

# NORTH PARK FARM QUARRY, BLETCHINGLEY (NPQ 14)

## Excavations in 2014





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### *Summary*

The 2014 excavation at North Park Farm Quarry once again produced some archaeological surprises and provides a fitting conclusion to what amounts to an exploration of the development of a landscape from the Mesolithic era to the medieval period, and one, moreover, that, because no similar area has previously been explored in this way, represents an expansion of knowledge of regional if not national importance.

The Mesolithic evidence represents the first positively identified Mesolithic feature located west of the area of intensive Mesolithic activity previously identified, and extends our understanding of the extent of the hugely important Mesolithic activity in this area. Later prehistoric evidence is comparatively sparse and much of it is residual in later features or redistributed by the activity of a palaeochannel. The Bronze Age features do, however, add to the dispersed evidence for that period spread across the quarry area, and the cremation deposit is of particular interest.

In the early medieval period parts of a trackway and field system aligned to the palaeochannel were revealed. A post-hole building was carefully placed next to the trackway and in the corner of a field. It is clearly not a domestic feature and seems likely to relate in some way to industrial rather than agricultural activity, but perhaps for storage or processing of materials or products.

The medieval evidence from the North Park Farm Quarry forms an unusually complete picture of the functioning of a landscape in the 11th and 12th centuries. Its regularity suggests a carefully planned development and its demise was the consequence of a fundamental reorganisation of the local economy, itself part of a dramatic shift in the regional organisation of the landscape in the century or so between 1150 and 1250. The detail and relative completeness (especially of the evidence from the quarry) with which this development can be demonstrated at Bletchingley make it the best example of this change, and of very great importance.

It is recommended, that, in the near future, a proposal for the preparation of a full report on the work at North Park Farm Quarry, and its publication, should be prepared.

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## INTRODUCTION

In the autumn of 2014 almost the whole of the final parcel of the North Park Farm Quarry (figs 1 and 2, where labelled J) was examined archaeologically prior to the extraction of sand. This lay south from an area investigated in 2011 (labelled E on fig 2), and west from another examined in 2013 (labelled H on fig 2). The letter codes were used in the 2013 report (Jones 2014) to avoid confusion in the text and have been adopted here also:

Following the machined stripping of its soils in early August, excavations took place during the period up to mid September. Prior to machining the area formed the remaining part of a triangle of pastureland that gently sloped south and east towards a minor watercourse that had later been channelled as a field ditch along the western side of a temporary bridleway (fig 2; see Jones 2014 for further detail).

Below the soils of the adjacent area to the north, E, all but its south-western corner was blanketed by Late Glacial solifluction clays that overlay the sands of the Folkestone Beds, and this sequence continued further south, to characterise the whole of H. This pattern was also evident in the present area, so that only its north-western corner showed Folkestone Beds sand at the surface, with the solifluction clays sealing them elsewhere (see Jones 2014 for further detail). A curving line (3005, fig 3), observed towards the centre on the eastern side of the area, marked the western edge of a palaeochannel including the fluvial deposits of a shifting watercourse (previously noted in both areas E and H) that had eroded and redeposited the solifluction deposits. A gully-like feature (3095; fig 3), immediately south-west of 3005, was almost certainly further evidence of this shifting palaeochannel. Reasonable quantities of Mesolithic Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork were recovered from these deposits, and little else, but previous work has suggested that the channel may have remained active up to the early medieval period.

## THE STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Table 1 provides a full listing of the features according to the groups indicated by the sequence of headings below. It gives both feature dimensions and brief details of the finds recovered. The text below only adds to these where a specific point is made. In the text the italic number in brackets after a context number indicates the area, as shown on fig 3, in which it lies.

### Mesolithic tree-throws

Three tree-throws produced substantial numbers of flints of Mesolithic date and must have been infilling at that period. All were identified on the Folkestone Beds sand deposits found at the surface in the north-west corner.

**3116 (I)** This was a round feature which was almost 4m in diameter and had an unusually regular profile (fig 4 and fig 5 no 1) for a tree-throw. All the flintwork came from the sandy fills at the southern end, A and C, where a lens of sandy charcoal, B, was also present. The profile at the southern end resembles a recut. A possible explanation is that the tree was removed from this end (some time after it had fallen and the hole largely infilled) and the hollow then utilised as part of the activity that generated the flintwork, creating a regular depression in which the Mesolithic flintwork was found. All other fills were of mottled sandy clay with increasing quantities of gravel and iron panning in F and G.

**3128 (1)** This was an elongated tree-throw with steep sides and a flattened base. The flintwork mostly came from the upper levels, with the primary fill (E) devoid of any finds (fig 5 no 2)

**3140 (1)** This was an irregular feature, near to 3116, from which surface finds of Mesolithic flints were recovered, but which was not excavated.

### **Bronze Age features**

Three tree-throws and two pits are regarded as being associated with Bronze Age activity, generally on the basis of comparatively modest amounts of finds. All except 3093 were identified on the Folkestone Beds sand deposits found at the surface in the north-west corner. One further feature, 3086, is regarded as of later Bronze Age date because of its character although it included no directly dateable finds.

**3003 (1)** This was an oval pit with vertical sides and a flat base (fig 5 no 3 and fig 6) that produced plentiful burnt flint in addition to struck flint

**3004 (1)** This was an irregular tree-throw that produced finds only from the top few centimetres

**3006 (1)** This was a large and irregular tree-throw that produced finds only from the uppermost fill layer, which seemed likely to be generated by subsidence

**3093 (2)** This was a large, comparatively shallow, and irregular tree-throw (fig 5 no 6)

**3122 (1)** This was an oval pit with vertical sides and a flat base that produced only three flint artefacts

**3086 (2)** This was an oval pit with a bag-shaped profile and a flat base. The uppermost fill was devoid of finds and appeared to be an infilling introduced through subsidence while the base had a lump of redeposited natural on it. Otherwise the fill consisted entirely of a charcoal-rich sandy clay, including a large number of fragments of burnt bone. This was a definite cremation deposit (see the 'Charcoal and cremated bone assessment report' below for details). Its shape possibly suggests the deposit was originally within an organic container

### **Probable or possible prehistoric features**

A number of features lack good dating evidence but seem more likely to be of prehistoric than later date.

**3077 (5)** This was an isolated posthole (or very small pit) that produced a single sherd of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery and two burnt flints. It is possible that it is associated with the four-poster, 3080, since an east-west line drawn through the centre of the area enclosed by 3080 would meet 3077 at almost exactly the same distance (around 3m) from a line connecting 3081 and 3087 as the gap between those post holes.

**3080 (5)** This feature was formed by four postholes (3081, 3083, 3084, and 3087) that formed a square with sides of around 3m long (fig 7). All had similar fills and were of similar dimensions, except for 3087 which was smaller and shallower. The finds consisted of one Mesolithic/Neolithic and one Bronze Age struck flint, and a couple of burnt flints. This type of feature, generally interpreted as the base of a raised granary, is fairly commonly found on later prehistoric and Roman rural settlements, and the Bronze Age seems most probable here given the lack of evidence for Iron Age or Roman activity in this area



**3141 (1)** This was an irregular tree-throw that produced no finds from the surface and was not excavated. It is included here solely because the other tree-throws in this part of the site were of prehistoric origin

### **Early medieval building and associated features**

The north-east corner of the site (area 3) was dominated by evidence for a medieval building (3079) and a number of associated features (figs 8 and 9).

#### *Building 3079*

A rectangular building measuring around 7.40m by 6.00m is clearly indicated by four lines of postholes. The east and west sides have postholes that are generally larger and with a more regular alignment than those to the north and south. That said, there is clearly some variation between the two rows. The most convincing pairs of postholes, all of them significantly deeper than others in the rows, and almost certainly indicating (some or all of) the chief uprights supporting the roof frame, are (west-east) 3054-3043; 3072-3052; and 3112-3062 (fig 5 no 4). A straight line can be drawn through the centre of each of the three western and three eastern postholes, and gives a separation of (north-south) around 2.20m and around 2.80m, with a total distance of 6.00m (it may not be coincidental that this is also the width of the building). The southern pair form the ends of the south row of postholes, but there is a gap of around 1.35m before the north row, which has 560 and 546 at its ends, with the latter seemingly too small to have supported a major upright. A number of other postholes are present in both east and west rows, and other pairs are possible, such as 3063 and 3056. The more substantial of those in the west are evenly spaced, although not always quite regularly aligned, and there is also a rough line of three smaller postholes (3073-3071-3064) seemingly paired with larger ones. The distribution of additional postholes in the eastern row is less regular in spacing, size and alignment. It would seem, assuming that the principal structural supports have been correctly identified, that the other postholes must represent additional framing for the walls, with the possibility that the east side was more open than the west.

The postholes in the northern row are very variable in size and spacing and wander about a straight line. They presumably provided the framing for a wall but little more can be said. The southern row can be similarly described, but might be expected to include arrangements for an entrance. If it does, then they are by no means obvious. It may be significant that posthole 3103 is set centrally and almost on a direct line between 3112 (west) and 3062 (east).

The impression, given the paucity of intercutting postholes, is that most of the evidence relates to a single phase of building, although some modification and repairs may be present.

#### *The eaves-drip gully*

A continuous gully was found around three sides of the building with its centre at about 2.5m distant from the walls. It begins as 3135 on the west side, continues around the north side as 562, and then along the east side as 3135, which links to 3126, although the precise relationship was unclear. The gully was generally between 0.40m and 0.60m wide, although occasionally wider still. The excavated depth varied between 10cm and 20cm, although much of this variation is likely to be due to differential truncation of the surface and a better indication of its nature is given by the way, going clockwise, the basal level drops steadily from 13.61m OD in 3134 to 13.35m OD in 3129. The overflow from 3009 may have run into 3126 (although it seems odd

that the two were not properly linked), and the latter feature became more substantial as it went south and merged with the east-west 3125 (fig 5 no 5), with its base at 13.29 OD. It seems likely that water from the eaves-drip gully was therefore ultimately channelled in the direction of the watercourse identified in previous years (fig 2).

