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A SUMMARY REPORT ON EXCAVATION AT MARNEL PARK (PHASE 2), POPLEY, BASINGSTOKE, 2018

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ABSTRACT

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2018, at Marnel Park (Phase 2 area), Popley, Basingstoke. The excavation was targeted on a group of later prehistoric pits identified by evaluation.

Excavation confirmed a single phase of Late Bronze Age /Early Iron Age activity, represented by a group of eight pits, some of which were intercutting. Three pit fills were notably rich in charcoal and charred plant remains, while others may represent backfill deposits. One pit contained quantities of fired clay, together with quern fragments and remains of pottery vessels which appeared to have been broken in situ. These finds appear to represent a structured deposit. A small assemblage of worked flint is largely redeposited. The Marnel Park (Phase 2) site has produced evidence of peripheral Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age activity around the excavated Marnel Park/Merton Rise Phase 1 site, to the south and west.

INTRODUCTION

In February 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) undertook an archaeological excavation, at the request of CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of David Wilson Homes Ltd, at Marnel Park (Phase 2 Area), Popley, Basingstoke (centred at NGR: 463681 155198; Fig. 1). The excavation was carried out in accordance with a planning condition for targeted investigation, prior to residential development.

The approximately rectangular Marnel Park Phase 2 site is appoximately 14.5ha in extent, and situated north-east of Basingstoke (Fig. 1), on a low, north-west/south-east aligned ridge, at an elevation of about 85m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Underlying geology comprises Lambeth Group clays, silts and sands, of Palaeogene date (BGS 2018). Superficial patches of gravel and chalk were identified during evaluation (TVAS 2017).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Locally recorded concentrations of, mostly Neolithic, worked flint, include that at Weybrook Farm, some 2.5km to the south-west (Ford 1991; Ford & Torrence 1991). A large assemblage of Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork was recovered at the Marnel Park Phase 1 site, approximately 1km to the south-west (Bradley & Leivers 2009), together with stratified pottery (Barclay 2009; fig. 5). The recorded evidence collectively suggests intensive later prehistoric activity in the locality, although fieldwalking (Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS) 2011, 2014) identified no significant lithic concentrations on the site itself.

Investigations at Chineham Lane, Sherborne St John, about 1km to the east, recorded a number of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age features (Boismier *et al.* 1988). A Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury cremation cemetery was recorded at Daneshill, 2km to the south-east (Millett & Schadla-Hall 1991).

Evaluation identified pits and a gully of possible Bronze Age/Iron Age date, in addition to a post-medieval boundary ditch (TVAS 2017; see Elliott 2017).

