Wessex Archaeology

Practical Archaeology Training Course, Down Farm, Sixpenny Handley, Dorset

Excavation Report

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Summary

This report summarises the results of all the archaeological investigations to date carried out at Home Field, Down Farm, Sixpenny Handley, Dorset (NGR. ST 9980 1461). It includes the archaeological excavations carried out in Home Field by M. Green (Landowner and archaeologist) between 1985-88 and 1995. A brief summary by M. Green of the results of the 1985/86 excavations have already been published. This report also includes the results of recent fieldwork, supervised by Wessex Archaeology, carried out as part of a 2 week practical archaeology course for the general public. This was carried out between 13th – 29th September 2004 and in part, comprised an extension to an area investigated earlier by M. Green.

The results from the archaeological investigations at Home Field, Down Farm have highlighted the major period of activity being from the Late Bronze Age into the Middle Iron Age (8th/7th to 5th-3rd centuries BC). A small quantity of Beaker period (2600 – 1800 BC) and Romano-British (AD 43 – 410) pottery from the excavations indicates small-scale activity of these dates in the area, though the nature of the activity is difficult to ascertain. Perhaps another Beaker open settlement, like that recorded earlier in Fir Tree Field, is also present in Home Field.

A sub-rectangular banked enclosure, with a short, externally ditched section on the west side, was constructed in the Late Bronze Age (8th/7th century BC) and continued in use until the Middle Iron Age (5th – 3rd centuries BC). A possible western entrance was also recorded. Internal settlement features included Early (700 – 400 BC) and Middle Iron Age (400 – 100 BC) chalk quarry hollows, a *c*. 15m diameter Middle Iron Age roundhouse and undated above ground 4-post granary structures. The enclosure is possibly associated with an extensive 'Celtic' field system and lynchet running down Gussage Cow Down and across Home Field respectively.

A small number of possible ritually significant 'structured deposits' (of artefacts and animal remains) were recorded from the base of the enclosure ditch and the entrance post-pits of the roundhouse. A fully–articulated cow burial recorded in a shallow pit adjacent to the enclosure entrance may also be ritual in nature.

Settlement activities overall included flint knapping, bronze and iron metalworking, textile manufacture and grain storage. The chalk quarrying may have been for cob wall construction, whitewash production (for daub walls) or for marling of calcium deficient fields, or a combination of these purposes. Animal husbandry practices included the keeping of domesticated cattle, sheep/goat and pig though it is not possible to ascertain the relative importance of each species. Dog remains, possibly domesticated, were also present.

The results of the palaeoenvironmental analyses, when completed, will follow this report as an addendum.

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Acknowledgements

The fieldwork could not have been undertaken but for the generosity shown by Martin Green, the landowner. Wessex Archaeology are very grateful to Martin for allowing us to excavate on his land and continue some of the exploratory archaeological work he carried out in the 1980s and 90s. We would also like to thank him for allowing us to use the welfare facilities on the farm and have access to his fantastic museum. Martin's knowledge, enthusiasm and good humour both on the site and during the various lectures/demonstrations/tours helped make the courses a great success. Lastly, we would like to thank him for allowing us access to the documentary and finds archives from his earlier excavations at Home Field, Down Farm during the compilation of this report.

Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Jake Keen for giving some fascinating demonstrations on Iron Age iron smelting techniques, much of which the course participants were involved with. We would also like to thank Charly French (University of Cambridge) for giving a lecture on his great knowledge and experience of the palaeoenvironmental research undertaken on the archaeology of Cranborne Chase.

All the Wessex Archaeology staff involved in the project would like to thank all the participants on both courses for their boundless enthusiasm, good nature and zest for learning which helped make the training courses and excavation such a success and so enjoyable.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard Greatorex. The Outreach/Educational side of the project was managed by Margaret Bunyard (Wessex Archaeology Education Manager). The fieldwork was directed by Chris Ellis, with assistance from Andy Armstrong, Catherine McHarg, Talla Hopper and Doug Murphy. Lectures were given on site by Mike Allen and Chris Stevens (palaeoenvironmental), Stephanie Knight (animal bone) and Phil Harding (worked flint).

This report was compiled by Chris Ellis with assistance from Matt Leivers (Finds) and Stephanie Knight (Animal Bone). The report illustrations were prepared by S.E James.

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Excavation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of Martin Green, Down Farm, Sixpenny Handley, Dorset. It summarises the results of all archaeological investigations carried out at Home Field, Down Farm (NGR. ST 9980 1461) – hereafter referred to as the Site, including the results of a recent 2 week practical archaeology course.

1.1.2 The recent research excavations were carried out to further understand the results of earlier excavations on the Site carried out by M. Green between 1985-88 (Green 1986) and 1995. The current fieldwork was undertaken by members of the general public, supervised by Wessex Archaeology staff between 13th – 29th September 2004.

1.1.3 Wessex Archaeology is committed to the greater public understanding of archaeology and the dissemination of the results of its investigations. To that end, and to celebrate 25 years of Wessex Archaeology as an archaeological company, it was decided to involve members of the public in a research excavation. To learn directly about the processes of archaeological excavation and recording and the fundamental principles of archaeological interpretation. The participants were all given a number of lectures and practical activities by finds, environmental, animal bone and surveying specialists during the project. Participation in the smelting of iron on site using prehistoric technology was also very instructive to all involved. Overall the research project achieved its goals in ensuring the participants gained a more 'rounded' picture of archaeology rather than the 'two-dimensional' picture usually given in the media. Generally, the feedback from all the participants was excellent and the project, both in fieldwork and outreach terms, was a great success.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological setting

2.1.1 The Site lies in the middle of Cranborne Chase (**Figure 1**), one of the most rich and archaeologically significant landscapes in southern England, comparable in the number, date and range of monument/site types with other significant areas of the chalk downland i.e. Salisbury Plain, the Marlborough Downs and the downland of Dorchester, Dorset.

2.1.2 Cranborne Chase has also been an important area for archaeological research, from the earliest beginnings of archaeology as a scientific endeavour, from the 19th century onwards. Fieldwork has been carried out by some noteable archaeologists such as Colt Hoare, Lieutenant General Pitt Rivers, Sumner, Keiller and more recently by Barrett, Bradley and M. Green.

2.1.3 Close to Down Farm material remains have been found from all periods, but the prehistoric periods from the Mesolithic (10,000 – 4000 BC) to the Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43) are particularly well represented. The sites include scatters of Mesolithic flints or other prehistoric open settlements as well as an impressive number and range of prehistoric ritual or ceremonial sites. These include the Late Neolithic Dorset Cursus (*c*. 3360 – 3030 cal. BC) and the henges of Knowlton and Wyke Down as well as Later Neolithic Grooved Ware period settlements at Wyke Down and Fir Tree Field (Green 2000). Beaker period (2600 – 1800 BC) settlement is also known from Fir Tree Field where a cluster of pits was overlaid by an Early Bronze Age (2400 – 1500 BC) pond barrow. A large number of Early Bronze Age (2400 – 1500 BC) barrows are known from the immediate area, including Wyke Down to the north.

2.1.4 Later activity is present in Fir Tree Field where a Middle Bronze Age (1500 – 1100 BC) banked and ditched settlement enclosure was recorded overlying earlier Grooved Ware period open settlement (Barrett, Bradley and Green 1991). Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43) activity is particularly evident near the Site. This includes a series of Late Bronze Age/Iron Age droveways and Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British (100 BC – AD 150) 'banjo' enclosures on Gussage Cow Down (Green 2000).

2.1.5 To the south and south-west of Down Farm, running down from Gussage Cow Down, an extensive complex 'Celtic' field system has been recorded from aerial photographs (Bowen 1990). Small square or sub-rectangular ('Celtic') field systems are mainly Iron Age in date though may extend back to the Middle Bronze Age (Bradley *et .al.* 1994, 138). The system could possibly be contemporary with the extensive complex of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British 'banjo' enclosures on Gussage Cow Down (*see below*).

