archive.

3.2 Fieldwalking and metal detector survey

- 3.2.1 In order to allow for direct comparison of the two fieldwalking exercises undertaken, the results have been combined, and are discussed here jointly.

Prehistoric and Roman pottery (Figure 3).

- 3.2.2 Very little prehistoric or Roman pottery was recovered during the course of the fieldwalking. Of the prehistoric sherds, only two could be confidently assigned a date. Both of these are of Early Bronze Age date, and lay in the western field. There was no significant concentration identified among the distribution of prehistoric material, although four of the findspots (including the two sherds of Early Bronze Age pottery) lie to the south of the trench excavated in the western field.

- 3.2.3 Nine sherds of Roman pottery were recovered during the fieldwalking. These show no strong concentrations, although six of the nine were recovered from the north west of the western grid.

Medieval pottery (Figure 3).

- 3.2.4 62 sherds of medieval pottery were found during the fieldwalking. When plotted, these show a widespread distribution, with the maximum number of sherds recovered from a single square being three. There are no obvious concentrations of Medieval pottery, although there appears to be a dearth of pottery from the vicinity of the trenches and the area to the north east of the trenches. The widespread distribution of this material may indicate that the fields were manured in the Medieval period, and that the pottery recovered was probably incorporated within the material used as part of this manuring

process. Equally, this material may have been incorporated amongst material used in the Post-medieval manuring of the fields.

Post-medieval pottery (Figure 4).

- 3.2.5 Considerable quantities of Post-medieval pottery were recovered – some 908 sherds in all. More of these were recovered from the western field, and slightly more to the north west of the trenches than to the south west. Interestingly, very little Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the area of the trenches. The presence of so much pottery of this date is likely to indicate the use of waste material from nearby settlement to manure the fields. The Post-medieval assemblage is heavily abraded, suggesting that it represents material which has lain in the ploughsoil for a long period of time.

Burnt and worked flint distribution (Figure 4).

- 3.2.6 The distribution of worked and burnt flint can be seen in Figure 5. The worked flint, 102 pieces in total, shows a widespread distribution, with more recovered from the western field, and more recovered from the western edge of that grid, with one square against the western edge of the grid containing 12 fragments of worked flint. There was much less worked flint recovered from the vicinity of the trenches than elsewhere in the western field. There were fewer pieces of burnt (unworked) flint recovered. These were more common in the western field, but show no obvious concentrations. Burnt flint, although not intrinsically datable, is often associated with prehistoric activity.

Copper alloy and Iron objects (Figure 5).

- 3.2.7 Very few iron and copper alloy objects were recovered during the fieldwalking – these were confined to two iron objects from the eastern field and a single fragment of decorated copper alloy from the western field. However, the metal detector survey of the westernmost row of grid squares in the eastern field did provide significant evidence for the presence of metalwork in the ploughsoil.
- 3.2.8 The objects recovered from the metal detector survey comprised 11 copper alloy objects. Four of these were fragments of copper alloy strips or decorative copper alloy objects, whilst the remaining seven were Late Roman coins. Six of the seven coins were recovered from the area to the north of the ring ditch. This corresponded closely with the area of the main concentration of coins recorded by the amateur metal detectorists who found the Site.

Ceramic building material (Figure 5).

- 3.2.9 The ceramic building material recovered in this survey predominantly dates to the Post-medieval period, and shows a similar distribution to the Post-medieval pottery. Larger quantities of ceramic building material were recovered from the western field than the eastern, and more to the north west of the trenches than the south west. The similarities between these

distributions extend to a dearth of material in the vicinity of the trenches. Much of this material is likely to have derived from Post-medieval manuring of these two fields.

Other finds.

- 3.2.10 Small quantities of other finds were recovered, including fragments of glass, clay pipe and non-local stone. None of these showed any significant concentrations when plotted, although generally more material was recovered from the western field than from the eastern. The clay pipe, which is likely to have been brought to the Site by the same processes as the Post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material, shows a similar pattern of distribution, with over half of the pieces of clay pipe found to the west and north west of the western field (Grid 2).

3.3 Geophysical survey (by GSB Prospection Limited)

Gradiometer Data (Figure 6)

- 3.3.1 Area 1 was positioned to cover a slight rise in the landscape and a small scatter of pottery. There are a few anomalies of archaeological interest dispersed across this area, though they do not form a coherent pattern and, given the lack of corroborating evidence, an archaeological interpretation is tentative; they may be due to agricultural activities such as ploughing or manuring. Linear anomalies traversing the area from south west to north east are attributed to geology; the excavations revealed natural outcrops of Chert on the same alignment.
- 3.3.2 In Area 2, anomaly (A), forming part of an oval enclosure, was excavated to reveal a prehistoric barrow. This has been bisected by the field boundary, erected during the eighteenth century, and truncated by (B), a large ferrous anomaly caused by the remnants of a silo placed here in the more recent past. The variable response obtained from the ditch is due to an uneven distribution of burnt material in the ditch fill. To the west of (A) are two pit type anomalies (C), these have been identified as quarry pits, used to provide material for the mound of the monument.
- 3.3.3 Elsewhere in Area 2, there are other pit type anomalies, such as those at (D) and (E) and they may also be quarry pits associated with (A); however, their distant location suggests an alternative explanation is more likely. Parallel linear trends in the data are considered to be natural in origin.
- 3.3.4 In Area 3, the eastern segment of the barrow was not detected because it lay right on the edge of the survey grid; however, in the south east corner of the data several anomalies and trends (F) form a second, more tentative, ring. The responses are weak and it is possible that the anomalies have been caused by agricultural activities; however, given the context, an archaeological origin is plausible. Within (F) a small square enclosure is

formed by some trends (G); these anomalies are also very weak but an archaeological explanation for them cannot be discounted.

- 3.3.5 A natural origin assigned to parallel linear trends in the data in Area 3, was confirmed by excavation and clusters of small scale ferrous anomalies in the western half of the data can also be attributed to modern agricultural activities.

Resistance Data (Figure 7)

- 3.3.6 Resistance survey was carried out over a small area centred on the ring ditch. This feature can be clearly identified in the data as a low resistance anomaly, while the area within, where the mound would have been, is revealed as an area of high resistance. Discrete anomalies of higher resistance may suggest archaeological features inside the ring ditch; however, it is likely that these are indicative of natural or pedological variations in the sub soil.
- 3.3.7 Parallel linear anomalies of high resistance outside the ring concur with the magnetic data and can be assumed to be natural in origin. Other high resistance anomalies in the data may also be geological; however, given the proximity to the barrow an archaeological origin cannot be discounted.

3.4 Excavation

- 3.4.1 Four trenches were opened during the course of the trenching. The location of these was determined by the results of the geophysical survey and fieldwalking and metal detector surveys. The results of these trenches are described here.

Trench 1 (Figures 8 and 9)

- 3.4.2 Trench 1 was targeted on the area identified by local metal detectorists Annie and William Weller as producing the greatest quantity of Roman metalwork (predominantly coins) This lay close to the hedge dividing the two fields, on the highest point on the ridge. In the absence of significant evidence from the fieldwalking for any demolished structure which might indicate the presence of a building in the area, it was decided to open a trench examining this area, from which more metalwork had been recovered during the limited additional metal detector survey of the fieldwalking grid.
- 3.4.3 Trench 1 was an irregular trench, roughly in the form of an inverted 'L'. It was a maximum of 12.50m long from north to south and 11.20m from west to east. Removal of the modern ploughsoil (101) revealed a mixed natural glacial drift geology, which was allocated two numbers (102 and 103). These were cut by a number of archaeological features. The main archaeological feature identified in this trench was a curving ditch, which ran from the south west corner of the trench to the north west. This formed the eastern extent of an ovoid ring ditch, probably constructed in the Late Neolithic period.

- 3.4.4 Two interventions were excavated through this ditch. The more southerly of these, intervention 107, was some 1.18m long, and a maximum of 0.88m deep. It had steep, slightly irregular sides, which had a slightly stepped profile, and a slightly concave base. Three small ovoid hollows cutting the base of the ditch contained a very sterile orange brown silt clay and are likely to represent solution hollows. Although the ditch profile may have suffered some realignment in the period following its construction, the western edge, which was cut through a solid band of chert within the underlying geology, is unlikely to have altered significantly.
- 3.4.5 The earliest fill in this sequence, layer 119, a brownish yellow sandy silt, was a fairly thick primary fill (see section 9B). This was derived from weathering of the sides of the feature and its immediate surroundings, and formed relatively quickly after the ditch was dug. After this deposit had formed there was a stabilisation of the feature profile, leading to the formation of a turfline, the remains of which formed layer 118. This was a very thin deposit, with the exception of a deeper section in the centre of the ditch, which may be the result of animal burrowing. The final fill within this ditch was a thick well sorted tertiary fill, layer 106. This had clearly formed over a long period of time. Pottery recovered from layer 106 included sherds of Collared Urn, dated to the Early Bronze Age. A column sample was taken through this soil sequence.
- 3.4.6 The sequence revealed in the northern intervention (109) was markedly different (see section 9A). This intervention was some 0.92 m long and a maximum of 0.71m deep. The ditch profile was similar to that of 107, with steep slightly irregular sides and a slightly concave base, although its profile may have seen more realignment. The earliest fill within this ditch cut was 123, a rapidly formed primary fill. This had formed on both sides of the ditch, but had not extended across the full width of the trench by the time of the deposition of layer 122. This latter was a slowly accumulated deposit containing large quantities of rounded and sub-rounded medium sized sandstone inclusions, thought to derive from erosion of a mound or bank associated with the ditch.
- 3.4.7 Layer 122 was sealed by layer 121, which was confined to the western half of the ditch. This must have formed after the ditch profile had stabilised as there is no corresponding erosion in the eastern half of the ditch. This was a relatively slowly accumulated secondary fill containing tiplines of small and medium sized sandstone inclusions which appear to represent further erosion of a central or internal bank. The final silting of this feature comprised two tertiary fills. The earliest of these, layer 120, was a very distinctive reddish-brown sandy silt containing very rare small angular and sub-angular chert fragments. It was only evident in the eastern half of the ditch, and appears to represent material washing in from the outside of the ring ditch. This was sealed by layer 108, a thick and well sorted tertiary deposit which formed over a long period of time. A single piece of cattle bone and worked flint (a broken flake and a rejuvenation flake) were recovered from layer 108.

- 3.4.8 In addition to the ring ditch a number of smaller features were also excavated. One of these, 104, cut the upper fills of the completely silted ring ditch. This was a shallow sub-circular cut with shallow concave sides and a concave base. It was 0.32m wide and 0.07m deep. It contained a single secondary deposit, layer 105. Material recovered from this deposit included a three pieces of Early Bronze Age Collared Urn. The purpose of this feature is unclear, although it provides useful confirmation that the ditch was almost completely silted by the Early Bronze Age. A similar, but smaller feature (117) lay some 1.6m to the east of this. This small circular scoop, with moderate slightly concave sides and a concave base was some 0.16m in diameter and 0.07m deep. Layer 116, the only fill of this scoop contained two undiagnostic worked flints (secondary flakes).
- 3.4.9 Three further scoops were excavated to the north east of the ring ditch (features 111, 113 and 115). All of these were very difficult to identify, as they were deliberately backfilled after excavation using the material derived during their creation, and two were only recognised because they contained metal objects and were found by a metal detector survey of the trench. The first of these, feature 111, was a small sub-circular cut some 0.25m in diameter and 0.05m deep. This was apparently dug to contain a placed deposit – a single late Roman coin (an Antoninianus of Gallienus, Object 19) which was found at the base of the cut within layer 110. This coin was minted between AD 260 and 268. Similar deposits were found both in 113 and 115. In scoop 113, which was circular, some 0.32m in diameter and 0.12m deep, the placed coin was an Antoninianus of Claudius II, dated to AD 268 - 70 (Object 18, Context 112) whilst in 115 (a sub-circular scoop with a diameter of 0.26m, and 0.06m deep) the coin was an AE3 follis of Constantius II, minted between AD 355 and 360 (Object 6, Context 114). It seems likely that similar features such as these are likely to be the origin of many of the coins found during previous metal detecting on the Site – many of the original scoops may have been shallower, dug into topsoil, or placed in the body of the putative mound of the ring ditch, and may have been destroyed by later ploughing, leaving the coins in the ploughsoil.

Trench 2 (Figure 10)

- 3.4.10 Trench 2 lay to the north of Trench 1, and was targeted on an area from which Roman coins had been identified during the metal detector survey and on an anomaly identified in the geophysical survey. This was an irregular trench, measuring a maximum of 13.35m by 7.4m. In this trench, which lay downslope of Trench 1, the ploughsoil (201) sealed a colluvial subsoil (202), which was increasing deep towards the northern edge of the trench. This in turn sealed the mixed glacial drift geology (layers 212 and 213). So marked was the change between these two geologies that two slots were excavated to confirm that these were indeed geological in nature.
- 3.4.11 Three archaeological features were excavated within this trench. Two of these, 204 and 206, were scoops similar to those excavated in Trench 1. The first of these, 204, was a small ovoid cut some 0.27m wide and 0.06m deep.

It contained a single Roman coin (a Barbarous Radiate dated to between AD 270 and 290) in the single fill, layer 203. Scoop 206, which lay adjacent to it was circular, some 0.20m in diameter and 0.05m deep. There was no evidence for any placed deposit within 205, the single fill, but the similarity between this and the features which do contain placed deposits may suggest that any such deposit may have been organic and not have survived.

- 3.4.12 The third feature within the trench was a short stretch of curving gully in the south eastern corner. Two interventions were excavated through this gully. The first of these, 208, was targeted on an apparent terminus at the northern end of the gully. Upon excavation, it became clear that this feature had been severely truncated. This was 0.32m wide, and only 0.02m deep, with very gradual sloping sides and an flattish base. The single fill, layer 207, contained no anthropogenic material. The second, 210, was excavated across the width of the gully. It was 0.36m wide and 0.02m deep, and contained a single sterile fill – layer 209.
- 3.4.13 Very few finds were recovered from this trench, although it is worth noting that a complete shed antler from a mature roe deer (shed between October and December) was recovered from the subsoil of Trench 2 (layer 202). This showed no signs of having been worked and may have been incorporated within a feature as part of a placed deposit and subsequently disturbed from this context by ploughing.
- 3.4.14 No archaeological features were identified corresponding with the large anomaly identified in the geophysical survey. This reading may have been the result of a geological anomaly.

Trench 3 (Figure 1)

- 3.4.15 Trench 3 was targeted on a series of parallel anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. The trench was some 21.60m long and 1.7m wide and machine excavated. The excavation of the ploughsoil (layer 301) revealed the underlying drift geology (layer 302). The parallel features identified on the geophysical survey were shown to correspond with changes in the underlying drift geology – including linear ice wedges or solifluction features. A number of these were investigated through excavation, but were considered geological in origin.

Trench 4 (Figures 8 and 9)

- 3.4.16 Trench 4 was the largest of the trenches excavated, and was designed to expose a large area of the circuit and interior of the ring ditch. It was machine excavated, and measured a maximum of 25.50m by 23.73m. The ploughsoil was removed to reveal the natural drift geology (462). The archaeological features could be clearly identified cutting this geology. The absence of any remnant subsoil in this area implies that in the past the ring ditch may have suffered truncation by ploughing, although this may have

been limited by the presence of the field boundary. This boundary may mean that the barrow lay for much of the Post-medieval and modern period within area used for turning the plough, thus protecting it from much direct ploughing.

- 3.4.17 The exposure of much of the circuit of the ring ditch has made it possible to measure the complete dimensions of the ring ditch. It was aligned roughly north east-south west, and was some 25.2m long internally and 16.85m wide at its widest point. It was ovoid in shape, wider at the south western end than at the north eastern.
- 3.4.18 Much modern disturbance was noted in the northern arm of the trench, in a position coincident with a large ferrous anomaly identified in the gradiometer survey (see above) Discussions with the farmer indicated that this marked the former position of a modern silo. Unfortunately, this appears to have caused significant truncation in this area of the ring ditch. The line of the ditch could be seen extending to the west of this, and was investigated in intervention 407. Here, the ditch was relatively shallow in comparison to its width (some 1.67m wide and 0.51m deep. It had irregular fairly steep sides and an irregular base, which was deeper to the south than the north. It contained two fills. The lower of these, 406, was a reddish brown secondary fill containing occasional greensand inclusions. It was sealed by a tertiary fill (405), which accumulated gradually after the feature had stabilised. The upper profile of the ditch flares significantly and may indicate that this has been damaged by later activity such as ploughing. No anthropogenic material was recovered from either of these fills. The absence of any primary fills from this sequence may indicate that the ditch was cleaned out at some point in its history.
- 3.4.19 The western arc of the ring ditch was investigated by two interventions - 440 and 420. The first of these was double numbered (as 416) in error during excavation (as was the adjacent shallow pit 443 which was assigned 413), and the later sequence of numbers is used here. Ditch 440 was some 1.3m wide and 0.48m deep and had steep slightly concave sides and a slightly concave base. It was excavated to establish the sequence between 443 and 440. Ditch 440 contained two fills. The lowest of these, layer 442, was a thickish primary fill, which probably formed relatively quickly. It was sealed by layer 441, a slowly formed secondary fill. Both layers contained worked flint in the form of undiagnostic secondary and tertiary flakes (numbered as from layers 414 (441) and 415 (442) during excavation). The western edge of ditch 440 was cut by a later pit (443). This irregular pit had moderately sloping concave sides and a slightly concave base. A thin primary silt (445) against the western edge of the feature indicates that it was open for some time after its excavation. The more substantial fill, layer 444, was a slowly formed secondary fill. Two sherds of Black Burnished ware pottery were recovered from this layer (numbered 411 in excavation), along with five fragments of unidentified animal bone. This indicates that it was probably dug in the Roman period.

