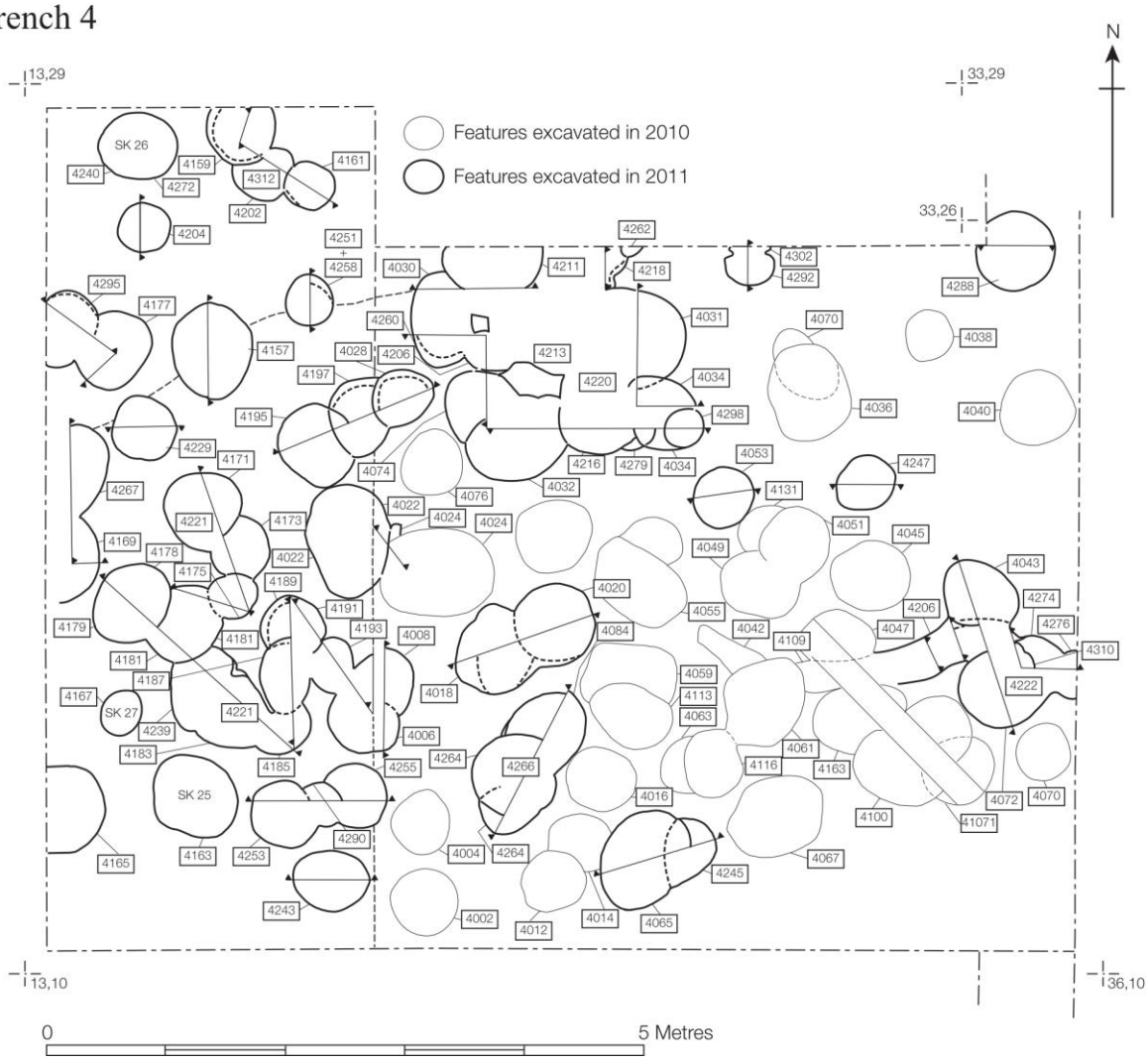
Trench MFP4 narrative

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Introduction

Trench 4 was located in the northeast of the site between trenches MFP5 and MFP6 over a large cluster of mostly intercutting pits identified during geophysical survey. In the north the survey was obscured by interference from an electricity pylon. In 2010 a 15m-by-15m trench was opened across the features and further extended by 7m in the west and within that extension 3m to the north during the 2011 season. This showed a significant number of pits had survived in the region of the electricity pylon. The pits extended beyond the trench in the west with their density decreasing in the south and east. They appeared to lie within a defined area but neither geophysics nor excavation provided any evidence of a physical boundary around them.

MFP 11
Trench 4



Trench MFP4

The natural in this area comprises a thin layer of Corallian limestone (4001) and (4201) which could be easily dug through to reveal a lens of sand beneath (4143) below which was further limestone bedrock. The bedrock is higher in the north and the archaeological surface was shown to lie only10-20cm beneath the topsoil, although this does not appear to have dictated the depth to which the pits were dug. Many of the pits were shallow with some surviving only to a depth of 0.1-0.2m and many less than 0.5m deep. The deeper pits had cut through the first two layers of natural onto the more solid geology and shallow cuts into the lower bedrock sometimes provided the only evidence of their former existence. The shallow depth of the topsoil suggests the soil was much deeper during the prehistoric occupation of the area but natural erosion or agricultural practices have lowered the soil since then and pottery, animal bone and human bone was recovered from the topsoil. However, while there had been truncation it appears the shallow pits were always comparatively shallow as much deeper pits survived across all parts of the trench and often next to shallow pits.

Five discrete cut features contained human remains and can be considered as graves indicating that at some point this area was used as a small cemetery. This, together with a range of finds indicating domestic activities such as grain processing and weaving, suggest that a settlement may have been nearby despite there being no evidence for this within the excavated areas or the geophysical surveys.

One hundred and twenty-one cuts were identified, 109 of which were pits from which 12,058 Iron Age pottery sherds, EIA in primary contexts with some intrusive MIA material, were recovered and over 1,500 individual fragments of animal bone. A further 38 sherds of Roman pottery were found in the top contexts of the pits which were considered to be residual from later activity on the site. Only 18 of these survived as discrete pits, the remainder cutting or cut by at least one other pit. The density of the intercutting pits suggests the earlier pits were no longer evident at the surface when further pits were dug, which might indicate a period of transient or seasonal use. These pits, rich in domestic waste and other artefacts, stand in marked contrast to those found in Trench 2 which appear to have been mostly dug for clay extraction and then left open to fill naturally over time. They also demonstrate the differences in geology across what is a relatively small area.

Individual Pits

Eighteen discrete pits were identified varying in depth from 0.11m [4204], a pit in the north-west of the trench, to 0.75m [4288] in the north-east, with the deepest of the individual pits [4165] at 0.95m in the south-west. The individual pits provided the most secure contexts, undisturbed by later recutting and many contained large quantities of pottery notably [4157] with 480 sherds recovered from its three fills, [4165] with 233 sherds and [4026] with 156 sherds. The latter pit was also found to contain large amounts of animal bone including a horse skull from the latest of the three fills which had been placed upside down on top of stones. Further stones surrounding the skull appeared to support it.

Intercutting Pits

The remainder of the pits all cut or were cut by at least one other pit, many of them conjoining resulting in large clusters of pits, the largest of these [Group 4221]

comprised 16 intercutting pits, possibly providing the longest temporal sequence although it was comparatively artefact poor.

A large group of at least 13 intercutting pits [Group 4220] were clustered in the north of the trench and continued under the baulk, the latest being [4298], [4261] and [4279]. For the remainder, the surface plan had been mostly obliterated. Earlier pits were possibly lost through recutting and it is probable that smaller clusters of pits amalgamated over time. Many of the pits were little more than shallow cuts with [4030]/[4260] and [4074] only 0.1m deep. The deepest of the pits [4032] at 0.61m produced 363 pottery sherds from its single fill. Only two of these pits had small finds [4031]/[4260] with worked bone, a stone object and a *micraster* sp. fossil, and pit [4211] where a worked flint was recovered beside six articulated cattle vertebra. A further 22 fragments of unfused vertebral epiphyses indicate further vertebrae were once present and that the animal was a juvenile. A possible posthole [4262] cut by a pit within this group lay in the north of the trench, partially under the baulk. Its purpose is unknown. A small number of pottery sherds and fragments of possible human bone was recovered from its fill.

A series of three intercutting pits [4018], [4020], [4284] in the centre of the trench ran in a linear pattern SW-NE. The latest in the sequence was [4020], the earliest [4018]. A relatively large number of pottery sherds were recovered from all three pits. Two of the pits [4018] and [4020] contained small quantities of human bone and all pits had small finds including bronze objects and quern stones.

Four intercutting pits [4012], [4014], [4065], [4245] ran approximately SW-NE through the trench. The earliest in the sequence [4014], was later cut by [4012] and [4065] with [4245] the latest in the sequence. The fills of [4245] (4246) and (4257) each contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. The pits contained a comparatively low number of pottery sherds and animal bone with a single human bone recovered from [4012].

Pit [4024], one of two large intercutting pits towards the west of the trench contained a single artefact rich fill with 200 sherds of prehistoric pottery and possible special deposits of a single horse bone and a chicken spur. A bronze fragment and four *micraster* sp. fossils were also recovered.

Pit [4177] one of two intercutting pits in the northwest of the trench contained a deposit of burnt stone, burnt pottery and charcoal although the lack of ashy deposits makes it uncertain if these were from a hearth. The bottom fill (4226) contained 119 sherds, with the upper fill (4178) having a single deer bone, a worked stone object, worked bone, and an iron object. Pit [4295] the second of the pits had 92 sherds and 126 sherds from its two fill (4296), (4305) with a fragment of deer antler and a worked bone from (4305).

Other Features

Ditch

A shallow curvilinear ditch [4091] running E-W for approximately 5.6m in the south-east of the trench with both ends terminating within the trench. It was investigated through a series of five slots. The width of the ditch was found to vary throughout

from 0.4m where it terminated in the W to a maximum of 1m in the E. Where excavated the depth ranged from 0.16-0.25m. The function of this feature is unknown. It underlies pit groups [4133] and [4222] and is cut in the west by pit [4061]. The ditch terminal appears to cut pit [4043] in the east, where it is shown to have a rounded terminal. The fill was found to be similar across all five slots and was relatively artefact poor with 152 sherds of prehistoric pottery and 12 animal bone fragments recovered from the entire length of the ditch.

Postholes
Two postholes [4262] and [4316] cut through the fills of pits within the largest clusters [4220] and [4221] respectively and through ditch [4091]. The purpose of both the postholes and the ditch is unknown.

Graves
In addition to the pits, five further cuts were found to contain juvenile and adult inhumations and the area appears to have been used for a period as a cemetery. In all cases the graves were respected by pits although two of the graves cut through earlier pits -- in the northeast, two intercutting pits, the earliest [4036] was later cut by grave cut [4078] for SK21 a tightly contracted burial. There is however a possible temporal relationship between the two when considering the finds from [4036] which might be considered special deposits. These included 139 sherds of pottery, horse bone, possible cremated material, at least 3 foetal pigs and bird. Similarly pits [4113] and [4059] which are cut by grave [4095] for SK22, contained horse bones and an almost complete corvid.

That these graves were undisturbed within an area of intense activity suggests some form of grave maker might have been present or that the graves were placed on the periphery of known activity.

SK25 was recovered from a circular pit [4232] 2m in diameter which appears to follow the outline of a possible earlier pit [4163]. The skeleton was well preserved and had been placed directly onto the bedrock. Unlike the other burials, which had been tightly contracted, this skeleton was almost fully extended with on arm outstretched. Iron slag, an unidentified iron object and a crucible with copper slag were also recovered along with a fossil *micraster*. The fill of the earlier pit contained an iron plate, quernstone and a further *micraster*. Mixing of the deposits from the earlier pit cannot be ruled out.

A more damaged skeleton [SK26] in [4272] in the northwest of the trench was that of a juvenile which had been placed in a tightly crouched position directly onto bedrock. A bronze ring was found very close to the throat and might have been worn around the neck. The grave appears to have been a recut of an earlier pit [4240]. An unidentified bronze object and a worked bone were recovered from the fill. The fill from the earlier pit was found to contain 233 sherds of prehistoric pot and four sherds of Roman pot. A dog tooth and horse metapodial were also recovered.

The fragmentary remains of a badly plough-damaged infant burial [SK27] were also discovered in a shallow scoop cut into the bedrock [4167], just to the northwest of SK25.

The remains of a neonate was recovered from pit [4297] which had been cut centrally through the fill of earlier pit [4247] into which the body had been placed and this should be considered a further grave cut. A single *micraster sp.* fossil, horse and bird bones were also recovered along with bones from domesticated species although admixing of the deposits from the earlier pit cannot be ruled out.

A possible further disturbed grave pit [4264] within pit group [4266], at 0.4m deep and cut by [4010] was found to contain six adult human bone, along with horse bones, water vole bone, an iron pin and a crucible fragment. It lay in close proximity to SK22. The pit was one of three shallow intercutting pits, the earliest [4084], the latest [4010], all with single fills. It is possible that the two other cuts were related to the burial with a further find of possible water vole and a fossil *micraster*.

Three unarticulated bones from an infant 3-6 months was recovered from [4055] the second pit in a sequence of three intercutting pits. A loom weight was recovered from the top of the fill. Two Roman pot sherds were also found.

Individual disarticulated human bone, both adult and infant was also recovered from six pits [4061], [4100], [4070], [4171], [4159], [4267]. Finds of disarticulated human bone down-slope in Trench 3 suggests that more of the pits may once have contained burials. In all cases except [4070] special deposits of crucible fragments, metal objects, in particular bronze objects, or bone tools were recovered with the human bone.

Evidence for settlement and domestic activities

In addition to the large quantities of pottery and animal bone from everyday activities small quantities of daub, some with wattle marks, recovered from pits [4026], [4157], indicate more permanent structures of some sort had been present in the vicinity and fallen into disuse prior to these pits being dug. A number of the objects recovered from the pits were still serviceable, similarly bronze was a valuable resource that could be melted down and reused, suggesting the objects recovered from the pits were intended as special deposits. They give an insight into activities being carried out and also provide proxy evidence for settlement that it otherwise lacking.

Grain Processing

Evidence for grain processing comes from quernstones recovered from six pits [4031], [4040], [4049], [4100], [4163], [4270].

Metalworking

Decorative bronze objects including fragments of bronze sheet and jewellery were recovered from pits [4002], [4018], [4024], [4040], [4043], [4063], [4159], [4171], [4175] and [4240]. Support that such objects might have been manufactured on site comes from the recovery of crucible fragments and copper slag from pits [4100], [4103], [4177] and [4232]. Crucible fragments were also recovered from [4100] and [4103].

Similarly the production of iron can be inferered from the presence of iron slag recovered from [4100] and [4232], and hammer scale from [4026] and [4113].