#### *Possible enclosure ditches and features within*

The presence of the comparatively deep (up to 28cm) gully, 3119 (fig 5 no 5), to the south of building 3079 must have controlled access to it, perhaps effectively providing an enclosed area to the south and west, where it was bounded by ditch 3019 (see below). On the east side of that area a number of postholes and stakeholes were identified, but their distribution is so irregular that it is hard to say anything useful about them.

#### *General comment*

Jones (2012, 5) noted with regard to gully 562 and the postholes to its south that:

*Lying between and over them, and filling all of these features, was a charcoal-flecked mid to dark grey clayey loam, 561, although this did not extend further than the gully. After cleaning the southern baulk over the gully in box section 567, layer 561 was observed to be c9cm deep and sandwiched between c38cm of the ploughsoil context 500 and the clays of the solifluction lobe.*

This sequence was found to extend across the whole of the area of the building and associated features as layer 3008, and, produced a total of 86 early medieval sherds, as well as five Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age sherds, a whetstone, an iron object and a few fragments of CBM, and a quantity of worked flint of various dates. Immediately south of the building layer 3016 was similar but more densely charcoal rich. All features included fills of similar character, but finds from these were generally scarce, with the early medieval sherds coming almost exclusively from the east side of the building, most notably from gully 3009 with 164 sherds, with one sherd from each of postholes 3052, 3055 and 3062. Overall there can be no doubt that the building and associated layers belong to the early medieval period. Further discussion of the character and relationships of this occupation is given in the discussion below.

#### **Early medieval ditches**

Two ditches (3017 (fig 5 no 6) and 3019 (fig 5 no 7)) and a gully (3011/3039) were identified running north-north-east to south-south-west (through areas 2 and 4) and are parallel to the west and east sides of building 3079. Ditch 3019 links to gully 3119, presumed (above) to be associated with the building, in a way that suggests they are broadly contemporary. Both 3017 and 3019 wander around a straight line and are generally of around 1.2m width. Excavated sections of 3017 vary between 30 and 40 cm in depth, while 3019 varies between 30 and 62cm in depth, with both having generally bowl-shaped profiles. The ditches run downhill from north to south, with 3019 dropping from 113.33 OD to 112.18 OD over its exposed length of 65m. inds from the excavated sections of the ditches were few but a total of six early medieval sherds from 3017 and nine from 3019 provide useful support for the suggestion that they are contemporary with the building.

It seems most likely that 3017 and 3019 are field boundaries to either side of a trackway of about 7m width, with 3011/3039, which was very shallow (generally only around 3cm deep),

either associated with the passage of traffic along the track or being the field boundary at a time when the trackway did not exist, prior to or after its use.

### **Features of probable post-medieval date**

A number of other ditches are interrelated to the early medieval features described above, but seem likely to be of different, if uncertain date.

Ditches 3010 and 3025 cross one another at right angles and seem almost certain to be contemporary, with the evidence that segment 3027 (3010) cut 3029 (3025) perhaps pointing to a recut. Ditch 3088, which seems to branch off 3010 may also be contemporary, but there was considerable uncertainty in excavation as to whether this feature might be a natural variation. The stratigraphic evidence for the relative date of these features is inconclusive, largely due to unsatisfactory differentiation of the fills. The excavator believed that 3027 (3010) cut 3029 (3025), whereas 3035 (3025) was thought to cut 3034 (3011), though in neither case was there certainty. Clearly no reliance can be placed on contradictory indications of pre and post early medieval dates. 3010 includes two sherds of medieval or early medieval date, scraps of post-Roman roof tile, a Roman sherd and three prehistoric sherds, as well as eight worked flints of various dates, while 3025 produced no pottery but 48 worked flints of various dates and quite a lot of burnt flint, the great majority of which came from segment 3065 at the east end. On balance the presence of medieval or later material cannot be ignored and suggests a date later than the early medieval ditches. The absence of ditches of Roman or any earlier date from the previous excavations at North Park arm is a significant pointer to this also. The creation of the North Park in the early 13th century was the reason for the abandonment of the early medieval ditches and any later ditches can only have come into existence following disparking in the 17th century. No field boundaries in this location are marked on the detailed maps from 1761 onwards (Poulton 1998, figs 1.3-1.5) which suggests that these boundaries were created earlier; if they were comparatively short-lived that might explain the absence of any definitely post-medieval material.

Ditch 3117 also seems likely to be of post-medieval date, given that it could clearly be seen to cut 3010, 3011, and 3019. It was a broad curving ditch, up to 2m wide and 0.80m deep, but produced only a couple of sherds of early medieval pottery. No known post-medieval feature is on this alignment and its date and function are obscure.

A single small posthole, 3007, in area 1, is the only other feature to mention but as it produced no dating evidence no more can be said.

## **THE FLINTWORK BY NICK MARPLES**

### **Overall summary**

More than 892 lithic artefacts (excluding chips) weighing almost 10Kg were collected from 88 individual contexts, spanning the full range of sampled features and deposits across the whole site (table 2).

Although most of this material was concentrated at the northern end, close to the southern limit of the area investigated in 2011 (Jones 2012), over 100 flints were recovered from the machine exposed surface of a grey silt, context 3005 (fig 3, areas 2 and 5), probably deriving from palaeochannel activity both here and further east, evidence for which was previously

recorded in 2013 (Jones 2014). An additional 42 flints were found within a ditch segment cutting through these deposits, context 3065, and these are likely to be of similar derivation.

The most important feature assemblages relate to a group of tree-throws found in the north-western corner of the site, situated at the junction of a remnant patch of Folkestone Beds sands and the western edge of the previously identified palaeochannel (solifluction lobe). Context 3116, the largest of these features that was sampled (albeit only approximately 50% by mattock, and without any sieving of the spoil that would undoubtedly have resulted in the recovery of much finer flintworking debris), produced 80 lithic artefacts in good condition, including a possible microlith and three truncations that are likely to date to the Mesolithic period. A smaller tree-throw, 3128, located a few metres further west, yielded in excess of 450 flints in very good condition, including 14 microburins, two microliths, burins, burin spalls, axe or adze thinning and sharpening flakes, as well as large numbers of chips (flakes and indeterminate fragments with maximum diameters up to 10mm), which clearly derive from knapping activity. The latter (most of which were recovered from bulk sample soil residues) await precise quantification. Two microliths identified in the course of this assessment include a four-sided piece that can be confidently attributed to the latter part of the Late Mesolithic period (c8000-4000 BC). Almost immediately adjacent to 3128 was a similar but much smaller feature, context 3140, from which four flints including a possible burin were collected in the course of surface cleaning, although this feature was not subsequently sampled.

Another small cluster of tree-throws and possible pits further west produced very much smaller quantities of worked flint, ranging from three to 15 items each, but including a distal microburin. Some of this material is likely to be of Mesolithic date, and so too are a number of bladelet cores and blades recovered as residual pieces from features and deposits of medieval or prehistoric origin across the remainder of the site. For the most part, this material has been produced from a better quality raw material source with unabraded cortex, likely to derive from largely unweathered nodules of chalk flint.

Much of the flintwork from within the grey silt along the eastern edge of the site is also in good condition, but this is likely to represent an amalgamation of different periods of prehistoric activity, as appeared to be the case with similar finds recovered in 2013 (Marples 2014). A small fragment from a Neolithic ground axe found within ditch segment 3065 represents the only chronologically diagnostic piece identified to date.

Archaeological work further north, within and around the early medieval structure 3079, resulted in the recovery of a moderately sized assemblage of c100 flints. These largely derive from subsoils or a layer extending across most of the northern part of the site which may be a localized variant of the grey silt 3005 identified further south (see also the overall discussion at the end). Their condition ranges from fair to good, but much of the collection has clearly been re-worked. There are a few pieces of probable Mesolithic origin, but the overwhelming majority are the product of an industry, or industries, of later prehistoric date, comprising hard hammer struck flakes and flake cores, generally much larger and less intensively worked than their Mesolithic counterparts. Most of this material is mineral stained red/reddish-brown, and has been produced on cobbles of inferior quality to those used in the production of the Mesolithic flintwork found further west. These artefacts would appear to represent a westward continuation of similar material recovered in 2013 which is likely to be of Bronze Age date, although on technological grounds much of it could equally well be Late Neolithic. There is an absence of diagnostic tool forms such as arrowheads, serrates or ground pieces, and the lack of any substantial, reliably dated groups of Neolithic flintwork from previous archaeological work in the area precludes any

certainty with regard to dating, although the presence of a few pieces of Bullhead Beds flint does suggest a Neolithic component.

Away from the Mesolithic tree-throw hollows, three denticulated tools, including two scraper types, and a characteristic piercer with a long point, all of which may be of Bronze Age or Late Neolithic date, are amongst the very few implements collected from the site.

## **Discussion**

Tree-throw hollows containing sizeable lithic assemblages of Mesolithic date are rare, although several have now been identified in the course of archaeological investigations at North Park arm since 2001. Context 3128 constitutes the most westerly of those now sampled, and represents the first positively identified Mesolithic feature located west of the palaeochannel, an important landscape feature which clearly served as the focus for activity spanning much of the prehistoric period, and which equally clearly retained a considerable body of material evidence relating to such activity within its general course. Although the potential of the latter is clearly limited by the degree of post-depositional disturbance occasioned by fluvial erosion in the area, the former retains some potential for enhancing our knowledge of activity here in the later part of the Late Mesolithic period, to set alongside the results deriving from analysis of similar lithic assemblages relating to comparable features in other parts of the quarry.

Also worthy of note is the considerable variation in patination and mineral staining visible on flints recovered from the site, with examples of unpatinated, partially patinated, wholly patinated, mineral stained brown, yellow, and green flint, as well as a few pieces exhibiting both mineral staining and surface patination, characteristics which are likely to relate to the changing hydrology of the area and differing source materials.

