

SHERRINGS GREEN CLOSE, PUDDLETOWN, DORSET
Archaeological Evaluation: Phase 2



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Sherrings Green Close, Puddletown, Dorset Archaeological Evaluation: Phase 2, July – August 2001

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SUMMARY

A second phase of evaluation excavation was undertaken at Sherrings Green Close, Blandford Road, Puddletown, in order to evaluate possible prehistoric features discovered in the southern half of the site during the first phase. Two further trenches were excavated. The archaeological remains were extremely difficult to define and understand. Two major groups of possible prehistoric features were revealed. These appeared to suggest that there was a circular monument, possibly a round barrow or a small henge, defined by flat-bottomed ditches in the southeastern part of the field. This monument appears to have become incorporated into the corner of a possible Middle Bronze Age enclosure.

A medieval field boundary ran north/south across the western part of the site, the precursor to the existing earthwork bank. It may have formed the eastern side of a drove road. Traces of flint gravel road metalling were discovered.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In August 2000, Terrain Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Sherrings Green Close, Blandford Road, Puddletown. This evaluation revealed a number of archaeological features, only some of which could be confidently related to the visible earthworks in the field (Terrain Archaeology report 5067.1). Traces of an earlier, possibly medieval, field system were uncovered in the northwest part of the field (Trench 3) and in the southwest part, a series of possible ditches, postholes and palisade trenches, tentatively dated to the Bronze Age, were revealed in Trench 1 (Figure 1).

On the basis of the results of the evaluation, a second stage of archaeological evaluation has been requested, by Steven Wallis, Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council. This is in order that the extent of the possible Bronze Age structure be determined and the structure interpreted more fully, as the results from the first stage of evaluation have not provided sufficient data to allow the archaeological impact of the proposed works be fully assessed prior to determination of planning permission. This is in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning).

An archaeological evaluation is a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork, which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present, field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context, as appropriate.

The fieldwork was carried out between 24th July and 3rd August 2001 by Paul Pearce, Peter Bellamy, and Rod Brook. This report has been compiled by Paul Pearce and Peter Bellamy.

Terrain Archaeology would like to acknowledge the cooperation and assistance of David Illingworth, architect, and Peter Rodale, joint landowner, during this project. We are grateful to Philippa Rodale for her tolerance of our intrusion into her horses' grazing. Thanks are also due to Steven Wallis, Dorset County Council Archaeological Service, for his advice and help. The pottery was examined by Jo Draper (medieval and post-medieval), Elaine Morris (Iron Age) and Anne Woodward (Neolithic and Bronze Age).

THE SITE

The site is situated on the western side of the village of Puddletown, on the east side of the A354 Blandford Road (centred at SY 7559 9448). It comprises a single field presently under grass and used as a paddock. The site lies on the lower slopes of a chalk ridge, immediately above the first river terrace above the floodplain of the River Piddle. The ground slopes down to the north to a millrace, which forms the northern limit of the site. It lies between 60 – 61 m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk (Geological Survey of England and Wales Sheet 328 *Dorchester* 1981 Drift).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A number of low earthworks are visible in this field. These were surveyed by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) in 1988. The most notable features are a possible property boundary comprising a slight bank, running roughly north/south along the length of the field. Two lynchets run off this bank extending eastwards for about 25 m. Another north-south possible property boundary runs parallel to and about 16 m east of the other. In the northwest part of the field is a large flat hollow, which may have at some stage accommodated a building structure.

The field is named as Sherrings Green Close on the 1842 Puddletown Tithe Map and was in pasture at that time. The field boundaries have altered since 1842.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of the archaeological works was to evaluate the possible prehistoric features in the southern end of the site, that is, to appraise their nature, extent, level of preservation, and importance.

The evaluation aimed to record all the in situ archaeological deposits and features revealed during the works in order to provide sufficient data to assess the archaeological significance of the site.

METHODOLOGY

The trench plan proposed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Terrain Archaeology T3038.2) was not strictly adhered to. The original scheme was to excavate a trench parallel to Trench 1 to investigate whether the possible prehistoric features were likely to be linear or circular in plan

shape. If the features appeared to be circular, then a second trench was to be excavated at right angles to determine the course of the circuit.

In the event, the first trench (Trench 5) was excavated parallel and 14 m north of Trench 1 as planned (Figure 2). However, after initial machining, it was apparent that the possible prehistoric features identified in Trench 1 were not present. Therefore, a second trench (Trench 6) was excavated between Trenches 1 and 5, in order to pick up the features. Trench 5 was 23 m long by 1.6 m wide. Trench 6 was 28 m long by 1.6 m wide.

It had been hoped to dig further trenches to trace the course of these features in plan but without excavation. Unfortunately, due to the very variable nature of the natural deposits, the archaeological features were too difficult to identify with confidence without excavation, so this stage of evaluation was limited to investigating these two trenches.

The trenches were excavated by a JCB fitted with a toothless grading bucket, down on to the top of any in situ archaeological deposits, or the natural subsoil, whichever was encountered first.

All archaeological deposits and features exposed during the works were cleaned by hand, then planned and recorded. Excavation of archaeological deposits and features was limited to resolving questions relating to their date, nature, extent and condition

After hand excavation of the exposed archaeological features, further machine excavation was undertaken to test whether the natural deposits had been reached.

All deposits revealed, irrespective of their apparent archaeological significance, were recorded using components of the Terrain Archaeology recording system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records.

All trenches were back-filled with the excavated material and compacted using the JCB.

The records have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current UKIC guidelines and the requirements of the receiving museum, Dorset County Museum.

RESULTS

The results from both trenches are discussed together below in broad stratigraphic sequence. As an aid to clarity, full descriptions of all contexts are not included in this section. Reference should be made to Appendix 1 for detailed descriptions of all contexts.