Leather working
Nineteen bone tools were recovered from the pits including awls, possibly for leatherworking from [4031], [4187] and [4288]. Highly polished animal long bones from [4288], [4113] and [4061] were possibly used for burnishing leather.

Weaving
Evidence for weaving from a spindle whorl from [4229], loom weights from [4055] and [4099] and a bone weaving tool from [4040].

Animal Bone
In excess of 1,509 complete and fragmentary remains of animal bone were recovered, with ovicaprid the largest group. Cattle formed the second largest group. Horse bones were mostly recovered as single bones. The remains of three foetal pigs from [4036] and what has been identified as corvid from [4113] were probably articulated when deposited. An articulated rodent from [4157] identified as water vole might have fallen into the pit whilst open or been specially deposited. Possible water vole bones were also recovered from [4002], [4010], [4051], [4061], [4059], [4127] and [4264].

Articulated vertebrae from [4211] might have been specially deposited but the pit group [4220] of which [4211] was one of thirteen pits, was otherwise relatively poor in material culture. This pit also contained the largest quantity of pottery in the group with 192 sherds recovered and the remains could have been butchery waste from feasting.

Evidence for hunting from the very small quantity of deer bones is tenuous.

Species	Number
Cattle	316
Horse	29
Ovicaprid	775
Pig	173
Large mammal	6
Medium mammal	16
Small mammal	14
Dog	12
Deer	3
Red Deer	1
Rodent	48
Bird	77 (30 bones from one Corvid)
Frog	34
Uncertain	5

Water Voles
A lot of rodents have been identified as water voles in the pits. They were very common in the past and it's not surprising that we have them at Marcham but did they have any special significance to IA people, with their watery connection and with at least one of the entrances to their burrows below water. Were they put in the pits as special deposits? A couple of water vole bones were found at Segsbury Camp hillfort

nearby on the Ridgeway, which is a less likely place to find them and they must have been brought in.

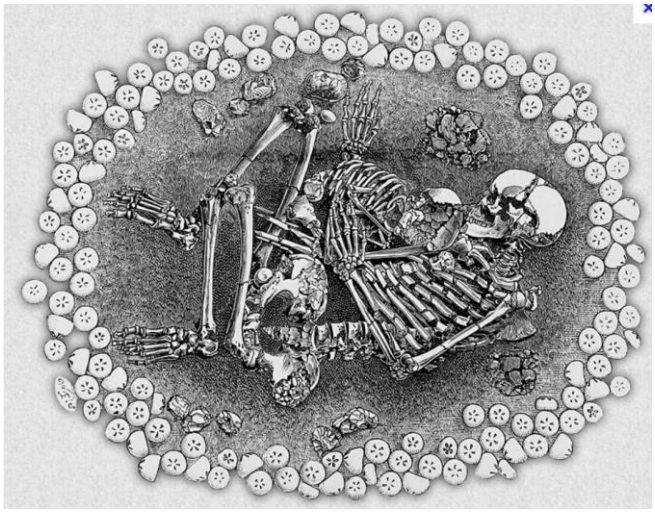
Fossils

The fossil echinoids recovered from the pits should be considered as special deposits. Twenty-five echinids, twenty four of which were *micraster* sp. were recovered from pits and graves in Trench 4. A further fossil echinoid ('fairy loaf') from Tr 5 (5036) was cut and perforated. Fossils such as these are found through all periods and across the world where they are interpreted as having a spiritual or magical significance. Some examples:

From the excavation of the nearby late Roman/Saxon cemetery:

"The only other objects found in the graves were a number of echini (fossil sea-urchins). I was at first inclined to think that they had been placed there on purpose, and Mr. Henry Balfour suggested to me that as they are known as * fairy loaves ' in some parts of the country they may have been conventionalized offerings to the dead, taking the place of food. Further experience of the site has inclined me rather to the view that the presence of these fossils was due purely to chance, as they do occur in the rock. We have in a few cases found them in situ but they were certainly more common in the graves than elsewhere, and the fact that they appear to have been placed opposite the joints of the skeleton would seem to suggest that there was some method employed in the arrangement." (Dudley-Buxton, L. 1920. Excavations at Frilford. *Antiquaries Journal*, 1, 87–97).

An early example elsewhere in the country came from an Early Bronze Age burial site on Dunstable Downs where one hundred Cretaceous echinoids were discovered arranged in a circle around the skeletons of a woman and child. Two hundred were found in total from the mound and of two types, the 'fairy loaf' *Ananchytes ovatus* and the other *Micraster coranguinum*. It is considered that the use of these fossils in such a context, points to them being according spiritual significance and possibly indicates that they were considered to have a value in the after-life. The illustration here is by the early twentieth century archaeologist Worthington George Smith:



"Fossilised animals were sometimes included as amulets in conversion-period graves, in particular echinoids or fossilised sea urchins composed of flint. There are only two examples reported from later medieval burials in Britain, and both come from infants' graves. An echinoid comes from the Jewish cemetery at Winchester (Hampshire), in use between 1177 and 1290. The excavated area was reserved for children, with infants representing 48 out of 88 interments. One infant had a fossil sea urchin placed near the skull." (Gilchrist, R. 2008. *Magic for the dead? The archaeology of magic in later medieval burials.)*

A flint echinoid mounted in bronze was found in a Roman Iron Age grave in Denmark, showing that fossil echinoids were used as amulets very early on. In England, a flint echinoid was found in a pottery bowl along with a portion of a Neolithic flint axehead, from an Early Iron Age cremation site in Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells. Oakley suggested that echinoids were important elements of Romano-Celtic religious beliefs (Oakley, K.P. 1974. Folklore of fossils. *The New York Paleontological Society Notes* . 5 (1-2):11-20.)

Stratigraphy

Individual Pits

Eighteen discrete pits were identified varying in depth from 0.11m [4204], a pit in the north-west of the trench to 0.75m [4288] to 0.95m [4165], a pit in the south-west. The individual pits provided the most secure contexts, undisturbed by later recutting.

Pit [4002]
Approximately circular, cut into bedrock (4001), 1.37m E-W by 1.32m N-S. Almost vertical sides sloping inwards towards the bottom with is concave. Maximum depth 0.25m. Single fill (4003)/(4143) a blackish-grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks and inclusions of flint and burnt stone, *Micraster* sp
Prehistoric Pottery: 37 sherds. 29 coarseware, 7 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 4 fragments. 3 sheep/goat, 1 small mammal
Small Finds: Copper alloy strip <243>, Copper alloy strip <253>

Pit [4004]
Sub-circular cut 1.14m by 1.24m. Vertical sides with slightly concave bottom, depth 0.13m cut into bedrock. Heavily truncated with a single fill (4005)/(4142), a brownish-grey silty sand with limestone inclusions and charcoal flecks
Prehistoric Pottery: 93 sherds. 78 coarseware, 15 fineware
Animal Bone: 6 fragments. 4 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 1 rodent

Pit [4016]
Circular cut 1.6m in diameter with sloping sides onto a concave base 0.2m deep at the centre, cut into bedrock. Single fill (4017), a light greyish-brown gritty, sandy silt with inclusions of limestone varying in size up to 4cm and flecks of charcoal.
Prehistoric Pottery: 65 sherds. 61 coarseware, 3 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 4 fragments and complete bones. 3 sheep/goat, 1 small mammal

Pit [4026]
Lying almost centrally within the trench, a sub-circular cut 1.43m N-S, 1.60m E-W, 0.42m deep. Vertical sides with level base cut into bedrock. Three fills, (4027), (4117), (4118).

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Top fill (4027) greyish-brown silty sand 70:30, 28-30cm thick, with traces of hammerscale and inclusions of charcoal and stone including two burnt stones approximately 15cm. Large amounts of pottery including a fragment from a large, rimmed vessel and a horse skull which had been placed upside down on top of stones, some of which were burnt. The stones surrounding the skull appeared to be supporting it.
Prehistoric Pottery: 197 sherds. 178 coarseware, 16 fineware, 3 decorated
Animal Bone: 40 fragments and complete bone, 8 sheep/goat, 3 cattle, 3 pig, 1 horse, 4 rodent, 21 burnt fragments of bone
Small Finds: <124> Pot sherd with hole <167> daub with wattle imprint

Middle fill (4117) a greyish-brown sandy silt, *c.* 10% stones up to 5cm in size, with inclusions of charcoal and shell, 10-18cm thick. Two *micraster* sp. recovered.
Prehistoric Pottery: 34 sherds. 30 coarseware, 4 decorated
Animal Bone: 1 fragment of sheep/goat, 1 fragment of sheep horn

Bottom fill (4118) Blackish-brown silt forming a shallow dome-shape at the base of the pit 2-6cm thick. Approximately 2 percent charcoal inclusions and two small deposits of yellow clay.
Prehistoric Pottery: 25 sherds. 21 coarseware, 4 fineware
Animal Bone: 3 fragments. 2 sheep/goat, 1 bird

Pit [4038]
1.2m in diameter at the surface. Irregular sides and base which sloped inwards to a depth of 0.25m. Stepped in the south, cut into bedrock. Heavily truncated with two surviving fills.

Top fill (4039) a grey-brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions and fragments of charcoal and charcoal flecks.
Prehistoric Pottery: 42 sherds. 39 coarseware, 1 fineware, 2 decorated
Animal Bone: 6 fragments. 4 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 1 pig.

Bottom fill (4089), a yellow silty sand with small flecks of charcoal and a large number of limestone inclusions.
Prehistoric Pottery: 1 sherd of prehistoric coarseware
Animal Bone: None
Small Finds: Bead/amulet <173>

Pit [4040]
Approximately 1.5m wide but appearing closer to 1.9m in plan owing to a possible slight recut on its western edge. Maximum depth 0.35m with almost vertical sides and a level base cut into but not through bedrock. In the NW a limestone outcrop had been left in situ. Single fill (4041)/(4094)/(4114), a grey-brown sandy silt with

limestone inclusions and charcoal flecks. Pottery was concentrated from the upper part of the fill. Within this fill a cluster of stones (4093) was originally identified as a posthole cut in on NW edge.
Prehistoric Pottery: 115 sherds. 103 coarseware, 12 fineware
Animal Bone: 20 fragments. 9 sheep/goat, 9 cattle, 2 horse (PII, PIII).
Small Finds: Copper alloy ring <179>. millstone grit quernstone with evidence of burning on one side <169>, Fe knife blade fragment <277>, Bone weaving tool <584>, Finger ring <191>

Pit [4043]
Oval cut with a maximum width of 1.75m NW-SE, 1.5m SW-NE. Uneven base cut into but not through bedrock, maximum depth 0.3m. Cut in the S by ditch [4091] (slot 4109). Two fills (4044), (4227).

Top fill (4044) a dark blackish brown silt with lenses of yellow clay, 10cm thick. Inclusions of poorly sorted limestone and up to 10 percent charcoal flakes.
Prehistoric Pottery: 54 sherds. 51 coarseware, 3 fineware
Animal Bone: 19 fragments and complete bones. 6 sheep/goat (one calcined), 3 frog, 10 fragments of burnt medium mammal
Small finds: Copper alloy sheet fragment <380>

Bottom fill (4227) a dark brownish grey silty sand 10-20cm thick with patches of clay and 1-2 percent charcoal flecks. The fill became stonier towards the bottom with stones of between 12-25cm lying on the bottom of the pit.
Prehistoric Pottery: 43 fragments. 31 coarseware, 11 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 31 fragments and complete bones: 15 sheep/goat, 11 of which are burnt and including 1 horn fragment, 2 cattle including 1 horn fragment, 1 frog, 13 fragments of burnt bone of medium mammal.

Pit [4045]
Circular cut 1.7m in diameter and 0.34m deep into bedrock with vertical sides. Three fills (4046), (4082), (4083). (4082) was shown to lie either side of (4083) suggesting (4083) cuts through this deposit, although no separate cut was assigned. Alternatively (4082) in the E and W could be two separate deposits tipped in from the edge of the pit and were earlier than (4083)

Top fill (4046) comprises a dark brownish-black sandy silt between 10-22cm thick where excavated with small charcoal flecks and one piece of charcoal.
Prehistoric Pottery: 51 sherds. 45 coarseware, 6 fineware.
Animal Bone: 6 sheep, 1 pig, 8 burnt fragments only identified to medium mammal.

Fill (4083) light greyish-brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks reaching a maximum thickness of 33cm at the centre towards the bottom of the pit, the deposit forming a shallow U-shape in section. Around the edge of the pit it overlies 4082.
Prehistoric Pottery: 27 sherds. 24 coarseware, 3 fineware.
Animal Bone: 3 fragments. 1 sheep/goat, 2 cattle.

Fill (edge of pit) (4082) Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks and limestone cobbles, some of which were burnt.
Prehistoric Pottery: 50 sherds. 43 coarseware, 7 fineware.
Animal Bone: 5 fragments. 3 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 1 horse.

Pit [4047]/[4126]
Oval cut only seen as a shallow scoop in section when excavating ditch [4091]. Approximately 1.6m E-W, 1.1m N-S, 0.1m deep. It cuts ditch [4091] in the S. Single fill (4125)/(4048) up to 80 percent compacted limestone within a grey-black silty sand matrix.
Prehistoric Pottery: 9 sherds prehistoric coarseware
Animal Bone: Single sheep bone

Pit [4053] Sub-circular cut 1.5m in diameter W-E, 1.62m N-S, 0.09m deep. Side cut almost vertical in the W but slopes gradually in the E to a flat base. Single fill (4054) a mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal.
Prehistoric Pottery: None
Animal Bone: None

Pit [4070]
Small circular cut approximately 1.2m in diameter and 0.67m deep which cut into and through the bedrock (4001) into natural sand (4134). Vertical sides and flat base. Two fills (4071), (4081).

Top fill (4071) comprised a dark brown, highly organic fine silt with some bioturbation. Maximum thickness 0.26m. Inclusions of limestone cobbles, some burnt, charcoal flecks and fragments of degraded pot and iron? at a depth of 10mm, occurred mostly in the west of the context.
Prehistoric Pottery: 33 sherds. 32 coarseware, single sherd of fineware
Animal bone: Single cattle bone fragment.

Bottom fill (4081) a dark reddish-brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions and charcoal flecks.
Prehistoric Pottery: 73 sherds. 67 coarseware, 6 fineware.
Human Bone: Infant ulna
Animal Bone: 5 fragments. 4 sheep/goat, single cattle bone.

Pit [4076]
Circular pit 1.6m in diameter, 0.12m deep in SW, 0.05m deep in NW where it was considered to be damaged during topsoil stripping. Single fill (4077) dark brown with flecks of charcoal throughout and 1.0-6.5cm rounded river pebbles, some burnt.
Prehistoric Pottery: 28 sherds. 20 coarseware, 8 fineware
Animal Bone: 1 fragment sheep/goat, 1 complete bone cattle

Pit [4157]
Oval cut 2.0m N-S, 1.04m E-W. Vertical sides down to 20cm in S and N but then sloping inwards in the N where it is cut vertically for a further 10cm on to a sloping base with a maximum depth of 0.45m deep. It lies on the interface of solid bedrock (4001) in the S and a thinner, more degraded natural surface (4201) in the N. It has four fills, (4158), (4231), (4249), (4250).

