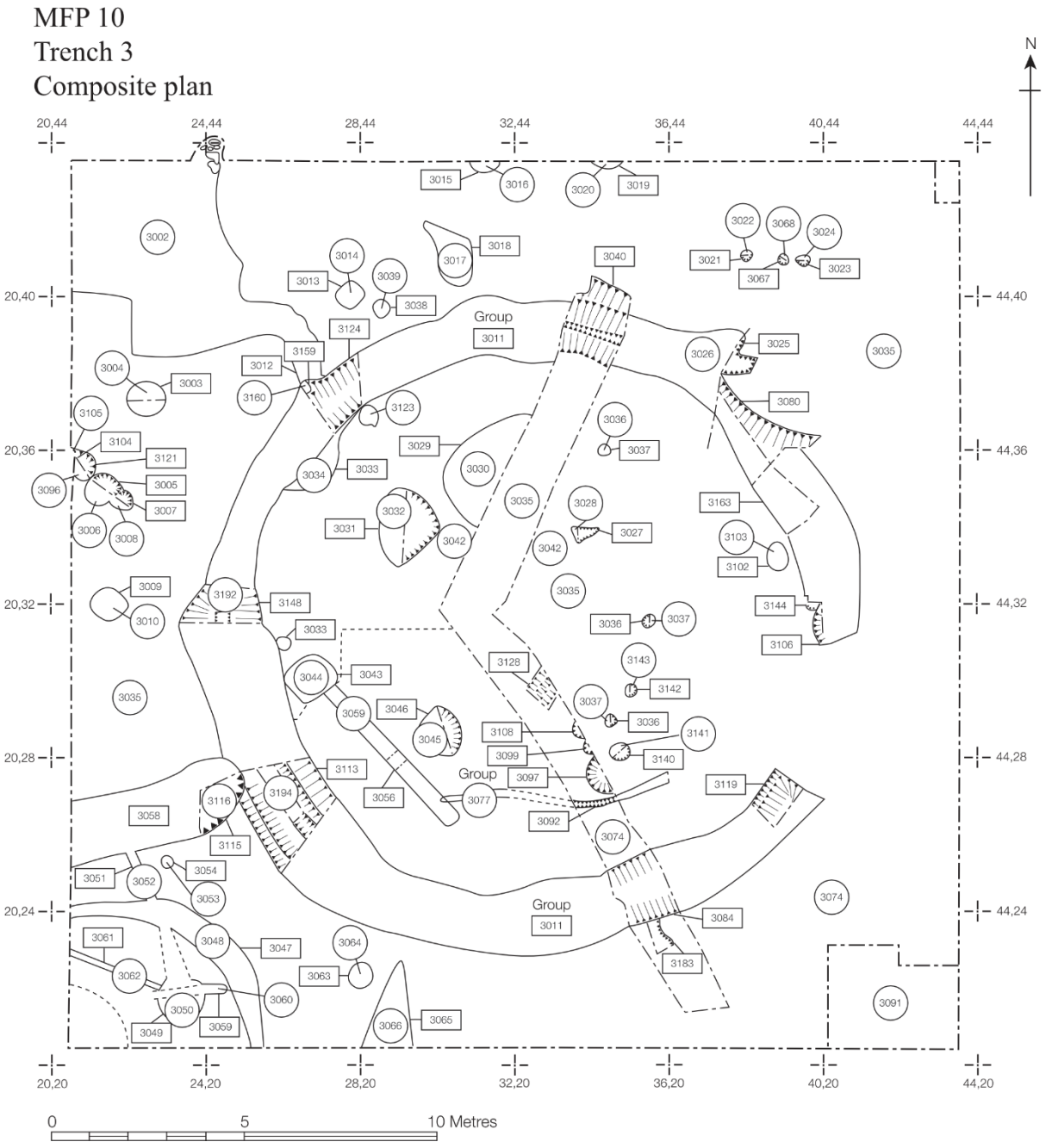
Trench MFP3 narrative

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Introduction

Trench 3 was located in the eastern part of the site over a large curvilinear anomaly visible in a geophysical survey of the area. This trench was opened in order to establish the date and purpose of this large feature and its relationship with the other substantial enclosures in the MFP zone. The trench measured *c.* 24m x 24m and was directly adjacent to trench MFP5 to the north. Both inside and around this curvilinear enclosure ditch were numerous pits and gullies, a number of which were also explored. The total number of pits in the trench was *c.* 28, though not all were fully or even partly investigated, as well as *c.* 11 gulleys some of which were very narrow. About 17 postholes were identified. All the features seemed to cut through a yellow-red layer (context 3035) that spread across the trench. This appeared to be a hill-wash layer from the area to the north of Trench 3, which in several areas overlay a possible alluvial wash layer (3301). An explorative slot in the south-east corner of this trench showed that (3301) was the uppermost layer of a series of alluvial deposits very similar to those found in MFP Trench 2. So, it is possible that there might be earlier prehistoric archaeology beneath hill wash layer (3035) and the alluvial upper layer that was explored, layer (3301).

The main features in this trench were the large curvilinear Enclosure Ditch, Ditch Group [3011]; secondly a complex group of intercutting gullies and pits in the SW corner of the trench, [Group [3058]/[3268]/[3313]; another intercutting group of ditches and pits in the NW sector, Group [3233]/[3344]; and finally a large collection of pits and other features both inside and outside the large enclosure. In 2010 several interventions were made across the main Enclosure Ditch [3011], which produced a number of iron and copper alloy finds and four Roman coins from its upper fills. The space enclosed by this ditch contained several pits, gullies, and postholes. The majority of these were shallow with limited finds. In 2011, the focus was on completing the unfinished ditch sections and further exploring the features on the outside of the curvilinear enclosure, including several pits to the north, the SW cluster of features Group [3058/[3268]/[3313], and the complex group of intercutting features in the NW corner, Group [3233]/[3344], which originally appeared to be a ditch. Perhaps one of the most important revelations in this trench was the fact that the large Enclosure Ditch Group [3011] produced so much prehistoric as well as Roman pottery in its upper fills, as well as a number of metal finds of LIA/Early Roman or Roman date. Which suggests the special placing of deposits seems to have been happening here in both the Iron Age and Roman periods. This theory is supported further by the finding of seven out of the eight instances of disarticulated human bone from the trench in the Enclosure Ditch fills. A second important revelation was the occurrence of substantial deposits of burnt material in a few finds-rich pits as well as some of the fills in the Enclosure Ditch. These may also signify some type of ritual activity, in this case involving fires.