NATURAL DEPOSITS

In Trench 5, the natural base was a layer of reddish brown silty clay with some patches of decayed chalk, occasional patches of densely packed flint gravel and occasional patches of sand. This deposit was about 0.1 m thick at the eastern end of the trench increasing to a thickness of 0.7 m in the west. Decayed natural chalk bedrock was exposed beneath this clay layer.

In Trench 6, the chalk bedrock, much worn with numerous clay-filled solution features within it, was exposed at a depth of about 0.6 m below present ground levels in the eastern half of the trench. It was covered by a layer of reddish clay (607), over 0.85 m thick to the west.

A similar pattern was also identified in Trench 1, with the chalk bedrock surviving at a much higher level to the east. It appears that there is a low chalk spur projecting into the southeastern part of the field. The precise limits of this spur have not been mapped and it is not visible on the surface because of subsequent silting.

PREHISTORIC SOILS AND FEATURES

The possible prehistoric features exposed in Trenches 5 and 6 fall into three separate groups. In Trench 6 there were two discrete groups of roughly north-south aligned ditches, which appear to be the continuation of similar features exposed in Trench 1 (Figure 2). These features did not extend as far as Trench 5. Here, another ditch, oriented roughly east/west was exposed. This doesn't seem to be directly related to the features in Trenches 1 and 5. All of the potential prehistoric features are located on the low natural chalk spur described above.

Eastern Group, Trench 6

Feature 636. At the extreme eastern end of the trench was a north-south aligned feature (636), over 3 m wide and over 0.8 m deep. The apparent collapse of the sides in antiquity, combined with the fact that it was not fully excavated for health and safety reasons has made the reconstruction of the original profile and the sequence of infilling of this feature very difficult. The eastern side was not defined and the bottom was not reached. The excavated portion of this feature was filled with two distinct deposits of clean weathered chalk and reddish-brown clay (637, 640), which appeared to be natural material displaced by the collapse of the sides. Sealing these chalky layers were three deposits of yellowish-brown clay loam (625–627), which may represent the final silting of this feature. The only find recovered was a single broken flint blade of possible Neolithic character from one of the upper fills (626). It is difficult, on present evidence to interpret this feature. It is possibly the continuation of feature 112 in Trench 1. However, although the upper fills are of anthropogenic origin, a degree of uncertainty surrounds the lower fills, which may be natural.

Feature 635. This feature was immediately west of 636. It consisted of a north-south aligned cut into the natural chalk and clay, up to 2.8 m wide and over 1.9 m deep. It had moderately sloping sides but excavation was halted for health and safety reasons before reaching the bottom. Both sides of 635 show evidence of collapse in antiquity. The lowest excavated fills consisted of clean collapsed natural material and probably represent the primary filling of this feature. Above this were a number of layers of yellowish brown clay loam (631–634), which appear to represent secondary silting of the ditch, prior to another episode of collapse of both sides (Figure 3). Above this were a number of individual layers of yellowish brown clay loam (623–625, 628–630), which together appear to represent the tertiary fill, after the stabilisation of the sides. The primary and secondary fills produced no finds but the tertiary fills contained one sherd of Beaker pottery, 2 sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery and one sherd of medieval pottery, together with worked flint of mixed Neolithic and Bronze Age date (Table 1). The single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the top of the sequence of tertiary fills and is possibly intrusive. The interpretation and dating of this ditch is not certain. It may be the continuation of feature 107 in Trench 1.

Western Group, Trench 6

Feature 619. This was a small north-south aligned ditch cut into the natural chalk and clay. It had a steeply sloping eastern side but the western side had been disturbed by subsequent activity. It

probably measured about 1 m wide and 0.95 m deep. The base was fairly narrow and rounded with a line of subcircular anomalies along it. These had a slightly rounded profile, about 0.8 m deep and were filled with dark reddish brown sandy clay. In plan these appear to represent a line of postholes but they are less convincing in profile. No finds were recovered from them and it remains unclear whether they are man-made or have a natural origin. The lower fills (614–617) were all similar yellowish brown clay loam with little differentiation between them. The upper fill (612) was similar but contained poorly defined patches of redder or darker soil, which may be the result of animal disturbance. Two sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery and a single burnt broken flint flake were recovered from the lower deposits (context 616). A larger quantity of worked flint of Bronze Age character, together with two sherds of medieval pottery was recovered from the upper fill 612.

Ditch 619 is probably the continuation of feature 139 in Trench 1. In plan, this could suggest that it was a linear feature but caution must be exercised, given the small area exposed and the amount of disturbance. A prehistoric date, probably Bronze Age, is most likely for this feature. Its interpretation is extremely difficult on present evidence.

Feature 618. This was a small north-south aligned ditch, which cut the western side of 619 (Figure 3). This feature was extremely difficult to define as it had undergone severe disturbance and collapse. The western side had been cut away by the medieval boundary ditch 608 and the eastern side had slumped and collapsed. The surviving remains suggest that it was originally a V-profiled ditch about 1.5 m wide and 1.05 m deep. It appears to have had a single fill of yellowish brown clay loam (613). The lower part of the ditch was disturbed by animal activity (610, 611). This feature is probably a continuation of feature 151 in Trench 1. It may be a recutting of ditch 619. All the finds recovered were from the area of animal disturbance and included Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age and medieval pottery and some undiagnostic flintwork.

Prehistoric contexts, Trench 5

Buried Soil 504. In Trench 5 a 0.2 m thick layer of orange-brown coarse sandy clay with sparse charcoal flecks (504) was discovered immediately overlying the natural clay and chalk. This soil layer produced two sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery and some worked flint. This soil layer is probably a prehistoric colluvium of Late Bronze Age date. This hill-wash deposit was not present further upslope in Trenches 1 and 6 but in Trench 4 (context 403), in the northeastern corner of the field. It was up to 1.3 m thick.