2.1.6 A component of the Gussage Cow Down 'Celtic' field system is a lynchet that runs across Home Field and marks the boundary of soil changes in the valley (Green 2000, 129). This was investigated by M. Green in 1995 (*see below*). Lying just to the south of the lynchet a sub-square enclosure was also visible (Green 1986, Bowen 1990). The enclosure clearly showed on aerial photographs as a banked enclosure which was proven when investigated by M. Green in 1985 (Green 1986; *see below*). The enclosure was also investigated as part of the present fieldwork (see *Methodology* below).

2.1.7 Romano-British activity near the Site is represented by Ackling Dyke, the major Roman road running from the provincial capital in London (*Londinium*) to Exeter (*Isca Dumnoniorum*) via Salisbury (*Soriodunom*). Settlement extended into the Romano-British period on Gussage Cow Down with continued use of the 'banjo' enclosures and areas beyond. A possible Roman-Celtic temple is also recorded in this area.

2.1.8 Little Saxon (AD 410 – 1066) evidence exists in the immediate area of the Site though secondary burials of this date have been recorded from early Bronze Age barrows at Woodyates and Oakley Down, to the north of the Site. A hedge line bisecting the Allen valley is thought to preserve a boundary between two Late Saxon estates (850 – 1066 AD). The Saxon period is probably under-represented in the Dorset area due to factors such as exhaustion of the downland soils by this time, low population densities and the lack of survival to the present of poor quality Saxon pottery in the ploughsoil.

2.2 M. Green's excavations

2.2.1 The first archaeological investigations by M. Green in Home Field, took place in 1985 where a 125 m^2 area (**HF 86**) was excavated across the sub-square enclosure. A *c*. 4m wide 'protected area' of relatively unweathered chalk (**Figure 2**) was thought to delineate the extent of a chalk bank which was probably hedged (Green 1986, 173). A short section of the enclosure was ditched on the west side and was thought to be Iron Age in date (Green 2000, 129).

2.2.2 Two large quarry hollows (**F.1**, **F.2**) and a small number of postholes (**PH's 1-10**) were also recorded. Both quarry hollows were composed of a number of discrete, but inter-cutting pits for the extraction of chalk. The larger quarry hollow (**F.1**) was an irregular oval pit-cluster, 10m by 7m in extent and a maximum of 0.7m deep. The quarry hollow had cut through two earlier postholes (**PH.7**, **PH.8**).

2.2.3 Lying to the south of **F.1**, quarry hollow **F.2** was recorded (**Figure 2**). This was also an irregular area of inter-cutting pits measuring 2.2m by 2m in extent and a maximum depth of 0.37m. Both quarry hollows were filled with a very homogenous brown soil with very little chalk inclusions throughout, as is usually encountered in these features on Iron Age chalk downland sites. The quarry hollows contained abraded, exclusively Early Iron Age (700 – 400 BC) pottery, worked flint, animal bone, metalwork waste and a bone awl. Two flint knapping clusters of material were also recorded in the base of **F.1**. See *Finds* section of the report below for more detail.

2.2.4 The postholes around the south side of **F.1** were possibly the remains of two post-built structures. **PH's 1-2**, **4** probably comprise a 4-post structure with the fourth posthole beyond the trench edge. No finds were recorded from these features. To the west of **F.1** postholes **PH's 5-8** possibly comprised part of another structure as they had a similar size and fill characteristics. A small amount of worked flint was recovered from **PH.6** and **PH.8** and a few sherds of Early Iron Age pottery from **PH.6**. The truncation of **PH's 7-8** by **F.1** suggests the rest of the structure was destroyed with the cutting of **F.1**.

2.2.5 In 1987 a further 125 m^2 area (**HF 87/88**) was excavated – **Figures 1**, **2**. The trench was extended to the west to see if further structures or features were present. A small number of postholes (**PH's 12-17**) and two post-pits (**F.4**, **F.5**) were recorded (**Figure 2**). The post pits were 0.75 – 1m in extent and both 0.45m deep with vertical/near-vertical sides and shallow concave/flat bases. They were located 2.8m apart with possibly associated posthole **PH.17** bisecting them.

2.2.6 The post-pits (**F.4**, **F.5**) contained a relatively large finds assemblage for two small features, including worked flint, mostly Middle Iron Age pottery with a single sherd of residual Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (LBA/EIA) pottery, quernstone fragments and at least three fired clay loomweights from **F.5**. The post-pits were thought at the time to be substantial entrance postholes to a possible roundhouse structure which continued to the west. These features date to the Middle Iron Age (400 – 100 BC).

2.2.7 Following the work of Bowen (1990) and his earlier work (Green 1985/86, 87/88) M. Green decided in 1995 to investigate the negative lynchet visible across Home Field. This was visible in aerial photographic evidence of the Site and seemed to be part of an extensive prehistoric 'Celtic' field system on Gussage Cow Down. A trench (**HF 95**) was excavated across the lynchet (**Figure 2**). A single possible posthole (**PH.1a**) was recorded.

2.2.8 In the north of the trench a *c*. 4m wide and 0.14m deep shallow concave cut in the chalk bedrock was recorded which was the lynchet. This was filled with a buried soil horizon, sealed below the topsoil. To the south of the negative aspect of the lynchet another buried soil, characterised by a 0.14m deep and *c*. 11m wide band of light brown silt, represents the positive aspect of the lynchet. Palaeoenvironmental samples were taken from both buried soils. A single sherd of Late Bronze Age (100 – 700 BC) or Early Iron Age (700 – 400 BC) pottery was recovered from the 'positive' lynchet buried soil horizon.

3 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY

3.1.1 The Site lies at the centre of an area of high chalk downland called Cranborne Chase, that lies between Poole and Salisbury. This area of high undulating downland rises from the south-east to a dramatic scarp at its northern edge where the ground lies at *c*. 270m above Ordnance Datum. A small number of watercourses within valleys, cross the Chase and drain to the south-east and Down Farm is located within the Allen valley.

3.1.2 The Site lies on a gently north facing slope on the south-west side of the Allen valley at a general height of 76m (aOD) though the ground rises to Gussage Cow Down to the south to a height of 110m (aOD). The underlying geology is Upper Chalk which has shafts, caverns and tunnel valleys caused by excess water running through fissures in the chalk. In places Clay-with-flints caps the chalk. This is seen in certain areas of the Site and in the Allen valley, where Valley Gravel is also recorded.

3.1.3 To the east of Down Farm a number of periglacial features called 'naleds' have been recorded (Catt *et. al.* 1980). These are the result of periglacial action which led to coombe-rock (eroded chalk) collecting around frozen springs. Today, this creates a distorted and pock-marked landscape of discrete mounds and hollows.

3.1.4 The Site is presently part of a Habitat Improvement Scheme and is put over to pasture (Green 2000, 145).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation

4.1.1 Two trenches, *c*. 32m apart (**Tr's 1-2**), comprising a total of 532m^2, were machine-excavated using a wheeled mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. The trenches were targeted on two specific areas highlighted in earlier excavations carried out by M. Green (Green 1986). **Trench 1** was a westward continuation of an excavated area which included two quarry hollows (**F.1**, **F.2**) and a number of postholes (**PH's 1 - 17**).

4.1.2 Two post-pits (**F.4**, **F.5**) at the western extent of the original trench were thought to comprise the entrance of a roundhouse structure. **Trench 1** was located to confirm the presence of a roundhouse structure and its possible date (**Figure 1**).

