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The excavation of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age features, a late Roman enclosure and early Saxon features at Waylands Nursery, Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation

for

Barratt Thames Valley

Archive report

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The excavation of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age features, a late Roman enclosure, and early Saxon features at Waylands Nursery, Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire

by Jo Pine
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Summary
This report describes an evaluation and subsequent excavation at the site of a former horticultural nursery in Wraysbury, Berkshire. The fieldwork revealed deposits from three periods: late Bronze Age/early Iron Age occupation; part of a triple-ditched Roman enclosure and other Roman features; and an early Saxon sunken-featured building and other Saxon features. Of particular interest is the possibility that the early Saxon features reflect continuous use of the site from late Roman times.

Introduction

This report documents the results of the second phase of evaluation and an archaeological excavation carried out at a former horticultural nursery to the north of Wraysbury, east Berkshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. John Strange on behalf of Barratt Thames Valley, Hattori House, Vanwall Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire. The evaluation and excavation were undertaken as a requirement on the granting of planning permission to redevelop the site for housing, in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Policy and Planning Guidance note *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16, 1990). The project was carried out to a specification approved by Mr. R. Bourn, archaeologist at Babtie Group Limited, archaeological consultants to Berkshire County Council.

The fieldwork took place in February and March 1997 and was supervised by Jo Pine with the assistance of Lindsey Casson, Richard Jones, Kirsten Millar and Steve Webb. The site code is WNW 97/10.

Archaeological background

The site lies in an area which has previously produced artefacts and deposits of a similar date to those found during this excavation (Ford 1987). A number of these discoveries were made during the extensive gravel extraction which has taken place in the area. Prehistoric finds from gravel extraction include a human skull and femur found at the same time as a Ewart Park-type Bronze Age sword (SMR no. 23) in the Halls Aggregates pit in 1979. A slightly earlier Wilburton type sword was found in the same pit in 1990. Neolithic and Bronze age pits, pottery, and flints have been found at Manor Farm, Wraysbury, 300 m. south of the nursery site (SMR no. 43), and late Bronze Age/early Iron Age features, a possible circular building, and a number of pits were found at excavations close to St. Andrews Church (Astill and Lobb 1989; NGR TQ 0015 7395).

There is, however, surprisingly little Roman activity documented for the area. There was some suggestion of Roman occupation on the site of the excavations at St. Andrews Church (Astill and Lobb 1989), although most of the pottery found was in secondary contexts. A nearby burial of a young female (SMR no. 36; TQ 001 739), originally thought to be of Saxon date, has since been dated by radiocarbon analysis to AD 80-380.

There is more conclusive evidence of Saxon and early Medieval occupation. Fieldwork carried out 100 m. to the west of St. Andrew's Church, by the Windsor and Wraysbury Archaeological Group, located mid-late Saxon material including large quantities of pottery, two glass beads, iron objects, and five coins (two sceattas, two pennies of Offa and one of Ceonwulf). Furthermore, the St. Andrew's Church excavations revealed 8th-9th, through to early 13th century, occupation (Astill and Lobb 1989). The late Saxon period was represented by at least two ditched enclosures and two, possibly three, structures. Early Medieval occupation in this area took the form of ditches, gullies and pits. In addition, one of three skeletons found at Wraysbury County Combined School immediately to the south of Waylands Nursery (Fig. 1) was found with a scaramasax knife indicating a Saxon date (SMR no. 36.05).

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the northern part of Wraysbury, 800 m. east of the river Thames (TQ 002 744) (Fig. 1). It lies at a height of 17 m. above OD on undulating river gravel overlain by a series of sand and silt deposits (BGS 1981). The site is bounded to the north and east by a former gravel pit and to the south by Wraysbury County Combined School. Previously the site has been used as a horticultural nursery and more

recently it has been a lorry park. Disturbance of the subsoil, as a result of these activities, was observed towards the north of the site. An area towards the northern boundary was occupied by a large soil bund.

The first phase evaluation
This evaluation was carried out by Oxford Archaeological Unit and comprised 12 trenches, each 10-30 m. long and 1.6 m. wide (Fig. 1c) (OAU 1994). These located a number of features thought to be of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date. OAU trenches 6 and 7 (Fig. 2) revealed three parallel gullies on a north-south alignment, and a number of postholes. The gullies were interpreted as a possible trackway or field system and the postholes as evidence of occupation. The presence of a large topsoil bund to the north, and obstructions to the south and west of the site, meant that the evaluation could not be fully implemented and it was suggested that further archaeological deposits could be present close to trenches 6 and 7.

The second phase evaluation
This was undertaken by Thames Valley Archaeological Services and consisted of five trenches, each 20 m. long and 1.8 m. wide, excavated using a 360° machine fitted with a toothless bucket (Fig. 1c). Of the three trenches (1-3) positioned on the northern fringes of the topsoil bund (Fig. 2), only Trench 1 contained archaeological features: three small ditches aligned north-south and similar to those identified in OAU trenches 6 and 7. Trenches 2 and 3 revealed only modern subsoil disturbance. Trench 4, to the south, also contained three small ditches similar to those discovered previously. Trench 5, to the east of this, contained no archaeological features.

Objectives of the excavation
The purpose of the fieldwork was to excavate and record all archaeological deposits within the areas of archaeological potential identified during the evaluations. In particular, it was intended to produce relative dates and phases for features, establish the character of the deposits, attempt to define functional areas, produce information on the economy and local environment, and produce a settlement history for the site taking into account previous work in the locality.

There were also two specific research objectives based on the conclusions of the first phase evaluation, which had suggested just one phase of activity during the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age:

1) To determine whether the site was late Bronze Age, early Iron Age, or both.
2) To determine whether evidence of middle Bronze Age occupation was also present.

The core area of the excavation was a rectangular area, 30 m. x 50 m. (i.e. 1500 sq. m.), centred on the archaeological features identified in OAU trenches 6 and 7. In addition, a 4% sample of the area covered by the topsoil bund was to be examined. A contingency for the excavation of a further 1200 sq. m. was allowed in case archaeological deposits were present in these newly evaluated areas. Similarly, a small contingency of 400 sq. m. was allowed, if it was found that archaeological deposits extended to the south or east of the core area.

The Excavation
The core area (30 m. x 50 m.) was stripped of topsoil and overburden using a 360° machine fitted with a toothless bucket. This revealed a concentration of small postholes and the south-eastern corner of what appeared to be a triple-ditched enclosure, the ditches of which continued beyond the margins of the excavation to both the west and north. This, together with the results of the evaluation, led to the extension of the excavated area to the west, east and north; more archaeological deposits were identified within the extended areas. In all, an area of 3700 sq. m. was stripped and examined (Fig. 2).

All features were half-sectioned, planned, and recorded, as a minimum requirement. Approximately 10% of each linear feature was excavated and all feature terminals or significant features were fully excavated.

Results

Three phases of occupation have been identified: Prehistoric; late Roman; and early Saxon.

Prehistoric (Bronze Age/early Iron Age) (Figs. 5 and 6)
Unfortunately, the pottery attributed to this phase included few diagnostic sherds and in many cases only a broadly Prehistoric date can be given. Also, even though many of the postholes and pits assigned to this period contained solely Prehistoric pottery, the quantities in individual features were low and it is difficult to know how much reliance to place on these finds, especially given that most of the Roman features contained more Prehistoric pottery than Roman. The certain and possible Prehistoric features are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Prehistoric features

Feature No.	*Type*	*Diameter (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Date and number of sherds*
3	Posthole	0.23	0.13	Prehistoric (1)
6	Posthole	0.17	0.09	Prehistoric (1)
7	Posthole	0.37	0.14	Prehistoric (5)
29	Pit	0.70	0.20	Prehistoric (1)
36	Posthole	0.25	0.14	Early Iron Age (5)
42	Posthole	0.16	0.20	Prehistoric (1)
105	Infant burial	0.48	0.15	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age? (1)
121	Posthole	0.40	0.09	Prehistoric (1)
126	Posthole	0.17	0.13	Prehistoric (1)
134	Posthole	0.26	0.15	Prehistoric (2)
136	Posthole	0.31	0.13	Prehistoric (4)
206	Pit	0.66	0.08	Bronze Age/Prehistoric? (1)
208	Posthole	0.33	0.09	Iron Age? (1)
212	Posthole	0.24	0.12	Prehistoric (3)
220	Pit	1.30	0.41	Prehistoric (21)
223	Posthole	0.25	0.20	Prehistoric? (2)
225	Posthole	0.43	0.49	Prehistoric (1)
228	Posthole	0.21	0.29	Prehistoric (1)
229	Posthole	>0.30	0.46	Prehistoric (1)
231	Posthole	>0.30	0.40	Prehistoric (2)
245	Posthole	0.30	0.12	Prehistoric (1)
248	Stakehole	0.09	0.16	Prehistoric (1)
307	Posthole	0.20	0.06	Prehistoric (3)
314	Posthole?	0.25	0.15	Prehistoric (9)
325	Posthole?	0.17	0.03	Prehistoric (1)
328	Posthole	0.40	0.09	Prehistoric (1)
335	Posthole/pit	>0.40	0.21	Prehistoric (3)
413	Pit	>0.74	0.54	Prehistoric (1)

The presence of grog-tempered pot, although just five sherds, might suggest early Bronze Age activity in the vicinity. One feature, pit 206, contained one sherd of grog-tempered ware only; the other early Bronze Age sherds were found in later features.