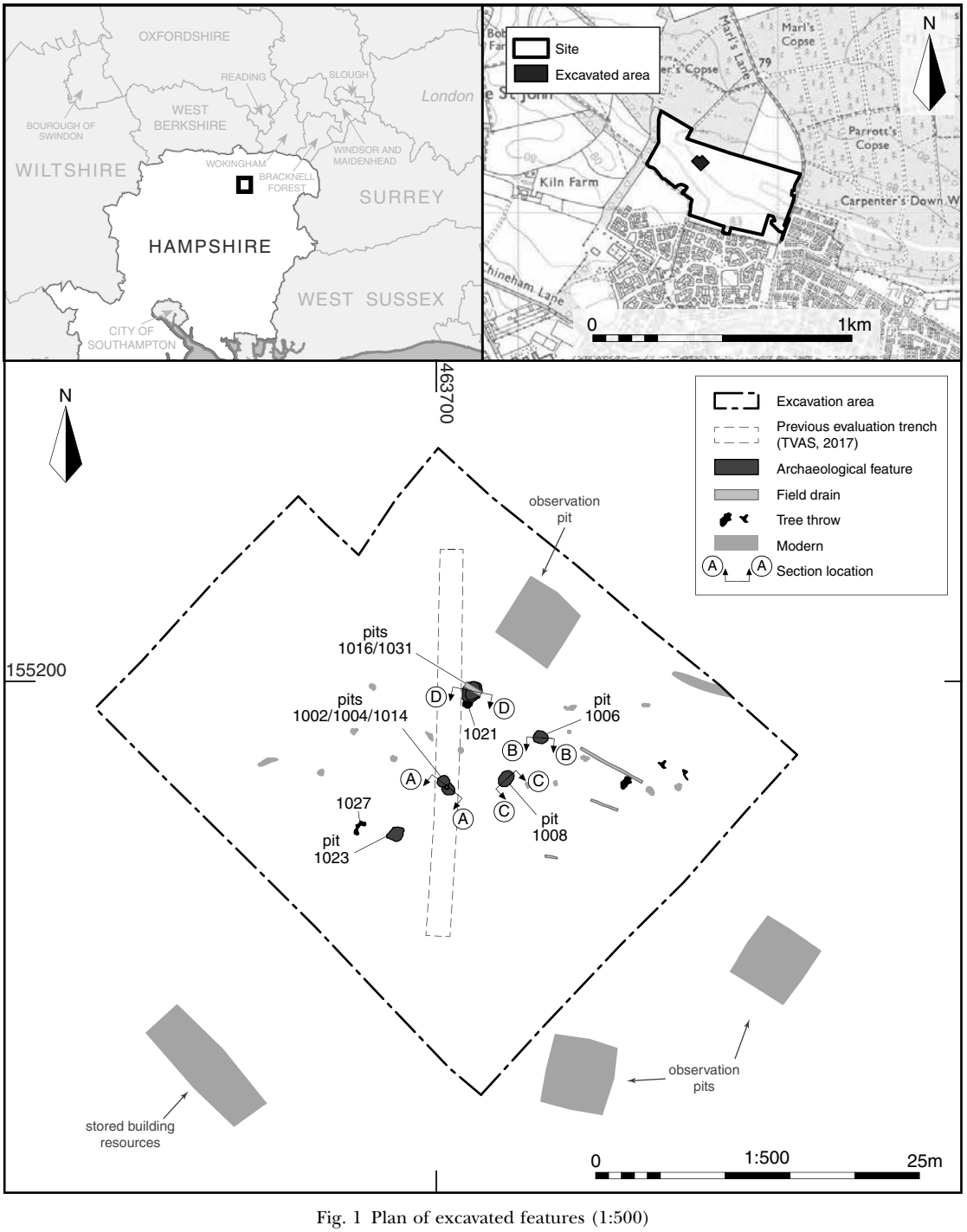


Fig. 1 Plan of excavated features (1:500)

SUMMARY RESULTS

The natural geological substrate comprised light-orange clay. All archaeological features were cut into this and were sealed by a 0.25m-deep topsoil, comprising mid-grey/brown clay silt. Eight individual pits (1002, 1004, 1006, 1008, 1014, 1016, 1023 and 1031), of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date (*c.* 1100–400 BC) (Fig. 1), were revealed by stripping. These averaged 1.12m in length, 0.84m in width and 0.44m in depth, with the largest (1031) measuring 1.5m × 1.28m × 0.85m. They were generally sub-circular in plan, displaying moderate to steeply sloping sides, with concave or flat bases.

Pits 1002, 1004, 1014, 1023 and 1031 appeared to have been backfilled with re-deposited natural subsoil, or had become naturally silted with a gleyed clay, similar in appearance to surrounding natural geology. In such cases, only the presence of charcoal flecks and pottery sherds within their fills allowed the full extent of these features to be identified and recorded. Dated features are summarised in Table 1, below:

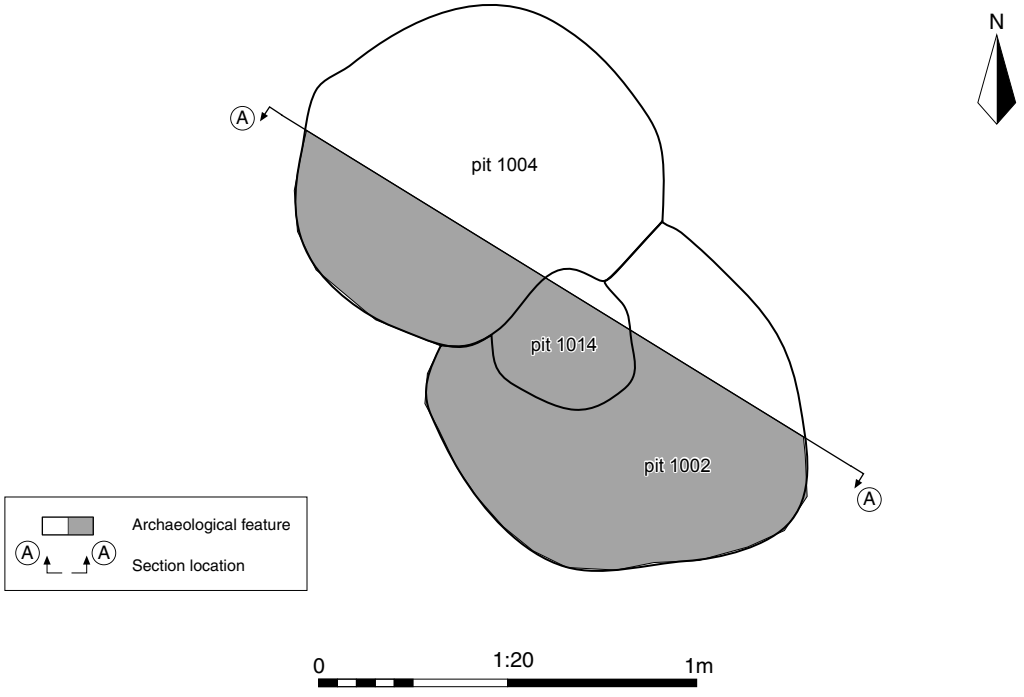
Pit fills

Sub-circular pit 1002 was located towards the south of the group. Its single fill, 1003, of light-brown/orange and light-grey silty clay, contained large charcoal fragments and 35 sherds (164g) of largely degraded pottery, although some sherds of up to 100mm across were noted (Fig. 2, section AA; Fig. 3). Sample 305 from this fill contained oak *(Quercus)* and birch (*Betula*) charcoal.

Pit 1004 cut pit 1002 on its north-west side. A single fill, 1005, of light-grey/blue/orange silty clay, included burnt flint (676g), charcoal flecks and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age sherds, together with a flint side-scraper.