4.1.3 **Trench 2** was targeted on the west side of an enclosure (**Figure 1**) recorded in earlier aerial photographs of the area (Green 1986, Bowen 1990) and partially investigated by M. Green in 1985 (Green 1986). The sub-square enclosure is *c*. 90m square, enclosing an area of *c*. 0.81 ha and is delineated by an earthen and chalk bank on all sides, and a partially ditched west side, which showed clearly as crop mark. **Trench 2** was *c*.270m^2 in extent and included a small area of the enclosure's 'interior' as well as a *c*. 14m length of the enclosure's west side. This trench was extended in the west and north-east to contain a pit with animal remains and a large quarry hollow respectively.

4.1.4 After machine stripping both trenches were hand cleaned. Large samples (33 – 50% by volume) of the larger features (ditches and quarry hollows) were excavated. All the features were surveyed using GPS survey equipment and tied into the Ordnance Survey grid and Ordnance Datum (metres above Ordnance Datum). All excavated features were section and plan drawn at appropriate scales (1:10/1:20) and a full photographic record including excavated features and more general working shots was also kept.

4.1.5 All the features were backfilled with soil arisings at the end of the excavation. The larger features were lined with a non-permeable textile membrane before backfilling. In agreement with M. Green the trenches were otherwise left open.

4.1.6 Where applicable environmental samples were taken. All the samples, from M. Green's earlier work as well as the present fieldwork will be processed and analysed in due course. An addendum to this report will be compiled later to include the results of the palaeoenvironmental analyses.

4.2 The Archive

4.2.1 The artefacts, and any accompanying documentary records from M. Green's excavations at the Site are held by M. Green at Down Farm, Sixpenny Handley, Dorset under the project codes **HF 86**, **HF 87/88** and **HF 95**.

4.2.2 The artefacts, and any accompanying documentary records from the present fieldwork have been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, English Heritage 1991). The archives are currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, under the project code **56390**. The full list of the contents of this archive are detailed in **Appendix 1** of this report.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The text below summarises the significant data from the all the archaeological investigations in the area. This includes M. Green's work of **HF 86**, **HF 87/88** and **HF 95** as well as Wessex Archaeology's excavations in 2004. They will include information on the natural deposits encountered and the archaeological features and deposits recorded. The finds assemblage from the evaluation is discussed in **Section 6**, with the animal bone discussed in **Section 7** of this report.

5.2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

5.2.1 All the features were sealed below the topsoil and cut the natural chalk bedrock. Fills were therefore silty in texture and generally contained common small angular chalk frag's as well as large lumps of flint nodules and fragments of sandstone.

5.2.2 The 0.25m thick topsoil (**100**, **238**) was characterised by a mid-brown silty clay with sparse angular flint fragments and common small chalk fragments.

5.2.3 The natural bedrock chalk was in fairly good condition and was not particularly weathered. When excavated it broke into angular blocks freely. Numerous plough scars were evident, particularly in **Tr.2**. To the immediate east of a ditch in **Tr.2** it was particularly well-preserved and relatively unweathered (see below).

5.3 Fieldwork

M. Green's excavations (1985-88, 95)

5.3.1 See *Archaeological and Historical Background* for a full description of the excavations' results.

Trench 1 (2004)

5.3.2 A number of features were recorded in this trench (**Figures 1, 2**), including postholes, stakeholes and a tree-throw as well as some modern disturbance. Most of the postholes from this trench as well as the two post-pits excavated by M. Green (**F.4**, **F.5**, **PH.17**) comprise the northern and southern parts and the entrance of a *c.*15m diameter roundhouse structure (**142**). The structure probably continues beyond the west edge of the trench. The excavated postholes were characterised by oval/sub-circular cuts into the chalk natural with vertical/near-vertical sides and shallow, concave to flat bases. No post pipes were present. The postholes were generally 0.25-0.3m in size and 0.2 – 0.3m deep.

Roundhouse **142**

5.3.3 Except for the post-pits, all the postholes were filled with single fills characterised by pale to mid greyish-brown silt or clayey silt with common small angular chalk fragments. Two postholes (**115**, **131**) contained large flint nodules pressed against the cut sides, obviously used as packing stones. Another posthole (**119**) contained large fragments of burnt sandstone which were also probably used as packing. A small finds assemblage was recovered from the postholes, including a few pieces of worked flint. The majority of the assemblage came from the relatively artefact-rich fills of the post-pits (**Table 1** – *see p.9 below*).

5.3.4 Two further postholes (**109**, **122**) of similar size and fill characteristics were recorded within the roundhouse structure and are possibly contemporary. They contained a small assemblage including worked and burnt flint and a single sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery. The pottery and the parallel alignment of these to the entrance post-pits might suggest a small structure (screen?) within the roundhouse.

5.3.5 The two post-pits **F.4** and **F.5** were substantial postholes within the circuit of the roundhouse posts, acting as major structural supports at the entrance.

Trench 2 (2004)

5.3.6 A small number of features were recorded in this trench (**Figure 3**) including a ditch (**237**), a large quarry hollow (**232**), an animal burial pit (**202**) and a number of postholes and stakeholes, some of which comprised a 4 post-structure (**212**). Truncating all the features and natural chalk were a number of east/west and north/south aligned post-medieval plough scars.

Ditch **237**

5.3.7 In the west of the trench a north/south aligned ditch (**237**) was recorded (**Figure 3**), consisting of a *c*. 13m long section of the *c*. 15m length of ditch on the west side of the sub-square enclosure, recorded in earlier excavations and aerial photographs of the area (Green 1986). To the east of the ditch, the interior of the enclosure, a *c*. 3m wide strip of well-preserved chalk natural was visible with less weathering and truncation by plough scars than elsewhere in the trench. This band of chalk natural may have been due to an internal earthen bank of the enclosure ditch subsequently totally removed.

5.3.8 A number of scars from antler picks were recorded in the base of ditch segments **217/241** (**Plate 1**) which were aligned along the ditch and were generally 0.1m long and 12-14mm wide with a half-rounded profile. The ditch was 1.12 – 1.31m deep, shallowing slightly to the north, and was generally 1.5 – 1.6m wide. It had steep/near-vertical sides terminating in a flat base (0.5-0.6m wide) with a terminal at the north end.

5.3.9 The fill sequence is characteristic of prehistoric ditches on the chalk downland with primary (soily) fills overlaid with secondary fine silts and weathered bedrock rubble lenses as the ditch sides were effected by exposure to weathering during its use. No evidence of collapse of internal bank material was recorded in any of the ditch segments despite the band of well-preserved natural chalk to the east of the ditch noted earlier.

5.3.10 A full suite of palaeoenvironmental bulk samples was taken from the ditch fills of segment **217** and a monolith sample was taken through the primary fill of ditch segment **241**.

5.3.11 A small finds assemblage was recovered from the ditch fills, including worked and burnt flint, residual Beaker (2400 – 1800 BC) and Middle Iron Age (400 – 100 BC) pottery, fired clay, iron slag and stone (**Table 1**). Significantly, a small assemblage of exclusively LBA/EIA (1100 – 400 BC) pottery sherds (18/43g) was recovered from the primary fills of the ditch. The date of the ditch's construction is further confirmed as it cut two earlier postholes (**278**, **288**) one of which (**288**) contained a sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery. The right side of a cow skull was found on the base of ditch section **241**.

Animal burial pit **202**

5.3.12 Adjacent with, and lying to the west, of the ditch terminal a very truncated oval pit (**202**) was recorded which contained a fully-articulated cow burial (**260**) – **Plate 2**. The north/south aligned pit was 1.4m long, 0.95m wide and 0.12m deep with very shallow concave sides and very shallow, irregular concave base. The cow skeleton (**260**) was fully-articulated and laid on its right side with the head end to the north, though the skull and most of the left side of the skeleton was missing. The soil from both above and below the animal remains were bulk sampled to retrieve any small bone fragments.