Ditch 523. This feature was oriented roughly east/west with a rounded terminal to the west, which terminated on the projected northern alignment of the western group of prehistoric features described above (Figure 2). Unlike the other proposed prehistoric features, this ditch was sealed beneath the prehistoric colluvium 504. Ditch 523 had a V-shaped profile with a narrow rounded base at its western end (515) but the profile was more U-shaped further east (519) (Figure 4). It was about 0.7 m wide and 0.4 m deep and was filled with soft greyish brown sandy clay with sparse charcoal flecks (514, 518). A sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery and a comparatively large quantity of worked flint of Bronze Age character was recovered from this ditch.

It is possible that ditch 523 was a recut of an earlier feature on the same line. It was cut into a layer of yellowish brown slightly sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks (516, 520), which appeared to sit within a possible cut into the natural deposits beneath. The edges of this possible

cut (517/521) were very ill-defined and it was never satisfactorily determined whether the earlier cut was man-made or a natural solution feature.

The size and shape of ditch 523 suggest that it may be part of a Middle Bronze Age field system, rather than directly associated with the prehistoric features described above. However, without exposing a larger area, this must remain a very tentative hypothesis and, in fact, it could be argued that it may be associated with the western group of prehistoric features in Trench 6. There was no trace of any continuation of this ditch further to the west in Trench 5.

MEDIEVAL FEATURES

A ditch (506/608), oriented roughly north/south was recognised in the western part of both Trenches 5 and 6. It was about 1.6 m wide with a V-shaped profile, 0.7 m deep. It was filled with greyish brown silty clay loam with occasional flint gravel and broken nodules (505, 609). A total of 22 sherds of medieval pottery was recovered from both excavated sections. This ditch was also picked up in Trench 1, where it was numbered 147.

The size and shape of this feature suggests that it is a field boundary ditch. The finds recovered date it to the middle of the medieval period (c. 14th/15th century). Another length of medieval field boundary was picked up in Trench 3 during the first phase of evaluation. This was also of a similar date. However, the ditch in Trench 3 appears to be on a different alignment and it is not clear how the two boundaries relate to each other. The boundary picked up in Trenches 1, 5, and 6 appears to be on the same line as the visible earthwork running the full length of the field (Figure 1). It is likely that there was originally an accompanying bank to the ditch but no clear trace of this was recognised. The existing earthwork appears to be later than the ditch as the surviving bank clearly seals it.

Running along the western side of the ditch in both Trenches 5 and 6 was a 0.1 m thick hard-packed flint gravel surface (513, 604). This surface overlapped the fill of the ditch in Trench 6 and was sealed by the tail of the extant earthwork (Figures 2 and 3). It had a slightly dished profile and was about 3.5 m wide. This may be the remains of a metalled surface of a track or road running along this boundary. No trace of this metalling was recognised in Trench 1. The dating of this feature is not certain. A single sherd of undiagnostic medieval pottery was recovered from context 604 but it also clearly post-dated the filling of the medieval boundary ditch.

POST-MEDIEVAL FEATURES

Earthworks. The prehistoric and medieval features were sealed beneath a soil layer, probably of colluvial origin, which was generally about 0.25 m thick. This layer filled the depression above the eastern group of prehistoric features and also formed the core of the earthwork bank (Figure 3). A number of subdivisions of this layer were recognised (501, 502, 510, 512, 603, 620, 621, 622) but these seem to be variations within a general deposit rather than representing specific individual episodes. The soils that form the earthwork bank (501, 502, 603) grade into the general soil layer, consequently little can be said about its construction. It appears to be comprised only of soil with no trace of any ditches or scoops on either side to provide the upcast material. In both Trenches 5 and 6 there was evidence for disturbance along the eastern side of the bank (511, 639), though the nature of this disturbance is poorly understood.

The dating of this colluvium and of the earthwork is problematic. Very little dating evidence was recovered, mainly medieval pottery and residual Late Iron Age/Roman pottery. It is likely that the soil developed over a longer period of time beginning in later prehistory but its final form as recorded is likely to be post-medieval in date.

Topsoil. The colluvium was sealed beneath two distinct layers of topsoil, separated by a thin band of small flint gravel. The lower topsoil layer (509, 602) had been cut through by a sewer pipe trench (507, 606). This was sealed by the upper topsoil layer (508, 601).

FINDS

The total finds assemblage collected from this stage of evaluation is presented in Table 1. The most significant finds are summarised below.

Contxt	Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age pottery		Middle Bronze Age pottery		Late Iron Age/ Roman pottery		Medieval pottery		Post-medieval pottery		flint		Burnt flint	stone		iron	CBM		
	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)		Wt (g)	No.		Wt (g)	No.	No.
500			1	2			2	11	1	17	13	162							
504			2	27							8	199							
505							21	91			20	105	220						
510					1	7													
514											33	694	52						
518			1	46							11	159							
522											4	3							
600					1	4	8	36			22	262							
603					1	5	5	25						1	235				
604							1	4			9	77	64						
605									1	21	2	23	54			1	1	22	
609							2	20			5	43							
610							9	84			18	332							
611	1	3																	
612							2	23			23	420							
616			2	20							1	9							
620							7	49											
624	1	4	2	14			1	6			41	530	15						
626											1	1							
<i>total</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>349</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>211</i>	<i>3019</i>	<i>405</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>235</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>22</i>	

Table 1: All finds by context

Pottery

Prehistoric pottery. 10 sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered. A single rim sherd of Beaker pottery decorated with cord impressions and lozenges was found in context 624. Another very small abraded undecorated sherd of probable Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age fabric was recovered from context 611. Sherds of flint-gritted Middle Bronze Age pottery were found in ditches 523 (context 528), 635 (context 624), and 619 (context 616), as well as the prehistoric soil 504.

Late Iron Age/ Roman pottery. Two sherds of late Iron Age fabric and one possible Roman sherd were recovered from residual contexts.

