RPS Planning, Transport and Environment

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A428 Lavendon Bypass	Details Archaeological Assessment Stage 4
Road Number A428	Date October 1993
Contractor Buckinghamshire Archaeological Service	
County Bedfordshire	
OS Reference SP95	
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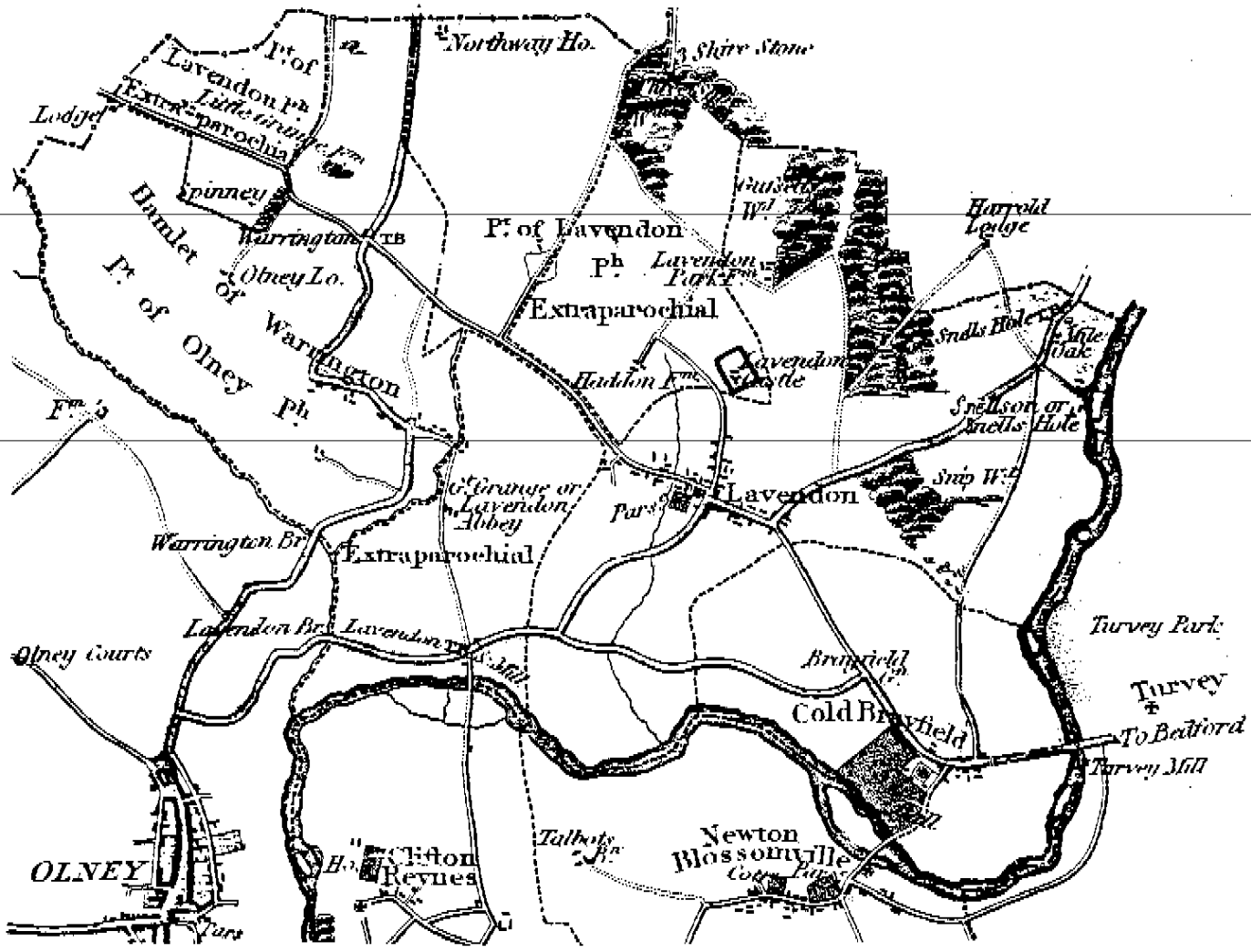
A 428 LAVENDON BYPASS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT STAGE 4



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE
FOR
DAVID HUSKISSON ASSOCIATES,
KENNEDY AND DONKIN TRANSPORTATION
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Report No 337

OCTOBER 1993

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ILLUSTRATIONS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was commissioned by David Huskisson Associates and we would like to thank them for their interest and help throughout. The work was financed by The Department of Transport. Thanks are also tendered to all the landowners, in particular to Mr Sumner for his patience during the excavations.

The work was directed in the field by Dave Bonner and supervised by Andrew Hunn, with assistance from Hakim Haddad, Gordon Heritage, Sue Larmont, Andrew MacDonald, Dave Shelley, Nicky Smith, Steven Trick and Jo Lawson.

The finds processing and assessment, and illustration work was done by Nicky Smith. We would like to extend our gratitude to Steven Coleman, the Sites and Monuments Records Officer at Bedfordshire County Council for the provision of archaeological data at such short request.

Finally we are indebted to Sarah Milligan for her generous help with the format and typing of this document.

The site records are currently held by Buckinghamshire County Museum Archaeological Service at Halton, indexed under their respective CAS numbers.

SUMMARY

This report contains the results of an archaeological evaluation commissioned by David Huskisson Associates on behalf of The Department of Transport. It follows on from previous stages of investigation (Stages 1 & 2, 3A and 3B).

Evaluation work involving machine-trenches and hand-dug test pits (Stage 4) took place at three sites along the proposed Lavendon bypass.

Site A: Early to middle Iron Age unenclosed settlement in field 002 (SP 90755415).
Late Iron Age activity in field 003 (SP 90805405).
Romano-British occupation (CAS 1284), including a second century settlement enclosure and third to fourth century occupation features (SP 90855405) in field 003.

Site B: A purported medieval site (CAS 1290) was investigated in field 017 but no evidence was found for its presence at this location.

Site C: Early Neolithic activity (SP 92175268) and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity (SP 92315268) in field 021.

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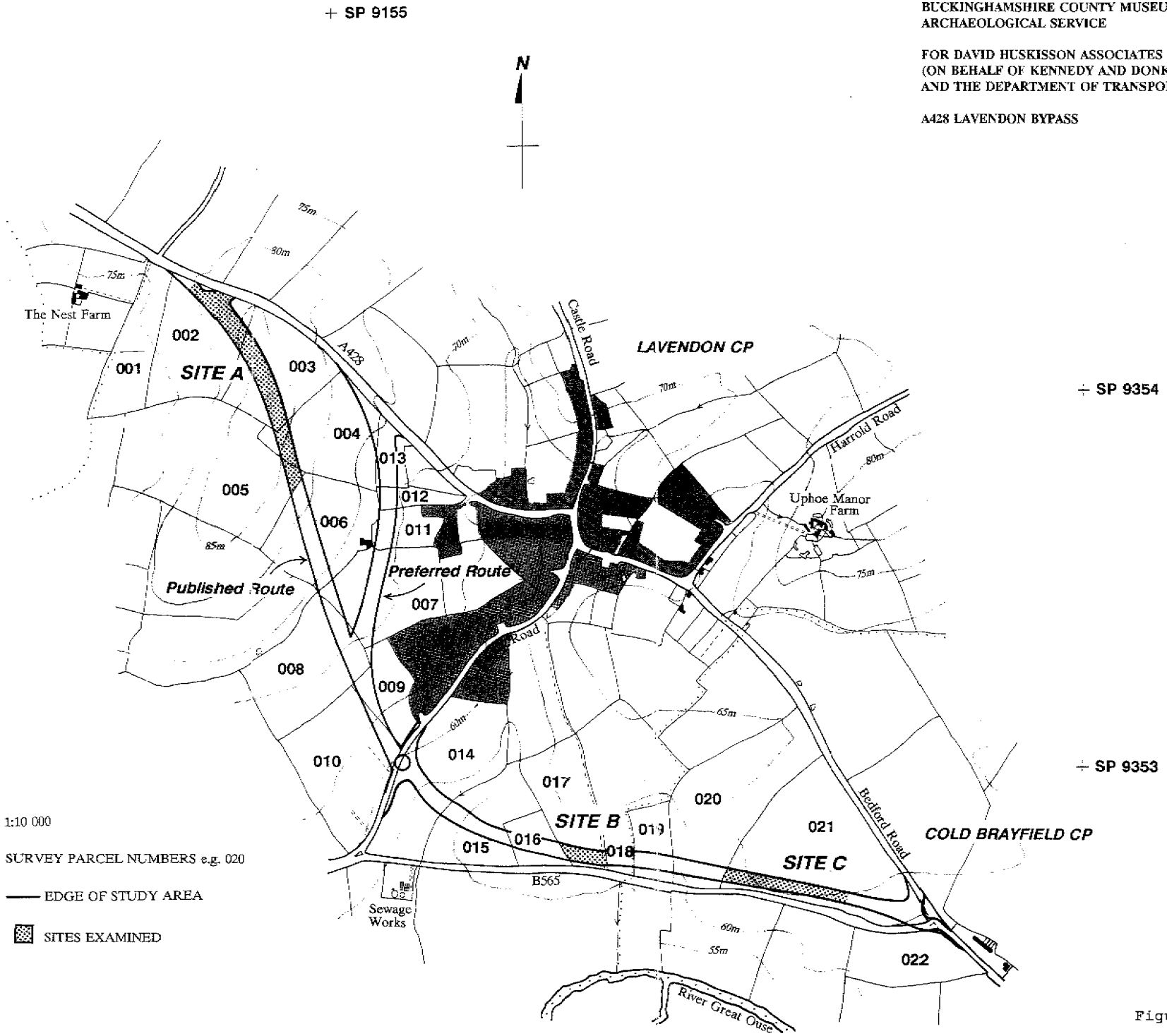
A428 LAVENDON BYPASS



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SURVEY PARCEL NUMBERS e.g. 020

—— EDGE OF STUDY AREA

SITES EXAMINED

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

INTRODUCTION

In April 1993, Buckinghamshire County Museum was commissioned by David Huskisson Associates to undertake an archaeological assessment along the proposed Lavendon bypass in north Buckinghamshire. The scheme included an inner (preferred) route and outer (published) route and extended over 22 field plots (Figure 1).

The initial desk top study (stages 1 and 2) identified at least eleven sites on, or in the immediate vicinity of, the proposed route (Carstairs *et al*, 1993a). Subsequent fieldwalking (stage 3a) confirmed most of these sites and located a further one (Carstairs *et al*, 1993b). The intensive geophysical survey (stage 3b) that followed comprised two parts: first, a magnetic susceptibility survey and magnetometer scan; second, a detailed magnetometer survey and auger survey (for a review of the geophysical procedures see Bartlett and Clark, 1993).

As a consequence of this work, three areas of archaeological interest were selected for further field evaluation. These were:

Site A: Romano-British activity (CAS 1284/CAS5898) in fields 002 to 005.

Site B: Medieval activity (CAS 1290) in field 017.

Site C: Possible archaeological activity (CAS 5912) in field 021.

These sites form the subject of this report and will be discussed in turn.

A.1 SITE A: BACKGROUND

A.1.1. Location, Topography and Geology

Site A (SP 908541) is located close to the A428, about one kilometre northeast of Lavendon in north Buckinghamshire (Figure 1). The site is situated at c. 85 metres OD, within survey parcels 002 to 005 upon the gentle east facing slope of Northampton Hill, formely known as Windmill Hill.

The underlying geology comprises Kellaway Beds (fields 002/003) and Cornbrash (fields 004/005) overlain by drift deposits of Boulder Clay. The Cornbrash accumulated in a shallow marine environment during the Middle Jurassic. This is a tough, compact irregular group of bluish, fine-grained or reddish brown, rubbly, shelly limestone and marl formations. The water-bearing properties of the clay partings make the Cornbrash especially attractive to occupation. The Cornbrash overlies Blisworth Clay (see section C.1.1.).

Overlying the Cornbrash are the Kellaway Beds which form the uppermost part of the Great Oolite Series and were laid down in quiet water environments in the Upper Jurassic. They are usually 3 to 6 metres deep and consist of a pale greenish grey, coarse silt and sand (often cemented by calcite into concretions) and a dark grey homogenous, tenacious clay bed.

The Boulder Clay was deposited by icesheets from north-east England which deposited chalk and flint-rich tills as a blanket over southern England. It is a very heterogenous but distinctive deposit comprising a yellowish brown, sandy clay with varying proportions of pebbles and boulders. Post-glacial solifluction and weathering deposits derived from the Boulder Clay may be present at the surface. (Sherlock, 1960; Haines and Horton, 1969; Horton *et al*, 1974).

Derived from these deposits are the following mapped soils: Hanslope, a calcareous pelosol in fields 002/003; and Moreton, a calcareous brown earth in fields 002 to 005. These

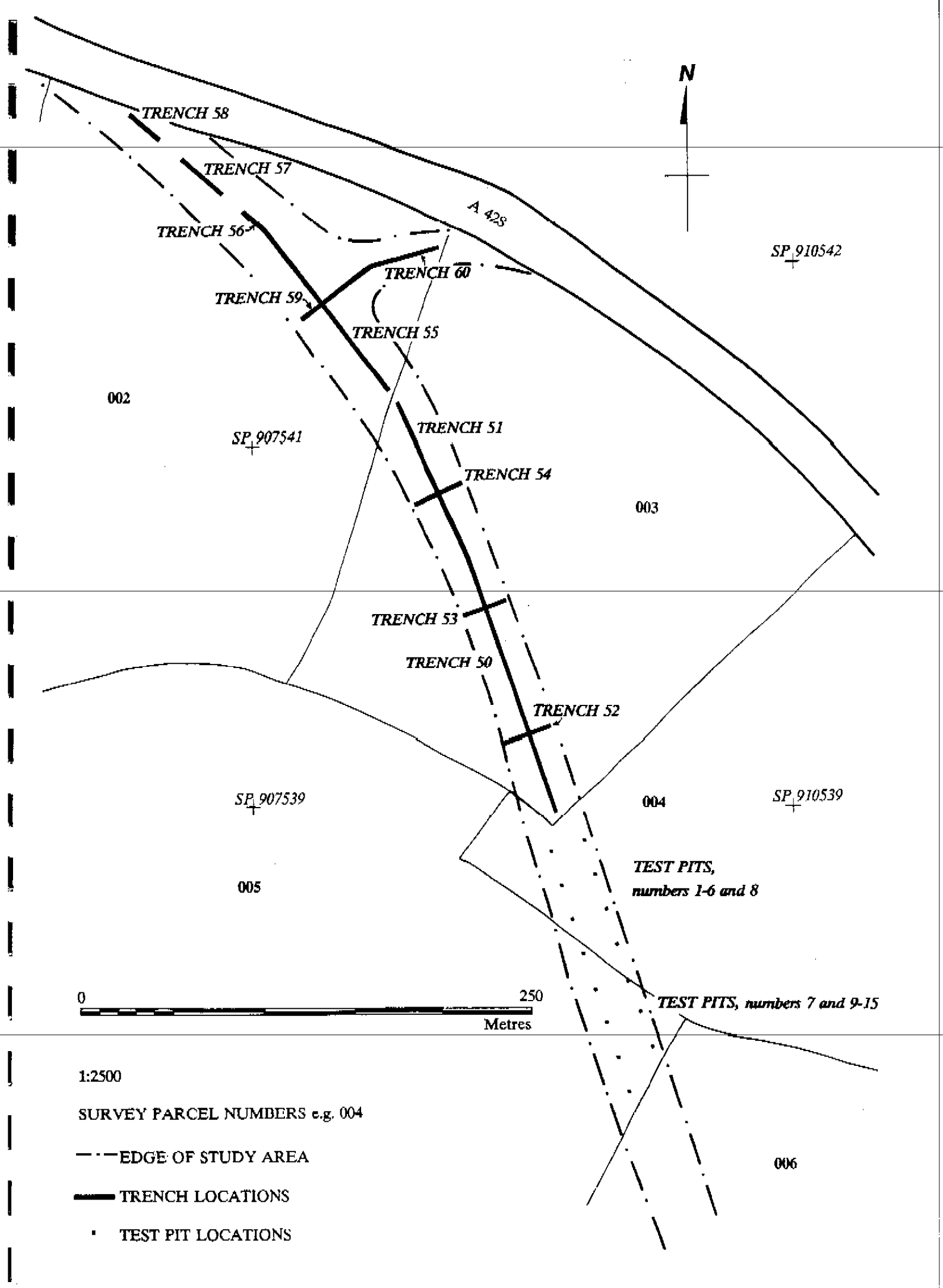

Figure 2: Site A; Trench and Test Pit Location Plan

soils tend to be characterised by moderately-drained clay loam profiles (Soil Survey of England, 1981).

A.1.2. Archaeological Background

Extensive Romano-British activity was initially recognised by the discovery of large quantities of pottery and tile in field 003 (Rouse and Viney, 1967). The presence of building stone, tesserae (small cubes used to make mosaic floors) and wall-plaster, from an area associated with the cropmark of a rectangular enclosure was interpreted as representing a villa site with a possible associated pottery kiln. Further to the west was the soilmark of an irregular oval-shaped enclosure. A similar soilmark was recorded in the northeast corner of field 002, suggesting that the activity might extend further to the north than previously realised (Carstairs *et al*, 1993a).

In April 1993, the Lavendon bypass fieldwalking programme (Stage 3a) helped to delimit the north side of the site. Whilst to the south, a further concentration of Romano-British material (CAS 5898) was found in field 005. It was suggested that this might represent a 'new' site or a 'satellite' of the main one (Carstairs *et al*, 1993b).

Subsequent susceptibility tests demonstrated considerable magnetic enhancement across the northeast corner of 002 and the full extent of 003. The associated magnetometer survey provided detailed intrasite mapping along the road corridor (Figure 3). This confirmed the presence of a small enclosure in field 002 and a larger curvilinear enclosure in field 003, defining an area of apparent occupation activity with its focus lying a little to the east of the proposed route. This area corresponded with the highest concentration of surface finds. In addition, the survey identified a complex pattern of associated ditches.