Quarry hollow **232**

5.3.13 In the north-east corner of the trench a large, irregular quarry hollow (**232**) was recorded which was composed of a number of individual, discrete quarry pits, including outlying quarry pits **209**, **265** and **270** – **Figure 3**. The large feature (**232**) consisted of a 4.6m long and 4m wide area of pitting, generally 0.5m deep. The quarry hollow had steep/near-vertical concave sides with irregular base, because of the numerous quarry pit cuts. The feature was filled with a primary fill (**271**, **296**, **297**) characterised by a pale yellowish-brown silt matrix containing abundant, small, angular chalk rubble.

5.3.14 As with Green's quarry hollows (**F.1**, **F.2**) a relatively large proportion of the finds assemblage from the 2004 excavations came from these features, including *c*.50% of the prehistoric pottery and *c*. 75% of the fired clay (**Table 1**). The finds assemblage includes worked and burnt flint, pottery, fired clay and stone. The feature includes exclusively Middle Iron Age pottery although discrete quarry pit **270** also contains a few sherds (6/39g) of residual Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery.

4-post structure **212**

5.3.15 Lying to the west of the quarry hollow a 4-post structure (**212**) was recorded. This was composed of a sub-square cluster of postholes delineating a structure 2m by 1.9m in extent (**Figure 3**). The postholes (**205**, **225**, **227**, **249**) were generally 0.2 – 0.3m in size and 0.15 – 0.2m deep with near-vertical, steep, flat sides and flat bases. The fills were characterised by a mid brown clayey silt containing very common angular chalk fragments. Only three pieces (231g) of burnt flint were recovered from these postholes.

Table 1 - All finds (except bone) by context (No./wt [g])

CBM = ceramic building material

Excavation/ Feature	Worked Flint	Burnt Flint	Pottery	CBM	Fired Clay	Metal	Slag	Stone
Roundhouse 142								
HF 87/88 Sub-total	*14*		*28/334*		*99/5099*			*8/11982*
WA 04 Sub- total	*3*	*3/10*						*28/295*
Roundhouse Sub- Total	**17**	**3/10**	**28/334**	**0**	**99/5099**	**0**	**0**	**36/12277**
Quarry hollows (F.1, F.2, 232)								
HF 86 Sub-total	*676*		*419/2229*		*4/74*	*40/31*		*46/1432*
WA 04 Sub-total	*22*	*68/777*	*57/466*		*31/88*			*1/52*
Quarry hollows total	**698**	**68/777**	**476/2695**	**0**	**35/162**	**40/31**	**0**	**47/1484**
Ditch 237								
WA 04 Ditch sub-total	**90**	**44/927**	**36/99**	**0**	**2/2**	**0**	**1/2**	**2/132**
Other								
HF 86 Sub-total	*4*		*4/4*					
WA 04 Sub-total	*27*	*176/4062*	*18/71*	*3/24*	*10/11*			*1/3*
HF – 95 Lynchet			1/8					
Other Total	**31**	**176/4062**	**23/83**	**3/24**	**10/11**	**0**	**0**	**1/3**
TOTALS								
HF 86-88, 95 Sub-totals	**694**	**0**	**452/2575**	**0**	**103/5173**	**40/31**	**0**	**54/13414**
WA 04 Sub-Totals	**142**	**291/5776**	**111/636**	**3/24**	**43/101**	**0**	**1/2**	**32/482**
TOTAL	**836**	**291/5776**	**563/3211**	**3/24**	**146/5274**	**40/31**	**1/2**	**86/13896**

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 All the finds recovered from Green's earlier excavations (**HF 86**, **HF 87/88**, **HF 95**) and during the current fieldwork have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1** (see above). The finds range in date from prehistoric to post-medieval, and derived from topsoil layers, quarry pits, post-holes and a ditch. Worked flint and pottery dominate the assemblage; other material types are present but in much smaller quantities.

6.2 Pottery

Green's excavations

6.2.1 Of the total of 452 sherds overall from these excavations, by far the greatest majority were derived from the quarry hollows (**F.1**, **F.2**). A total of 409 came from **F.1** and 10 from **F.2**, the remainder were recovered from roundhouse post-pit **F.5** and postholes **PH.6** and **PH.8**. A single flint tempered sherd of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date was recovered from the lynchet excavations (**HF 95**).

6.2.2 The material consisted for the most part of small and highly abraded featureless body sherds in flint, sand or sand-and-flint tempered fabrics, some with shell, and with a single sherd having limestone/calcite temper.

6.2.3 While the same fabrics occurred on both sites (**HF 86** and **HF 87/88**) in both coarse and fine wares, sherds from **HF 87/88** were generally in markedly better condition than those from **HF 86**. The majority of sherds were not directly dateable, being small, abraded, and generally in very poor condition. Consequently, the assemblages have been dated primarily on the basis of the very few diagnostic pieces, and secondly on the relative occurrences of the different tempers.

6.2.4 In terms of type and date, a few of the sherds from all Green's sites would appear to be Later Bronze Age or transitional Later Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. The bulk from **HF 86** belongs to Cunliffe's All Cannings Cross group, although the small mean sherd size and lack of diagnostic elements mean it is impossible to be certain whether the material is Early All Cannings Cross (8th - 7th century BC) or later All Cannings Cross – Meon Hill, of the fifth to third centuries BC (Cunliffe 1991, 64-5, 71-2). The material from **HF 87/88** is perhaps Middle Iron Age, although this date is by analogy with the present material only, and consequently not secure. There are no distinguishing features about the sherds themselves,

6.2.5 From the **HF 86** excavation, rims tend to be simple, upright, rounded or flattened, generally with neutral forms, although open and closed examples are present.

6.2.6 A few sherds have burnished and/or slipped and smoothed surfaces. Most are finewares, and probably bowls. One of these has a sharp carination and upright concave neck, a second is shouldered, with a short neck, everted rim, and vertical finger nail impressions on the shoulder and rim. Several sherds refit to form part of a haematite-coated bowl with a high shoulder, no neck, and a plain upright rim. One sherd is perhaps from a coarser jar with shallow tooled diagonal lines below the everted rim.

6.2.7 Decoration consists of furrowing (several sherds may be from Furrowed Bowls – a few better preserved sherds are burnished and/or haematite coated), scratch-marks, shallow blunt circular impressions, deeper triangular impressions on or below carinations, deep longitudinal incisions, deep circular impressions, finger nail impressions and applied cordons. One burnished sherd has deep rectangular-sectioned incised lines at right angles.

6.2.8 The single featureless body sherd from **HF 95** is in good condition, contains fine flint temper and iron minerals, and is likely to be Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age.

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6.2.9 Only 111 sherds were recovered from the present fieldwork, but these demonstrated a broader range, from Beaker to Romano-British periods, illustrating activity of these dates on the site or in the immediate vicinity. The condition of the assemblage varies; some earlier ceramics are fair to poor, with sherds showing abrasion, while later ceramics tend to be in a better state of preservation.

Early Bronze Age (2600 – 1800 BC)

6.2.10 A total of seven residual Beaker sherds were recovered from ditch **237**, which may all derive from a single Beaker vessel. Four very abraded body sherds came from the latest fill of ditch segment **217**. Two larger sherds (one a rim) came from the latest fill of ditch segment **241**, with a further large body sherd from the primary fill. All are in a grog and flint-tempered fabric. Decoration comprises bands of diagonal cross-hatching between two or three horizontal rows of rectangular-toothed comb impression. The top of the rim has further short comb impressions.