Medieval pottery. A total of 58 sherds of medieval pottery was recovered. There was a wide range of fabrics present but much of the material was not closely dateable. A number of late 13th /early 14th century sherds were found in contexts 505 and 610. These can be paralleled at West Stafford and Dorchester Castle (Draper and Chaplin 1982).

Flint

A total of 211 pieces of worked flint was recovered from Trenches 5 and 6. It was generally in fairly fresh condition, except for the pieces in the upper horizons which were more rolled. The assemblage is mixed, with the bulk of the material belonging to a non-specialised flake industry of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age character, together with a small number of pieces from a small blade industry of probable Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, and occasional pieces that may fit best into a Middle Bronze Age flint industry. There are very few tools and retouched pieces present — 2 scrapers (from contexts 504 and 600) and 2 retouched flakes (from context 514).

DISCUSSION

The archaeology on this site is extremely difficult to recognise. This is due to a number of factors, including the complex, eroded and unstable nature of the natural deposits, the subtle nature of the changes between the different contexts, made more complex by the slumping of the features and by the activity by burrowing animals. This has meant that it was very difficult to recognise the archaeological features in plan with any degree of certainty, particularly in a restricted area such as a machine trench. It was also difficult to recognise with confidence the precise edges of the features, particularly in the lower parts, given the extremely fragile nature of the chalk bedrock and the lack of artefactual material in the primary and secondary fills.

For these reasons, at the end of the first phase of the evaluation, the identification of a number of features as prehistoric was very tentative, especially given the dearth of prehistoric material recovered. This second phase of evaluation has, in contrast, produced a comparatively large amount of prehistoric finds dating from the Neolithic to the Iron Age, with the bulk of the material belonging to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (c. 2900–1600 BC) and the Middle Bronze Age (c. 1600–1200 BC). Some of the Middle Bronze Age sherds were relatively unabraded and it is likely that they derive from activity in the immediate vicinity.

The difficult nature of the archaeology has meant that it was not feasible to trace the course of the possible prehistoric monuments with any degree of certainty. It has also meant that it has proved very difficult to be certain of their function, given the small proportion of these features available for excavation within the confines of the evaluation trenches. Nevertheless, on the basis of the two phases of evaluation, it is possible to propose a potential sequence of activity on the site.

The earliest phase is represented by the flint industry of Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic character. The very small quantities recovered and their occurrence in residual contexts only means that it is not possible to do more than note its presence on the site.

The first major phase of activity on the site is perhaps represented by the eastern group of features in Trench 6 and the corresponding features in Trench 1. In plan there is a suggestion that these ditches form part of a circular monument occupying the southeastern corner of the site. A circuit of about 29 m in diameter is proposed for this monument (Figure 5). This is in direct

contrast to interpretation offered at the end of the first phase of evaluation, when it was suggested that there was a possibly circular monument containing a series of features, including possible palisade ditches, curving round to occupy the *southwest* corner of the site. As a consequence, the second phase evaluation trenches were positioned to investigate the wrong part of the field. It must be stressed that this circuit is very tentative, and it is unfortunate that Trench 5 did not continue far enough to the east to cross the course of the proposed ditch line. The ditch of this monument, as excavated in Trench 1, appeared to have steep sides and a flat bottom, which suggest a Neolithic or Bronze Age, rather than a later date. However, at present the precise date and type of monument remain in doubt. It is most likely to be a round barrow or a small hengiform. The location of this monument on a low spur jutting into the Piddle Valley, perhaps argues for a henge monument, rather than a round barrow. The discovery of a sherd of Beaker pottery (*c.* 2700–1700 BC) in the upper fills of the ditch may be significant in this regard, giving a *terminus ante quem* for the construction of the monument.

The next major phase of activity is dated to the Middle Bronze Age (*c.* 1600–1200 BC) and although the dating is more secure, the interpretation of the features is less so. The western group of features in both trenches 1 and 6 comprise a series of intercutting, small ditches, which appear to be linear and oriented roughly north/south (Figure 5). Ditch 523 is at roughly right angles to these ditches and terminates on the same line as them. These ditches contained Middle Bronze Age pottery. It is possible that they form part of a rectangular enclosure (with an entrance in the northwest corner), perhaps part of a field system. The earlier monument would be in the corner of the field, though the ditch on the northern side appears to encroach on it. This could argue that monument still survived as a visible feature in the landscape at this time. It is perhaps pertinent to note that its upper fills contained Middle Bronze Age pottery.

From the Middle Bronze Age onwards the site appears to have been ploughed. The northern half of the field becomes covered in a layer of colluvium, becoming thicker to the north. This hillwash seals one of the Middle Bronze Age ditches (523).

Evidence for Late Iron Age and Roman activity is restricted to a few residual abraded sherds.

Medieval activity comprises a north/south boundary ditch, which appears to be contiguous with the earlier Bronze Age enclosure. It is likely that this boundary continued the length of the site and originally had an accompanying bank on the east side. The surviving earthwork on this line appears to be later but probably had its origin in the medieval boundary. The line of the earthwork has subsequently shifted slightly to the west to seal the remains of the medieval ditch. The pottery from the ditch suggests a late 13th/early 14th century date. This boundary may have formed the eastern side of a drove road roughly following the course of the present Blandford Road. The presence of possible road metalling alongside this boundary may add credence to this hypothesis.

There is little evidence for post-medieval activity in the evaluation trenches. Post-medieval finds are noticeable primarily by their absence.

The second stage of evaluation has only been partially successful in the achievement of its objectives. It has provided more convincing evidence for prehistoric activity on the site and has indicated a possible chronology. Where it has been less successful is in defining the form and extent of the prehistoric features, largely a result of the inadequacy of the evaluation method. The nature of both the natural and archaeological deposits is such that it is extremely difficult to

determine the plan of any archaeological features in small machine trench. The course of any prehistoric archaeological features is only likely to be determined by exposing a wider area. However, it was felt that stripping a large area of the site was not appropriate to an evaluation phase.