The remaining Prehistoric pottery is of later Bronze/early Iron Age date, based on fabric type rather than on stylistic attributes. The fabrics from this excavation are similar to those from earlier excavations (Astill and Lobb 1989), although the few featured sherds available here might suggest a marginally later date in the later Bronze Age/early Iron Age. The postholes attributed to the later Bronze Age/early Iron Age phase do not form recognisable ground plans indicative of structures, such as round houses, despite allowances for irregularity of pattern and uneven spacing and depths of postholes as encountered at other sites.

Although more fully discussed in the Roman phase description below, it is possible that one, or possibly two, of the four-post structures on the site may belong to the later Bronze Age/early Iron Age phase (Fig. 7, structures 2 and 3). Five sherds of Prehistoric pot came from posthole 7 (structure 3; Fig. 5) but none of the postholes for structure 1 produced dating evidence. It is possible that these structures were porches for houses, perhaps with stake-built walls (Guilbert 1975), although the preferred interpretation is that they were free-standing structures. Four-post structures in association with post-built round houses were common on the late Bronze Age site at Reading Business Park (Moore and Jennings, 1992, fig. 9). However, at Wraysbury, at least one of these structures is clearly of Roman or later date (structure 1) and it is likely that the other two are of a similar date. For this reason the four-post structures are shown on the Roman phase plan (Fig. 7).

The four pits attributed to this phase ranged in size from 0.66 m. in diameter and 0.08 m. deep to 1.30 m. in diameter and 0.41 m. deep (see Table 1).

Human child burial
Feature 105 was posthole sized and contained six fragments of human bone identified as belonging to a small child of 0-6 months (see also comments by A. Smith below). As the feature contained a single sherd of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery it is not securely dated and could belong to a later phase. However, if it is of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date, it joins a very small corpus of similar burials from sites in Britain. Very often human remains of this period consist of single or fragmentary bones, found in a variety of contexts. According to a recent study (Brück 1995) just six other sites of this period have produced unburnt human remains in posthole-type features and, of the 37 settlements that have produced unburnt human bone, just five cases are of infants (ibid., 248-250).

Roman (3rd-4th centuries) (Fig. 7)
Evidence of Roman occupation recorded on the site takes the form of ditches, gullies, pits, and postholes. The modest quantity of pottery recovered was not closely datable other than to the later Roman period. However, it is clear from stratigraphic relationships that several phases of remodelling of the site have taken place. These relationships have been used to describe the chronological development of the Roman activity.

Phase 1
Stratigraphically, the earliest phase of Roman occupation consists of two pits (332 and 340), both of which were cut by a Roman ditch (25).

Table 2: Phase 1 Roman features

Feature	*Type*	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Tile no./gms*
332	Pit	N/A	2.40	0.74	1 (44 gms)
340	Pit	N/A	0.80	0.45	1 (30 gms)

Feature 332 was a large pit in the south-west corner of the excavation and, although it contained no pottery, it produced some bone and tile fragments. Nearby pit 340 cut an undated posthole (339) and also contained just tile fragments and burnt flint.

Phase 2 - the enclosure ditches (Figs. 2, 5 and 7; Pls. 1 and 3)
This phase is represented by three parallel ditches detailed below:

Table 3: Phase 2 Roman enclosure ditches

Feature	*Type*	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*No. of Roman sherds*
20	Ditch	92+	0.60-1.25	0.07-0.46	6
25	Ditch	100+	0.64-1.15	0.26-0.50	7
30	Ditch	108+	0.74-0.80	0.33-0.40	4

These three small parallel ditches were identified during the OAU evaluation but attributed to the Bronze Age. During the excavation, although they produced a large quantity of Prehistoric pottery, they were also found to contain later Roman pottery including Samian, Alice Holt, Oxfordshire, and New-Forest colour coated wares. It would appear, from both the ground plans and the pottery evidence, that these three ditches were contemporary and represent an enclosure or other form of land demarcation.

Slots excavated across the ditches were given separate context numbers but in the following text they are referred to by their group numbers (20, 25 and 30).

Ditch 20 crossed the site from north to south and then turned abruptly to the west, continuing beyond each baulk. It had steep sides and a flat base. Approximately 3.5 m. outside and parallel to this was ditch 25, the profile of which varied from concave sides with a flat base, to a rough 'V' shape. Lastly, ditch 30 was approximately 2.5 m. away from ditch 25 and also ran parallel; it had a similar profile to ditch (20).

The TVAS evaluation trench 1 positioned to the north of the main excavation (Fig. 2) also located three parallel ditches, two of which (405 and 406) align with the projected courses of ditches 20 and 25. A continuation of ditch 30 may have been destroyed by modern disturbance at the eastern end of trench 1, or, alternatively, ditches 404, 405 and 406 may be continuations of ditches 20, 25 and 30, on a slightly different alignment than would be anticipated.

Phase 3 (Figs. 2, 5 and 7)

The third phase consists of three pits (317, 334 and 407), a ditch (39), and a gully (438) which cut ditches 20, 25 and 30. The pits were situated in the south-west corner of the excavated area, in the same location as the pits belonging to the first phase of Roman occupation (332 and 340). Context 331 may be a continuation of pit 407 (Fig. 3). They ranged in size from between 1.00 m in diameter and 0.57 m. deep, to 2.10 m. in diameter and 0.60 m. deep, and contained a small number of sherds of late Roman pottery, fragments of animal bone, tile, and burnt flint. Although it may seem unusual that the pit group was constructed in two phases, separated by the linear ditch phase (phase 2 above), the relationships between the pits, and between the pits and the ditches, were carefully examined and the phases have been assigned with some degree of confidence. - why no section drawings to show this

The full extent of gully 438, just to the east of the pit group, could not be determined due to modern disturbance. It was, however, 0.62 m. wide and 0.20 m. deep and clearly cut one of the parallel ditches (25).

Ditch 39 ran north from beneath the southern baulk before turning sharply to the east and then terminating. It clearly cut all three of the phase 2 Roman ditches (20, 25 and 30) but only Prehistoric pottery and undatable sherds were recovered from it.

Table 4: Phase 3 Roman features

Feature	*Type*	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*No. of Roman sherds*
39	Ditch	32+	0.6-1.18	0.2-0.43	-
317	Pit	N/A	>1.00	0.57	1
334	Pit	N/A	N/A	0.53 (max)	2
407	Pit	N/A	2.10	0.60	2
438	Gully	1.90+	0.62	0.20	-

Unphased later Roman features (Figs. 5 and 7)

There were a further 17 features on the site which had no stratigraphic relationships with other features but which contained late Roman pottery. These include four pits (319, 327, 412 and 442) within the pit group in the south-west corner of the excavation. Of these, pit 442 was possibly cut by the phase 3 pit 334. All of the other isolated features were located within the area demarked by the three parallel ditches and it is possible to that some, or all, of these were contemporary with the phase 2 enclosure.

Table 4: Unphased later Roman features

Feature	*Type*	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*No. of Roman sherds*
34	Gully	6.80	0.55	0.15	115 (+1 early? Saxon sherd)
38	Pit	1.80	0.64	0.32	1
142	Posthole	N/A	0.24	0.11	1
143	Posthole	N/A	0.22	0.09	1 (undated)
214	Posthole	N/A	0.27	0.13	1
219	Pit	1.87	>0.80	0.63	1
221	Posthole	N/A	0.70 Dia.	0.53	1
222	Pit	N/A	2.50 Dia.	1.10	3
308	Posthole	N/A	0.33	0.22	-
319	Pit	N/A	2.00	0.40	2
327	Pit	1.50	1.00	0.42	4
409	Gully	3.00	0.50	0.17	1
412	Pit	N/A	>1.00	0.72	1
414	Pit	N/A	>0.64	0.52	2
442	Pit	1.90+	1.20+	0.55	-

The unphased components of the pit group (319, 327, 412 and 442) ranged in size from 1.00-2.00 m. in diameter and 0.40-0.72 m. deep, and contained small quantities of late Roman pottery, tile, and bone fragments.

Of the isolated late Roman features, 222 was a large pit 2.50 m. in diameter, 1.10 m. deep and circular in plan. It contained bone, tile, burnt flint and four sherds of late Roman pot. Feature 38 was a small pit 1.80 m. long, 0.64 m. wide and 0.34 m. deep, which contained one sherd of late Roman (3rd-4th century) pottery. Feature 219 was a large pit only partially exposed during the excavation which contained

a single sherd of late Roman pot (Pl. 4). Similarly, pit 414, although obscured by the edge of the excavation, contained two sherds of later Roman pottery.