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

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Top fill (4158) a reddish-brown sandy silt with less than 1% gritty limestone inclusions and charcoal 1-3cm. A deposit or tightly clustered irregularly shaped limestone fragments lying on ironstones? was concentrated toward the centre of the pit, as seen in half-section. Maximum thickness 20cm.
Prehistoric Pottery: 193 sherds. 167, coarseware, 24 fineware, 3 decorated
Animal Bone: 23 fragments. 10 sheep/goat, 6 cattle, 1 dog, 2 bird, 2 rodent, 2 frog

Middle fill (4231) Mid blackish-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal inclusions and small limestone fragments and river pebbles and daub with clear wattle marks. At the bottom of the context there was a pile of stones placed on to the bedrock in the S. Maximum thickness 10cm
Prehistoric Pottery: 260 sherds. 230 coarseware, 26 fineware, 4 decorated.
Human Bone: Adult molar (M3)
Animal bone: 43 fragments and complete bones. 25 sheep/goat, 3 cattle, 7 pig, 1 bird, 1 rodent, 6 small mammal

Bottom fills (4249) in the S and (4250) lie adjacent to each other on different geologies and it is uncertain if these are the same deposit that has been influenced by the underlying geology and post-depositional processes. An articulated rodent was said to lie across both contexts and recorded under (4250) has been identified as possibly water vole. (4249) A blackish-brown sandy silt, 8cm thick, lying between limestones 6-9cm in size.
Prehistoric Pottery: 14 sherds. 11 coarseware, 3 fineware
Animal Bone: None

(4250) a dark reddish-brown sandy clay silt, maximum 0.12cm thick, the clay appeared to be geological, relating to the bedrock. Some daub recovered. Three yellow clay lenses within the deposit.
Prehistoric Pottery: 13 sherds. 10 coarseware, 3 fineware
Roman Pottery: 1 sherd
Animal Bone: 1 fragment pig, 10 water vole, 22 fragments from assorted small mammals

Pit [4165]
Large pit, partially underlying the baulk in the W of the trench. Where visible it measured 95cm across and 0.95m deep. Flat base, possibly cut though bedrock (4001) into sandy lens (4143) beneath. Where excavated it had two fills (4166) and (4315).

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Top fill (4166) a dark yellowish-brown silty sand with a large number of limestone inclusions, 73cm thick. micraster sp. fossil
Prehistoric Pottery: 221 sherds. 207 coarseware, 14 fineware.
Human Bone: Adult M2

Animal Bone: 41 mostly fragments. 25 sheep/goat, 1 burnt, 4 pig, 3 cattle, 9 frog bones seen as an assemblage when dug and from the same animal which had probably fallen in when the pit was open.
Small Finds: Flint blade <537>

(4315) On the S side of the pit extending from the top to the bottom of the pit with narrow layers running into (4166) and similar in composition but with fewer limestone inclusions. This was possibly a lens of material within (4166).
Prehistoric Pottery: 12 sherds of pottery, 9 coarseware, 3 fineware.
Animal Bone: Single cattle bone.

Pit [4204]
Circular cut 1.03m in diameter with vertical sides down to a flat, but uneven base at 0.11m cut into bedrock. It has a single fill (4205) a mid greyish-black silty clay with limestone inclusions and occasional fragments of charcoal.
Prehistoric Pottery: 7 sherds. 6 coarseware, 1 fineware
Animal Bone: None

Pit [4229]
Circular cut 1.4m in diameter. 0.35m deep. Sloping sides down to a flat base cut into bedrock. Two fills (4230), (4242).

(4242) a dark brown-black clay with charcoal inclusions, with charcoal greater on the W side, and small pieces of limestone. Up to 20cm thick around the sides, maximum 5cm at the base. The deposit appears to line the pit around the sides and base and underlying (4230). This has possibly resulted from a silting of the pit, suggesting the pit was left open for some considerable time.
Prehistoric Pottery: 57 sherds. 41 coarseware, 15 fineware, 1 decorated
Roman Pottery: 2 sherds
Animal Bone: 4 fragments sheep/goat
Small Finds: shale fragment <476>, Pottery spindle whorl <570>

(4230) Mid brown silty sand, 30cm thick towards the centre. Some limestone inclusions 1-15cm in size with small amounts of charcoal and burnt stone.
Prehistoric Pottery: 82 sherds. 54 coarseware, 26 fineware, 2 decorated
Animal Bone: 34 mostly fragments. 17 sheep/goat, 5 cattle, 1 horse, 7 pig, 3 bird, 1 rodent.

Pit [4243]
Oval cut 1.6m E-W 1.4m N-S with sloping sides and flat base cut into but not through bedrock with a ledge of bedrock in the E. Depth 0.33m. Single fill (4244) a light greyish-brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions some of which were burnt and small amounts of charcoal and burnt pot, possibly hearth deposits.
Prehistoric Pottery: 95 sherds. 87 coarseware, 8 fineware
Animal Bone: 11 fragments. 5 sheep/goat, 6 cattle
Small Finds: Bone spatula shaped object <475>

Pit [4251/4258]

Circular cut 1.2m in diameter, 0.22m deep cut into bedrock. Vertical sides sloping towards a concave base. A silty wash around the sides suggest the pit was left open for some time. Single fill (4259)/(4252), a mid-dark brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions in central part of context, 2-5 cm in size.
Prehistoric Pottery: 92 sherds. 71 coarseware, 7 fineware, 14 decorated
Roman Pottery: 1 sherd
Animal Bone: 11, mostly fragments. 5 sheep/goat, 5 pig, 1 dog

Pit [4288]
Approximately circular pit 1.45m at the surface, 1.7m at the base which was slightly concave coming down onto natural sand, depth of 0.75m. Five fills (4289), (4301), (4306), (4308), (4321).

Top fill (4289), a dark blackish-brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions, some of which were burnt on one side and 15 per cent charcoal. Deposit approximately 30cm thick extending across the entire pit and overlying (4301) and (4306).
Prehistoric Pottery: 79 sherds. 71 coarseware with 8 fineware.
Animal Bone: 16 mostly fragments. 9 sheep/goat, 6 cattle, 1 pig.
Small Finds: Bone awl <563>.

(4306) This fill is possibly slumped material or a deposit thrown in from the side before (4289) and (4301). It comprised tightly packed stones, some burnt and between 5-24cm, slumping to the E within a matrix of black silt and lenses of ashy blue-grey clay. Maximum thickness in W 42cm tapering into the pit, with the largest concentration of stones at the pit edge. The stones appeared to be roughly dressed and possibly the remains of a hearth.
Prehistoric Pottery: None.
Animal Bone: None.

(4301) Underlies (4289) and lies against (4306) in the W. Mid brownish-black sandy silt with charcoal patches and lenses of ash. Maximum thickness 30cm.
Prehistoric Pottery: 17 sherds. 14 coarseware, 3 fineware.
Animal Bone: 8 mostly fragments. 6 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 1 pig.

(4308) Overlies bottom fill (4321), slumping over it in the W and reaching to the bottom of the pit. It comprised a dark silty sand 5-15cm thick with occasional clay lenses, charcoal and limestone inclusions.
Prehistoric Pottery: 12 sherds. 10 coarseware, 2 decorated.
Animal Bone: 23 mostly fragments. 21 sheep/goat, 2 cattle.
Small Finds: Flint core <534>, Polished cattle bone <581>.

Bottom fill (4321) Uneven deposit of between 5-20cm thick, with the thickest deposit towards the centre. Brownish yellow silty sand with 40% sand. Inclusions of limestone and a large number of charcoal fragments 1-4mm.
Prehistoric Pottery: 6 sherds of prehistoric coarseware.
Animal Bone: None

Intercutting Pits (without group numbers)

Pits [4018], [4020], [4284]

Pit [4018]
Now cut by [4284] in the E and original form unknown. Maximum width 0.8m and 0.46m deep with a convex base cut into bedrock. It has a single fill (4019) a dark greyish-brown sandy silt with angular limestone inclusions 0.5-7cm, slag and 3-5% charcoal. Single *micraster* fossil recovered.

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Prehistoric Pottery: 165 sherds. 139 coarseware, 2 fineware, 4 decorated
Animal Bone: 16 fragments and complete bone. 12 sheep/goat, 3 cattle, 1 rodent
Human Bone: 2 phalanges
Small Finds: Copper alloy strip <496>, saddle quern <533>

Pit [4020]
Circular cut 1.6m in diameter and between 0.2m-0.3m deep. Vertical sides with a slightly concave base, onto but not through bedrock. It cuts [4284] in the W to a depth of 0.3m. Single fill (4021) a mid brown silty-sand with a small quantity of flint. It partially overlies (4324) the bottom fill of [4284].
Prehistoric Pottery: 118 sherds. 89 coarseware, 28 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 10 fragments and complete bones. 7 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 2 pig
Human Bone: prenatal 40 weeks, 3 bones
Small Finds: Flint blade <514>

Pit [4284]
Oval cut 1.1m long by 0.9m wide with a depth of 0.6-0.7m. Where the pit has not been cut by [4020] it appears to have had a sloping side in the E onto a level base cut into the bedrock. Vertical side in the W where it cuts [4018]. Two fills (4285), (4324).

Top fill (4285) a dark greyish brown sandy silt between 30-39cm thick. Inclusions of limestone 0.5-7cm and some charcoal. Single *micraster* fossil recovered
Prehistoric Pottery: 75 Sherds. 58 coarseware, 14 fineware, 3 decorated
Animal Bone: None
Small Finds: Saddle quern <540>

Bottom fill [4324] mid brown silt 30-35cm thick with limestone and charcoal inclusions. A concentration of 5 limestone cobbles between 5-10cm lay on the bottom of the pit. It underlies (4021) the fill of [4020] in the E.
Prehistoric Pottery: 31 sherds of coarseware
Animal Bone: None

Pits [4012], [4014], [4065], [4245]

Series of four intercutting pits running approximately SW-NE.

Pit [4012]
Oval in plan 1.42m at its widest point. Flat base cut into bedrock. This pit cuts [4014] in the SW. Single fill (4013) a light greyish-brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions up to 10cm and charcoal flecks.

Prehistoric Pottery: 38 sherds. 31 coarseware, 6 fineware, 1 decorated
Human Bone: possibly infant but unable to locate
Animal bone: None

Pit [4014]
Circular pit approximately 1.5m in diameter but later cut by [4012] and [4065]. Flat base down to bedrock 0.1m deep. Single fill (4015) a light greyish-brown sandy and gritty silt with occasional flecks of charcoal. Approximately 40 per cent limestone inclusions 2-3cm in size. One fragment of burnt stone 15cm by 10cm.
Prehistoric Pottery: 27 sherds. 23 coarseware, 4 fineware.
Animal Bone: 3 fragments sheep/goat, 2 pig teeth, 2 dog teeth.

Pit [4065]
Probably oval in plan cut at the surface by [4245] but underlies it in the E at the bottom 20cm of the pit. Maximum dimensions 1.70m E-W, 1.14m N-S, width at base of pit 1.75m. Side cut almost vertical in the W down to the maximum depth of 82cm. Flat base cutting through bedrock into sand (4134). It contains three fills, (4066), (4269), (4281).

Top fill (4066), a grey-brown silty sand with a small amount of clay, charcoal flecks, chalk and limestone inclusions, 22cm thick. Single micraster sp. fossil recovered
Fill truncated by cut of [4245].
Prehistoric Pottery: 17 sherds. 12 fineware, 5 decorated.
Animal Bone: 14 fragments. 5 sheep/goat, 5 cattle, 2 pig, 1 bird, 1 medium mammal.

Middle fill (4269) Medium orange-brown sandy silt and limestone gravel. Inclusions of irregular limestone blocks up to 20cm, some burnt. Deposit 35cm thick. Fill truncated by cut of [4245]
Prehistoric Pottery: 69 sherds. 57 coarseware, 12 fineware.
Animal bone: 6 fragments. 2 sheep/goat, 3 cattle, 1 pig.

Bottom fill (4281) Medium yellow brown sandy silt with small amount of limestone inclusions up to 20cm in size and charcoal flecks, 25cm thick.
Prehistoric Pottery: None
Animal Bone: 1 fragment of pig bone.

Pit [4245]
Sub-circular pit 0.7m N-S with vertical sides and flat base cut into and in some areas through bedrock into sand. Depth 0.52m. It cuts [4065] in the E. Two fills (4246) and (4257).

(4257) was possibly an erosion layer or wash which lined the pit and would offer an explanation as to why a sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the bottom of the pit. Fill (4246) a 35cm thick deposit of medium-brown sandy silt. Small number of limestone inclusions up to 5cm and some limestone gravel and charcoal fragments.
Prehistoric Pottery: 32 sherds. 18 coarseware, 14 fineware.
Roman Pottery: 1 sherd
Animal Bone: 3 fragments sheep/goat.

Fill (4257) a limestone wash, probably an erosion layer around the pit edge up to 20cm wide in the E, which suggests the pit was left open.
Prehistoric Pottery: 13 sherds. 10 coarseware, 3 fineware.
Roman Pottery: 1 sherd
Animal Bone: None.

Pit [4022] and [4024]

Two pits the most westerly [4022] just clipping the edge of [4024] and possibly later. Relatively few finds from the three fills of [4022]. [4024] had a single pottery-rich fill (4025) with what appeared to be placed deposits of stone in the west and centre of the pit, some of which were burnt.

Pit [4022]
Oval pit 2.4m N-S, 1.9m E-W, 0.55m deep with vertical sides and a flat base on to bedrock. Excavated in 2010 before the trench was extended and only a small part of the visible pit was recorded, the remainder lying under the baulk. It just cuts or is cut by [4024] on its eastern edge. Three fills (4023), (4119), (4135).

Upper fill (4023) a dark reddish brown sandy silt with limestone and charcoal flecks throughout and some larger limestone fragments up to 3cm. Maximum thickness where excavated 22cm.
Prehistoric Pottery: 42 sherds. 33 coarseware, 8 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 2 bones sheep/goat

Middle fill (4119) Dark brown sandy silt with charcoal and limestone flecks and a small number of stones with a maximum thickness 30cm around the side of the pit where it reaches the base of the pit but 8cm thick (4135) in the centre where it overlies a mounded deposit (4135).
Prehistoric Pottery: 39 sherds. 31 coarseware, 6 fineware, 2 decorated
Animal Bone: 3 fragments. 2 sheep/goat, 1 pig

Bottom fill (4135) has the appearance of a dump of large and small stones up to 20cm in a matrix of reddish-brown silty sand with narrow clay lenses. It forms a mound in the centre of the pit where seen in section and is overlain on all sides by (4119).
Prehistoric Pottery: 4 sherds of coarseware
Animal Bone: None

Pit [4024]
Oval pit 2.1m E-W, 1.9m N-S 0.34m deep. Vertical sides down to a level base cut into bedrock. It cuts or is cut by [4022]. Single fill (4025) a dark reddish brown sandy silt with charcoal and limestone flecks. Two concentrations of stones, one on the west side of the pit at 10cm depth comprising four burnt stones 5cm in diameter and seven stones at 2.5cm in diameter. The second deposit lay east of the centre with four irregular shaped stones up to 15cm, 10 at 5cm and 20 at 3cm with further embedded in the section. A deposit of yellow clay mixed with a darker deposit lay in the N close to the pit edge to a depth of 21cm, which overlay a dark humic deposit. Four *micraster* sp. recovered (only two now in collection).