To sum up, this phase of evaluation has determined the presence of significant prehistoric archaeological remains in the southeastern part of the site. The interpretation of these remains is still in doubt. The area of greatest archaeological potential is shown on Figure 5.

PROJECT ARCHIVE

The archive (Terrain Archaeology Project No. TA5067) will be deposited with the Dorset County Museum, which has agreed in principle to accept the archive, subject to fulfilment of the Museum's requirements of the preparation of archaeological archives. A copy of the microfilmed archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record.

REFERENCES

- Draper, J. and Chaplin, C., 1982 *Dorchester Excavations volume 1* Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society Monograph No. 2.

Appendix 1: List of all contexts in Trenches 5 and 6

Context	Filled with / Fill of	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			L	W	D
		Trench 5			
500	—	Clearance finds	—	—	—
501	—	Soil layer in top of earthwork bank — Orange-brown coarse sandy clay Moderate subangular flint gravel 20–50 mm Occasional flint nodules	?	2.4	0.24
502	—	Dark orange-brown coarse sandy clay Moderate subangular flint gravel 20–50 mm	?	c. 7.0	<4.5
503	507	Fill, modern drain — Greyish- to Orange-brown sandy loam Moderate subangular flint gravel 20–50 mm	?	0.41	>0.42
504	—	Prehistoric soil (colluvium?) — Orange-brown coarse sandy clay with common subangular flint gravel 20–50 mm.	>23.0	>1.6	0.22
505	506	Fill, N/S medieval ditch – Greyish-brown sandy loam with moderate flint gravel.			
506	505	Cut, N/S medieval ditch —	>1.6	1.55	0.53
507	503	Cut, modern drain	?	0.41	>0.42
508	—	Modern turf and topsoil — Dark greyish-brown clay loam with occasional flint gravel 10–40 mm and sparse coal fragments.	>23.0	>1.6	0.15
509	—	Buried modern topsoil — Dark greyish-brown clay loam with sparse flint gravel and a 40 mm thick worm-sorted horizon of flint gravel 20–60 mm	>23.0	>1.6	0.14
510	511	Fill of cut 511, E end of trench — Greyish-brown coarse sandy clay loam with moderate flint gravel, 20–50 mm, sparse charcoal flecks.	?	c. 3.0	0.30
511	510	Flat-bottomed cut into east side of earthwork bank. Unknown function.	?	c. 3.0	0.30
512	—	Soil layer below topsoil, W side of trench (colluvium?) Greyish-brown to brown coarse sandy clay loam with moderate flint gravel.	>11.1	>1.6	0.25
513	—	Gravel surface — road metalling? Hard-packed subangular flint gravel 20–50 mm in greyish brown sandy clay loam	?	3.5	0.06

Context	Filled with / Fill of	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			L	W	D
		matrix.			
514	515	Fill of ditch terminal 515 — Slightly greyish brown sandy clay with moderate flint gravel and sparse charcoal flecks.	>9.0	0.78	0.36
515	514	Terminal of prehistoric ditch with two voided 'stakeholes in the base.	>9.0	0.78	0.36
516	517	Fill of 517 — Yellowish-brown slightly sandy clay with moderate flint gravel and occasional charcoal flecks,	?	>1.15	0.55
517	516	Possible earlier ditch terminal recut by 515.	?	>1.15	0.55
518	519	Fill of ditch section 519 — Slightly greyish brown sandy clay with moderate flint gravel and sparse charcoal flecks.	>9.0	0.68	0.40
519	518	Section through E/W ditch 523 at E end of trench.	>9.0	0.68	0.40
520	521	Fill of 521 — Yellowish-brown slightly sandy clay with moderate flint gravel and occasional charcoal flecks,	>9.0	1.54	0.50
521	520	Possible earlier E/W ditch recut by 519.	>9.0	1.54	0.50
522	523	Group number for fills (514, 518) of E/W prehistoric ditch	>9.0	<i>c.</i> 0.7	<i>c.</i> 0.4
523	522	Group number for cut of E/W prehistoric ditch (515, 519).	>9.0	<i>c.</i> 0.7	<i>c.</i> 0.4
524	525	Group number for fills (516, 520) of possible earlier E/W prehistoric ditch	>9.0	<i>c.</i> 1,5	<i>c.</i> 0.5
525	524	Group number for cut of possible earlier E/W prehistoric ditch (517, 521).	>9.0	<i>c.</i> 1,5	<i>c.</i> 0.5
		Trench 6			
600	—	Clearance finds	—	—	—
601	—	Modern turf and topsoil - Dark greyish-brown clay loam with occasional flint gravel 10–40 mm and sparse coal fragments.	28.00 +	1.60+	0.20
602	—	Buried modern topsoil — Dark greyish-brown clay loam with sparse flint gravel and a 40 mm thick worm-sorted horizon of flint gravel 20–60 mm	28.00 +	1.60+	0.18

Context	Filled with / Fill of	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			L	W	D
603	—	Soil layer below 602 — Dark orange-brown coarse sandy clay Moderate subangular flint gravel 20–50 mm	18.20 +	1.60+	0.64
604	—	Gravel surface — road metalling? Hard-packed subangular flint gravel 20–50 mm in greyish brown sandy clay loam matrix.	5.10	1.60+	0.12
605	606	Fill, modern drain- Dark reddish- to greyish-brown sandy loam Occasional flint gravel <60 mm Occasional Chalk frags <20 mm	1.60+	0.48	0.80
606	605	Cut, modern drain	1.60+	0.48	0.80
607	--	Natural - Reddish-brown silty sandy clay and chalk	28.00 +	1.60+	-
608	609	Cut, N/S ditch	1.60+	1.69	0.68
609	608	Fill, N/S ditch- Dark greyish-brown sandy clay loam Moderate flint frags and pebbles <10 mm Very rare charcoal and chalk flecks.	1.60+	1.69	0.68
610	—	Animal disturbance, in 618— Dark reddish-brown sandy clay loam Rare flint frags <11 mm Very rare chalk flecks	0.80+	0.86	0.31
611	—	Animal disturbance, in 618— Dark reddish-brown sandy clay loam Rare flint frags <11 mm Very rare chalk flecks	0.80+	0.27	0.23
612	618	Fill, west side 618— Dark reddish-brown sandy silt loam Moderate flint frags and pebbles <80 mm	0.80+	1.46	0.43
613	618	Fill, upper 618— Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam Occasional to rare flint frags <60 mm	0.80+	1.29	1.20
614	619	Fill, upper 619— Pale brown silty sandy clay loam Very rare flint frags <60 mm	0.80+	0.48	0.29
615	619	Fill, 619— Pale yellowish-brown sandy silty clay loam Very rare flint pebbles <20 mm	0.80+	0.60	0.16
616	619	Fill, 619— Dark yellowish-brown silty sandy clay Moderate flint frags <50 mm	0.80+	0.99	0.29