Trench MFP3

A total of 4,781 pottery sherds were found in this trench. The bulk of this assemblage was made up of Iron Age pottery (3,938 sherds) and the remainder (843 sherds) of Roman pottery. Only a few prehistoric contexts were looked at by Lisa Brown the pottery specialist and these were MIA, in line with much of the prehistoric pottery on the site. However, only a tiny sample was looked at by a specialist, so it is very possible that there was also some EIA or at least late EIA pottery amongst the Trench 3 assemblage. The total amount of animal bone found in this trench was *c.* 1,354 fragments, with the bulk of these being the usual sheep/goat species followed by cattle. There were also moderate quantities of pig bone, as well as very small quantities of horse, bird and dog. Some of the 'dog' bones were classified as 'Dog/Wolf' and these were found in four contexts only. Interestingly three of the contexts

which produced these larger dog/wolf bones were fills of the large Enclosure Ditch Group [3011], namely fills (3149), (3152) and (3164). The other feature with 'Dog/Wolf' bones was Pit [3045]. The top fills of the various cuts across the large Enclosure Ditch also often produced the largest numbers of animal bones. The rectangular pit [3017], which contained a number of interesting small finds including slag, also produced larger amounts of animal bone. Although some of the finds-rich Iron Age pits in this trench recorded unusual amounts of burnt material, sometimes including burnt bone, only a small fraction of the whole animal bone assemblage was recorded by the bone specialists as burnt.

Though no human burials were discovered in this trench, fragments of both adult, juvenile, and infant human bone were found in eight contexts. It is probably of significance that seven of these eight occurrences of disarticulated human bone were found in either the original cut fills or the recut fills of the large Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]. Some of these human bone fragments were found in the lower fills of the original ditch cut and others in the upper fills of the recuts of the ditch – suggesting that depositing disarticulated human bone in this large Enclosure Ditch was occurring over some period of time.

The excavated areas produced a total of 118 small finds from this trench. Flint objects make up the largest group in the small find assemblage (37) followed by fired clay or pottery objects (*c.* 18). Thirteen fragments of unusual green clay, also recorded as small finds, were found in some of the pits. The remaining small find assemblage was made up of 15 iron objects, seven Copper-Alloy objects, five Roman coins, five worked bone objects, seven worked stone objects, seven fragments of iron slag, three fragments of Copper-Alloy slag, and one glass fragment. The handful of copper alloy objects or fragments are not all intrinsically dateable but the two brooches (SF 103 and SF 207) are both Nauheim Derivative types which are late IA/Early Roman in date. Just like three other Copper-Alloy finds, the coins, and much of the iron metal finds, they derive from topsoil and the top fill of the large Enclosure Ditch, rather than separate Roman features. There are however two Copper-Alloy finds (SF 138 and SF 490) that are probably IA in date. SF 138 is just a tiny fragment but derives from the only fill of a small pit [3004] in the NW corner of the trench, which has six IA pottery sherds and no Roman pottery. SF 490 appears to be a thin loop or a broken circle, so may be a broken plain ring or possibly part of an earring. It's find spot in the lowest fill of the southern terminal end [3208] of the large Enclosure Ditch Group [3011] may be significant.

In terms of the iron small finds there were only three diagnostic personal items. These were SF 214 (context 3118) which was a fragment of a penannular brooch, but it is too fragmentary to date precisely and could be Roman as it derives from a general confused layer over the large Enclosure Ditch. The second diagnostic item is SF 215, an iron ring fragment found in context (3133), a fill of Iron Age pit [3045]. Lastly, a fragment of an Iron Age swan neck pin, SF 226, was found in context (3114), one of the top fills of the large Enclosure Ditch. These three items were the only recognisable decorative pieces amongst the 14 iron fragments found in this trench. Looking at the contexts of the 14 iron fragments, as with much of the other metal small finds, about half are either from the top fill of the large Enclosure Ditch [3011] or from a layer above it, or from topsoil. Again, none seem to derive

from discrete Roman features in the area. The remaining iron finds not found in these upper layers or fills may well be Iron Age in date. These include two iron small finds which were found in the middle fill of Enclosure Ditch [3011]. These were SF 232 from context (3150), which is a fitting fragment of some type; and SF 463 (an undiagnostic fragment) from context (3252) in the south part of the Enclosure Ditch East Terminal. Another iron fragment (SF 486, context 3284) was also found in the bottom fill of this terminal end of Enclosure Ditch [3011]. Two of the iron small finds (SF 456 and SF 215) were found in two possible IA pits (pit [3059] and pit [3045]), as both produced small amounts of IA pottery. Finally, two iron finds were found in a layer in the NW corner ([3002]/[3216]), which had both IA and Roman pottery.

Prehistoric Phase

The majority of the features in this trench are most probably of Iron Age date, as their fills almost all produced Iron Age pottery. Only a handful of MFP Trench 3 contexts were looked at by Lisa Brown, the prehistoric pottery specialist, but these were found to be largely MIA in date. This matches the general prehistoric pottery date for much of the site. However, as discussed above, the topsoil layer (3000) and the top fills of various sections of the Circular Enclosure Ditch (Enclosure Ditch Group 3011) did contain quantities of Roman pottery and other Roman finds, so clearly this large ditch was still open in the Roman period. Though not recognised on site, further examination of the various sections across the large Circular Enclosure Ditch, revealed that the original ditch was recut, either later in the Iron Age or possibly in the Roman period e.g. recuts [3346], [3347], [3348] etc. The topsoil layer over this trench produced the largest number of prehistoric sherds (311). Aside from the topsoil layer, the next largest assemblage of prehistoric sherds was found in various fills of the large Enclosure Ditch Group [3011], in the eight main exploratory cuts through it. This is unusual for a prehistoric ditch, which often contain very little in the way of pottery, so this ditch may well have had a ritualistic significance. As discussed below in the section on the Roman phase, it is significant that these upper fills in these recuts contain quantities of both Iron Age and Roman pottery. The presence of Roman pottery and some Roman metalwork small finds might indicate this enclosure ditch was simply recut in the Roman period, but the story is clearly more complex. In most cases in the recut fills, where Roman pottery occurs in quantities of 100 or more sherds, there are fairly equal quantities of Iron Age pottery alongside them, rather than small quantities of potentially residual sherds. So, it seems likely that these recuts occurred at some point in the Iron Age but were left open and visible still well into the Roman period for deposition of objects to continue.

The only other feature that produced especially large quantities of prehistoric pottery was the large pot-lined pit [3285] in the SW corner of the trench. This produced 237 Iron Age sherds as well as a large part of a big Iron Age storage jar ‘lining’ the base of the pit. The placing of large parts of an Iron Age storage vessel in the base of the pit (potentially ‘lining’ it) is very unusual. The fills of this pit also contained much burnt material. There was one feature in the trench, the large rectangular beehive pit [3017], which interestingly produced pottery that may be slightly earlier than most of the Trench 3 pottery. The assemblage from this pit included some very large jars and cauldrons, including some with finger tipped decoration,

which is dated to the late EIA to early MIA. An unusually large number of small finds were also found in this pit, thirteen in all. These include several fragments of very rare copper alloy slag, at least two large fragments of fired clay crucibles that show copper slag residue, iron slag fragments and Iron Age loom-weight fragments. The high numbers of small finds related to either copper alloy production as well as cloth production suggests the finds in this pit were some kind of special deposit.