Gully 409 ran for 3 m. in a north-easterly direction from beneath the western baulk before terminating and contained just one sherd of late Roman pottery. Other unphased late Roman features include six postholes (142, 143, 214, 221, 308 and 328) ranging in diameter from 0.22 to 0.33 m. and in depth from 0.09 to 0.45 m.

Gully 34, situated towards the centre of the northern part of the site, was 7 m. long and contained 115 sherds of late Roman and a single sherd of early Saxon pot. It is not known whether the Saxon sherd is intrusive but this feature has been included in this section due to the large quantity of late Roman pottery recovered from it. However, as Jane Timby has pointed out (below) it is likely that some of the Roman wares were still in use well into the 5th century.

Post-built structures (Figs. 5 and 7)

There are three clear four-post structures within the enclosed area, and a number of two- and three-post configurations that may also be structural.

The four-post structures are poorly dated: two have a *terminus post quem* of Bronze Age and Roman respectively (Structures 3 and 1); and one is undated (Structure 2). Structure 1 comprised postholes 141, 142, 143 and 147, arranged in a 1.6 m. square (Figs. 5 and 7). Posthole 142 contained one Roman and one Prehistoric sherd and posthole 143 produced an undated sherd. Nearby was Structure 2, which consisted of four undated postholes, 37, 322, 148 and 315, arranged in a 1.8 m. square. The four postholes (7, 8, 124 and 11) forming Structure 3 were arranged as a square with 2.8 m. sides. The only dating evidence from this structure is five sherds of probably Bronze Age pottery from posthole 7. – why can't this be early or date - it is bigger than other R structures or is slightly isolated

Additionally, there are three, three-post configurations with similar proportions to the four-post structures, i.e. a distance between posts of 1.5-2.0 m. (Figs. 2 and 7). The first of these consists of postholes 40, 214 (which contained a Roman sherd) and 401. The second includes postholes 212, 245 and 345, with Prehistoric sherds from 212 and 245, and the third comprises postholes 208, 314 and 325, with Prehistoric pottery from all three postholes. – why can't this be prehist.

On any site with numerous postholes it is possible to identify many pairings of posts, but it is rare to conclusively prove an association. This is also the case at Wraysbury, where there is a single pair of undated postholes (216, 344), 1.5 m. apart.

Saxon (Figs. 5 and 8)

Evidence of Saxon occupation takes the form of two pits, and a sunken-featured building with four associated postholes:

Table 5: Saxon features

Feature	*Type*	*Length (m)*	*Width (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*No. of Saxon sherds*
118	Posthole	-	0.50	0.35	-
138	SFB	3.25	2.50	0.45	171
139	Posthole	-	0.35	0.16	-
140	Posthole	-	0.25	0.32	-
144	Pit	-	1.18	0.52	1
336	Pit	-	0.67	0.44	1
337	Posthole	-	0.18	0.31	-

The sunken-featured building (Figs. 4 and 5, 138) consisted of a roughly rectangular area approximately 3.5 m. x 2.5 m., and 0.45 m. deep, with regular sloping sides and a flat bottom. This had two diagonally opposed postholes (139 and 140) in the north-west and south-east corners, and a posthole centrally positioned on the eastern side (337). A fourth posthole, 118, was midway along the northern side. The north-east corner had been disturbed by pit 336, which produced a single sherd of Saxon pot, and no posthole was seen in the south-west corner. The main feature contained 171 sherds of 5th century Saxon pottery, with fragments of hearth lining, a chalk spindlewhorl, a nail stem, a small fragment of Mayen lava quernstone, and large quantities of animal bone. Thirteen percent of the sherds recovered from this feature were of Bronze Age or Roman date and other finds include an iron fibula (Roman) and over 4.5 kg. of Roman tile. Some of this material may have derived from an earlier ditch (20) cut by the sunken-featured building. Although a single sherd of Saxon pot is recorded as from pit 336, the relationship between this and the SFB was not clear during excavation and this sherd could, conceivably come from the fill of the SFB.

The only other feature tentatively identified as Saxon was a small, fully excavated pit (144) towards the middle of the site, which contained one sherd of Saxon pot, animal bone, burnt flint, and a small fragment of lava quernstone (Pl. 2).

Other Features

There were a large number of other features on site which produced no datable finds, despite being fully excavated, and which cannot be assigned to a particular phase. Modern features include two rows of square postholes which represent fence lines, foundations of concrete and brick, gravel filled drainage gullies, and a large ditch crossing the site from east to west. A complete list of features in provided in Appendix 1.

Finds

The pottery by Jane Timby

The assemblage recovered from the excavation amounted to some 645 sherds weighing 7.5 kg. (this excludes material from the preceding evaluation which was not seen by the writer). The material was of mixed chronology with sherds of Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, and post-Medieval date present and it is clear that there is a considerable degree of residuality, particularly with the Prehistoric material. Perhaps significantly, in view of earlier work in the locality (Astill and Lobb 1989), no later Saxon or Medieval wares were present. The group was of variable condition, with some relatively well-preserved sherds, including the whole profile of a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age vessel from posthole 36 (Fig. 9.1), but also a large number of fairly degraded pieces. The Roman and Saxon material tended to be better preserved compared with most of the earlier sherds. The pottery was recovered from a total of 75 features resulting in a paucity of good associated groups with two exceptions, those from gully 34 and the sunken-featured building, 138. In addition to the pottery a small quantity of fired clay and fragments of ceramic tile were present.

The sherds were sorted into broad chronological groups and quantified by sherd count and weight for each context. A brief summary of each period represented is given below, with descriptions of the main fabrics identified.

Prehistoric

Prehistoric sherds account for approximately one third of the assemblage by sherd count (35%), but only 23% by weight, and in terms of diagnostic sherds there were very few examples. All sherds having a calcined flint temper, with or without other materials, were placed in this category. Similar difficulties in assigning material were encountered in earlier excavations (Astill and Lobb 1989, 73) where there was also a wide distribution of Prehistoric pottery in later features. Therefore, features containing a low incidence of what appears to be pottery of Prehistoric date cannot necessarily be assumed to also be of Prehistoric origin. In total four broad fabric groups were distinguished: flint-tempered (FL); grog-tempered (G); sandy (QU); and shell-tempered (SH); on the basis of macroscopically visible inclusions. The groups were then sub-divided on the basis of the size and frequency of inclusions. A general flint category (SF) was created for those sherds too degraded to confidently assign to another group. The terms used equate with those recommended in PCRG (1992). No petrological analysis has been carried out.

Prehistoric fabrics:

Flint-tempered

FL1: A patchy orange-brown ware with a dark grey core. The sandy textured, finely micaceous, matrix contains a sparse scatter of fine, angular, calcined flint; fragments up to 3 mm. in size. Moderately soft.

FL2: A hard, dark brown to black, sandy fabric containing a sparse to moderate frequency of fine, angular, calcined flint. At x20 magnification the matrix can be seen to contain a scatter of moderately well-sorted, fine, rounded, quartz sand grains.

FL3: A smooth compact clay base containing a moderate to common frequency of fine, angular, calcined flint. The flint is very ill-sorted, the larger fragments reaching 5-6 mm. Used for thick-walled vessels.

FL4: As FL2 but characterised by the presence of a sparse scatter of distinctive red-orange ferruginous inclusions,

FL5: A thinner, well-made black ware with smoothed surfaces. The paste contains a sparse scatter of very finely crushed calcined flint (less than 1 mm.) in a fine sandy matrix. Some individual quartz grains are visible at x20 magnification.

FL6: A black, grey or brown ware containing a moderate to common frequency of fine, angular, calcined flint up to 2 mm. in size. The fine sandy matrix contains occasional fine iron grains. Basesherds in this group show an increased density of flint on the undersides.

Grog-tempered
G1: A moderately soft ware with a soapy feel. Orange exterior with a black core and interior, the paste contains sparse, fine quartz sand and a scatter of sub-angular grog/clay pellets. Vessel wall thickness is approximately 10 mm.
G2: A dark grey ware with a brown interior and a smooth, soapy feel. The paste appears to contain a sparse to moderate frequency of dark coloured grog/clay pellets.

Sandy wares
QU1: A moderately hard ware with a common to dense frequency of well-sorted coloured quartz sand accompanied by rare red iron and flint inclusions.

Shelly wares
SH1: Restricted to a single T-shaped rimsherd (not illustrated) from ditch 25. Black with a smooth soapy feel the paste contains a common frequency of dark red-brown, irregularly-shaped ferruginous inclusions and a light scatter of fine shell fragments including gastropods. The shell suggests clay derived from a contemporary alluvial source.