Table 1 Summary of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits

Pit	*Fill(s)*	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Sides*	*Base*	*Stratig. Relation.*	*Artefacts*	*Materials in Fill*
1002	1003	0.9	0.7	0.52	Steep	Flat		Pottery	Char. & burnt flint
1004	1005	0.88	0.82	0.37	Steep	Flat		Pottery/flint	Char. & burnt flint
1006	1030/	1.03	0.65	0.34	Vertical	Flat		Pottery	Charcoal
	1007								
1008	1026/	1.23	0.95	0.42	Concave	Flat		Pottery	Char. & burnt flint
	1012/							-	Charcoal
	1011/							-	Charcoal
	1010/							-	Charcoal
	1009							Pottery	Char. & burnt flint
1014	1015	0.45	0.42	0.1	Steep	Concave	1002/1004	-	Charcoal
1016	1017/	1.43	0.85	0.56	Steep	Concave		Pottery,	Char. & burnt flint
	1018/							Burnt clay,	
	1019							Quern frags	
1031		1.5	1.28	0.85	Concave	Concave	1016	w. flint	Charcoal
1023	1029/	1.5	1.39	0.37	concave	concave		pottery/	Char. & burnt flint
	1024/							worked flint	
	1025								



Section AA

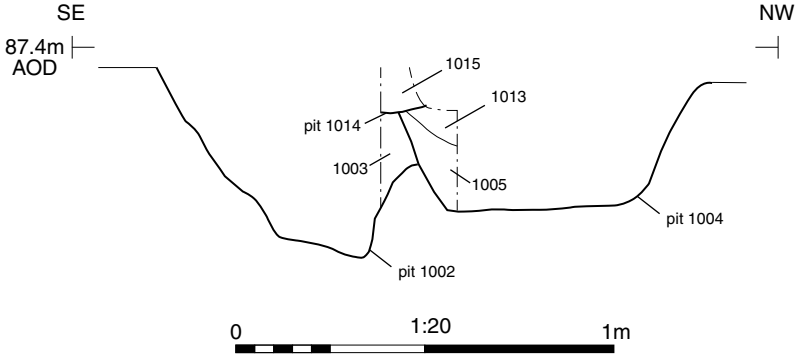
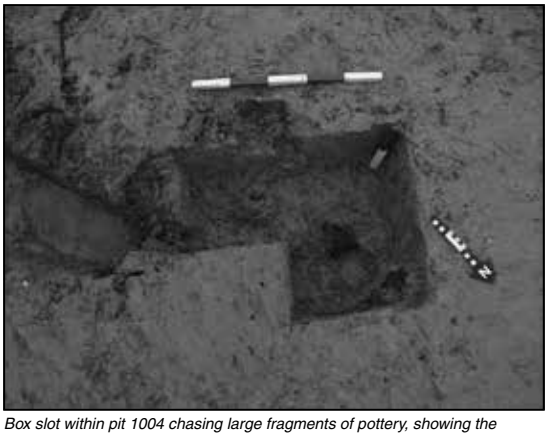


Fig. 2 Pits 1002, 1004 and 1014: plan, section (1:20)

Shallow pit 1014 represented a partial recut of pit 1002, and directly adjoined the south- eastern edge of adjacent pit 1004. It was therefore stratigraphically later than both pits 1002 and 1004 (Fig. 2, section AA). A single fill 1015, of grey/brown/orange silty clay, contained charcoal, but no finds. Sample 304 from this fill contained oak and birch charcoal.



Box slot within pit 1004 chasing large fragments of pottery, showing the similarity in appearance of upper fill 1013 to the natural geology 1001, looking south-west (0.5m and 0.2m scales)

North-west and south-west facing sections through pit 1004, showing excavated section through pits 1002 and 1014 in background, as excavated by Thames Valley Archaeological Services in 2017 (pits 6 & 7)

Fully excavated pits 1002, 1004 and 1014, looking south (1m scale)

Fig. 3 Pits 102, 1004 and 1014: photographs

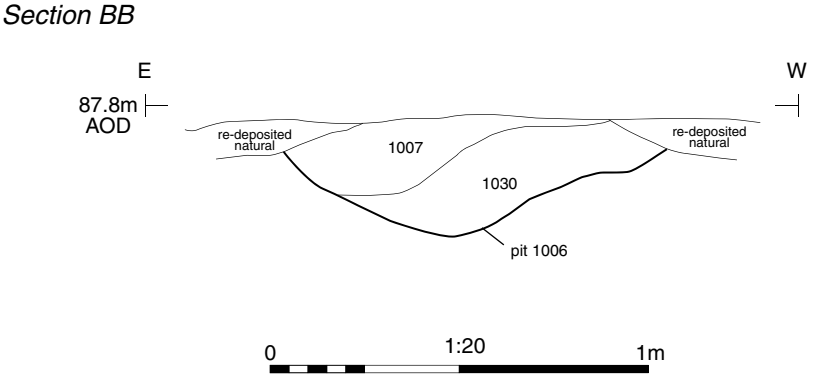
Pit 1006 was located 5m to the south-east of pits 1016/1031 (Fig. 4, section BB). A secondary fill 1007, of yellow/grey silty clay, contained Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age sherds and abundant charcoal. Sample 300 from this fill contained charcoal of hawthorn, oak, birch, willow and ash, together with indeterminate cereal grains, weed seeds and hazelnut shell.