The presence of burnt deposits including, charcoal, burnt stones, some burnt bone, and in some cases grey ash-rich fills in some of the deeper and find-rich pits like pits [3017], pit [3217] and pit [3285] - suggests possible ritual burning of some deposits before they were placed in the pits. Or in some cases this material may have been burnt in the pit itself. Other pits such as [3019] on the northern trench edge which did not produce large numbers of Iron Age pottery also had burnt deposits within their fills. When looking at the various cuts across the large Enclosure Ditch Group [3011], there are also signs of some burnt deposits in some, though not all of the various fills. Notably in fills (3087), (30840, (3107), (3132), (3135), (3269), (3284) and (3293). These all contained large bits of charcoal, sometimes in large quantities which were sometimes accompanied by burnt stones. Of course, other fills in this Enclosure Ditch as well as other Iron Age features in the trench often also showed smaller flecks of charcoal in their deposits as is normal in Iron Age features. Some of these burnt deposits may have simply derived from ordinary domestic hearths or fires rather than specific ritual activity, but the placing of burnt deposits within pits that contained relatively large numbers of Iron Age pottery as well as rarer finds like copper-alloy and iron slag, fired clay crucibles, and loom-weights etc, does seem suggestive of special placed deposits. Equally the finding of larger quantities of charcoal and sometimes burnt stones in the various Enclosure Ditch fills might also suggest ritual activity,

CUTS:

Pit [3003] only fill (3004) contained Iron Age pottery.

Pit [3005] was a small shallow pit in the SW corner. Single fill (3006) contained Iron Age pottery sherds.

Pit/Posthole [3007] Small shallow pit or posthole. Only fill (3008) contained both prehistoric and Roman pottery, so its dating is uncertain.

Pit [3009] situated to the W of the Enclosure Ditch Group [3011] – not excavated, just given a top fill number of (3010).

Pit [3013] situated in the northern part of the trench outside the Enclosure Ditch– not excavated, just given a top fill number of (3014).

Pit [3015] Cut into the northern baulk of the trench, also dug as [5027] from the southern edge of Trench 5. Single or top fill (3016)/(5028) contained seven sherds of Iron Age pottery.

Rectangular Pit [3017] Deep beehive-shaped pit in northern part of trench. The pit was *c.* 1.3m long x *c.* 0.8m wide and with a depth of *c.* 0.9m. and rectangular in plan. Though the

profile has the usual narrow top and wider base seen in other beehive-shaped pits do, this pit also had a step in the upper part before narrowing and then gradually widening to the base.

Top fill (3018) contained 44 sherds of MIA pottery, as well as nine small finds. These small finds include half of a small, fired clay crucible containing copper alloy slag traces SF 383; three other possible crucible fragments; a fragment of copper-alloy slag; three fragments of iron slag; and loom-weight fragments. This overlay fill (3226) which also contained MIA pottery (40 sherds) as well as charcoal and burnt stones. Below this was fill (3256) with 22 sherds of MIA pottery and four small finds, which consisted of a crucible fragment with traces of copper alloy SF 453, part of a triangular loom-weight, another fired clay fragment and a worked stone fragment. Below this were lower fills (3225)/(3312), which contained a huge Iron Age pottery assemblage of 237 sherds, probably dated to the late EIA/Early MIA. This assemblage included jars with cabled rims, large cauldrons and huge jars with finger tipped decoration. The size of this pottery deposit suggested a deliberate placing or finds cluster, so this cluster was given the separate context identity of (3312) even though it was all part of fill (3225). This overlay lower fill (3234) with 33 Iron Age sherds, followed by basal fill (3331) with only one Iron Age sherd. As well as the distinctive pottery assemblage, the presence in this pit of several fragments of copper alloy slag and two fragments of small fired clay crucibles (also containing traces of copper alloy slag) is significant. Both the crucibles and the copper alloy slag fragments are very rare across the whole site, so the placing of these in this particular pit is notable and suggests ritual activity of some sort. As seen in a few other pits in this trench with what appears to be special placed deposits, the fact that some of the fills also include burnt deposits like charcoal and burnt stones may suggest fire was a part of this ritual activity.

Pit [3019] Small oval pit with a beehive-shaped profile in the north baulk of trench, also excavated partly as [5025] on the S edge of adjacent Trench 5. This pit measured *c.* 1m in length and *c.* 0.6m width with a depth of *c.* 0.5m. Top fill (3020)/(5026) contained no pottery. However, part of a Roman quern stone SF 538 and a fragment of fired clay or daub (SF 539) were found in this fill. This top fill may have therefore contained intrusive Roman material. This overlay mid fills (3245), which produced nine sherds of Iron Age pottery as well as some charcoal and signs of burning, and (3246) which produced only three sherds of Iron Age pottery. The basal fill (3249) contained no dating material. Evidence of burning or at least burnt material such as charcoal and burnt stones found in both top fill (3020) and fill (3245) below it, may be significant. It is possible a fire was made inside the pit (though the fills also contained unburnt material) or perhaps more likely the debris from a hearth or fire was placed within it.

Pit [3025] is a square pit in the North part of the trench in a very confused area obscured by machining, so no fills were observable.

Large Pit [3029] situated inside the Enclosure Ditch in the northern half and containing three fills which all had Iron Age pottery and only half of it was explored. The pit was *c.* 1.85m across with a depth of *c.* 0.35m. It cuts a smaller feature Pit [3085]. It contained three fills.

The top fill (3030) contained 17 Iron Age sherds and below this mid fill (3072) contained eight Iron Age sherds. Finally basal fill (3078) contained 18 Iron Age sherds.

Pit [3031] was a large sub-circular pit situated inside the large Enclosure Ditch. Top fill (3032) and basal fill (3088) both contained Iron Age pottery.

Possible Pit or Ditch Recut [3033] was situated close to the inner edge of the large Enclosure Ditch at the northern end. It was large and shallow and never fully excavated. It is possible, as this was not properly explored, that this was what was left of a Ditch Recut as seen in other investigations across the large Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]. Top fill (3034) contained five sherds of Iron Age pottery.

Pit 3038 was situated outside the large Enclosure Ditch in the northern part of the trench. Only partly excavated and top fill (3039) contained no pottery.

Ditch cut [3040] – see Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]

Pit [3043] was situated inside the large Enclosure Ditch and was only partly excavated. Top fill (3044) contained no dating evidence.

Pit [3045] was situated inside the large Enclosure Ditch at the southern end. The three fills all contained Iron Age pottery. The top fill was (3046), overlain by mid fill (3133), and the basal fill was (3151).

Ditch/gully [3047]/[3266] – see SW Sector Group [3058]/3268]

Pit [3049] – see SW Sector Group [3058]/3268]

Narrow gully [3051– see SW Sector Group [3058]/3268]

Gully [3056] was situated inside the large Enclosure Ditch. Single fill (3057) contained Iron Age pottery.