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Prehistoric Pottery: 200 sherds. 168 coarseware, 23 fineware, 9 decorated
Roman Pottery: 6 sherds
Animal Bone: 26 fragments and complete bone, 7 sheep/goat, 2 cattle, 1 horse, 2 bird (one chicken spur), 1 rodent, 12 burnt fragments medium mammal
Small Finds: Copper alloy fragment <196>

Pits [4049], [4051], [4131]

Small cluster of three pits, the earliest [4131], the latest [4051]. The two earlier pits were shallow at 0.15-0.2m deep with the later pit [4051] cutting through the earlier pits to a depth of 0.33m.

Pit [4049]
Oval cut 1.7m NW-SE by approximately 1.2m SW-NE but cut in the NE by [4051] and in the N by [4131]. Side cut vertically in the SE down to a level base cut into bedrock. Maximum depth 0.2m in the SE. Single fill (4050) a black-grey silt with limestone inclusions and deposits of slag. This is the earliest pit in the sequence.
Prehistoric Pottery: 90 sherds. 71coarseware, 14 fineware, 5 decorated
Animal Bone: 8 fragments and complete bones. 4 sheep/goat, 3 cattle, 1 pig
Small Finds: Quernstone <185>

Pit [4051]
Circular cut 1.18m in diameter, 0.33m deep. Vertical sides with a gently sloping base cut into bedrock. It cuts [4131] in the NW and [4049] in the S and is the latest pit in the sequence. Single fill (4052) a mid blackish-brown gritty silty sand. Inclusions of well-sorted limestone 2-3cm in size and occasional charcoal. Within the fill is a lens of very fine black ash. Skull of sheep/goat.
Prehistoric Pottery: 143 sherds. 122 coarseware, 17 fineware, 4 decorated
Animal Bone: 24 fragments and complete bone, 15 sheep/goat, 5 cattle, 1 dog, 3 possible water vole.

Pit [4131]
Possibly once circular now mostly cut into in the E by [4051]. Approximately 0.9m in diameter, 0.15m deep. Sloping sides and a concave base cut into bedrock giving a shallow U-shaped profile. Second pit in the sequence. Single fill (4138) 80 percent well sorted and compacted limestone within a light brownish-yellow silty sand matrix. Deposits of brownish red clay in SW of pit.
Prehistoric Pottery: None
Animal Bone: None

Pits [4055], [4057], [4121]
Three intercutting pits, the earliest [4121] obliterated at the surface by later, intercutting pits and only seen in section. Three infant bones recovered from the [4055] the second pit in the sequence, also a loom weight and two Roman coins, probably residual from later activity on the site.

Pit [4121]
The earliest in the sequence of three intercutting pits. It underlies and is cut by [4055] and [4057]. Original form unknown as it was not visible at the surface. Dimension

where excavated 1.57m wide, vertical sides, depth 0.3m where it underlies [4057], and 0.16m where it underlies [4055]. Slightly undulating base where it cut through bedrock into sand. Single fill (4122) a mid-yellowish-brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks and occasional limestone. The fill is truncated by the cut of the two later pits.
Prehistoric Pottery: 32 sherds. 26 coarseware, 5 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 9 fragments and complete bone. 4 sheep/goat, 4 cattle, 1 dog molar

Pit [4055]
The second in the sequence of pits. Oval cut 2.2m NW-SE by 1.4m SW by NE, maximum 0.35m deep where it cuts fill (4122) of [4121] forming a level base. It is cut in the N by [4057]. Single fill (4056) a mid reddish-brown sandy silt 20-30cm thick with small charcoal flecks and inclusions of small limestone cobbles, some burnt. A loom weight was recovered from the top of the fill.
Prehistoric Pottery: 104 sherds. 93 coarseware, 11 fineware
Roman Pottery: 2 sherds
Animal Bone: None
Human Bone: 3 bones, infant 3-6 months
Small Finds: Loom weight <181>

Pit [4057]
The latest in the sequence of pits. Circular cut 1.18m in diameter. Sloping sides forming a U-shaped profile with maximum depth 0.2m. It cuts both [4121] and [4055]. Single fill (4158) mid reddish-brown sandy silt with inclusions of burnt limestone between 7-16cm in size recovered from the base of the pit.
Prehistoric Pottery: 45 sherds. 41 coarseware, 4 fineware
Animal Bone: 5 fragments. 1 sheep/goat, 3 cattle, 1 pig

Pits [4247] and [4297]

Pit [4247]
Circular cut 1.3m in diameter and 0.35m deep. The sides are almost vertical but cut irregularly. The base is irregular and concave and cut into bedrock. It appeared to have a single fill (4283), a dark greyish brown silty loam, which lies either side of later cut [4297] and at the surface had the appearance of a rim around (4282).
Prehistoric Pottery: 2 sherds. 1 coarseware, 1 fineware
Roman Pottery: 3 sherds
Animal Bone: 1 fragment sheep/goat

Pit [4297]
Appears to cut centrally through (4283) the fill of [4247]. Sloping sides 1.2m at the surface, 0.55m at the bottom where it cut into the bedrock forming a flat base. 0.4m deep. Two fills (4248), (4282).

Top fill (4248) a dark greyish brown sandy silt with homogenous spread of charcoal fragments throughout, 28cm thick. It is uncertain if this was a fill or a capping layer for both [4247] and [4297]. Single *micraster* fossil recovered and an infant inhumation although this was not recognised during excavation and recovered from animal bone.
Prehistoric Pottery: 102 sherds. 84 coarseware, 18 fineware.
Human Bone: Infant bones probably representing a once complete inhumation

Animal Bone: 19 fragments. 4 sheep/goat, 4 cattle, 4 pig, 2 horse, 1 bird, 4 fragments of calcined sheep bone

Bottom fill (4282) Dark greyish brown silty loam with limestone inclusions and some charcoal, 18cm thick.
Prehistoric Pottery: 39 sherds. 35 coarseware, 2 fineware, 2 decorated.
Animal Bone: 3 fragments. 1 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 1 pig
Human Bone: 2 fragments. rib and tibia of neonate. Probably same infant as fill (4282)

Pits [4067], [4151]

Two intercutting pits the latest being [4151] which cut centrally through fill (4068) of earlier pit [4067]. Large number of pottery sherds from [4067] (299) but more possibly lost through recutting. The fills of later pit [4151] contained few finds.

Pit [4067]
Irregular shaped cut 1.8m by 2.11m, 50-55cm deep with vertical sides. It contained a single fill (4068), a red-brown sandy silt with inclusions of limestone cobbles and flecks of charcoal. The fill is cut by pit [4151] which also cuts through the base of [4067] and through bedrock (4001) into sand (4134).

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Prehistoric Pottery: 299 sherds. 262 coarseware, 36 fineware, 1 decorated.
Animal Bone: 20 fragments and complete bones, 12 sheep/goat, 4 cattle, 4 pig

Pit [4151]
Circular cut approximately 1.2m wide and 50cm deep with vertical sides and a level base, cut through bedrock and sand into secondary bedrock (4154). It cuts centrally through (4068) the fill of [4067]. It contained three fills (4086) (4152) and (4330).

Top fill (4086) a light, brownish-yellow sand and fragments of bedrock. This is most probably what was dug out when creating the pit, comprising deposits of the bedrock and natural sand and later used to cap the pit after it was filled. Prehistoric pottery probably incorporated from the surrounding fills when dug.
Prehistoric Pottery: 11 sherds coarseware
Animal Bone: 1 fragment of pig bone.

Middle fill (4330) Between 35-47cm thick where it rises to the surface of the pit. No further information available.
Prehistoric Pottery: None
Animal Bone: None

Bottom fill (4152), brown silty sand up to 0.12cm thick with limestone inclusions.
Prehistoric Pottery: 5 sherds of prehistoric coarseware.
Animal Bone: 1 sheep/goat bone

Pits [4169], [4267], [4313]

Three pits, earliest [4313], latest [4267]

Pit [4169]
Circular pit 0.8m in diameter, 0.2m deep with a concave base. Sides cut vertically except in the N where it is cut by [4267]. Single fill (4170) a dark brown sandy silt with organic material. Approximately 5 per cent poorly sorted angular limestone 2-9cm, charcoal flecks throughout with some larger pieces.
Prehistoric Pottery: 5 sherds. 4 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 8 fragments. 5 sheep/goat, 1 pig, 1 horse, 1 large mammal

Pit [4267]
Sub-circular pit 1.6m N-S, 1.8m E-W, 0.23m deep. Vertical sides with flat bottom cut into bedrock. It cuts [4169] in the S. Single fill (4268) a yellowish brown sandy silt with large amounts of burnt stone, the majority concentrated towards the centre of the pit and occasional charcoal. A single fragment of oyster shell was also recovered.
Prehistoric Pottery: 208 sherds. 202 coarseware, 4 fineware, 2 decorated
Animal Bone: 11 fragments. 4 sheep/goat, 4 cattle, 2 pig, 1 frog.
Human Bone: Infant femur
Small Finds: Worked Flint <512>, Crucible fragment <572>

Pit [4313]
This pit was only seen post-ex. It was shown to be a small oval cut 0.28m E-W, 0.26m N-S, 0.15m deep, vertical side and level base. It is cut in the north by [4169]. It contains a single fill (4314), mid yellowish-brown silty sand 80:20. Inclusions of limestone and flint. As this pit was only seen after excavation the finds would have been included with those of pit [4169].
Prehistoric Pottery: None
Animal Bone: None

Pits [4177] and [4295]

Two pits in the northwest of the trench, the earliest [4177] was later cut by [4295]. Both pits were relatively deep at 0.37m and 0.52m.

Pit [4177]
Circular cut 1.74m in diameter and 0.37m deep. Vertical sides with a slightly concave base. It was cut by [4295] in the NW. It contained two fills (4178), (4226).

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Top fill (4178) a mid-brown silty sand, 0.18m thick with approximately 25% sand with flecks of degraded limestone. Small amounts of charcoal and a larger number of limestone cobbles, some of which were burnt, along with quantities of burnt pottery and charcoal suggest a possible hearth deposit.
Prehistoric Pottery: 35 sherds. 26 fineware, 10 decorated
Animal Bone: 16 fragments and complete bones. 11 sheep/goat, 3 cattle, 1 pig, 1 deer

Small finds: 1 Fe object <375>, 1 worked bone (handle?) <382>, whetstone or burnisher <546>

Bottom fill (4226) a mid-dark brown slightly sandy silt with 5% clay inclusions, small amounts of charcoal and burnt stone 0.19m thick. Pottery found throughout the fill with animal bone mainly concentrated in the S.
Prehistoric Pottery: 119 sherds. 115 coarseware, 1 fineware, 3 decorated
Animal Bone: 8 fragments. 6 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 1 medium mammal
Small Finds: Crucible and copper slag <571>

Pit [4295]
Circular pit 1.37m in diameter, 0.52m deep with vertical sides and a flat base which cuts into, but not through the bedrock. It cuts [4177] in the SE. Two fills (4296), (4305).

Upper fill (4296) a greyish-brown sandy silt with 15% limestone inclusions of between 1-10cm, occasional charcoal and charred pot, 20cm thick.

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Prehistoric Pottery: 92 sherds. 70 coarseware, 19 fineware, 3 decorated
Animal Bone: 5 fragments and complete bone, 3 sheep/goat, 2 cattle

Bottom fill (4305) dark greyish-brown sandy silt with inclusions of burnt stone pot and bone 20cm thick.
Prehistoric Pottery: 126 sherds. 108 coarseware, 17 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 12 fragments. 5 sheep/goat, 2 cattle, 4 pig, 1 fragment of antler
Small Finds: Bone handle fragment <565>

Pits [4028], [4195], [4197]

An alignment of three pits running southwest to northeast. The earliest pit [4195] was cut by [4197] which was later cut by [4028] a shallow scoop 0.1m deep. The deepest of the pits [4195] at 0.45m, contained 259 sherds of pottery, horse and bird bones and a worked bone from its single fill (4196).

Pit [4028]
Sub-circular cut 1.4m E-W, 1.2m N-S, maximum 0.1m deep. Level base, cut into bedrock. It cuts [4197] in the W. Single fill (4029) a grey-brown silt with 3-15% sand.
Prehistoric Pottery: 19 sherds. 17 coarseware, 2 decorated
Animal Bone: 10 fragments. 4 sheep/goat, 1 pig, 1 small mammal, 4 burnt fragments medium mammal

Pit [4195]
Circular cut 1.7m in diameter, 0.45m deep. Vertical sides, sloping towards the bottom to a flat base. It is cut by 4197 in the E. Single fill (4196) a dark-reddish brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks. Small number of stones up to 30cm.

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Prehistoric Pottery: 259 sherds. 241 coarseware, 14 fineware, 4 decorated
Roman Pottery, 1 sherd
Animal Bone: 12 fragments and complete bones. 4 sheep/goat, 3 cattle, 3 pig, 1 horse tibia, 1 bird
Small Finds: Antler toggle/pendant <465>

Pit [4197]
Ovate cut 1.6m N-S, 0.25m deep with a level base. Sloping side in the SW but cut in the E by [4028]. Two fills (4198), (4223).

Top fill (4198) a dark reddish-brown sandy silt with limestone and charcoal flecks throughout, 5-8cm thick. Inclusions of larger stones up to 4cm, some burnt.
Prehistoric Pottery: 44 sherds. 38 coarseware, 8 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 5 fragments. 4 sheep/goat, 1 cattle

Bottom fill (4223) dark brown silty sand with charcoal flecks 15-20cm thick. Two deposits of angular stones in the W and E, 50 percent of which showed burning. These lay within a darker, more organic deposit considered to be part of (4223).
Prehistoric Pottery: 24 sherds. 21 coarseware, 3 fineware
Animal Bone: 3 fragments. 2 sheep/goat, 1 pig

Pits [4253], [4255], [4290]

Alignment of three pits running E-W. The earliest pit appears to be [4255] which was cut by [4290] which in turn was cut by the latest pit [4253]. The three pits were relatively shallow between 0.15-0.2m deep. Cut into but not through bedrock (4001). Each had a single fill and contained a relatively small amount of pottery and very few animal bones. The pits are considered by be heavily truncated although they lie in close proximity to [4163]/[4232] the grave cut for SK25 which at 0.32m deep was finds rich.