## **Recommendations for further work**

- In keeping with previous phases of archaeological work at North Park arm which have produced similar lithic assemblages, it is recommended that all of the recovered flintwork (including all relevant sorted bulk samples) should be classified and quantified with regard to artefact class, raw material type (where distinguishable), condition and weight, and the results entered onto an Excel spreadsheet, to serve as the basis for further summary table and chart preparation, illustration and written report preparation as set out below (see eg Marples 2013; and Marples 2014 for details pertaining to the methodology employed) (4 days);
- Preparation of tables and charts relating to the overall quantification and composition, condition and distribution of the lithic finds by context/chronological groups (2 days);
- Preparation of tables and charts pertaining to detailed core and tool classifications by context /chronological groups, and to chip quantities and proportions from tree-throw hollow 3128 (1 day);
- Selection and illustration of key lithic artefact groups and individual artefacts (dependent on full classification of the assemblage and the form of any final publication, but to include representative Mesolithic and later prehistoric pieces at least for archival purposes) (up to 10 days);
- The preparation of a full written report detailing the results of full quantification and classification, with regard to raw material usage, contextual derivation, condition, lithic technology, dating, and incorporating a discussion of local, regional and national parallels to the site assemblage. (3 days).

## **THE POTTERY BY KAYT MARTER BROWN**

A small assemblage of 383 sherds (1523g) was recovered and is quantified in table 3. Within this material were identified minor components of Early Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Roman date, with the bulk of the ceramics assigned to the early medieval period. The assemblage was in an overall poor condition; average sherd size was just 4g, the sherds were highly fragmentary and vessel rims had mostly broken at the rim/neck junction with little further profile evident.

The chronologically earliest pottery all occurred as intrusive finds in the fills of Mesolithic tree throws. Three tiny fragments (<1g) are intrusive in 2128, whilst two grog with sand-tempered sherds from 3006 may derive from a Neolithic collared urn. Twenty-one calcined tempered sherds are of Late Bronze-Age/Early Iron Age date, comprising small, abraded sherds with a single worn rim fragment. With the exception of one sherd recovered from posthole 3077, this material, plus the 14 sherds of indeterminate prehistoric date, all occurs as either residual or re-deposited finds (3004, 3005, 3006, 3008, 3010, 3012, 3019, 3037, 3048, 3090, 3092, 3093). Two greyware body sherds are of generic Romano-British date and, along with a late Roman Oxfordshire colour-coat bowl rim, are the only finds of this date. All three are re-deposited within later ditches (3025, 3010).

A large group, some 278 sherds (1194g) of early medieval wares, primarily shell-tempered (250 sherds, 1036g) were recovered from ditch and gully features 3009, 3017, 3019, 3119 and building 3079. The sherds were in a highly comminuted state, with an average sherd weight of 4.3g and although 13 rims were recorded, no attempt has been made at this stage to ascertain minimum vessel numbers.

### **Recommendations:**

- The pottery requires full analysis by fabric and form in accordance with the methodologies employed on previous assemblages from North Park. (?? days)
- Given the condition of the sherds illustrations will be kept to a minimum. (?? days)
- A short report for incorporation into the pottery report detailing the assemblages recovered since 2005. (?? days)

## **THE OTHER FINDS BY KAYT MARTER BROWN**

A small assemblage of material was recovered and is summarised in Table 4 below. A fragmentary pendant whetstone (surviving length of 122mm, context 3008) is of early medieval date and found in association with pottery of a similar date (see pottery assessment). The small quantity of burnt clay comprised small, amorphous fragments, frequently found on sites of this date and deriving from a range of either domestic or industrial activities. The minor amount of slag recovered, all from iron working, may indicate low level smithing in the vicinity. Two small flat iron fragments, one identifiable and one possibly an incomplete knife blade, were recovered from context 3008. Animal bone was retrieved from three contexts (3012, 3105, and 3117), all small, friable and badly weathered fragments, a partial pig tibia being the only identifiable piece. Ceramic building materials, in the form of plain roof tile fragments were

recorded from three contexts (3000, 3085, and 3117). The occurrence of burnt flint, as an indicator of human activity, was recorded and subsequently discarded.

It is recommended that the whetstone be included in the final publication, however the remaining finds offer no potential for further analysis.

## **CHARCOAL AND CREMATED BONE ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**BY L ALLOTT &**

**E MENZEL**

### **Introduction**

This report summarises the findings arising out of the charcoal and cremated bone assessment undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) at North Park Farm Quarry, Bletchingly, Surrey. During an archaeological evaluation and excavation at the site, undertaken by (SCAU), samples were taken from probable late Bronze Age pit/possible cremation ([3086], samples <13>, <14> and <15>), and from two early medieval contexts including a posthole ([3068], sample <10> within building B3079) and layer within a drip gully ([3114], sample <16>). Following processing by SCAU, all five samples were found to contain charcoal, whilst the later Bronze Age pit/cremation also contained charred bone fragments. The overall aims of the assessment were to evaluate the potential of the samples for reconstructing the general environmental context of the site, and to establish the nature of the cremated human bone assemblage.

### **Methods**

#### *Charcoal*

Charcoal remains recovered from the samples were quantified and ten charcoal fragments were extracted from each for identification. The fragments were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 400x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004), and by comparison with modern reference material held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

#### *Cremated human remains*

A total of 140.7 grams of burnt human bone was recovered from three samples (<13>, <14> and <15>) arising from a later Bronze Age pit/possible cremation ([3086]). Burnt bone recovered from the samples was presented in greater than 4mm and greater than 2mm fractions. Further sorting was conducted to separate the bone in to fractions of 9-20mm, 21-30mm, and greater than 30mm. Recording and analysis followed the procedures outlined by McKinley (2004). The colour of the bone was assessed with reference to Holden et al (1995a, b) and Shipman et al

(1984). Age estimations were based on metacarpal width measurements (Schuer & Black 2000, 339) and general robustness of skull fragments. Due to high levels of fragmentation specific age estimates were not possible so the use of age categories was employed. The older juvenile/adult age refers to individual's age 16-45+ years as adult skull thickness is attained by the age of 16 (Letts et al 1988). Sex estimations were not possible due to a lack of sexually dimorphic features.

## **Results and interpretation of the charcoal assessment**

### *Later Bronze Age*

Pit/possible cremation [3086] <13>, <14>, <15>

This feature produced a large quantity of wood charcoal. On the whole the fragments were well preserved and showed little evidence for sediment infiltration or encrusting that can be detrimental to charcoal preservation. From the initial assessment it appears that the range of taxa is limited. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) was identified in each deposit, while oak (*Quercus* sp.) and willow/poplar sp. (*Salix/Populus* sp.) were recorded in sample <15> from context (3086B) only.

### *Early medieval*

Posthole [3068] <10> in building 3079

This sample produced only a small quantity of wood charcoal >4mm although further fragments measuring 2-4mm were evident. Oak, possible hazel/alder (*Corylus/Alnus* sp.) and possible birch (cf. *Betula* sp.) were identified and a fragment of indeterminate compressed wood charcoal was also noted. Preservation was poor to moderate with some evidence for sediment infiltration and subsequent damage.

Layer [3114] <16> in drip gully

Wood charcoal fragments were moderately common in this sample and on the whole they were well preserved. Taxa identified include oak, hazel/alder and fragments consistent with Maloideae sub-family taxa (a group which includes apple, hawthorn, rowan, whitebeam and pear).

## **Results and interpretation of the cremated bone assessment**

The results of the analysis are tabulated below (table 6) and summarised by phase. Further details are housed in the archive.

### *Later Bronze Age*

The weight of the cremated bone samples varied from 7.1g (3086A) to 69.1g (3086A/B). All three samples are well below the expected weight of 1001.5 to 2422.5 grams for an adult cremation (McKinley 1993) and if combined only amount to 14% of the total bone expected from a single cremated adult. Preservation of the bone from all samples was poor, with a majority of the fragments fairly abraded. The largest quantities of bone were found in the 5-8mm fractions, indicating high levels of fragmentation. The largest fragment recovered was found in deposit [3086A/B] and measures 25.87mm.



## Demographic and pathological data

The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was assessed by the observation of repeated skeletal elements and osteological inconsistencies. No repeated elements were observed; however, deposit (3086B) contained the remains of a probable older juvenile/adult individual and the remains of a probable infant individual. Deposit (3086 A/B) also contained the remains of a probable older juvenile/adult individual. Age estimation was not possible for (3086A). Due to the ambiguity of deposit (3086A/B) the estimated minimum number of individuals present is two, a probable juvenile/adult and a probable infant. The probable juvenile/adult individual's ((3086A/B) and (3086B)) age was determined by the thickness and robustness of cranial fragments. Adult cranial thickness is reached by the age of 16 so it is unlikely that this individual was younger than 16 years old but could be as old as 45+ years. The infant age [3086B] was assessed through the measurement of a metacarpal shaft, indicating that the individual was aged birth to 6 months. No pathological changes were observed.

## Pyre technology and burial ritual

All of the bone recovered was white with a slight grey hue, indicating that the pyre temperatures reached a minimum of 600°C and that a successful cremation took place.

All three of the deposits contained bone that was identifiable to area. The lower limbs, followed by the skull, were the most abundantly represented areas forming 76.9% and 29.8% of the assemblages. Identifiable small elements, a metacarpal shaft and a single tooth root, were identified. The presence of these elements suggests that the burial rite may have preferred en-masse collection (McKinley 2006); however, the fact that these burials did not contain the entire individuals but portions of the crania, torso, and limbs would suggest some form of selection process.

No animal bone was present in the assemblages.

## Discussion and conclusions

### *Charcoal*

Preservation of wood charcoal was generally good, with the notable exception of sample <10> from posthole [3068] which produced only a small quantity of poorly preserved fragments. The most significant assemblages are from pit/cremation feature [3086]. Each of the three samples produced very large quantities of well-preserved charcoal and included fragments measuring up to approximately 8cm in size. The presence of such large fragments suggests the deposit has not been subject to significant post-depositional disturbances.

Woody taxa provide evidence for a range of habitats from which fuel wood may have been collected. In the later Bronze Age deposits, large deciduous woodland trees, ash and oak occur together with willow/poplar, that are likely to have grown in close proximity to water or on low-lying damp ground. The early medieval assemblages derive from a wider range of habitats and include elements from deciduous woodland (oak, hazel, birch) as well as hedgerow or scrub (Maloideae taxa, hazel) and lowlying damp ground (alder). It is interesting to note the prominence of ash in the later Bronze Age samples and its absence in the later assemblages. This is likely to be a result of selection rather than necessarily implying an abundance or absence within the vegetation during the different occupation periods.