- 3.4.20 A further intervention was excavated some 3m to the south of this to investigate the relationship between the ring ditch and a second pit (Figure 9G). This established that the pit (424) post dated the ring ditch (420). The intervention through the ring ditch revealed that it had steep irregular sides and an irregular base. The presence of an apparent ditch terminus in the base of this feature in the southern half of the intervention reveal that the ditch was originally not continuous at this point, and that 420 may have been dug as a re-cut of an earlier ditch. It contained two fills, layers 421 and 422. Of these, layer 422 was the earliest. It was a primary fill, and was confined to the north eastern edge of the ditch. This might indicate the presence of bank material within this deposit, suggesting an internal mound or bank at the time of construction. Layer 421 was a thick, slowly formed secondary deposit. No finds were recovered from this intervention.
- 3.4.21 Layer 421 was truncated on its south western edge by 424, an irregular ovoid pit. This had gently sloping regular sides and an irregular base, and was only 0.32m deep. Its function is unclear – the single fill, layer 423, was a slowly accumulated deposit - although it may have been dug as the small quarry pit. The absence of finds from this deposit make it difficult to date this later feature.
- 3.4.22 Another intervention, cut 417, was excavated to establish the relationship between the ring ditch and what appeared to be a large quarry pit to the south west (see Section 9F). Upon excavation it became clear that the latter was in fact a different drift geology. Although the limited time for excavation meant that this intervention could not be completely excavated, it was clear that the ditch was cut through this drift geology. The full profile of the ditch at this point was not established, but two fills were identified. The upper of these two fills layer 418, was a deliberate backfill containing charcoal inclusions, worked flint, burnt stone, pottery and animal bone. Some burnt or cremated bone was also recovered from this layer. The pottery recovered comprised 26 pieces of Collared Urn, dated to the Early Bronze Age, whilst the worked flint included a retouched flake and a scraper. The single identifiable animal bone was a cattle bone. This appears to represent a deliberate dump, possibly of midden material, as a placed deposit. The lower fill of this intervention, layer 419, was probably a secondary fill. Its full extent as not excavated.
- 3.4.23 A similar sequence was established in a second intervention to the east of this – cut 410 (see Section 9E). This had steep straight sides and a very irregular base. The latter contained a number of irregular solution hollows. Because of the time constraints incumbent on the exercise it was not possible to excavate the full width of the intervention to the base of the ditch cut – only half of its width was fully excavated in order to establish the full depth of the cut. The upper fill, layer 408, represented the same deposit as 418. This charcoal-rich deliberate backfill contained a number of worked chert scrapers, pieces of burnt flint and pottery. The 12 scrapers from the layer were all made of chert, and are typical of an Early Bronze Age assemblage. This confirms the date established by the 43 sherds of Collared Urn from this deposit. It sealed a

slowly formed tertiary deposit (409) from which more worked stone was recovered, including a fragment of a core. No anthropogenic material was recovered from layers 459, 461 and 462, which lay beneath 409. Layer 459 was a thickish secondary deposit, which sealed primary fills 461 and 462. Of these, layer 461 formed first, and may point to the presence of an internal mound or bank within the monument.

- 3.4.24 The final intervention through the ring ditch (cut 404) lay close to the hedge boundary between the fields (see Section 9D). This had steep irregular, slightly stepped sides and a flat base. The upper fill of the ditch, layer 425, was a thick tertiary deposit. At the base of this deposit lay a very concentrated linear dump of charcoal (layer 403 – see plate 4). This clearly represented a deliberately dumped deposit. It was sampled for charcoal analysis and radiocarbon dating. This was dumped in the partially silted ditch, on top of layer 426, a secondary fill containing moderate quantities of small angular chert fragments and occasional small abraded fragments of greensand. The primary fill of this intervention, layer 427, comprised a series of lenses or tip lines against the northern edge of the ditch. These probably represented the erosion of the different geologies forming the sides and base of the feature, as well as possibly containing some bank or mound material from inside the ditch.
- 3.4.25 Two interventions were excavated through a large irregular feature to the west of the ring ditch. These established that this was probably originally dug as a single large quarry pit. In intervention 446/449 the edges of the pit were fairly regular, and the base slightly concave. This contained a primary fill (448/451) which contained a some small fragments of animal bone and a single sherd of Black Burnished Ware pottery, indicating that the feature may date to the Roman period. This deposit was sealed by a thick, slowly formed, secondary deposit (layer 447/450). No anthropogenic material was recovered from this deposit. The second intervention through this feature, cut 452, established that the feature was over 5m wide, and nearly 1m deep at its deepest point. Primary fills 453 and 454 lay against the eastern and western extents of the cut respectively. These were both sealed by layer 455, a mixed deposit, which was poorly sorted and contains frequent small and medium chert fragments and occasional abraded fragments of greensand. This probably represents a deliberate backfill of the pit. This backfilling was not total as layer 456, a gradually accumulated tertiary fill, sealed layer 455 in the eastern half of the intervention. The only anthropogenic material recovered from this intervention was a single animal bone from layer 455 – a cattle bone, which showed signs of pre-depositional gnawing.
- 3.4.26 Four features were excavated within the circuit of the ring ditch. Two of these, 463 and 464, were shown to be geological in origin, with sterile fills in irregular cuts, and were probably solution hollows (see Section 9I). The other two, however, were small pits or postholes – 436 and 438. Both of these contained single undifferentiated fills (437 and 439 respectively) which

contained no archaeological material. Although these are likely to be archaeological, their exact purpose and date cannot be ascertained.

- 3.4.27 A section was excavated through the hedge bank separating the two fields in order to establish whether there was any evidence surviving for remnant bank material from the ring ditch in the modern boundary (see Section 9C). The earliest deposit revealed was 433, a compact layer containing a moderately high proportion of sub-rounded to sub-angular small or medium sandstone or chert fragments. This probably represents surviving bank material preserved beneath the Post-medieval and modern field boundary. This deposit was left *in situ*. It was cut by the earliest field boundary – gully 432. This shallow gully was aligned north-south and was some 1.07m wide with steep sides and a flattish base. It contained a single fill – layer 431, a secondary fill. This gully appears to have followed a similar alignment to the current hedgebank, and layer 430, which lies to the east of the gully may represent the base of the original hedgebank. The present hedgebank comprises two layers – 428 and 429 – of mounded earth, the upper of which was heavily root disturbed by the modern hedge.

4 FINDS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Finds were recovered from an initial surface artefact collection, and subsequently from four excavated trenches. All finds have been cleaned (with the exception of the metalwork) and have been quantified by material type within each context. Quantified data form the primary finds archive for the Site, and these data are summarised by trench in Table 1.
- 4.1.2 Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate. All finds data are currently held on an Access database.
- 4.1.3 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of the potential of this assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the Site in its local and regional context. The assemblage recovered from surface artefact collection is largely of Post-medieval date, with small quantities of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval material, while the excavated assemblage includes a significant group of early prehistoric material (worked flint and pottery) recovered from the ring ditch in Trench 1.

Table 1: All finds by trench (number / weight in grammes)

CBM = ceramic building material

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	F/walking	Unstrat	TOTAL
Pottery	20/71	4/30	1/3	82/635	986/6359	-	1093/7098
<i>Prehistoric</i>					7/56	-	
<i>Romano-British</i>					9/21	-	
<i>Medieval</i>					62/245	-	
<i>Post-medieval</i>					908/6037	-	
CBM	-	-	-	-	202/5232	-	202/5232
Fired Clay	-	-	-	1/2	-	-	1/2
Clay Pipe	-	-	-	-	12/37	-	12/37
Worked Flint	14/276	1/115	-	154/2934	128/2679	-	297/6004
Burnt Flint	-	-	-	14/221	12/65	-	26/286
Stone	1/2	-	-	14/322	6/442	-	21/766
Glass	1/27	-	-	-	12/59	-	13/86
Slag	-	1/7	-	-	-	-	1/7
Metalwork	8	2	-	1	12	4	29
<i>Copper Alloy</i>	8	2	-	-	12	3	25
<i>Iron</i>	-	-	-	1	2	1	4
Animal Bone	11/123	1/62	-	33/88	-	-	45/273

4.2 Pottery

Surface artefact collection

4.2.1 The ceramic assemblage recovered from initial fieldwalking is largely of Post-medieval date, although small numbers of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval sherds were identified, with varying degrees of confidence. Identification in many cases has been hampered by the poor condition of the material – in general the sherds have suffered a high degree of post-depositional abrasion, consistent with a ploughzone assemblage. Table 2 gives the breakdown of the surface artefact collection pottery assemblage by date and ware group/type.

Table 2: Pottery from surface artefact collection

Date range	Ware	No. sherds	Weight (g)
?Prehistoric	Flint-tempered wares	3	14
	Grog-tempered wares	4	42
Romano-British	All wares	9	21
Medieval	Medieval coarsewares	62	245
Post-medieval	Redwares	879	5876
	Staffs-type mottled	1	4
	Staffs-type slipware	4	19
	Stonewares	9	71
	Refined whitewares	15	67
	Total	986	6359

- 4.2.2 Only a very few sherds potentially date from earlier than the medieval period. These comprise seven possible prehistoric and nine possible Romano-British sherds. Three flint-tempered and four grog-tempered sherds have been tentatively identified as prehistoric. Two grog-tempered sherds from Grid Square 2 (S25) resemble the Early Bronze Age Collared Urn material from Trench 1 (see below); the other two sherds (G1/S29, G2/S41), both of which contain rare calcareous (?shell) inclusions, are less confidently dated, as are the three flint-tempered sherds (G1/S49, G2/S11, G2/S56), which could be of later prehistoric date.
- 4.2.3 Nine greyware sherds have been identified here as Romano-British coarsewares (G1/S46, G2/S11, G2/S21, G2/S33, G2/S38, G2/S41, G2/S47, G2/S48), although the possibility exists that these are merely abraded Post-medieval redwares (most of which are at least partially reduced).
- 4.2.4 Medieval material is more easily recognisable, comprising sherds in coarse sandy fabrics containing flint/chert and/or calcareous inclusions. Such fabrics are commonly found across south Dorset and east Somerset and have a wide date range from at least the 11th century to the 13th century; they are likely to have been of local manufacture. There is only one diagnostic sherd here (G1/S17) – a jar rim (not chronologically distinctive).
- 4.2.5 Some of the sherds identified here as Post-medieval redwares could also be of medieval date, as the 13th century and later sandy wares characteristic of west Dorset are very similar in appearance to their Post-medieval successors, and unglazed sherds are not easily distinguished, particularly in a heavily abraded assemblage such as this. Otherwise these redwares are likely to have a date range spanning the Post-medieval period, although the relative scarcity of later factory-produced wares suggests that much of this material dates prior to c.1720. The Staffordshire-type wares (slipwares and manganese mottled wares) are probably of 17th or early 18th century date.

Pottery from evaluation trenches

- 4.2.6 The pottery assemblage from excavated contexts has been quantified by ware type, following the local type series. There are a handful of Romano-British, medieval and Post-medieval sherds, but otherwise the assemblage is all of Early Bronze Age date. Table 3 gives the breakdown of the assemblage by ware type and period.

Table 3: Pottery totals by ware type

Date Range	Ware Type	Date Range	Context	No. sherds	Weight (g)

Early Bronze Age	Collared Urn		101	9	29
	Collared Urn		105	3	15
	Collared Urn		106	8	27
	Collared Urn		402	3	9
	Collared Urn		408	43	354
	Uncertain		408	4	39
	Collared Urn		418	26	203
Romano-British	Black Burnished		411	2	17
	Black Burnished		448	1	1
Medieval	Sandy		202	3	7
	Fine sandy, glazed		401	1	4
	Coarse flint/calcareous		401	1	5
Post-medieval	Red ware		202	1	23
	Red ware		301	1	3
	Red ware		401	1	3
	TOTAL			107	739

4.2.7 A handful of Romano-British sherds (four Black Burnished ware), medieval sherds (coarse and fine sandy and coarse flint tempered wares) and Post-medieval sherds (red wares) were identified, mostly small, abraded and undiagnostic body sherds.

4.2.8 The majority of the pottery assemblage is of Early Bronze Age date, and most if not all belongs to the Collared Urn tradition, and the majority of sherds may derive from a single vessel. Only one sherd is truly diagnostic, being a rim sherd with twisted cord impressions, but the grog-tempered fabric of this sherd is mirrored in the remainder of the assemblage. The bulk of the Early Bronze Age ceramics (42 sherds) came from context 408, including the diagnostic rim, two fragments of collar, and four other rims from different vessels. None of these rims are readily identifiable, but share the same fabric as the Collared Urn and may therefore be of a similar date.

4.2.9 One sherd in this same fabric from 106 was decorated with a pair of fingernail impressions with pronounced displaced crescents of clay at the lip.

4.3 Ceramic Building Material

4.3.1 Ceramic building material (CBM) was collected during fieldwalking. None was recovered from the excavated trenches. Much of this material is fragmentary, but consists mainly of brick, tile and field drain.

4.3.2 All of the bricks appear to be unfrosted, although there are no complete examples. They are most likely to date to the Post-medieval period.

4.3.3 The majority of the assemblage comprises roof tiles, of which the most are too fragmentary to identify; no complete examples survive. Although no fabric analysis was carried out, the visual scan indicated a range of fabric types, with some of the coarser, less hard-fired variants possibly of medieval date.

4.4 Worked Flint

Raw Material

4.4.1 The assemblage consists primarily of two distinct types. The first is a pale grey flint, most often patinated and likely to derive from nodules occurring in the local drift geology. The second type is a pale brown, very ‘sandy’ flint so coarse as to almost be a macrocrystalline chert or possibly even a metamorphic quartzite. This second type is rarely patinated.

4.4.2 The quality of the raw material is relatively poor, often with inclusions and incipient thermal fractures. The coarser material has a distinctive linear or tabular fracture, and flakes in this stone often have few of the classic traces of conchoidal fracture.

4.4.3 Many pieces had patination and/or edge damage congruent with a ploughzone assemblage. This was true for both excavated and fieldwalked examples: pieces from excavated contexts in Trenches 1 and 2 tended to be in poorer condition than those in Trench 4, while fieldwalked pieces in Grid 2 were in poorer condition than those in Grid 1.

Table 4: The composition of the assemblage

Flint Types	No.	% of assemblage
<i>Retouched tools:</i>		
Scrapers	15	5.00
Misc. retouched pieces	3	1.00
<i>Retouched tools sub-total</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>6.00</i>
<i>Debitage:</i>		
Flakes (incl. broken)	256	85.33
Blades (incl. broken)	3	1.00
Bladelets (incl. broken)	2	0.66
Irregular debitage	8	2.67
Core preparation / rejuvenation pieces	4	1.34
Cores / core fragments	9	3.00
Total	300	100.0%

Debitage and cores

- 4.4.4 There were 273 pieces of unretouched debitage (flakes, blades and bladelets) together with 3 cores and 6 core fragments. 4.5% of flakes were broken, and the flake element was notable for the total lack of chips (flakes with a length of <5mm).
- 4.4.5 Most of the cores and core fragments were unclassifiable, but one was bipolar, with a pair of opposed platforms with removals occurring from each end, rather than the second platform having been established after the first was abandoned. This piece is likely to be Later Mesolithic or Earlier Neolithic.
- 4.4.6 Preparation, maintenance and rejuvenation of cores are attested by trimming flakes, and core tablets and *flanc de nucléus*. Several cores retaining portions of the striking platform show abrasion and/or isolation. In most instances the technology cannot be identified, although core fragments and flakes struck with both hard and soft hammers exist.

The retouched tool assemblage

- 4.4.7 Table 5 shows the very limited number of tools in the assemblage. Scrapers are the only formal type present.

Table 5: Retouched tools

<i>Tool Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>% of assemblage</i>
<i>Scrapers</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>88.33</i>
<i>Other retouched</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>11.67</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>100%</i>

- 4.4.8 All 15 examples are end or end-and-side scrapers. 12 examples were recovered from context 408, and on typological grounds are probably Early Bronze Age (one piece may in fact be a blank for an unfinished discoidal knife). This context is also significant for containing 44% of the flakes and 40.33% of the total assemblage.
- 4.4.9 No particular patterning was observed within the fieldwalked material. Only three squares contained more than four pieces.