Gully [3059]/[3061] – see SW Sector Group [3058]/3268].

Small pit or posthole [3063] situated outside the large Enclosure Ditch in the southern part of the trench. Not fully excavated and the top fill (3064) contained no dating evidence.

Posthole [3076] was a large posthole aligned with other postholes such as [3021], [3023] and [3067]. Top fill (3068) and basal fill (3075) contained no pottery.

Gully [3077]/[3092] was a narrow gully situated inside the large Enclosure Ditch at the southern end. Top fill (3089) contained no dating evidence, but basal fill (3090) contained some Iron Age pottery.

Ditch cut [3080] – see Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]

Ditch cut [3083] – see Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]

Small pit [3085] is situated within the large Enclosure Ditch and is below and cut by large pit [3029]. The surviving width is *c.* 0.55m and the surviving depth is *c.* 0.2m, The only surviving fill, which is basal fill (3086), contained only one sherd of Iron Age pottery.

Pit [3102] was situated inside the large Enclosure Ditch and was only partially excavated. Top fill ((3103) contained no dating evidence.

Ditch cut - east terminal, northern part [3106] – see Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]

Ditch cut [3113] – see Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]

Cut [3115] is not a separate cut, probably part of [3291]/[3292] – see Group [3058/[3268]

Ditch cut - east terminal, southern part (N. side) [3119] – see Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]

Pit [3121] possible oval pit with single fill (3096) containing no dating evidence.

Ditch cut [3124] – see Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]

Possible gully [3128] irregular feature. Single fill (3129) contained Iron Age pottery.

Possible Pit [3130] is a small feature cut by ditch cut [3083] at the SE end of the large Enclosure Ditch group [3011]. Truncated by machining, so dimensions and shape not clear. Single fill (3131) contained some Iron Age pottery.

Small pit/posthole [3140] is situated inside the large Enclosure Ditch. Single fill (3141) contained Iron Age pottery.

Small pit/posthole [3142] is situated inside the large Enclosure Ditch. Single fill (3143) contained no pottery.

Pit [3144] cuts Enclosure Ditch [3011] near eastern terminal end. Neither of the two fills (3153) and (3145) contained any pottery.

Ditch cut [3148] – see Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]

Narrow Ditch [3159] a narrow feature possibly cutting Enclosure Ditch Group [3011, in area of cut [3124], Single fill (3150) is confused with the fill of cut [3124]. No dateable finds in this fill.

Ditch cut [3163]/[3206] – see Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]

Pit [3180] possible small pit, may cut ditch [3119] which is part of Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]. Single fill (3181) contained only one sherd of Roman pottery, so its dating is uncertain.

Ditch cut - east terminal, southern part (S. side) [3208] – see Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]

Large Pit [3217] This is a large oval pit in the NW sector of the trench, situated just outside and close to the large Enclosure Ditch. The pit cut through colluvium layer (3035) and stony

layer (3302), which was described as possible 'redeposited bedrock'. The length is *c.* 1.35m x 1.1m with a depth of *c.* 0.7m. it contained seven fills, though in post-ex analysis a number of these are just small lenses or part of other fills, so the real number is probably four fills. Top fill (3224) appears in section to be part of upper fill (3247), but it is described as a small central stone-lined feature containing charcoal inclusions in the context sheet, possibly a hearth. This fill produced 15 Iron Age sherds, and a lump of 'green clay'. Whether this is a small hearth set within the upper pit fill is uncertain, but certainly there were burnt deposits in this stony fill. It may be part of the other upper fill (3247), which also had a very stony fill as well as lots of charcoal and burnt stones. Fill (3247) produced 34 Iron Age sherds as well a part of a loom-weight. Abutted and next to fill (3247), and very possibly actually part of it, was fill (3223) with 27 Iron Age sherds. Below this was mid fill (3263) with only seven sherds of Iron Age pottery, but it also included two fragments of slag, one possibly copper alloy slag. Fill (3253) which abuts this fill may again be part of this mid fill, rather than a separate fill. Fill (3253) contained 55 Iron Age sherds and fragments of a fired clay loom-weight. Below this was fill (3274) with 31 Iron Age sherds and another slag fragment. Finally, basal fill (3222) produced 38 Iron Age sherds as well as two fragments of iron slag and another lump of 'green clay'.

As discussed above, the presence of definite and extensive burnt deposits in a finds-rich pit which included metal-working debris as well as some cloth-making objects seems to be a pattern for certain pits in this trench. Whether some objects were actually burnt within the pit or burnt elsewhere and placed as special deposits within the pit fills is difficult to be certain about, But the combination of finds including the burnt material does seem to suggest ritual activity and special placed deposits.

Ditch cut [3229] – see NW Sector Group [3233]/[3344]

Cut [3232] – see NW Sector Group [3233]/[3344]

Gully [3235] – see NW Sector Group [3233]/[3344]

Pit [3237] – see NW Sector Group [3233]/[3344]

Shallow cut [3242] is a very shallow circular feature, probably a natural depression. Single fill (3243) contained no finds

Shallow gully [3258] – see SW Sector Group [3058]/[3268]

Pit [3261] is a possible shallow pit situated in the SW part of the site. Single fill (3262) contained some Iron Age pottery

Pit [3276] – part of NW Sector Group [3233]/[3344]

Gully [3283] – see SW Sector Group [3058]/3268]

Pit [3285] – see SW Sector Group [3058]/3268]

Gully [3287] – see SW Sector Group [3058]/3268]

Pit [3289] – see SW Sector Group [3058]/3268]

Large Pit [3291]/[3292]/[3272] – see SW Sector Group [3058]/3268]

Pit [3307]/[3315] – see SW Sector Group [3058]/3268]

Gully [3313] – see SW Sector Group [3058]/3268]

Small feature [3328] is a small cut partly in the baulk in the NW corner of the trench, so its nature and dimensions are unclear. Top fill (3329) contained a small amount of Iron Age pottery.

GROUPS:

Enclosure Ditch Group [3011] (now also incorporates Groups [3070] and [3071]) comprises several cuts through this large circular feature, namely exploratory cuts [3040], [3080], [3083], [3113], [3124], [3148], [3163] through the main circle of the ditch and cuts through the eastern terminal end, namely the northern part [3106] and the southern part [3119]/[3208]. All of the sections across the ditch showed at least one recut and sometimes two, though unfortunately these were missed on site and only picked up in post-ex. All these secondary cuts have now been assigned new cut numbers. One point of interest in terms of the potential ritual deposition of objects in this Enclosure Ditch is that though nearly all of the top fills of the various recognised recuts of this ditch contained quantities of Roman pottery as well as *c.* 15 small finds, many of which were of Roman date - no Roman pottery or small finds were found in the exploratory cuts across the east terminal. Only Iron Age pottery as well as four probably Iron Age small finds were found in the fills of this terminal end. Given that it is often the terminal ends of large prehistoric enclosure ditches that seem to be the focus of ritual deposition and that the other sections of this ditch did contain in their upper fills much Roman material that suggests some kind of ritual deposition, the conclusion is that during the Roman period the terminal ends were no longer seen as the place for ritual deposition.