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (1000 – 400 BC)

6.2.11 A total of 16 flint-tempered sherds from posthole **137** (**Trench 1**), and ditch **237** fills appear to belong to coarseware vessels. A further sherd from the primary ditch fill (segment **219**) has a raised cordon and may belong to a Post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition and 18 finer flint-tempered sherds from ditch segments **239**, **241,** quarry pit **270** and posthole **288** maybe part of a small bowl. Otherwise the sherds are undiagnostic. On fabric grounds they are likely to be of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date.

Middle Iron Age (400 – 100 BC)

6.2.12 A total of 63 sherds have been dated to the Middle Iron Age, mostly on fabric grounds alone. The fabrics are predominantly sandy (39 sherds), but some have sparse flint temper (20) with some sandy/flinty (17) sherds. A further carinated sherd from the primary chalk rubble fill of quarry hollow segment **221** is in a sandy fabric, very thin-walled and has been burnished on both surfaces, while another from the same context appears to be the base of a Saucepan Pot. Two sherds from the primary and latest fills of quarry hollow segment **231** are shell tempered. A small number of sherds were recovered from the latest secondary fills (6/14g) of ditch **237**.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

6.2.13 Only 2 Romano-British sherds were recovered, from the topsoil of both trenches. Both are rims and derive from Greyware vessels: one is an Early Roman (AD 43 – 150) form, the other Late (AD 250 –410).

6.3 Worked Flint

Raw Material

6.3.1 A total of 694 pieces of struck flint were recovered from Green's excavations (**HF 86**, **HF 87/88**) and a further 142 pieces from the present fieldwork. The majority of the assemblage consists of nodular flint. The predominant colour of the visible surfaces is pale grey to dark grey-brown. Almost all the pieces have a cream/white patina (most pieces are entirely patinated), and in many instances patination occurs over edge damage. Edge damage occurs on a few pieces, but it is not possible to distinguish between damage resulting from use and accidental damage. Given the contextual associations of most pieces, the latter is perhaps more likely. The source of the material is undoubtedly local, probably obtained from the Upper Chalk during the digging of pits and ditches or during cultivation.

Technology

6.3.2 Technology is in every instance direct, hard hammer percussion, normally producing crude flakes. An evident lack of skill can be seen in platform breadth, obtuse angles, termination type, core preparation technique (or lack of it) and failed removals. Seven pieces from **HF 86**, **HF 87/88** are blades or bladelets. Technologically these pieces are indistinguishable from the rest of the assemblage and are probably fortuitous removals rather than elements of a deliberate blade technology.

Debitage and Cores

6.3.3 A total of 565 flakes and blades were recovered from **HF 86**, **HF 87/88**, along with 18 flake cores and fragments. Three crudely struck nodules may have served as crude pounders or choppers. Two flakes had been retouched to form piercers. 130 flakes and blades were recovered from the present fieldwork, along with nine flake cores and three crudely struck nodule 'choppers'.

Discussion

6.3.4 A total of 665 of the pieces were recovered from quarry hollow **F.1** (**HF 86**), mostly simple primary, secondary and tertiary flakes. The bulk of this material was recovered from two distinct knapping clusters on the base of the feature. One of the piercers and one pounder/chopper came from amongst this material. The rest of the assemblage came from quarry hollow **F.2** (11, including a piercer), roundhouse post-pits **F.4** and **F.5** (7, each with a pounder/chopper), postholes **PH.6** (1) and **PH.8** (3).

6.3.5 With few exceptions the technology and typology of the assemblage is largely consistent with a Late Bronze Age or Iron Age date. The characteristics of later prehistoric flintworking have been summarized most recently by Jodie Humphrey and Robert Young (Humphrey and Young 1999; Young and Humphrey 1999). They identify the use of highly localized raw materials, small assemblage numbers, crude hammers, simple irregular cores and squat flakes using direct hard hammer percussion, possible evidence of recycling earlier lithics, unskilled knapping (obtuse-angled, thick, wide platforms; common hinge/step terminations; irregular dorsal scars; common chips and chunks; incipient cones of percussion on core striking platforms) and a limited range of implement types. Most of these features are present in this assemblage.

6.4 Burnt Flint

6.4.1 A total of 291 (5776g) of burnt, unworked flint was recovered from the current fieldwork. This material type is intrinsically undatable, although frequently associated with prehistoric activity.

6.5 Fired Clay

6.5.1 Three cylindrical loomweights were recovered from roundhouse post-pit **F.5**. One is complete, and has a single perforation through the upper end. The other two are incomplete and unperforated. A total of 96 fragments of fired clay from the same feature are probably pieces of these or other loomweights. Four featureless lumps of fired clay came from quarry hollow **F.1**.

6.5.2 The 43 fragments of fired clay (102g) were mostly recovered from the current fieldwork in small numbers, with only two contexts having 10 or more fragments. The basal fill of quarry hollow segment **221** contained a fragment with a wattle mark (>13mm in diameter), and may therefore be daub from a timber structure. All other fragments were featureless, with the exception of a piece from the basal fill of quarry hollow segment **230**, which had faint parallel incisions on the surface, again likely to be daub.

6.6 Stone

6.6.1 Four fragments of querns were recovered from roundhouse post-pit **F.4**, along with a piece of sandstone conglomerate. One piece was probably from the upper stone of a rotary quern. Post-pit **F.5** contained a small featureless sandstone chip, a large triangular cross-sectioned sandstone block with a flat base, and a large fire-cracked pebble which may be sarsen. A total of 46 featureless sandstone fragments and one conglomerate were recovered from quarry hollow **F.1**.

6.6.2 From the current fieldwork fragments of stone were recovered from roundhouse posthole **119** (fire-cracked sandstone conglomerate probably used as packing), latest ditch segment (**217**) fill (a possible quern fragment), ditch segment **233** secondary fill (a river/beach pebble) and quarry pit **265** (a featureless fragment).

6.7 Metalwork

6.7.1 Metalwork was recovered from quarry hollows **F.1** and **F.2**. The majority of pieces were small featureless fragments of copper alloy and iron. Recognisable pieces included a square-headed iron nail or pin and a copper alloy rivet, both from **F.1**. Other pieces were apparently slag or other metalworking residues/mineral wastes. One fragment of iron slag was found in the latest fill of ditch segment **217**.

6.8 Other Finds

6.8.1 Other finds from the current fieldwork, all from the topsoil, comprised three pieces of probably post-medieval ceramic building material, and a piece of roofing slate.

7 ANIMAL BONE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The potential of the assemblage to provide information about husbandry patterns, population structures and consumption practices was ascertained from the number of bones that could give information on the age and sex of animals, butchery, burning and breakage patterns. The number of bones that could provide metrical information was also counted.

7.1.2 Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion. No fragments were recorded as ‘medium mammal’ or ‘large mammal’; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category. No attempt was made to identify ribs or vertebrae (except the atlas and axis) to species, although large numbers of these bones were noted where they occurred.

7.1.3 The extent of mechanical or chemical attrition to the bone surface was recorded, with 1 indicating very poor condition, 2 poor, 3 fair, 4 good and 5 very good. The numbers of gnawed bone were also noted. Marks from chopping, sawing, knife cuts and fractures made when the bone was fresh were recorded as butchery marks.

7.2 Results

7.2.1 Giving the cattle skeleton a value of 1, in order to avoid over-representation of cattle in the rest of the assemblage, 98 bone fragments were recovered from the training excavation, and 414 from the previous excavations (**Table 2**). All were in poor condition, and between 84% (Green's excavations) and 94% (current fieldwork) were in very poor condition, with almost no bone surface left due to adverse subsoil conditions.

7.2.2 Only 4 butchery marks and no gnawing marks were observed, but this may simply mean that they did not impact deeply enough on the bone to remain extant after chemical erosion. Under a quarter of bones were identified to species and roughly two-thirds of these were loose teeth or tooth fragments, indicating destruction of the less robust parts of the skeleton.