4.5 Burnt Flint

- 4.5.1 Burnt (unworked) flint was recovered from excavated contexts (219g) and fieldwalking (67g). This material type is intrinsically undatable, but is frequently associated with prehistoric activity. In this instance, the majority

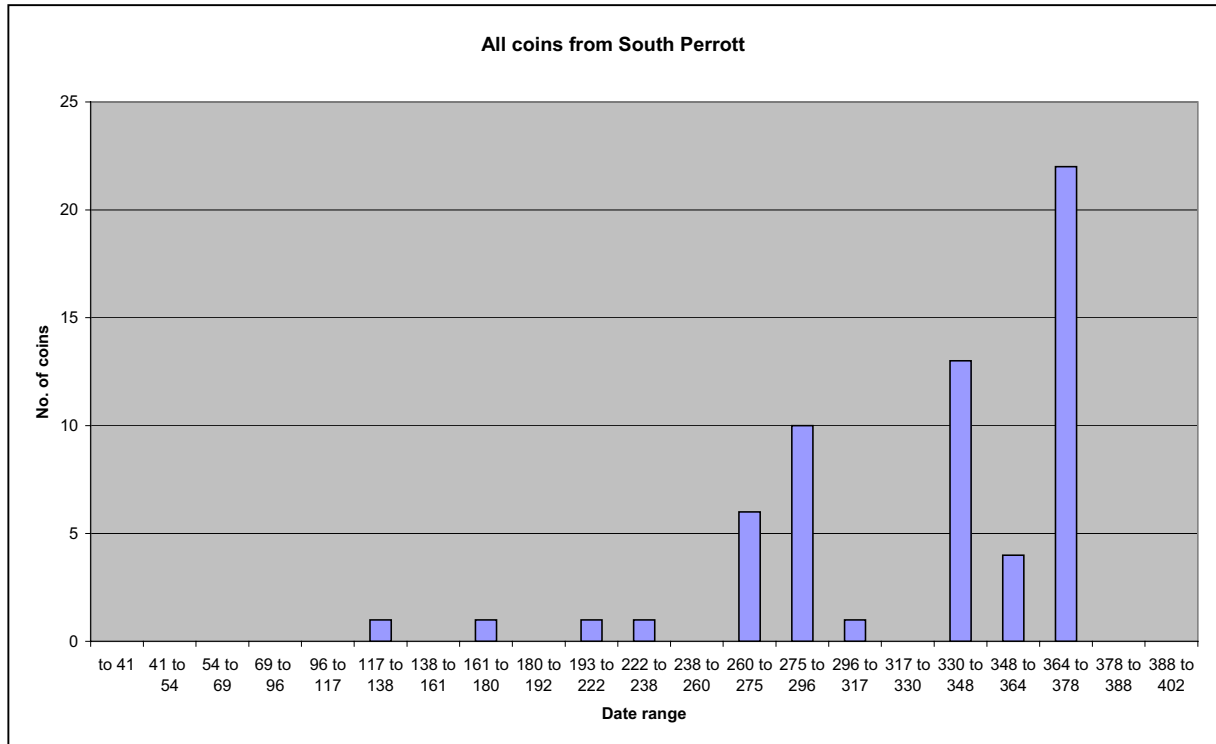
(187g) of the collected material came from context 408, dated by ceramics and lithics as Early Bronze Age.

4.6 Metalwork

The coins

- 4.6.1 Nineteen coins were recovered during the Time Team fieldwalking and evaluation exercise at South Perrott. All bar one of these are late Roman in date, with the single exception being a one shilling piece of Elizabeth II, dated to 1956. The remaining eighteen coins all date to the second half of the 3rd or 4th century AD. Seven of these were recovered during the metal detector survey of the fieldwalking grid (Objects 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12 and 13). All of these were in poor or very poor condition, and only a few could be closely dated. The best preserved coins from the Site were those recovered from *in situ* deposits (Objects 6, 15, 18 and 19).
- 4.6.2 Fifteen of the 18 Roman coins could be assigned minting dates with certainty, with the remaining three dated to the late 3rd or 4th century on the basis of their size and shape. The dated coins range in date from an Antoninianus of Gallienus dated to between AD 260 and 268 (Object 19) to four coins of the House of Valentinian (AD 364 – 78). These broadly match the date ranges for the coins previously identified from the Site, although there a small number of coins found during metal detecting date to prior to AD 260. A small number of the coins recovered are contemporary copies of ‘official’ coinage. These include both Barbarous Radiates of the late 3rd century and copies of the ‘Fallen Horseman’ Fel Temp Reparatio issues of the AD 350s. It is unclear whether these copies were officially sanctioned, if at all, but they are not uncommon as Site finds, and seem to have circulated in the same fashion as officially struck coins.
- 4.6.3 When all of the coins from the Site are combined, it is clear that the majority of the coins from the Site date to the AD 330s onwards, with none later than AD 367 in date (see Graph 2). This need not necessarily indicate that activity on the Site ceased at this date, as supplies of coins dating between AD 378 and 402 to Britain were fairly sporadic, and they are fairly uncommon as Site finds.

Graph 2. All coins from South Perrott.

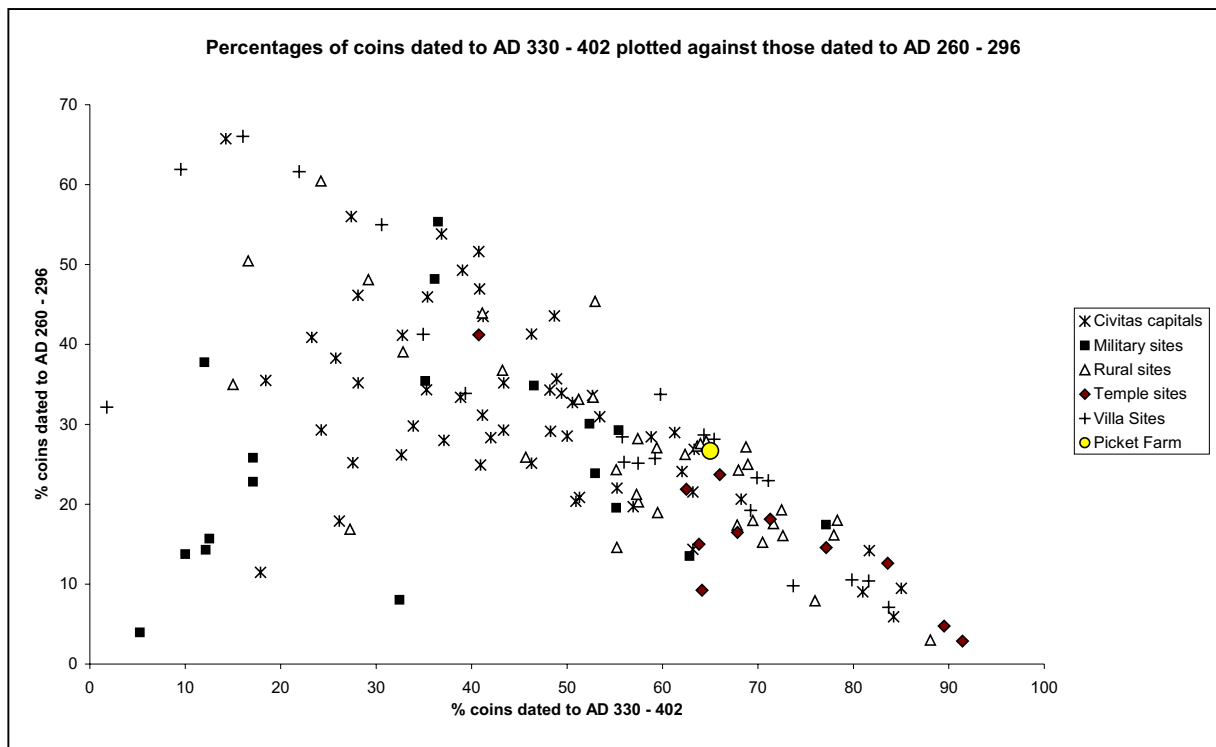


4.6.4 Although the assemblage from Picket Farm is not large enough to meet the criteria used for inclusion within Reece's study of 140 Sites in Britain (Reece, 1990), it still merits discussion within that context. In this work, Reece established that a comparison of the ratio between coins on a Site struck between AD 260 – 296 (Period B) and AD 330 – 402 (Period D) provided some clear differences between Sites of different types. Through this, he was able to establish that temple Sites tended to have the most distinctive pattern, with a high proportion of Period D coins to Period B. Picket Farm has a similarly high ratio, and when plotted against the ratios from 140 Sites, falls into a group of Sites which include rural Sites, villa Sites and temple Sites. Although this places the coin assemblage on the fringes of the group of temple Sites, the picture is clouded slightly by the rural Sites. Rural Sites from the west of England often have greater proportion of late coins than their eastern counterparts. Indeed, the Sites which have the closest comparable assemblages from all of the Sites examined are the Roman villa at Gatcombe in Somerset, the rural settlements at Sapperton, Ware and Catsgore (also in Somerset) and the excavations on the Temple at Lydney in Gloucestershire. In other words, the assemblage from the mound at South Perrott would not be out of place either in a nearby rural settlement, or on a temple Site.

4.6.5 It is clear from the small number of coins found within small scoops during the excavation that many, if not most, of these coins were probably also buried in a similar fashion, presumably as small offerings. These may have

been placed in shallow scoops dug into the topsoil, or even in to the body of the central mound of the monument itself, and have subsequently been removed from these by later ploughing. The absence of pottery or any other dateable Roman material in any quantity suggests that coins were the main votive object of choice.

Graph 3. Percentages of coins dated to AD 330 – 402 plotted against those dated to AD 260 – 296.



Coin list

Site: PF 04. Picket Farm, South Perrott
Context **Grid 1, Square 7**
Object **1**
Location Fieldwalking grid 1, square 7. Found by metal detector
Denomination Cu Alloy AE 3 follis
Reverse axis 180
Issuer Emperor of the House of Valentinian
Weight 1.8g
Issue date AD 364 - 78
Obverse Bust r. Otherwise illegible. Very badly worn and corroded.
Reverse Emperor r with standard, dragging captive. Gloria Romanorum type. Badly worn and corroded
Diameter 16mm
Mint Illegible
Notes V poor condition - oval flan, with some damage, and also heavily worn and corroded.
References As LRBC II, 78

Context **400**
Object **2**
Location Trench 4 unstratified
Denomination Cu Alloy AE 4 follis
Reverse axis 15mm
Issuer Emperor of the House of Constantine
Weight 0.9g
Issue date AD 330 - 45
Obverse Bust r. Very badly worn and corroded

Reverse 2 soldiers, 2 standards. V stylised engraving
 Diameter 14mm
 Mint Illegible
 Notes V stylised engraving on reverse. Small flan. Almost certainly a contemporary copy.
 Reference s Copy as LRBC I, 48

Context **Grid 1, Square 8**
Object **3**
 Location Fieldwalking grid 1, square 8. Found by metal detector.
 Denomination Cu Alloy AE 3 follis
 Reverse axis 180
 Issuer Emperor of the House of Valentinian
 Weight 1.8g
 Issue date AD 364 - 78
 Obverse Bust r. Otherwise Illegible. Badly worn and corroded
 Reverse Emperor r with standard, dragging captive
 Diameter 16mm
 Mint Illegible
 Notes Badly worn and corroded.
 References As LRBC II, 78

Context **Grid 1, Square 1**
Object **4**
 Location Fieldwalking grid 1, square 1. Found by metal detector.
 Denomination Shilling
 Reverse axis 360
 Issuer Elizabeth II
 Weight 5.5g
 Issue date 1956
 Obverse Youthful bust f Elizabeth II right. ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA
 Reverse Royal shield surmounted by crown. FID DEF ONE SHILLING. 19 56 either side of shield
 Diameter 23mm
 Mint /
 Notes Some slight wear.

Context **114**
Object **6**
 Location Only fill of shallow scoop 115.
 Denomination Cu Alloy AE 3 follis
 Reverse axis 180
 Issuer Constantius II
 Weight 1.5g
 Issue date AD 355 - 60
 Obverse Bust r, pearl diadem, draped. DNCONSTAN TIVSPFAVG
 Reverse Fallen Horseman type 3. FEL TEMP REPARATIO. Mint Mark. CPLG
 Diameter 19mm
 Mint Lyons
 Notes The engraving on the reverse of the coin is slightly stylised, and may indicate that this coin is a copy. Some fairly bad edge damage.
 Reference s ? copy as LRBC II, 253

Context **101**
Object **7**
 Location Topsoil trench 1.
 Denomination Cu Alloy AE 3 follis
 Reverse axis 180
 Issuer Emperor of the House of Constantine
 Weight 1.9g
 Issue date AD 330
 Obverse Helmeted head l. VRBS -
 Reverse Wolf and Twins. Mint mark. TRS
 Diameter 15mm
 Mint Trier
 Notes Ovoid flan. Edges have been clipped.
 Reference s LRBC I, 51

Context **101**
Object **8**
 Location Topsoil trench 1
 Denomination Cu Alloy Antoninianus

Reverse axis 10
Issuer Barbarous Radiate
Weight 2.2g
Issue date AD 270 - 90
Obverse Radiate bust r. Otherwise illegible. Some wear and corrosion
Reverse Standing figure - ?Pax w/ transverse staff and globe.
Diameter 18mm
Mint /
Notes Ovoid flan. Stylised engraving on obverse. A Barbarous Radiate

Context **Grid 1, Square 9**
Object **9**
Location Fieldwalking grid 1, square 9. Found by metal detector.
Denomination Cu Alloy Antoninianus/follis
Reverse axis /
Issuer Unknown Roman Emperor
Weight 1.1g
Denomination antoninianus/follis
Issue date C3 - C4
Obverse Completely illegible
Reverse Completely illegible
Diameter 18mm
Mint /
Notes V thin oval flan. Too badly worn and corroded to be dated closely

Context **Grid 1, Square 9**
Object **10**
Location Fieldwalking grid 1, square 9. Found by metal detector.
Denomination Cu Alloy AE 4 follis
Reverse axis /
Issuer Unknown Roman Emperor
Weight 1.5g
Issue date AD 350 - 60
Obverse Completely illegible
Reverse Fallen horseman. V badly worn and corroded.
Diameter 14mm
Mint /
Notes Dished flan and size indicate a copy
References Copy as LRBC II, 25

Context **202**
Object **11**
Location Subsoil Trench 2
Denomination Cu Alloy Antoninianus
Reverse axis 180
Issuer Barbarous Radiate
Weight 3.1g
Issue date AD 270 - 90
Obverse Radiate bust r. Otherwise illegible
Reverse Stylised fig 1, holding vertical staff ad globe. ? Pax
Diameter 17mm
Mint /
Notes Barbarous Radiate. Worn and corroded.

Context **Grid 1, Square 7**
Object **12**
Location Fieldwalking grid 1, square 7. Found by metal detector.
Denomination Cu Alloy AE 4 follis
Reverse axis 180
Issuer Emperor of the House of Constantine
Weight 0.9g
Issue date AD 335 - 45
Obverse Bust r. Otherwise illegible. Badly worn and corroded.
Reverse 2 soldiers, 1 standard. V badly corroded. Stylised engraving
Diameter 14mm
Mint /
Notes Contemporary copy.
References Copy as LRBC I, 87

Context **Grid 1, square 8**

Object	13
<i>Location</i>	Fieldwalking grid 1, square 8. Found by metal detector.
<i>Denomination</i>	Cu Alloy AE 4 follis
<i>Reverse axis</i>	0
<i>Issuer</i>	Unknown Roman Emperor
<i>Weight</i>	1g
<i>Issue date</i>	C4
<i>Obverse</i>	Completely illegible
<i>Reverse</i>	Completely illegible
<i>Diameter</i>	13mm
<i>Mint</i>	/
<i>Notes</i>	Very badly corroded coin. Dated by size alone
Context	203
Object	15
<i>Location</i>	Fill of scoop 204
<i>Denomination</i>	Cu Alloy Antoninianus
<i>Reverse axis</i>	180
<i>Issuer</i>	Barbarous Radiate
<i>Weight</i>	2g
<i>Issue date</i>	AD 270 - 90
<i>Obverse</i>	Radiate bust r. Otherwise illegible. Worn and corroded.
<i>Reverse</i>	Figure standing l, holding branch. Worn
<i>Diameter</i>	17mm
<i>Mint</i>	/
<i>Notes</i>	Ovoid flan. Stylised engraving on reverse. Barbarous Radiate
Context	101
Object	16
<i>Location</i>	Topsoil Trench 1
<i>Denomination</i>	Cu Alloy AE 3 follis
<i>Reverse axis</i>	360
<i>Issuer</i>	Valens
<i>Weight</i>	2.4g
<i>Issue date</i>	AD 364 - 78
<i>Obverse</i>	Bust r, pearl diadem. -VALEN SPF- Badly corroded
<i>Reverse</i>	Emperor r, holding standard and dragging captive. Gloria Romanorum type.
<i>Diameter</i>	18mm
<i>Mint</i>	/
<i>Notes</i>	Oval flan. Badly corroded.
<i>Reference s</i>	As LRBC II, 85
Context	101
Object	17
<i>Location</i>	Unstratified Trench 1
<i>Denomination</i>	Cu Alloy AE 4 follis
<i>Reverse axis</i>	360
<i>Issuer</i>	Unknown Roman Emperor
<i>Weight</i>	1.8g
<i>Issue date</i>	AD 350 - 60
<i>Obverse</i>	Bust r. V stylised
<i>Reverse</i>	Fallen horseman type. Stylised engraving.
<i>Diameter</i>	13mm
<i>Mint</i>	/
<i>Notes</i>	Copy. Some wear.
<i>References</i>	Copy as LRBC II, 25
Context	112
Object	18
<i>Location</i>	The fill of the very small scoop cut into natural (103) containing any single Roman coin, apparently buried between the lump of sandstone and the flint cobble. Probably a ritual deposit. Fill of 113
<i>Denomination</i>	Cu Alloy Antoninianus
<i>Reverse axis</i>	5
<i>Issuer</i>	Claudius II
<i>Weight</i>	2.4g
<i>Issue date</i>	AD 268 - 70
<i>Obverse</i>	Radiate bust r, bearded -AVDIVSAVG
<i>Reverse</i>	Virtus standing l, holding staff and branch VIRT- -AVG. C to r of figure
<i>Diameter</i>	19mm
<i>Mint</i>	/

Notes SI ovoid flan, and struck off centre.