Ditch Cut [3040] was cut through the northern part of Enclosure Ditch [3011]. The remaining depth here was *c.* 93cm but was possibly truncated by both ploughing and modern machining. The ditch profile has a narrow rectangular base but above this the ditch looks more U-shaped. It seems very likely the excavators missed the fact there was an original cut with a narrow confined base which was later recut. Therefore, a new post-ex number has been given for this recut, which is Ditch recut [3346]. The width of the ditch here is *c.* 1.8m-2m.

So, the original ditch cut [3040] with a narrow rectangular base has only three surviving fills. Namely basal fill (3111) and remnants of upper fills on either side of the re-cut, which are (3094) on the N side and (3137) on the S side. Unfortunately, none of these earlier fills contained any pottery. The basal fill, which seems likely to be part of an earlier original cut is (3111).

The ditch recut [3346] has two fills. The upper one is (3041) and this contained a large quantity of both Iron Age (106 sherds) and Roman (175 sherds) pottery, as well as a 4th

century Roman coin. Juvenile human skull fragments were also found in this fill. The fill below this is (3087), which only contained 28 sherds of Iron Age pottery as well as some large pieces of charcoal. So, the implication is that this ditch was either recut at some point in the Iron Age, but remained open during the Roman period, or that it was recut in the Roman period with Iron Age residual material mixed in with the Roman finds.

Ditch Cut [3080] was totally confused by machining in the area. This exploratory cut was in the NE sector of the Enclosure Ditch, What was seen as a possible pit [3025] was probably another Ditch Recut. Only half of the width of the ditch was dug and sectioned (the eastern half) and the whole eastern area of the ditch was confused by machining, thus obscuring the width of the ditch and the fact that there was a shallow and wide recut here, Ditch Recut [3025].

So, the original ditch cut [3080] was probably *c.* 1m wide with a surviving depth of *c.* 0.5m – 0.6m and what appears to be a V-shaped profile. Three fills survived, upper fills (3122) and (3161) and basal fill (3179). Fill (3122) may even have been part of an earlier recut itself as it is surrounded on both sides of the ditch by fill (3161). Basal fill (3179) is overlain by both of these fills. Only upper fill (3122) contained 30 sherds of Iron Age pottery and an iron knife fragment.

The Ditch Recut [3025], originally thought to be a pit, has one or two potential fills, but they are all muddled by machining so only one is secure, namely (3081). This contained 23 sherds of Iron Age pottery and 11 sherds of Roman pottery. Layers (3118) and (3026), probably overlay this ditch but it is possible they were part of the ditch recut fill. Potential overlying layers (3118) and (3026) both contained some Iron Age pottery (13 and 18 sherds) but this may have been residual, as seven sherds of Roman pottery was also found in these 'layers'. Part of an iron penannular brooch was found in 'layer' (3026) and this may have been Iron Age or Roman.

Ditch Cut [3083] was cut through a southern section of the Enclosure Ditch close to the east terminal and to the west of it. At the top the ditch measures *c.* 1.9m across and the surviving depth is *c.* 0.9m. As with all the other cuts across this Enclosure Ditch, the excavators missed the fact that this ditch was recut. The newly assigned Ditch Recut number is [3348]. The original ditch profile or what is left of it, has a more V-shaped narrow profile at the bottom above a slightly broader more curved profile. It is possible that this broader more curved profile filled with (3101) represents an earlier recut, but this is by no means certain.

Original Ditch Cut [3083] has three fills. The uppermost is fill (3101) which overlay fill (3146) and finally basal fill (3139). Only fill (3101) contained any Iron Age pottery (12 sherds).

Ditch Recut [3348] has a broad curved profile and contained only one fill (3084). This fill featured two 'finds clusters' given separate numbers, namely 'finds clusters' (3093) and (3095), which were made up of animal bone, some pottery, charcoal, and some burnt stones. This fill (3084) contained a large amount of Iron Age pottery (211 sherds) as well as 38 Roman sherds and a 1st century Roman coin.

Ditch Cut [3113] is a cut through the Enclosure Ditch on the SE side with a remaining depth of just below a 1m and a width of *c.* 2.2m. As with cut [3040] above the contrast between the lower ditch profile and the upper seems best explained by the presence of a recut, which has been assigned in post-ex as Ditch Recut [3347] with a single fill (3114).

So, the original ditch cut [3113] has four fills, though one of them contains 'finds clusters' which were assigned separate contexts numbers. The upper fill (below the recut fill 3114) is (3167)/(3189) and includes the two 'finds clusters' (3177) and (3186) as well as a large amount of Iron Age pottery (100 sherds) and a few Roman sherds (20), the latter may be intrusive from the recut below. This fill also produced a human skull fragment. Below this is fill (3168) which produced ten sherds of Iron Age pottery. This overlies (3194), with 15 Iron Age pottery sherds, and a small lens (3199) that is probably part of (3194). Iron Age pottery was also found in this fill. Below this the original basal fill is (3200) which contained no dating evidence.

Ditch Recut [3347] has a single fill (3114) which contained a large amount of both Iron Age pottery (145 sherds) and Roman pottery (175 sherds). Besides this, a copper-alloy brooch possibly of LIA/ERoman date, an iron swan neck in of MIA date, two other iron fragments and a bone needle were found in this unusually finds rich fill. A fragment of human bone was also found.

Ditch Cut [3124] is a cut through the Enclosure Ditch on the NW corner with a surviving depth of *c.* 0.75m – 0.9m and with a slightly stepped V-shaped profile. There is no obvious recut in this section, though cut [3033] is a large shallow feature cutting the inner eastern edge of the ditch and might just possibly be a misinterpreted recut of the Enclosure ditch. This 'pit' was never fully excavated so its nature is unclear. The ditch is *c.* 1m – 1.3m across in this section. The ditch also cuts narrow curvilinear ditch or gully [3159] on its western edge.

The ditch [3124] contained four fills. The upper fill (3125) also featured a small group of burnt stones and a deer mandible within the main fill ('finds cluster' 3156), as well as a second 'finds cluster' of Iron Age pottery sherds ('finds cluster' 3134). This fill contained 87 Iron Age sherds but also a 4th century Roman coin and part of an infant human rib. The second fill below this was (3154), with only eight Iron Age sherds, overlying third fill (3176). The latter contained no dating material. Underlying both these fills was basal fill (3155), which contained four Iron Age pottery sherds.