Context	Filled with / Fill of	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			L	W	D
617	619	Fill, base 619— Yellowish- to mid-brown sandy clay loam Occasional lint frags <50 mm	0.80+	0.81	0.29
618	612,613	Cut, large N/S ditch, E. end of trench	1.60+	1.40	1.00
619	614–617	Cut, N/S ditch, ?postholes in base?	1.60+	1.00	1.00
620	—	Soil layer, to west of earthwork— Dark yellowish- to greyish-brown sandy clay loam, Frequent flint frags <40 mm	12.0+	1.60+	0.42
621	—	Soil layer, W. end of trench— Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam Frequent flint frags <30 mm	4.31+	1.60+	0.44
622	—	Soil layer, overlies fills of 635— Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam Moderate flint frags <30 mm	4.65	1.60+	0.51
623	635	Soil layer, chalky, E. side 635— Yellowish-brown sandy silty clay loam Common lumps degraded chalk	0.80+	1.60+	0.19
624	635	Layer / fill, stony, W. side 635— Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam Very rare flint pebbles < 70 mm Common chalk flecks in bands	0.80+	1.66	0.31
625	635	Layer/fill, stony, east of 624— Light Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam Comm. Flint frags < 0.08 m	0.80+	2.31	0.31
626	—	Layer, tips over 627 from west— Light Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam Common chalk frags <0.02 m Occasional Flint frags <0.04 m	0.80+	3.20+	0.20
627	—	Soil layer, overlies fills of 636— Reddish-brown Sandy clay loam Rare chalk frags <10 mm Occasional flint frags <30 mm	0.80+	2.00	0.22
628	635	Fill, E. side 635— Yellowish-brown silty sandy clay loam Common chalk flecks in bands Rare Flint pebbles <0.05 m	0.80+	1.28	0.31
629	635	Fill, upper east side 635— Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam Rare flint pebbles <80 mm	0.80+	1.10	0.30
630	635	Fill, central, 635 Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam	0.80+	1.05	0.20

Context	Filled with / Fill of	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			L	W	D
		Rare chalk flecks, towards base			
631	635	Fill, west side 635 Light yellowish-brown sandy clay loam Rare chalk flecks, towards base	0.80+	0.89	0.24
632	635	Fill, east side 635— Greyish- to yellowish-brown sandy silty clay loam Rare flint frags <90 mm	0.80+	1.09	0.20
633	635	Fill, east side 635— Dark Flint frags <30 mm	0.80+	0.80	0.22
634	635	Fill, towards base of 635— Yellowish-brown sandy silty clay loam Rare flint frags <30 mm	0.80+	0.91	0.26
635	623–4, 628–34	Cut, N/S ditch towards w. end of trench	1.60+	3.80	1.50+
636	?627, 637	Cut, N/S ditch at west end of trench	1.60+	1.80+	1.50+
637	636	Fill, ? mixed chalk and clay at W. end of trench — Reddish-brown silty sandy clay loam Occasional flint frags <30 mm Rare chalk flecks	0.80+	1.20	0.28
638	639	Fill of 639— Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam Moderate flint pebbles <40 mm Rare flint frags <20 mm	N/K	0.79	0.43
639	638	Cut, seen in section	N/K	0.79	0.43
640	636	Fill / Displaced natural	1.60+	3.00+	0.40+