Table 2: Numbers and species represented from each excavation

Excavation	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Dog	Rodent	Unidentified	Total
HF 86	14	68	9		2	315	408
HF 87/88	3					3	6
WA 04	15	8		1		74	98
Total	**32**	**76**	**9**	**1**	**2**	**392**	**512**

7.2.3 Sheep are often the best represented species on Iron Age sites in southern Britain, and this is also the case for this assemblage as a whole. However, cattle was the most common species represented in the current fieldwork and this is probably due to the prevalence of bone from ditch (**237**) fills. Several authors have stated that larger animals are more common in the ditches marking the periphery of Iron Age settlements than pits at the centre (e.g. Maltby 1985; Wilson 1996). **Table 3** (overpage) shows that the ditch deposits do indeed contain a greater proportion of cattle to sheep/goat.

7.2.4 This effect has been attributed to poorer preservation in the ditch deposits biasing the assemblage in favour of larger and more robust bone elements, but also to cultural preference, whereby larger more offensive bones are disposed of further from the centre of the settlement. In this case the sample sizes are too small to draw firm conclusions but poor preservation will certainly have had some effect on the bones recovered.

Table 3: Numbers and species represented by feature type

Feature	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Dog	Rodent	Unidentified	Total
Quarry hollows (F.1, F.2, 232)							
Quarry hollows (HF 86)	*14*	*68*	*9*		*2*	*311*	*404*
Quarry hollow (WA 04)	*5*	*3*				*12*	*20*
Quarry (all)	19	71	9		2	323	424
Ditch 237							
Ditch	8	5		1		29	33
Other							
Other	5					40	45
Total	**32**	**76**	**9**	**1**	**2**	**392**	**502**

7.2.5 Both rodent bones resembled mouse and may have been from a single individual, perhaps one that died naturally and became incorporated into the deposit by chance, possibly relatively recently, as these bones were in better condition than most of the assemblage.

7.2.6 All animals were small and lightly built, although only three bones could be measured. A total of 35 bones could be aged, and of these it can only be said that both juvenile and adult cattle were present, and that mature, juvenile, neonatal and foetal sheep are all represented. Bones from at least one foetal and one neonatal individual were found especially but not exclusively in the quarry deposit, indicating that lambing took place nearby, as at Danebury (Grant 1984). Pig teeth generally indicate immature animals, as would be expected of a herd maintained for meat.

7.2.7 The four bones bearing butchery marks indicated that careful knife disarticulation was practised, a technique typical of Iron Age sites (Grant 1987), and also that some bones may have been deliberately split for marrow extraction, causing helical fractures, although the poor condition of the bone renders this observation tentative. A total of 15 small burnt fragments were found, all from the quarry hollow fills. Some were partially calcined, indicating exposure to high temperatures over an extended period of time, such as would be consistent with deliberate burning in a hearth.

7.2.8 An articulated but partially preserved cattle skeleton (**260**) was recorded in pit **202**, lying to the immediate west of the enclosure ditch terminal. It is clear from its position that the animal had been laid on its right side, and that the left side of the skeleton had been disturbed or completely truncated; the cranium and mandibles were also missing, although it is possible that the head had been removed prior to deposition. On the right side, the distal scapula, parts of the humerus, radius, ulna, metacarpal, femur, metatarsal, tarsals and phalanges were recovered. Ribs were also found in situ. On the left, the scapula, humerus, radius, ulna and phalanges were recovered from the cleaning layer above the pit.

7.2.9 The animal was over the age of three and a half years, using modern figures (Silver 1969), and was small and slender, although bones were not complete enough for sexing or withers heights to be estimated. The bones had been subject to the same erosion as the rest of the assemblage, but several fine transverse cut marks were still visible on the anterior face of the navicular cuboid. This type of mark is normally made while disarticulating the lower limbs from the more meat bearing upper limb bones, or may be made during skinning. The position of the metatarsal and metacarpal found in association with at least two phalanges from the hoof, might indicate that the hide, or at least the feet, had been deposited together at the side of the animal. Alternatively they may have been removed to enable the carcass to be deposited in a smaller pit than would be needed for the complete articulated animal.

7.2.10 An almost whole left side cattle mandible from a mature individual was recovered from quarry hollow **232**, and a partial right mandible in the same feature may have been its pair.

7.2.11 Another unusual deposit is the right side of a small horned, sub-adult cattle skull, with quite a high boss, in the base of ditch segment **241**, found in association with Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery. It cannot be ruled out that this skull belonged to animal burial **260** in pit **202**. Skulls are fragile and do not survive well, so to find a substantial piece in such a poorly preserved assemblage suggests deliberate and careful burial.

7.2.12 From roundhouse post-pit **F.4** a cattle scapula from a small juvenile individual was recovered, and the mandible from an individual aged to between 18 and 30 months found in post-pit **F.5**; potentially bones of the same individual. Both of these bones were unusually large pieces that had apparently not suffered the processes that led to the fragmentation of the rest of the assemblage.

7.2.13 One bone point, 55mm long and probably from a sheep/goat tibia, was found at the base of the north-west quadrant of quarry hollow **F.1**, and is paralleled by several examples at Danebury (Sellwood 1984).

7.3 Summary

7.3.1 This is a small, poorly preserved assemblage that has probably suffered from differential preservation in favour of the larger bone elements and has led to the loss of most of the bone surface. Most ageable elements are fragmentary teeth that cannot be closely aged to indicate the season or even an accurate age at death. This strictly limits its potential to inform on aspects of animal husbandry, butchery and consumption patterns, although what little evidence does survive (and is not attributable to taphonomic factors) is entirely consistent with what is known of other Iron Age sites in southern Britain.

8 FIELDWORK SUMMARY

8.1.1 The results of the present fieldwork complement and add to the knowledge of the development of the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement evidence at Down Farm, first recorded by M. Green in 1985/86. All the excavations, including the present fieldwork, have recorded a range of features consistent with prehistoric sites of this date on the chalk downland.

8.1.2 Prior to later prehistoric settlement there is evidence of Beaker period activity. A small assemblage of residual Beaker sherds, probably from the same vessel, were recovered from the latest secondary fills and primary fill of the enclosure ditch. A Beaker period open settlement has been recorded in Fir Tree Field *c*. 330m to the east and perhaps further Beaker settlement evidence exists in Home Field.

8.1.3 The recorded ditch comprised part of the west side of a sub-square enclosure recorded in earlier aerial photographs of the area. There is slight evidence that the enclosure was banked on the inside. A terminal at the north of the ditch might suggest a possible west entrance. Pottery from the primary fill shows a LBA/EIA (8^{th} – 7^{th} century) date for the enclosure's construction. The recovery of MIA pottery from later secondary fills suggest the enclosure was still in use 300 – 500 years later in the 5^{th} – 3^{rd} centuries BC.

8.1.4 The right side of a cow skull placed at the very base of the ditch is characteristic of other ritually significant 'structured deposits' seen on later prehistoric settlements (Grant 1984, Hill 1995). An articulated cow burial (less skull) in a shallow pit was recorded close to the enclosure ditch terminal (entrance?). Although undated this is another 'structured deposit' very characteristic of the Iron Age period. The marking of the significance of settlement boundaries at this time is often associated with the deposition of animal remains or other significant deposits. This would be particularly apposite if the skull placed in the ditch does actually come from the cow burial nearby.

8.1.5 Within the settlement enclosure at least three post-built structures were recorded; a MIA roundhouse and two undated 4-post structures. A small number of unassigned and undated postholes were also recorded which are probably of LBA-MIA date.