Ditch Cut [3148] is situated on the western side of the large Enclosure Ditch, to the south of cut [3124]. The surviving depth of the ditch here is *c.* 1.1m and the width is *c.* 2.2m. However, as with the others cuts across this Enclosure Ditch, closer examination of the section in post-ex revealed two potential recuts of this original ditch that were not recognised during excavation. These have been assigned new numbers, namely [3352] for the earlier recut and [3349] for the second recut. The width of the original ditch may have been narrower than that of the final recut. The recognition of the ditch recuts has altered the stratigraphic sequencing immensely as detailed below.

Under the new scheme the original Ditch cut [3148] contained only three surviving fills. These are from the top (3196) and (3195) which are probably the same fill and contained no dating material. These overlay fill (3192) which did contain ten Iron Age sherds. Beneath all of these was basal fill (3197). which contained no dating material. The lower profile of this original ditch cut is roughly V-shaped.

The first Ditch Recut [3352] is also roughly V-shaped in profile and contained only one surviving fill, which was fill (3185) which contained 70 sherds of Iron Age pottery.

The second Ditch Recut [3349] had a broad and shallow curved profile with single fill (3149). This fill, as with many of the top fills of the latest recuts of this large Enclosure Ditch, contained both large amounts of both Iron Age and Roman pottery (90 sherds of IA pottery and 193 sherds of Roman pottery) as well as a 2nd century Roman coin and a Roman copper-alloy nail cleaner. Here the new ditch width is very wide at *c.* 2.2m across.

Ditch Cut [3163]/[3206] is a cut through the large Enclosure Ditch on the NE side, just above the northern part of the eastern terminal end of the feature. Context [3163] represents the western side of this cut and [3206] represents the eastern side of this same cut through the ditch. The ditch measures *c.* 1.5m – 2m across in this area and the surviving depth is *c.* 0.85m. The stratigraphy of this part of the Enclosure Ditch is much more complex than as recorded in the site paperwork and sections. Close examination shows there were probably two recuts of the original ditch [3163]/[3206], namely first Ditch Recut [3350] and second Ditch Recut [3351], as named in the post-ex stage. Given this the original ditch cut seems to have been quite broad here, possibly as much as 2m wide and the original profile is roughly V-shaped, though with a bit of a step at the base. The first recut [3350] is much narrower, perhaps as little as 0.8m across but the second recut [3351] is broader at *c.* 1.7m and the profile here is wide and shallow and roughly flat-bottomed. There does seem to be quite a variety in the profile of these various late recuts across the ditch, some more U-shaped or a gentle curve that is almost flat-bottomed as well as one (recut [3346]) which is a lot deeper and narrower though with a U-shaped base.

The original Ditch cut [3163]/[3206] survives as only three narrow fills on either side of the ditch bracketing the two recuts of the feature**.** The uppermost of these was fill (3169) with only two sherds of Iron Age pottery. Arguably this might alternatively be seen as weathering on the edge of the ditch related to the second recut phase, but it is very difficult to be sure. Below this was (3203) which contained no dating material and finally fill (3188) which did produce some 22 sherds of Iron Age pottery.

The first Ditch recut [3350] contained eleven potential fills but as this was dug in two different sections across the western side of the ditch, some of these may represent the same fills. The upper fill of this recut was fill (3212), possibly the same as or overlying fill (3179)/(3184)/(3240) which contained 19 sherds of Iron Age pottery. Below this were fills (3190)/(3241) and (3193)/(3248) (as identified on the section just to the south) which might well be part of the same fill or phase. Fill (3190)/(3241) contained six sherds of Iron Age pottery. Below all of these was lower fill (3201) and beneath that basal fill (3202)/(3250).

The second Ditch recut [3351] was a broad and shallow cut with a flat-bottomed profile. This had only one fill (3164), which contained 49 sherds of Iron Age pottery and 12 Roman sherds.

East Terminal – northern part, cut [3106] was a N-S small section along part of the length of the terminal rather than across it. There were five fills identified in this section, though this whole area was heavily truncated by machining, so there may be more upper fills that have been lost. The profile of the terminal ditch in this area is roughly U-shaped and the surviving depth of the ditch here is *c.* 0.75m. The surviving width of the terminal end is *c.* 1.1m, although the real shape and width has probably been much obscured by the machining. It is possible, as with many of the other exploratory cuts across this Enclosure Ditch, that this part of the ditch was also recut at some point, but it is not clear from the records or sections. An interesting and possibly significant fact about this part of the Enclosure Ditch is the large quantities of charcoal found in three of its fills. The placing of substantial burnt deposits in some of the Enclosure Ditch fills as well as some of the pits does seem to be a feature in some parts of this trench.

Top fill (3107) contained Iron Age pottery (24 sherds) as well as large quantities of charcoal. Shallow fill (3132) underlying this produced two sherds of Iron Age pottery and also relatively large quantities of charcoal. Fill (3135) below this produced 25 sherds of Iron Age pottery and even larger quantities of charcoal than the two fills above it (40% of the fill was recorded as being charcoal). The fill underneath this (3138) produced three Iron Age sherds. Basal fill (3152) contained four Iron Age sherds. This part of the terminal end was cut by small pit [3144] on the inner edge of the enclosure ditch, and this contained two fills, namely upper fill (3153) and basal fill (3145), neither of which produced any pottery dating material.

East Terminal – southern part, cut [3119]/[3208]. This exploration of the southern part of the terminal end was given two cut numbers, one for the northern half of it [3119] and one for the southern half of it [3208]. The terminal seems to be square ended in this area. The complete width of the southern part of the terminal end combining both cut numbers [3119/3208] together is *c.* 2.2m. The surviving depth was *c.* 1.2m. According to the original records, much of this area was truncated and confused by machining, so the original depth of the ditch terminal end in this position may have been deeper. Originally no recuts of this terminal ditch were observed during excavation. However though recuts were hard to be sure of in two of the sections across the ditch because of confused stratigraphy, post-ex analysis showed that one of the sections across the southern half of this ditch (in cut [3208]) did show one and possibly two recuts. The stratigraphy across this southern ditch terminal is very confused for many reasons, including the fact that it was explored as two separate cut numbers with their own fills, instead of one cut number across the whole width of the ditch. This produced two sets of fill numbers that are hard to match across from one half section across the ditch to the other half section. Compared to many prehistoric ditches this ditch terminal did produce relatively large amounts of Iron Age pottery as well as six small finds. The terminal ends of prehistoric ditches are often seen as a focus for ritual activities and deposition, and this may be the case here. However, far larger quantities of both Iron Age and Roman pottery were

actually found in the upper fills (usually of the recuts) of the Enclosure Ditch in the other sections across it.