Oval pit 1008, on the south-eastern side of the group, contained a sequence of five fills (Fig. 5, section CC). Primary fill 1026, of yellow/grey silty clay, included burnt flint (391g), charcoal and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery. This underlay secondary fills 1012 and 1011, respectively of dark-brown silty clay (0.09m depth), and mid-yellow/grey silty clay, (0.07m depth), both including abundant charcoal, but no finds. A succeeding fill, 1010, of dark-grey/black silty clay (0.04m depth) contained only charcoal, while the highest fill, 1009, of mid-yellow/grey silty clay, contained abundant charcoal, burnt flint and small, degraded sherds. Sample 302 from this fill identified wood charcoal of hawthorn, oak, birch, willow and ash, together with indeterminate cereal grains, weed seeds and hazelnut shell.

Pit 1031 had been substantially recut by pit 1016 (Fig. 6, plan and section DD). Its surviving fill, 1017, comprised grey/blue silty clay, with rare charcoal inclusions. A flint core and two flint flakes were recovered from this fill.

The sub-circular recut, 1016, contained three fills. Secondary fill 1018, of dark, grey/brown silty clay, contained abundant charcoal, and was evident as a distinct, tipped deposit in north-east facing section (Fig. 6). Sample 303 from this context contained charcoal of oak, birch, willow, maple and ash, together with cereal remains, weeds seeds and hazelnut shell. Fill 1019, a mixed brown/red/black clay silt, contained a significant assemblage of cultural material, including sherds of coarseware jars and fragments of burnt clay, in addition to burnt flint (1676g), 11 flint flakes, and three fragments of querns or stone rubbers. Collectively, this domestic material appears to represent a structured deposit. Samples 309 and 310 from this fill contained charcoal of oak and willow, together with weed seeds and hazelnut shell.

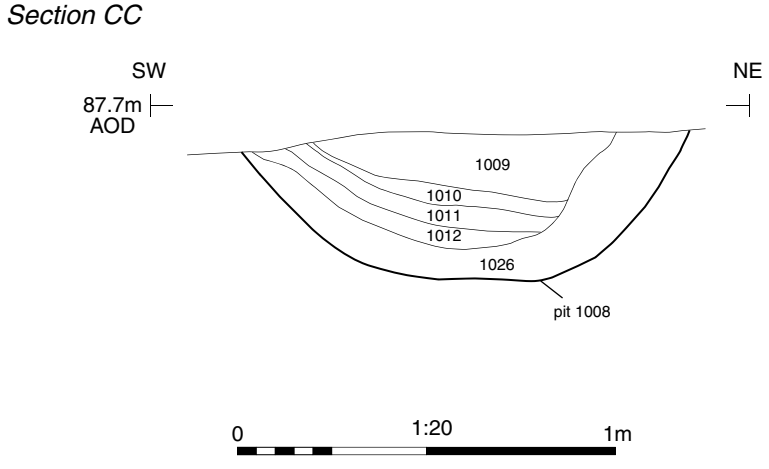
Oval pit 1023 contained three fills, of which



Working shot of the fill 1007 within pit 1006, showing re-deposited clay on south-east edge, looking south-west (0.5m scale)

Fig. 4 Pit 1006: section and photograph

the lowest, 1029, of gleyed, light blue/grey clay, contained only charcoal (Fig. 7, section EE). The succeeding fill 1024, of grey/brown clay, contained oak, hazel and willow charcoal. An upper fill, 1025, of red/yellow/brown clay, contained charcoal, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, burnt flint (182g) and a retouched flint flake.



South-east facing section of southern quadrant of pit 1008 showing upper stratigraphy (0.5m scale)