The flint-tempered wares account for the bulk of the Prehistoric assemblage, some 276 sherds, with fabrics FL1, FL2 and FL4 accounting for most of the sherds. Grog-tempered sherds are rare with just five pieces from 133, 334 and 206. Sandy wares are equally rare with just eight sherds. Although of limited size it is clear that the Prehistoric assemblage comprises both a coarseware and a fineware element. The fabrics from the recent work appear to bear a passing similarity to those from earlier excavations (Astill and Lobb 1989), although the few featured sherds available here might suggest a marginally later date in the later Bronze Age/early Iron Age. Vessels which might point to this include a carinated shouldered jar with finger depressions on the shoulder (Fig. 9.1), and at least two sharply carinated bowls, one with linear geometric decoration from gully 34 (Fig. 9.2). At least three other sherds were decorated, one with finger depressions, one with stabbed decoration and one with stabbed zigzag lines (Fig. 9.3). Direct parallels can be found amongst the material from Long Wittenham (Savory 1937, fig 2) and Wittenham Clumps (Hingley 1979-80).

The unfeatured material may well include later Bronze Age sherds analogous to those previously found at Wraysbury, in particular those sherds in fabric FL3 which are more suggestive of urn material. The grog-tempered sherds might suggest earlier Bronze Age activity in the locality.

Many of the postholes/pits contained solely Prehistoric pottery. It is difficult to know how much reliance to place on these when most of the Roman features produced more Prehistoric pottery than Roman, the dating often based on a single Roman piece. A considerable quantity was recovered from the ditches but clearly as redeposited finds.

Roman
Roman sherds account for approximately 30.5% of the assemblage by sherd count (42% by weight). Almost all the wares belong to the later Roman period with mainly products of the Alice Holt industry (Lyne and Jefferies 1979), including the late cream sandy ware (Portchester fabric D) (Fulford 1975b, 299). The Alice Holt wares, some 116 sherds (1626 gms), include flanged bowls, white-slipped burnished jars (Fig. 9.4) with everted rims, large storage jars with cable-rims and straight-sided dishes. Other wares include Oxfordshire and New Forest colour-coated wares, Dorset black burnished ware, Oxfordshire mortaria, Dressel 20 amphora, late Roman shelly ware (Fig. 9.5) and a single sherd of stamped Central Gaulish samian. A fine whiteware jar from the SFB 138 (Fig. 9.6) may also be a New Forest product.

Roman pottery was present in ditches 25, 30, 33 and 301, and in the pit complex in the south-west corner of the site. Other features with sherds of Roman pottery present include 26, 142, 219, 221, 222, 214 and 409. Roman sherds were also recovered from the sunken-featured building, 138, associated with the Saxon material. In particular these include sherds of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware, several sherds of Portchester 'D' ware, Alice Holt greywares and New Forest ware including a red-slipped bowl with stamp impressed decoration (probably Fulford 1975a, type 74) dated to the late 4th century. There is a strong possibility, therefore, that some of the Roman wares were still in use well into the 5th century.

Saxon
Saxon sherds account for 32% by count (33% by weight) of the total assemblage, some 197 sherds weighing 2375 gms. The sherds mainly comprise finer black, slightly micaceous, sandy wares (SX1), coarser sandy wares (SX2) and sand with occasional calcareous inclusions and alluvial shell (SX3). Surprisingly, no organic tempered sherds comparable with the material found previously in Wraysbury (Astill and Lobb 1989, 100) were present in this group of pottery.

Description of fabrics

SX1: A fine black sandy ware. The matrix contains a moderate frequency of well-sorted, rounded to sub-angular quartz.

SX2: A very hard ware, generally red-orange to brown in colour. The slightly micaceous paste contains a sparse scatter of ill-sorted, rounded to sub-angular quartz including some polycrystalline grains, the largest fragments up to 2 mm., rare rounded iron and patinated flint.

SX3: An orange-brown ware with a black core and inner surface. The sandy paste contains a sparse scatter of ill-sorted, rounded to sub-angular quartz sand, 1.5 mm. and less in size, accompanied by a sparse scatter of calcareous material, either rounded grains or odd shell fragments.

The vessels include both closed forms, shallow bowls and a straight-sided dish (Fig. 9.7-14). Decoration included one sherd with shallow tooled lines forming part of a design around the upper body and several pieces with rusticated decoration formed by finger-pinching the clay when moist (Fig. 9.11-12). Although not a common method of decoration on Saxon pottery, similar vessels have been recorded from Dorchester on Thames (Frere 1964, fig 21, 9), Sutton Courtenay (Leeds 1947, pl. XXIIb, XXIII), Hurst Park, East Molesey (Laidlaw and Mepham 1996, fig 56.24-5) and possibly Hammersmith (cited in Laidlaw 1996, 37).

Most of the Saxon sherds were associated with the sunken-featured building (138). Further Saxon sherds were specifically associated with 34, 144, and 236.

The closest published parallels for the Wraysbury Saxon assemblage lies with the groups from Dorchester on Thames and Sutton Courtenay, west of the Chiltern Hills, and to a lesser extent with sites to the east in the outer London suburbs, for example, Hurst Park, East Molesey (Andrews 1996). Saxon pottery has been documented closer to the locality from Staines (Jones 1984) and Old Windsor (Wilson and Hurst 1958), although it is relatively rare at the former and detailed information is lacking for the latter. Both these sites certainly produced organic-tempered wares, and at Staines sandy wares and 'gritty' fabrics, with inclusions of flint, quartz, and ironstone, are also documented (Jones 1984, 75). Although a small proportion of decorated ware is present at Staines no rusticated wares have been recognised to date (P Jones pers. comm.). The absence of organic tempered wares is an interesting feature and is likely to be of chronological significance. It is noted from the earlier excavations at Wraysbury that although the 'grass-tempered' pottery probably represented the earliest element on the site, it was commonly associated with late Saxon fabrics (Astill and Lobb 1989, 107). Similarly the apparent absence of any distinctive late Roman wares at this site may also be significant. Other early Saxon sites recently excavated in the locality have also shown a more diverse range of fabric types and a very small proportion of organic-tempered wares traditionally considered typical of the period spanning the 5th-8th centuries, for example Prospect Park, Harmondsworth dated to the 5th-6th centuries (Laidlaw 1996) and Hurst Park, East Molesey (Laidlaw and Mepham 1996) provisionally dated to the 6th-7th centuries. Unfortunately, the Wraysbury group is quite small and this, combined with the general lack of independently dated comparable assemblages, precludes too much speculation. The impression is that this group of wares immediately succeeds the later Roman period when Roman vessels were probably still in use, ie the 5th century. The implication is that it represents a period of pottery dominated by sandy fabrics which predates the introduction of the organic-tempered tradition in this locality. This could well have some chronological repercussions on assemblages containing such wares. Further corroboration for a later date for the organic tradition is provided by Cowdery's Down, near Basingstoke, where chaff-tempered wares formed the bulk of the period 4 assemblage (Brisbane 1983, 257). Carbon 14 dating suggested a date range of 6th-7th centuries for structures belonging to this period of occupation (Millett and James 1983, 197-8).

The Wraysbury group, therefore, makes a significant contribution to understanding not only the development of pottery traditions in the sub-Roman and early Saxon periods but also the history of the site itself.

Post-Medieval

Sherds of post-Medieval flower-pot and china were associated with 103, 133, 201, 241 and 338, and may represent intrusive material.

Description of illustrated sherds (Fig. 9)

1. Carinated shouldered jar with finger-depressed decoration on the rim and shoulder. The surface is scored with wipemarks on the both the interior and exterior surfaces. Fabric FL1. F36 (90).
2. Bodysherd from a carinated bowl with deeply incised linear decoration. Mid orange-brown in colour, fabric FL2. F34 (88).
3. Bodysherd from a fineware vessel decorated with stabbed zigzag decoration. Fabric FL6. F41 (170).
4. Everted rim, wheelmade grey ware jar, with a slipped burnished finish on the upper body/rim. Alice Holt ware. F34 (88).
5. Wide-mouthed jar, wheelmade in a dense shelly fabric. The rim and upper exterior body is sooted. Late Roman. F34 (88).

6. Small wheelmade jar with a reeded rim. Very fine whiteware. ?New Forest. SFB 138 (268).
7. Rimsherd either from a shallow bowl or an everted rim cooking pot. Patchily fired but with smoothed surfaces. Fabric SX3. SFB 138 (267).
8. Rimsherd from an open vessel. Orange brown in colour with rough surfaces. Fabric SX2. SFB 138 (268).
9. Straight-sided bowl with trimming marks on the base. Very fine black fabric with burnished surfaces. Fabric SX1. SFB 138 (267).
10. Black bodysherd with lightly tooled decoration. The vessel has a smoothed finish on both the interior and exterior surfaces. Fabric Sx1. SFB 138 (267).
11. Base from a closed vessel in a black sandy ware, fabric SX3. The exterior is decorated with rough lines of finger-pinched decoration producing a rusticated surface. SFB 138 (267).
12. Bodysherd from a ?bowl with finger-pinched rusticated decoration. The interior surface is very smooth. Fabric SX2. SFB 138 (267).
13. Shallow bowl. Fabric SX2. SFB 138 (267).
14. Large wide-mouthed jar with a black burnished exterior and a smoothed interior. Fabric SX1. SFB 138 (268).