The northern cut number [3119] potentially contained about 11 fills, as well as two fills which were given ‘finds cluster’ group fill numbers but were really part of other fills. The section across this northern half of the ditch terminal shows stratigraphy that is unclear, so we cannot say for certain where recuts might be positioned, but it seems likely there were one or two recuts as they have been observed in the southern half of the same ditch as described below. There were two ‘possible fills’, namely (3174), probably an overcut of the feature, and (3182), not a fill at all – which made the original lists of fills look a lot longer. But in terms of real fills from top to bottom (as seen on the original sections which do not recognise or portray any recuts) these fills run in this very rough order: (3120), (3136), (3150) which included ‘finds cluster 3162’, (3157) which included ‘finds cluster 3158’, (3165), (3175), (3205), (3183), (3191), (3204), and finally basal fill (3198). Of these - the three upper fills, namely (3120) with 22 sherds, (3136) with 28 sherds and (3150) with 84 sherds and one iron fragment, all contained Iron Age pottery. The three mid fills (3157) with seven sherds, (3165) with 35 sherds and (3183) with 23 sherds also produced Iron Age pottery

The southern half of this ditch terminal explored in cut [3208] also contained about 11 fills (two of which also contained ‘finds clusters’ - given a separate fill number). Since this ditch section has now been seen to have two recuts, the stratigraphic history is very different from that originally recorded on site. Interestingly, the second recut produced no Roman pottery at all, unlike most of the other upper recuts explored across this large enclosure ditch. If we assign new post-ex recut numbers to this ditch, namely [3352] to the first recut and [3353] to the second recut, the stratigraphy runs as listed below.

Original ditch cut [3208] contained only two surviving fills, which were fill (3270) above basal fill (3284) which included ‘finds cluster 3293’. The latter consisted of burnt stones and charcoal flecks and some animal bone. Fill (3270) had 25 Iron Age sherds and basal fill (3284) produced seven Iron Age sherds, one iron fragment, and one copper-alloy fragment that may be part of an earring or simple finger ring. Unusually large quantities of charcoal were also recorded as occurring in fill (3284). This basal fill also produced part of an infant human skull.

First recut [3353] contained three surviving fills, the uppermost of which was (3252) which included ‘finds cluster 3269’. The finds cluster was made up of some animal bone, large pieces of charcoal, and three Iron Age pottery sherds as well as a human tooth. Fill (3252) contained 59 Iron Age sherds and one iron fragment. Below this, fill (3214) contained 54 Iron Age sherds as well as one flint core. Lower fill (3280) and lens (3281) produced 35 Iron Age sherds.

Second recut [3354] contained five fills, four of which produced Iron Age pottery. Top fill (3209) contained only seven Iron Age sherds. Below this was fill (3215) with nine Iron Age sherds and below this was fill (3228) with no dating material. Below this lower fill (3239) contained 33 Iron Age sherds and possible basal fill (3213) contained 43 Iron Age sherds.

SW Sector Group [3058]/[3268]

This group number was used for a tangle of intercutting ditches, gullies and pits in the south-west corner of the trench. For some reason three Group numbers were used over the two seasons for the same group of intercutting features – so they have been amalgamated together here. As with the NW Sector group the stratigraphy here was very confusing and there was no time for full exploration of this web of intercutting features. It is most likely they are all of Iron Age date. Why there were so many shallow small gullies concentrated in this area is something of a mystery. Perhaps they were part of some craft or industrial activity in this area or perhaps they relate more to drainage issues?

Curvilinear Ditch [3047]/[3266] This U-shaped shallow ditch or gully contained single fill (3048)/(3267) containing Iron Age sherds and part of an adult human femur. The gully was about 0.5m to 1m wide and *c.* 0.2m in depth. It may cut features [3051]. As it was not fully excavated and its function was unclear.

Pit [3049] was situated just to the south of gully [3059]. The pit measured *c.* 0.8m across and was *c.* 0.2m deep. It was cut by gully [3059]. Top fill (3050) contained 13 sherds of Iron Age pottery and basal fill (3227) contained no dating material.

Gully [3059]/[3061] was a W-E narrow linear feature in the SW corner. These were dug as two gullies but are probably part of the same gully running SE/NW. The gully measured *c.* 0.5m across and was only *c.* 0.2m deep. Single fills (3060)/(3062) contained 37 Iron Age pottery. Its relationship with other cuts in this area is unclear.

Narrow Gully [3051] ran in a N-S direction and may have been cut by larger gully or ditch [3047]/3266] to the south. Its width was *c.* 0.3m and the depth was *c.* 0.2m. Single fill (3052) contained six sherds of Iron Age pottery.

Posthole [3067] was *c.* 0.5m deep and contained packing stones. Neither fills (3068) or (3075) contained any dating material.

Gully [3258] was another shallow and narrow gully with a noticeable lip, measuring *c.* 0.25 across and with a depth of *c.* 0.3m. It may be part of the gully [3059] above, but the records are unclear. Top fill (3259) and basal fill (3279) both contained a small amount of Iron Age pottery, five sherds in total.

Possible Gully [3283] was situated in the west baulk near pit [3285] and due to its position, both the profile and stratigraphy are unclear. The depth is *c.* 0.45m and the width at least *c.* 1.75m but the full width and profile is unclear. Four fills are recorded running from top to bottom; fills (3221), (3324), finds cluster (3290), (3325) and (3330). All the fills except basal fill (3330) produced some Iron Age pottery, *c.* 93 sherds in total. Finds cluster (3290) contained a number of animal bones and lots of charcoal.

Beehive-shaped Pit [3285] was situated in the far NW corner in the trench between features [3061] and [3283] and possibly cut by a very small gully [3287] and by also by gully [3313] further north. However, the stratigraphic relationships between the tangle of gullies and other

features in this corner is extremely unclear. This oval shaped pit measures at its top *c.* 1m x 0.6m with a depth of *c.* 0.5m. The base measures *c.* 0.9m across one side.

This pit is extremely unusual in having a re-used large Iron Age pot squashed into the base as if lining the base (SF 523). This is not a furnace or hearth or kiln of some sort (as described on site), as the sherds of this large storage jar are not burnt themselves, though there are quantities of charcoal in the fill over it. There are only two fills in this pit, namely top fill (3286) and basal fill (3299). Though the re-used pot lining the base within (3299) was given a separate context number (3318) as well as a SF number, it was actually part of the basal fill not a separate fill. The top fill (3286) contained a large number of Iron Age sherds (179) as well as charcoal, burnt stones, two flint scrapers (SF 491 and SF 525), a lump of green clay and animal bone, mostly sheep/goat but also some cattle bone. The basal fill (3299), aside from the re-used squashed storage pot SF 523, produced 87 Iron Age sherds as well as frequent charcoal inclusions, burnt stones and animal bone, as well as greyish soil that may contain ash. The animal bone mostly consisted of sheep/goat bones including a few articulated sheep/goat vertebra. This fill certainly contained burnt material of various types which might suggest burnt offerings or the remain of a ritual practise involving fire. But the lack of burning on the pot spread on the base of the pit itself, suggests that the remnants of burnt offerings must have been deposited in this pit on top of the remains of this large pottery vessel.