Context 110
Object 19
Location Fill of a very small scoop cut into the natural (103) containing a single Roman coin and a sandstone fragment directly above it. Possibly a votive deposit. Fill of 111.
Denomination Cu Alloy Antoninianus
Reverse axis 160
Issuer Gallienus
Weight 2.3
Denomination Antoninianus
Issue date AD 260 - 8
Obverse Radiate bust r, bearded -IENV-
Reverse Antelope l, raising foreleg
Diameter 17mm
Mint /
Notes Some wear

Context 101
Object 21
Location Topsoil Tr 1
Denomination Cu Alloy AE 3 follis
Reverse axis /
Issuer Unknown Roman Emperor
Weight 1.2g
Issue date C3 - C4
Obverse Illegible. Very worn and corroded
Reverse Illegible. Very worn and corroded
Diameter 16mm
Mint /
Notes Only dated on the basis of its size

Context 101
Object 22
Location Topsoil Tr 1
Denomination Cu Alloy AE 3 follis
Reverse axis 355
Issuer Gratian
Weight 2.5g
Issue date AD 364 - 78
Obverse Bust r. Otherwise illegible. Badly worn and corroded
Reverse Emperor l w standard and shield (Gloria Novi Saeculi type) Otherwise illegible. Badly worn and corroded
Diameter 17mm
Mint Arles
Notes V poor condition
References As LRBC II, 503

4.7 Other Finds

4.7.1 Other finds comprise small quantities of glass (Post-medieval vessel and window), clay pipe (plain stems), a single piece of slag (industrial waste of uncertain date and origin), stone (burnt sandstone, a whetstone fragment, sandstone building materials, a fossil), a fragment of mortar and a small pellet of fired clay (context 408).

4.8 Animal Bone

4.8.1 Only 19 bones were recovered, most of which were in fair condition, although two were recorded as being in poor condition. Only one, from 455, had been gnawed, but four, nearly half of the identified bone, were loose teeth, suggesting some mechanical destruction through reworking.

- 4.8.2 Of the nine elements identified to species, seven were from domestic cattle, one roe deer and one bird. The cattle bones were mainly teeth, skull and metatarsals, elements of low meat value (although metatarsals are relatively rich in marrow), and one radius from a young individual, which had been gnawed at both epiphyses, so had been exposed to scavengers for a period of time before burial. The bird bone, a distal ulna, strongly resembled that of a crow, and therefore may have been from a commensal that had died naturally and become partially, and accidentally, incorporated into the deposit. A shed antler from a mature roe deer would have been collected after being cast between October and January, and thus there is no evidence for the killing or consumption of wild animals. The antler may have been specially placed rather than used (e.g. for the production of artefacts), as it is almost complete.
- 4.8.3 Two bones could be measured, including a cattle metatarsal with a proximal breadth of 47.5mm, well within the range for the Late Neolithic as given by the Animal Bone Metrical Archive Project (University of Southampton 2003), but slightly larger than the very few examples from the Bronze Age. No butchery marks or burning was observed.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Samples taken and palaeo-environmental evidence

- 5.1.1 Four bulk samples between three and 50 litres were taken from two of the ring ditch segments and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal. Two monoliths were taken from the ring ditch in trench 1
- 5.1.2 Categories of palaeo-environmental evidence recovered:
- charred plant remains
 - charcoal
 - sediment descriptions

5.2 Assessment Results; methods and data

Charred Plant Remains and Charcoals

- 5.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.
- 5.2.2 The flots were scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope and presence of charred remains quantified (Table E1), to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains.

- 5.2.3 While the two samples from the charcoal dumps 107, context 119 and 410, context 408 produced large charcoal rich flots, with little to no roots, those from the corresponding upper fills 106 and 403 had little to no charcoal, larger amounts of roots and several uncharred modern seeds.

Charred plant remains

- 5.2.4 Only one sample produced remains other than wood charcoal this was from Trench 1, 107, context 119. This produced four largish fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*), an unidentified fruit stone, probably of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and one small grass seed (*Lolium/Festuca* type). It also nine cereal grains, two of which could be identified as barley and two that resembled free-threshing wheat, the remaining five were unidentifiable. This mixture of wild food remains represented by the hazelnut fragments and domestic cereals corresponds with the general impression for Neolithic and Early Bronze Age southern England (Moffet *et al.* 1989, Jones 1991, Monk 1987). Given that routine domestic activities are unlikely to have been conducted upon the Site, the general dearth of cereal and food remains is to be expected.

- 5.2.5 The material was well preserved and the appearance highly similar to the charcoal suggesting that they were burnt and deposited within the ditch as part of this single event. For this reason although the number of macros was not exceptionally high they would be still be suitable for radiocarbon dating as part of this one event.

Charcoal

- 5.2.6 Charcoal was noted in the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in table E1.

- 5.2.7 One sample from Trench 4, ditch 404, context 403 was examined in order to extract suitable material for radiocarbon dating. A scan of c.20% of the sample showed it to be heavily dominated by mature wood of *Quercus* sp. (oak) but a single fragment of oak sapwood was removed for dating. Similarly much of the material from 119 was noted to be ring porous with large vessels and probably of oak.

Sediments and Pollen

- 5.2.8 Two monoliths were recovered from ditch 107, a ring ditch of possible Late Neolithic age, in order to enable detailed sediment descriptions. Sample 3 was 0.25m long, sample 4 was 0.35m long, both were taken through contexts 106, 188 and 119. The monoliths were cleaned and the sediments described using standard methodology (according to Hodgson 1976), as shown in Table 3. 1cm slices were taken from selected depths from monolith 3 for pollen assessment, as shown in Table 3.

5.3 Potential

Charred plant remains

- 5.3.1 The charred plant remains have only a limited potential in revealing the basic elements of the subsistence base for the late Early Bronze Age. As all the material has been identified there is no further potential in the samples beyond the scope covered by this report.

Charcoal

- 5.3.2 The dominance of mature *Quercus* sp. (oak) wood in the sample already examined for Trench 4 (context 403) limits its use in informing of the local environment. However, it and the charcoal recovered from Trench 1 has the potential to elucidate any selection of wood for specific economic activities or use in hearths.

Sediments and pollen

- 5.3.3 As shown in Table 3, the same sedimentary sequence was represented in both monolith samples from ditch 107. The feature was cut into the archaeologically sterile weathered natural (unit 4) which comprised a soft fine sand probably derived from the Upper Greensand mapped for the area (British Geological Survey, England and Wales 1983, Sheet 312).
- 5.3.4 A primary fill of fine sand (unit 3/ context 119) is believed to represent sediment washed in from the stabilising edges of the feature and the local surroundings. This fill contained common organic staining in the lower portion and was found in excavation to be charcoal rich. A small stasis horizon is proposed at its top, unit 2/ context 118 being a possible azonal soil. This suggestion is made on the basis of its increased organic content, the presence of macropores and the iron staining just below the horizon. No structure was, however, apparent. Unit 1/ context 106 was visually very similar to unit 1 and comprised a massive body of coarse sand to fine gravel in an organic clay silt loam which formed the secondary ditch fill.
- 5.3.5 Pollen analysis of the samples detailed in Table 3 has the potential to elucidate the vegetational history of the Site during in-filling of the ditch (likely Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age) and may provide information on certain economic practices such as agriculture.

5.4 Palaeo-environmental Summary

5.4.1

5.5 Proposals

Charred plant remains

- 5.5.1 As all of the material from Feature 107, context 106 was extracted no further work is recommended.

Charcoal

5.5.2 Analysis of the wood charcoal is recommended for the four contexts sampled (106 and 119 of ditch 107, 403 and 408 of features 404 and 410, Trench 4)

Sediments and pollen

5.5.3 The ditch fill sediments have been fully described and the sequence interpreted, therefore no further analysis of the monoliths is recommended.

5.5.4 It is suggested the series of eight samples detailed in Table 3 be assessed for their suitability for pollen analysis.

Table 6. Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

				Flot								Residue	
Trench no/ Feature no	Context	Sample	size litres	flot ml	size	Grain	Chaff	Weed uncharred	seeds charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm	analysis
Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Ring Ditches													
Tr 107	1	106	1	40	35 ⁵⁰	-	-	c	-	C		-	
Tr 107	1	119	2	50	1000 ¹	B	-	c	B (h)	A*	-	-	
Tr 404	4	403	5	3	175 ⁰	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	
Tr 410	4	408	6	50	30 ⁶⁰	-	-	b	-	C	Moll - (C)	-	

KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis, C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs

NOTE: ¹flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material. ²Unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains

Table 7. Sediment Descriptions Picket Farm Dorset NGR 347070 105300

Monolith 3 from base of ditch 107 ?Late Neolithic 0.49-0.74m below (stripped) ground, total 0.25m long. Section drawing 109, 102				
<i>Depth¹ (cm)</i>	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Context and excavators description</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Unit</i>
0-10	0 4 8	106 secondary/ tertiary fill EBA? Dark brown sandy silt, rare chert	2.5Y 3/2 very dark greyish brown 40% coarse sand-fine gravel in massive highly organic clay silt loam matrix. Rare fine macropores. Diffuse boundary <u>Highly organic secondary fill (?eroded soil)</u>	1
10-12.5	11.5	118 possible buried land surface. Dark greyish brown silty clay	2.5Y 3/3 dark olive brown 40% coarse sand-fine gravel in highly organic silty clay matrix. Common fine macropores Clear-sharp boundary Stasis horizon: putative azonal soil	2
12.5-24	14 18 22	119 primary fill Late Neo? Brownish yellow sandy silt, occ. Sandstone. NB corresponding bulk charcoal rich	12.5-16cm 2.5Y 6/4 light yellowish brown massive fine sand, faint organic and Fe staining in upper 1cm. Clear wavy boundary 16-24cm 2.5Y 4/3 olive brown fine silty sand abundant coarse organic mottling and staining. Rare angular flint 1cm <u>Primary fill (inwash of eroded sediments from sides of ditch and surroundings)</u>	3
24-25	24	Natural	2.5Y6/3 light yellowish brown soft fine sand <u>weathered natural</u>	4

Monolith 4 from ditch 107 ?Late Neolithic 0.35-0.70m below (stripped) ground, total 0.35m long. Section drawing 109, 102. Same sequence as <3> to edge				
<i>Depth¹ (cm)</i>	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Context and excavators description</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Unit</i>
0-18	none	106 secondary/ tertiary fill EBA? Dark brown sandy silt, rare chert	2.5Y 3/2 very dark greyish brown 40% coarse sand-fine gravel in massive highly organic clay silt loam matrix. Rare fine macropores. Diffuse boundary <u>Highly organic secondary fill (?eroded soil)</u>	1
18-21		118 possible buried land surface. Dark greyish brown silty clay	2.5Y 3/3 dark olive brown 40% coarse sand-fine gravel in highly organic silty clay matrix. Common fine macropores Clear-sharp boundary Stasis horizon: putative azonal soil	2
21-35		119 primary fill Late Neo? Brownish yellow sandy silt, occ. Sandstone. NB corresponding bulk charcoal rich	21-26cm 2.5Y 6/4 light yellowish brown massive fine sand, faint organic and Fe staining in upper 1cm. Diffuse boundary 26-35cm 2.5Y 5/4 light olive brown fine sand, common coarse organic mottling <u>Primary fill (inwash of eroded sediments from sides of ditch and surroundings)</u>	3

NB There were no markings/labelling on the monoliths, top, base and contexts extrapolated from sediment descriptions

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 The fieldwalking and evaluation undertaken by Time Team at Picket Farm has provided significant new evidence for the prehistoric landscape in the area in the form of an oval ring ditch, probably dating to the Late Neolithic. This became the focus for subsequent activity in the Early Bronze Age and Roman periods, with the burial of structured deposits associated with the monument in both periods. The fieldwalking results suggest that the mound of the monument remained a feature in the landscape well into the Post-medieval period.
- 6.1.2 The monument was originally constructed in the Late Neolithic period, with a segmented ditch dug to form the circuit, and probably to act as a quarry for a central mound or bank. It is unclear whether this circuit was continuous or interrupted, with one or more causeways accessing the central area, although the presence of the terminus of a ditch segment in one intervention and irregularities in the width of the ditch at other points around the circuit suggests the latter. The depositional sequences identified in the individual interventions excavated suggest that there was a central mound or bank, with tiplines of material from this in the primary and secondary fills.
- 6.1.3 This monument belongs to a group of Neolithic monuments known as oval barrows. These are fairly common in the Neolithic of Southern Britain, and are usually associated with burials. Recently excavated examples include an example from Barrow Hills in Oxfordshire (Bradley, 1992) where an oval barrow was incorporated within a later monument complex. English Heritage recognise oval barrows as a specific monument class (English Heritage, 1988). Seven of these have been radiocarbon dated to the Middle Neolithic, although the range of dates achieved span some 800 - 900 years (English Heritage 1988, 2). Oval barrows tend to measure some 25 – 35m in length, which accords closely with the excavated example from South Perrott, which measures some 25.50m internally.
- 6.1.4 The oval barrow at South Perrott appears to represent a Type F oval barrow as defined by English Heritage as part of their Monument Protection Programme (English Heritage 1988, 2) In other words this oval barrow does not appear to be associated with any burials. The English Heritage site type F oval barrow is at Thickthorn Down in Dorset. Oval barrows at South Street, Horslip and Beckhampton Road in Wiltshire also contained no evidence for human remains (Russell pers. comm.). Oval barrows often show a sequence of construction, possible involving the initial use of the site as a mortuary house or mortuary enclosure. The oval barrow at Barrow Hills near Abingdon saw up to four phases of construction (Bradley, 1992)
- 6.1.5 Some 45 – 50 oval barrows are recorded from Britain, and are largely confined to southern and south eastern Britain, with the main zone of

distribution running from Dorset in the south west to Norfolk in the east (English Heritage, 1988, 4). They are often found as single monuments, and not usually associated with other Neolithic monuments, although occasionally they appear to be built along significant axes or alignments (English Heritage 1988, 4).

- 6.1.6 There is no evidence for any human burials associated with the monument at South Perrott. Whilst it is not impossible that such deposits may survive in the unexcavated north-west quadrant of the ring ditch, it seems reasonable to suggest that the primary function of the monument was not to act as a burial mound or monument. There is little in the way of material from the fills of the ditch or the interior to aid our understanding of its function. We can be certain that it had been established for some considerable period of time before the monument became the focus for structured deposition of material in the Early Bronze Age.
- 6.1.7 All of the tertiary fills of the monument appear to have formed in the Early Bronze Age, with small quantities of pottery of this date recovered. The dump of charcoal (layer 403 in intervention 404) was made at this point in the fill sequence and clearly points to the inception of this final phase of silting in the Early Bronze Age. The line of the ditch continued to survive as a shallow depression after the formation of these deposits, and it was in this which the dumps of finds rich material were made in the Early Bronze Age. The composition of these suggest that they represent deposits of domestic material, possibly derived from the midden. It is unclear why this material was deposited here, although it may have been as part of a propitiatory rite. This may also explain the small scoop cut into the top of the ring ditch at this time (scoop 104). One characteristic of oval barrows is that they are often the subject of secondary ritual activity, such as the deposition of 'special' deposits in the ditches (English Heritage 1988, 4). The Early Bronze Age placed deposits from South Perrott can be seen within this context.
- 6.1.8 There is no evidence for activity on the Site during the Middle or Late Bronze Age, or during the Iron Age, although it is clear that the monument must have remained relatively extant during this time. During the Roman period, however, there was more activity associated with the Site. The two irregular pits excavated to the west of the ring ditch may represent quarrying activity in the Roman period to enhance or the central mound of this monument or the construction of associated structures or earthworks. The Site clearly remained the focus of ritual activity in the Roman period, as it became the focus of votive coin deposition. Whilst there is no evidence from this work for any Roman buildings associated with this religious activity, small quantities of Roman tile have been recovered from the Site (Russell pers. comm.), and the possibility of a small shrine or temple associated with this ritual activity cannot be discounted.