Pit [4253]
Circular cut 1.3m in diameter, 0.2m deep. Vertical side in the W, sloping inwards in the E where it cuts [4290]. Base uneven and cut into but not through bedrock. Single fill (4254), a greyish-brown silty sand with flecks of limestone.
Prehistoric Pottery: 30 sherds. 25 coarseware, 5 fineware
Animal Bone: 2 complete bones. 1 sheep/goat, 1 bird

Pit [4255]
Circular cut estimated at 1.2m in diameter and 0.15m deep. Side cut vertically in the W where it is cut by [4290]. Truncated by mechanical digger in the E. Level base cut into but not through bedrock. Single fill (4256) a dark brown sandy silt with localised deposits of charcoal associated with large burnt stones.
Prehistoric Pottery: 47 sherds. 42 coarseware, 5 fineware
Animal Bone: 5 fragments. 4 sheep/goat, 1 cattle

Pit [4290]
Lies centrally between [4255] and [4256]. Circular cut estimated at 1.0m in diameter but cut by [4253] in the W and cuts [4255] in the E. Depth 0.2m. Level base cut into

but not through bedrock. Single fill (4291) a light greyish brown silty sand with flecks of charcoal and limestone inclusions, some burnt.
Prehistoric Pottery: 2 sherds. 1 coarseware, 1 fineware
Animal Bone: None

Pits [4292] and [4302]

Pit [4302]
Small, circular cut underlying the baulk in the N of the trench seen during cleaning back of [4292]. Assigned a fill of (4303) but not excavated and its relationship to [4292] is unknown.

Pit [4302]
Small oval cut 1.0m E-W by 0.6m N-S, 0.2m deep with vertical sides and a flat base cut into but not through bedrock. Its relationship to [4302] is unclear. Single fill (4293) a mid yellowish-brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks.
Prehistoric Pottery: None
Animal Bone: None

Pit Groups

Pit Group [4069] – [4099], [4100], [4103], [4107]/[4127]

4100 is the latest in the group.

Pit [4099]
Circular cut 1.37m in diameter, 0.17m deep. It cuts [4127] in the SE. Single fill (4098) a mid reddish-brown silty sand charcoal flecks. Inclusions of a large number of limestones of between 5-15cm, some burnt.
Prehistoric Pottery: 63 sherds. 58 coarseware, 5 fineware
Animal Bone: 11 fragments and complete bone. 4 sheep/goat, 4 cattle, 1 pig, 2 horse
Small Finds: Fired clay loomweight <194>, Miniature pottery vessel fragment <319>

Pit [4100]
Sub-circular cut 1.2m by 1.6m and 0.82m deep. Vertical sides with a flat base cut into the bedrock (4001), through sand (4134) and into secondary bedrock (4154). It cuts pits [4127]/[4107] in the SE and [4103] in the N. Five fills (4101), (4136), (4144), (4145) (4153).

Top fill (4101) yellowish-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and limestone flecks and angular limestone cobbles up to 8cm, some burnt. 10-14cm thick
Prehistoric Pottery: 118 sherds. 104 coarseware, 12 fineware, 2 decorated
Human Bone: Infant molar
Animal Bone: 31 fragments and complete bones: 17 sheep/goat, 8 cattle, 5 pig, 1 red deer?
Small Finds: Worked bone <176>, Copper alloy slag <317>

Middle fill (4136) underlies (4101) Mid orange-brown silty sand 80:20. Small quantity of orange clay and limestone inclusions, 11-18cm thick. Possible articulating animal bone (cattle?) placed centrally in the pit.

Prehistoric Pottery: 45 sherds. 41 coarseware, 3 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 17 fragments and complete bones. 6 sheep/goat, 11 cattle
Small Finds: Quernstone <241>

Middle fill (4144) underlies (4136). A mid orange-brown sandy silt 80:20, 8-14cm thick. Charcoal flecks and small limestone inclusions, some burnt.
Prehistoric Pottery: 40 sherds. 38 coarseware, 2 fineware
Animal Bone: 3 fragments. 1 sheep/goat, 2 cattle
Small Finds: Fe slag <244>, worked stone <245>

Middle fill (4145) underlies (4144). A brown silty sand 60:40 becoming more orange and sandier at depth, 32-40cm thick. Charcoal flecks throughout and some limestone inclusions. Copper slag
Prehistoric Pottery: 127 sherds. 108 coarseware, 19 fineware
Animal Bone: 17 fragments and complete bone. 10 sheep/goat, 7 cattle
Small Finds: Fe slag <246>

Bottom fill (4153), a mid orange-brown silty sand 85:15, 10-19cm thick. Charcoal inclusions 0.1-0.5cm and limestone, some burnt.
Prehistoric Pottery: 39 sherds. 36 coarseware, 3 fineware
Animal Bone: Single fragment cattle scapula

Pit [4103]
Circular cut in excess of 1.4m in diameter and 0.4m deep. It is cut in the SW by [4100] and possibly cuts ditch [4091] in the N. Vertical sides with an uneven base where the bedrock has not been cut through to the natural sand beneath. It has two fills (4104) and (4137).

Top fill (4104) a mid yellowish-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and 15 percent limestone cobbles, 20-28cm thick. Single *micraster* fossil recovered.
Prehistoric Pottery: 56 sherds. 47 coarseware, 8 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 3 fragments and complete bone. 2 sheep/goat, 1 cattle
Small Finds: Fe object or possibly ironstone <177>, Copper alloy slag <276>

(4137) A yellowish-brown loose silty sand 60:40, 9-12cm thick.
Prehistoric Pottery: 72 sherds. 63 coarseware, 8 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 8 fragments and complete bones. 5 Sheep/goat, 3 pig
Small Finds: Flint blade <274>

Pit [4107]/[4127]
Circular pit 1.63m in diameter, 0.69m deep. Side of pit is concave in the NW and convex in the SE. Flat base cut into but not through bedrock. It is cut by [4099] in the NW and [4100] in the W. Three fills, (4108)/(4128), (4139)/(4140). (4141)/(4155).

Top fill (4108)/(4128) a mid-brown sandy silt with 10-15 percent limestones and occasional flecks of charcoal. Undulating thickness across the pit varying between 4-23cm.
Prehistoric Pottery: 90 sherds. 80 coarseware, 8 fineware, 2 decorated
Animal Bone: 15 fragments and complete bone. 4 sheep/goat, 6 cattle, 4 pig, 1 horse

Middle fill (4139)/(4140) bowl-shaped dump of yellowish-brown sandy silt in the centre of the pit, lying within (4141)/(4155). Maximum thickness at centre 20cm
Prehistoric Pottery: 43 sherds. 36 coarseware, 6 fineware, 1 decorated.
Animal Bone: 1 fragment sheep/goat

Bottom fill (4141)/(4155) reddish brown sandy silt with flecks of charcoal and inclusions of limestone grit and larger limestones up to 5cm. 20cm thick at the centre, 50cm in the SE and 30 in the NW. Lens of iron panning at bottom of fill with a small area of secondary bedrock at centre of pit. *Micraster* sp. found next to an animal jawbone.
Prehistoric pottery: 133 sherds. 108 coarseware, 23 fineware, 2 decorated
Animal Bone: 41 fragments and complete bones. 9 sheep/goat, 7 cattle, 3 pig, 1 horse, 1 dog, 18 bird (possibly same bird), 2 rodent

Pit Group 4133 – [4061], [4063], [4116], [4123]

Pit [4061]
An irregular piriform-shaped cut as seen at the surface, sub-circular in the S and E but extending outwards in the NW. It is possible that part of the ditch might have been mistaken for the extending part of the pit. Maximum width 3.2m, with gently sloping sides and a concave base which cuts into bedrock. It cuts ditch [4091] and gully group[4042] in the N and cuts or is cut by pit [4116] in the SW. Two fills (4062)/(4124), (4149)/(4147).

Top fill (4062)/(4124) a greyish brown sandy silt 18cm thick with a large number of limestone inclusions, charcoal and small flakes of flint.
Prehistoric Pottery: 133 sherds. 125 coarseware, 8 fineware
Animal Bone: 30 fragments and complete bones. 13 sheep/goat, 8 cattle, 3 pig, 2 vole, 1 frog, 3 bird including corvid.
Human Bone: Adult rib
Small Finds: Iron lump <247>, Polished animal bone <273>

Bottom fill (4149)/(4147) Stony yellowish brown silty sand 30:65 40-52cm thick, with 5 percent stone.
Prehistoric Pottery: 43 sherds. 38 coarseware, 5 fineware
Animal Bone: 9 fragments and complete bone. 5 sheep/goat, 4 cattle, 1 small mammal

Pit [4123]
This pit is not shown on plan. The dimensions and location are similar to [4061] but different fills have been recorded for each pit and unable to resolve. Dimensions of [4123] 1.54m wide NE to SW and 0.74m deep with two fills (4124), (4147).

Top fill (4124) Mid yellowish brown silty sand 80:20, 57cm thick with limestone inclusions up to 7.5cm.
Prehistoric Pottery: 41 sherds. 38 coarseware, 3 fineware
Animal Bone: 3 fragments and complete bone. 1 sheep/goat, 2 pig

Bottom fill (4147) Mid orange-brown silty sand 70:30 15cm thick, with 2% limestone inclusions 0.5-15cm in size and occasional charcoal.
Prehistoric Pottery: 6 sherds. 4 coarseware, 2 fineware

Animal Bone: 1 fragment sheep/goat

Pit [4063]
Circular cut 1.52m in diameter, 0.8-0.13m deep. It is cut by pit [4116] in the NE.
Single fill (4064) a dark brownish-grey silty sand 5-12cm thick. Limestone inclusions 5-10cm in size, charcoal, and occasional flint.
Prehistoric Pottery: 96 sherds. 94 coarseware, 2 fineware
Animal Bone: 6 fragments. 5 sheep/goat, 1 bird
Small Finds: <168> Copper alloy ring, animal bone handle <272>

Pit [4116]
Sub-oval cut 1.50m N-S, 1.40m E-W, 0.52m deep. Vertical side in the SW where it cuts [4063], with a level base cut into bedrock. It is cut by [4061] in the NE. Three fills (4115), (4148), (4150).

Top fill (4115) a mid yellowish-brown silty sand 80:20, 8-20cm thick, with small limestone inclusions.
Prehistoric Pottery: 71 sherds. 58 coarseware, 12 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 11 fragments and complete bones. 7 sheep/goat, 2 cattle, 1 pig, 1 bird

Middle fill (4148) Medium yellow brown silty sand 20-27cm thick with 1 per cent limestone and charcoal inclusions. Single *micraster* fossil recovered
Prehistoric Pottery: 35 Sherds. 25 coarseware, 10 fineware
Animal Bone: 3 fragments and complete bones. 2 sheep/goat, 1 pig

Bottom fill (4150) dark orange-brown silty sand 70:30 with 80? Percent limestone inclusons 2-15cm in size, some of which were burnt.
Prehistoric Pottery: 45 sherds. 40 coarseware, 5 fineware
Animal Bone: 5 fragments and complete bone. 3 sheep/goat, 2 pig

Pit Group [4220] – [4030]/[4260], [4031], [4032], [4034], [4074], [4208], [4211], [4213], [4218], [4260], [4262], [4279]. [4298]

Group [4220] is a large pit group with at least 13 intercutting pits clustered in the north of the trench. The latest being [4298], [4261] and [4279]. Further earlier pits were possibly lost through recutting and it is probable that smaller clusters of pits amalgamated over time. Many of the pits were little more than shallow cuts with [4030]/[4260] and [4074] only 0.1m deep

Pit [4030]/[4260]
Shallow pit, oval in plan, 2m N-S, 1.6m E-W, 0.1m deep with vertical side in the E and sloping in the W. Flat base down to natural. Cut in the NE by [4211]. Single fill (4210) a dark yellowish-brown sandy silt 20:80. The deposit is described as 0.27m thick but the pit is only 0.1m deep. However pit [4211] which cuts it in the N is 0.27m deep and (4210) which is possibly the same as (4212), is also described as the fill for this pit. Consequently, the finds below could come from either pit. Large number of stones up to 15cm, some burnt in middle of pit lying across context.

Prehistoric Pottery: 85 sherds. 78 coarseware, 7 fineware
Animal Bone: 14 fragments. 9 sheep/goat, 2 cattle, 2 pig, 1 horse. Also 2 calcined fragments of medium mammal.

Pit [4031]
Not fully drawn on plan but appears circular measuring 2m N-S. Side cut vertically in the N, slopes in the S where it cuts [4218], level base down to natural. The ground slopes to the S with the depth of the pit 0.27m in the N and 0.10m in the S. Two fills (4215), (4228).

Top fill (4215), a mid yellowish-brown silty sand, 90% silt, 10% sand with limestone inclusions 0.2-0.6cm and 2% charcoal. Thickness 0.15cm in the N, tapering to 0.5cm in the S. Single *micraster* fossil recovered
Prehistoric Pottery: 54 sherds. 46 coarseware, 8 fineware
Animal Bone: 5 fragments and complete bones. 2 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 2 pig
Small Find: Bone awl <549>

Bottom fill (4228) a mid reddish-brown silty sand 70% silt, 30% sand with limestone inclusions some burnt and a small amount of charcoal. Thickness 0.12m in the N, 0.1m in the S.
Prehistoric Pottery: 25 sherds. 22 coarseware, 3 fineware
Animal Bone: 5 fragments. 4 sheep/goat, 1 cattle
Small Find: Quernstone <455>

Pit [4032]
Sub-circular in plan 1.65m N-S, 1.40m E-W, 0.61m deep. Almost vertical sides with a level base cut into bedrock. It is cut by [4216] and [4325] in the E and [4074] in the NW. Single fill (4033) a dark greyish brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks. Some stone at upper levels. Poorly sorted limestone inclusions with some larger stones up to 18cm, some of which were burnt, flint flakes and rounded red pebbles. Pottery-rich in upper level, amount of pottery reducing with depth. Relatively large amount of animal bone.

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Prehistoric Pottery: 363 sherds. 254 coarseware, 100 fineware, 9 decorated.
Roman Pottery: 2 sherds
Animal Bone: 38 fragments and complete bones/teeth, 24 sheep/goat, 7 cattle, 5 pig, 1 dog, 1 bird. Small number of burnt or calcined fragments of medium mammal

Pit [4034]
Circular cut 0.61m in diameter, 0.37m deep with a flat base. It is cut by [4031] on its northern side and by [4298] in the E. Later conclusions by excavator is that [4034] could be made up of several intercutting pits which cannot be seen in section. It was originally dug as [4279] which is a small pit in the S of the group. It is possible that the fills for [4279] - (4280) and (4294) have become confused with fill (4035), the fill of [4298]. Single fill (4035) a mid-orange-brown silty sand 90/10 with less than 1% limestone inclusions 0.2-0.10cm and charcoal 2-5mm.
Prehistoric Pottery: 129 sherds. 100 coarseware, 26 fineware, 3 decorated.