8.1.6 The single roundhouse was *c*. 15m diameter with an entrance oriented to the east. Iron Age roundhouse orientations are particularly aligned with significant solar phenomena such as the winter solstices (south-east) and equinoxes (due east) - (Oswald 1997; Fitzpatrick 1997; Parker Pearson 1999). A moderate assemblage from the entrance post-pits included quernstone fragments, loomweights and possibly the remains of the same sheep/goat in each pit. The marking of entrances of roundhouses with significant or 'structured deposits' is another characteristic of the Iron Age period (Parker Pearson 1999, 48). A possible post-built structure (screen?) may have been located within the roundhouse.

8.1.7 Although not dateable at least two 4-post structures were recorded within the settlement, and are probably of LBA-MIA date, consistent with the evidence gathered from all the excavations. These are generally considered above ground storage buildings, probably 'granaries' though other functions such as excarnation platforms have been proposed (Ellison and Drewett 1971).

8.1.8 Although tentatively dated, it is possible that a lynchet running to the north of the enclosure, which is a component of an extensive 'Celtic' field system in the area, is contemporary with the later phases of activity on the Site.

8.1.9 At least two areas of quarry pitting were recorded within the settlement enclosure, dated to the EIA (2) and MIA (1) periods. The majority of the finds assemblage was recovered from these features as they were infilled with domestic waste after chalk quarrying had ceased.

8.1.10 Suggested purposes of chalk quarrying include; (i) building cob walls, (ii) limewash production, (iii) marling calcium deficient fields. Where human remains have been recorded in disused quarry pits a ritual significance has been considered (Cunliffe 2000, 176). Cunliffe proposes a possible ritualised 'cthonic cycle' where fertility is continually circulated between different aspects of daily life, and death, in Iron Age societies (*ibid*, 176).

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1.1 The results from the archaeological investigations at Home Field, Down Farm have highlighted the major periods of activity being from the Late Bronze Age into the Middle Iron Age ($8^{th}/7^{th}$ to 5^{th}-3^{rd} centuries BC). A small quantity of Beaker period and Romano-British pottery from the excavations indicates small-scale activity of that date in the area, though the nature of the activity is difficult to ascertain.

9.1.2 A sub-rectangular banked enclosure with an external ditched section on the west side was constructed in the Late Bronze Age ($8^{th}/7^{th}$ century BC) and continued in use until the Middle Iron Age (5^{th} – 3^{rd} centuries BC). A possible western entrance was recorded. The enclosure is possibly associated with an extensive 'Celtic' field system and lynchet running down Gussage Cow Down and across Home Field respectively.

9.1.3 Associated with the enclosure a range of features and structures consistent with later prehistoric chalk downland settlement were recorded. These included two Early Iron Age quarry hollows subsequently backfilled with domestic waste. A post-built roundhouse, with an east facing entrance, dated to the Middle Iron Age, as did another large quarry hollow. Within a distribution of a small number of postholes at least two 4-post above ground granary structures were recorded, though undated.

9.1.4 A small number of possible ritually significant 'structured deposits' were recorded. These included a partial cow skull in the base of the enclosure ditch. This may be derived from a fully–articulated cow burial recorded in a shallow pit adjacent to the ditch terminal, possibly ritually marking the west entrance of the enclosure. Loomweights and large quernstone fragments in the roundhouse entrance post-pits may also represent 'structured deposits'.

9.1.5 Prehistoric settlement activities included flint knapping, bronze and iron metalworking, textile manufacture, grain storage and cooking. The chalk quarrying may have been for cob wall construction, limewash production (for daub walls) or marling of calcium deficient fields, or a combination of these functions. Animal husbandry practices focussed on domesticated cattle, sheep/goat and pig though it is not possible to ascertain the relative importance of each species. The remains of possibly domesticated dogs were also present.

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11 APPENDIX 1 – ARCHIVE INDEX

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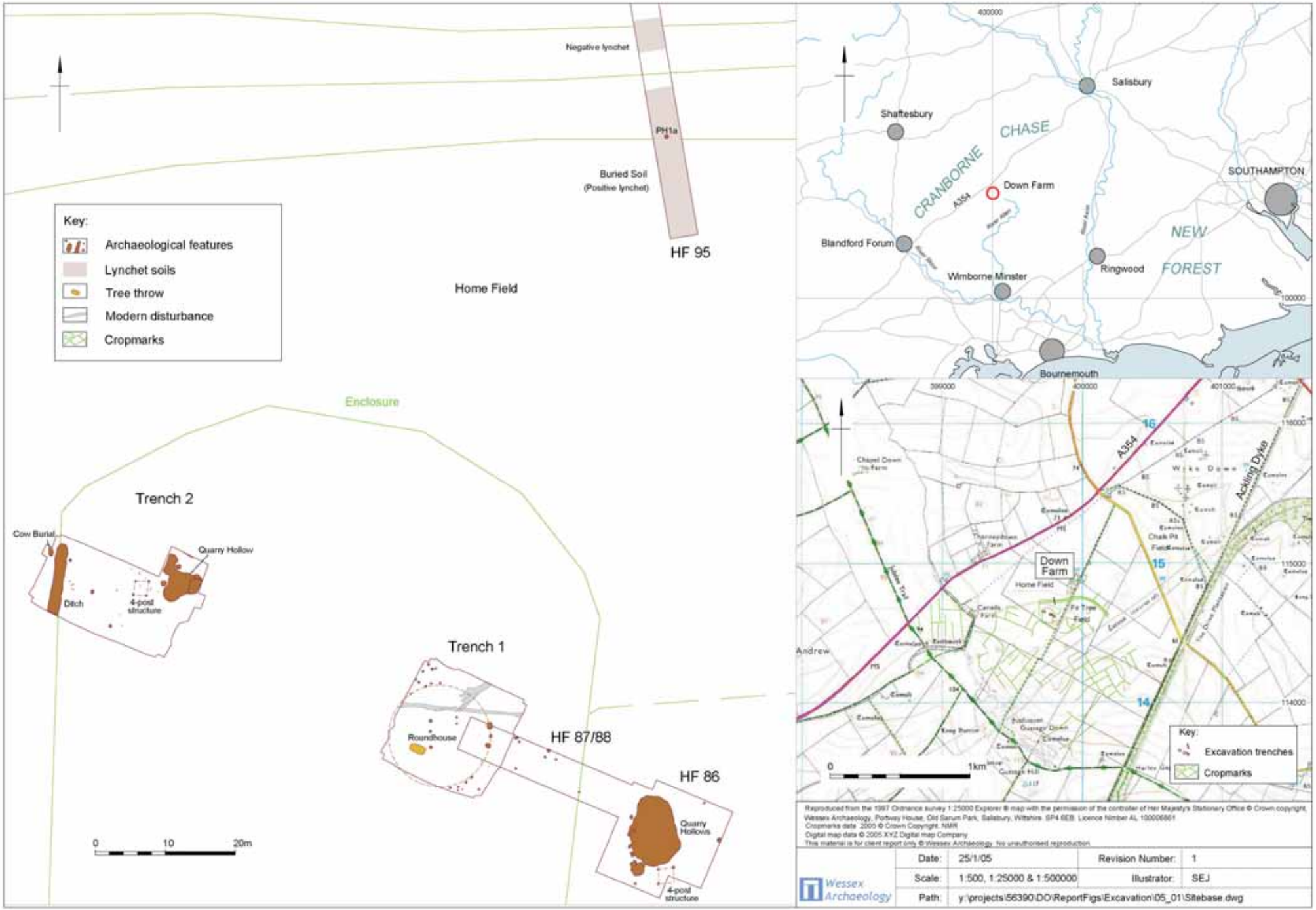
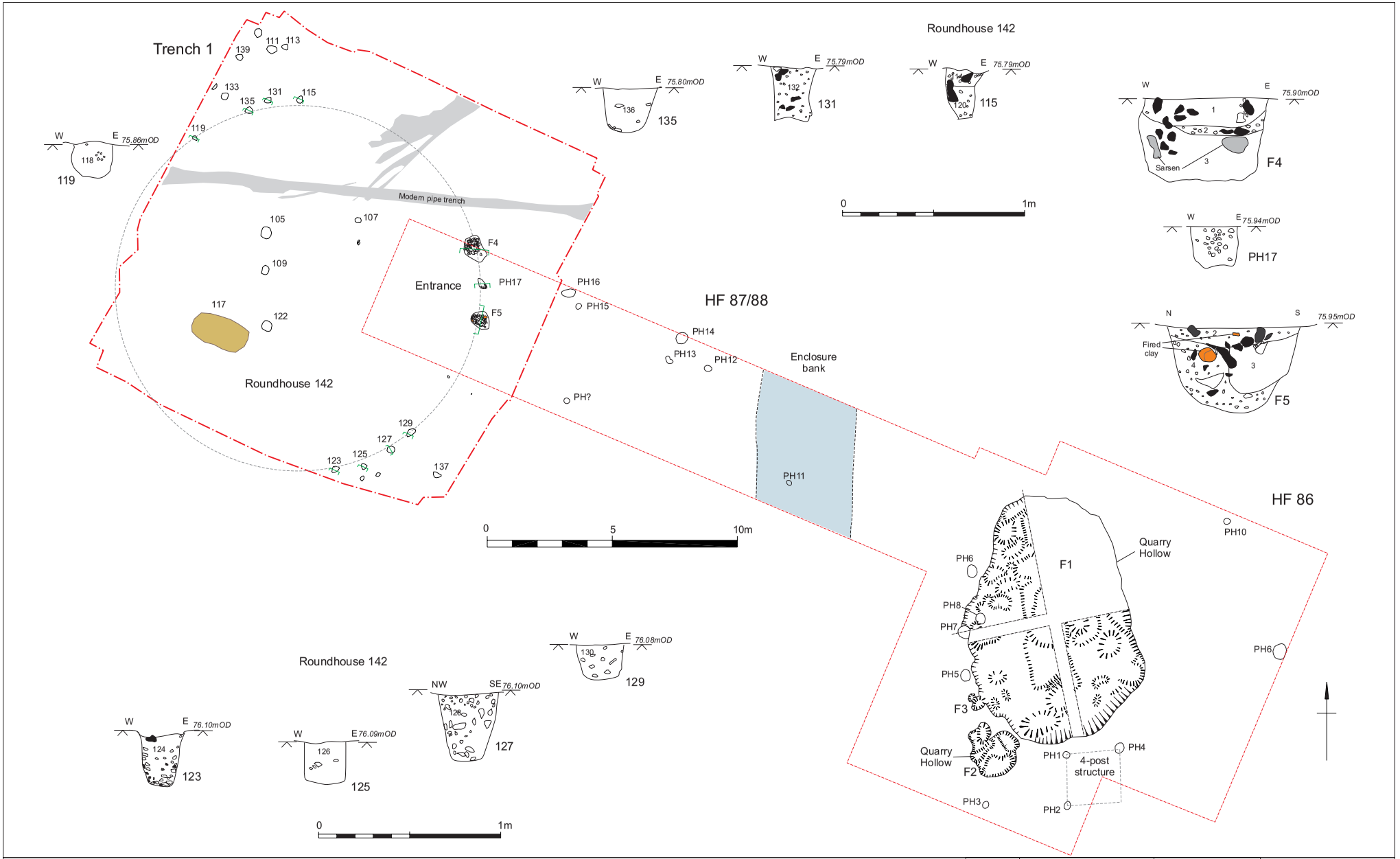