- 6.1.9 There are a number of parallels known for Roman ritual re-use of earlier monuments. These range from the deposition of artefacts in a similar fashion to those recovered at South Perrott to the construction of a Romano-Celtic shrine directly on top of a barrow at Haddenham (Hall and Coles, 1994, 114). At Stanwick, in Northamptonshire, a Bronze Age barrow close to a villa estate complex was surrounded first with a cobbled path, and then with a walled *temenos*. This was the focus for ritual offerings, with over 500 coins recovered, mainly dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, as well as two copper alloy leaves (Neal, 1989, 156 – 7).
- 6.1.10 There are a number of other examples where earlier monuments were re-used as foci for inhumations. These include a probable Neolithic long mound on White Horse Hill, Uffington, where excavations in the 19th century, and more recently by the Oxford Archaeology Unit, established that the monument was the focus of some 50 or so inhumation and cremation burials in the Late Roman period (Miles *et al*, 2003, 38 – 46)
- 6.1.11 A recent survey of Romano-British ritual re-use of monuments has identified that there are three broad types of activity in southern and eastern England – shrines/temples, artefact deposition and burials (Williams, 1998, 72). In the light of the absence of any evidence for Roman period burials at Picket Farm, it seems reasonable to focus on the possibilities of the Site being associated with a temple or shrine complex, or whether it was used exclusively for the ritual deposition of artefacts.
- 6.1.12 Clearly the main evidence for Roman ritual activity on the Site lies in the deposition of Roman coins in association with this monument, associated with the possible enhancing of the mound with material quarried from pits to its west. A number of similar examples of deposition of coins are known, including some 726 coins from a Bronze Age barrow at Walkington Wold in East Yorkshire, in association with large quantities of pottery and over 156 coins from Money Mound in Sussex (Williams, 1998, 73). On other Sites, quantities of pottery have been found associated with earlier monuments, sometimes in association with coins. The absence of a clearly defined Roman structure at Picket Farm precludes the certain identification of the Site alongside the group of Sites described as temples or shrines by Williams. However, it is perhaps best to place the Site within a wider continuum of Roman ritual behaviour, where earlier monuments were re-visited during the Roman period as *foci* of religious or special activities. Within this, it seems reasonable to suggest that the choice of these monuments was driven by a desire to formalise the particular significance they held to the local communities. A number of theories can be advanced to explain this, ranging from ancestor cults to a legitimisation of a particular cult or deity through association with the physical remains of earlier societies.
- 6.1.13 The Site ceased to be focus of ritual activity after the Roman period, and the land was almost certainly used for agriculture in the medieval and Post-

medieval periods. It still continued to feature in the landscape – the distribution plots of all of the Medieval and Post-medieval material from fieldwalking showed that there was a dearth of any material of this date within the area of the ring ditch. This suggests that the central mound of the ring ditch was relatively intact, but has subsequently suffered truncation, presumably as the result of ploughing. There is some evidence for this mound both in the geophysics work undertaken on the Site and the material identified sealed by the modern hedge bank. It is also unlikely that the modern boundary crosses the monument – barrows were often used as boundaries between parishes and other land divisions from the Saxon period onwards, and there is every chance that the monument at Picket Farm was used in the same fashion.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK.

7.1.1 This assessment demonstrates that the work undertaken by Time Team at Picket Farm, South Perrott has significantly added to our knowledge of the prehistoric and Roman ritual activity in the area. It has added to our understanding of monumentality in the Neolithic of the area, as well as evidence for the continued use of the Neolithic monument as the focus of ritual activity in the Early Bronze Age and Roman periods. In particular, the combination of geophysical survey, trial trenching and fieldwalking have all contributed new evidence for analysis.

7.1.2 In view of the significance of these results, it is recommended that a programme of further work be undertaken with a view to the publication of a short article outlining the results of this investigation in an appropriate journal – the Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society (PDNHAS). This short note should provide the background to the project, a summary of the main findings, and a discussion of the results. Plans, sections and photographs may be used to provide illustrative accompaniment to the text as appropriate. The Site data contained within this assessment should be used to form the basis of the structural report.

7.1.3 A copy of this assessment report will be lodged with the Dorset Sites and Monuments Record, along with a copy of the geophysical survey report.

8 THE ARCHIVE

8.1.1 The archive, which includes all artefacts, written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigation is undertaken, is currently held at the offices of Wessex archaeology under the Site code PF 04 and Wessex archaeology project No 55757. The paper archive is contained in one lever arch file. In due course, Time Team will transfer ownership of the archive to the appropriate registered museum.

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APPENDIX 1. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS.

Trench 1	Length: 12.50 max	Width: 11.07m max	Max depth: 1.15m	Ground level: 158.45m OD
Context	Interpretation	Description		
101	Layer	Topsoil. A dark greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small angular chert flint and sandstone inclusions. A modern plough soil.		
102	Natural drift geology	Yellowish brown sandy silt containing moderate small and medium sized sub-rounded and sub-angular sandstone inclusions.		
103	Natural drift geology	Light yellowish sand with patches of yellowish brown sandy clay where the deposit has been disturbed by roots. Confined to the south western corner of the trench. Very occasional concentrations of medium and large sandstone blocks.		
104	Cut	Sub-circular cut with shallow concave sides and a concave base. A small shallow cut in the top of a silted Bronze Age ring ditch. Contains a single fill, layer 105.		
105	Layer	A dark greyish brown silt loam containing very occasional small angular and sub-angular chert fragments. The only fill of the shallow scoop/posthole 104.		
106	Layer	A mid dark brown sandy silt containing rare medium and small sub-angular and angular chert fragments. A thick deposit forming in 107 after the formation of a stabilisation horizon, layer 118. A slowly formed tertiary fill. Very well sorted sandy silt. Obviously accumulated over a long period of time.		
107	Ditch cut	A linear ditch, curving to form part of a ring ditch. The ditch has steep, irregular sides and a slightly concave base. The western edge of the ditch cut through a band of chert. This is likely to have contributed to the irregularity of the sides and of the feature, protecting the western side of the ditch from slumping.		
108	Layer	A dark brown sandy silt containing rare small angular and sub-angular chert fragments and very large rare angular chert fragments. The upper fill of 109, a thick tertiary deposit formed over a long period of time after the feature profile had stabilised.		
109	Ditch Cut	A curving ditch, forming part of an ovoid ring ditch. This has steepish sides and a slightly concave base. It was probably dug in the Late Neolithic. Some realignment of the feature sides and base is likely to have occurred in the creation of the primary fill.		
110	Layer	A dark yellowish brown silky clay containing very occasional small angular chert fragments. One medium-sized fragment of sub-angular sandstone. The fill of a very small scoop cut into the natural (103) containing a single Roman coin and a sandstone fragment directly above it. Possibly a votive deposit. Fill of 111.		
111	Shallow scoop	The sub-circular cut of a small pit/scoop. This contains a single fill, and layer 110. Probably dug to contain any single coin deposited beneath the small sandstone block. A small sub-circular cut with moderately sloping straight sides and a concave base.		
112	Layer	A dark yellowish brown silty clay containing very occasional small angular and sub-angular chert fragments. One medium-sized sub-rounded sandstone fragment in the large flint cobble. The fill of the very small scoop cut into natural (103) containing any single Roman coin, apparently buried between the lump of sandstone and the flint cobble. Probably a ritual deposit. Fill of 113.		
113	Shallow scoop	A small circular scoop/pit containing any single placed deposit, probably a votive deposit of a single coin. This cut was circular with irregular sides and a slightly concave base		
114	Layer	A dark yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional small angular and sub-angular chert fragments. The single fill of a very small scoop cut into natural layer 103. This was probably placed as part of a ritual in which a late Roman coin was placed in the shallow pit as an offering. Fill of 115..		
115	Shallow scoop	A shallow sub-circular scoop/pit with moderately steep sides and a flat base, dug to contain the single placed deposit of the single late Roman coin. This was probably deposited as part of a ritual offering. Contains layer 114.		

116	Layer	The dark brown silty clay containing very occasional small angular and sub-angular chert fragments. Fill the shallow scoop/posthole. A single deposit the finds in which would indicate a prehistoric date. Fill of 117.
117	Small scoop/posthole	A small circular cut with moderately steep slightly concave sides and a concave base. A small Bronze Age scoop/posthole, cut into the natural adjacent to the oval ring ditch. Contains any single fill, layer 116.
118	Layer	A dark greyish brown silty clay. A thin layer of silty clay in ditch 107. This is likely to represent the remains of a buried land surface, created as the feature stabilised. This properly formed after the initial primary erosion as part of the stabilisation of the feature's profile.
119	Layer	A brownish yellow sandy silt containing occasional small and medium rounded and sub-rounded sandstone fragments. The primary fill of 107. Derived from weathering of the sides of the feature and its immediate surroundings. This formed relatively quickly after the creation of the feature.
120	Layer	Reddish-brown sandy silt containing very rare small angular and sub-angular chert fragments. This fill was only present only outside the ditch. A very distinctive reddish-brown colour, this appears to represents material washing in from the outside of the ring ditch. Fill of 109.
121	Layer	A brownish yellow sandy silt containing moderate small rounded and sub-rounded sandstone inclusions. Moderately well sorted. Fill of ditch 109. This properly represents bank material eroding from inside the monuments. The secondary fill, including apparent lines derived from the moment or bank material. The larger fragments of sandstone may well have been derived from the central mound.
122	Layer	A yellow sandy silt containing a very high proportion of rounded and sub-rounded medium-sized sandstone cobbles/fragments. Fill of 109. This is a layer of material gradually accumulating a partially silt and ditch, presumably from erosion of a central mound. The high proportion of sandstone inclusions may be derived from the bank of central mound.
123	Layer	The brownish yellow sandy silt containing occasional medium angular and sub-angular sandstone fragment. The primary fill of 109. Found on both sides of the ditch, but not joined in the middle. Derived from the erosion of sides of the feature and presumably also bank/mound material.

Trench 2		Length: 13.01m	Width: 7.88m	Max depth: 0.82m	Ground level: 157.54m OD
Context	Interpretation	Description			
201	Layer	Topsoil. A dark greyish brown silt loam with occasional small angular and sub-angular chert sandstone fragments. A modern plough soil.			
202	Layer	Subsoil. A yellowish brown silty clay containing moderate small and medium flint and chert sub-angular and angular inclusions			
203	Layer	A brown sandy silt containing very occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded sandstone fragments. The single fill of a small late Roman scoop (204) in the southern area of the trench. Probably a deliberately placed deposit – similar features excavated in trench one to the south.			
204	Shallow scoop	The small ovoid cut with steep concave sides and concave base. Dug to contain the single placed deposit of a small Roman coin. A second, similar pit, pit 206, lay adjacent to the feature.			
205	Layer	A dark brown sandy silt containing very occasional small sub-angular and angular chert in sandstone fragments. The only fill of 206. Very similar to deposit 203 the fill of the adjacent scoop 204. There is no sign of any associated votive deposit as evident in 204.			
206	Shallow scoop	A small circular scoop with regular moderately steep sides and a flat base. This lay in the southern area of Trench two, adjacent to 204. This contains no evidence for a similar ritual deposition to 204.			
207	Layer	A reddish-brown sandy silt. This was a very sterile layer, which may represent a natural accumulation of material in a shallow scoop. It is unclear whether this is anthropogenic or geological in origin. Fill of 208.			

208	Shallow gully / natural feature	The terminus of a shallow gully or natural feature. Fairly irregular in form and very shallow. It is aligned roughly north east to south west. It is possibly very truncated or geological in origin. It contains a single sterile fill, layer 207.
209	Layer	A reddish-brown sandy silt. A very sterile deposit. This may represent a natural accumulation of material in a shallow scoop. It is unclear whether this deposit and feature anthropogenic or geological in origin. Fill of 210.
210	Shallow gully / natural feature	An irregular shallow gully, aligned roughly north south. It has very shallow irregular sides and a flattish irregular base. This may be a very truncated feature such as a gully or may be geological in origin. It contains the single sterile fill, layer 209.
211	Layer	The greyish brown silt loam containing occasional small and medium rounded and sub-rounded sandstone inclusions. This is a colluvial subsoil identified in a sondage excavated in the north western corner of trench two. This deposit represents material derived from upslope and moved as a result of ploughing and associated erosion.
212	Natural drift geology	A yellowish brown sandy silt containing moderate small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular sandstone inclusions.
213	Natural drift geology	A light yellow sand containing patches of yellowish brown sandy clay where root disturbance has taken place.

Trench 3	Length: 21.60m	Width: 1.70m	Max depth: 0.19m	Ground level: 156.54m OD
Context	Interpretation	Description		
301	Layer	Topsoil. A modern plough soil for a crop of maize. Amid grey brown silty clay with, and chert fragments (sub-angular and small). There are no traces of a subsoil surviving in this area.		
302	Natural drift geology	A light yellow silty clay. Cut by frequent geological features, possibly ice wedges and solution features. A number of these were investigated to confirm their geological origin.		

Trench 4	Length: 25.47m max	Width: 24.02m max	Max depth: 0.60m	Ground level: 157.16m OD
Context	Interpretation	Description		
401	Layer	Topsoil. A greyish brown silty clay clayey containing occasional small angular and sub-angular chert, flint and limestone inclusions. A modern plough soil.		
402	Layer	Double numbered in error. Identical to layer 425.		
403	Layer	A dump of charcoal, some 0.9 metres in length at the base of layer 425. Sampled for charcoal, charred plant remains and carbon 14 dating. Sealed by the tertiary fill and lain on top of the secondary fill.		
404	Ditch cut	Cut for ovoid ring ditch, with moderately steep slightly concave sides and a flat base sloping gently north to south. Contains four fills, layers 403, 425, 426 and 427. The cut of a late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age ovoid ring ditch.		
405	Layer	A greenish grey sandy clay loam containing occasional small angular and rounded greensand lumps. The upper fill of ring ditch intervention 407. A tertiary fill.		
406	Layer	A reddish-brown sandy clay loam containing occasional small angular lumps of greensand. The secondary fill of ring ditch intervention 407.		
407	Ditch cut	Cut for ovoid ring ditch with moderately steep straight sides and an irregular base. This contains two fills, layers 405 and 406. It was probably dug in the late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.		
408	Layer	A light to mid grey brown sandy silt containing rare small and medium fragments of flint and chert. Upper fill of ring ditch intervention 410. This fill was rich in charcoal and probably represents a deliberately dumped deposit. Material recovered from this included large quantities of worked stone and pottery. This deposit is dated the Early Bronze Age by the worked chert and the presence of sherds of Collared Urn.		

409	Layer	Amid yellow brown sandy clay containing rare small and medium chert fragments. A slowly formed tertiary deposit representing silting over a period of time. Very clear boundary between this and deposit 408.
410	Ditch cut	Cut for ovoid ring ditch with steep straightish sides and any relatively flat base. This intervention was not fully excavated due to time constraints. The series of irregular hollows in the base of this feature are probably natural solution hollows. This cut contains five fills, layers 408, 409, 459, 460, and 461.
411	Layer	Double numbered in error. Identical to layer 444.
412	Layer	Double numbered in error. Identical to layer 445.
413	Ditch cut	Double numbered in error. Identical to cut 443.
414	Layer	Double numbered in error. Identical to layer 441
415	Layer	Double numbered in error. Identical to layer 442
416	Ditch cut	Double numbered in error. Identical to layer 440
417	Ditch cut	Cut for ovoid ring ditch, with moderately steep regular signs and slightly concave base. Contains two fills layers 419 and 418. This probably dates to the late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. The natural drift geology in the vicinity this intervention was very mixed and probably reworked. As a consequence of this, it was uncertain whether this intervention was excavated to its full depth.
418	Layer	A dark greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional medium sized fragments of unworked flint. The uppermost fill of the ring ditch intervention 417. A deliberate backfill containing large quantities of charcoal and evidence of burning. This deposit is very similar to layer 408 from the adjacent intervention. The material covered from within this deposit suggests the dates to the Early Bronze Age.
419	Layer	A brownish yellow silty clay containing occasional large fragments of flint. A slowly formed secondary fill of ring ditch 417.
420	Ditch cut	Cut for ovoid ring ditch with steep irregular signs and an irregular base. This contained two fills, layers 421 and 422. An apparent terminus evident in the base of this cut may indicate that the ditch was originally dug segmentally and may therefore not be all one phase of construction.
421	Layer	A medium to dark brown sandy clay loam containing frequent small angular and sub-angular greensand fragments in the bottom of this fill in occasional small and fragments of greensand throughout. Fill of ditch 420. A slowly formed to secondary fill, containing no obvious anthropogenic material.
422	Layer	A mixed yellow light brown sandy clay containing frequent small rounded fragments of greensand. The primary fill of cut 420, only visible on the east side of the intervention. This derived from erosion of the feature sides and surrounding landscape.
423	Layer	A mid to dark brown coarse sandy clay and containing frequent small angular and rounded greensand fragments. Similar to layer 421. Fill of cut 424. A slowly accumulated secondary fill. This may be the fill of a quarry pit. No dating material covered.
424	Shallow pit	An elongated sub ovoid pit with gently sloping regular sides and an undulating and irregular base.
425	Layer	A dark brown sandy clay loam containing occasional small angular fragments of chert, greensand and occasional charcoal flecks. This deposit probably formed as a slowly accumulated secondary fill. As such it represents the final silting of ditch 404.
426	Layer	A greyish brown sandy clay loam containing moderate small angular chert fragments and occasional small abraded greensand fragments. The secondary fill of ditch 404. This deposit probably formed fairly slowly, mainly derived from natural silting.
427	Layer	A dump of redeposit natural towards the base of the north side of ditch 404. This primary fill, a pale yellow brown silty clay containing moderate small angular chert and occasional small greensand fragments, probably formed fairly rapidly from weathering of the sides of the feature. Fill of ditch 404.
428	Bank material	A dark brown sandy loam. The upper layer of a hedge bank. Very root disturbed from hedgerow. This deposit is probably relatively modern.