Figure 1: Trench location plan

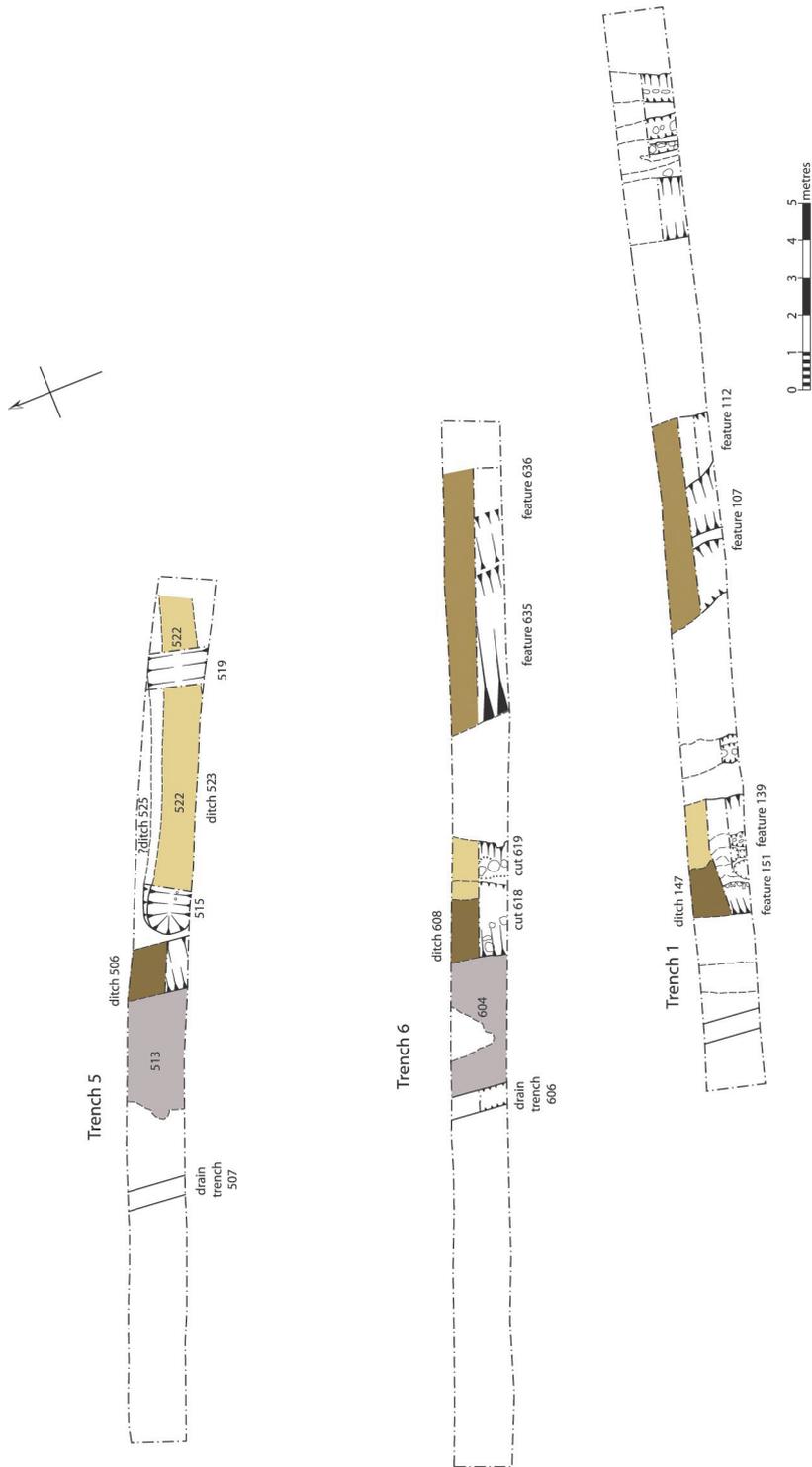


Figure 2: Plan of Trenches 1, 5 and 6

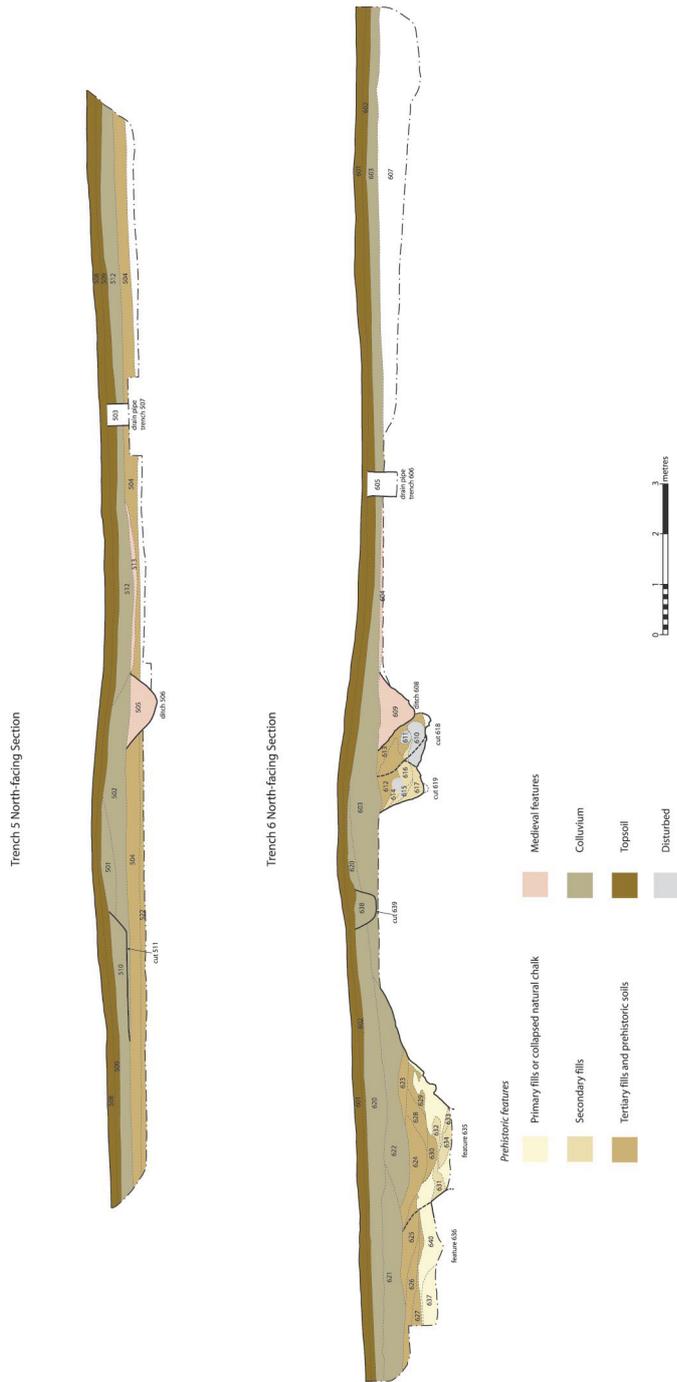


Figure 3: North-facing sections of Trenches 5 and 6

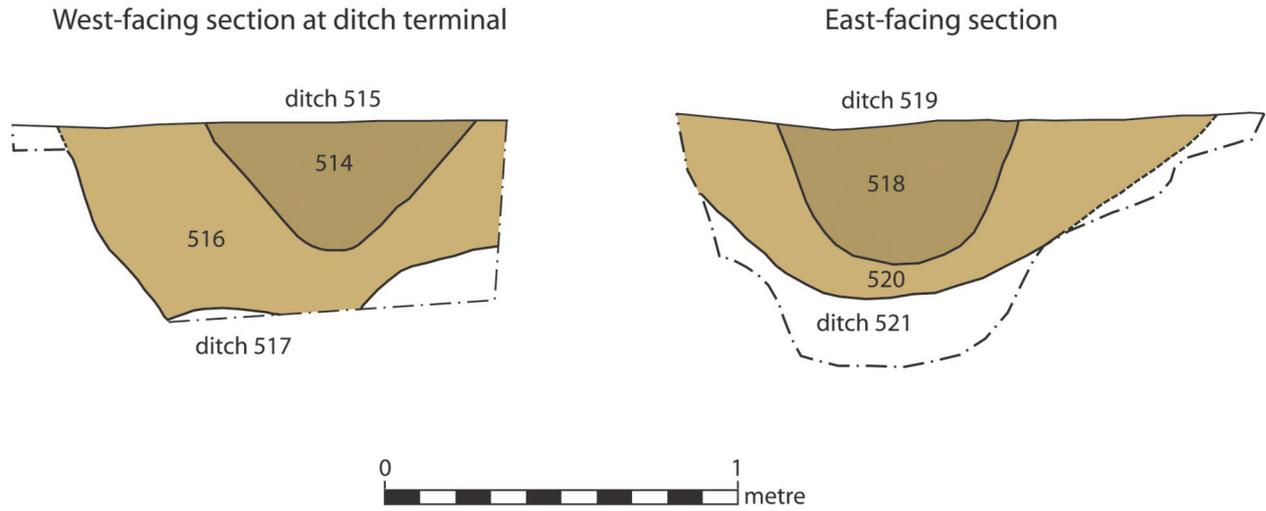