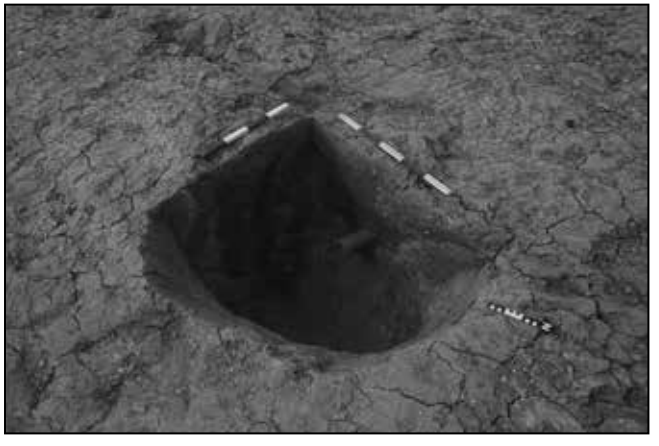
Fig. 5 Pit 1008: section and photograph

THE FINDS

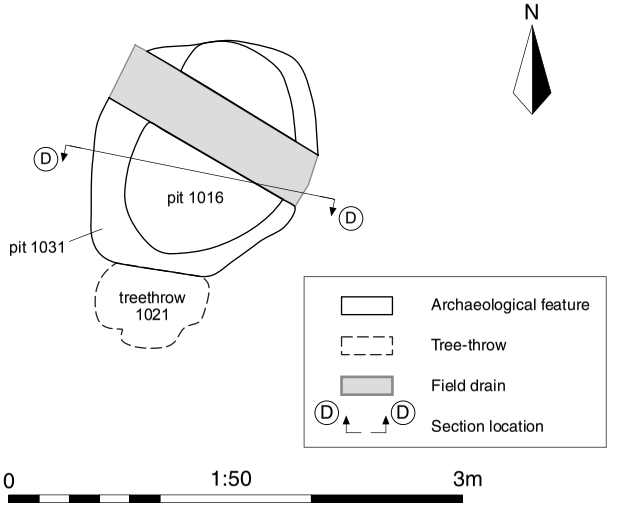
Lithics by Jacky Sommerville

Introduction and methodology

A total of 17 worked flints (360g), and 79 pieces of burnt, unworked flint (2925g) was recovered from nine deposits. The worked flints were recovered from fills of six pits; pits 1004 and 1008 contained only burnt flint. Cortex is present on 11 worked items, indicating reliance



Working shot of pits 1016 and 1031, looking south-west (0.4m and 0.5m scale)



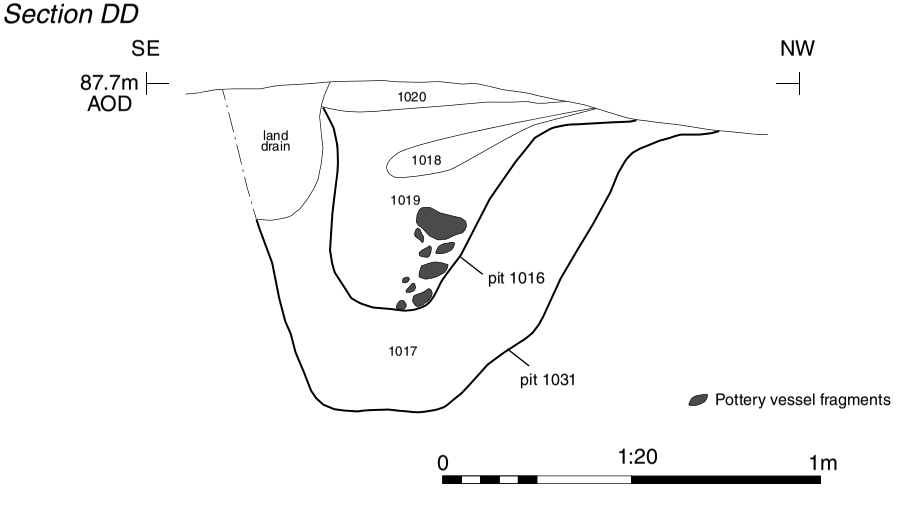
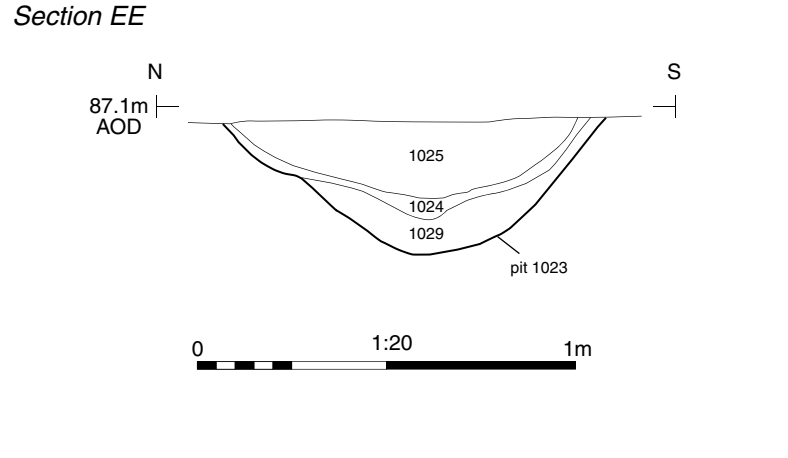
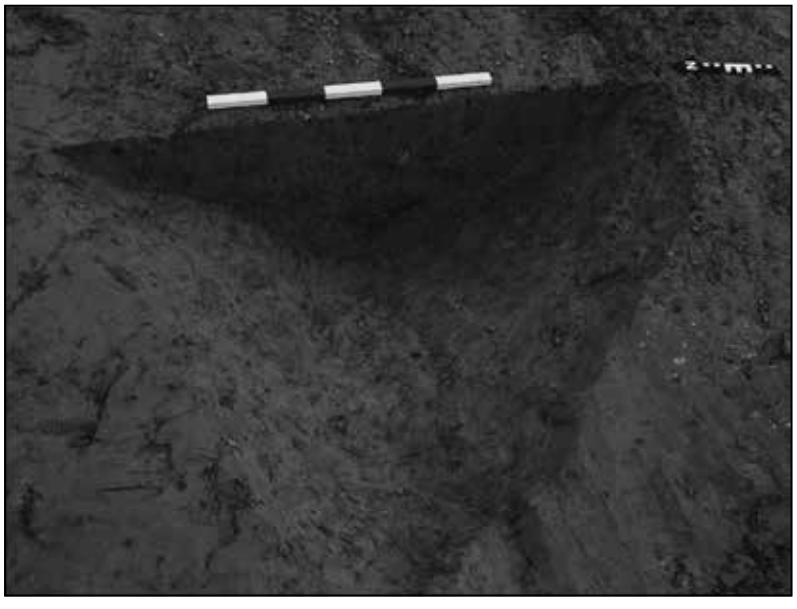


Fig. 6 Pits 1016 and 1031: plan, section and photograph





Pit 1023, looking east (0.5m scale)

Fig. 7 Pit 1023: section and photograph

on a local chalk source. Five items display a minimal degree of edge damage and rolling, while five are broken and three are burnt. Eleven, probably residual, items were recovered from three fills of pit 1016.