Previous studies regarding the composition of charcoal assemblages within Bronze Age cremations and funerary related features in south-east England suggest that either oak or ash were commonly used as the primary fuel and structural component of the pyre (cf Gale 2009, Alldritt 2006a, 2006b, 2006c, Challinor 2006). Both are well suited to use in such structures and both provide excellent fuel. Although the quantity of charcoal identified during assessment (when compared with the total charcoal fragments available from these samples) is very small, initial results suggest that ash may be prominent within these charcoal rich deposits. Unlike many woods, ash burns well when fresh or dried. Smaller, shrubby taxa usually make up a lesser component of the assemblages and are often interpreted as accidental inclusions, brushwood or kindling for pyres. With the exception of a single fragment of willow/poplar, the assessment results have not revealed evidence for such taxa although analysis of a larger proportion of the assemblage will clarify this observation. The sheer abundance of charcoal fragments within this pit/cremation deposit as well as the quality of their preservation make this charcoal assemblage unusual and although it is an isolated deposit within the current excavation site it has potential to add to a growing body of data regarding fuel selection associated with funerary activities in the region.

By comparison, the early medieval assemblages present little potential for further analysis. The assemblages are relatively small and cannot be directly associated with specific fuel using activities. They most likely derive from a range of original sources and as such they would only provide a broad indication of the types of taxa selected for fuel and the composition of the local vegetation environment.

#### *Cremated bone*

Despite the small quantity of bone, these three samples give us insight into the use of the cremation burial rite in this area during the Later Bronze Age. The presence of the bones of two distinctly aged individuals would suggest that this cremation was a dual burial; however, due to the small amount of bone, high level of fragmentation, and poor preservation it is impossible to come to further conclusions about the individuals. The deliberate inclusion of large amounts of fuel ash in cremation burials is rare during the Bronze Age (McKinley 1997b); thus, the low quantity of bone but unusual amount of pyre debris in the form of charcoal could indicate that this pit was not necessarily an intentional burial of burnt human bone but a deposit of pyre debris (Mates et al, 2013). The presence of Bronze Age pyre debris pits containing low quantities of bone has been found at Claypit Lane in West Sussex (McKinley 2006) and Twyford Down in Hampshire (Walker & Farwell 2000). These pyre deposits are typically recognised as a form of pyre cleaning for reuse or subsequent interments of the remaining pyre materials after a majority of the bone has been hand collected. The low quantity of bone, small bone elements, and an unusual amount of charcoal all support the possibility that a large quantity of the bone was hand collected and that this deposit is the remnants of a raked out pyre. Without evidence of deliberate cremation burials nearby or the location of a pyre site in close proximity it is difficult to determine the nature of these burnt bone deposits.

#### **Recommendations**

Analysis of wood charcoal fragments from pit/cremation feature [3086] is recommended in order to better establish the range of the woody taxa represented. The analysis should include up to 120 fragments from each of the distinct fills of the feature (3086A) and (3086B). This will also help

establish whether there is any change in the composition through the deposit. Where possible, ring curvature measures will be recorded to provide information on the sizes of wood represented. The data will be compared with data from contemporary sites in the region.

Suitable material for radiocarbon dating should be identified so as to provide a more conclusive date for the feature

No further work on the cremated bone is necessary due to the low quantity of bone and poor preservation of the remains.

## CONCLUSION

The 2014 excavation at North Park Farm Quarry once again produced some archaeological surprises and provides a fitting conclusion to what amounts to an exploration of the development of a landscape from the Mesolithic era to the medieval period, and one, moreover, that, because no similar area has previously been explored in this way, represents an expansion of knowledge of regional if not national importance.

An important aspect of understanding that landscape has been recognising both the impact of a glacial solifluction lobe in producing unanticipated variation in near surface conditions and the significance of now silted water channels (palaeochannels). Each has clearly had substantial effects on the way in which the landscape was utilised and the 2014 season has been important in clarifying their extent and location (fig 1).

The Mesolithic evidence represents, as Marples notes above, the ‘first positively identified Mesolithic feature located west of the palaeochannel’ and indeed west of the solifluction lobe. It extends our understanding of the extent of the hugely important Mesolithic activity in this area and is interesting also as a further example of the, generally comparatively rare, association of such activity with tree-throw hollows. This only occurs where Folkestone Beds sand lies at the surface and this presumably reflects the distribution of tree-throws.

Later prehistoric evidence is comparatively sparse and much of it is residual in later features or redistributed by the activity of the palaeochannel. It nevertheless shows that the latter must have served as a focus for activity through most or all of the period. The Bronze Age features do, however, add to the dispersed evidence for that period spread across the quarry area, and the cremation deposit is of particular interest, although in need of radiocarbon dating to confirm its chronological position. The paucity of Iron Age, and, even more so, Roman, material may suggest that the area became of less significance in those periods.

If so, that was to be dramatically reversed in the early medieval period, when the extensive evidence for activity is clearly organised relative to its presence (fig 10). The present area has revealed parts of a trackway and field system aligned to the palaeochannel. The features are comparatively shallow, especially towards the northern edge of the area, but were not identified in area E to the north. Given that the excavations in 2011 identified the eaves-drip gully nearby, this is likely to mean that they ceased have sufficient ground impact to survive in the northern area. Jones (2012, 6) observed with regard to the missing westward extent of field ditches observed in area C (fig 1) that ‘despite careful examination ...no trace of .[their].. continuance was observed. The reason for this is probably the rise of the upstanding tract of basement pebbles 173 in this zone, which may have caused ditch digging of the final western length[s] ... to have been less deep’, and harder ground may be a more general explanation for

their absence. That observation suggests that the ditches were primarily dug to assist with the creation of hedged divisions rather than for drainage.

The post-hole building was carefully placed next to the trackway and in the corner of a field. It is clearly not a domestic feature. Jones (2014, 16) observed of the excavated complex 60-70m to the south-west

*the 'burnt complex' ... remains enigmatic. ...Also unusual was the blanket of black clay that, from its spread and depth, represents considerably more burnt material than is usually found on domestic sites of the period. ...the most reasonable explanation is that it had been part of a charcoal burning site established a short distance from the settlement of its craftsmen because of the proximity of woodland and running water.*

The present site was also blanketed by charcoal-flecked mid to dark grey clayey loam. The charcoal is far less intensive than at the industrial site, but nevertheless seems likely to come from industrial activities, and, as there, seems to have been redeposited from elsewhere as part of a levelling of the site. The comminuted condition of the pottery from the layer and feature fills may well be a result of such a process, and that may also explain the mixed dates of other finds. The function of the building seems likely, then, to relate in some way to industrial rather than agricultural activity, but perhaps for storage or processing of materials or products.

The medieval evidence from the North Park Farm Quarry forms an unusually complete picture of the functioning of a landscape in the 11th and 12th centuries (fig 10). Its regularity suggests a carefully planned development and its demise was the consequence of a fundamental reorganisation of the local economy, itself part of a dramatic shift in the regional organisation of the landscape in the century or so between 1150 and 1250. These developments involve the replacement of dispersed patterns of settlement (as within the quarry area) with new nucleated settlements (in this case the new town of Bletchingley before 1225), the emergence of significant numbers of new deer parks (the North Park by 1233) and the replacement of castles and other administrative centres by moated or other manorial sites (Bletchingley Castle by Place Farm by 1250). The detail and relative completeness (especially of the evidence from the quarry) with which this development can be demonstrated at Bletchingley make it the best example of this change, and of very great importance.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations for further work are included above in relation to the flintwork, pottery, other finds, and environmental material. No further work is required in relation to the specifics of the stratigraphy or its illustration. Some interpretative aspects (such as comparanda for the post-built structure and further consideration of its function) do need some further work but this would be best undertaken as part of a wider programme of work designed to complete a full report and publication of the archaeology of the North Park Farm Quarry.

It is, therefore, recommended, that, in the near future, a proposal for the preparation of a full report and its publication should be prepared. This should not repeat the detailed work presented for the Mesolithic hollow (Jones 2013), but will need to reference that in relation to the important Mesolithic discoveries elsewhere on the site. For the most part the proposal can be readily prepared through a review of the reports prepared after each season of work (including those in relation to prehistoric and medieval discoveries in 2005 prepared for English Heritage and approved by them for a publication grant), but it will have to await the completion of a similar report on the work in 2001. A proposal to achieve that is currently awaiting approval.