Fields 004 and 005 were also subject to an extensive geophysical survey. This failed to find any significant activity except a number of parallel linear anomalies and apossible pit alignment (Bartlett and Clark, 1993).

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A428 LAVENDON BYPASS

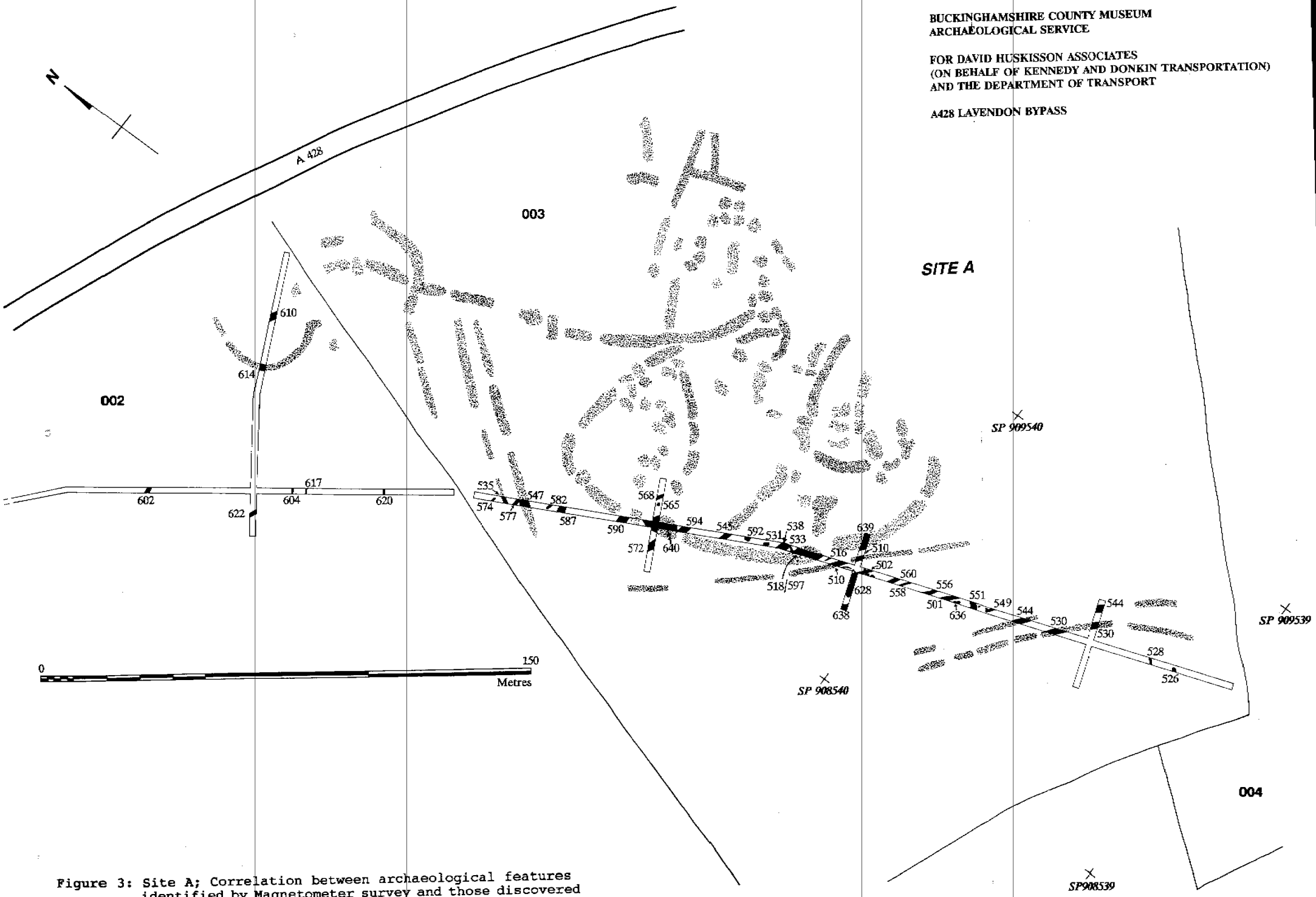


Figure 3: Site A; Correlation between archaeological features identified by Magnetometer survey and those discovered during excavation

A.2. METHODOLOGY

Investigations were conducted in fields 002, 003, 004 and 005 over ten days between the 6th and the 17th of September 1993. A total of eleven trenches were excavated using a 360 degree tracked machine with a 1.8 metre wide ditching bucket.

Six trenches (55-60) which varied in length (12 metres to 119 metres) and orientation were excavated across field 002 (Figure 2). Their layout provided a semi-continuous centre-line coverage. Trenches 59 and 60 were aligned along the centre of the proposed slip road. Trench 59 intersected trench 50 at right-angles. The total trenched area was 495 square metres, which represented a 5.5% sample of the proposed development area in field 002.

Field 003 was investigated by five trenches (50-54) which varied in length (24 metres to 146 metres) and orientation (Figure 2). Trenches 50 and 51 provided a continuous centre-line coverage, whilst the three additional ones were set at right-angles to the main trenches. These shorter trenches were positioned to sample areas of apparent low and high geophysical anomaly density (trenches 52 and 53/54 respectively). None of the trenches extended beyond the limits of the proposed corridor. The total trenched area was 577 square metres, which represented a 7% sample of the proposed development area in field 003.

The machine trenches were excavated to the surface of archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural deposits. All archaeological features and deposits that were encountered were examined by limited hand-excavation in order to determine their date, character, level of survival and function where possible. Feature 628, in trench 54, was partly excavated by machine to establish its size and function. A number of bulk soil samples and a mollusc column-sample were collected from some of the features in field 002 in order to assess the potential for possible future environmental analysis.

In addition to the machine-cut trenches, fifteen 1.0 metre by 0.5 metre hand-dug test-pits (1 to 15) were excavated

in fields 004 and 005. These were dug in two rows on a 20 metre grid extending along the proposed route. All test-pits were initially excavated in 0.1 metre spits to the surface of archaeological deposits, or undisturbed natural deposits where no recognisable features were present. It was intended that all layers beneath the turf would be sieved through a 12mm mesh, in order to recover artefacts. This procedure was found to be impractical for the lower, harder clay layers and so for these spits finds were retrieved by eye only.

A.3. RESULTS

A.3.1. Field 002: Stratigraphy

The ploughsoil was a consistent 0.27 to 0.35 metres in depth across field 002. It consisted of a greyish brown, silty clay loam with sub-angular and rounded flint gravels, chalky granules and occasional limestone fragments. This overlay the natural calcareous Boulder Clay, an orangish yellow, sandy clay with chalky granules and flint gravels (see section A.1.1.).

A.3.2. Field 002: The Features

Seven linear features were located in field 002 (Figures 3 and 4). These included two large ditches (Figure 4b) with multiple fills and a number of smaller, more gulley-like ditches (Figure 4a). A high incidence of burnt material was recorded in many of these features.

Ditches

Ditch 610 was orientated northwest to southeast and was 1.74 metres wide and 0.98 metres deep with steep/concave-

Table One: **Summary of Retrieved Artefacts in Field 002**

(number/weight in grammes)

TR	FTR	Ctxt	Pottery I.A.	Pottery u/c	CRT	A.Bone	Flint	B.Flint	Daub	Shell	W.Stone
-	u/s	631	-	1/52g	4/65g	-	1/1/g	-	-	-	1/620g
55	602	600	-	-	-	14/48g	-	-	-	-	-
55	604	605	16/332g	-	-	13/35g	1/5g	1/5g	-	-	-
59	620	619	2/35g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
59	622	621	8/11g	-	-	1/5g	-	-	-	-	-
60	610	609	48/847g	-	-	204/252g	-	-	4/31g	1/<1g	-
60	610	624	20/288g	-	-	17/171g	-	-	-	-	-
60	610	627	-	-	-	-	1/?g	-	-	-	-
60	614	611	21/214g	-	-	52/372g	-	-	1/10g	1/2g	-
60	614	612	4/132g	-	-	5/38g	-	-	-	1/5g	-
60	614	613	1/3g	-	-	1/1g	-	-	-	-	-
60	614	625	4/24g	-	-	51/147g	-	-	-	-	-
60	614	626	9/66g	-	-	29/106g	-	-	-	-	-
	Total		133/1952g	1/52g	4/65g	387/1175g	3/24g	1/5g	5/41g	3/8g	1/620g

Key:

TR:	trench	FTR:	feature
Ctxt:	context	I.A.:	Iron Age
u/c:	uncertain	CRT:	ceramic roof tile
A:	animal	B:	burnt
W:	worked	u/s:	unstratified

convex sides and a narrow flat base. It had three fills: a primary deposit (627) of brown, semi-oxidised, gritty silty clay containing worked flint; a greyish brown, charcoal-flecked, silty clay (624) with Iron Age pottery, animal bone and burnt limestone; and finally a greyish brown, charcoal-rich, loamy upper fill (609) containing Iron Age pottery, animal bone, daub and shell.

Ditch 614 was orientated north to south and was 1.22 metres wide and 1.14 metres deep with steep/convex-concave sides and a narrow flat base. It had five fills: a primary deposit of orangish yellow, silty clay (626) with much Iron Age pottery, animal bone, burnt limestone, charcoal and burnt clay flecks; a brownish grey, mottled clay loam (625) with much Iron Age pottery, animal bone and charcoal flecks; a relatively sterile yellowish brown, sandy clay loam fill (613) with some Iron Age pottery and animal bone; a brownish grey, slightly oxidised clay loam (612); and finally an upper, yellowish brown, oxidised sandy clay loam fill (611) containing Iron Age pottery, animal bone, daub and shell.

Ditch 602 was orientated northeast to southwest and was 1.3 metres wide and 0.39 metres in depth with steep/convex sides and a flattish base. It had two fills: a primary, relatively sterile silty clay (601) and an upper, charcoal-rich, silty clay (600) which contained animal bone and pieces of burnt wood.

Ditch 604 was orientated northeast to southwest and was 0.65 metres wide and 0.33 metres in depth with steep/ straight sides and a flat base. It had two fills; a primary relatively sterile yellowish brown, calcareous sandy clay (606) and an upper charcoal rich greyish brown, silty clay containing Iron Age pottery, animal bone, worked flint, burnt flint and burnt wood.

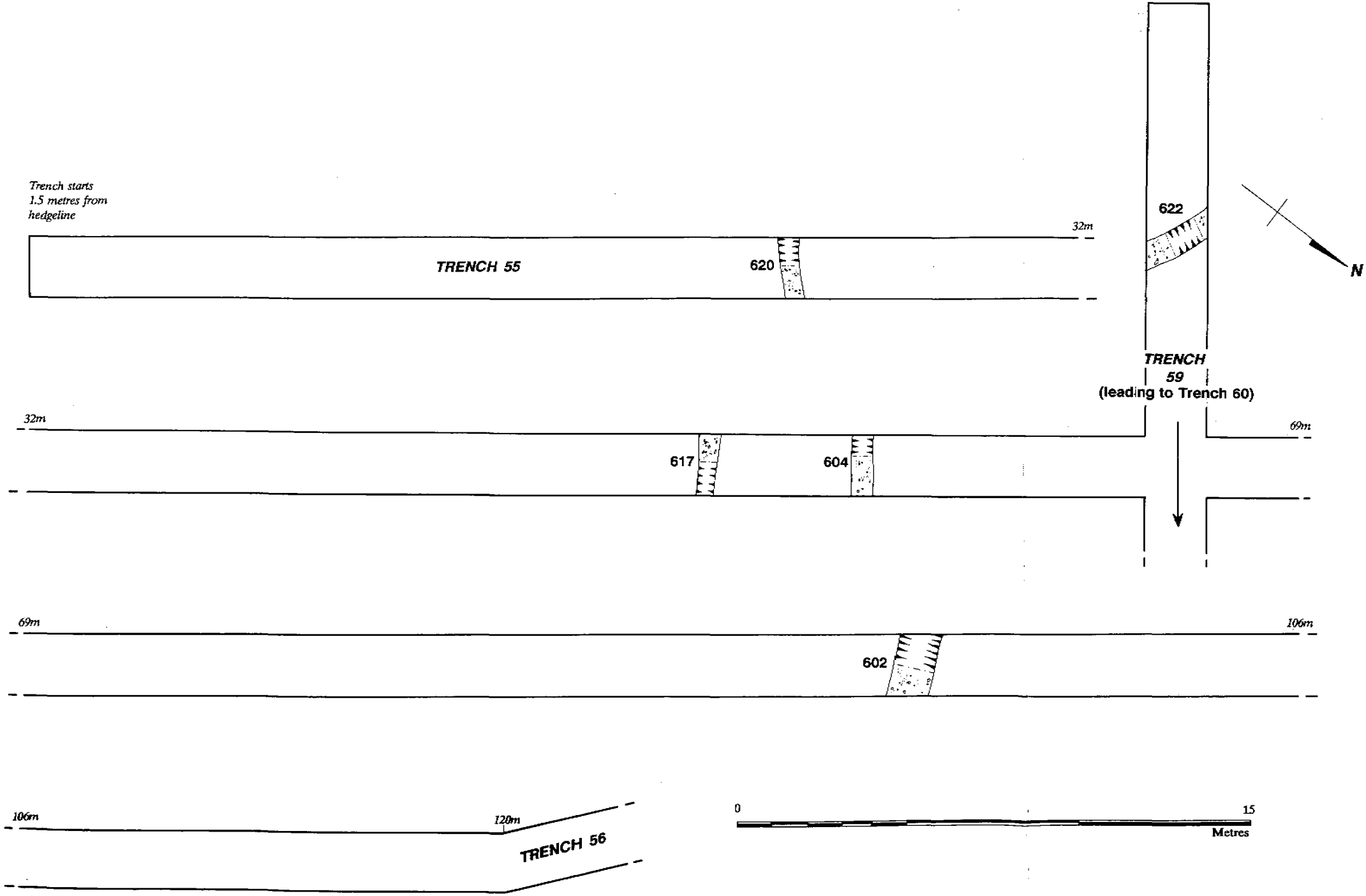


Figure 4a: Site A; Plan of archaeological features discovered during excavation in Trenches 55 - 60, survey parcel

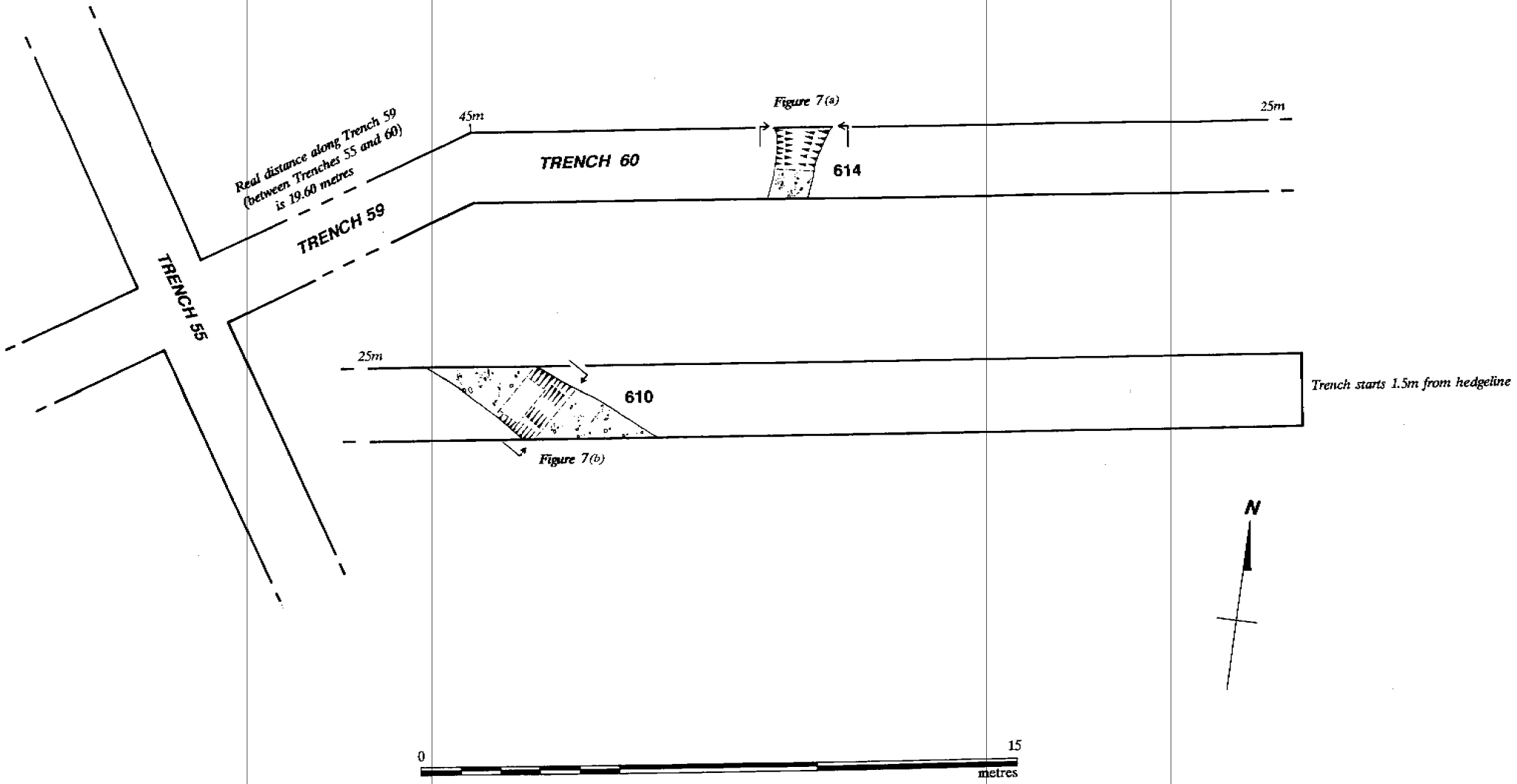


Figure 4b: Site A; Plan of archaeological features discovered during excavation in Trenches 55 - 60, survey parcel number 002

Ditch 617 was orientated northeast to southwest and was 0.44 metres wide and 0.31 metres deep with steep/straight sides and a flat base. It had two fills: a lower yellowish brown, silty clay (618) and an upper greyish brown, silty clay fill (616) containing burnt limestone and charcoal flecks.