Range and variety

This small assemblage comprises 14 flakes, one core, one retouched flake and one side scraper. None of the flakes displays chronologically diagnostic features. Average flake dimensions suggest a Late Neolithic/Bronze Age date (Butler 2005, 157).

The core is a multi-platform type, with flakes unsystematically removed from at least four platforms, typical of Late Neolithic/Bronze Age technology (Ibid., 155). The scraper from pit 1004 has been made on a flake blank and is not a closely dateable type.

Discussion

The small, fragmentary lithic assemblage cannot be meaningfully compared with those from the neighbouring Marnel Park Phase 1 site (Bradley & Leivers 2009). A Bronze Age date is suggested, and there are no indicators of earlier knapping technology.

Pottery by Katie Marsden and E.R. McSloy

A total of 661 sherds of prehistoric pottery (4650g) was hand-recovered from eleven deposits (530 sherds) and bulk soil sampling (131 sherds). The condition of the pottery is generally poor; well-fragmented, with commonly degraded surfaces. This partly reflects the softness of the fabrics and an adverse burial environment.

The assemblage was fully recorded in accordance with national guidelines for the analysis of prehistoric pottery assemblages (PCRG 2010). Analysis included sherd count and weight by fabric and rim EVEs. All sherds were recovered from pits, with the largest proportion (almost 50%) recovered from pit 1016.

The assemblage is relatively homogenous, with only minor variations in fabric. The majority of sherds occur in iron-rich sandy, orange/brown-fired fabrics, with sparse, calcined flint inclusions. All types appear to represent locally available mineral resources. Full fabric descriptions are available in Marsden and McSloy (2018).

Due to high fragmentation, few feature sherds are present. Rim sherds from four vessels were identified, along with bodysherds representing a minimum six vessels of carinated (angular-profiled) form. Only twelve sherds, probably representing nine vessels, feature decoration of all varieties.

A large (rim diam. approx. 260mm) vessel, almost certainly jar-profiled, with a tall, upright neck and flattened rim, was recovered from pit 1016 (fill 1019). The outer angle of the rim is decorated with fingertip impressions. A single sherd with impressed fingertip decoration, probably to the vessel shoulder, and a number of base-sherds, all in the same fabric, may also come from this vessel. The underside of the base is impressed with finely crushed, calcined flint, a feature noted in contemporary pottery from the region, possibly to reduce adhesion during manufacture (pers. comm. E. Morris).

Further rim sherds, all from smaller vessels with upright and well-formed, squared rims, were recorded from Pits 1004 (fill 1005), 1008 (fill 1026) and 1016 (fill 1019). They occur in fine sandy fabrics, are thin-walled (approx. 5–6mm), and probably represent fineware bowls. Bodysherds of carinated vessels were recovered from pit 1008 (fills 1009 and 1026: two vessels), and pit 1016 (fills 1019 and 1020: five vessels). With the exception of one plain sherd (fill 1019), all feature 2–3 deep, horizontal grooves above the girth carination, and almost certainly fall within the furrowed bowl tradition of the Early Iron Age (below). Comparable, though more complete, vessels of tripartite form have been recorded from local sites, including Marnel Park (Phase 1) (Wright *et al.* 2009a, 12, fig. 10). At least one vessel, from pit 1020, features grooves in-filled with a white, chalky substance. A further vessel, of carinated or round-shouldered form, is represented by a body sherd in flint-tempered fabric FL, from pit 1008 (fill 1026). This vessel features a row of impressed fingernail decoration.

Dating/stylistic affinities and discussion

This assemblage, although small and well-fragmented, provides consistent evidence of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity (*c.* 9th/8th to 7th/6th centuries BC). The fabrics, typically including tempering admixtures of iron-rich quartz sand and fine calcined flint, compare with those recorded for contemporary local assemblages (Barclay 2009), and across the wider region, including Reading Business Park (Hall 1992), and Petter's Sports Field, Egham (O'Connell 1986). Key to this dating are the 'furrowed' (and plain) carinated bowls, of which at least six are represented. The

furrowed bowl tradition has its origins in the 8th/7th-century BC Early All Cannings Cross style in Wessex, which persisted as the Later All Cannings style, possibly beyond the 6th century BC. Larger coarseware jars, such as that from pit 1016, with tall, upright necks and fingertip ornament, are similarly a form common to this period. The added flint base-sherds described are a further chronological indicator – seen, for example, in the contemporary Reading Business Park assemblage (Hall 1992, 69).