Animal Bone by Sheila Hamilton-Dyer

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, and undated features. The majority of the bone is from the excavation of the sunken-featured building (138) and small amounts of bone were recovered from the Roman triple ditches. In total, bone was recovered from 36 of the features, most of the small features such as postholes, however, contained only one or two fragments. Fragmentation is high but preservation generally good.

In total 532 bones were available for study. Most of the identified bones are of cattle, sheep and pig. Other taxa identified are horse, red deer, dog, goose and rook. In addition to the three dog bones, several fragments have been gnawed giving indirect evidence for the presence of dog across site.

Prehistoric

Six fragments of bone were recovered from Prehistoric features, of these only two can be identified to species, one of sheep/goat, the others can only be described as mammalian bones.

Roman

Features provisionally dated to this period offered just 136 bones from over 30 contexts. Pit 222 offered the largest single group, of 32 bones. This feature was half-excavated and therefore the potential total should have been in the region of 60-70 bones. This is still very small in comparison with Roman urban material where pits can contain many hundreds of bones (Maltby 1993, Hamilton-Dyer 1993) and is similar to the pits at Winnall Down (Maltby 1985). About half of the bones were identified to species. Overall, cattle bones are the most frequent and, as few horse remains are present, most of the cattle/horse sized fragments are likely to be of cattle as well. Sheep occurs in several of the features but pig is very low at only six bones and fowl is absent. One bone of goose is present, in pit 222, and there are only three bones of dog, from 146, 334 and 407. Pit 222 also contained the only complete cattle limb bone, a metacarpus. This gives an estimated withers height of 1.133 m.; typical of this period. One of the cattle bones from ditch 25, a proximal femur, seems rather larger than expected for Roman material and the possibility of post-Medieval contamination must be considered. Butchery marks are few and they include both chop and knife marks. A cattle tibia in pit 336 exhibits a cleaver shave mark; this type of mark is often observed in Roman material (Maltby 1989).

Saxon

The bone dated to this period is nearly all from the possible sunken-featured building (138). The assemblage is probably mostly of Saxon date although some contamination from the Roman ditch that it cuts should be expected. The material from this feature accounts for the majority of the bone assemblage from the site. In comparison with the Roman material, only 35% of the bones were identified to species. The unidentified material includes fragments of limb shaft, ribs and vertebrae, mainly of cattle size. A few fragments had been recovered from the sieved samples but these are mainly small scraps of unidentified mammalian bone and contribute little to the overall totals. The bulk of the identified mammalian bone is of cattle, pig and sheep. No horse or dog bones were identified (although some bones showed canid gnawing), but goose is again present, along with a bone of rook and three of red deer.

The relative proportions of cattle, sheep and pig are quite different from the Roman assemblage; in the sunken-featured building pig form 48% of the cattle/sheep/pig total, whereas it forms a mere 11% in the Roman. As indicated above, there is a high proportion of probable cattle bone in the unidentified class

but the increase in pig is still valid; even if all the cattle-sized fragments are included there is an increase in the amount of pig (and many of the pig/sheep sized fragments not included here are likely to be of pig).

The pig remains are of mixed ages and sizes; whilst most bones are unfused and one is of a neonatal piglet, there are also two jaws of adult females and the maxilla of a male. One of the jaws is chopped axially indicating the common practice of splitting pigs heads in half.

The cattle bones include a pelvis with eburnation of the acetabulum. This is a pathological response usually associated with arthritis and the bone is probably of an old cow. Other bones are a mixture of head, foot and limb bones, mostly in small pieces.

The 14 sheep remains are mainly of leg bones, but they include part of a horncore and a loose tooth.

Butchery marks were found on pig and cattle bones, and on ribs and vertebrae probably of these species. Most of these were made with cleavers but there were also knife marks. Many of the rib, vertebrae and limb fragments are small pieces, although butchery marks cannot be seen, the fragmentation of many is of ancient origin, either from trampling or from chopping; for stew perhaps.

Very few of the bones are sufficiently complete for measurements and none gave withers heights. All of the 13 measured fall within the ranges reported for southern England, at Southampton for example (Bourdillon and Coy 1980).

In addition to two pieces of antler tine, the red deer remains include a fragment of scapula; implying that at least some deer were hunted (antler for working could be collected after natural shedding). No other wild animals are present, other than the rook which is probably an incidental find. The geese were probably domestic, or at least tamed. The bones are very difficult to distinguish from the wild ancestral greylag.

Discussion

The sample of Roman date is small but revealed the presence of cattle, horse, sheep, pig, dog and goose. Cattle are dominant and the amount of pig is minimal, in contrast with the Saxon features.

In the sunken-featured building (138) species representation is similar to that from other Saxon sites, with a heavy dependence on cattle, sheep and pig, and with little reliance on wild resources. The few measurements are also comparable with other material in Southern England. The bones represent animals of prime meat age and those of older animals. The anatomical distribution is also of prime meat joints and waste bones. A neonatal piglet is also present, indicating the production side of the economy as well as the consumption.

The proportion of the identified bone of main domestic ungulates in the SFB are 34% cattle, 18% sheep and 48% pig. With such a small sample, and other taphonomic considerations, this figure may not be representative of Saxon settlement as a whole but, the high proportion of pig is similar to findings from the nearby settlement at St. Andrews Church where the features were mainly pits and ditches, but here too pig is at a relatively high level of about 30% with sheep in third place (Coy 1989).

At Meonstoke, Hampshire (Hamilton-Dyer and Bourdillon nd), pig was higher in the sunken-featured building (37%) than in other features (20%), and also higher than in the large urban settlement at *Hamwic* where pig only reaches 15%. Wraysbury is near the Thames and the area is likely to have been more conducive to cattle and pig rearing than sheep. There may be a combination of factors involved here and evidence from other rural Saxon sites in the area may help to clarify the picture and indicate whether bone from this feature is typical. This assemblage overall is not large and on its own it gives only an indication of the activities in the locality. This is typical of material from rural sites, their value lies in the accumulation of small data sets which can be compared with each other, and with urban material.

The Human Bone by Andy Smith

Six fragments of human bone, in good condition, were found in a posthole 105. They comprise a right mid-shaft/proximal Femur, a left mid-shaft Femur, a left mid-shaft/proximal Tibia and three fragments of a right mid-shaft/proximal Humerus. All are of a juvenile nature. Although none are complete long bones, the relative size of the bones suggest an age range of 0-6 months according to Sundick's methodology (1978).

Shell by Steve Ford

Two fragments of oyster shell were retrieved from a ditch (20) and a pit (414), both of Roman date.

Charred plant remains by John Letts

Thirty four samples were processed, most of which contained no charred seed or charcoal. A few contained fragments of grain, but these were not well preserved or identifiable to species. Also, no glumes were observed, which would indicate the processing of crops was taking place on site.

Table 6: Features containing unidentifiable grain fragments

Feature	*Context*
8	55
103	168
136	268
141	271
143	273
147	278
222	293
245	371
317	392
407	488
413	552

Stone by David Williams

Two small, well worn, fragments of a dark grey vesicular lava were recovered, one from SFB 138, fill 267 (60 gms), and one from pit 144, fill 274 (22 gms). Both pieces undoubtedly originate from the volcanic outcrops of the Mayen-Niedermendig area of the Eifel Hills region of the Rhineland. They almost certainly represent small pieces from broken lava quernstones which, because of their relatively light weight and vesicular nature, often fragment into many pieces.

There is no evidence that Mayen querns were imported into Britain before the Roman conquest. However, they seem to have been particularly popular during the Roman and Saxon periods, while importation of these on a smaller scale, and especially millstones, has continued almost to the present day.

Chalk objects by Jo Pine

A spindlewhorl, roughly hewn from a piece of chalk, was recovered from the sunken-featured building (138) (Fig. 10). It is sub-rectangular, with flat sides, and is 45 mm. long, 35 mm. wide and 22 mm. deep. The hole has a diameter of 11 mm. Two other chalk fragments, which may also be parts of broken spindlewhorls, were recovered from pit 336, which cuts SFB 138. Spindlewhorls are one of the commonest forms of artefact found on Saxon settlements and were made from baked clay, stone, pebbles, amber, lead, coal, glass, and bone, as well as chalk. Sites with large numbers of spindlewhorls include West Stow, Suffolk (West 1985) and Pennylands, Milton Keynes (Williams 1993). However, analysis has so far failed to distinguish any morphological variation in terms of their chronology. – so what!

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A small collection of 23 struck flints were recovered from deposits of various date across the site. The flint is made from local gravel sources. In addition to the 20 flakes, the collection included a scraper, a possible denticulate scraper, and a retouched flake. None of the flints are closely datable in their own right but as a whole they would not be out place in later Bronze Age/early Iron Age contexts.

Tile and Brick by Jo Pine

A large quantity of tile and some brick was recovered. Some of the larger pieces of tile have been identified as imbrices and tegulae of Roman date. A complete catalogue detailing quantities and contexts is included in the site archive.