Ditch 620 was orientated northeast to southwest and was 0.72 metres wide and 0.18 metres deep with moderate/ concave sides and a concave base. It contained a greyish brown, silty clay fill (619) with Iron Age pottery.

Ditch 622 was orientated northwest to southeast and was 0.80 metres wide and 0.40 metres deep with moderate/concave sides and a concave base. It had two fills: a lower brownish yellow, very silty clay (623) with charcoal and burnt clay flecks, and an upper greyish brown, silty clay fill (621) containing Iron Age pottery and animal bone.

A.3.3. The Finds from Field 002

The pottery assemblage comprised one hundred and thirty three sherds of early to middle Iron Age pottery recovered from feature contexts. Most of the material was in a brownish black, hard, fine sandy fabric with frequent shelly inclusions. Some examples had occasional flint and quartzite inclusions or were grog-tempered and some were burnished. Vessel types included both shouldered and globular jars and bowls.

The animal bone comprised three hundred and eighty seven pieces, of which most were well preserved and identifiable. Three quarters of the assemblage was represented by cow and sheep, with pig, horse and deer accounting for the remainder. The majority was recovered from ditches 610 and 614 with some from the former showing a high incidence of butchery marks.

In addition a small quantity of undiagnostic flint, burnt flint and daub was also recovered. The finds are summarised in Table 1.

A.3.4. Field 003: Stratigraphy

The ploughsoil varied in thickness from 0.20 metres to 0.35 metres, being deepest towards the south side of field 003. It comprised a greyish brown, silty clay loam with sub-angular and rounded flint gravel, chalky granules and varying proportions of limestone fragments. This overlay the natural calcareous Boulder Clay, a brownish yellow, sandy clay with chalky granules and flint gravels (see section A.1.1.).

A.3.5. Field 003: The Features

A high density of features was recorded in trenches 50 to 55. These included twenty ditches, seven gulleys, twelve pits and post-holes, the foundation trench for a stone building and a burial (Figures 3 and 5).

These will be discussed in four sections: the main enclosure ditch; features located within the enclosure; features to the south of the enclosure ditch; features to the north of the enclosure ditch.

The Enclosure (Figure 5b)

Ditch 597 was orientated southeast to northwest and corresponded with the main curvilinear enclosure recorded by the magnetometer survey. The return of this ditch may have been represented by feature 639, in trench 53 and by feature 640, in trench 51 (Figure 5c).

Ditch 597 was about 4 metres wide and 1.25 metres deep and had a concave profile (Figure 8). It contained a thin primary deposit (524) of silt, small grits and gravels whilst the main fill (598) was a greyish brown, mottled silty clay containing Roman pottery and animal bone. This ditch had been recut (575); the recut was over 1 metre wide and 0.65 metres deep with a concave profile (Figure 8). It had one fill (599), a yellowish brown, silty clay loam which contained limestone rubble and large quantities of Roman pottery, animal bone, ceramic roof tile, mortar, shell, slag and quantities of charcoal. A later recut (518) was also concave in section and was 2.02 metres wide and 0.58 metres deep (Figure 8). It had two fills: a primary deposit (541) of yellowish brown, silty clay containing large quantities of Roman pottery, animal bone, roof tile (including flue tile); and similar upper fill (519) also containing Roman pottery.

Features Located within the Enclosure (Figure 5b and 5c)
In trench 51, within the area defined by the main enclosure ditch, were a grave and five ditches, including two possible ditch termini (Figure 5b).

Grave 538 was oval in plan, 0.80 metres wide and just 0.04 metres deep. It contained a brownish grey, silty clay fill (539) with Romano-British pottery and frequent charcoal and burnt clay pieces, and the fragmentary remains of a crouched inhumation. The burial was truncated by a later ditch (533) and also disturbed by a modern field drain.

Ditch 533 was orientated northwest to southeast and was 1.60 metres wide and 0.55 metres deep and contained a greyish brown, silty clay fill (534) with Romano-British pottery, animal bone and ceramic roof tile.

Ditch terminus 531 was orientated east to west, and was 1.40 metres wide and 0.64 metres deep with a concave profile. It contained a brownish yellow, silty clay fill (532).

Ditch terminus 592 was similar in appearance to 531 but was not excavated.

Ditch 545 was aligned east to west and was 1.33 metres wide and 0.64 metres deep. It contained two fills: a primary deposit (547) of a brownish yellow, silty clay; and a main fill (546) which was a yellowish brown clay loam. Both fills contained Romano-British pottery and ceramic roof tile.

Ditch 594 was orientated west to east and was 1.50 metres wide and 0.06 metres deep. It contained a brownish, clay loam with Romano-British pottery, ceramic roof tile and animal bone. This feature was also recorded in trench 54.

At the east end of trench 54, three further features were also located within the main enclosure ditch (Figure 5c).

Curvilinear gulley 570 was 0.20 metres wide and 0.12 metres deep and contained a yellowish brown, silty clay loam fill (569) with probable Iron Age pottery.

Pit 565 was oval in shape, 0.78 metres long, 0.54 metres wide and 0.21 metres deep. It contained a brown, silty clay loam (566) with charcoal flecks.

Ditch 568 was orientated northwest to southeast and was 0.70 metres and 0.06 metres deep. It contained a yellowish brown, clay loam (567) with some ceramic roof tile and mortar.

Features to the South of the Main Enclosure (Figure 5a and 5b)
To the south of the main enclosure ditch were a large number of ditches, gullies and pits. Possible structural activity may be indicated by the following gullies and pits.

Curvilinear gulley 506 was 0.18 metres wide and 0.13 metres deep and contained a silty clay loam fill (507) with some animal bone and was cut by ditch 503. It defined an interrupted arc with a diameter of c. 4 metres and may have been associated with pit 513.

Pit 513 was sub-circular, 0.38 metres in diameter and 0.17 metres in depth. It contained a greyish brown, silty clay loam fill (512).

Gulley 516 was orientated northwest to southeast and terminated within the evaluation trench. It was 0.30 metres wide and 0.09 metres deep and had a single fill (517) which was a yellowish brown, clay loam containing possible Iron Age pottery.

Gulley 504, orientated northeast to southwest, was 0.24 metres wide and had steep sides 0.10 metres in depth. It cut the fills of pit 520 and ditch 502 and contained a greyish brown, silty clay fill (505) with some ceramic roof tile.

Gulley 558, orientated northwest to southeast, was 0.25 metres wide and 0.08 metres deep, containing a greyish brown, silty clay loam fill (557) including some Romano-British pottery, animal bone and ceramic roof tile.

Located in close proximity, at the north end of trench 50, were four probable post-pits which might form an associated group (Figure 5b)

Pit 508 contained a yellowish brown, clay loam (509) with Romano-British pottery, animal bone and ceramic roof tile. It was cut by ditch 502.

Pit 514 was sub-rectangular, 0.64 metres across and 0.12 metres in depth. It contained a brownish, silty clay loam fill (515) with Romano-British roof tile and animal bone.

Pit 520 was sub-rounded, 0.41 metres wide and 0.09 metres in depth. It contained a greyish brown, silty clay loam fill (521) with Romano-British pottery, flue tile and animal bone. The fill was cut by gulley 504.

Pit 562 was oval shaped, 0.32 metres wide and 0.15 metres in depth. It contained a greyish brown, silty clay fill (563). Ditch 502 was aligned north west to south east and was 0.5 metres wide and 0.15 metres deep. It may cut 509, the fill of one of the pits discussed above. The fill of 502 was a yellowish brown, clay loam (503) with possible Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery.

Further south, the footings of a Roman building and a number of possibly associated features were recorded (Figure 5a).

Foundation trench 551 was 0.48 metres wide and 0.29 metres in depth and contained closely-packed, clay bonded limestone fragments (501) and a brownish yellow, loamy clay backfill (550).

Internal to the building were two adjacent possible post pits, numbers 636 and 641, which were not excavated. Externally, to the south, were two sub-rectangular post holes (632 and 634) which were also not excavated.

A large feature (638) that may have been two intersecting pits was located in trench 53 (Figure 5b). The feature was not

fully sectioned; it contained a greyish brown, clay loam fill and its relationship with ditch 502 was unclear.

A further pit was located at the immediate south end of trench 50 (Figure 5a)

> Pit 526 was oval and was 0.62 metres wide and 0.20 metres deep and had a greyish brown, silty clay fill containing charcoal flecks.

In addition, eight ditches were recorded to the south of the main enclosure. Located to the immediate south of the main enclosure ditch (597) and appearing to respect it, was a ditch (510) identified by the magnetometer survey and located in trenches 50 and 53 (Figure 5b).

> Ditch 510 was orientated northwest to southeast and had an open profile with a slot shaped bottom. It was 1.20 metres wide, 0.80 metres deep and contained two fills: a lower yellowish brown, silty clay (564); and an upper yellowish brown, silty clay loam (511) with Romano-British pottery, ceramic roof tile and animal bone.

Further south were two additional parallel ditches (530 and 544) which were observed in trenches 50 and 52 and also indicated by the magnetometer survey (Figure 5a).

> Ditch 530 was orientated northwest to southeast and had a concave profile, 1.22 metres wide and 0.74 metres in depth. It contained two fills: a lower yellowish brown, silty clay fill (537) with animal bone, ceramic roof tile, charcoal and burnt clay flecks; and an upper oxidised brownish grey, sandy clay loam fill (529) with charcoal and burnt clay flecks.

> Ditch 544 was also orientated northwest to southeast and had an open profile (1.35 metres wide) with a slot shaped

base (0.49 metres deep). It contained two fills: a lower brownish grey, oxidised silty clay loam (543) with Romano-British pottery, ceramic roof tile and animal bone; and an upper brownish yellow, silty clay fill (542), also containing Romano-British pottery and animal bone.

Terminating to the south of building 501 and apparantly respecting it, was a ditch (549), whilst four metres to the north a further ditch (556) also appeared to respect the building (Figure 5a).

Ditch 549 was orientated northwest to southeast and was 1.44 metres wide and 0.42 metres deep. It contained a brownish grey, silty clay loam (548) with charcoal and burnt clay flecks.

Ditch 556 was orientated northwest to southeast and was 1.44 metres wide and 0.42 metres deep. It had two fills: a lower brownish grey, silty clay (561) containing charcoal flecks; and a sterile upper greyish yellow, silty clay (555).

One additional ditch running at right angles to the others was recorded at the south end of trench 50 (Figure 5a).

Ditch 528 was orientated northeast to southwest and was 0.46 metres wide and 0.30 metres deep. It had a brownish grey, silty clay fill (527) containing Romano-British pottery.

Features to the north of the Main Enclosure (Figure 5c)
A series of ditches and a single gulley were recorded in trenches 51 and 54 to the north of the main enclosure.

Gulley terminus 574 was orientated east to west and was 0.29 metres wide and 0.14 metres deep. It contained a

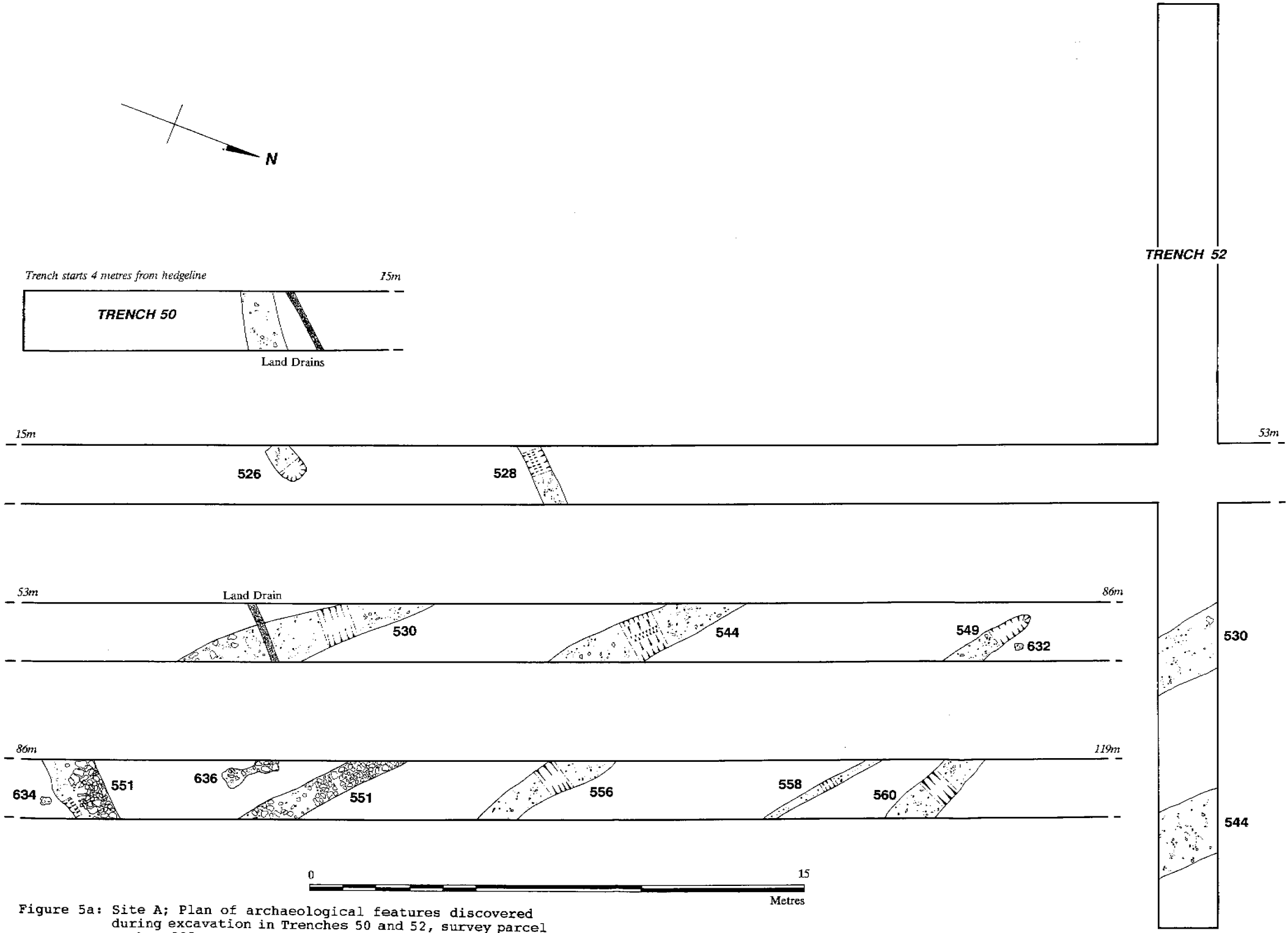


Figure 5a: Site A; Plan of archaeological features discovered during excavation in Trenches 50 and 52, survey parcel number 003

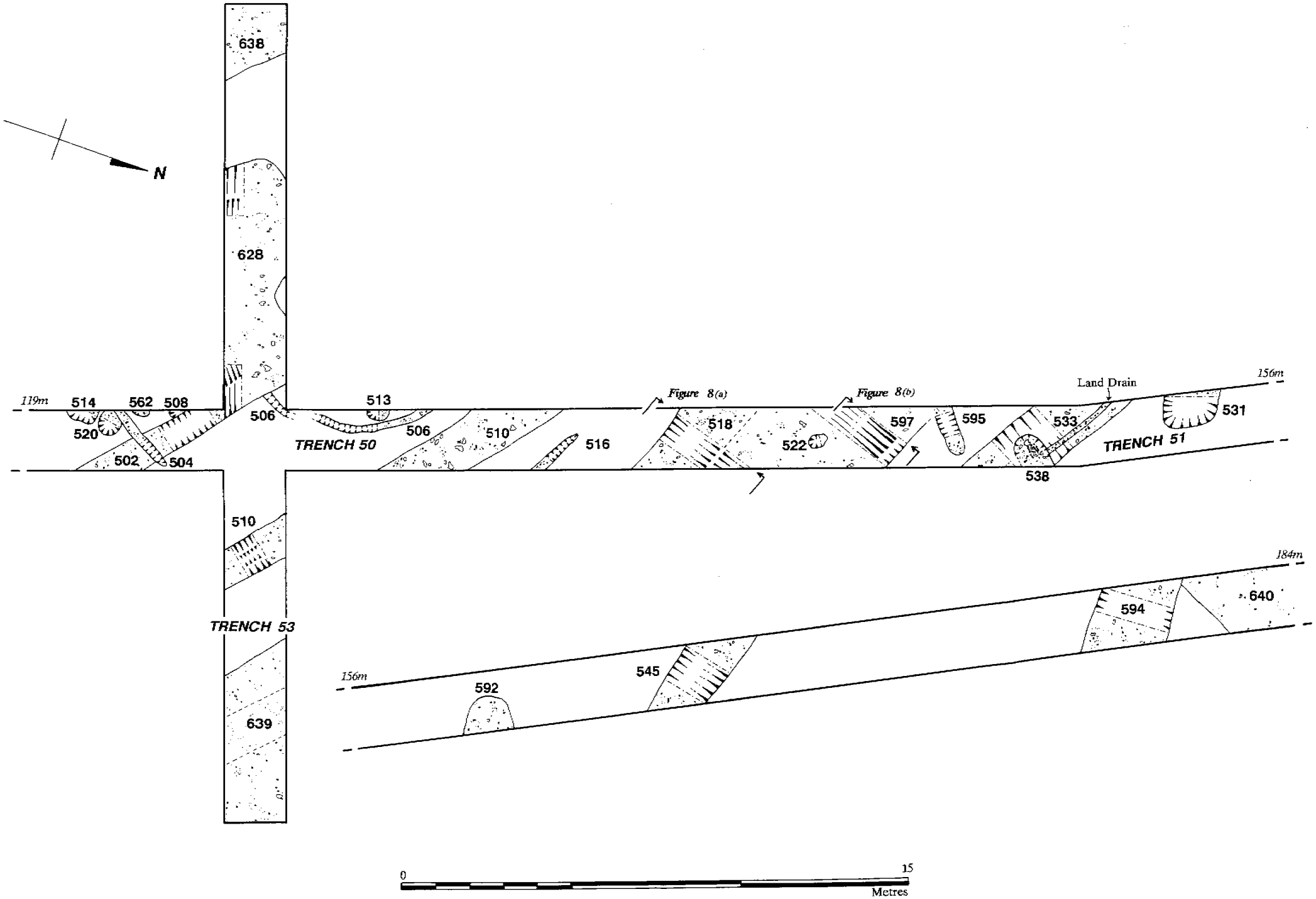


Figure 5b: Site A; Plan of archaeological features discovered during excavation in Trenches 50, 51 and 53, survey