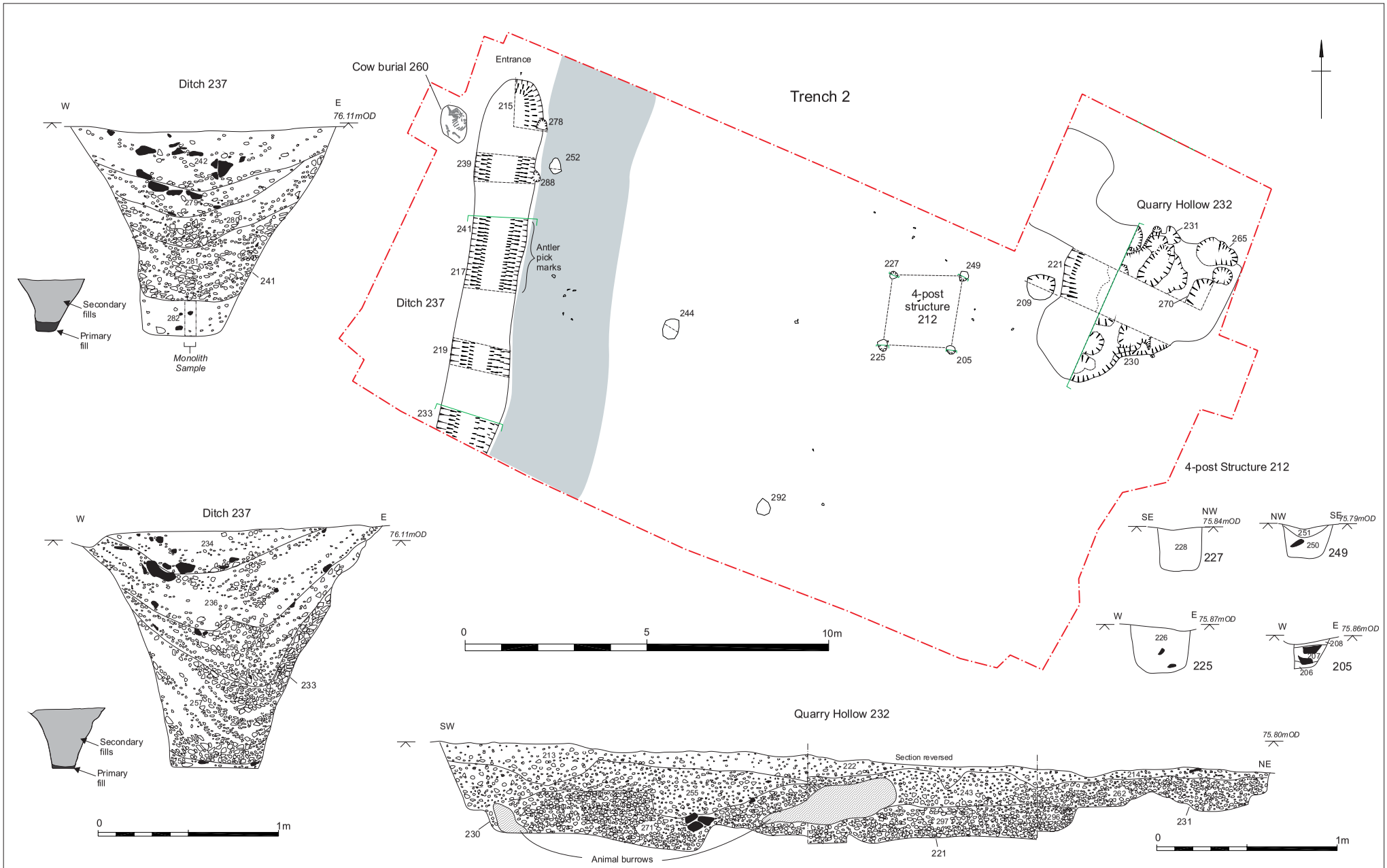
Site location maps

Figure 1



Plan of Trench 1, HF 86 and HF 87/8 trenches

Figure 2



Plan of Trench 2

Figure 3

Antler pick marks in the base of Ditch **237** (scale:0.5m)

Cow burial **260**,view from the west (scale:1m)

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	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\56390\Drawing Office\Report Figures\Excavation\05_01\A4Fig4.cdr		

Plates 1 and 2

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