Fired clay by Jo Pine

Only two features contained fired clay: SFB 138 contained 888 gms.; and pit 314 contained 54 gms. Due to the small size of the fragments it was not possible to discern wattle impressions or to determine whether these fragments originate from hearth linings. It is interesting to note, however, that the majority of the material came from the sunken-featured building.

Metalwork by Jo Pine

Just three metal artefacts, all iron, were recovered from the excavation: a complete nail from pit 222; and a nail stem fragment and Roman fibula from the sunken-featured building (138).

Hearth lining by Chris Salter

Two samples were recovered, both from Saxon features: SFB 138, 140 gms.; gully 34, 60 gms.

The initial examination of these samples, suggested that they had formed by the interaction between bulk slag and hearth lining at high temperatures. However, on examining the polished sections, the material that appears to be a rather viscous and vesicular slag proved to be a continuation of a semi vitrified sandy-clay lining.

In both cases, the lower fired (cooler) part of the hearth lining was missing, but the outer-most layer did show that the hearth appears to have been built, or at least lined, with the same sandy clay. The thinner sample, from gully 34, was 35 mm thick and had two distinct regions - one of black semi-vitreous material with a high density of pores over a layer of sandy clay which had been fired to a point where some blotting had occurred. The second sample, from SFB 138, was more massive, with almost the whole thickness of the sample in a semi-vitrified state. Considering that the sample was 50 mm thick , it is quite remarkable to get this depth of vitrification. However, there are two bands of red coloured material, one close to the outer, cooler, surface as in the case of gully 34. The other less distinct band was about 10 mm. from the opposite surface. This could be interpreted as an indication that the hearth had been relined, which would explain the great depth of vitrification.

The uniform texture of material in these samples is unusual. It probably indicates that the material was made by mixing a uniform sized sand with a clean clay. Although such sandy clays may occur naturally, it is more likely that these were deliberately made for the purpose.

The internal morphology and the heating history of these two samples is so similar that it is likely that they came from the same hearth, or at least, they were produced by the same type of process. This is even though they came from different contexts with apparently different dates.

The type of mechanism that produced these slags is not immediately obvious as they are not typical of metal-working or any industrial process of the periods involved. From a macroscopic examination the nearest parallel would be with modern high-fired engineering bricks! Without the location of further debris associated with this activity it would be difficult, if not impossible, to determine the technological process that produced this material. It is possible to note that, given the depth of vitrification, the hearth had been at a high constant temperature for a considerable period. The extent and depth of vitrification is a function of the melting point of the refactory, the time at high temperature, and the maximum temperature reached. It is difficult, but possible, to determine the hearth conditions by refiring the material. However, given the limited quantity of material and lack of other industrial debris, the information gained would not help solve the archaeological problem involved.

Summary

The samples were from the lining of a high temperature hearth or furnace, which had been held at elevated temperatures for a considerable period, but the temperature was not high enough to cause the surface to flow or to melt. The two samples appear to have been generated by the same process, in that they are of the same material and have been heated in the same manner. The most likely processes to have produced this sort of material are pottery, brick or tile-making, or iron-smelting. All these processes can involve sufficiently high temperatures (in excess of 1000°C) being maintained for several hours. However, all these industries tend to leave large amounts of characteristic debris, so it is surprising to have such isolated finds.

Discussion by Jo Pine and Steve Ford

The excavations at Waylands Nursery have recorded occupation of Prehistoric (mid/late Bronze Age and early Iron Age), late Roman and Saxon date.

Prehistoric

There is evidence of two, possibly three, phases of Prehistoric activity on the site. Early Bronze Age activity was represented only by a small number of sherds found in features of later date. It is not known how these sherds came to be present on the site, nor their significance, and there is little to be gained from discussing this further; suffice it to say, there is evidence of early Bronze Age activity in the vicinity.

More substantial Prehistoric activity took place in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. Unfortunately, relatively few diagnostic sherds were recovered and it is not clear if two phases (late Bronze Age *and* early Iron Age) are represented, or just one phase spanning this transitional period. The small number of features and small quantity of finds recovered suggests a relatively low intensity of activity more typical of what would be expected from a short-lived, single phase, use of the site. The evidence for occupation took the form of a small number of pits and postholes. No house plans can be identified in the configuration of the postholes, although four-post structures may be present. Pottery of this phase was found in later features in surprisingly large quantities, suggesting that the majority of artefact discard on the site took place in middens rather than in cut features. The posthole-sized feature 105, which may be a human baby burial, is only dated by a single piece of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery.

Discovery of this site adds to the growing body of evidence for the widespread presence of occupation sites within the Middle Thames Valley (Ford 1991a). Examination of metalwork finds dredged from the Middle Thames indicates a high density of activity in this region in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (Needham and Burgess 1980) yet only recently, with the more systematic approach to the monitoring of development via the planning process, has the nature of contemporary settlement begun to be addressed. A number of recent large-scale excavations of middle Bronze Age and early Iron Age sites in the region have located ditched field and enclosure systems, in addition to occupation areas, such as those at Weir Bank Stud Farm, Bray, Reading Business Park and Wickhams Field, Reading, and Harefield Road, Uxbridge (Moore and Jennings 1992; Barnes and Cleal 1995; Barclay et. al. 1995; Crockett 1996). However, the Waylands Nursery site is typical of the unenclosed occupation sites in the area and is broadly similar in form and date to that discovered at nearby St. Andrews Church (Astill and Lobb 1989). Of perhaps a slightly earlier date, similar sites are to be found at Furze Platt, near Maidenhead (Lobb 1979-80), Pingewood, near Reading (Bowden and Johnston 1985), and more recently at Old Way Lane, Cippenham (S. Ford, pers. comm.). A number of other sites in the area appear to be of similar date and form, but these have so far only been examined by evaluation trenching and full details of their nature are not available (Ford 1991b).

Roman

Roman use of the site is characterised by the triple-ditched enclosure and various pits, postholes and gullies; three four-post structures may also belong to this period. The Roman activity on the site is broadly dated by the pottery to the 3rd-4th centuries AD but with at least three phases of remodelling of the site demonstrated by stratigraphic relationships. The earliest Roman features are a group of pits in the south-west corner of the site, cut by the enclosure ditches. The next phase is represented by the three parallel ditches, (20, 25 and 30) which are thought to be contemporary and to form part of an enclosure (see below). The third, and final, phase comprises three pits, a ditch, and a gully, which all cut some or all of the triple ditches. In addition, there are a number of unphased late Roman pits and postholes.

The site is neither rich in the volume of finds nor in the quality of artefacts and appears typical of a rural-based community. It may have been a short-lived or impoverished site but it is also possible that other components of the site lie beyond the margins of the excavated areas. It is not clear if the deposits represent elements of a single discrete settlement, such as a farmstead, or are associated with more communal works represented by the enclosure.

Environmental evidence for the Roman use of the site is limited to the faunal remains, the analysis of which indicates that a typical range of animals were being used: cattle, pig, sheep, horse, dog, and goose. Cattle was the dominant species and numbers of pig were low which contrasts with the faunal assemblage from the Saxon features. Analysis of charred plant remains was inconclusive, with only fragments of unidentifiable cereal recovered from a small number of the features.

The function of the triple-ditched enclosure

The later Roman triple-ditched enclosure is an unusual form of monument (Miles 1982). The enclosure could not be examined in its entirety but it encompassed a large area, exceeding 3300 sq. m. It is by no means certain that the ditches formed a complete circuit, although the right-angled bend is difficult to explain in any other context. Each of the three ditches forming the enclosure are narrow and shallow, no more than 1.25 m. wide and up to 0.5 m. deep. They more closely resemble field boundaries than the type of ditch generally used for stock or settlement enclosures. However, other enclosure ditches within the region are of comparable dimensions, for example at Yeoveney Lodge, Staines, and Wickham Fields, Reading (Robertson-Mackay et. al. 1987 41ff; Crockett 1996).

The three ditches are parallel and follow the right-angled bend closely, maintaining the same spacing and orientation. It is possible that they were dug successively to define a boundary whose position was approximately known, but where the precise location of the original ditch was lost. How such a process could have occurred can be seen in the contemporary landscape where woodland defined by ditches in the 19th century has overgrown the original earthwork, with the result that a new fence is constructed several metres away from the original. However, at Wraysbury, it seems unlikely that this process would allow for the redefinition of the original boundary on two further occasions and still accurately maintain the same spacing and orientation. If this process had occurred over some time it might be reasonable to expect the pottery recovered would reflect chronological development. The pottery from the triple ditches was not highly diagnostic but it does not indicate any great depth of time for the digging of the three ditches. On balance, the evidence indicates that the ditches should be considered as contemporary.

The function of the enclosed area and the triple ditches needs some consideration. On other sites of Iron Age and Roman date, such as at Broadwater, Hurst (Barnes and Hawkes 1991-3), where they would have been used for the management of stock, the ditches are often shallow and were almost certainly used in conjunction with banks, hedges or fences, evidence of which is usually removed by modern ploughing.