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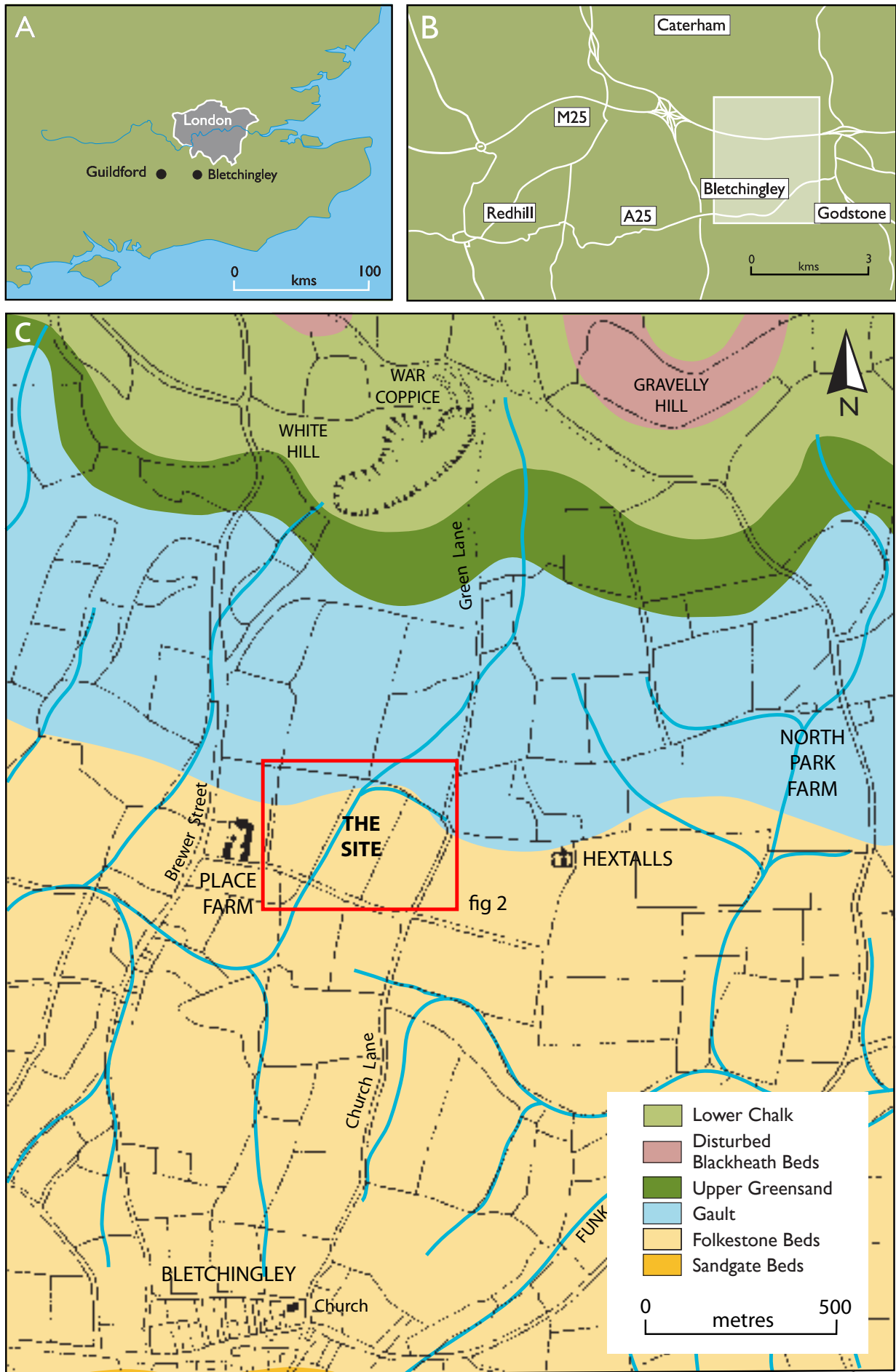


Fig 1 North Park Quarry 2014. General location plan

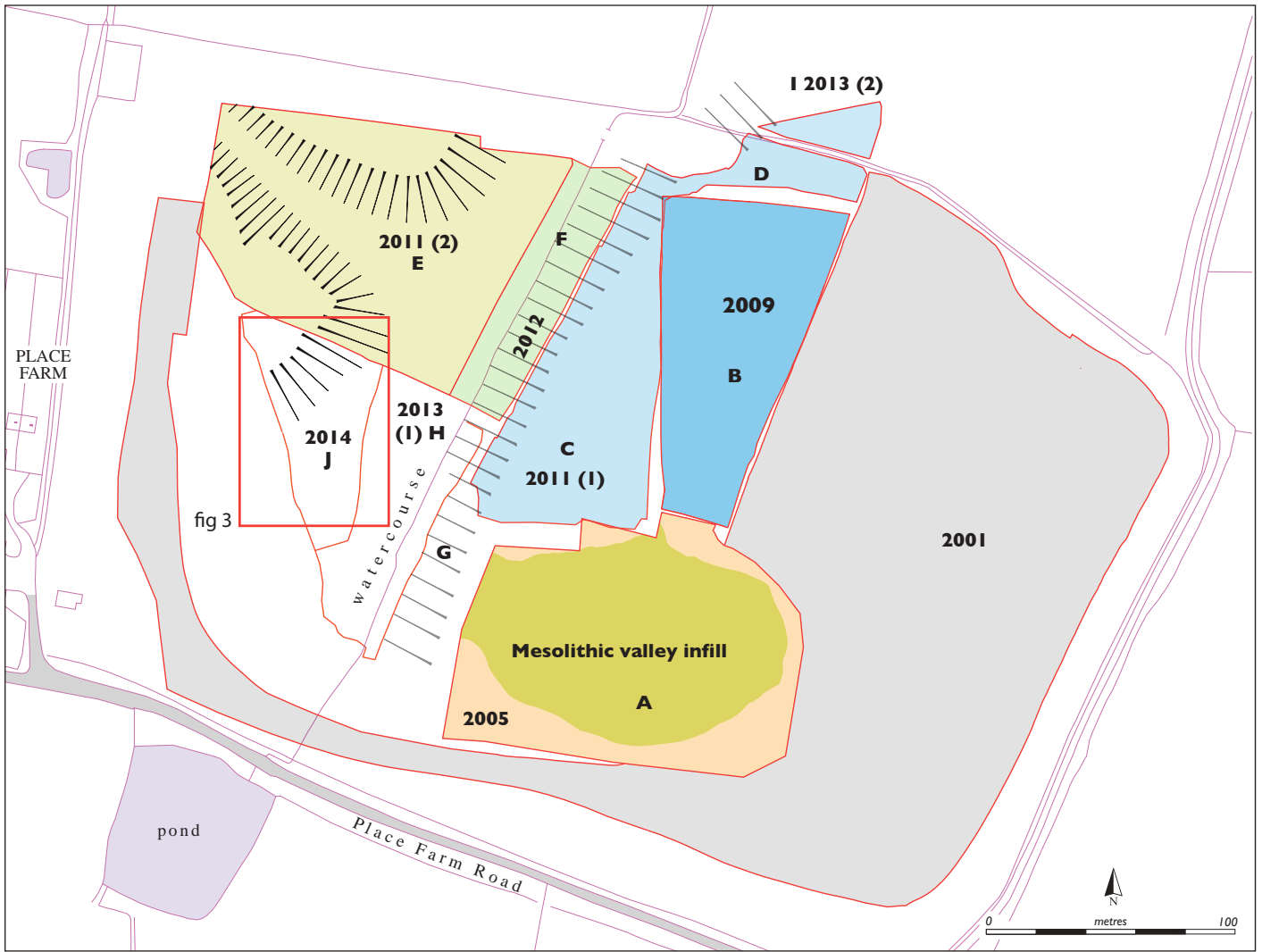


Fig 2 North Park Quarry 2014. Archaeological work in the North Park Quarry 2001-2014