The re-used pot is a coarse shell-tempered Iron Age storage jar type with a broad flat rim with finger-tipping around the outer circuit. The re-used pot was in many fragments already when it was found in the base of the pit and amounted to *c.* 6 kilos weight of sherds. It may be a 'cauldron pot' and if so, could date from the late EIA to MIA.

Large pit [3291]/3292]/[3272] These three numbers were recorded as three separate features but they appear to be one large pit in the section. If it is one large pit, then the width is *c.* 1.8m and the depth (if the so-called separate cut [3272] is part of it and representing the basal fill) would be *c.* 0.8m. On the premise it is one cut then the fills run from top to bottom (3116), (3251), (3260), (3241), and (3273). All these fills apart from basal fill (3273) contained Iron Age pottery, some 102 sherds in total.

Pit [3307]/[3315] These were originally recorded as two pits, but they are probably part of one pit and were given the same fill numbers. The pit is situated at the northern edge of this group and close to the large Enclosure Ditch. The depth is recorded as *c.* 1m and the width as *c.* 1.8m but there is no section, so this is uncertain. Top fill (3264) contained nine sherds of Iron Age pottery and basal fill (3289) also produced nine Iron Age sherds.

Gully [3313] was a possible narrow gully at the northern end of pit [3285] but may actually be part of it. The relationship with [3285] is unclear. Single fill (3314) contained eight sherds of Iron Age pottery.

NW Sector Group [3233]/[3344] is made up of a confused group of ditches and pits in the NW corner of the trench. This includes ditch [3229]; cut [3232]; Gully [3235]; Pit [3237]; and Pit [3276]. A number of these features cut through the tenacious clay layers (3210) and

(3211). It was difficult to disentangle this muddled group of features and identifying which fills went with the cuts was sometimes difficult. Much of this area was only partly explored due to timing problems, so the relationships between some features are very uncertain. For this reason, only a brief account of the main features is given below.

Ditch [3229] is a roughly V-shaped ditch running in a SW/NE direction. The width was *c.* 1m and the depth *c.* 0.95m. Effectively there was only one fill (3230) which really includes the narrow erosion fill (3244) on the side of the ditch. The fill contained 126 sherds of Iron Age pottery. This feature is therefore Iron Age in date.

Cut [3232] is a possible pit in the NW corner of the trench that was identified but not excavated or sectioned. Top fill (3231) contained no dating material.

Small Gully [3235] is a linear feature, possibly a gully, situated on the eastern edge of the trench, east of ditch [3229]. It may cut pit [3276]. Single fill (3236) contained 15 sherds of Iron Age pottery.

Pit [3237] appears to be a large pit, though there is some confusion as to its depth and how many fills belonged to it. It probably cuts ditch [3229] but the records are not clear about this. As the existing section does not run across the whole width and it does not appear on the min plan all we can say is that the width of the feature may have been over 1.8m. Given the size it may actually have been another ditch rather than a pit. It was recorded as having three fills, but the post-ex analysis of the section suggests there may have been another three fills below this. Top fill (3238) and the fill below this (3294) produced no dating material. What was seen as the basal fill (3295) also had no dating material. If contexts (3310) and (3311) below this are part of the same feature, they produced only five Iron Age sherds in (3311). With only potentially a handful of Iron Age sherds in a 'possible' lower fill, it is difficult to be certain of its date also. If it is cut by Iron Age ditch [3229] however it must be prehistoric.

Pit [3276] seems to be a small pit in the confused NW corner which is cut by ditch [3229] so therefore earlier than the ditch. It is be cut in its turn by small gully [3235]. There are two fills. Top fill (3277) has four sherds of Iron Age pottery, while basal fill (3297) has no dating material. As it was cut by Iron Age ditch [3229] it must also be a prehistoric feature.

Original Group [3012] North Pit Group– this original grouping has now been dismissed in post-ex analysis, as the pits included are so widely dispersed, they do not cluster as a group. So, pits [3015], [3019], [3017] and [3217] are all dealt with individually above.

Roman Phase

Both the topsoil layer and the top fills of the various cuts through the large Enclosure Ditch (Group [3011]) contained fairly large quantities of Roman pottery as well as some Roman small finds, so these upper layers and fills attest to ongoing Roman activity in the area. Observation of sections and photographs in post-ex revealed that all of the exploratory cuts across the large Enclosure Ditch Group [3011] were recut at least once and sometimes twice. As the fills of these recuts nearly all contained a mix of large amounts of both Iron Age and

Roman pottery – it seems most likely that these recuts occurred later in the Iron Age, but they still remained open in the Roman period for quite some time. The amount of Iron Age pottery in these top fills, which contained lots of Roman pottery and other Roman finds, seems far too much to represent a few residual sherds resulting from displacing earlier fills of the original Iron Age ditch cut. So, the implication of this is that during the Roman period this large enclosure ditch still had a function. For the prehistoric period the function of this large feature is probably ritual and the same may be the case for its use in the Roman period. Continuity of prehistoric sacred spaces into the Roman period is after all seen in other parts and other important features across the Marcham site. No definite Roman features were identified in this trench.

The total number of Roman pottery sherds found in this trench was only 843. Most of the contexts in this trench had no Roman pottery or just a handful of sherds. The only exceptions were topsoil layer (3000) with 171 Roman sherds and several of the top or upper fills of the cuts across the large enclosure ditch (Enclosure Ditch Group [3011]), though the Roman pottery was usually mixed in with Iron Age sherds. These were fill (3041) with 175 Roman sherds; fill (3084) with 38 Roman sherds; fill (3114) with 175 Roman sherds, and fill (3149) with 193 Roman sherds. The Roman assemblage mostly consists of plain reduced wares and oxidised wares with practically no imported Samian or fine colour-coated wares. Nor were there many grog-tempered or Roman shell-tempered wares, which in Oxfordshire are often late Roman indicators. Although due to funding limitations the Roman assemblage in this trench was not studied by the Roman pottery specialist, as much of it was fairly undiagnostic reduced and oxidised wares, close dating may not have been possible.

The five Roman coins found in the trench are rather unhelpfully a mix of 1st and 2nd century CE, and 4th centruy. They all came from either the upper layers of the main large Enclosure Ditch or from topsoil, so represent Roman activity while the upper part of the Enclosure Ditch was still at least partly open. Establishing how long in the Roman period some type of activity continued in the area of the large Enclosure Ditch is difficult with so few diagnostic Roman finds. Though there were no clearly defined Roman features in this area of prehistoric ditches and pits, some Roman activity did occur in the area, even though it was well to the east of the main Romano-Celtic temple in its temenos and the smaller Roman shrines. Without any evidence of Roman buildings or shrines even on a small scale here, it is interesting to speculate about exactly what the Roman finds represent in this area. As the focus of the Roman material is in the upper fills of the large Enclosure Ditch, the conclusion must be that this was still seen to be an important feature well into the Roman period.