Animal Bone: 25 fragments. 18 sheep/goat. 3 cattle, 3 pig, 1 medium mammal. Small number of burnt fragments identified to medium mammal only.

Pit [4298]
Described as a recut of [4034] and only recognised as a different pit after excavation. It cuts [4034] in the E. Filled by (4299). The finds attributed to fill (4035) are from fill (4299). Single fill (4299) dark blackish brown silty sand 70/30 with poorly sorted limestone inclusions, largest 10cm. Charcoal and a large area of burning 0.35m by 0.30m to the south of the pit.
Prehistoric Pottery: None - See (4035) above
Animal Bone: None - See (4035) above

Pit [4074]
Sub-circular cut 1.58m by 1.21m, 0.1m deep with a flat base cut into bedrock. It cuts [4032] in the E. Single fill (4075), a mid-blackish-brown silty sand with poorly sorted limestone inclusions with larger numbers at the southern end of the pit. Some charcoal.
Prehistoric Pottery: 46 sherds. 39 coarseware, 6 fineware, one decorated.
Animal Bone: 1 fragment of pig mandible

Pit [4208]
Shape of cut uncertain, only 25 percent excavated. Appears to be almost completely obscured by the cut for [4260] although the relationship is unresolved. Depth 0.13m with a flat base. Single fill (4209) as mid blackish-brown sandy silt with poorly sorted limestone inclusions, largest 5x4cm.
Prehistoric Pottery: 23 Sherds prehistoric pottery, 22 coarseware, 1 fineware.
Animal Bone: None

Pit [4211]
The cut lies under the baulk of the trench in the N and cuts [4030] in the SW. Appears to have been sub-oval in plan, 1.9m E-W, 1.2m N-S. Sloping side in the E, vertical in the W, with slightly concave base 0.27m deep onto bedrock. Filled by (4212) a dark yellowish/brown sandy silt 20:80. Inclusions of limestone 10-15cm with largest stones in the middle of the fill and burnt pot. A worked flint was recovered near to vertebrae.
Prehistoric Pottery: 192 sherds. 182 coarseware, 9 fineware, 1 decorated.
Animal Bone: 30 fragments and complete bones. 11 sheep/goat and one horn core, 13 cattle, including 6 articulated vertebrae C1-C6. 22 fragments of unfused epiphyses suggest possible further vertebrae and that the animal was a juvenile. 5 rodent bones

Pit [4213]
Unexcavated

Pit [4216/4318]
Oval cut 1m in diameter, 0.34m deep. It cuts [4325] in the W and is cut by [4034], and at the surface by [4229] in the E. Filled by (4217) and (4309).

Top fill (4217) a mid greyish-brown silty sand 40:60, 29cm thick. Some large stones up to 16cm
Prehistoric Pottery: None
Animal Bone: None

(4309) Light blackish-brown silty sand 70/30, 6cm thick. Inclusions of well-sorted limestone, average 7cm, some charcoal with largest amount in eastern corner of pit.
Prehistoric Pottery: 13 sherds. 9 coarseware, 4 fineware.
Animal Bone: None

Pit [4218]
Circular cut 0.65m in diameter, 0.29m deep with gently sloping sides with a flat base cut into bedrock. It cuts posthole [4262] N-S. and cuts or is cut by [4031] in the S, where the relationship is uncertain. Single fill (4219) a mid yellowish-brown silty sand with inclusions of limestone up to 5cm
Prehistoric Pottery: 7 Sherds of prehistoric coarseware
Animal Bone: 3 fragments. 1 sheep, 1 pig, 1 frog.

Pit [4260]
Shallow circular cut 1m in diameter, 0.1m deep. Sloping side in the W, border with [4208] in the E uncertain. Level base cut into bedrock. Single fill (4261), mid blackish-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and poorly sorted limestone, largest 16cm x 9cm.
Prehistoric Pottery: 17 sherds of coarseware.
Animal Bone: 1 fragment of cattle bone.

Pit [4279]
Circular, shallow cut 0.9m in diameter, 0.09m deep. It cuts [4034] and [4216]. Single fill (4280)/(4294) a dark brownish orange sandy silt 80/20 with inclusions of limestone and occasional charcoal, 9cm thick.
Prehistoric Pottery: (4280) None (4294) 8 sherds coarseware, 1 fineware
Animal Bone: (4280) None (4294) 3 fragments and complete bone, 2 sheep/goat, 1 horse metapodial.

Posthole [4262]
Small circular cut 0.17m N-S, 0.15m deep. Identified as a posthole within the intercutting pits of group [4220]. Partially underlies the baulk in the N of the trench. Cut by pit [4218]. Single fill (4263), mid-brown sandy silt with fine, 0.1-0.2cm flecks of limestone and occasional charcoal flecks.
Prehistoric Pottery: 8 sherds coarseware.
Animal Bone: None
Human Bone: 2 fragments of rib, juvenile or possibly young animal.

Pit [4325]
Sub-circular cut 1.8m N-S by 1.3m E-W, 0.59m deep. Vertical sides and concave base cut into bedrock. It cuts [4032] in the S and is cut by [4216] in the N and E? Single fill (4325) a mid greyish-brown sandy silt. Inclusions of approximately 40 percent limestone fragments. reducing with depth and three large flat burnt stones, maximum size 12cm by 18cm by 5cm. Fragments of fired and unfired clay. Silting to eastern edge of pit suggests it was left open for a period of time.

Prehistoric Pottery: 87 sherds. 71 coarseware, 16 fineware
Animal Bone: 14 fragments and complete bones: 8 sheep/goat, 4 cattle, 2 pig

Pit Group [4221] - [4006], [4008], [4087], [4171], [4173], [4175], [4179], [4181], [4183], [4185], [4187], [4189/4191], [4193], [4199], [4239], [4316]

Largest of the pit clusters with at least 16 intercutting pits.

Pit [4006]
Circular cut 1.3m in diameter maximum depth 0.12m, with gently sloping side in S, more irregular in the N. The flat base is formed from fill (4088) of earlier pit [4087] which it now completely obscures. On the surface it cuts [4008] in the N and [4193] in the NW. It contains a single fill (4007) which overlies (4088). (4007) a grey-brown silty sand with frequent limestone inclusions and occasional charcoal.
Prehistoric Pottery: 23 sherds. 21 coarseware, 2 fineware.
Animal Bone: 4 fragments. 2 cattle, 2 sheep.

Pit [4008]
Circular, 1.5m in diameter with vertical side in the N but more irregular in the S where it is cut by [4006] in the S. Flat base cut into bedrock, approximately 0.42m deep. Cuts [4193] in the NW and is cut by [4006] in the S. Two fills (4009), (4090).

Top fill (4009) light grey silty sand, chalk (?) cobbles and occasional limestone flecks between 15-22cm thick.
Prehistoric Pottery: 44 sherds. 38 coarseware, 6 fineware.
Animal Bone: 3 fragments. 1 sheep/goat, 2 pig.

Bottom fill (4090) loose, dark brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, maximum 20cm thick.
Prehistoric Pottery: 49 sherds. 38 coarseware, 11 fineware.
Animal Bone: 7 fragments. 4 sheep/goat, 2 cattle, 1 possible pig.
Small Finds: Fired clay crucible and slag <318>.

Pit [4199]
Circular cut 1.44m in diameter, 0.38m deep. Side cut vertically in the N, less clear in the S where it cuts or is cut by [4193], level base. Single fill (4200) a mid-brownish-black sandy silt with charcoal inclusions more concentrated in the N of pit.
Prehistoric Pottery: 42 sherds. 32 coarseware, 10 fineware.
Animal Bone: 10 fragments and complete bones. 1 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 7 assorted rodents, 1 small mammal.

Pit [4087]
Under-lay [4006] and was not visible at this surface and was cut by [4008] in the N. Where seen in section it had a maximum width of 0.62m, with sloping side in S down to a flat base. Single fill (4088), maximum 10cm thick comprising a loose, dark brown sandy silt. No finds or inclusions.

Pit [4171]
The most northern of this group. A circular pit measuring 1.2m in diameter and 0.5m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a single fill (4172) a mid-

greyish-brown sandy silt with inclusions of limestone grit and larger angular limestone cobbles. This pit was cut in the SE by pit [4173].
Prehistoric Pottery: 103 sherds mostly prehistoric pottery, 80 coarseware, 22 fineware, 1 decorated.
Roman Pottery: 1 sherd
Human Bone: Adult skull fragment
Animal Bone: 4 mostly complete bones. 1 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 1 pig, 1 large mammal rib.
Small Finds: Copper alloy fitting <381>, Copper alloy pin <483>.

Pit [4173]
Sub-circular 1.4m E-W and 1.1m N-S. Almost vertical sides and flat-bottomed, cut into bedrock. It contained a single fill (4174), a mid-greyish-brown sandy silt with limestone grit and charcoal inclusions and larger limestone cobbles. It is cut in the S by [4175].
Prehistoric Pottery: 118 sherds. 109 coarseware, 8 fineware, 1 decorated.
Animal Bone: 12 fragments. 5 sheep/goat, 6 cattle, including 5 scapula from adult cattle, 1 pig

Pit [4175],
Circular 0.84m in diameter. It cuts both [4173] and [4181]. Vertical sides and slightly dished at the bottom. Single fill (4176) a greyish-brown sandy silt with small limestone inclusions.
Prehistoric pottery: 20 sherds of coarseware.
Animal Bone: 11 fragments; 9 cattle, 1 sheep/goat, 1 possible dog patella.
Small Finds: Copper alloy fragment/ball <454>.

Pit [4179] 3
Sub-circular cut postdating [4181] approximately 1.9m in diameter Vertical sides with slightly concave base, 0.45m deep. Filled by (4180), (4234)/(4235).

Top fill (4180) 19cm thick comprising a yellowish-brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. Single fossil *micraster* sp. recovered
Prehistoric Pottery: 9 sherds of fineware
Roman Pottery: 1 sherd
Animal Bone: 9 sheep/goat, 1 pig, 2 frog bone

Bottom fill (4234)/(4235) a dark yellowish brown sandy silt 21cm thick with a small number of angular limestone inclusions and flecks of charcoal.
Prehistoric Pottery: 114 sherds. 96 coarseware, 15 fineware, 3 decorated.
Animal Bone: 17 fragments. 11 sheep/goat, 2 cattle including 1 horn core, 2 pig, 1 horse tooth, 1 frog.

Pit [4181]/[4189]
Possibly once a large sub-circular pit but later cut by [4175] in the E and [4179] in the W making its original form difficult to determine. It cuts [4239] in the S. Estimated at 2m in diameter with vertical sides and a flat base, 0.3m deep into bedrock. Single fill (4182), a light greyish-black sandy silt and limestone inclusions and occasional charcoal.
Prehistoric Pottery: 132 sherds. 123 coarseware, 9 fineware.

Animal Bone: 7 sheep, 2 pig, 1 cattle, 1 bird bone.

Pit [4183]
Temporal relationship between this pit and [4239] could not be resolved by excavation but shown to cut [4185]. Diameter estimated at 1.3m, depth 0.25m with a flat base cut into bedrock. It has a single fill (4184), a brownish-grey sandy silt with inclusions of limestone grit and cobbles up to 15cm and charcoal fragments.
Prehistoric Pottery: 85 sherds of prehistoric pot. 71 coarseware, 12 fineware, 2 decorated.
Animal Bone: 10 fragments. 3 sheep/goat, 6 cattle, single pig bone.
Small Finds: Bone basketry point <564>.

Pit [4185]
Circular cut 1.3m in diameter and 25cm deep cut into but not through bedrock. Cut by [4183] in the NW and [4187] in the N. Single fill (4186) a dark greyish-brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions and charcoal flecks.
Prehistoric Pottery: 26 sherds of pottery, 22 coarseware, 4 fineware.
Animal Bone: 3 fragments. 1 sheep/goat, 1 pig bone, 1 pig tooth.

Pit [4187]
Sub-oval cut, 1.45m N-S, 0.6m W-E. approximately 0.3m deep. Vertical sides and a flat base cut into but not through bedrock. It cuts [4185] in the S and [4189] in the N. Single fill (4188)/(4320) a dark greyish-brown sandy silt with inclusions of limestone, limestone grit, burnt stone and concentrations of charcoal. It is cut by posthole [4316]
Prehistoric Pottery: 102 sherds. 92 coarseware, 10 fineware.
Animal Bone: 11 fragments. 9 sheep/goat, some burnt, 1 small mammal incisor, 1 frog bone.
Small Finds: Bone awl <460>.

Posthole [4316]
A probable posthole, sub-circular in plan, 0.22m E-W by 0.17m N-S, 0.2m deep. Cuts vertically through fill (4188) of [4187]. It has a single fill (4317) a greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments 2-5cm. A single burnt flat stone 17cm x 17cm x 6cm lay at the top of the fill with a stone in the N, 140cm by 80cm by 40cm and one in the E 120cm by 80cm by 30cm, were probably post packing.
Prehistoric Pot: None
Animal Bone: None

Pit [4189/4191]
Circular bowl-shaped depression 0.12m deep cut into but not through bedrock. Most probably the remains of a badly truncated pit which cuts [4193] and [4187]. Single fill (4190)/(4192) a dark greyish brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions and occasional charcoal.
(4190)
Prehistoric Pottery: 45 sherds. 37 coarseware, 8 fineware.
Animal Bone: 3 fragment of animal bone, 1 sheep/goat, 2 cattle.
(4192)

Prehistoric Pottery: 10 sherds of coarseware
Animal Bone: Single pig bone

Pit [4193]
Circular cut 1.25m in diameter and 35cm deep with a flat base. Cut by [4189]/[4191], [4008]/[4199], [4187], [4006]. Single fill (4194) mid-orange brown sandy silt with fragments of limestone which increased gradually towards the N of the fill.
Prehistoric Pottery: 39 sherds. 37 coarseware, 2 fineware.
Animal Bone: Single sheep, pig and frog bone.

Pit [4239]
Sub-circular cut approximately1.1m by 0.84m and 28cm deep, cut into but not through bedrock. It is cut by [4181] in the NW and cuts or is cut by [4183] in the S and might also have been recut. It has a single fill (4238) a dark yellowish brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions and charcoal flecks which had been disturbed by later intercutting.
Prehistoric Pottery: 6 sherds. 5 coarseware, single sherd of fineware.
Animal Bone: None.

Pit Group [4222] – [4072], [4270]/[4072]/[4310], [4274], [4276]

Cluster of up to five (or four) pits in the southeast of the trench concentrated around the eastern terminal of ditch [4109].