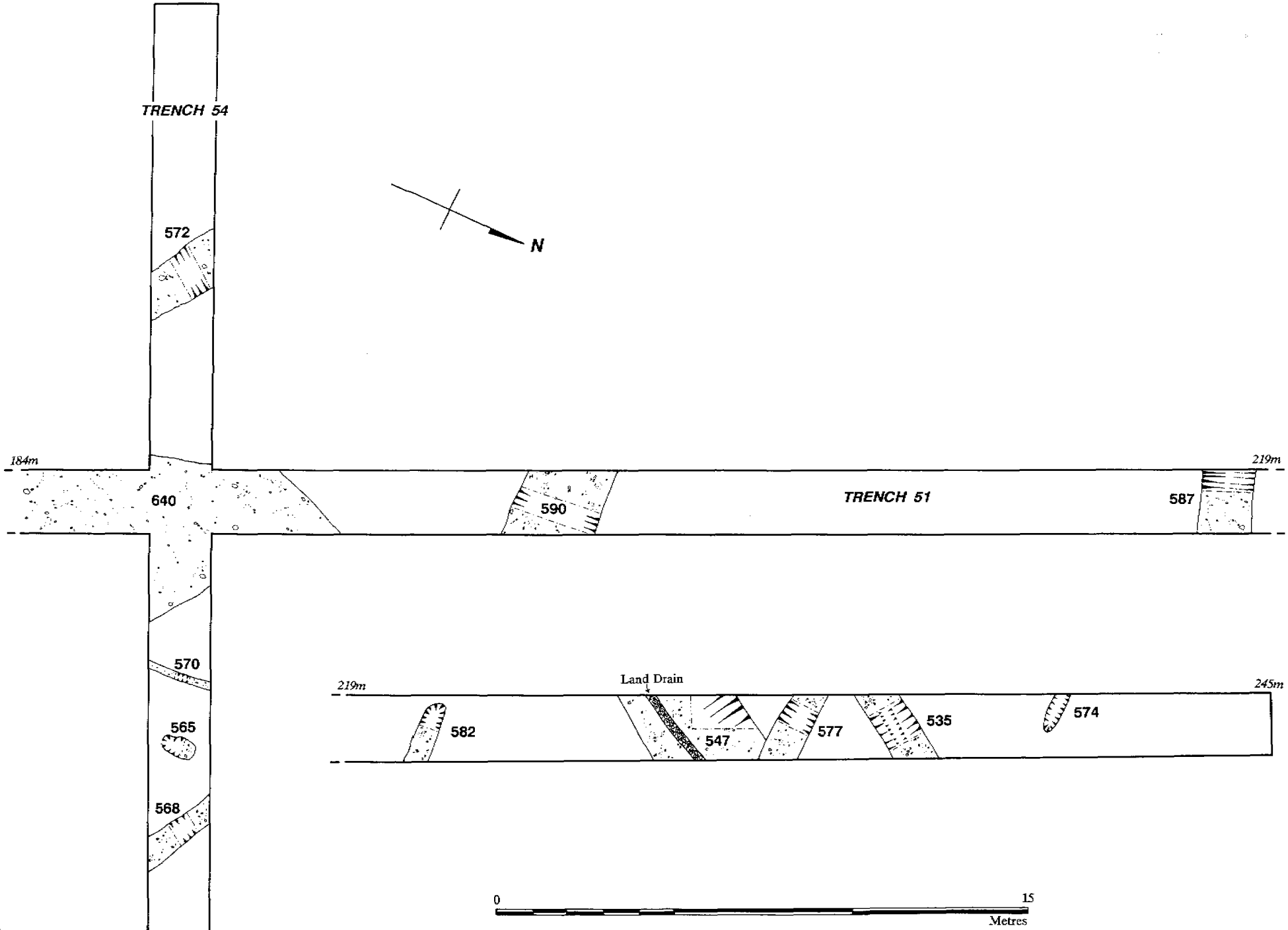


Figure 5c: Site A; Plan of archaeological features discovered during excavation in Trenches 51 and 54, survey parcel number 003

yellowish brown, silty clay fill (573) with some animal bone.

Ditch 535 was aligned northeast to southwest and was 1.20 metres wide and 0.78 metres deep. It contained two fills: a lower, yellowish brown, silty clay (554) with Romano-British pottery, ceramic roof tile and animal bone; and an upper brown, clay loam fill (536) with ceramic roof tile and animal bone.

Ditch 577 was orientated east to west and was 0.82 metres wide and 0.14 metres deep. It contained a yellowish brown, clay loam fill (576) and cut the fill of ditch 547.

Ditch 547 was aligned northeast to southwest and was 2.98 metres wide and 0.57 metres deep. It contained two fills: a primary deposit (580) of a brownish yellow, clay loam; and a main fill (578) of brown, oxidised clay loam with Romano-British pottery, ceramic roof tile and animal bone. The fill was cut by ditch 577 and also disturbed by a modern field drain.

Ditch 582 was orientated east to west and was 0.44 metres wide and 0.23 metres deep. It contained a yellowish brown, oxidised silty clay fill (581) with large quantities of possible late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery and some animal bone.

Ditch 587 was orientated northeast to southwest and was 1.37 metres wide and 0.65 metres deep. It contained four fills: a primary brownish yellow, silty clay fill (586); a brownish yellow clay fill (585); a brown, oxidised clay loam; and an upper greyish brown, oxidised clay loam with a large quantity of Romano-British pottery, animal bone, charcoal and burnt clay flecks.

Ditch 590 was orientated east to west and was 1.80 metres wide and 0.12 metres deep. It contained a brown, silty clay loam fill (589).

A.3.6. The Finds in Field 003

The pottery assemblage consisted of two hundred and ninety seven Romano-British sherds and five of Iron Age date. Of the former, two main fabric types were represented: an orangish brown, oxidised, coarse shell-tempered pottery (which accounted for over 90% of the assemblage), and a less common hard, fine sandy grey ware.

The vast majority of the sherds were from cooking pots, though mortaria, jars, beakers and pie-dish forms were also present. Some of the pottery types were diagnostic of specific kilns in the central Midlands, Oxfordshire, the Nene Valley, and more locally at Harrold in Bedfordshire. In general, the Romano-British pottery dates to the late Roman period, that is the third and fourth centuries AD though for one context, 598, a second century date is likely.

The Iron Age pottery consisted of a black, shell-tempered or brownish, coarse sandy, flint gritted fabric. A cordoned jar fragment was identified in context 569.

A large quantity (three hundred and seventy eight fragments) of ceramic roof tile was also recovered. This consisted of an orangish brown, oxidised shell-tempered fabric. A small number of flue tiles with a similar fabric were also identified.

The animal bone comprised three hundred and thirty nine pieces, of which the vast majority (over 80%), represented cow and sheep. The remainder was accounted for by horse, deer and wild boar. The finds are summarised in Table 2.

Table Two: Summary of Retrieved Artefacts In Field 003
(number/weight in grammes)

TR	FTR	Ctxt	Pottery				CBM	A.Bone	H.Bone	W.Stone	Flint	B.Flint	Mortar	Glass	Metal	Shell	Slag	F.Clay
			Roman	I.A.	P.Med	u/c												
50	u/s	500	14/144g	-	-	-	71/4243g	8/100g	-	1/906g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	502	503	-	2/9g	-	-	1/52g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	504	505	-	-	-	-	2/18g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	506	507	-	-	-	-	-	10/33g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	508	509	4/90g	-	-	-	5/104g	9/72g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	510	511	4/144g	-	-	-	7/1953g	9/178g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/12g	-	-
50	514	515	-	-	-	-	4/260g	5/35g	-	-	-	1/8g	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	516	517	-	2/16g.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	518	519	2/130g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	518	541	17/216g	-	-	-	55*/5163g	18/311g	-	1/33g	-	-	-	-	-	2/44g	-	-
50	520	521	1/156g	-	-	-	1#/82g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	522	523	17/138g	-	-	-	34*/4421g	19/414g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/28g	-	-
50	526	525	-	-	-	-	2/54g	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/3g	-	-	-	-
50	528	527	3/8g	-	-	-	1/34g	18/19g	-	-	-	-	-	-	1Fe/5g	-	-	-
50	530	537	-	-	-	1/5g	2/239g	3/21g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	531	532	1/27g	-	-	-	-	1/3g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	533	534	7/90g	-	1/4g	-	39/839g	18/38g	-	-	-	1/2g	-	-	3Fe/13g 1Cu/1g	1/23g	-	1/3g
50	538	539	7/191g	-	-	-	-	-	208/1002g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	544	542	1/15g	-	-	-	5/70g	2/3g	-	-	-	-	-	-	1Fe/7g	-	-	-
50	544	543	2/18g	-	-	-	-	36/154g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	549	548	-	-	-	-	9/163g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3Fe/9g 1Pb/7g	-	-	-
50	551	550	-	-	-	-	3/41g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	558	557	1/6g	-	-	-	1/20g	5/34g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	560	559	1/6g	-	-	-	3/99g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1Cu/5g	-	-	-
50	575	599	108/3525g	-	-	-	35/5332g	115/2955g	1/35g	-	-	-	2/63g	-	1Fe/5g	20/323g	1/31g	-
51	535	536	-	-	-	-	3/269g	19/165g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/10g
51	535	554	2/202g	-	-	-	2/2g	1/2g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	545	546	5/81g	-	-	-	5/150g	16/105g	-	-	-	-	-	-	1Cu/5g	-	-	-
51	545	547	14/294g	-	-	-	8/102g	1/4g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	574	573	-	-	-	-	-	11/24g	-	-	1/26g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	579	578	7/198g	-	-	-	4/652g	1/12g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	582	581	-	-	-	26/978g	-	5/26g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	587	583	19/2895	-	-	-	-	10/84g	-	1/4g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	594	593	-	-	-	-	1/10g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	595	596	2/5g	-	-	-	-	10/51g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	597	598	57/1582g	-	-	-	-	44/498g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
54	565	566	-	-	-	1/4g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
54	568	567	-	-	-	-	4/25g	-	-	-	-	-	1/4g	-	-	-	-	-
54	570	569	-	1/24g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
54	571	572	1/8g	-	-	-	3/49g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total		297/10169g	5/49g	1/4g	28/987g	339/24773g	378/6474g	209/1037g	3/943g	1/26g	2/10g	3/67g	1/3g	9Fe/39g 2Cu/6g 1Pb/7g	26/430g	1/31g	4/14g

Key:

TR: trench
B: burnt
I.A.: Iron Age
H: human

Ctxt: context
F: fired
u/c: uncertain
P.Med: post-medieval

A: animal
FTR: feature
CBM: ceramic building material

A.3.7. Test-Pits in Fields 004/005

The stratigraphic information is summarised by test-pit and context in Appendix I, and the artefacts retrieved are presented in tabulated form (Table 3).

The results from test-pits in field 004 demonstrated considerable homogeneity of the substrate. The unploughed remnant topsoil had a consistent 0.10 metre, greyish brown, silty clay loam, humus layer above 0.19 metres to 0.30 metres of yellowish brown, sandy clay loam. The ploughsoil in field 005 was 0.2 metres to 0.3 metres in depth and was a consistent greyish brown, sandy clay loam. In contrast, the subsoil clay revealed considerable heterogeneity. This varied in colour between creamish/brownish/orangish yellow or reddish brown and in texture from a slightly sandy clay to a very clayey sand. Calcareous inclusions ranged from occasional flecks to frequent granules.

No archaeological deposits were recorded in the test-pits. All observed features were either the result of recent ploughing or were considered natural in origin. Severe vertical fracturing of the sandy clay subsoil gave rise to the formation of pseudo-features which were even reflected as cracks within the ploughsoil. Thus there was much potential for the mixing of material.

In five test-pits (10,11,12,13 and 15) lying to the south of field 005, a silty clay subsoil deposit was encountered above the Boulder Clay. In most cases the layer was free of inclusions except for test-pit 10 which contained forty-five small sherds of Romano-British pottery to a depth of 0.60 metres.

A.3.8. The Finds from Fields 004/005.

The pottery assemblage comprised seventy-two Romano-British sherds, one medieval, ten post-medieval and nine of uncertain

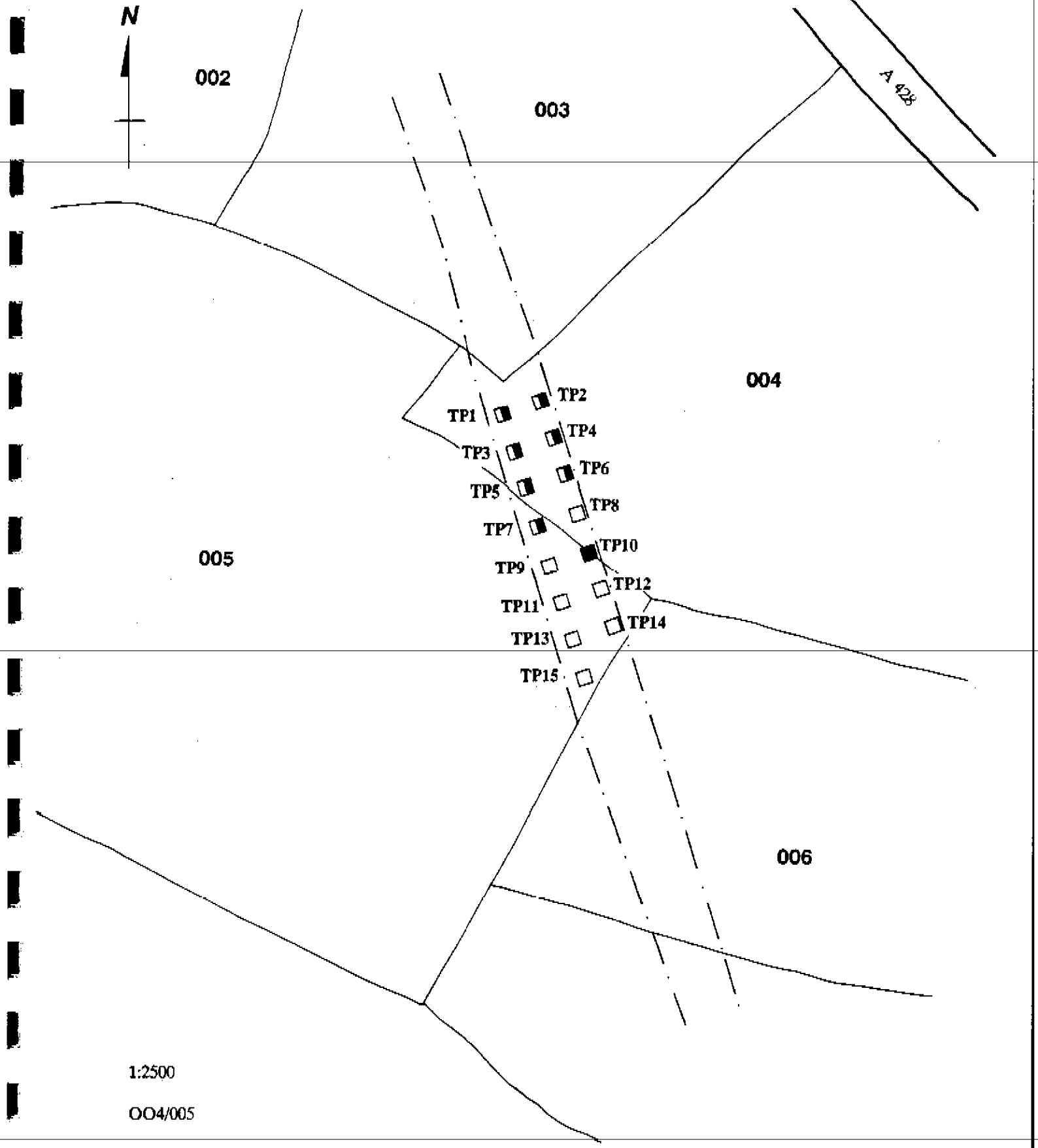
Table Three: Summary of Retrieved Artefacts in Fields 004/005

(number/weight in grammes)

Pit	Ctxt	Pottery				A.Bone	Flint	F.Clay	CBM	Slag	Glass	Metal
		Roman	Med	P.Med	u/c							
1	116	1/4g	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/5g	-	-	-
1	118	1/2g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	119	-	-	-	1/2g	-	-	-	-	-	1/6g	-
2	121	2/3g	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/6g	-	-	-
2	122	2/5g	-	-	2/1g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	123	3/8g	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/12g	-	-	-
3	106	3/11g	-	-	-	-	1/1g	-	-	-	-	-
3	107	3/11g	-	-	-	-	-	1/3g	-	-	-	1Fe/4g
3	109	-	-	2/31g	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/<1g	-
4	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1Fe/16g
4	105	1/4g	-	-	1/1g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	110	2/6g	1/3g	-	-	-	1/3g	-	-	-	-	-
5	102	1/2g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	112	5/9g	-	-	1/2g	-	-	-	-	1/<1g	-	1Cu/5g
6	101	-	-	2/8g	1/1g	-	-	-	-	-	-	1Fe/4g
6	103	1/2g	-	1/1g	-	-	-	-	1/21g	-	-	1Fe/3g
6	104	1/6g	-	1/4g	-	-	1/10g	-	1/8g	-	-	-
7	125	1/2g	-	1/4g	-	-	-	-	1/13g	-	-	-
7	171	-	-	1/4g	1/10g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	173	-	-	-	-	-	1/59g	-	-	-	-	-
9	129	-	-	-	1<1g	-	1/4g	-	-	-	-	-
10	133	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3/2g	-	-	-
10	135	5/6g	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/10g	-	-	1Fe/3g
10	136	12/18g	-	-	-	2/17g	-	-	1/4g	-	-	-
10	137	21/95g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	138	7/21g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	145	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/46g	-	-	-
14	157	-	-	-	1/16g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	161	-	-	2/5g	-	-	-	-	1/10g	-	-	-
Total		72/213g	1/3g	10/26g	9/34g	2/17g	5/77g	1/3g	16/137g	1/<1g	2/7g	5Fe/30g 1Cu/5g

KEY:

Pit:	Test-pit	Ctxt:	context
P:	post	u/c:	uncertain
A:	animal	F:	fired
CBM:	ceramic building material	Fe:	iron
Cu:	copper		



ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY

—·—EDGE OF CORRIDOR

□ TEST PIT LOCATION; NO SHERDS

◨ < 7 SHERDS

■ > 7 SHERDS

Figure 6: Site A; Quantification of Romano - British pottery from Test Pits, survey parcels 004 and 005

date. The Romano-British sherds were mostly small body-sherds of coarse, shelly, oxidised fabrics and a few hard, sandy greywares. The majority of these were recovered from test-pit 10. The medieval sherd was a fine, sandy greyware. The post-medieval material mostly consisted of Mocca and stoneware. The undiagnostic sherds were probably either Romano-British or medieval.