429	Bank material	A mid brown compacted sandy loam containing occasional medium sized fragments of greensand, common small fragments of greensand and with rare small fragments of angular chert. This deposit forms the main body of a medieval hedge bank, aligned roughly north-south.
430	Bank material	A yellowish brown soft sand. Probably represents degraded stone (greensand) and redeposit natural. This is sealed by the Post-medieval hedge bank. It may mark the line in the original bank, and is associated with only 432.
431	Layer	. mid brown and lightly compacted sandy loam containing occasional small fragments of greensand. This is the only fill of the shallow gully, 432, which may be associated with the Post-medieval hedge bank. This appears to represent the secondary fill, formed as the result of a slow accumulation of material.
432	Shallow gully	A shallow gully, aligned roughly north-south, with steep sides and the flat base. It contained a single fill, layer 431. This probably marks the original line of the current boundary, and may dates to the Post-medieval period. It was cut through 433, a stony layer which may represent the remnants of bank material from the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ring ditch.
433	Bank material	A greyish brown sandy silt containing moderately high proportion of sub-rounded to sub-angular small and medium sandstone and chert fragments. A mixed deposit containing frequent stone inclusions. This deposit may represent material deposited on the edge of fields, possibly as the result of ploughing, or may represent the remains of bank material within the ring ditch. The deposit was not fully excavated. It predates both ditch 432 and the Post-medieval hedge bank (layers 428, 419 and 430)
434	Shallow pit	A possible pit, irregular in shape, with shallow irregular sides and an irregular base. This possible pit contains a single fill, layer 435. It is most likely to be a natural feature, and is cut by intervention 417 of the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ring ditch.
435	Layer	A dark greenish brown silty sand containing occasional medium-sized fragments of limestone. The only fill a possible pit. This contains no finds and is very sterile.
436	Post hole	A sub-circular post hole or small pit, sub-circular in plan, with shallow regular sides and an irregular base. This lay within the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ring ditch, and may be associated with the similar feature 438, which lay nearby.
437	Layer	A dark greenish brown sandy silt containing very occasional small and medium limestone fragments. The only fill of pit 436.
438	Post hole	The roughly circular post hole or small pit, with steep straight sides and stepped regular base. This contained a single fill, layer 439. It lay within the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ring ditch, and may be associated with the adjacent posthole/small pit 436.
439	Layer	A dark greenish brown sandy silt containing occasional small limestone fragments and red charcoal flecks. The single fill of possible posthole/pit 438.
440	Ditch cut	Identical to 416. Cut of the ovoid ring ditch, with steep slightly concave signs and the flattish slightly concave base. This ring ditch probably dates to the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. The section of ring ditch is considerably shallower than that to the East, possibly because it was dug segmentally, or due to differential truncation. It contained two fills, layers 441 and 442.
441	Layer	Identical to 414 to 414. A need to dark brown sandy clay loam containing occasional small lumps of greensand and chert. The upper fill of ring ditch intervention 440. A secondary fill which formed relatively slowly.
442	Layer	Identical to 415. A mixed yellow and light brown sandy clay, containing occasional small angular and rounded greensand fragments and frequent small and medium fragments of chert. The primary fill of intervention 440. This was formed from the erosion of the sides and base of the feature, probably fairly rapidly.
443	Pit cut	Identical to layer 413. A sub ovoid cut with moderately steep slightly concave sides and a slightly concave base. This cuts the upper fill of intervention 440. It probably represents a small quarry pit. This contains two fills - layers 444 and 445.

444	Layer	Identical to layer 411. A mid to dark brown sandy clay loam containing frequent small and medium angular and sub-angular chert and greensand fragments. The upper fill of shallow pit 443.
445	Layer	Identical to layer 412. A mixed light brown and yellow sandy clay containing occasional small fragments of greensand. The lower fill of pit 443
446	Quarry pit	An intervention through the northern end of the very large quarry pit stop cut through greensand, natural sandy clay in some chert in the north west. This contained two fills – layers 447 and 448. Material from this large pit was probably used to enhance the bank within the ring ditch. Same as 449.
447	Layer	A mid brown and lightly compacted sandy loam containing occasional large fragments of greensand, frequent small fragments and greensand and very occasional small sub-angular fragments of chert. The upper fill of quarry pit 446. This is a slowly formed secondary fill. Identical to 450.
448	Layer	A pale yellowish brown clayey sand containing frequent medium-sized sub-rounded and sub-angular greensand fragments. This is the primary fill of quarry pit 446. It derives from the erosion of the feature sides and base, and is very similar in composition the natural drift geology. Identical to 451.
449	Quarry pit	An intervention through the northern end of the very large quarry pit stop cut through greensand, natural sandy clay in some chert in the north west. This contained two fills – layers 447 and 448. Material from this large pit was probably used to enhance the bank within the ring ditch. Same as 446.
450	Layer	A mid brown and lightly compacted sandy loam containing occasional large fragments of greensand, frequent small fragments and greensand and very occasional small sub-angular fragments of chert. The upper fill of quarry pit 446. This is a slowly formed secondary fill. Identical to 447.
451	Layer	A pale yellowish brown clayey sand containing frequent medium-sized sub-rounded and sub-angular greensand fragments. This is the primary fill of quarry pit 446. It derives from the erosion of the feature sides and base, and is very similar in composition the natural drift geology. Identical to 448.
452	Quarry pit	An intervention through very large quarry pit. This was irregular in plan, and had steep slightly concave signs and the flattish base. This may have been dug to provide material for a bank, and within the adjacent late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age ring ditch. It contains four fills, layer's 453, 454, 455 and 456.
453	Layer	A mid brown clay sand containing small and medium-sized fragments of chert and occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular fragments of greensand. This lies close to the cement to 452, and is its lowest fill. It may represent a secondary fill, derived from the weather in the sides of the feature.
454	Layer	A mixed light brown sandy clay with banding of grey and light orange brown salty sands. It is unclear whether this absence of primary or secondary deposit. It is confined to the western side of the quarry pit, and its similarity to the drift geology in this area may support the contention that this represents a primary fill. Fill of 452.
455	Layer	A mid to dark brown sandy clay loam containing frequent small to medium fragments of chert and occasional small and braided fragments of greensand. A friable deposit with high stone content. The poorly sorted nature of this deposit suggests that is the result of deliberate dumping of material. Fill of 452
456	Layer	The dark brown sandy clay loam containing occasional fragments of angular chert and occasional small abraded fragments of greensand. Probably a slowly accumulated tertiary fill. There are significantly fewer deposit inclusions in this deposit than in layer 455. Fill of 452.
457	Layer	A dark brown sandy clay loam containing occasional small greensand and chert fragments. Fill of small pit 458. This is probably a secondary fill.
458	Pit cut	Base small shallow circular cut with gently sloping slightly concave signs and concave base. Contained a single fill, layer 457. The purpose of this cut is unclear - its profile does not suggest a posthole, although it may have suffered some truncation.

459	Layer	A light yellowish brown sandy silt containing common small and medium sandstone fragments. A substantial high-energy deposit, formed out of the rapidly possibly as a result of ploughing. May represent eroded bank material. Fill of 410.
460	Layer	A yellowish green sandy silt. This deposit represents in primary or rapidly formed secondary fill resulting from the erosion of the feature's sides and realignment of its profile. Fill of 410.
461	Layer	A yellowish greensandy silt. The primary fill of ditch formed contain, the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ring ditch. May incorporate some bank material.
462	Natural drift geology	Light brownish yellow sand containing moderate small and medium sub-rounded to sub-angular sandstone inclusions, as well as bands of chert, and limestone inclusions. The natural drift geology. It also contains isolated patches of yellowish brown sandy clay.
463	Natural feature	A single number assigned to a natural solution hollow with a very sterile fill. the fill is very distinctive being a reddish-brown sandy silt, and differs from the archaeological fills, The feature was investigated because it lay within the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ring ditch
464	Natural feature	A single number assigned to a natural solution hollow with a very sterile fill the fill is very distinctive being a reddish-brown sandy silt, and differs from the archaeological fills. The feature was investigated because it lay within the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ring ditch. The fill was noticeably darker towards the base of the cut, but was still considered to be the same deposit. The irregular shape of the cut and the sterile fill strongly suggest a natural feature.

APPENDIX 2. MATERIAL PREVIOUSLY RECOVERED FROM PICKET FARM

(reproduced by kind permission of Ciorstaidh Trevarthen-Hayward)

Owner: Anita Legg

SCMS Entry No: 012347

Finds from Picket Farm, South Perrott, Beaminster

GR: ST 05650530

1861	<p>Copper alloy FINGER RING Fragment of cast copper alloy finger ring. Crude 'intaglio' ring. Large rectangular bezel. The bezel has a sub-oval recess to house the setting (intaglio?). The setting (intaglio?) is missing. The shoulders project from the two long sides of the bezel. The shoulders are decorated with transverse incised lines. The hoop starts to taper from the shoulders but has broken off at this point on each side. The back of the bezel is flat and undecorated. Dimensions of bezel: 12.47mm x 11.48mm x 2.96mm Date: Romano- British</p>	Weight: 3.17g
1862,	<p>Copper alloy BROOCH Bow brooch. T-shaped/tapering bow. Long cylindrical wings housing an iron axis bar for a hinged pin. The fronts of the wing ends are decorated with two incised bands between which are incised short lines at right angles to the bands. Along the top of the wings is a deeply incised groove running the length of each wing. On each wing there is also an incised diagonal line running from the top of the head of the bow to the base of the inner incised band at the end of the wing. The head of the bow is framed by a raised band with stamped diagonal line decoration. The head rises slightly from the wings. The head of the bow incurves on either side before flaring out above the bow. This part is decorated with an incised line that splits into two curving lines outwards towards the edges. Either side of these lines are very small stamped diagonal lines. The bow is then decorated with a transverse groove and rib above a rounded knop. Below this is a further groove and a ridge with longitudinal line decoration. Below is the stub of the leg of the bow which has traces of longitudinal line decoration. The brooch is broken off at this point. The back of the bow is hollowed. The pin is crudely cast and attached to the axis bar by hooking around it. This is not the usual style of pin or attachment method suggesting this may be a replacement pin. The surface of the brooch is tinned. Dimensions: 27.35mm x 33.87mm x 13.84mm Date: Roman AD 1st-2nd century Reference: Roger Leech, <i>Excavations at Catsgore 1970-73</i>, pg. 105-106, Nos. 4 & 5 -similar style</p>	Weight: 13.29g
1865	<p>Base silver COIN Radiate/Antoninianus of Gallienus OBV:[GAL]LIENVVS AVG-right, radiate-but type unclear REV:[DIANAE] CONS AVG-Gazelle b (type 1) antelope walking left Mint mark: //XII Date: AD 253-268 Diameter: 20.78 mm Reference: RIC, No. 181. Cunetio, No. 1414</p>	Weight: 1.78 g
1866	<p>Copper alloy COIN Ae3 of Constantine I OBV: illegible – right, laureate, cuirassed REV: [[GE]N[I]O [POP ROM] – Genius standing with cornucopiae Date: AD 307 – 318 Diameter: 18.32 mm Ref: Reece & James, p26 – 27, no. 68</p>	Weight: 1.88 g
1867	<p>Copper alloy COIN Contemporary copy of an Ae3 of the House of Constantine OBV: illegible- right, diademed, draped REV: [GLORIA EXERCITVS]- two soldiers, two standards Date: AD 330-335 Diameter: 16.53 mm</p>	Weight: 1.83 g
1868	<p>Copper alloy COIN Ae3 of the House of Valentinian</p>	

	<p>OBV: illegible-right REV: illegible- [GLORIA ROMANORVM]- emperor dragging captive Date: AD 364-378 Diameter: 16.75 mm Reference: Reece & James, No. 140</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.35 g</p>
1869	<p>Copper alloy COIN Ae3 of the House of Constantine OBV: illegible- right, diademed REV: illegible- [SECVRITAS REIPUBLICAE]- Victory advancing left Date: AD 343-348 Diameter: 16.22 mm Reference: Reece & James, No. 141</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.65 g</p>
1870	<p>Copper alloy Coin Ae3 of Constantine I OBV: VRBS ROMA - bust of Roma, left, helmeted, cuirassed REV: no legend- wolf & twins Mint mark: //PLG Date: AD 330-335 Diameter: 16.27 mm Reference: LRBC, pt 1, No. 190</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mint of Lyon Weight: 1.64 g</p>
1871	<p>Copper alloy COIN Contemporary copy of coin of the House of Constantine OBV: illegible- [CONSTANTINOPOLIS] type REV: no legend, Victory on prow of ship Date: c. AD 330-343 Diameter: 14.67 mm Reference: Reece & James, No. 93 & 94</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.45 g</p>
1872	<p>Copper alloy COINS 5 x late AD 3rd-4th century coins Unidentified Weight: 5.32 g</p>
1873	<p>Copper alloy COIN As of AD 1st-3rd century. No detail surviving. Unidentifiable Diameter: 26.02 mm</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 8.55 g</p>
1874	<p>Copper alloy COINS 2 x late AD 4th century coins. Possible Copies Weight: 2.76 g</p>
1875	<p>Copper alloy COIN As of Hadrian Obv: illegible – head, right Rev: illegible – figure standing Diameter: 24.40 mm Date: AD 117 - 138</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 8.85 g</p>
1876	<p>Copper alloy COIN AE3 of the House of Constantine OBV: illegible- right facing REV: illegible- [GLORIA EXERCITVS]- two soldiers, one standard Date: AD 335-341 Diameter: 15.61 mm Reference: Reece & James, Nos. 98 & 100</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.29 g</p>
1877	<p>Copper alloy COIN Ae3 of the House of Valentinian OBV: illegible-right REV: illegible- [SECVRITAS REIPUBLICAE] Victory left with wreath Date: AD 364 – 378 Diameter: 16.90 mm Reference: Reece & James, No 141</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.32 g</p>
1878	<p>Copper alloy COIN Ae3 of the House of Constantine</p>

	<p>OBV: illegible- right, diademed, draped REV: illegible- [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE]- Victory advancing left with wreath Date: AD 364 – 378 Diameter: 16.70 mm Reference: Reece & James, No 141</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.72 g</p>
1879	<p>Silver COIN Denarius of Septimius Severus OBV: illegible- right, laureate REV: illegible- goddess seated with cornucopiae (left) Date: AD 193-211 Diameter: 16.23 mm</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.50 g</p>
1880	<p>Copper alloy COIN Ae3 of Gratian OBV: illegible- right, diademed REV: illegible [GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI] soldier with standard and shield Mint mark: // [?] CON Date: AD 367-375 Diameter: 16.80 mm Reference: Reece & James, No 142</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mint of Arles Weight: 1.15 g</p>
1881	<p>Copper alloy COIN OBV: illegible- no detail REV: illegible- [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE]- Victory advancing left with wreath Date: AD 364 – 378 Diameter: 16.49 mm Reference: Reece & James, No 141</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.85 g</p>
1948	<p>Copper alloy COIN Illegible radiate. Late 3rd century</p>
1949	<p>Copper alloy COIN Contemporary copy of a nummus of the House of Constantine OBV: Illegible – no detail REV: illegible [GLORIA EXERCITVS] – traces of two standards Date: AD 330-c 402 Diameter: 14.60 mm Reference: Reece & James, No 97</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.02 g</p>
1882	<p>Copper alloy BROOCH Strip bow brooch. Aucissa derivative. Short wings that fold around to house the axis bar. There is a break on one wing where the metal starts to fold around. The wings are undecorated. The bow gently tapers. It has broken off and the foot is missing. The bow is decorated with longitudinal rib and groove flanking a central panel. The back is flat and undecorated. The pin and catchplate are missing. Date: AD 1st century Dimensions: 43.74mm x 17.75mm x 6.57mm Weight: 3.44g Reference: <i>A visual catalogue of Richard Hattatt's Ancient Brooches</i>, p 319, fig.178, No. 341B- similar to.</p>
1883	<p>Copper alloy BUCKLE Double loop oval buckle frame with an integral narrowed centre bar. There are traces of iron on the centre bar possibly from the missing pin. The frame is undecorated with bevelled inner edges to the frame. The back is flat and undecorated. Date: AD 1500-1650 Dimensions: 20.21mm x 18.56mm x 2.16mm Weight: 1.82g Reference: R Whitehead, <i>Buckles 1250-1800</i>, pg 54, No. 305- (similar to).</p>
1884	<p>Copper alloy COIN Ae3 of Gratian OBV: illegible-right REV: illegible- [GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI] - soldier left facing with standard and shield Mint mark: // CON Date: AD 367-375 Diameter: 17.49 mm Reference: Reece & James, No 142</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mint of Arles Weight: 1.61 g</p>