Pit [4072]
Circular cut 1.6m in diameter and 0.8m deep. Vertical sides and flat base which cut through bedrock (4001) into natural sand (4134) and onto secondary bedrock (4154). It is cut at the surface from the W by [4270] for 1.55m and in the N by ditch [4109] and would not have been visible from the surface. Four fills (4236), (4278), (4304/4300), (4307).

Top fill (4236) mid yellowish brown sandy silt with inclusions of poorly sorted stone, pebbles and lenses of charcoal and organic material. Maximum thickness 15-20cm. It is cut by pit [4270] which had removed the fill in the centre
Prehistoric Pottery: 86 fragments. 85 coarseware, 1 fineware
Animal Bone: 3 fragments. 2 sheep/goat, 1 bird

(4278) Dark greyish-brown silty sand with grey clay lenses. Charcoal flecks, increasing in size lower down. Inclusions of limestone of various sizes, unworked flint and pebbles. The deposit is partially cut in the centre by [4270] and overlies domed fills (4304) and (4307) with a thickness of 4cm in the centre, reaching the base of the pit around the outside at a maximum of 43cm in the S.
Prehistoric Pottery: 106 sherds. 85 coarseware, 21 fineware
Animal Bone: 15 fragments and complete bones. 10 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 1 horse mandible, 1 dog tooth MCIII, 2 rodent

(4304/4300) domed, mid yellowish-brown silty sand 20cm thick in the centre tapering to 4cm thick at the edges. Inclusions of limestone 2-10cm and charcoal flecks. The deposit caps bottom fill (4307).
Prehistoric Pottery: 23 fragments. 21 coarseware, 1 fineware, 1 decorated

Animal Bone: 5 fragments and complete bones. 4 sheep/goat, 1 cattle

Bottom fill (4307) domed, dark brownish-black silt with ashy clay lenses and charcoal lying in the northern half of the pit. 10cm thick at centre, tapering out at the sides. It overlies the natural sand (4134) where the cut has broken through upper bedrock (4001).
Prehistoric Pottery: 6 sherds of coarseware
Animal Bone: None

Pit [4270]/[4310]
Circular cut 1.5in diameter with a V-shaped profile, maximum depth 0.48m at the centre, 0.05m in the S, approximately 0.15m in the N but later cut by ditch [4091] which cuts through the upper fills of pit [4072] at the surface. The NE quadrant of this pit was given a separate cut of [4310] with a fill of (4311), although it was poorly understood at the time of excavation and not fully excavated. The description for (4311) is similar to (4237). Finds were recorded separately from both fills. Pit [4270] had two fills (4073), (4237).

Top fill (4073) a mid-greyish-brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks. Large stones in the centre of the fill.
Prehistoric Pottery: 70 sherds. 68 coarseware, 2 fineware
Animal Bone: 7 fragments and complete bones. 5 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 1 rodent, possibly vole
Small Finds: Worked bone tool <555>

Bottom fill (4237)/(4311) mid-dark greyish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. It follows the V-shaped contour of the pit with a maximum thickness of 26cm in the centre. It lies within (4236) which was cut through by [4270]. A small animal burrow was visible in section.
Prehistoric Pottery: 23 sherds. 20 coarseware, 3 fineware
Animal Bone: Single cattle tooth
(4311) Prehistoric Pottery: 8 sherds. 5 coarseware, 2 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: None
Small Finds: Quernstone <535>

Pit [4274]
Shape in plan and profile unknown as cut by [4270]/[4310] in the SW and [4276] in the E. Width in section 0.55m, depth 0.15m. Level base cut into bedrock. Single fill (4275) a mid greyish-brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions.
Prehistoric Pottery: 52 sherds. 50 coarseware, 2 fineware
Animal Bone: 6 fragments and complete bones. 4 Sheep/goat, 2 pig

Pit [4276]
Small cut running under the baulk in the E of the trench and cut by [4270]/[4310] in the SW and cuts [4274] in the W. Original form unknown. Where seen in section it had a depth of 0.16m with a concave base and sloping side in W. Single fill (4277), a mid brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks.
Prehistoric Pottery: 17 sherds. 15 coarseware, 2 fineware
Animal Bone: 2 fragments cattle bone

Pit Group [4266] – [4010], [4084], [4264]

An alignment of three pits in the south of the trench. The earliest is [4084], the latest [4010]. Of interest Pit [4264] which contained six adult human bones – skull fragments, patella, metatarsals and possibly represent the fragmentary remains on an inhumation, with further spread by the plough.

Pit [4010]
Approximately circular cut, 0.75m at its widest point, 0.12m deep. Sloping side in the S on with an uneven base formed from the top of the bedrock. It cuts into the first 12cm depth of [4264] in the N. Single fill (4011) a mid-yellowish-grey sandy silt with limestone inclusions and occasional charcoal.
Prehistoric Pottery: 50 sherds. 36 coarseware, 14 fineware
Animal Bone: 4 fragments. 2 sheep/goat, 1 pig, 1 water vole (check)

Pit [4084]
Oval cut, 1.6m E-W, 95m N-S, 0.19-0.24m deep. Almost vertical side in the S, sloping to an uneven base. It is cut in the N by [4264]. Single fill (4085), mid brownish-yellow sandy silt with charcoal flecks. Very stony, some burnt. Largest stone 17cm x 11cm x 8cm. Single *micraster* fossil.
Prehistoric Pottery: 68 sherds. 55 coarseware, 11 fineware, 2 decorated
Animal Bone: 5 fragments and complete bones. 5 sheep/goat, 1 rodent

Pit [4264]
Circular cut 1.65m in diameter, 0.4m deep. Almost vertical sides with a slightly concave base which has cut through the bedrock (4001) onto the sand beneath (4134). It cuts [4084] in the N and is cut by [4010] in the S. Single fill (4265) a mid yellowish-brown silty sand with a large number of stone inclusions and frequent charcoal.

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Prehistoric Pottery: 218 sherds. 174 coarseware, 41 fineware, 3 decorated
Human Bone: Six adult human bones
Animal Bone: 43 fragments and complete bones. 26 sheep/goat (articulating?), 6 cattle, 3 pig, 3 horse, 2 bird, 2 shrew, 1 water vole (check)
Small Finds: Iron pin <494>, Crucible fragment <572>

Pit Group [4312] – [4159], [4161], [4202], [4286]

A group of four intercutting pits in the north of the trench. The earliest [4159] was cut by [4202] which in turn was cut by [4161]. Pit [4268] cuts centrally through the earliest pit [4159] and this could have occurred at any time in the sequence.

Pit [4159]
Circular cut estimated at originally 2.2m in diameter but now cut in the SE by [4312] which has partially removed the original cut. Sloping sides measuring 1.7m at the base which is slightly concave and cuts the bedrock. Depth 0.62m. It has two fills (4160), (4271) both of which are cut by pit [4286].

Top fill (4160) Dark greyish brown sandy silt, more compact in the N and very organic, becoming lighter to the S, 30cm thick. Inclusions of charcoal and poorly sorted limestone throughout but more concentrated in the centre, some burnt. (Note: this is describing part of the fills of intercutting pits [4286] and [4202] accounting for the difference across the fill, which wasn't recognised until dug – finds could come from either fill)
Prehistoric Pottery: 134 sherds. 108 coarseware, 24 fineware, 2 decorated
Animal Bone: 25 fragments. 16 sheep/goat, 6 cattle, 2 pig, 1 rodent
Human Bone: 2 fragments foetal bone
Small Finds: Copper alloy folded sheet, possibly a binding strip <493>.

Bottom fill (4271) Mid orange brown sandy silt 32cm thick. Charcoal rich at upper level, decreasing with depth. Inclusions of limestone, some burnt, concentrated towards the centre, (this could be from the fill of [4286]).
Prehistoric Pottery: 144 sherds. 116 coarseware, 25 fineware, 3 decorated.
Animal Bone: 16 fragments and complete bones. 2 sheep/goat, 2 pig, 1 dog, 11 frog, probably from the same animal that had fallen into the open pit.

Pit [4161]
Almost circular cut, 0.93m in diameter, maximum depth 0.25m. Almost vertical sides on to a level base cut into bedrock. Single fill (4162) a dark greyish-brown sandy silt with inclusions of angular limestone between 2-10cm. Flecks of charcoal throughout.
Prehistoric Pottery: 128 sherds. 115 coarseware, 8 fineware, 5 decorated.
Animal Bone: 9 fragments and complete bones. 5 sheep/goat, 3 cattle, 1 pig

Pit [4202]
Sub-circular in plan 1.4m N-S, 1.25m E-W, 0.21m deep. Cut almost vertical in the NW where it cuts [4159] but sloping in the E where it is cut by [4161]. Level base onto bedrock. Single fill (4203), mid greyish-brown sandy silt with approximately 40% limestone inclusions, largest 16cm. Small number of flint and charcoal fragments throughout.
Prehistoric Pottery: 119 sherds. 111 coarseware, 7 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 9 fragments and complete animal bone, 7 sheep/goat, 2 cattle
Small Finds: Worked bone point/awl <485>

Pit [4286]
Sub-circular cut within fills (4160) and (4271) of pit [4159]. Dimensions 0.75m by 0.65m, 0.49m deep. Single fill (4287) a dark greyish-brown sandy silt with approximately 20% angular limestone inclusions 3-15cm.
Prehistoric Pottery: None.
Animal Bone: None

Group [4042] – Ditch/Slot [4091], [4105], [4109], [4206], [4322]

Note: the first number used for the ditch is [4091] all other numbers are slots across 4091

A shallow curvilinear ditch running E-W for approximately 5.6m in the SE of the trench. It was investigated through a series of five slots.

Ditch/Slot [4091]
U-shaped profile cut into bedrock, 0.8m wide at top, stepped in the NW. Maximum depth 0.25m reducing to 0.15m where the ditch is stepped. It has a single fill (4092) a dark brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and unworked flint.

Pottery analysis has shown this ditch to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Approximately 20 percent limestone fragments 1.5-10cm in size
Prehistoric Pottery: 65 sherds. 55 coarseware, 10 fineware
Animal Bone: None

Slot [4105]
Continuation of ditch [4091]. U-shaped profile, width 0.28m, maximum depth 0.24m. Single fill (4106) comprising a grey black silt.
Prehistoric Pottery: 12 sherds. 9 coarseware, 3 fineware
Animal Bone: Single cattle bone

Slot [4109]
Continuation of ditch [4091]. U-shaped profile, width 0.7m, depth 0.16m. It is completely cut by [4061] and on its northern edge by [4047]. Single fill (4110) Grey-black to reddish-brown sandy silt 30:60.
Prehistoric Pottery: 36 sherds. 32 coarseware, 4 fineware
Animal Bone: 3 fragments. 2 sheep/goat, 1 pig

Slot [4206]
Continuation of ditch [4091]. U-shaped profile, cut irregularly on the S side. Width 1.0m, depth 0.22m. It cuts pit [4043] in the N and pit [4072] in the S. Single fill (4207) a mid greyish-brown sandy silt with inclusions of poorly sorted limestone fragments 0.5-5cm, unworked flint and charcoal flecks.
Prehistoric Pottery: 39 sherds. 34 coarseware, 5 fineware
Animal Bone: 8 fragments. 4 sheep/goat, 3 cattle (possibly same bone)

Slot [4322]
Slot dug close to the rounded terminal in the E of ditch [4091]. Cut for ditch approximately 0.7m wide, depth 0.2m cut into bedrock (4001). It has a single fill (4323) a mid brown sandy silt with limestone flecks and charcoal, 20cm thick.
Prehistoric Pottery: None
Animal Bone: None

Grave Cuts and Intercutting Pits

Five graves appear to mostly lie on the periphery of the pits and have avoided cutting the pits or are respected by them. In the northeast, two intercutting pits, the earliest [4036] was later cut by grave cut [4078] for SK21, although there is a possible temporal relationship between the two when considering the finds from [4036] which might be viewed as special deposits. These included 139 sherds of pottery, horse bone, possible cremated material, at least 3 foetal pigs and bird. Both pits also appear to have been capped by a single deposit (4037). Similarly Pits [4113], [4059] which are cut by Grave [4095] for SK22 possibly contained horse bones and an almost complete corvid.

Note: the context sheet says pits have also been numbered the wrong way around as they renumbered everything when a second cut was observed. The chalkboard on site photo says grave is [4078] which has been used here.

Two intercutting pits in the north of the trench. The earliest [4036] was later cut by [4078] the grave cut for SK21. Both pits were covered by layer (4037) a mid-reddish-brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions 0.1-10cm in size. Possibly plough damaged human remains.

[4078]
Prehistoric Pottery: 50 sherds. 44 coarseware, 6 fineware.
Animal Bone: 2 fragments and complete bone. 1 pig, 1 unidentified
Human Bone: Probably a part of SK21 radiocarbon dated to 361-166 cal BCE
Small Finds: Iron object <242>

Pit [4036] Irregular oval cut 2.30m N-S by 1.5m E-W. Depth 0.4m in the S, 0.25m in the N. Bell-shaped profile in the N with vertical cut in the S. Uneven base cut through bedrock (4001) into sand (4134). Cut in the N by [4078] the grave cut for SK21. Three fills (4080), (4129), (4130).