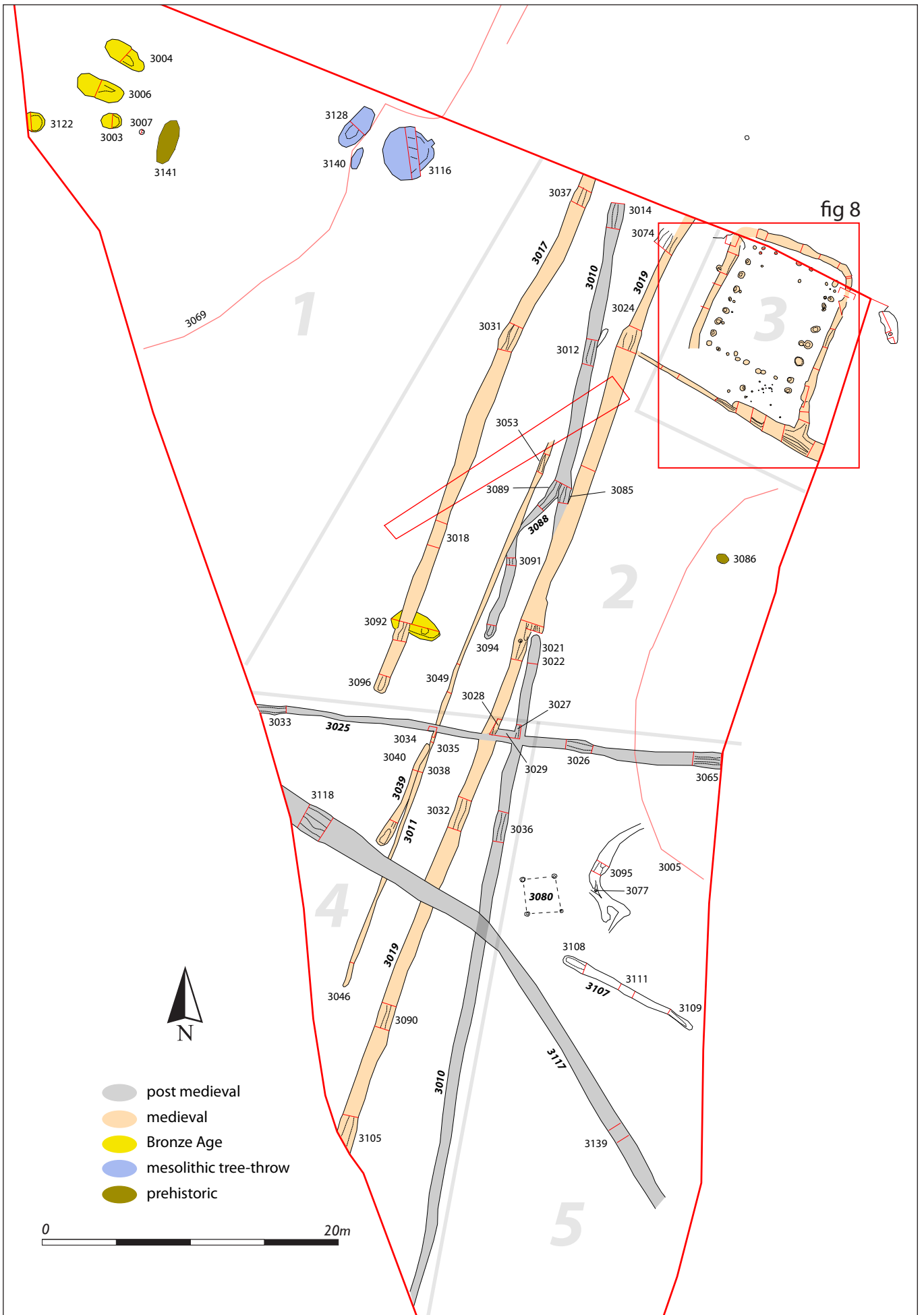


Fig 3 North Park Quarry 2014. Overall plan of the 2014 work



Fig 4 North Park Quarry 2014. Mesolithic tree-throw 3116

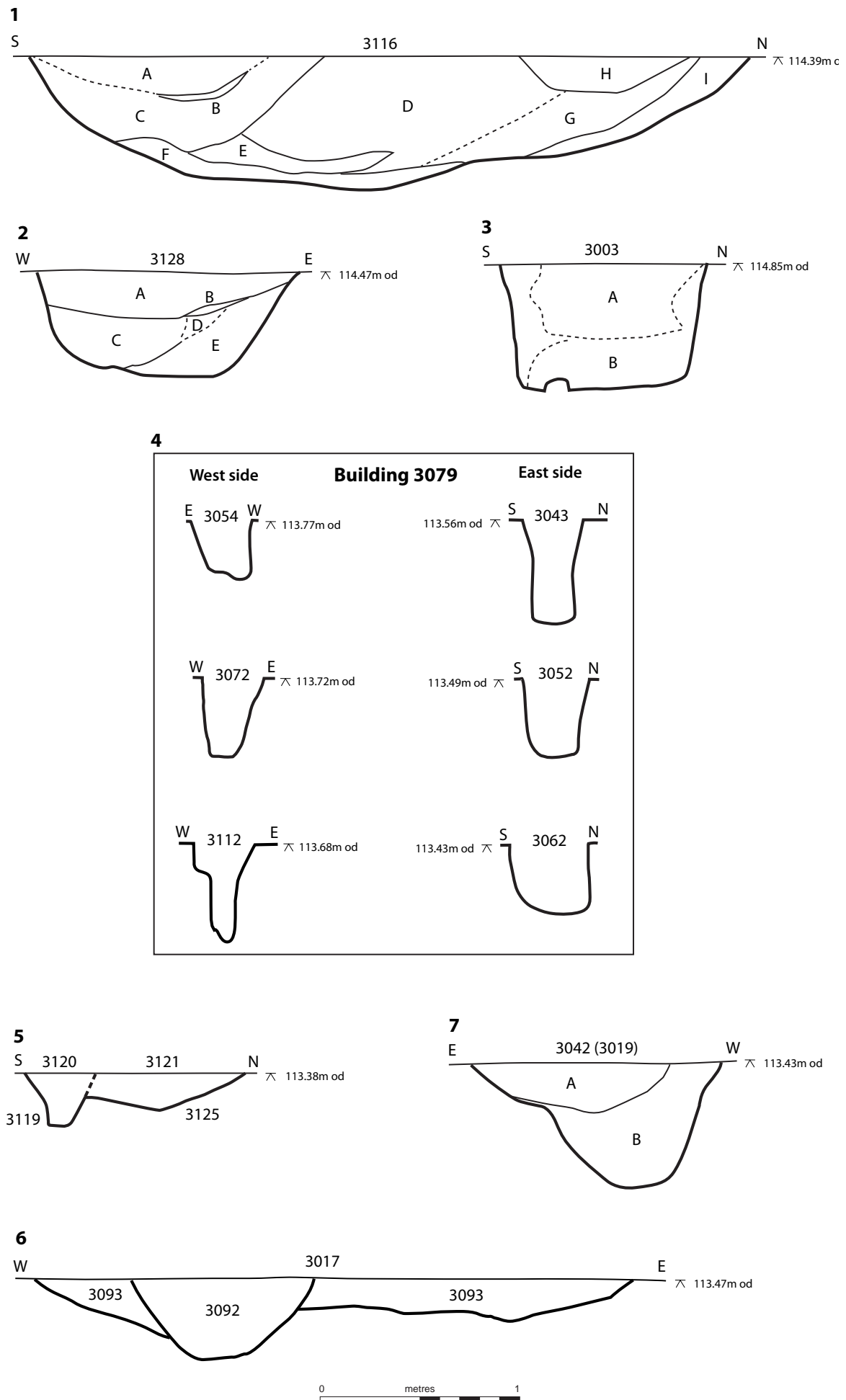


Fig 5 North Park Quarry 2014. Sections of features of various dates



Fig 6 North Park Quarry 2014. Bronze Age pit 3003

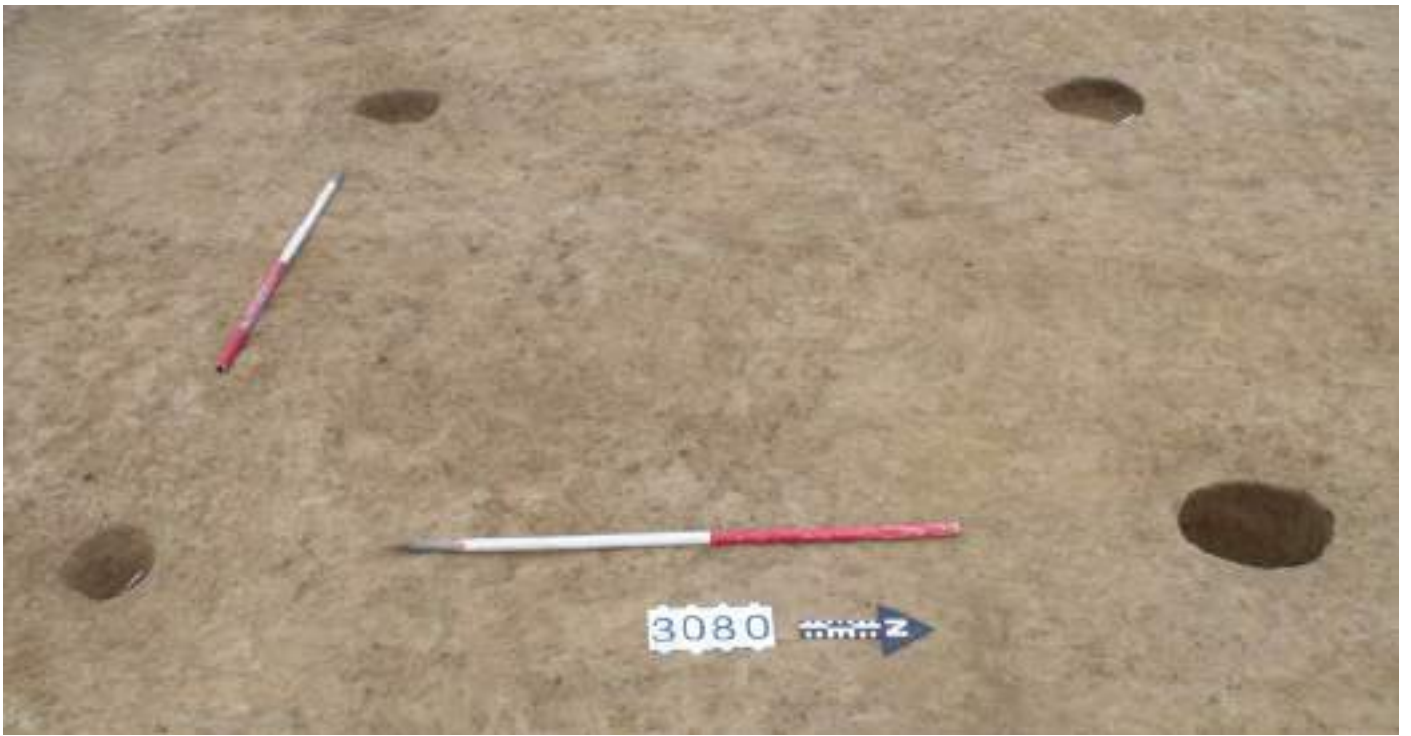


Fig 7 North Park Quarry 2014. Prehistoric 4-poster 3080

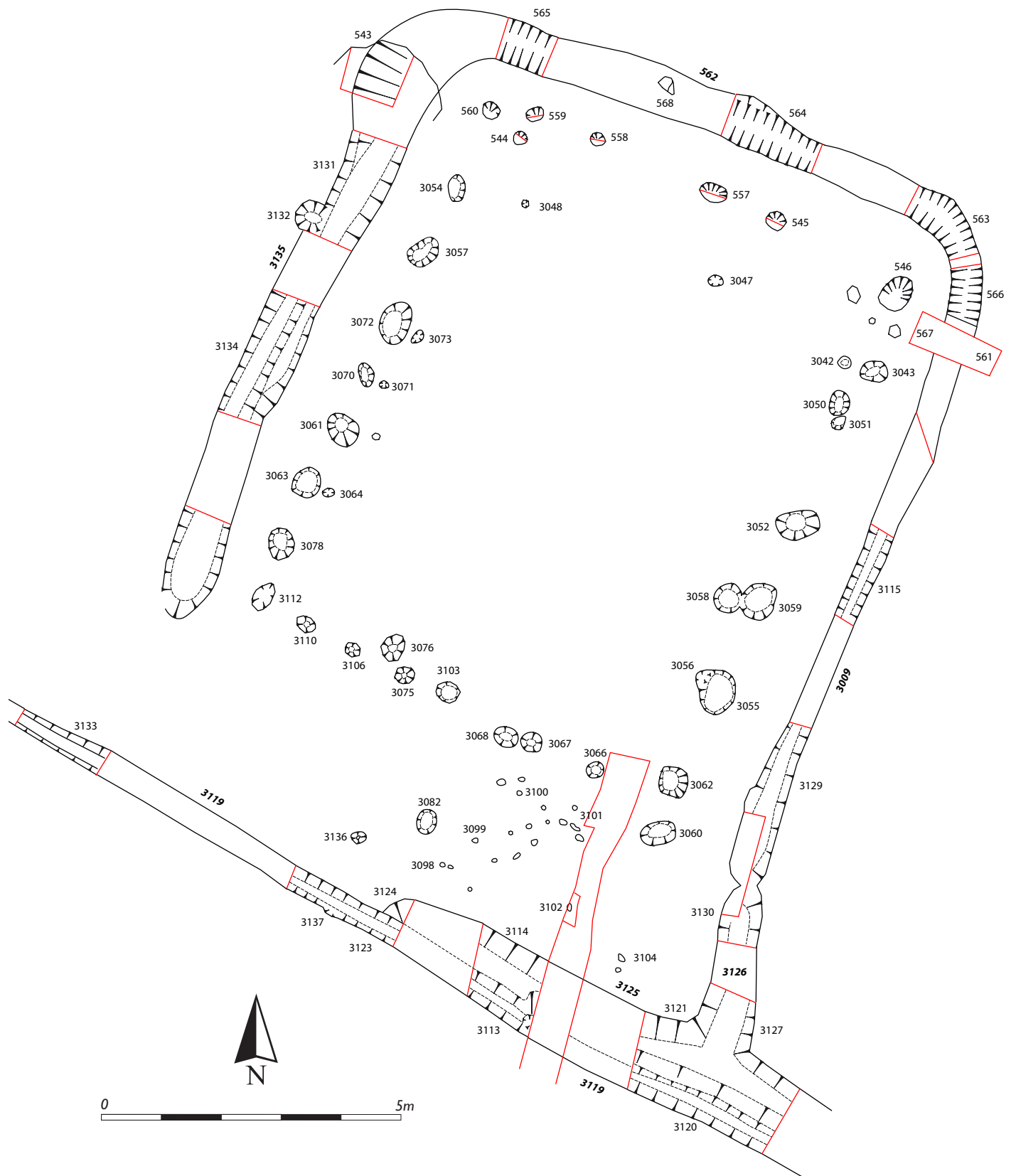


Fig 8 North Park Quarry 2014. Detail plan of the north-eastern portion (area 3)