1885	<p>Copper alloy COIN Ae3 of the House of Valentinian OBV: illegible- right REV: illegible- [GLORIA ROMANORVM] - emperor with standard and captive Mint mark: illegible Date: AD 364-378 Diameter: 16.67 mm Reference: Reece & James, No 140</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.12 g</p>
1886	<p>Copper alloy COIN Ae3 of Valens OBV: [DN VALENS]SPFAVG- right, diademed, draped REV: illegible - [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE]- Victory advancing left with wreath Mint mark: R (?)βE ASISCP Date: AD 353-361 Diameter: 17.38 mm Reference: LRBC, Part 2, as No. 1424</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.89 g</p>
1887	<p>Copper alloy COIN Ae4 of AD 4th century- illegible Diameter: 14.94 mm</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 0.78 g</p>
1950	<p>Copper alloy COIN Contemporary copy of nummus of the House of Constantine OBV: illegible – right facing, diadem REV: illegible – [VICTORIAE DD AVGG QNN] type – Two victories Date: AD 343 – 348 Diameter: 12.49 mm Reece & James, p. 30 – 31, No. 114</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 0.72 g</p>
1888	<p>Copper alloy COIN Ae3 of the House of Valentinian OBV: illegible - right, diademed REV: [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE]- Victory advancing left with wreath Mint mark: illegible Date: AD 364-378 Diameter: 16.02 mm Reference: Reece & James, No 141</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 2.43 g</p>
1889	<p>Base silver COIN Radiate of late AD 3rd century- illegible Date: AD 260-280 Diameter: 18.23 mm</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.38 g</p>
1890	<p>Copper alloy COIN Ae3 of the House of Valentinian OBV: illegible-right, diademed REV: [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE] - Victory advancing left with wreath Mint mark: illegible Dates: AD 364-378 Diameter: 15.63 mm Reference: Reece & James, No 141</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Weight: 1.00 g</p>

In addition:

18th-19th century S-shaped hook fitting (with chain loop at either end).
Reference: Brian Read, 1995, History Beneath Our Feet, pgs 177-178, No. 1202. Probably military.
1 x lead steelyard weight. Undatable.
6 x sherds of 18th to 19th century pottery
5 x fragments of Post-medieval tile

1951	<p>Copper alloy COIN Sestertius of Faustina Junior (wife of Marcus Aurelius). Obv: FAVSTINA {AVGVSTA} – right, hair in low bun Rev: illegible – traces of a standing figure</p>
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	Minted under Marcus Aurelius Date: AD 161 – 175 Diameter: 30.06 mm Weight: 20.83 g
1952	Copper alloy COIN with silver plating Contemporary copy of a denarius of Severus Alexander. Much of silver plating is missing leaving corroded copper alloy core. Incomplete. Obv: [IMP SEV] ALE[XAND AVG – right facing, laureate Rev: illegible – female figure standing Date: AD 222 - circa 240 Diameter: 17.45 mm Weight: 1.28 g
1953	Base silver COIN Radiate of Postumus (possibly) Illegible. Right facing portrait with curly hair and beard. No detail on reverse. Date: AD 259 – 268 Diameter: 19.49 mm Weight: 2.19 g
1954	Base silver COIN Radiate of Claudius II Gothicus Obv: [IM]P C C[LAVDIVS PF AVG] – Right, radiate, draped, cuirassed Rev: illegible Date: AD 268-270 Diameter: 19.70 mm Weight: 1.90 g
1955	Copper alloy COIN Contemporary copy of radiate of Claudius II Gothicus Obv: IMP [---] – right, radiate – leaning forward a little Rev:[---] AVG – male figure Date: AD 268 – late 3 rd century Diameter: 19.33 mm Weight: 2.06 g
1956	Copper alloy COIN Contemporary copy of radiate of Claudius II Gothicus Obv: illegible – sketchy portrait, right, radiate Rev: illegible - worn Date: AD 268 – late 3 rd century Diameter: 15.42mm Weight: 1.39 g
1979	Copper alloy COIN Contemporary copy of radiate of Claudius II Gothicus – issued posthumously under Quintillus and others. Obv: [DI]VO [CLAVDIO] – right, radiate, cuirassed Rev: illegible – figure standing Date: circa AD 270-275 Diameter: 18.29 mm Weight: 2.19 g
1957	Base silver COIN Radiate of Tetricus I. Illegible. Obv: right, radiate Rev: ?Sol Date: AD 287 – 293 Diameter: 19.46 mm Weight: 2.19 g
1958	Base silver COIN Broken radiate coin. Less than half surviving. Unidentifiable. Date: AD Late 3 rd century Diameter: 16.83 mm Weight: 0.83 g
1959	Base silver COIN Illegible radiate. Obv: illegible – right, radiate Rev: illegible – male figure standing Date: AD Late 3 rd century Diameter: 15.83 mm Weight: 1.67 g
1973	Base silver COIN Illegible radiate; OBV: illegible – radiate, right REV: illegible – no detail

	Date: AD 3 rd century Diameter: 17.40 mm Weight: 1.32 g
1960	Copper alloy COIN Nummus of the House of Constantine Obv: CONSTANTINOPOLIS – Helmeted bust of Constantinopolis, left Rev: No legend – Victory on prow of ship MM: TR.S – Trier LRBC, Pt. 1, No. 66 Date: AD 330 – 335 Diameter: 17.46 mm Weight: 1.66 g
1961	Copper alloy COIN Contemporary copy of nummus of the House of Constantine Obv: VRBS ROMA – helmeted bust of Roma, left Rev: No legend – Wolf and Twins Date: AD 330 – circa 402 Diameter: 16.92 mm Weight: 1.99 g
1962	Copper alloy COIN Contemporary copy of nummus of the House of Constantine. Mule of Constantinopolis reverse with obverse of House of Constantine Obv: CONSTA[---] – right, large rosette diadem Rev: No legend_Victory on prow MM:TR[-] Date: AD 330 – circa 402 Diameter: 15.38 mm Weight: 1.35 g
1963	Copper alloy COIN Nummus of Theodora (House of Constantine) Obv: illegible – right, plaited hair with loop over ear Rev: illegible – [PIETAS ROMANA] – Pietas holding infant MM: Illegible Date:AD 337-341 Diameter: 14.73 mm Weight: 1.00 g Reece & James, p 30 – 31, No. 104
1964	Copper alloy COIN Nummus of Helena (House of Constantine) Obv:FL IVL HE[LENAE AVG] – Right, plaited hair Rev: P[A]X PVBLICA – Pax with branch and spear MM: illegible Date: AD 337-341 Diameter: 15.22 mm Weight: 1.50 g Reece & James, p 30 – 31, No. 103
1965	Copper alloy COIN Nummus of the House of Constantine Obv: illegible – right, diadem, draped Rev: illegible – [FEL TEMP REPARATIO] type – Fallen horseman MM: illegible Date: AD 353 – 361 Diameter: 16.31 mm Weight: 1.35 g Reece & James, p 32 – 33, Nos. 132 & 134
1966	Copper alloy COIN Nummus of Gratian Obv: illegible – [DN GRATIANVS PF AVG] or similar – right, draped, diadem Rev: illegible – [GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI] – Emperor with shield and standard MM: illegible - Mint of Arles Diameter: 16.66 mm Weight: 1.45g Date: AD 367 - 375
1967	Copper alloy COIN Nummus of Valens Obv: DN VALEN[S AVG] – Right, draped, pearl diadem Rev: SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE – Victory advancing left MM: OF/II(with dot below)/[CON]

	<p>Mint of Arles Diameter: 17.55 mm Date: AD 364 – 367 Reference: LRC Pt. 2, no. 490</p>	<p>Weight: 2.70 g</p>
1968	<p>Copper alloy COIN Nummus of the House of Valentinian Obv: Illegible – right, diadem Rev: illegible – [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE] – Victory advancing left with wreath. MM: illegible Date: AD 364 – 378 Diameter: 19.36 mm Reece & James, p34 – 35, No. 141</p>	<p>Weight: 2.23 g</p>
1969	<p>Copper alloy COIN Nummus of the House of Valentinian. Incomplete. Obv: Illegible Rev: illegible – [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE] – Victory advancing left with wreath. MM: illegible Date: AD 364 – 378 Diameter: 16.69 mm Reece & James, p34 – 35, No. 141</p>	<p>Weight: 1.01 g</p>
1970	<p>Copper alloy COIN Nummus of the House of Valentinian Obv: Illegible – right, diadem, draped Rev: illegible – [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE] – Victory advancing left with wreath. MM: illegible Date: AD 364 – 378 Diameter: 16.04 mm Reece & James, p34 – 35, No. 141</p>	<p>Weight: 1.25 g</p>
1971	<p>Copper alloy COIN Nummus of the House of Valentinian Obv: Illegible – right, diadem, draped Rev: illegible – [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE] – Victory advancing left with wreath. MM: illegible Date: AD 364 – 378 Diameter: 17.41 mm Reece & James, p34 – 35, No. 141</p>	<p>Weight: 1.28 g</p>
1972	<p>Copper alloy COIN Nummus of the House of Valentinian Obv: Illegible – right, diadem, draped Rev: illegible – [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE] – Victory advancing left with wreath. MM: illegible Date: AD 364 – 378 Diameter: 16.16 mm Reece & James, p34 – 35, No. 141</p>	<p>Weight: 1.83 g</p>
1974	<p>Silver COIN Groat of Edward III. 4th Coinage. Series G. OBV: EDWARD DG REX ANGL Z FRANC D HYB I.M Cross 3 Rev: POSVI DEVM ADIVTOREM MEV – CIVITAS LONDON IM: Cross 3 Date: 1365 - 1361 Diameter: 25.33 mm North, Vol. 2, p. 53, as No. 1194</p>	<p>Weight: 3.56 g</p>
1975	<p>Silver COIN Half groat of Henry VIII. Second coinage. Obv: HENRIC VIII [DI GRA AGL] – right, crowned IM: Catherine wheel Rev: CIVITAS CANTOR – cross over shield. Letter TC flanking shield (for Archbishop Thomas Cranmer) Mint of Canterbury.</p>	

	Date: 1526 – 1544 Diameter: 18.91 mm North, Vol. 2, p.112, No. 1804 Weight: 1.10 g
1976	Copper alloy COIN Royal “rose” farthing of Charles I Obv: CAROLVS DG [MAG BRIT] – crown with sceptres saltire Rev: FRAN ET HIB REX – crowned rose Date: 1625 – 1649 Diameter: 13.35 mm Weight: 0.52 g
1977	Copper alloy JETON Made in Nuremberg, Germany. These were used on counting boards. Obv: nonsense legend – four fleur de lys in a lozenge (France ancient) Rev: nonsense legend - Ship on the sea As Barnard No. 9 Date: 16 th century Diameter: 26.35 mm Weight: 1.72 g
1978	Copper alloy JETON Made in Nuremberg, Germany. These were used on counting boards. Obv: nonsense legend – four fleur de lys in a lozenge (France ancient) Rev: nonsense legend - Ship As Barnard No. 9 Date: 16 th century Diameter: 26.62 mm Weight: 1.77 g
1980	Flint IMPLEMENT Scraper. Discoidal, steeply flaked scraper. Mid grey-brown flint with white mottles. Mid-gloss patina. Remains of bulb of percussion ventrally, flaking dorsally. Dimensions: 31.76 x 27.65 x 16.87 mm Date: Neolithic to Bronze age Weight: 15.55 g
1981	Flint IMPLEMENT Tertiary flint waste flake. Patchy light brown and grey-brown flint with mid gloss patina and areas of white, milky patination. Thick irregular flake, or core chunk. Bulb of percussion ventrally, flaking scars dorsally. Dimensions: 26.34 x 39.84 x 12.35 mm Date: Neolithic to Bronze age Weight: 12.09 g
1982	Copper alloy BROOCH Strip bow brooch. Sheet copper alloy bow which tapers to a point. At the head is a pin recess. The wings to house the pin mechanism are formed by folding the sheet metal forward (only one wing surviving). Below the notch is a ring and dot stamp. The bow is decorated with a cast longitudinal ridge along each side. Behind the foot is the remnant of a catchplate. Dimensions: 60.70 x 11.54 x 1.30 mm Date: Roman – AD 1 st century Weight: 2.48 g
1983	Copper alloy BUCKLE Fragment of square buckle frame with curvilinear incised decoration inside a framing outer line. One corner of the frame only. No trace of centre bar, pin rest etc. Date: Medieval Dimensions: 26.34 x 39.84 x 12.35 mm Weight: 12.09 g
1984	Copper alloy FINGER RING Thin band with knopped shoulders (decorated with incised lines) and a central, hexagonal setting for a stone. Date: Medieval Dimensions: 21.94 mm diam x 4.46 mm max width x 1.83 mm band thickness Weight: 1.20 g
1985	Copper alloy MOUNT Broken circular mount or stud with a single attachment spike at the centre of the back. The front is flat and decorated with lines and curves forming a cross. It retains traces of gilding. Date Possibly medieval Dimensions: 35.02 mm x 27.42 mm x 12.95 mm Weight: 6.58 g
1986	Lead WEIGHT or TOKEN Circular, uniface weight or token. Cast decoration of a pellet circle around a triangle containing a voided cross

	Date: Medieval to early Post-medieval Dimensions: 16.71 mm diam x 3.52 mm thick Weight: 6.58 g
1987	Copper alloy COIN WEIGHT Circular, uniface coin weight, Depicting a ship containing the King with a shield and sword. There is a rose on the hull of the ship. Weight for a gold ryal. There are file marks and flattened areas around the sides and file marks on the back. Date: 15 th to 16 th century Dimensions: 18.07 mm diam x 4.02 mm thick Weight: 7.40 g
1988	Copper alloy COIN WEIGHT Circular, uniface coin weight, Depicting a ship containing the King with a shield and sword. There is a rose on the hull of the ship. Weight for fraction of a gold ryal (half). Quite corroded. Date: 15 th to 16 th century Dimensions: 14.54 mm diam x 3.28 mm thick Weight: 3.64 g

Also –
Fragments of tile (Post-medieval)
Post-medieval pottery sherds
Several Post-medieval metal objects