In addition, five flint flakes of probable prehistoric date were found. The remaining material (animal bone, fired clay, ceramic building material, slag, glass and metal) was either modern or undatable.

A.4. DISCUSSION

Field 002

A relatively low density of features including two large ditches with multiple fills and five smaller outlying ditches or gullies was recorded in field 002 (Figures 3 and 4). The features were located over an eighty metre distance and showed an apparant concentration towards the northeast corner of the field. Early to mid Iron Age pottery was recovered from most of these features.

The most significant feature was a 'v' shaped ditch, 614 (Figure 7), which corresponded with an enclosure (25 metres in diameter) identified by the magnetometer survey (Figure 3). The ditch survived to over one metre in depth and contained large quantities of early to mid Iron Age pottery and animal bone. Fifteen metres to the south was another large ditch, 610 (Figure 7), which was not specifically noted in the magnetometer report, but which nevertheless may correlate with an apparent magnetometer anomaly orientated north to south. A large quantity of charcoal dispersed within the upper fills was initially considered to be of possible industrial origin, but so far this suggestion remains unsubstantiated due to an absence of slag or any other

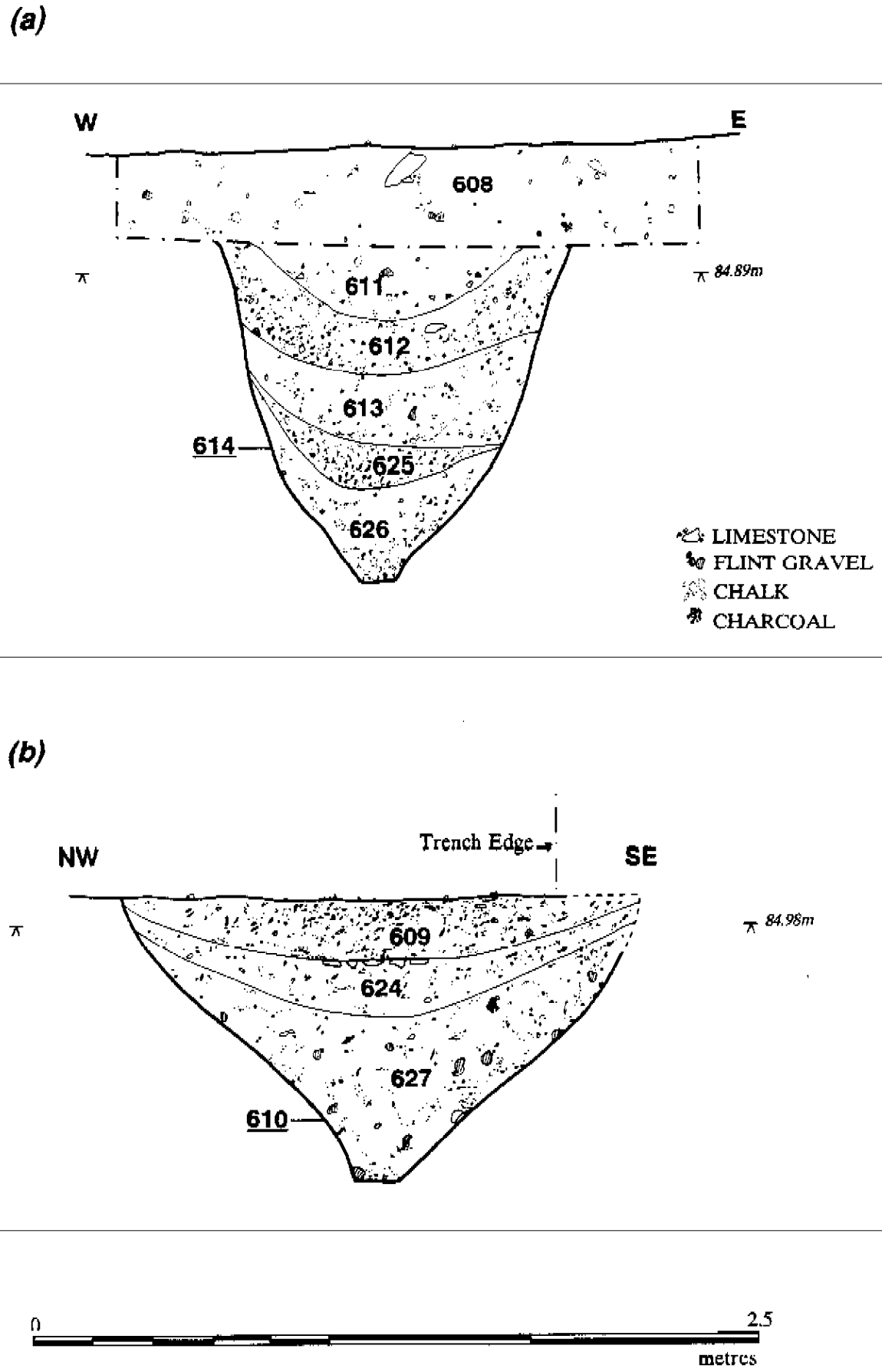


Figure 7: Site A; Trench 60, Sections through Iron Age ditches 610 and 614

industrial residue. Instead, the predominance of pottery and animal bone and in particular the presence of daub from both ditch fills is perhaps more indicative of nearby domestic occupation. However, no settlement evidence in the form of gullies, post holes or storage pits was found within the enclosure.

The outlying ditches or gullies (Figure 4a) are considered to be part of the same early to mid Iron Age activity. Two of these (602 and 604) contained horizontal pieces of burnt wood which, in the latter case, were associated with large sherds of pottery. It is possible that the charcoal in ditch 610 is derived from, or is associated with, these burning episodes; although in this instance, the evidence may favour discrete *in situ* burning. This suggests that these events are unrelated. The reasons for these activities is unclear.

The pottery was mostly recovered from the two large ditches, and dates the associated activity between the sixth and second century BC.

Early to mid Iron Age sites tend to be unenclosed farmsteads comprising hut circles, pits and associated field enclosures or corrals. Site A appears to conform to this pattern, in so far as it is of unenclosed type. In contrast to other early Iron Age sites, such as Briar Hill (Bamford, 1985) and Puddlehill (Matthews, 1976), where considerable occupation evidence including numerous storage pits was found, their absence at Site A is unusual, though this may simply reflect the limited sample area.

Although it is difficult to draw meaningful conclusions regarding the economic basis of a site from a limited faunal assemblage, the high incidence of sheep and cow bones indicates a pastoral element within the communities subsistance base and reflects the importance of sheep farming to most early Iron Age communities in southern England.

Field 003

A high density of archaeological features was recorded in field 003 (Figures 3). The evaluation revealed forty nine features of which forty two were investigated. These included ditches, gullies, pits and postholes, the foundations of a stone building and a burial (Figures 5a,b,c). Five of the features are suggested to be Late Iron Age, whilst the vast majority are dated by a large and relatively homogenous Romano-British pottery assemblage. Some of this material was identified as either early Romano-British (first and second centuries AD) or late Romano-British (third and fourth centuries AD).

The earliest activity recorded on the site comprised three probable and two possible Late Iron Age features (516, 570 and 595; 502 and 582 respectively). They extended over one hundred metres in the north half of the field (Figures 5b and 5c). These features were narrow gullies or small ditches and may have been either drainage ditches, eavesdrip or overflow gullies. It is likely that they represented the surviving remnants of outlying features on the periphery of a non-enclosed Late Iron Age site. It is possible that a number of undated features (504, 506 and 574) of similar form to the dated examples also belong to this phase of activity.

During the second century AD an oval enclosure about one hundred metres in length and seventy metres in width was defined by a large ditch. This was identified at three separate locations along the evaluation trenches (Figures 5b and 5c): to the east end of trench 52 (context 639); to the north end of trench 50 (context 597) and at the intersection of trenches 51 and 54 (context 640). Due to the size of the feature (c.4 metres in width and 1.25 metres in depth) it was investigated by two separate, concurrent sections (figure 8). The primary deposit of the ditch was dated by fifty seven sherds of an early Romano-British carinated bowl. No other contexts could confidently be assigned to this phase of activity.

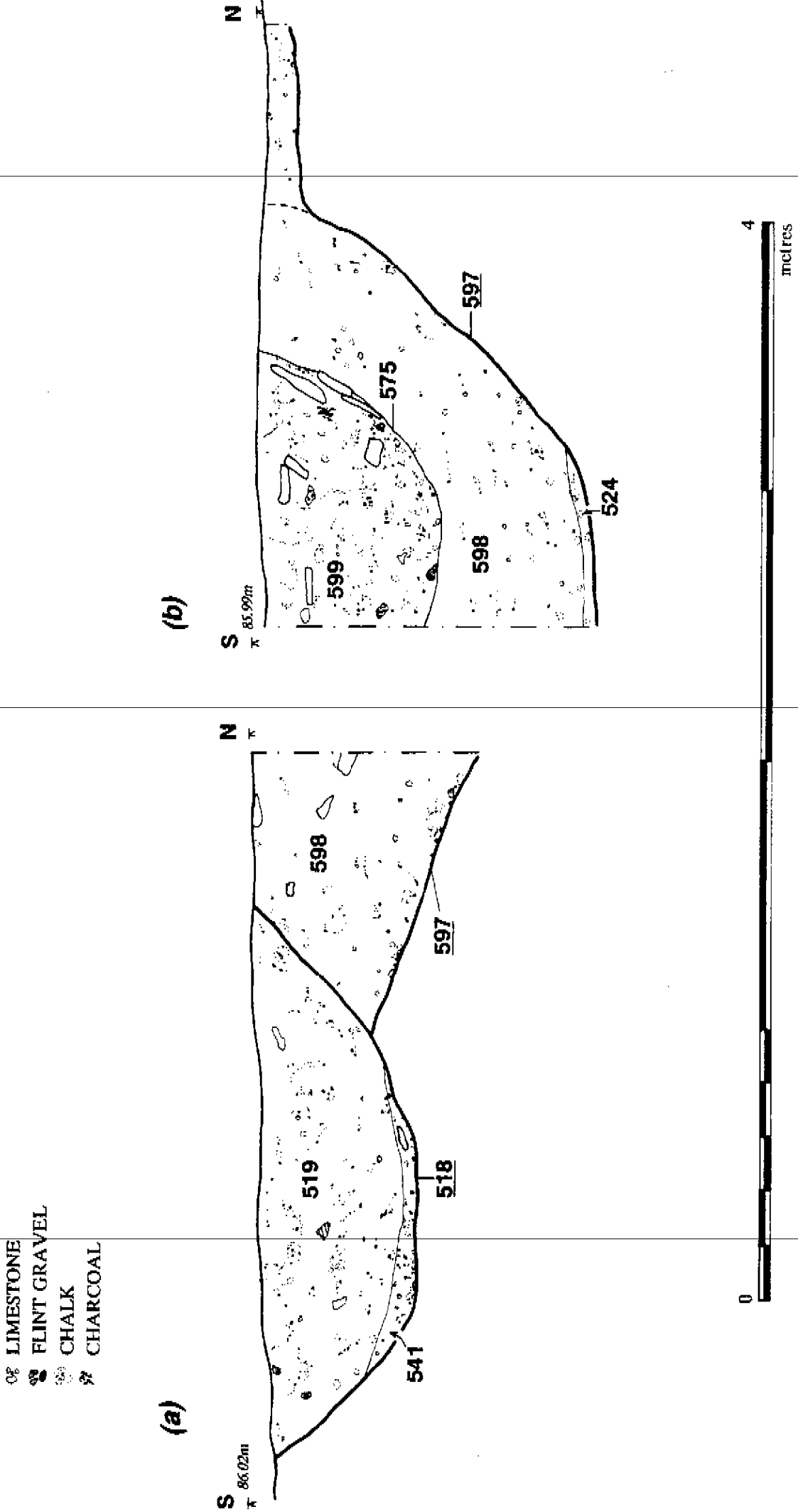


Figure 8: Site A; Trench 50, Sections through Roman ditches 518 and 597

By the third and fourth centuries AD the ditch was no longer being scoured out and had become filled with a silty clay. The ditch was recut on two separate occasions (518 and 575), and in both instances it was replaced by one which was less substantial. In contrast to the preceding phase, the fills of both recuts were abundant in limestone rubble, suggesting the possible demolition or dismantling of nearby stone buildings in this phase.

Only four other features could confidently be attributed to this later period (Figure 5b). A few metres to the north of the enclosure ditch was an inhumation burial, which could perhaps represent a part of a small family cemetery located within the enclosure. Twenty metres further north, ditch 545 was also of third to fourth century date. Evidence for late Roman activity outside the enclosure was seen further south by pit or posthole 522 and ditch 530 which correlated with one of the magnetometer anomalies.

The remaining features could not be differentiated by their contents as either early or late Romano-British. The majority were ditches with a recurring eastnortheast to westsouthwest orientation. Ten of the fourteen were aligned in this direction. Considering the overall number of ditches, the lack of feature intersection is unusual. This apparent spatial organisation suggests that many may be contemporary. However, it is possible that some of these ditches, including 528, 568, 577 and 594 may be the truncated bases of ditches from a medieval ridge and furrow system.

All of the linear anomalies identified in the magnetometer survey were confirmed by the evaluation as being major ditches (530, 544,510, 535, 579). Features found in the evaluation that had not been recognised in the magnetometer survey tended to be less substantial (Figure 3).

Although linear features were predominant, a small number of gullies and possible post-pits were located a little to the south side of the main enclosure ditch. Four features (508, 514, 520 and 562) may form a group of associated post pits. The curvilinear gulley 506 may well be an eavesdrip for a

possible circular structure of which post pit 513 may form a part.

Also located outside the enclosure, further south, were the limestone footings of a rectangular building, 551 (Figure 5a). It had been heavily truncated by ploughing and consequently there were no surviving floor levels, although some internal features were found. This discovery confirms the existence of at least one stone building at the site although its position to the southeast, away from the major concentration of surface rubble is surprising. It is possible that the large quantity of limestone identified in the recuts of the main enclosure ditch may reflect the abandonment, collapse and subsequent incorporation of rubble into the nearby ditch fills during the third and fourth centuries A.D.

Although the existence of a stone building is not in itself confirmation of a villa site, the presence of tesserae is significant (section A.1.2.). In addition, the predominance of ceramic roof tile over pottery (Table 2) and in particular, the fact that roof tile and flue tile was recovered from over seventy per cent of all excavated contexts is indicative of considerable building activity at the site.

Fields 004/005

The primary objective of the test pits was to quantify material within the topsoil and ploughsoil and thus help to define the southern margin of Site A, by showing a decreasing density of Romano-British material. In addition, it was hoped that they might confirm whether the small concentration of Romano-British pottery found in field 005 represented an extension of the main site identified in field 003, or was a part of a separate one.

The results of the test pits are displayed in Table 3. They demonstrate a low density of small abraded sherds in field 004 and an absence of pottery from most test pits in

field 005, and thus suggest that the main Romano-British activity is restricted to field 003 (Figure 6).

However, in five test pits (10, 11, 12, 13 and 15) in field 005, a silty subsoil deposit was encountered. Three explanations are possible for its presence: colluvium resulting from hillwash down the south side of Northampton Hill; an accumulation of upthrown soil from the scouring of the depression in the northeast corner of the field; or an archaeological deposit. Although the first two suggestions are likely, they do not account for the large quantity of Romano-British sherds recovered from test pit 10. These are likely to have derived from an archaeological deposit, perhaps a feature fill. This suggests that there is additional Romano-British activity nearby, probably peripheral to the main area of activity located in field 003.

A.5. REVIEW OF FIELDWORK

The policy of using more or less continuous centre line trenching has been demonstrated to be particularly effective in delimiting Site A as well as providing considerable intrasite detail.

In field 002 the magnetometer survey indicated just one of the total features located. Bearing in mind the low density of activity, had intermittent shorter trenches been used the pattern of ditch activity to the southwest of the small enclosure may have been missed.

In field 003 a similar picture emerged. The magnetometer survey suggested that the focus of activity lay to the east of the proposed route. Only continuous trenching could have demonstrated the true density of features along the route, as well as the extent of archaeological activity to the south west outside the enclosure. Anything short of extensive machine trenching would have prevented the recognition of the main phases of activity and their corresponding spatial distribution.

The test pits in field 004/005 provided a reliable delimitation of the Romano-British site, by showing an overall decreasing density of finds to the south of field 003. The recovery by eye as opposed to the sieving of finds from many of the test pits is not believed to have seriously affected the results. For those test pits for which the sieve was employed, the majority of finds were still recovered during excavation rather than by the subsequent sieving.

The discovery of a subsoil layer which contained a large quantity of Romano-British pottery in one test pit proved difficult to interpret (section A.4.). It is likely that work beyond mere test pitting may be needed to establish the taphonomy of this possible site.