Fig 9 North Park Quarry 2014. View of building 3079 looking west

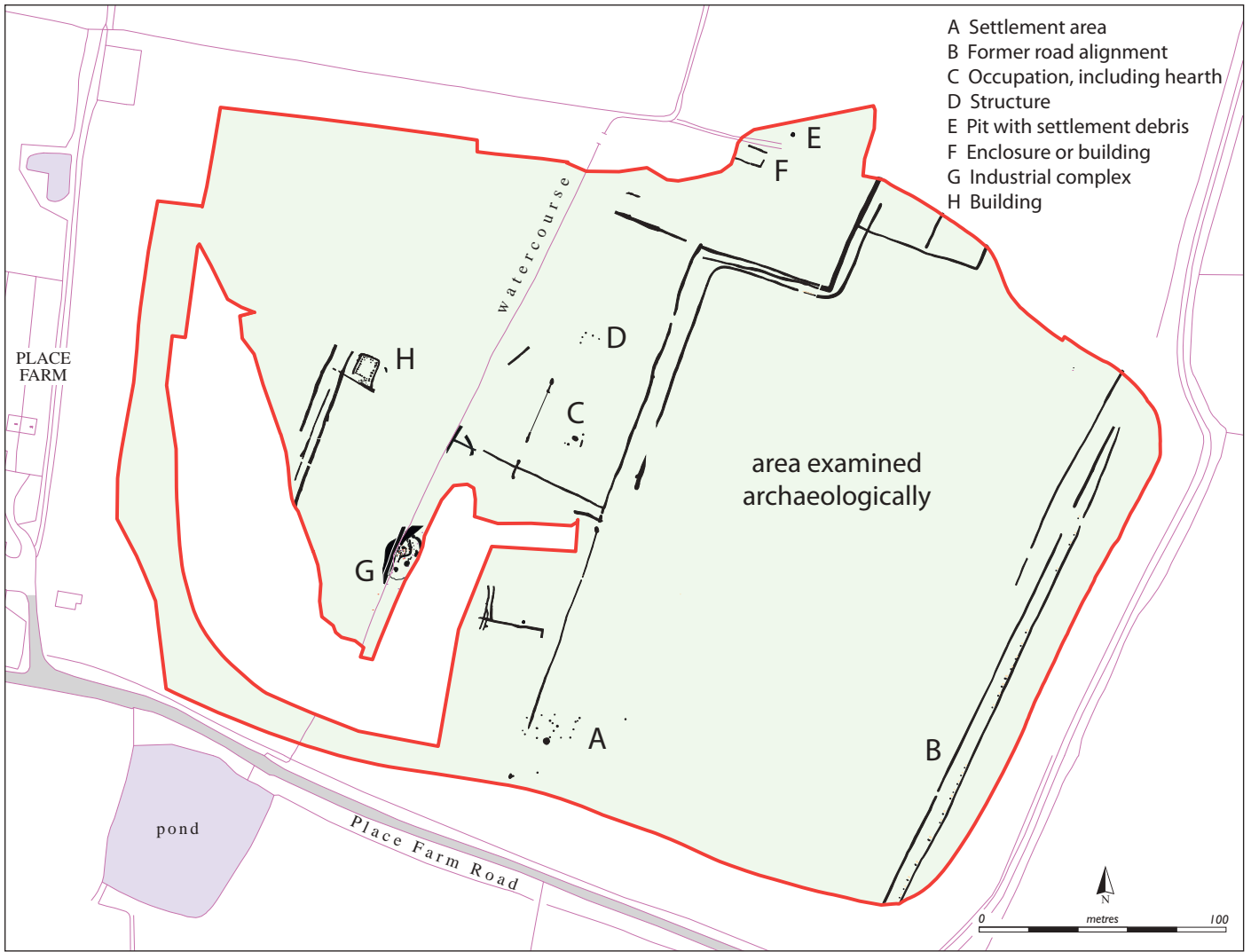


Fig 10 North Park Quarry 2014. Plan of all medieval features identified in the North Park Quarry 2001-14



**Table 1 North Park Farm excavations 2014  
Context Listing arranged by groups as in text**

1=Mesolithic; 2=Bronze Age; 3=Prehistoric; 4=Early medieval building;  
5=Early medieval ditches; 6=Post-medieval features; 7=Miscellaneous

Size (cm)										
AREA	FEAT	CON	TYPE	Size (cm)			FLINT DATE	POT DATE	NO SH	GROUP
				L	W	D				
1	3116	3116	Tree-throw	360	-	67	MESO			1
1	3128	3128	Tree-throw	300	180	53	MESO			1
1	3140	3140	Tree-throw	160	55	-	MESO			1
1	3003	3003	Pit	104	53	58	BA			2
1	3004	3004	Tree-throw	170	125	45	BA	LBA/EIA	1	2
1	3006	3006	Tree-throw	340	133	80	BA	LBA/EIA	8	2
2	3093	3093	Tree-throw	360	155	30	BA	PRE	1	2
1	3122	3122	Pit	130	90	40	BA			2
5	3077	3077	Posthole	13	-	17		LBA/EIA	1	3
5	3080	3080	4-poster	300	300					3
5	3080	3081	Posthole	32	-	18				3
5	3080	3083	Posthole	34	-	11				3
5	3080	3084	Posthole	31	-	12				3
5	3080	3087	Posthole	21	-	6				3
2	3086	3086	Pit	78	58	26				3
1	3141	3141	Tree-throw	300	125	-				3

**Table 1 North Park Farm excavations 2014  
Context Listing arranged by groups as in text**

1=Mesolithic; 2=Bronze Age; 3=Prehistoric; 4=Early medieval building;  
5=Early medieval ditches; 6=Post-medieval features; 7=Miscellaneous

AREA	Size (cm)						FLINT DATE	POT DATE	NO SH	GROUP
	FEAT	CON	TYPE	L	W	D				
3	3079	3079	Building	-	-	-				4
###	3079	544	Posthole	17	17	6				4
###	3079	545	Posthole	27	27	12				4
###	3079	546	Posthole	50	38	30				4
###	3079	557	Posthole	37	23	24				4
###	3079	558	Posthole	22	18	6				4
###	3079	559	Posthole	23	23	9				4
###	3079	560	Posthole	24	24	11				4
3	3047	3047	Posthole	19		4				4
3	3048	3048	Posthole	11		3	LBA/EIA	1		4
3	3079	3042	Posthole	18		10				4
3	3079	3043	Posthole	37	31	54				4
3	3079	3050	Posthole	30		18				4
3	3079	3051	Posthole	19		14				4
3	3079	3052	Posthole	58	32	40	EMED	2		4
3	3079	3054	Posthole	31		26				4
3	3079	3055	Posthole	62	48	21	EMED	9		4
3	3079	3056	Posthole	25		18				4
3	3079	3057	Posthole	46	35	14	?			4
3	3079	3058	Posthole	34	30	6				4
3	3079	3059	Posthole	43	40	20				4
3	3079	3060	Posthole	43	26	7				4
3	3079	3061	Posthole	47	34	25				4
3	3079	3062	Posthole	40		36	EMED	1		4
3	3079	3063	Posthole	43	30	17				4
3	3079	3064	Posthole	19	13	10				4
3	3079	3066	Posthole	24	20	13				4
3	3079	3067	Posthole	32	27	32				4
3	3079	3068	Posthole	34	31	23				4
3	3079	3070	Posthole	27	18	7				4
3	3079	3071	Posthole	12		4				4
3	3079	3072	Posthole	53	34	39				4
3	3079	3073	Posthole	17	14	6				4
3	3079	3075	Posthole	29	24	15				4
3	3079	3076	Posthole	34	28	10				4
3	3079	3078	Posthole	31		27				4
3	3079	3103	Posthole	37		43				4
3	3079	3106	Posthole	20		7				4
3	3079	3110	Posthole	24		9				4
3	3079	3112	Posthole	35	20	48				4

**Table 1 North Park Farm excavations 2014  
Context Listing arranged by groups as in text**

1=Mesolithic; 2=Bronze Age; 3=Prehistoric; 4=Early medieval building;  
5=Early medieval ditches; 6=Post-medieval features; 7=Miscellaneous