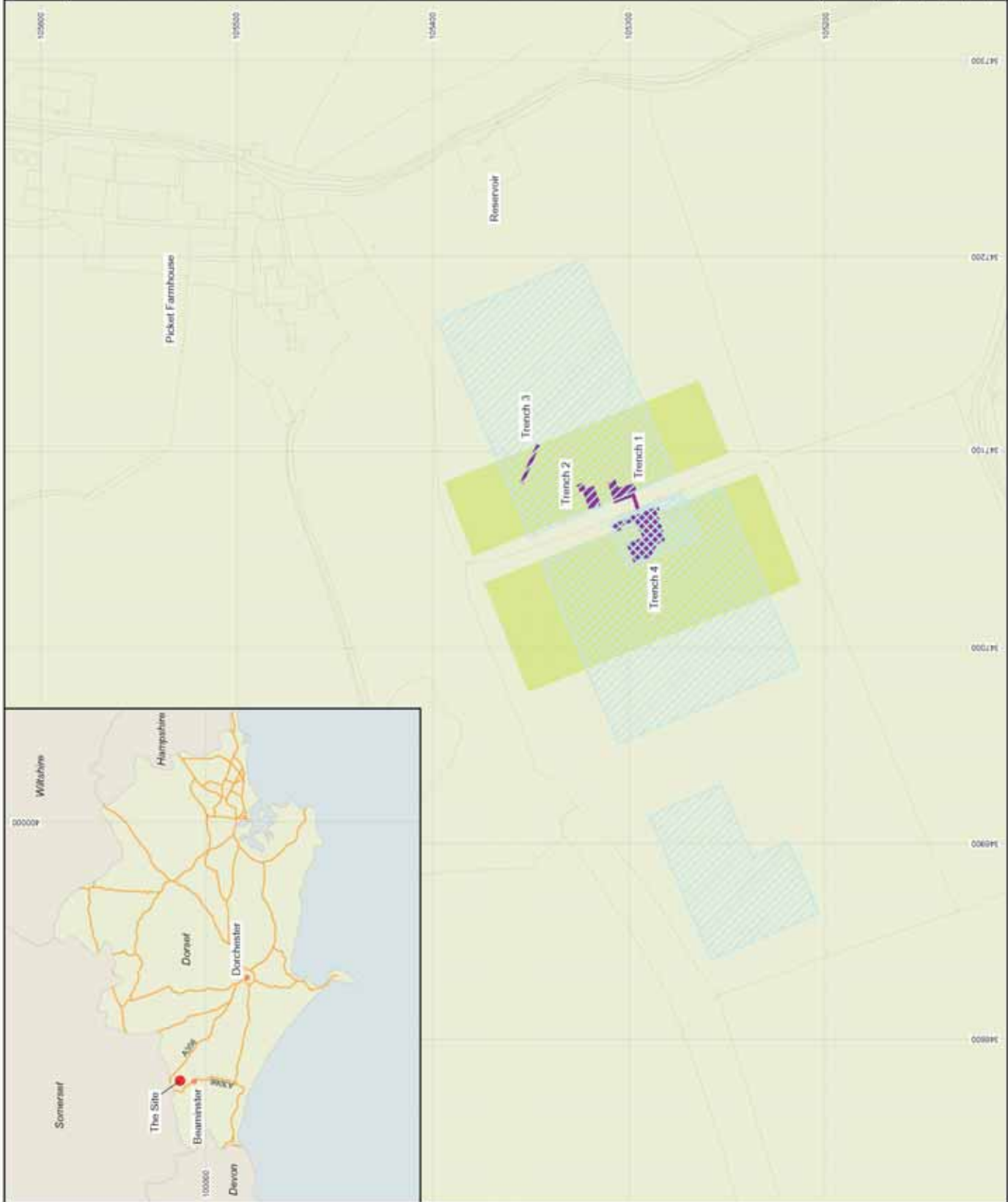
- Key:
-  Area of gradiometer survey
 -  Area of resistance survey
 -  Area of fieldwalking
 -  Area of excavation

0 100m

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Illustrator:	RG
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Scale:	Inset 1:800000, other 1:2000 @ A3
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Site location plan

Figure 1



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Fieldwalking grid squares

Figure 2



Fieldwalking results: (a) Prehistoric and Roman pottery (b) Medieval pottery

Figure 3



Fieldwalking results: (a) Post-medieval pottery (b) Burnt and worked flint

Figure 4



Field walking results: (a) Copper alloy and iron (b) Ceramic building material

Figure 5



Geophysical data courtesy of GSB Prospection Ltd

- Key:
- Archaeology
 - Archaeology?
 - Trend
 - Geology
 - Ferrous



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Illustrator:	RG
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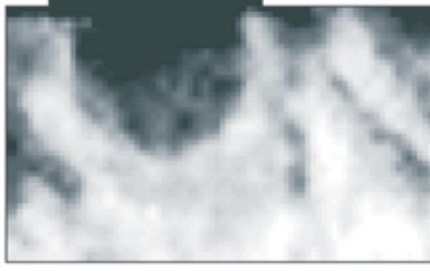
Results of the gradiometer survey

Figure 6



Geophysical data courtesy of GSB Prospection Ltd
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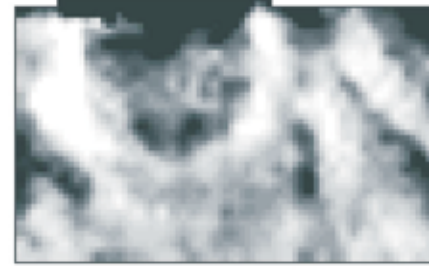
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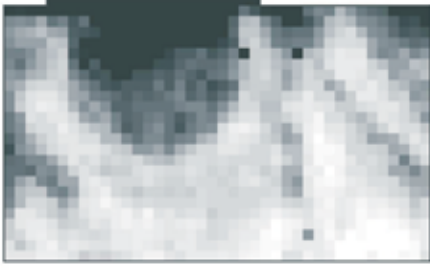
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De-Spiked Data



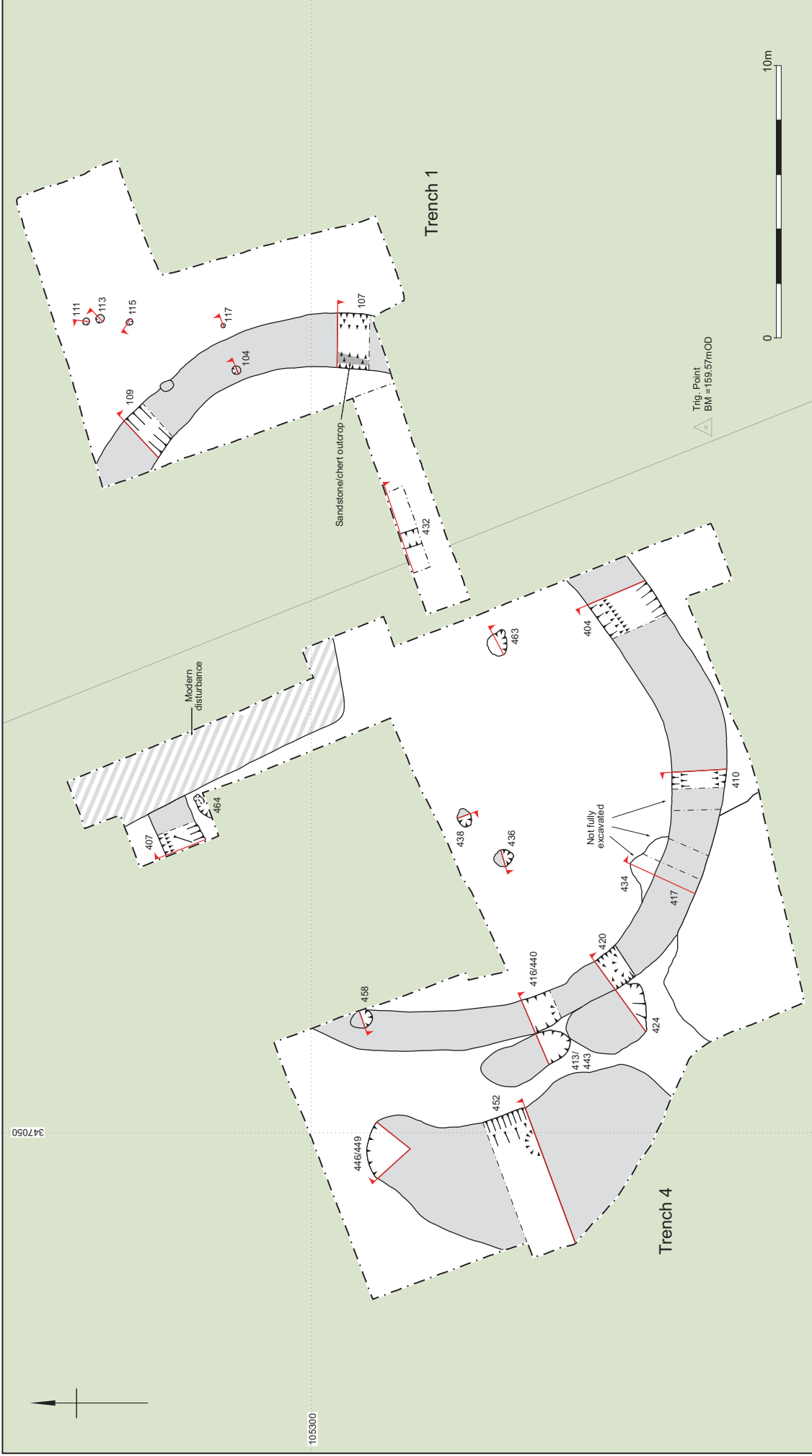
High Pass Filtered and Interpolated Data



Raw Data

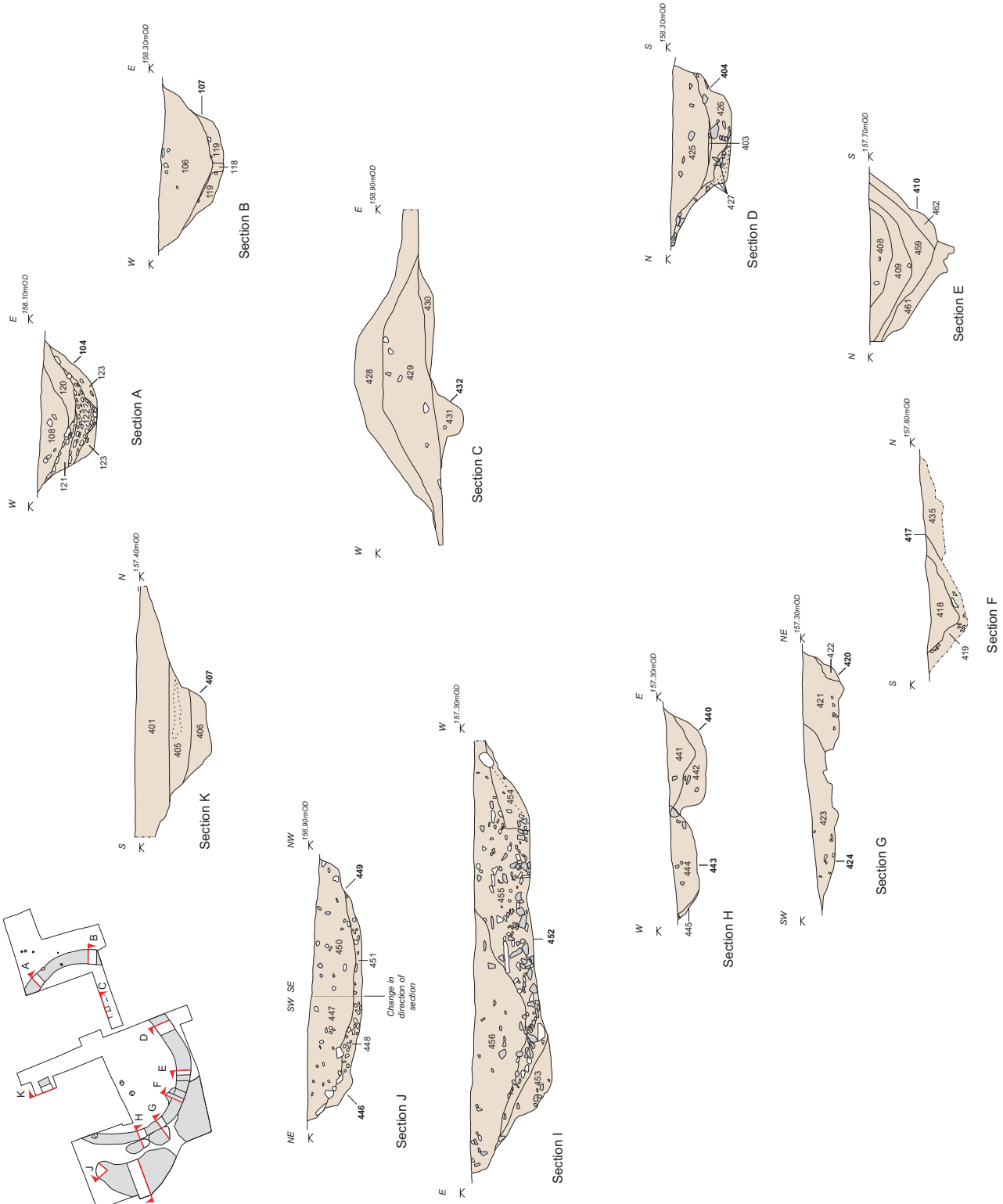


High Pass Filtered Data



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Date:	27/01/05	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:200 @ A4	Illustrator:	RG
Path:	Y:\...155757T\...1\FW_excavation05_01_21\Fig08_A3.ai		

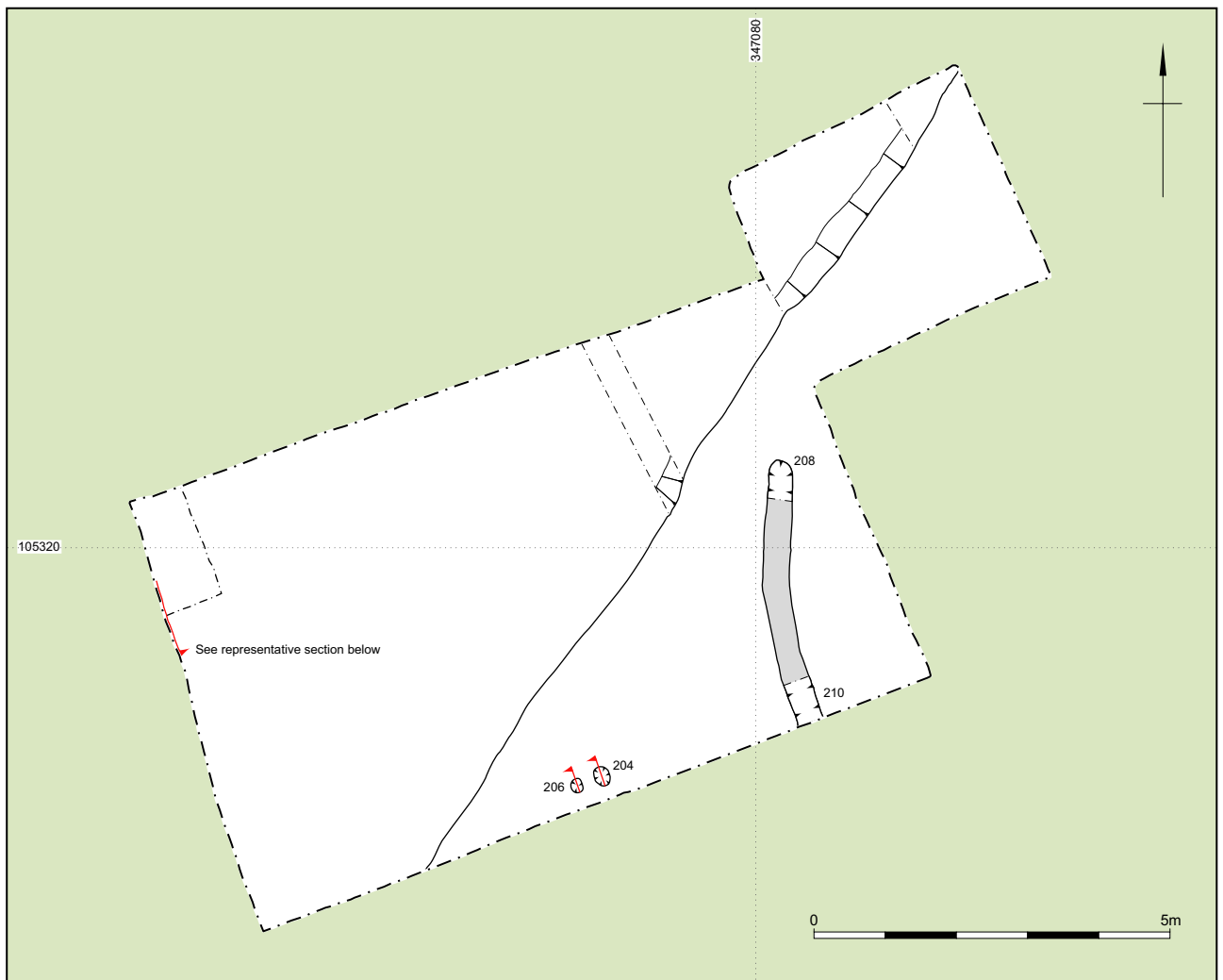



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Revision Number:	0
Illustrator:	RG
Date:	27.01.05
Scale:	Sections at 1:50 @ A3
Path:	Y:\155757TT\...PW_excavation
	125_01_05\Fig09_A3.ai

Trenches 1 and 4: sections

Figure 9



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	Scale:	Plan 1:100, section 1:20 @ A4	Illustrator:	RG
	Path:	Y:\...\55757TT\...\FW_excavation\05_01_21\Fig10_A4.a		

Plan of trench 2, and representative section.

Figure 10



Plate 1: Aerial photo of trenches 1 and 4, viewed from the north



Plate 2: Trench 1 under excavation viewed from the north


	Date:	21/01/05	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	NTS	Illustrator:	RG
	Path:	Y:\...\55757TT\...\FW_excavation\05_01_21\Fig11_A4photo.ai		



Plate 3: Trench 2 viewed from the west



Plate 4: Charcoal dump 403



Plate 5: Section 107 of the ring ditch viewed from the south




Plate 6: Section 404 of the ring ditch viewed from the west



Plate 7: Excavating layer 408



Plate 8: Chert tools from layer 408

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		Scale:	NTS	Illustrator:	RG
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