A.6. CONCLUSION

The Stage 4 evaluation accounted for all of the anomalies identified by the magnetometer survey, as well as locating a large number of additional features. For the most part, these included ditches, gullies, pits and post holes and were found over a 350 metre extent of fields 002 and 003.

Four main phases of activity were recognised at Site A: an early to middle Iron Age enclosure and associated activity; probable late Iron Age activity; an early Romano-British enclosure and associated occupation activity and a late Roman settlement extending beyond the limits of the enclosure.

The early to middle Iron Age activity appears to be restricted to the northeast side of field 002. Although it is delimited to the north, the site may extend further west. No structural evidence for domestic settlement was found and the total absence of occupation features such as storage pits is unusual. The quantity of butchered animal bones suggests that animal slaughter and processing may have taken place but this is difficult to equate with the associated extensive burning.

The possibility of short distance occupation drift is raised by the discovery of late Iron Age features in field

003. The spatial extent of this site is difficult to determine; the features may represent the few surviving examples of a more substantial site. However, the absence of residual Iron Age material in later Romano-British contexts suggests that this is not the case.

In the second century AD a Romano-British settlement was imposed upon the Iron Age landscape. The oval ditched enclosure has no immediate local parallel. The core area of this phase of activity lies to the east side of the proposed route. Dense settlement activity is indicated here by the magnetometer survey and fieldwalking results. Villa construction may well be associated with this phase of activity.

Evidence for renewed activity at the site in the third and fourth centuries AD is reflected by the redigging of the enclosure ditch. This may be associated with possible occupation outside the enclosure to the southwest, where a number of late Roman features were found. This later activity may be delimited by double ditches to the southwest and north-west and which are visible on the magnetometer survey.

Site A is directly affected by the published route of the proposed Lavendon bypass. In field 002, archaeological deposits are threatened along at least 100 metres of the main route, as well as a further 100 metres along the slip road to the northeast. Although the route passes a little to the west side of the apparant core area of settlement in field 003, an area with a high density of features is at risk along the entire 250m road corridor in this field. It is unlikely that the proposed route across fields 004 and 005 will affect any substantial archaeological deposits, although a minor ammount of activity is registered in these two fields.

B.1. SITE B: BACKGROUND

B.1.1 Location, Topography and Geology

Investigations at site B (SP 917528) were located adjacent to the B565, about eight hundred metres south of Lavendon (Figure 1). The site is situated at c. 56 metres OD at the foot of a very shallow south facing slope above the floodplain of the River Ouse. The underlying geology is composed of Blisworth Limestone and the Upper Esturine Series of the Lower Jurassic.

The Upper Estuarine Series was formed in a low lying coastal marsh environment under semi-brackish conditions. It is usually 8 to 10 metres deep and comprises an olive-grey, tabular, non-fossiliferous or shell-fragmental, argillaceous marly limestone sandwiched by greenish-grey laminated mudstones and siltstones.

Overlying these deposits is the Blisworth Limestone, a marine deposited formation which is typically 4 to 6 metres deep and gives rise to the gentle slopes of the River Ouse environs. It is a soft, creamy grey limestone with occasional marly partings often containing mudstones and siltstones. Post depositional solifluction and weathering deposits derived from the Blisworth Limestone may be present at the surface. The Blisworth Limestone underlies the Blisworth Clay (see section C.1.1.) (Sherlock, 1960; Haines and Horton, 1969; Horton *et al*, 1974).

Derived from these deposits is the Moreton soil, a calcareous brown earth which tends to be a moderately-drained clay loam (Soil Survey of England, 1981).

B.1.2 Archaeological Background

A site was initially discovered in the north road verge of the B565 by a watching brief, during the construction of a water main between Olney and Turvey, in 1959. An occupation layer

containing limestone lumps and over 200 sherds of medieval pottery was identified at a depth of 0.15 metres. Local manufacture of the pottery in the twelfth to thirteenth centuries was suggested by comparable material from the nearby kilns at Olney Hyde, about 1 kilometre to the south-west. Burnt limestone fragments were noted in the adjacent field.

In March 1993, a site visit during an earlier stage of assessment for the proposed Lavendon bypass (Stage 2) identified a concentration of limestone pieces including burnt fragments on the south side of field 017. These were assumed to indicate the presence of a building. Later in April, the fieldwalking programme (Stage 3a) found no evidence for medieval activity in this area and it was suggested that the site might be buried at depth.

The subsequent magnetometer scan (Stage 3b) failed to find any anomalies and the susceptibility tests showed no significant enhancement. However, the results did not dismiss the possibility that the site lay below subsoil level or was present nearby.

B.2. METHODOLOGY

Investigations were carried out in field 017 over two days between the 20th and the 21st of September 1993. A total of twelve, 1.0 metre by 0.5 metre, hand-dug test-pits (16 to 27), were excavated (Figure 9). These were located in two rows on a 15 metre grid extending along the proposed route (Figure 9). The test-pits were excavated in 0.1 metre spits to the surface of archaeological deposits, or undisturbed natural deposits where no recognisable features were present. All layers were sieved through a 12mm mesh, in order to recover artefacts.

B.3. RESULTS

B.3.1. Stratigraphy

The stratigraphic information is summarised by test-pit and context in Appendix II and the artefacts retrieved are presented in tabulated form (Table 4).

The results of the test-pits demonstrated considerable homogeneity of the substrate across field 017. The profiles comprised 0.25 metres to 0.40 metres of greyish brown, sandy clay loam, with some (16 and 20) having a more silty element. This overlay a brownish yellow or yellow, sandy clay with frequent sub-angular limestone fragments up to 0.3 metres across (see section B.1.1.). In three test-pits (16,20 and 22), up to 0.04 metres of yellowish grey, loamy clay was recorded above the natural calcareous clay. No definite archaeological deposits were encountered by the test-pits.

B.3.2. The Finds

The pottery assemblage comprised: three Romano-British sherds of coarse, black shelly or fine, grey sandy fabrics; one post-medieval black glaze sherd; six undiagnostic sherds, either Romano-British or medieval. Other finds included modern or undatable ceramic building material, glass, burnt stone and foreign stone. These are summarised in Table 4.

B.4. DISCUSSION

No archaeological layers were recognised in the soil sequence at Site B. Instead, the ploughsoil appeared to overlay a thin, discontinuous remnant topsoil that had not been subject to recent ploughing and which survived above natural, Blisworth Limestone. There seems to be no evidence therefore that the

Table Four: **Summary of Retrieved Artefacts, Field 017**

(number/weight in grammes)

Test Pit	Ctxt	Pottery			CBM	Glass	F.Clay	B.Stone
		Roman	Post Med	u/c				
16	200	-	-	1/2g	1/4g	1/2g	1/1g	-
16	201	-	-	-	1/6g	1/6g	-	-
19	209	1/8g	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	251	-	-	-	1/22g	-	-	-
20	210	-	1/7g	-	-	-	-	-
20	213	-	-	-	1/2g	-	-	-
23	239	-	-	3/6g	-	-	-	-
23	240	-	-	-	1/9g	-	-	-
23	241	-	-	1/4g	-	-	-	-
24	220	-	-	-	1/6g	-	-	-
24	221	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/d
25	237	-	-	1/3g	-	-	-	-
26	226	2/4g	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		3/12g	1/7g	6/15g	6/49g	2/8g	1/1g	1/d

KEY:
- Ctxt: context
- u/c: uncertain
- CBM: ceramic building material
- F: fired
- B: burnt
- d: discarded
- Med: medieval

occupation layer observed in the road verge extended into field 017. In fact, there was no indication of medieval activity in the field. No definite medieval sherds were recovered and although some of the undiagnostic examples may have been of this date they were too few, small and abraded to represent anything other than 'background noise'. This absence of medieval pottery and burnt limestone refutes the possibility of medieval activity in this field.

The virtual absence of medieval material was nevertheless surprising, given the quantities which had been retrieved when the site was originally discovered. The original published reference (Mynard, 1964) was checked, and the discoverer contacted. As a result it became apparent at this very late stage that the published grid reference was incorrect. The correct site location is SP 9120 5275. This position is on the southern edge of field 014, some distance from the proposed road route. The evidence from fieldwalking and geophysical survey from field 014 was entirely negative and there does not appear to be any significant likelihood that the site extends as far as the area affected by the proposals.

B.5. REVIEW OF FIELDWORK

The test-pits were intended to quantify material within the ploughsoil with a minimum of disturbance. This objective was achieved, resulting in a re-evaluation of previous data, which proved to contain a spurious site location.

B.6. CONCLUSION

The field evaluation has conclusively demonstrated that the site was not present within the proposed road corridor in field 017 and is not therefore affected by the proposed Lavendon bypass.

C.1. SITE C: BACKGROUND

C.1.1. Location, Topography and Geology

Site C (SP 922527) is located adjacent to the B565, about 1.1 kilometres southeast of Lavendon, in the parish of Cold Brayfield in north Buckinghamshire (Figure 1). The site is situated at c.65 metres OD towards the base of a very shallow southwest facing slope above the floodplain of the River Ouse. The underlying geology consists of Cornbrash and Blisworth Clay overlain by Drift deposits of Glacial clays and Valley Gravels. For a description of Cornbrash refer to section A.1.1.

The Blisworth Clay is a uniform deposit that probably accumulated in a shallow enclosed lagoonal basin under semi-marine or brackish conditions. It is usually 4 to 6 metres deep and composed of bright, inky-blue, purple or green plastic, tenacious clays mostly devoid of fossils.

The overlying drift comprises unsorted weathering and solifluction deposits derived from various lithologies; sands and sandy gravel, ferruginous sandstones, flint erratics, and Bunter pebbles (Sherlock 1960; Haines and Horton, 1969; Horton *et al*, 1974). These formations tend to weather upon exposure to produce reddish brown, well-drained argillic brown earths (locally mapped as the Efford 1 series). These fine or coarse loamy soils are often associated with sub-surface panning resulting from processes of lessivage and leaching, the downward translocation of clay and minerals respectively. Consequently such soils tend to be characterised by well defined horizons (Soil Survey of England, 1981).

C.1.2. Archaeological Background

No evidence for a site in field 021 existed prior to the Lavendon bypass fieldwalking programme (Stage 3a) which

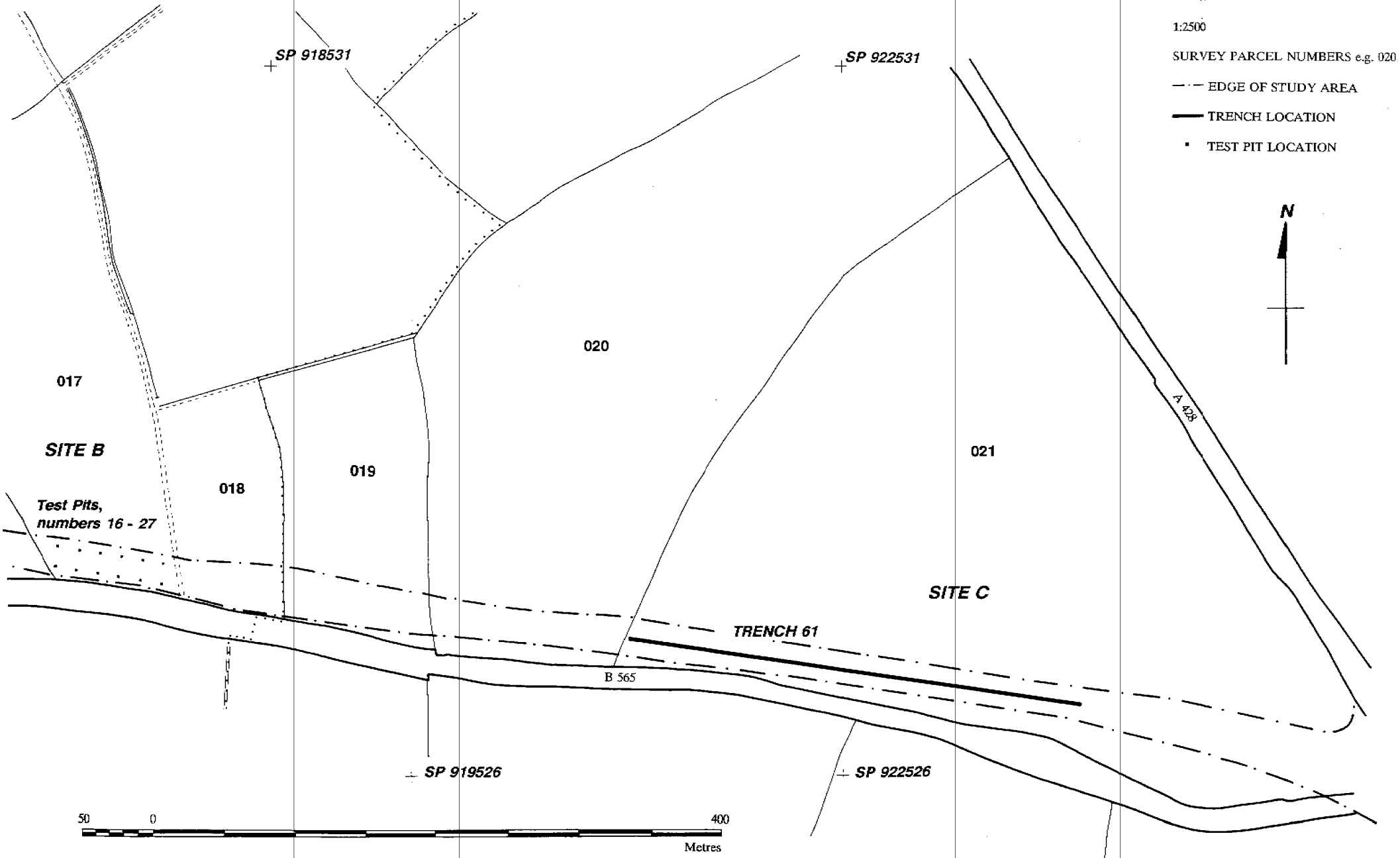


Figure 9: Sites B and C; Trench and Test Pit Location Plan

recovered a small number of flint flakes. Unfortunately, the ground surface visibility at this time was reduced by a crop of oilseed rape which limited the field survey.

Magnetic susceptibility tests (Stage 3b) however, identified consistent enhancement over the west side of the field suggesting the presence of a possible site. The rape crop restricted the magnetometer survey to a limited scan. This located a single anomaly which following auguring was interpreted as a possible pit. No further anomalies were found.

C.2. METHODOLOGY

Investigations were conducted in field 021 over five days between the 20th and the 24th of September 1993. A single trench (61), 322 metres in length was excavated along the centre line of the proposed route (Figure 9), using a 360 degree tracked machine with a 1.8 metre wide ditching bucket. The trench was dug to the surface of archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural deposits. All archaeological features and deposits that were encountered were examined by limited hand-excavation in order to determine their date, character, level of survival and function where possible. A series of bulk soil samples including 100% samples from two features were collected in order to assess the potential for possible future artefact retrieval and environmental analysis.

C.3. RESULTS

C.3.1 The Stratigraphy

The ploughsoil was a fairly uniform 0.25 metres to 0.35 metres depth across field 021. It consisted of a greyish brown, sandy loam with varying quantities of flint gravels. This overlay a

Table Five: Summary of Artefacts by Context in Field 021

(number/weight in grammes)

FT	Ctxt	Pottery		Bone	Flint		B.Flint	F.Clay	CBM	W.Stone	B.Hazel	Metal
		Neo	BA/IA		Waste	Tool					shell	
703	704	41/75g	-	-	9/32g	-	2/5g	-	-	1/126g*	-	-
705	706#	7/12g	-	1/<1g	34/53g	2/4g	15/38g	-	-	-	457/18g	-
708	707#	-	21/103g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
708	719	-	6/50g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	709	-	-	-	4/22g	1/14g	-	-	-	-	-	1Pb/33g
710	711#	-	-	-	1/26g	1/19g	-	1/2g	-	-	-	-
-	712	-	-	-	4/36g	3/42g	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	713	-	-	-	2/45g	1/34g	-	-	1/4g	-	-	-
716	714	-	-	-	4/29g	1/2g	-	-	-	-	-	-
716	715	-	-	-	4/3g	2/22g	-	-	-	-	-	-
721	720	-	-	-	1/2g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
723	722	-	-	-	1/9g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
730	729	1/4g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		49/91g	27/153g	1/<1g	64/257g	11/133g	17/43g	1/2g	1/4g	1/126g	457/18g	1Pb/33g

KEY:

FT:	feature	Ctxt:	context
Neo:	Neolithic	CBM:	ceramic building material
F:	fired	W:	worked
B:	burnt	H:	hazlenut
BA/IA:	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	Pb:	lead
#:	context includes charcoal	*:	polished greenstone axe fragment

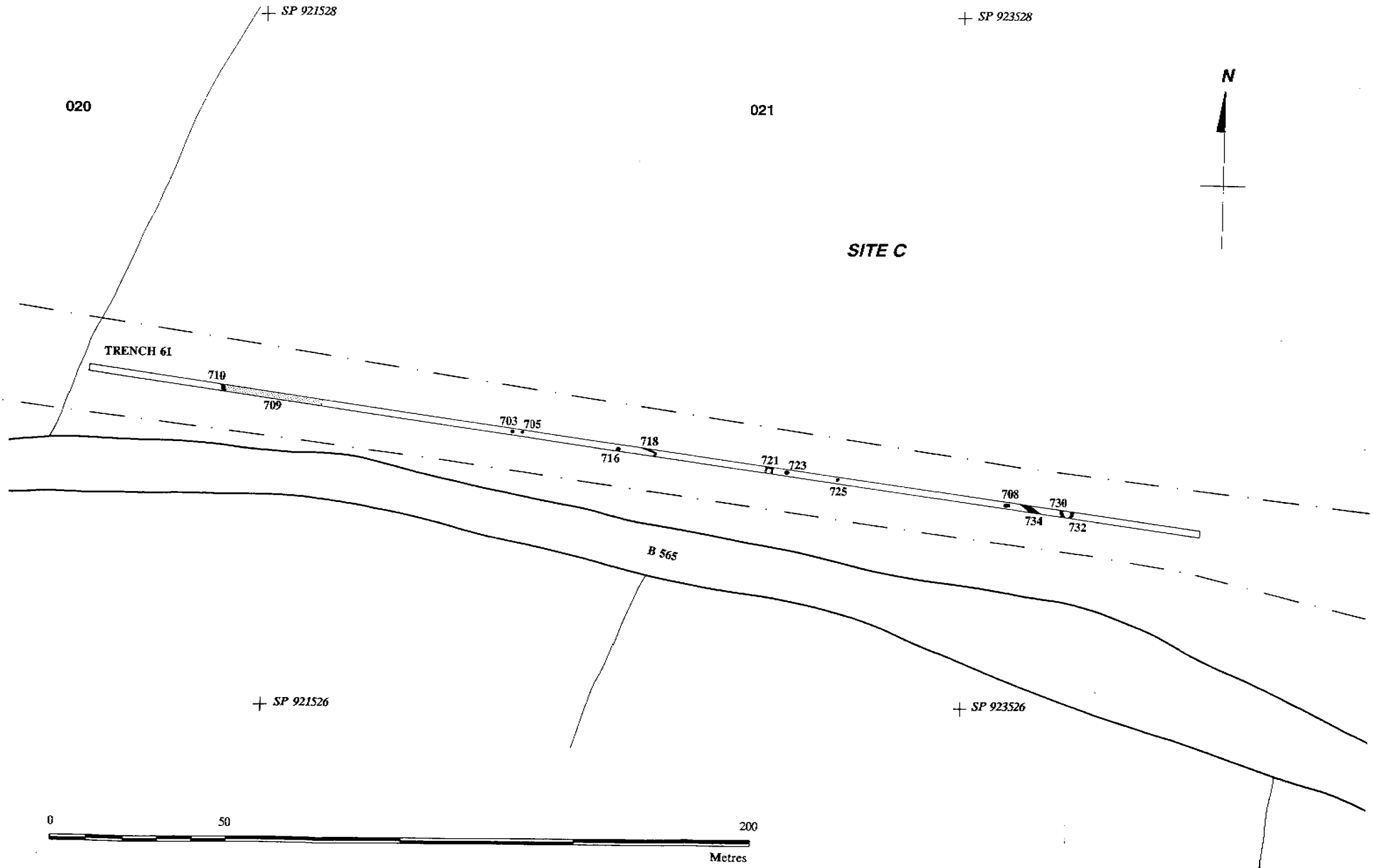


Figure 10: Site C; Trench 61, Location of archaeological features

sand and gravel subsoil which varied from a brownish, slightly silty coarse sand in the west, to a silty sand in the east. The sandy parts contained light to moderate sub-angular and rounded flint gravels up to 0.05 metres in size. Dense gravel patches were recorded at the east end of the trench (see section C.1.1.).

