

6. OTHER FEATURES

6.1 Introduction

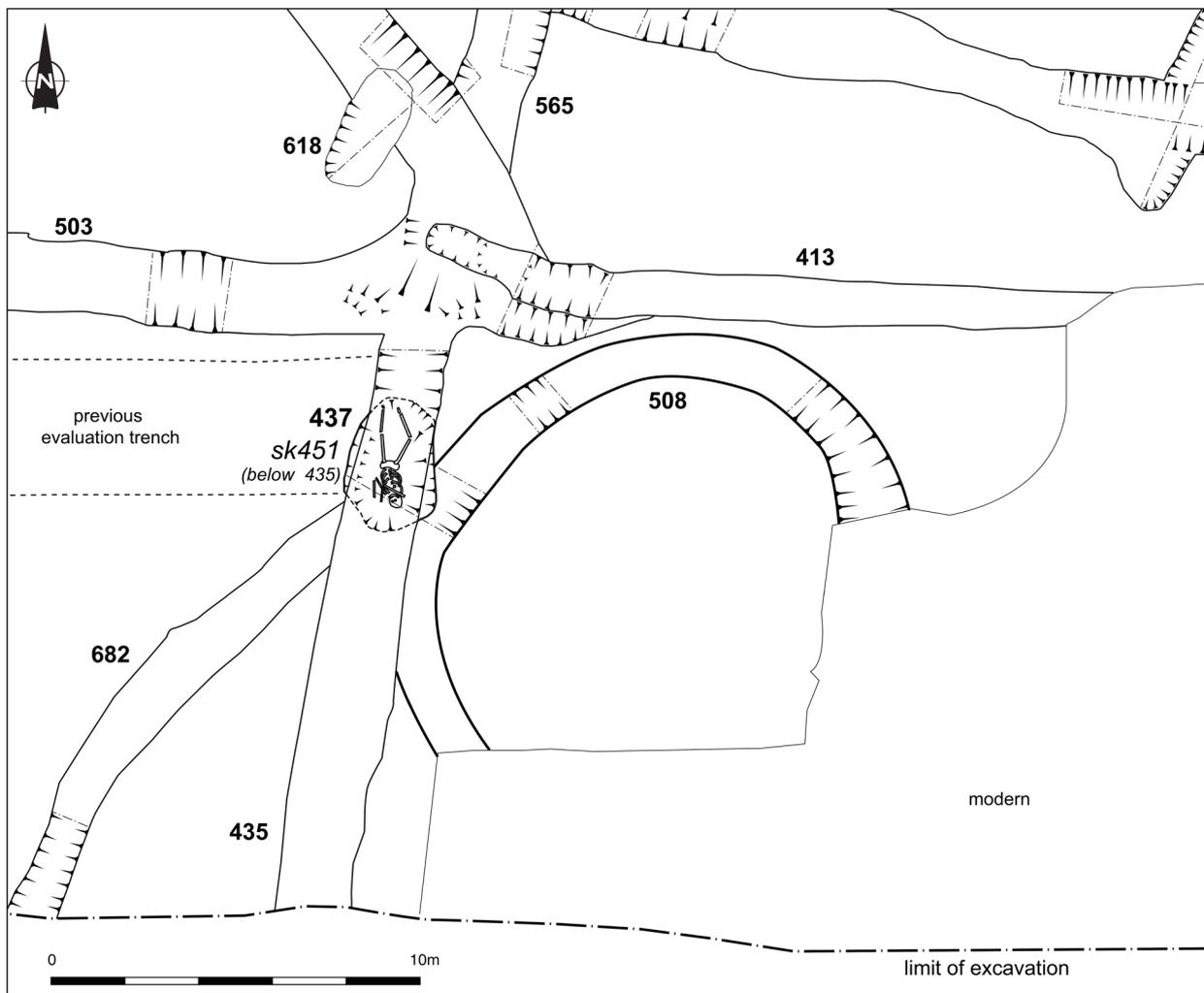
A number of features or groups of features were identified on site which either could not be directly linked with any of the main phases of activity or were found to predate them. These included a ring ditch enclosure and a series of unphased pits.

6.2 Ring ditch

The ring ditch (508) was situated towards the south-eastern corner of the site and had been partially destroyed by modern disturbance (Illus 6.1). What remained of this feature suggests that it may have originally been circular in plan (*c* 7.5m diameter externally), making it different in form

to any of the other ditches identified on site. The ditch measured *c* 0.7m wide by up to 0.6m deep and had sloping sides and a concave base. It had been cut by a Roman-period burial (437) which in turn had been cut by one of the field system ditches (435). There were no internal features which might have given an indication of the usage of this feature.

The stratigraphic sequence indicates that the ring ditch pre-dated the Roman-period burials but no absolute dates were obtained. Given the presence of Iron Age burials on the site, it is considered most likely to date to this period, but the presence of Grooved Ware within Midden Context 003 (Section 7.11) suggests that there was also activity on the site in the Neolithic period. The ring ditch can therefore only be broadly dated as prehistoric.



Illus 6.1 Plan of Ring Ditch 508 (copyright CFA Archaeology Ltd)

6.3 Unphased pits

Forty-five pits were identified that were not stratigraphically related to any other feature (Illus 2.2–2.3). It is thought that the majority of these are likely to relate to the Roman field system, but this cannot

be conclusively proven. Pit 265 produced numerous lithic artefacts and is thought to be Mesolithic in date (Clarke & Kirby forthcoming). Roman-period finds including pottery, iron and glass were recovered from ten of these pits, possibly suggesting that the majority of them are likely to be Roman in date.