Figure 4: Sections through ditch 523

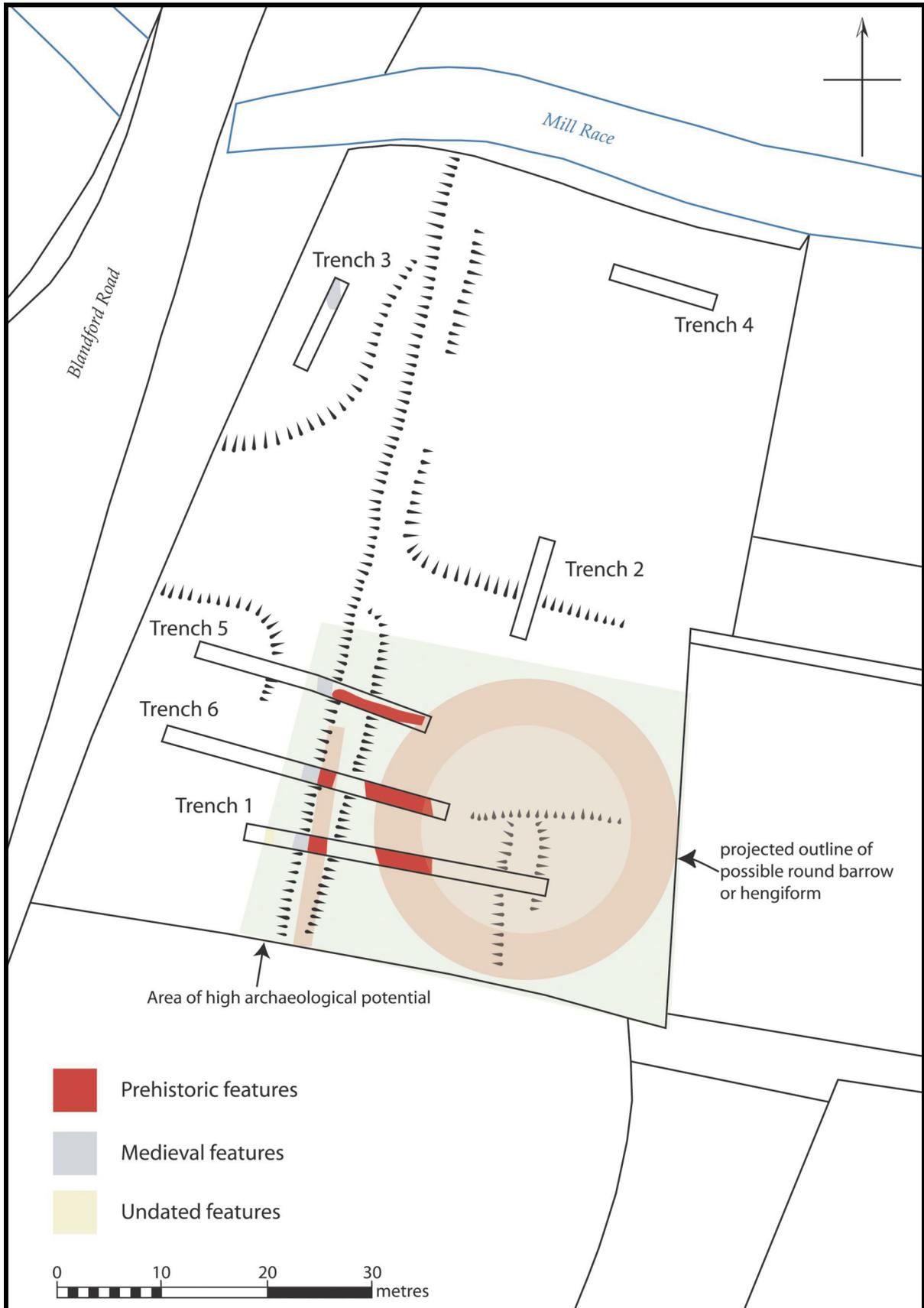


Figure 5: Interpretative plan of the site



Plate 1: Trench 6, Eastern Feature group



Plate 2: Trench 6, Western Feature group



Plate 3: Ditch 523



Plate 4: Ditch 506