C.3.1. The Features

A low density of features was uncovered along the entire length of the evaluation trench (Figure 10) and these will be discussed in turn.

Structural Gullies and Trenches

A single trench and two associated gullies were recorded at the centre and towards the east end of machine-trench 61 respectively (Figures 11a and 11b).

Trench 718 was at least 3 metres in length, 0.17 metres wide and 0.30 metres deep with steep/straight sides and a flat base. In plan, it formed a right-angle with its longest side orientated westnorthwest to eastsoutheast. Its yellowish brown, sandy loam fill (719) contained flint gravels (along the base) and charcoal flecks.

Two curvilinear gulleys 730 and 732 depicted an arc about 2.5 metres wide. Both had moderate (0.19 metres - 0.27 metres deep), flat-based profiles with steep/slightly concave sides 0.65 metres - 0.80 metres wide. They contained similar fills (729 and 731) comprising a brown, sandy silt with flint gravels/pebbles and ferro-manganiferous accumulations. A possible sherd of Neolithic pottery was found in fill 729.

Pits

A total of six pits were recorded in trench 61. Pits 703 and 705 were located in close proximity (Figure 11a), whilst the remaining ones were more spatially distant along the east half of the trench (Figures 11b and 12).

Pit 703 had a sub-circular plan (1.30 metres in length and 1.03 metres in width) with moderate/concave sides (0.14 metres deep) and a concave base. The fill (704) was a yellowish brown, coarse sandy silt containing flint gravels, ironstone, worked flint, a fragment of a polished greenstone axe and some possible neolithic pottery.

Pit 705 was pear-shaped (length 0.83 metres and width 0.72 metres) with steep/concave sides (0.14 metres deep) and a flat base. Its fill (706) was a greyish brown, sandy silt with flint gravels, sandstone, carbonised hazelnut shells, charcoal, one fragment of bone and some possible neolithic pottery.

Pit 708 was oval in plan (1.5 metres in length and 1.1 metres in width) with steep/straight sides (0.42 metres in depth) and a flat base. It contained three fills; primary greyish brown, sandy silt (719) with grits, gravels, charcoal and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery; a relatively sterile sandy silt (735) found along the sides; final infill (707), greyish brown, sandy loam containing flint gravels, charcoal and burnt clay flecks and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery.

Pit 716 was oval in plan (0.65 metres in length and 0.55 metres in width) with shallow/concave sides (0.20 metres in depth) and a concave base. Its fill (715) was a yellowish brown, sandy silt containing flint gravels, ferromanganiferous accumulations, worked flint and charcoal flecks.

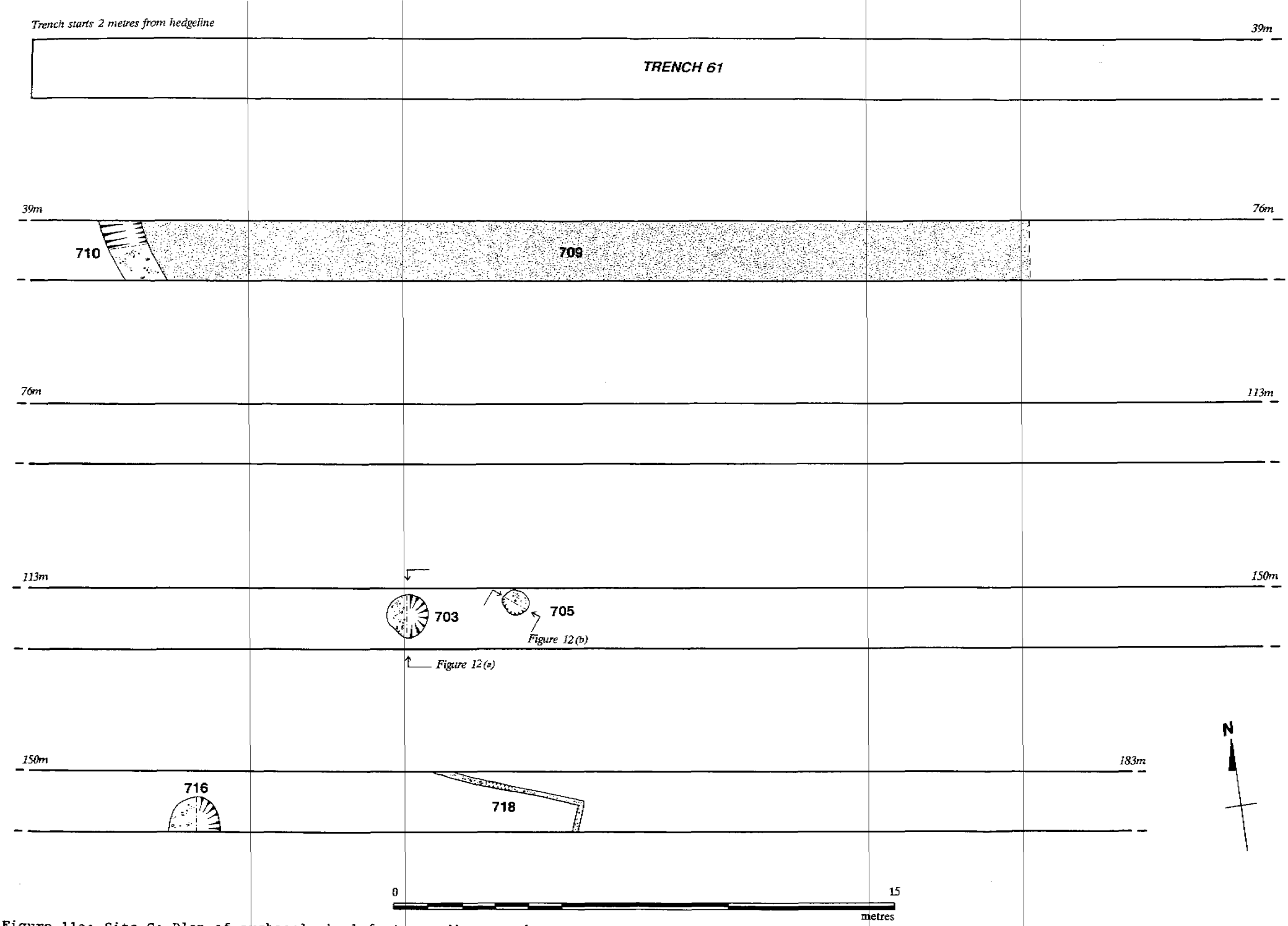


Figure 11a: Site C; Plan of archaeological features discovered during excavation in Trench 61, survey parcel number 021

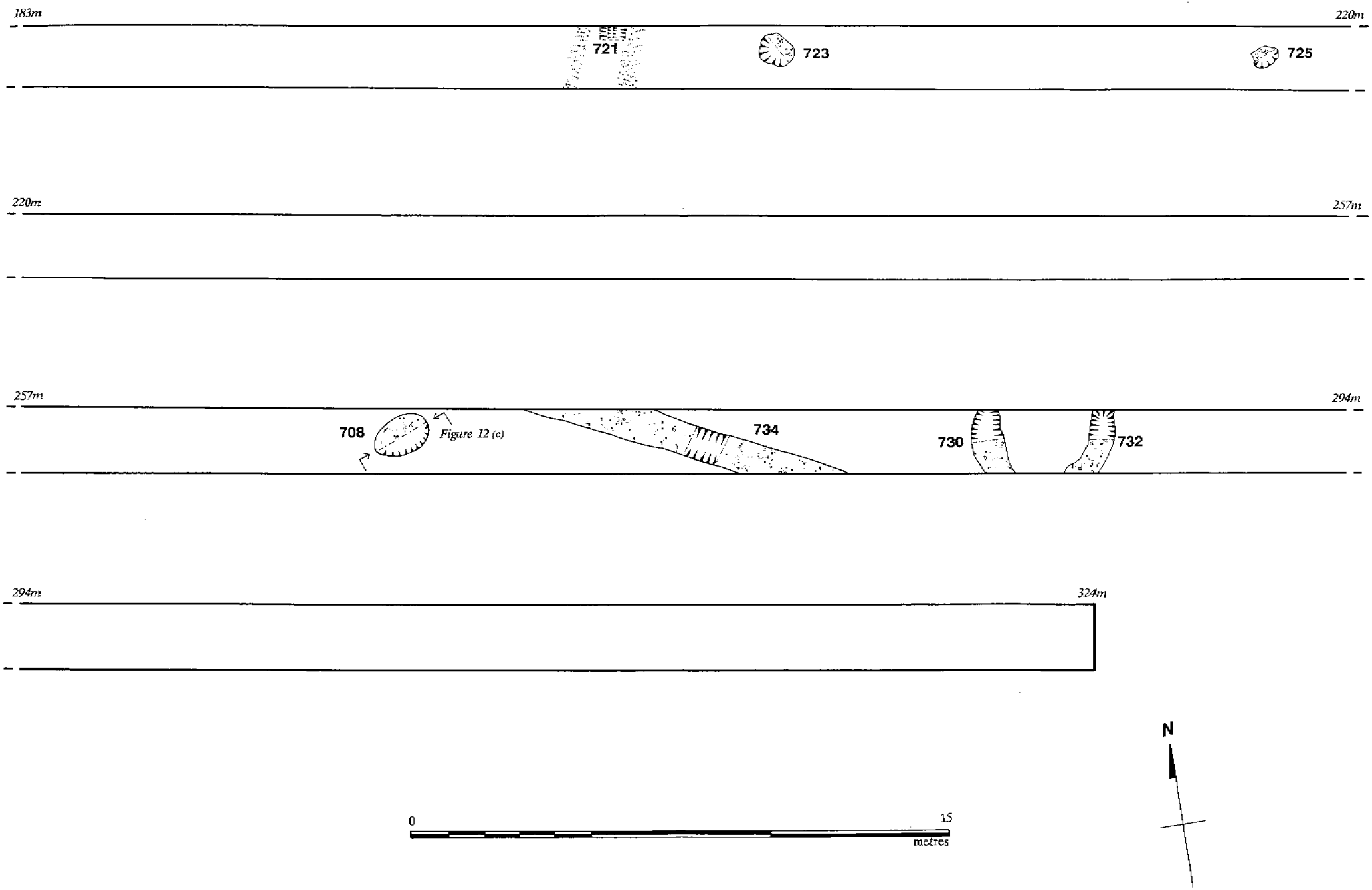


Figure 11b: Site C; Plan of archaeological features discovered during excavation in Trench 61, survey parcel number 021

Pit 723 was sub-rounded in plan (0.8 metres in diameter) with moderate/straight sides (0.25 metres deep) and a concave base. Its fill (724) was a reddish brown, sandy clay loam containing flint gravels and charcoal flecks.

Pit 725 was sub-rounded in plan (0.56 metres in diameter) with shallow/concave sides (0.14 metres deep) and a concave base. Its fill (724) was a reddish brown, sandy clay loam containing flint gravels and charcoal flecks.

Ditches

Two ditches were recorded in trench 61. Ditch 734 appears to respect the possible structure represented by the associated curvilinear gullies 730/732 (Figure 11b). Ditch 710 may be associated with a subsoil layer 709 (FIgure 11a).

Linear ditch 734 had shallow/straight sides (0.8 metres wide and 0.14 metres deep) and a flattish base. Its fill (733) was a greyish brown, sandy silt with flint gravels and charcoal flecks.

Curvilinear ditch 710 had shallow-steep/straight sides (0.85 metres wide and 0.15 metres deep) and a flattish base. Its greyish brown, sandy loam fill (711) contained flint gravels, charcoal and burnt clay flecks. The fill was very similar to layer 709.

Layer

Layer 709 extended for just over 30 metres along the west end of the trench (Figure 11a). It comprised 0.3 metres of greyish brown, sandy silt to sandy silt loam and contained flint gravels, worked flints, charcoal flecks and a lead weight. This layer appeared to be continuous with and therefore the same as the fill of ditch 711 (see above).

C.3.2. The Finds

The pottery assemblage comprised forty seven sherds of possible neolithic pottery and twenty seven sherds of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery.

The earlier (possibly neolithic) material was an orangish brown, soft porous fabric with numerous surface and internal voids due to the leaching of calcareous inclusions. Two adjoining rims and a number of body sherds possibly representing two separate vessels were present.

The later (late Bronze Age or early Iron Age) pottery was a greyish orange, soft and slightly sandy fabric with possible surface burnishing. It contained occasional flint, quartz and shell temper and its surface was less vesicular in appearance than the neolithic material.

A small lithic assemblage of seventy five artefacts was recovered from features and unstratified contexts. Eleven flints were tools, representing 15% of the total assemblage. These consisted of two core scrapers, six flake scrapers, two backed-blades and a denticulate. The waste material included three cores and sixty one blades and flakes. Most lithic artefacts were recovered from pits 703 and 705. Associated with them was a small quantity of burnt and scorched unworked flints.

The carbonised hazelnut shells were mostly fragmentary though a small number of half-shells survived. All finds are summarised in Table 5.

C.4. DISCUSSION

The alluvium and gravel associated with the River Ouse environs would have been especially favoured for early prehistoric settlement. The lighter woodland loamy soils were more attractive to clearance and settlement than the dense forest upon the heavier Boulder Clay to the north and south. The southerly aspect and proximity to water and local clay

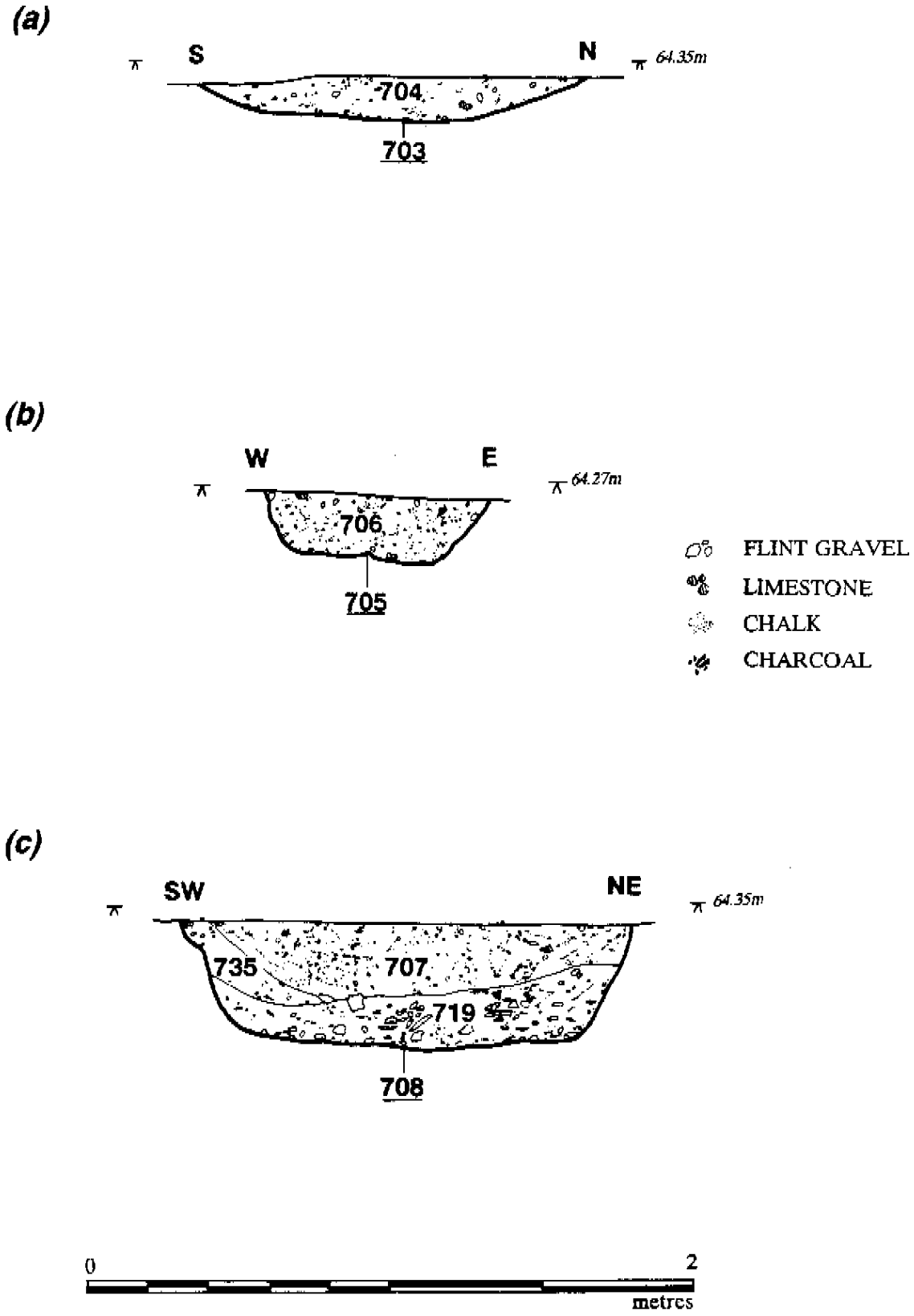


Figure 12: Site C; Trench 61, Sections through Pits 703, 705 and 708

deposits may have been additional factors in the location of this particular site.