Fired/burnt clay by Jacky Sommerville

A total of 92 fragments (293g) of fired clay was recovered via the hand excavation of two deposits, and the bulk soil sampling of five deposits. Most of the material is buff/orange in colour, with a small number of grey fragments, and all is soft-fired. The fragments from fill 1019, of pit 1016, are mostly coarse and vesicular, with a small number containing flint inclusions. Flint was also present in fragments from fill 1020, also of pit 1016. The remaining fragments contain inclusions of what appears to be degraded rock, or no visible inclusions. All fired clay fragments are amorphous, with no features indicative of form or function.

The worked stone by Ruth Shaffrey

Three pieces of worked stone were retained for analysis, all from fill 1018. One is a fragment, probably from a saddle quern (878g), with a flat, pecked surface. A second fragment, with a slightly convex, pecked grinding surface (708g), is probably part of a grain rubber. It displays what appears to be secondary percussion damage to the centre of the surviving grinding surface, and may have been reused as a small anvil. A third fragment (384g) retains no original surfaces but may also be from a quern. The saddle quern fragment is of quartzite, with the other two fragments comprising pale quartzitic sandstones. Such rocks are typical of saddle querns and rubbers in the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age in the Basingstoke region, for example at Old Kempshott Lane (Hayward 2012).

BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Charcoal and charred plant remains by Sheila Boardman

Introduction

Eleven samples (8–20 litres in volume), from eight pits, were examined for wood charcoal and charred plant remains. Of these, ten samples produced identifiable wood charcoal, and four produced small quantities of other charred plant remains and were examined in their entirety.

Results

Wood charcoal

Anatomical features observed on the wood charcoal from the Marnel Park samples are consistent with the taxa groups listed by sample, as fragment counts per taxon, in Table 2, below.

Charred plant remains

Charred plant remains are listed in Table 3, below. These include hulled barley, together with possible oat and indeterminate cereal grains and fragments. Three samples included hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments, and a few seeds/fruits of possible cultivation weeds, including cleavers (*Galium aparine*), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia* sp./*Lathyrus* sp.), sedge (Carex sp.) and grasses (Poaceae).

Discussion

Wood charcoal

Two samples (309 and 311) produced solely oak (*Quercus*) charcoal, and most other samples were oak-dominated. Much of the oak was from sapwood, indicating use of branches or immature trees, although some longer-lived (heartwood) elements were also present. Assessed sample 304 (context 1015) contained equal proportions of oak and birch (*Betula*). The non-oak taxa, in order of overall numbers of fragments, were birch, willow/poplar (*Salix/Populus*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), hawthorn group (Pomoideae), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and blackthorn/cherry (*Prunus).* The presence of birch in six of the ten samples suggests that the excavated features were in use during

Table 2 Wood charcoal by context

Feature type		*Pit fill*	*Pit fill*	*Pit fill*	*Pit fill*	*Pit fill*	*Pit fill*	*Pit fill*	*Pit fill*	*Pit fill*	*Pit fill*
Cut		1002	1006	1008	1014	1016	1016	1016	1023	1023	1031
Context No.		1003	1007	1009	1015	1018	1019	1019	1024	1025	1017
Sample No.		305	300	302	304	303	309	310	306	307	311
Volume		20	16	13	8	18	13	17	18	8	5
Rosaceae											
Prunus sp.	blackthorn/cherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pomoideae	hawthorn group	-	1	3r	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fagaceae											
Quercus	oak	X	40sh	48sh	X	60sh	X	63hs	63hsb	27sh	36hs
Betulaceae											
Betula	birch	x	20	7	X	2	-	-	-	1	-
Corylus avellana L.	hazel	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Salicaceae											
Salix/Populus	willow/poplar	-	2	5		1	-	2	2	6	-
Sapindaceae											
Acer campestre L.	field maple	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
cf. *Acer campestre*	cf. field maple	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Oleaceae											
Fraxinus excelsior L.	ash	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Indeterminate charcoal		x	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Total fragments		12	70	66	16	66	5	66	66	36	36

KEY: Counts include: h - heartwood; s - sapwood; r - roundwood; b- bark. Assessed samples: x – taxon present; X – taxon dominant/co-dominant.
Pomoideae may include: *Pyrus* (pear), *Malus* (apple), *Crataegus* (hawthorn) & *Sorbus* (rowan, service, whitebeam) species.

a period of woodland regeneration. The presence of willow/poplar suggests exploitation of damper areas, while the overall range of tree and shrub taxa suggests mixed deciduous woodland. There was little evidence for thorny (hedgerow or scrub) vegetation.