In these cases a single ditch suffices, although it is often recut. Similarly, other enclosures, irrespective of whether they were used for holding stock or to define a settled area, are usually defined by a single ditch, such as at Staines (Robertson-Mackay et. al. 1987, 41ff). Superficially similar sites, such as at Riseley Farm, Swallowfield, have, on more detailed examination, been shown to represent the successive development of a single enclosure ditch (Lobb and Morris 1991-93) and sites such as Moor Hall Farm, Rainham, Essex (Greenwood, 1982), are of late Iron Age date. The tradition of double and triple ditched enclosures has a long pedigree but is usually related to ceremonial, burial, or defensive sites, such as Neolithic causewayed enclosures, Bronze Age round barrows, and Iron Age multivallate hillforts. Iron Age/Roman sites in the Midlands, for example, of a status comparable to Wraysbury, are not often enclosed by more than a single ditch (Knight 1984).

Within the interior of the enclosure Roman features are distributed widely in small numbers but none can positively be associated with the enclosure ditches. Use of the enclosed area does not appear to have been formally structured, for example with houses, rubbish pits, and storage buildings occupying different zones (cf Guilbert 1975). The only recognisable structures (Fig. 7, Structures 1-3) are the four-posters located towards the centre of the site. Other postholes could be the remains of houses but without some regularity in ground plans such as rectilinear or curvilinear arrangements of posts, bedding trenches or ring ditches, their presence is speculative.

Several enclosures on the chalk downlands of Hampshire have been excavated and they too have often revealed sites with few internal features. For these sites a plausible interpretation is that they are used primarily for the handling of livestock (Coe, et. al. 1995, 72).Whilst it is not possible to entirely rule out settlement use for the Wraysbury site, comparison with the downland sites merits some consideration.

Saxon

Discovery of the Saxon features was an unexpected bonus in a region from which few Saxon sites are recorded and serves to emphasise the riverine distribution of sites of this period in the region (Ford 1987; Robertson-Mackay et. al. 1981; Astill and Lobb 1989; Andrews 1996c, fig. 60). The Saxon deposits here comprise just a single sunken-featured building, and two pits. A length of ditch (39) and a gully (438) cross cut the Roman triple ditches and have been assigned to the latest phase of Roman use, but they did not produce Roman pottery and could belong to the Saxon phase of site use. The other Saxon occupation in Wraysbury found at the St. Andrews Church excavations recorded three rectangular buildings, of post, sillbeam, or post-in-trench construction (Astill and Lobb 1989) but these were occupied several hundred years after the Waylands Nursery features had gone out of use and comparisons for our site have to be made elsewhere.

The shape and size of the sunken-featured building falls within the typical range for these types of structure (Rahtz 1976) although the diametrically opposed postholes are an unusual feature. Several recently excavated sunken-featured buildings at nearby Prospect Park, Harmondsworth and Hurst Park, East Molesey have revealed a number of examples of the more common type of building with posts at either end of the long axis (Andrews 1996b figs. 45 and 46) although structure SFB 103 at Prospect Park had an additional two corner posts (Andrews 1996a, fig. 18).

Three four-post structures have been identified on the site. They have been described in the section dealing with Roman deposits, but are not well dated and could well be of earlier or later date. Four-post structures are often encountered on Iron Age sites, where they are interpreted as raised granaries (Gent 1983) but at Wraysbury there is no Iron Age phase of use. Saxon sites with four-post structures have been positively identified in the Midlands, for example at Brixworth, Northants (Ford 1995) and Pennyland, Milton Keynes (R. Williams, 1993, 85), (the latter structures with sunken floors) and probably at Bishopstone, Sussex (Bell 1977) but they were absent on the two recently excavated Saxon sites at Prospect Park, Harmondsworth and Hurst Park, East Molesey (Andrews 1996a; 1996b).

Evidence for Saxon settlement, perhaps representing several generations of occupation, often takes the form of small clusters of features dispersed over a wide area. The extent of these sites is such that their limits are rarely found but they could occupy areas of 2 hectares or more, as at New Wintles, Eynsham (Hawkes and Gray 1969). At Prospect Park, settlement was spread over 0.5 km, although it was not necessarily contemporaneous (Andrews 1996c, 109). At some sites a core area may be relatively densely occupied, often with a mixture of post-built and sunken-featured buildings but with outlying structures 50 m. or more away (eg. Rahtz, 1976, fig. 2.3). In this light, the Saxon evidence at Waylands Nursery is difficult to assess and it cannot be ascertained if the features represent a small, discrete, short-lived farm, or part of a much wider dispersed settlement.

The faunal data recovered from the sunken-featured building has provided useful comparative material for a poorly understood period. Although the pottery evidence indicates the possibility of some residual finds, the bone data shows that the assemblage is quite different from the Roman features on the site and is similar in many respects to the assemblage from Saxon features at St. Andrews Church (Coy 1989). The bone assemblage indicates that the Saxon inhabitants were dependent on cattle, pigs, and to a

lesser extent sheep, with little reliance on wild resources. This is similar to other Saxon sites in southern England. Furthermore, the site has a high proportion of pig remains which is similar to the St. Andrews site. This suggests a similar animal economy on both sites, which may be a product of the local environment, although they were separated in time by at least two hundred years. The location of the sites close to the Thames may have included a disproportionate area of low-lying pasture, which is more conducive to cattle and pig rearing than sheep. Fragments of red deer suggest that some wild resources were utilised, although no other wild animal bones, other than rook, were recovered. A pair of goose wings and other fragments were also recovered but it is not clear if these came from a wild or domestic flock.

The site at Waylands Nursery , on the basis of the pottery evidence, is of 5th century date and adds to the small body of evidence for early Saxon occupation in this stretch of the Thames Valley. Andrews (1996c, 111) has discussed the implications of the sites at Prospect Park, Hurst Park, and elsewhere, and has drawn attention to the evidence for non-local and imported continental pottery which at the very least implies wide trading contacts for early Saxon groups, or even immigrant settlers. This latter point is enhanced by the absence of late Roman occupation on these sites. Waylands Nursery, in contrast, comprises Saxon occupation which is thought to immediately succeed the later Roman occupation of the site. The coincidence of the Saxon and Roman features and the many similarities of the pottery assemblages, strongly suggests the possibility of continuity of the same population group.

The nature of the change from late Roman into early Saxon times is a complex topic and not well understood (Welch 1992, 104ff). One theme of much interest is the extent of the survival of the native population and the form that any continuity would take. The evidence from Wraysbury is not an appropriate springboard from which to examine the full range of issues but a number of comments are in order. Firstly, the evidence appears to indicate that use of the site in late Roman times continued into the Saxon period with no obvious break - an aspect of Saxon archaeology not commonly encountered (Rahtz, 1976, 58). This evidence comprises later Roman deposits with some development over time, with early Saxon features. In this light the early Saxon deposits can be viewed simply as the latest development of the site. The pottery, it is argued, shows no marked break with the Roman fabrics. If these are valid observations then it could be concluded that the local population continued over the transition period. While the same population may have carried on through, the transition did bring about some marked changes, in particular the adoption by the local community of a continental building style - the sunken-featured structure. The faunal remains have also indicated a shift in animal husbandry with a change of emphasis from sheep to cattle.

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Appendix 1: List of features and fills, giving dimensions and date, if known