The site comprised pits, ditches and possible structural features. Two pits, numbers 703 and 705 (Figures 11a and 12), just three metres apart, are suggested to date to the early neolithic, on the basis of forty eight sherds of pottery and a fragment of polished greenstone axe. The dispersed quantity of pottery and carbonised hazelnut shells within pit number 705 suggest that it may have been a disused storage pit later re-used for refuse disposal. Both pits displayed poor feature definition and their edges were only discernable by the post-depositional accumulation of ferromanganiferous granules along their boundaries. The small, abraded nature of the sherds may imply secondary deposition, or simply reflect the fragile nature of the pottery. The paucity of the faunal assemblage from these features is likely to represent its poor survival in the slightly acidic soils rather than an imbalance during deposition. These two pits are comparable to Pit 1 at Stacey Bushes (Green, 1985) and to the neolithic pit found at Stone (Carstairs and Lawson, 1992).

A small, homogenous lithic assemblage was also recovered from these, and two other pit contexts (numbers 716 and 723). Despite an absence of diagnostic material, specialised blade production was indicated by two of the cores. The predominance of blades and narrow flake forms suggested strong mesolithic affinities. However, the discovery of diagnostic neolithic material, in the form of a denticulate within pit number 723 implied that a less restricted date range of lithic material might be present. This was further confirmed by the correlation of most of the assemblage with probable neolithic material in pit numbers 703 and 705. The issue at question therefore was whether some of the flints represented a period of non-feature activity in the Mesolithic that had subsequently been incorporated as residual material into later, neolithic features, or whether together with the pottery they formed an early neolithic assemblage. The latter view is preferred on the basis of an absence of mesolithic

material from contexts other than these pits, the unabraded quality of the flints and the overall coherence of the lithic assemblage. Nevertheless, this is a small assemblage of just seventy five pieces, recovered from a restricted area and must therefore be interpreted with caution.

The raw materials were probably locally derived from flint nodules within the nearby Boulder Clay or perhaps even the river gravel although there was no evidence for the exploitation of the river pebbles.

Towards the east end of trench 61 (Figure 11b), evidence for later prehistoric activity was found in the form of a single pit (708) containing twenty seven sherds of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery (Figure 12). Although it was similar in initial appearance to the two neolithic pits, it was better defined, had steeper sides and survived to a greater depth. No other features could confidently be assigned to this phase of activity although it is possible that some of the nearby undated features may also be of this period.

In addition to the pits, a number of possible structural features were also recorded. Just over fifteen metres to the east of pit 708 were two apparently associated curvilinear features (Figure 11b). These might represent the ephemeral remains of construction gullies for a sub-rounded or sub-rectangular structure. A single sherd of pottery was comparable to other material found at the site but could be either of neolithic or late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date. An undated ditch (734) appears to respect the possible structure and may infer that they are contemporary.

A further possible structure was located just over thirty metres to the east of the neolithic pits (Figure 11a). A slot shaped trench (718) which defined a right angle could be interpreted as a possible bedding trench for a rectangular structure.

At the west end of the field was an ephemeral raised area approximately 0.5 metres in height and extending over a thirty metre by thirty metre area (Figure 11a). The machine trench

revealed a subsoil layer (709) and an apparently associated curvilinear ditch (710) which appeared to define the western extent of the layer. The soil did not appear to be a natural subsoil formation and this was confirmed by the presence of archaeological material. It was not a buried soil horizon; instead it might represent an accumulation of topsoil that had not been subjected to recent ploughing. The date of this layer is difficult to determine, but the lack of vertical sorting might suggest that it is not of prehistoric date.

Towards the centre of the machine-trench was a small clay patch (727). This apparant natural exposure appeared to be cut by a possible feature, 721 (Figure 11b). It was found to have very irregular definition and may have been a natural cryoturbation structure (Horton, et. al, 1974, p. 55).

C.5. REVIEW OF FIELDWORK

Investigation by means of continuous centre-line trenching was particularly effective in assessing Site C. Previous survey work (refer to Section C.1.2.) suggested that there was a low density of features. This was confirmed by the Stage 4 evaluation. Given the small size of features and their spatially distant distribution, investigations other than continuous trenching would have proved unreliable.

C.6. CONCLUSION

The stage four evaluation has recognised evidence for both early neolithic and late Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity in field 017. Both phases were represented by well dated and apparently uncontaminated pits, at least one of which may have been used for storage. The existence of two possible structures, although undated, suggest the likelihood of domestic settlement at the site.

It was not possible to identify a core area of activity for either phase due to the low density of features and in particular the limited number of dated examples. The problem of site delimitation and interpretation was further compounded by uncertainties introduced by the underlying geology, such that it was difficult to distinguish archaeological features from a large number of natural pseudo-features within the sand and gravel subsoil.

It is reasonable to suggest that the main focus of the earlier activity lies to the west side, whilst the later activity is located further towards the east side of the field. It is unlikely however that the two sites are spatially exclusive. The location of features towards the extreme east end of the machine trench suggests that archaeological activity probably continues further east beyond the limits of the evaluation.

The absence of dense activity for either period may imply that the encountered features lie on the periphery of their respective sites. More likely, the sparseness of features and the limited pottery and lithic assemblages imply a short duration of occupation for both phases, and possibly also, task-specific activities.

For the most part, earlier prehistoric activity in this part of England is limited to unstratified flint scatters and cropmarks of assumed prehistoric date. The discovery of both neolithic and late Bronze Age/early Iron Age features is therefore significant, as there are no comparable sites nearby.

The proposed Lavendon bypass directly affects this site and important prehistoric deposits may be threatened across the entire length of field 021.

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APPENDIX I

Site A, Fields 004/005

The Test Pits: summary of stratigraphic information

Test Pit 1

Length/width 1m x 0.5m, depth 0.29m

Contexts:

116: 0.1m first spit, humus topsoil - loose, dark brown, silty clay loam with occasional chalky flecks and small rootlets.

118: 0.1m second spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - firm, mid yellowish brown, sandy clay loam with moderate chalky flecks/granules and occasional sub-angular flint gravels and limestone fragments. Charcoal and burnt clay flecks observed.

119: 0.09m third spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - same as 118 but more frequent chalky inclusions.

120: Calcareous boulder clay - firm, pale brownish yellow, slightly sandy clay with frequent chalky flecks/granules and light sub-angular flint gravels.

Test Pit 2

Length/width 1m x 0.5m, depth 0.30m

Contexts:

121: 0.1m first spit, humus topsoil - same characteristics as 116, test pit 1.

122: 0.1m second spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - firm, mid greyish brown, sandy clay loam with moderate chalky flecks/granules and occasional sub-angular flint gravels and limestone fragments. Vertical fracturing observed.

123: 0.1m third spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - same as 122 but less frequent chalky inclusions.

124: Calcareous boulder clay - firm, pale orangish yellow, very sandy clay with frequent chalky flecks and granules. Occasional ironstone. Two deep plough scars observed on surface.

Test Pit 3

Length/width 1m x 0.5m, depth 0.29m

Contexts:

106: 0.1m first spit, humus topsoil - same characteristics as 116, test pit 1.

107: 0.1m second spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - firm, mid brown, sandy clay loam with moderate chalk flecks/granules light sub-angular flint gravels and occasional limestone fragments. Vertical fracturing observed.

109: 0.09m third spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - same as 107 but more frequent chalky inclusions.

111: Calcareous boulder clay - firm, pale olive yellow, sandy clay with frequent chalky flecks and granules. Light sub-angular flint gravels. Surface disturbance included plough scars and rodent burrows.

Test Pit 4

Length/width 1m x 0.5m, depth 0.40m

Contexts:

100: 0.1m first spit, humus topsoil - same characteristics as 116, test pit 1.

105: 0.1m second spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - firm, mid brownish yellow, sandy clay loam with light flecks/granules of chalk, sub-angular flint gravels and occasional limestone fragments.

110: 0.1m third spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - pale yellowish brown but otherwise the same as 105.

115: 0.1m fourth spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - same as 110 but more frequent chalky granules.

117: Calcareous boulder clay - firm, pale brownish yellow, sandy clay with frequent chalky flecks and granules. Light sub-angular flint gravels.

Test Pit 5

Length/width 1m x 0.5m, depth 0.30m

Contexts:

102: 0.1m first spit, humus topsoil - same characteristics as 116, test pit 1.

108: 0.1m second spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - same characteristics as 105, test pit 4.

112: 0.1m third spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - same characteristics as 108 above, with occasional burnt clay flecks.

114: Calcareous boulder clay - firm, pale orangish yellow, sandy clay with frequent chalky flecks/granules (up to 0.05m across). Light sub-angular/rounded flint gravels and occasional limestone fragments. Ironstone and iron rich patches also observed. Ploughscars and rodent burrows observed at the northeast and southwest corners.

Test Pit 6

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.30m

Contexts:

101: 0.1m first spit, humus topsoil - same characteristics as 116, test pit 1.

103: 0.1m second spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - same characteristics as 122, test pit 2.

104: 0.1m third spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - same characteristics as 103 above, with more frequent chalky inclusions.

113: Calcareous boulder clay - same characteristics as 120, test pit 1.

Test Pit 7

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.30m

Contexts:

125: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - mid greyish brown, clay loam with occasional flint gravel and limestone inclusions and matted straw.

126: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - mid greyish brown, clay loam with frequent chalky inclusions and occasional flint gravel and limestone.

127: 0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - mid yellowish brown, clay loam with moderate chalky inclusions.

128: Calcareous Boulder Clay - firm pale whitish yellow sandy clay with moderate chalky granules.

Test Pit 8

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.30m

Contexts:

171: 0.1m first spit, humus topsoil - same characteristics as 116, test pit 1.

172: 0.1m second spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - same characteristics as 122, test pit 2.

173: 0.1m third spit, unploughed remnant topsoil - same characteristics as 172 above with occasional clay patches.

174: Calcareous boulder clay - mid reddish brown, very sandy clay with grey mottle and occasional flint gravel and chalk granules.

Test Pit 9

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.29m

Contexts:

129: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - mid greyish brown, sandy clay loam with occasional flint gravel, limestone and chalky inclusions and frequent matted straw.

130: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - same characteristics as 129 above but with less matted straw.

131: 0.09m third spit, ploughsoil - same characteristics as 127, test pit 7.

132: Calcareous Boulder Clay - pale brownish yellow, very sandy clay with occasional chalky and flint gravel inclusions.

Test Pit 10

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.70m

Contexts:

133: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 129, test pit 9.

134: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 130, test pit 9.

135: 0.1m third spit, subsoil accumulation - mid yellowish brown, silty clay with occasional chalky granules, flint granules and charcoal flecks.

136: 0.1m fourth spit, subsoil accumulation - with same characteristics as 135 above.

137: 0.1m fifth spit, subsoil accumulation - with same characteristics as 135 above.

138: 0.1m sixth spit, subsoil accumulation - with same characteristics as 135 above with more frequent chalky granules.

139: Calcareous Boulder Clay with firm mid brownish yellow, slightly sandy clay with grey mottle and frequent chalky granules.

Test Pit 11

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.38m

Contexts:

140: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 129, test pit 9.

141: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 130, test pit 9.

142: 0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 127, test pit 7.

143: 0.8m fourth spit, subsoil accumulation - mid reddish brown, very sandy clay loam with light chalky and flint inclusions.

144: Calcareous Boulder Clay - mid reddish brown, very clayey sand with light flint gravels and chalky inclusions.

Test Pit 12

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 1.0m

Contexts:

161: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 129, test pit 9.

162: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 130, test pit 9.

163: 0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 127, test pit 7.

164: 0.1m fourth spit, subsoil accumulation - soft, mid reddish brown, oxidised silty clay loam with occasional chalk granules and flint gravels.

165: 0.1m fifth spit, subsoil accumulation - with same characteristics as 164 above.

166: 0.1m sixth spit, subsoil accumulation - with same characteristics as 164 above.

167: 0.1m seventh spit, subsoil accumulation - with same characteristics as 164 above.

168: 0.1m eighth spit, subsoil accumulation - with same characteristics as 164 above.

169: 0.1m ninth spit, subsoil accumulation - mid reddish brown, oxidised silty clay with occasional chalk granules and flint gravels.

170: 0.1m tenth spit, subsoil accumulation - with same characteristics as 169 above.

Test Pit 13

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.48m

Contexts:	145:	0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 129, test pit 9.
	146:	0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 129, test pit 9.
	147:	0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 127, test pit 7.
	148:	0.1m fourth spit, subsoil accumulation - mid yellowish brown, silty clay with occasional chalky granules and flint gravel.
	149:	0.1m fifth spit, subsoil accumulation - with same characteristics as 148 above.
	150:	Calcareous Boulder Clay - orangish yellow, sandy clay with occasional chalky granules and flint gravel.

Test Pit 14

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.30m

Contexts:	157:	0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 129, test pit 9.
	158:	0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 129, test pit 9.
	159:	0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 127, test pit 7.
	160:	Calcareous Boulder Clay - yellowish brown, very sandy clay with occasional chalky granules and flint gravels.

Test Pit 15

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.49m

Contexts:	151:	0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 129, test pit 9.
	152:	0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 129, test pit 9.
	153:	0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 127, test pit 7.
	154:	0.1m fourth spit, subsoil accumulation - with same characteristics as 148, test pit 13.
	155:	0.1m fifth spit, subsoil accumulation - with same characteristics as 154 above.
	156:	Calcareous Boulder Clay - pale creamy yellow, sandy clay with moderate chalky granules and occasional flint gravel.

APPENDIX II

Site B

The Test Pits: summary of stratigraphic information

Test Pit 16

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.40m

Contexts:

200: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - mid greyish brown, silty clay loam with frequent sub-angular limestone fragments.

201: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200 above but with moderate matted straw.

202: 0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200 above and occasional charcoal flecks.

203: 0.1m fourth spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200 above.

204: Blisworth Limestone - mid greyish yellow, sandy clay with frequent sub-angular limestone fragments.

Test Pit 17

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.29m

Contexts:

255: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - mid greyish brown, sandy loam with moderate sub-angular limestone fragments.

256: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 201, test pit 16.

257: 0.09m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 202, test pit 16.

258: Blisworth Limestone - mid brownish yellow, sandy clay with frequent sub-angular limestone fragments.

Test Pit 18

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.25m

Contexts:

205: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 201, test pit 16.

206: 0.05m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 205 above.

207: 0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 205 above with larger more angular limestone pieces.

Test Pit 19

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.30m

Contexts:

250: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 201, test pit 16.

251: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 250 above.

252: 0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 250 above.

253: Blisworth Limestone - with same characteristics as 258, test pit 17.

Test Pit 20

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.40m

Contexts:

210: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16 with more sandy soil component.

211: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 210 above.

212: 0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 210 above.

213: 0.1m fourth spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 210 above.

214: Blisworth Limestone - with same characteristics as 258, test pit 17 with light sub-angular limestone fragments.

Test Pit 21

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.28m

Contexts: 245: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

246: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

247: 0.08m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

248: Blisworth Limestone - mid whitish yellow, sandy clay.

Test Pit 22

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.38m

Contexts: 215: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - mid brownish yellow, sandy clay loam with moderate sub-angular limestone fragments, reddish brown, clay patches and matted straw.

216: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 215 above.

217: 0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 215 above.

218: 0.08m fourth spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 215 above.

219: Blisworth Limestone - with same characteristics as 204, test pit 16.

Test Pit 23

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.40m

Contexts: 240: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

241: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

242: 0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

243: 0.1m fourth spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

244: Blisworth Limestone - with same characteristics as 258, test pit 17.

Test Pit 24

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.40m

Contexts: 220: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

221: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

222: 0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

223: 0.09m fourth spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

224: Blisworth Limestone - with same characteristics as 258, test pit 17 with more silty component.

Test Pit 25

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.30m

Contexts: 235: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

236: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

237: 0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

238: Blisworth Limestone - mid brownish yellow, clayey sand with frequent sub-angular limestone fragments.

Test Pit 26

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.35m

Contexts: 225: 0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

226: 0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

227: 0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

228: 0.05m fourth spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.

229: Blisworth Limestone - with same characteristics as 258, test pit 17.

Test Pit 27

Length/width 1m/0.5m, depth 0.35m

Contexts:	230:	0.1m first spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.
	231:	0.1m second spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.
	232:	0.1m third spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.
	233:	0.05m fourth spit, ploughsoil - with same characteristics as 200, test pit 16.
	234:	Blisworth Limestone - with same characteristics as 204, test pit 16.