Top fill (4080) a dark brownish-black sandy silt. It is partially cut by [4078] and has a thickness of 25cm where surviving. Inclusions of poorly sorted limestone fragments up to 5cm, some burnt and charcoal flecks.
Prehistoric Pottery: 106 sherds. 90 coarseware, 14 fineware, 2 decorated
Animal Bone: 22 fragments and complete bones. 11 sheep/goat, 5 cattle, 3 pig, 1 horse metapodial, 1 large mammal, 1 medium mammal, 2 small mammal, quantity of unidentified burnt and calcined bone

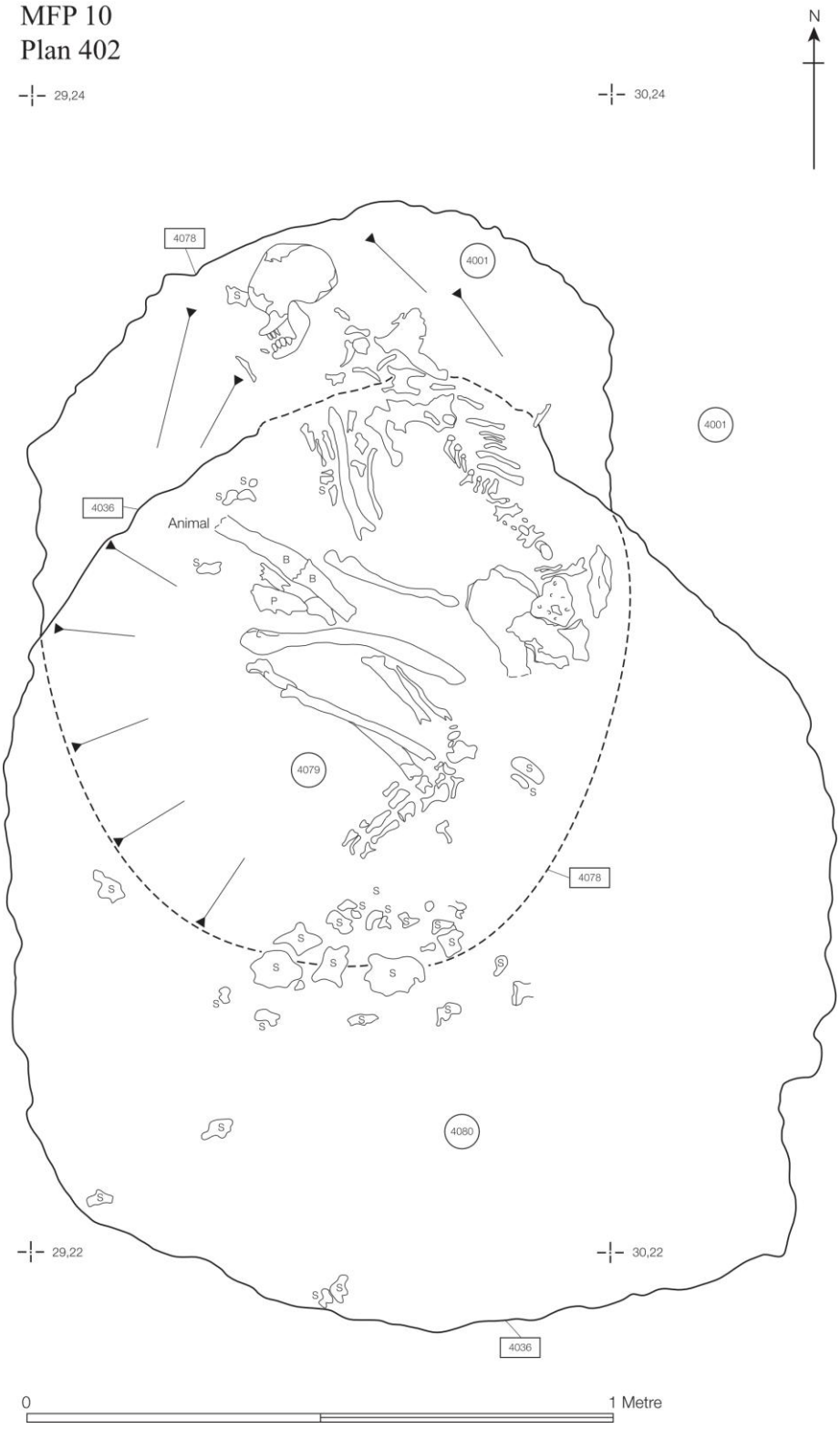
Middle fill (4129) Mid brown sandy silt, approximately 15cm thick in the S, 5cm thick in the N where it overlies (4130). Approximately 5 per cent poorly sorted limestone inclusions up to 3cm in size and charcoal flecks. Daub recovered but quantity not specified.
Prehistoric Pottery: 33 sherds. 29 coarseware, 4 fineware
Animal Bone: 24 fragments and complete bones. 14 sheep/goat, cattle, 8 pig (7 foetal), 2 bird, MM, quantity of burnt fragments

Bottom fill (4130) greyish-brown sandy silt 4-7cm thick. Approximately 60 percent stone fragments 3-5cm and 15-20cm, mostly limestone, some burnt and 2 reddish gritstones. Soil matrix possibly deriving from (4129) which has percolated down through the stones.
Prehistoric Pottery: 5 sherds of coarseware.
Animal Bone: 22 fragments and complete bone. 2 cattle, 1 horse tiba, 1 pig plus 19 foetal representing 2 individual animals, 2 large mammals.

Grave [4078]/SK 21
Oval cut 1.3 m N-S by 1.0m E-W with gently sloping sides forming a shallow U-shaped cut into (4080). Maximum depth 0.2-0.15m, base very uneven where it cuts fill (4080). Two fills (4079), (4176). Top fill (4079) a greyish brown sandy silt 7cm thick with limestone inclusions c. 1-6cm. This deposit formed the matrix for a tightly

crouched burial, SK21. A cylindrical stone was recorded by the left foot and a pottery sherd by left knee, although it is uncertain if these are placed deposits.

Pottery analysis has shown this grave to have been cut and filled in the EIA.



Grave cut [4078], SK21

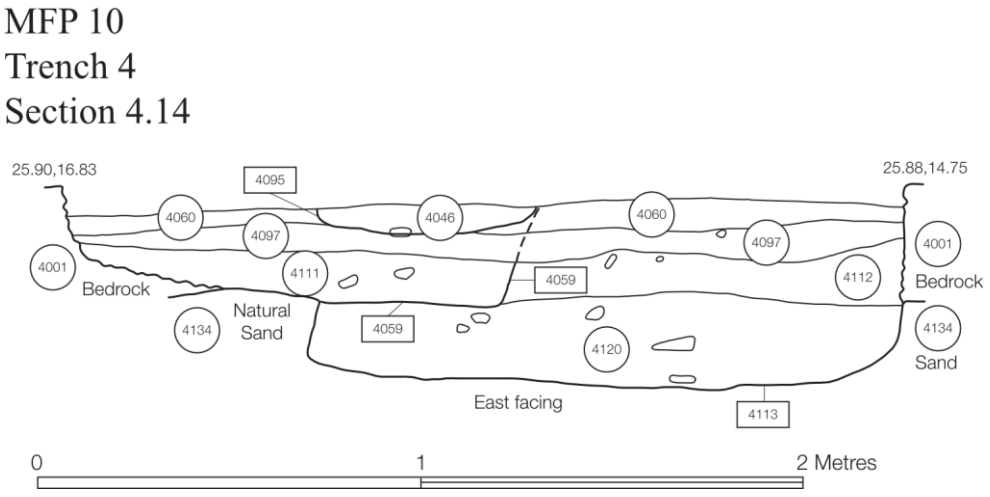
Prehistoric Pottery: 88 sherds. 77 coarseware, 8 fineware, 3 decorated
Human Bone: SK21 (radiocarbon dated to 361-166 cal BCE) also metatarsal and M1 disarticulated bone
Animal Bone: 9 fragments and complete bone. 1 sheep/goat, 4 cattle, 1 pig, 1 deer
Small Finds: Fe object <121> (not on small finds database)

Bottom fill (4146)
A greyish-brown sandy silt with 60 per cent limestone inclusions some burnt, thought possibly to be deposited from cutting the pit in the N. It comes down onto gravelly bedrock in the N and overlies (4080) in the S. Very uneven, between 2 -13cm thick. Context sheet says this fill also contains SK21.
Prehistoric Pottery: 50 sherds. 39 coarseware, 10 fineware, 1 decorated
Human Bone: Probably part of SK21
Animal Bone: 12 fragments and complete bone: 4 sheep/goat, 4 cattle, 3 pig, 1 bird
Small Finds: Fe hook <242>

Pits [4113], [4059] Grave [4095]/SK22
Section 4.14 shows three intercutting pits, the earliest and deepest being [4113]. Only [4113] and [4059] are shown on the plan. [4113] was later cut by [4059] which in turn was cut by [4095] the grave cut for SK22

Pit [4113]
Sub-oval cut, 1.53m NW-SE by 1.6m, 0.5m deep. Side cut vertically in the S, curving towards the bottom to a slightly concave base cut through bedrock (4001) and into sand (4134). Partially cut in the N by [4059] to a depth of 0.25m. It contained 4 fills, (4112), (4120), (4097), (4060).

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.



Pit [4113]

Top fill (4060) a mid-orange-brown sandy silt 80:20, up to 0.10cm thick. Limestone fragments between 5-20cm, some burnt, charcoal and hammerscale. Excavator note says burnt stone recovered from the centre of the fill might relate to cut [4095]
Prehistoric Pottery: 299 sherds. 276 coarseware, 21 fineware, 2 decorated
Animal Bone: 34 fragments and complete bones. 12 sheep/goat, 7 cattle, 6 pig, 1 horse MC, 5 bird (some corvid), 3 small mammal.

Small Finds: Fe object <114>, Fe sheet fragment <133>, Bone tool <585>

Upper middle fill (4097) Dark blackish-brown silty sand 70:30, 4-10cm thick. Occasional inclusions of limestone fragments up to 10cm and charcoal flecks. Excavators note states it is impossible to discern the difference between this fill and (4060). It was also confused with fills from the intercutting pits and wrongly assigned contexts. Finds are not secure but can be assigned generally to this pit group.
Prehistoric Pottery: 61 sherds. 54 coarseware, 5 fineware
Animal Bone: 50 fragments and complete bones. 3 sheep/goat, 2 cattle, 1 pig, 12 bird, 30 bones articulated corvid, 2 mole (probably intrusive)

Lower middle fill (4112) Mid greyish-brown silty sand 70:30 9-16cm thick. Inclusions of limestone fragments and grit.
Prehistoric Pottery: 35 sherds. 30 coarseware, 5 fineware
Animal Bone: 4 fragments sheep/goat

Bottom fill (4120) a mid yellowish-brown silty sand 80:20, 25cm thick. Inclusions of small fragments of limestone. It partially underlies (4111) of cut [4059].
Prehistoric Pottery: 92 sherds. 77 coarseware, 13 fineware, 2 decorated
Animal Bone: 5 fragments. 3 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 1 pig

Pit [4059]
Second in the sequence of the three pits. Nothing is recorded on context sheets and description taken from section drawing. Sub-oval cut 1.9m N-S by 1.4m E-W. Sloping sides forming a shallow U-shaped profile cut through bedrock (4001) into sand (4134). Depth 0.11m in the N, 0.26m in the S, where it cuts [4113]. It is cut near the surface in the S by [4095] for SK22. Three fills (4111), (4328), (4329). Top fill (4329) 5cm thick.
Prehistoric Pottery: None
Animal Bone: None

Middle fill (4328) 8cm thick.
Prehistoric Pottery: None
Animal Bone: None

Bottom fill (4111) mid greyish brown silty sand 70:30, 5cm thick in N, 12cm thick in S. inclusions of limestone fragments 2-15cm in size and charcoal flecks.
Prehistoric Pottery: 31 sherds. 23 coarseware, 4 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 7 fragments. 3 sheep/goat, 2 cattle, 2 water vole (check)

Grave [4095]/SK22
Shallow concave scoop cut into the S of [4059] for SK22. Sub-oval, 0.8m N-S, 0.7m E-W, maximum depth 0.1m. It only became apparent as a separate cut once the human remains were lifted. Single fill (4096), a mid blackish-brown silty sand 70:30 with limestone inclusions, some burnt and occasional charcoal. It formed the matrix for SK22, the remains of which were poorly preserved and only the thoracic region survived.
Prehistoric Pottery: 3 sherds. 2 coarseware, 1 fineware
Animal Bone: None

Human Bone: SK22 (neonate bone also mentioned but not among disarticulated bone. Check in skelly box).

Pit [4163], Grave Cut [4232]/SK25
Cut [4163] Circular pit 1.95m in diameter, 0.32m deep said to be cut by later pit [4232] the grave cut for SK25. [4232] is not shown on the trench plan and not drawn in section and it is possible that [4163] is the same as [4232]. The fills and subsequently the finds from both pits have become confused. Two fills (4164), (4225).

Upper fill (4164) a dark brown silty sand 70/25 with 5% clay 0.2m thick. Inclusions of stone and charcoal with iron pan (ironstone?). Large burnt limestone cobbles up to 15cm and iron slag throughout the deposit
Prehistoric Pottery: 195 sherds. 178 coarseware, 17 fineware
Animal Bone: None
Small Finds: Quernstone <376>, iron plate <457>: Fossil: micraster

Bottom fill (4225) Mid greyish brown silty sand 60/30 0.1m thick, with small amount of limestone and charcoal, burnt limestone cobbles and iron slag.
Prehistoric Pottery: 93 sherds. 91 coarseware, 1 fineware, 1 decorated
Animal Bone: 11 fragments and complete bone, 8 sheep/goat, 3 pig

Cut [4232]
Follows the same contour as pit [4163]. Single fill (4224) dark, slightly reddish brown silty sand, 80% silt with 15-20% sand and small amounts of clay, copper alloy and iron slag, limestone and sandstone cobbles. The iron slag was located to the W and NW of SK25. SK25 lay centrally within the pit, on left side, almost fully extended, head in NNE, feet in W. From images appears to be an adult male.
Prehistoric Pottery: 110 sherds. 109 coarseware, 1 fineware
Animal Bone: None
Human bone: SK25 radiocarbon dated to 385-342 cal BCE
Small Finds: Fe slag <450>, Fe slag <451>, Fe object <479>, 1 fired clay crucible and cu slag <562>: Fossil: micraster

Pit 4240, Grave Cut [4272]/SK26
Grave Cut [4272] Sub-circular pit 1.10m N-S, 1.20m E-W with a maximum depth of 0.1-0.2m, deepest in the S. Vertical sides and a flat base cut into bedrock. Described as being a recut of [4240] where it cuts the earlier pit in the E. It contained a crouched burial SK26 aligned NW-SE within (4273) a greyish brown silty sand with 50% limestone 3-6cm in size and approximately 10% (sandstone?) inclusions and small amount of charcoal.

Pottery analysis has shown this grave to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Prehistoric Pottery: 68 sherds. 58 coarseware, 10 fineware
Animal Bone: 11 fragments and complete bones. 1 sheep/goat, 10 frog
Human bone: SK26 radiocarbon dated to 403-352 cal BCE
Small Finds: Copper alloy object <527>, Worked bone <528>

Pit [4240]
A sub-oval pit estimated at 1.53m E-W, 1.94m N-S, 0.1-0.15m deep, cut in the S by grave [4272]. Vertical sides and flat base cut into bedrock. Single fill (4241) a mid-greyish brown silty sand, with limestone, some burnt of between 3-8cm making up approximately 50% of the composition sand and occasional charcoal. The fill is very similar to (4273) which it is said to cut. The depth of both pits is also similar. Excavated in plan because of the burial. The type of animal bone and quantity of pottery might relate to the burial.

Pottery analysis has shown this pit to have been cut and filled in the EIA.

Prehistoric Pottery: 233 sherds. 194 coarseware, 39 fineware
Roman Pottery: 4 sherds
Animal Bone: 9 fragments and complete bones. 6 sheep/goat, 1 cattle, 1 dog tooth, 1 complete horse metapodial

Grave Cut [4167]/SK 27
Cut [4167] in the west of the trench a small, circular pit 1.2m in diameter, surviving as a shallow scoop into the bedrock 3-4cm deep. Single fill (4168) a mid-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and limestone fragments 1-2cm. Within the fill was the partial remains of an infant burial SK27. The remains lay just below the topsoil and had been disturbed by ploughing and topsoil removal with only a small number of bones and teeth surviving.
Prehistoric Pottery: 7 sherds. 6 coarseware, 1 fineware
Animal Bone: None
Human bone: SK27