AREA	Size (cm)			L	W	D	FLINT DATE	POT DATE	NO SH	GROUP
	FEAT	CON	TYPE							
3	3009	3009	Gully	-	-	-		EMED	127	4
3	3009	3115	Segment		40	6		EMED	27	4
3	3009	3129	Segment		40	6		EMED	10	4
3	3015	3016	Segment		-	8				4
3	3119	3113	Segment		32	34				4
3	3119	3119	Gully							4
3	3119	3120	Segment		34	28		EMED	1	4
3	3119	3123	Segment		35	25				4
3	3119	3133	Segment		36	20		EMED	3	4
3	3125	3125	Gully	-	-	-		RB	1	4
3	3125	3114	Segment		135	15				4
3	3125	3121	Segment		90	17				4
3	3125	3124	Segment		-	9				4
3	3126	3126	Gully	-	-	-				4
3	3126	3127	Segment		64	10				4
3	3126	3130	Segment		40	3				4
3	3135	3135	Gully	-	-	-				4
3	3135	3131	Segment		70	17				4
3	3135	3134	Segment		61	20		?	1	4
3	3135	3138	Segment		70	13				4
3	3097	3098	Stakehole	-	-	-				4
3	3097	3099	Stakehole	-	-	-				4
3	3097	3100	Stakehole	-	-	-				4
3	3097	3101	Stakehole	-	-	-				4
3	3097	3102	Stakehole	-	-	-		?	4	4
3	3097	3104	Stakehole	-	-	-				4
3	3097	3097	Stakeholes	-	-	-				4
3	3082	3082	Posthole	36	28	8				4
3	3132	3132	Posthole	33		27				4
3	3136	3136	Posthole	18		10				4
3	3137	3137	Posthole	15		18				4
3	3142	3142	Posthole	19		30+				4
3	3008	3008	Layer	-	-	-		EMED	86	4
3	3015	3015	Layer	-	-	-		EMED	3	4

**Table 1 North Park Farm excavations 2014  
Context Listing arranged by groups as in text**

1=Mesolithic; 2=Bronze Age; 3=Prehistoric; 4=Early medieval building;  
5=Early medieval ditches; 6=Post-medieval features; 7=Miscellaneous

Size (cm)										
AREA	FEAT	CON	TYPE	Size (cm)			FLINT DATE	POT DATE	NO SH	GROUP
				L	W	D				
2	3011	3011	Ditch	-	-	-				5
2	3011	3013	Segment		20	7				5
4	3011	3034	Segment		27	20				5
4	3011	3038	Segment		30	5				5
4	3011	3046	Segment		30	3				5
2	3011	3049	Segment		25	3				5
2	3011	3053	Segment		44	14				5
2	3017	3017	Ditch	-	-	-				5
2	3017	3018	Segment		84	34				5
2	3017	3031	Segment		104	38		EMED	2	5
2	3017	3037	Segment		100	46		EMED	4	5
2	3017	3092	Segment		95	42		LBA/EIA	1	5
2	3017	3096	Segment		84	29				5
2	3019	3019	Ditch	-	-	-				5
2	3019	3020	Segment		95	25		EMED	1	5
2	3019	3021	Segment		100	20		EMED	2	5
2	3019	3024	Segment		132	62				5
4	3019	3028	Segment		-	30				5
4	3019	3032	Segment		92	28		EMED	1	5
2	3019	3074	Segment		152	60		PRE	9	5
4	3019	3090	Segment		104	36		EMED	4	5
4	3019	3105	Segment		150	50		EMED	1	5
4	3039	3039	Ditch	-	-	-				5
4	3039	3040	Segment		42	6				5
4	3039	3041	Segment		62	20				5

**Table 1 North Park Farm excavations 2014  
Context Listing arranged by groups as in text**

1=Mesolithic; 2=Bronze Age; 3=Prehistoric; 4=Early medieval building;  
5=Early medieval ditches; 6=Post-medieval features; 7=Miscellaneous

AREA	Size (cm)						FLINT DATE	POT DATE	NO SH	GROUP
	FEAT	CON	TYPE	L	W	D				
2	3010	3085	Segment		85	30				6
2	3010	3010	Ditch	-	-	-				6
2	3010	3012	Segment		84	41		EMED	1	6
2	3010	3014	Segment		87	32		MED	1	6
2	3010	3022	Segment		-	30				6
4	3010	3027	Segment		-	28				6
4	3010	3036	Segment		76	28		PRE	1	6
2	3023	3023	Posthole	22		22				6
4	3025	3025	Ditch	-	-	-				6
5	3025	3026	Segment		60	20				6
4	3025	3029	Segment		-	-				6
4	3025	3033	Segment		60	34				6
4	3025	3035	Segment		50	7				6
5	3025	3065	Segment		100	42				6
2	3088	3088	Ditch	-	-	-				6
2	3088	3089	Segment		62	16				6
2	3088	3091	Segment		60	16				6
2	3088	3094	Segment		68	20				6
5	3107	3107	Ditch	-	-	-				6
5	3107	3108	Segment		68	10				6
5	3107	3109	Segment		40	7				6
5	3107	3111	Segment		50	6				6
4	3117	3117	Ditch	-	-	-		EMED	1	6
4	3117	3118	Segment		184	52		EMED	2	6
5	3117	3139	Segment		115	43				6
1	3007	3007	Posthole	35		8				6
2	3005	3005	Palaeochannel	-	-	-		LBA/EIA	3	7
1	3045	3045	Spread	-	-	-		EMED	1	7
1	3069	3069	Palaeochannel	-	-	-				7
2	3044	3044	Slot	-	-	-				7
1	3000	3000	Unstrat	-	-	-				7
1	3001	3001	Topsoil	-	-	-				7
1	3002	3002	Subsoil	-	-	-				7
5	3030	3030	not used	-	-	-				7
5	3095	3095	Gully	-	-	-				7

Table 2 North Park Quarry 2014. Quantification of the recovered worked flint, by context group (excluding chips, except in relation to burnt artefacts)

Context type	Cores	Core dressings	Irregular waste	Flakes	Flake fragments	Blades	Blade fragments	Modified pieces	Total	Overall site %	Weight (g)	Burnt total (including chips)	Burnt % (including chips)
Mesolithic tree-throws 3128, 3116 & 3140	3	21	4	143	126	33	84	85	<b>499</b>	<b>55.9</b>	2141	111	13
Later prehistoric tree-throws 3004, 3006 & 3093	1	-	1	10	1	-	2	6	<b>21</b>	<b>2.4</b>	217	2	9.5
Prehistoric pits 3003 & 3122	-	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	<b>17</b>	<b>1.9</b>	100	2	11.8
Cremation 3086	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	<b>4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	11	-	-
Four-poster 3080	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	<b>2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	5	-	-
Medieval post-holes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	<b>2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	28	-	-
Medieval/post-medieval ditches	4	7	6	35	14	6	8	44	<b>124</b>	<b>13.9</b>	1927	6	4.8
Palaeochannel deposits 3005 & 3095	11	1	2	38	18	13	16	14	<b>113</b>	<b>12.7</b>	2301	6	5.3
Other layers	12	2	2	18	8	2	1	35	<b>80</b>	<b>9</b>	2537	4	5
Topsoil/subsoil 3001/3002	2	2	-	8	1	-	-	8	<b>21</b>	<b>2.4</b>	454	-	-
Unstratified	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	5	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	258	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9979</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>-</b>

Table 3 North Park Quarry 2014. Pottery by phase

	Phase															
	1 Mesolithic		2 Bronze Age		3 Prehistoric		4 Early medieval building		5 Early medieval ditches		6 Post- medieval		7 unphased		Total	
Fabric group	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)
Sand and Flint							2	6	1	3			1	6	4	15
Sand tempered							12	81	13	68	4	28			29	177
Shell- tempered							246	1014	6	31	9	51	9	49	270	1145
(blank)																
Sand/Flint- tempered			9	46			1	12					4	23	14	81
Grog- tempered			2	15			4	9							6	24
Calcined flint			1	1	1	3	2	17	15	13	4	7			23	41
Sand- tempered											1	5	1	6	2	11
Unidentified	3	1					29	17							32	18
Oxidised (unsourced)							1	5							1	5
Greyware (unsourced)							1	4			1	2			2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>1165</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>1523</b>

Table 4 North Park Quarry 2014. Quantification of finds by count and weight (g)

Material	Count	Weight (g)
Bone	82	36
Bone:Animal	49	87
Burnt Clay	12	45
CBM	29	87
Charcoal	17	10
Flint	995	12504
Flint:Burnt	282	2653
Iron	2	99
Pottery	402	1601
Slag	7	188
Stone	15	487
Tile:Roof	7	247
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1899</b>	<b>18044</b>



Table 5 North Park Quarry 2014. Charcoal assessment

Context	Sample Number	Date	Context Description	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Taxonomic Identifications
3068	10	Early Med	Posthole in B3079	**	***	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (7), cf. <i>Betula</i> sp. (1), cf. <i>Corylus/Alnus</i> sp. (1), Indet compressed (1)
3086A/B	13	LBA	Pit/ Cremation	****	-	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (10)
3086A	14	LBA	Pit/ Cremation	***	-	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (10)
3086B	15	LBA	Pit/ Cremation	****	-	<i>Quercus</i> sp (1)., <i>Salix/Populus</i> sp. (1), <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (8)
3114	16	Early Med	Layer in Drip Gully	***	****	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (6), <i>Corylus/Alnus</i> sp. (1), Maloideae (3)

Key: \* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250 fragments

Table 6 North Park Quarry 2014. Summary of results from analysis of later Bronze Age cremation burial

Context Number	Fragment size (mm)	Weight per skeletal element (grams)					% of whole assemblage	Total (grams)
		Skull	Axial	Upper Limb	Lower Limb	Unident		
3086A/B	0-4					11.5	16.6	69.1
	5-8	2.5	1.2		2.7	44.4	73.5	
	9-20	1.1			3.3	0.5	7.1	
	21-30		1.3			0.6	2.8	
	>30							
% of identifiable material		29.8	20.7		49.5			
Context Number	Fragment size (mm)	Weight per skeletal element (grams)					% of whole assemblage	Total (grams)
		Skull	Axial	Upper Limb	Lower Limb	Unident		
3086A	0-4					1.7	23.9	7.1
	5-8					3.4	47.9	
	9-20			1.6		0.4	28.2	
	21-30							
	>30							
% of identifiable material				100				
Context Number	Fragment size (mm)	Weight per skeletal element (grams)					% of whole assemblage	Total (grams)
		Skull	Axial	Upper Limb	Lower Limb	Unident		
3686B	0-4	0.1				8.5	13.3	64.5
	5-8	2.7				42.5	70.1	
	9-20				5.7	0.9	10.2	
	21-30				3.6	0.5	6.4	
	>30							
% of identifiable material		23.1			76.9			





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