Table 3 Charred plant remains by context

Feature type		*Pit fill*	*Pit fill*	*Pit fill*	*Pit fill*
Cut		1006	1008	1016	1016
Context No.		1007	1009	1018	1019
Sample No.		300	302	303	310
Volume		16	13	18	17
Cereals					
Hordeum vulgare L.	barley, hulled grain	2			
cf. *Avena* sp.	cf. oats, grain	1F			
Cereal	indet. grain	1 + F	1.5		
Cereal	indet. rachis internode			1F	
Other species					
Vicia sp./*Lathyrus sp.* <2 mm	small vetch/wild pea		4		1
Corylus avellana L.	hazelnut shell		2F	5F	3F
Galium aparine L.	goosegrass, cleavers	5 + F	11	1 + F	4
Carex sp.	sedge, biconvex seed				1
Poaceae undifferentiated	grass, small			2	
Indeterminate	seed/fruit	1	2	1F	1
Indeterminate	leaf bud				3

Key: F - fragment(s)

A broadly similar range of charcoal taxa was identified by Barnett (2009) in Late Neolithic to Early Iron Age deposits from the Marnel Park (Phase 1) site, although birch charcoal was only present as a single fragment in one Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age sample. Individual samples from these excavations were also dominated by oak roundwood, alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and hawthorn group (Pomoideae) (Ibid.), so were more variable than Marnel Park (Phase 2) ones (Table 2). Across the region, birch charcoal appears to be most prevalent at sites contemporary with the early development of agriculture (*c.* 3500 – 1350 cal BC), although this also occurs sporadically at later sites (Smith 2002), presumably reflecting local re-afforestation, as here.

Charred plant remains

The cereals, nutshell fragments, and other remains, probably represent nearby domestic activities, including small-scale crop cleaning or food preparation. The cultivated species provide no additional indication of date; hulled barley was cultivated from the Neolithic period onwards, and the oat grain fragment may be from a wild or cultivated species, and therefore of almost any period (Greig 1991).

Wheat, possibly emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*) and/or spelt (*T. spelta*), was identified by Pelling (2009) in Bronze Age samples from the Marnel Park (Phase 1) site. A small concentration of small legume seeds in one sample (302) from the Phase 2 site (Table 3) tentatively suggests a later (Iron Age) date for this feature, although these seeds could be present in deposits of any period.

Conclusions

The principal fuelwood taxon was oak. On the basis of the overall range of taxa, fuelwood appears to have been collected from mixed deciduous woodland, possibly with some damper elements. A predominance of oak sapwood may simply reflect ease of removal, or the fact that mature oak trees were in short supply (i.e. reserved for uses such as construction). The tree and shrub taxa are consistent with a prehistoric date for the pits. The near absence of thorny species, including blackthorn and hawthorn, may reflect fuel selection practices, or a period when regional woodlands were more closed.

DISCUSSION

Excavation identified a group of eight pits, of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date, which may be broadly contemporary with a number of features recorded in Areas F, E and D of the Marnel Park Phase 1 site approximately 250m to the south and south-west (Fig. 1; Wright *et al.* 2009b). This evidence for open, later Bronze Age settlement has a number of regional parallels, including Easton Lane, Winchester (Fasham *et al.* 1989), Winnal Down (Fasham 1985) and Westbury, West Meon (Lewis & Walker, 1977). Evidence of contemporary ditched boundaries within the environs of this site (Wright *et al.* 2009b, 17; CA 2017a; 2017b) indicates well-organised patterns of contemporary land division (see Bradley *et al.* 1994, 6–10). Of two major linear ditches recorded on the Marnel Park Phase 1 site, one ran for 300m across the eastern end of the ridge, in Area F, about 300m south-west of the Phase 2 site, which effectively defined the eastern limits of an area of intensive settlement. This ditch contained Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age material, broadly contemporary with that from the current Phase 2 site (Wright *et al.* 2009a, 16–7). The location of the current site, beyond ditched boundaries and contemporary settlement in Areas D, E and F of the Phase 1 site, suggests a distinctly peripheral or marginal location.

The fills of pits 1006, 1008 and 1016 contained considerably more charcoal and/or charred plant remains than those of other pits, and were of distinctly different character. In particular, fill 1019, of pit 1016 (Fig. 6) contained quantities of fired-clay fragments, large pottery sherds, possibly representing ceramic vessels broken *in situ,* and quern fragments. Collectively, these finds appear to represent a deliberate deposit of mixed domestic material.

A clear distinction was evident in the character of fills associated with pottery, with some, including 1007, 1009, 1017, 1018 and 1019, exhibiting the darker, charcoal-rich character commonly associated with domestic or hearth waste, while others, (1003, 1005, 1020 and 1025) appeared to represent backfilled natural subsoil. Pit 1002, in particular, contained a large number of sherds as a single deposit, possibly representing a vessel, or vessels, broken *in situ* (Fig. 2), and pit 1016 contained both large sherds and fragments of quern (Fig. 6). Structured deposits of domestic material around the peripheries of later prehistoric settlements, have been widely recognised in the archaeological record (cf. Bradley 2005, 108–114; Brück 1999; Hill 1995, 35–40), some of which appear to relate to activities marking the limits of the domestic sphere and the margins of settled land (cf. Bradley 2005, 110; Garrow 2007). Bradley (Ibid.) has remarked on the manner in which such deposits frequently reference the material associations of domestic life, and the three quern fragments from fill 1019, of pit 1016 (Fig. 7, section DD) may be significant in this respect. The pottery from the Phase 2 site pits has clear affinities with some contemporary material from the Merton Rise (Phase 1) site, and elsewhere in the locality (cf. Barclay 2009, 22–3; Millett & Schadla-Hall 1992, 88–93).

The full report (CA 2018) can be found on the Cotswold Archaeology website http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/. The archive will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust, under the accession number A2018.06.

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