Cut	*Fill(s)/Deposits*	*Description*	*Length (m.)*	*Width (m.)*	*Diam. (m.)*	*Depth (m.)*	*Date*
(1)	-	Topsoil	-	-	-	-	-
(2)	-	Subsoil/overburden	-	-	-	-	-
3	50	Posthole	-	-	0.23	0.13	Prehistoric
4	51	Tree roots	-	-	-	-	-
5	52	Posthole	-	-	-	-	-
6	53	Posthole	-	-	0.17	0.09	Prehistoric
7	54	Posthole	-	-	0.37	0.14	Prehistoric?
8	55	Posthole	-	-	0.33	0.15	-
9	56	Posthole	-	-	0.15	0.05	-
10	57	Posthole	-	-	0.30	0.16	-
11	58	Posthole	-	-	0.38	0.09	-
12	59	Posthole	-	-	0.24	0.23	-
13	60	Pit	-	-	-	-	-
14	61	Gully	1.25	0.28	-	0.13	-
15	62	Posthole	0.21	0.21	-	0.20	-
16	63	Posthole	-	-	0.14	0.04	-
17	64	Posthole	-	-	0.09	0.04	-
18	65	Posthole	0.66	0.40	-	0.05	-
19	66	Posthole	-	-	0.27	0.13	-
20	-	Group no. for ditch	-	-	-	-	Roman (phase 2)
21	76	Posthole	-	-	0.23	0.08	-
22	72	Posthole	-	-	0.29	0.13	-
23	73	Posthole	-	-	0.21	0.08	-
24	74	Posthole	-	-	0.18	0.12	-
25	-	Group no. for ditch	-	-	-	-	Roman (phase 2)
26	75	Posthole	-	-	0.27	0.12	Roman
27	77	Posthole	-	-	0.24	0.24	-
28	78	Posthole	-	-	0.30	0.05	-
29	79, 85	Pit	-	-	0.70	0.20	Prehistoric
30	-	Group no. for ditch	-	-	-	-	Roman (phase 2)
31	80	Posthole	0.60	0.47	-	0.10	-
32	86	Ditch (30)	-	0.71	-	0.21	-
33	87	Ditch (20)	-	0.82	-	0.38	Roman
34	88, 351	Gully	4.70	0.55	-	0.15	Roman/Saxon?
35	89	Pit	-	1.15	-	0.40	-
36	90	Posthole	-	-	0.25	0.14	Early Iron Age
37	96	Posthole	-	-	0.15	0.09	-
38	91	Pit/Terminal	-	0.64	-	0.32	Roman (unphased)
39	98	Group no. for ditch	-	-	-		Roman (phase 3)
40	99	Posthole	-	-	0.25	0.15	-
41	151, 156	Ditch (39)	-	-	-	0.24	-
42	153	Posthole	-	-	0.16	0.20	Prehistoric
43	154	Posthole	-	-	0.21	0.05	-
44	155	Posthole	0.21	0.19	-	0.15	-
45	158, 159	Ditch (20)	-	0.55	-	0.35	Roman
46	160, 161	Ditch (39)	-	1.01	-	0.37	-
47	162	Posthole	0.27	0.27	-	0.07	-
48	163	Posthole	0.27	0.24	-	0.06	-
49	164	Posthole	0.30	0.30	-	0.07	-
100	165	Posthole	0.30	0.30	-	0.18	-
101	166	Posthole	0.35	0.30	-	0.17	-
102	167	Posthole	0.34	0.35	-	0.10	-
103	168	Posthole	0.39	0.29	-	0.18	Post-Medieval
104	172	Pit?	-	0.63	1.10	0.28	-
105	173	Infant burial	-	-	0.48	0.15	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age?
106	174	Posthole	-	-	0.18	0.05	-
107	175	Posthole	-	-	0.26	0.09	-
108	176	Posthole	-	-	0.20	0.05	-
109	177	Posthole	-	-	0.18	0.04	-
110	178	Posthole	-	-	0.27	0.04	-
111	179	Posthole	-	-	0.21	0.025	-
112	180	Posthole	-	-	0.25	0.09	-
113	181	Posthole	-	-	0.32	0.05	-
114	182	Posthole	-	-	0.40	0.09	-
115	183	Posthole	-	-	0.19	0.04	-
116	184	Posthole	0.65	0.47		0.19	-

Appendix 1: continued

Cut	*Fill(s)/Deposits*	*Description*	*Length (m.)*	*Width (m.)*	*Diam. (m.)*	*Depth (m.)*	*Date*
117	185	Posthole	-	-	0.20	0.03	-
118	186	Posthole	-	-	0.50	0.35	Saxon
119	187	Posthole	-	-	0.23	0.15	-
120	188	Posthole	-	-	0.30	0.10	-
121	189	Posthole	-	-	0.40	0.09	Prehistoric
122	190	Posthole/pit	0.80	0.46	-	0.25	-
123	191	Tree hole	-	2.59	-	0.15	-
124	192	Posthole	-	-	0.36	0.065	-
125	193	Posthole	-	-	0.18	0.06	-
126	194	Posthole	-	-	0.17	0.13	Prehistoric
127	195	Ditch (30)	-	0.70	-	0.53	-
128	196	Posthole	-	-	0.33	0.14	-
129	197	Pit?	-	0.66	-	0.22	-
130	198	Tree hole	-	0.95	-	0.15	-
131	199	Posthole	-	-	0.22	0.07	-
132	250, 253	Tree root	1.70	0.50	-	0.46	-
133	252	Posthole?	0.38	0.36	-	0.12	Post-Medieval
134	254	Posthole	-	-	0.26	0.15	Prehistoric
135	255	Posthole	-	-	0.20	0.10	-
136	256	Posthole	-	-	0.31	0.13	Prehistoric
137	257	Tree hole	-	-	1.15	0.24	-
138	267, 268	SFB	3.30	2.30	-	0.29	Saxon
139	269	Posthole	-	-	0.35	0.16	Saxon
140	270	Posthole	-	-	0.25	0.32	Saxon
141	271	Posthole	-	-	0.22	0.11	-
142	272	Posthole	-	-	0.24	0.11	Roman (unphased)
143	273	Posthole	-	-	0.22	0.095	Roman (unphased)
144	274, 277	Pit	-	-	1.18	0.52	Saxon
145	275	Pit	0.80	0.33	-	0.23	-
146	276	Ditch (25)	5.00	0.50	-	0.33	Roman
147	278	Posthole	-	-	0.20	0.08	-
148	279	Posthole	-	-	0.16	0.12	-
149	566	Posthole	-	-	0.20	0.04	-
200	258	Posthole	0.38	0.36	-	0.10	-
201	259	Posthole	0.33	0.28	-	0.10	Post-Medieval
202	260	Posthole	0.30	0.26	-	0.08	-
203	568	Posthole	0.36	0.34	-	-	-
204	563	Posthole	0.41	0.39	-	-	-
205	564	Posthole	0.25	0.22	-	-	-
206	261	Posthole/pit	0.66	0.60	-	0.08	Bronze Age? Prehistoric?
207	262	Posthole	-	-	0.22	0.13	-
208	263	Posthole	-	-	0.33	0.09	Iron Age?
209	565	Posthole	0.30	0.26	-	0.11	-
210	280	Posthole	-	-	0.32	0.12	-
211	281	Posthole	-	-	0.30	0.17	-
212	282	Posthole	-	-	0.24	0.12	Prehistoric
213	283	Posthole	-	-	0.23	0.04	-
214	284	Posthole	-	-	0.27	0.13	Roman (unphased)
215	285	Posthole	-	-	0.25	0.10	-
216	286	Posthole	0.37	0.30	-	0.24	-
217	287	Pit	0.25	0.15	-	0.10	-
218	288	Posthole	-	-	0.29	0.08	-
219	289, 290, 292	Pit	1.87	0.80	-	0.63	Roman (unphased)
220	294, 298	Pit	-	-	1.30	0.41	Prehistoric
221	291	Pit	-	-	0.70	0.57	Roman (unphased)
222	293, 352	Pit	-	2.5	-	1.10	Roman (unphased)
223	295	Posthole	-	-	0.25	0.20	Prehistoric?
224	296	Posthole	-	-	0.20	0.12	-
225	297	Posthole	-	-	0.43	0.49	Prehistoric
226	299	Tree hole/pit?	-	-	0.90	0.10	-
227	350	Tree hole/pit?	-	-	0.26	0.13	-
228	353	Posthole	-	-	0.21	0.29	Prehistoric
229	354	Posthole	-	-	-	0.46	Prehistoric
230	355	Posthole	-	-	0.35	0.21	-
231	356	Posthole	-	-	0.30	0.40	Prehistoric
232	357	Posthole	-	-	0.26	0.07	-
233	358	Posthole?	-	-	0.30	0.05	-
234	359, 360	Gully/beam-slot	-	0.50	-	0.24	-

Appendix 1: continued

Cut	*Fill(s)/Deposits*	*Description*	*Length (m.)*	*Width (m.)*	*Diam. (m.)*	*Depth (m.)*	*Date*
235	361	Pit	-	-	0.97	0.12	-
236	362	Pit	-	-	0.70	0.14	-
237	363	Posthole	-	-	0.30	0.13	-
238	364	Scoop	-	-	0.10	0.03	-
239	365	Stakehole?	-	-	0.30	0.16	-
240	366	Scoop	0.72	0.20	-	0.03	-
241	367	Scoop	0.80	0.26	-	0.14	Post-Medieval
242	368	?	-	-	0.24	0.04	-
243	369	Tree hole	-	-	0.48	0.10	-
244	370	Tree hole	3.20	0.86	-	0.56	-
245	371	Posthole	-	-	0.30	0.12	Prehistoric
246	372	Posthole	-	-	0.55	0.65	-
247	373	Posthole	-	-	0.43	0.23	-
248	558	Stakehole	-	-	0.09	0.16	Prehistoric
249	559	Stakehole	-	-	0.10	0.17	-
300	374	Posthole	-	-	0.19	0.13	-
301	375	Ditch (30)	-	0.80	-	0.32	Roman
302	376	Ditch (25)	-	0.92	-	0.22	Roman
303	377	Pit	2.04	0.80	-	0.24	-
304	378, 379	Ditch (20)	-	1.10	-	0.23	-
305	380	Pit	0.40	0.28	-	0.45	-
306	381	Pit	-	-	0.36	0.23	-
307	382	Pit	-	-	0.20	0.06	Prehistoric
308	383	Pit	-	-	0.33	0.22	Roman (unphased)
309	384	Pit	-	-	0.23	0.11	-
310	385	Pit	-	-	0.27	0.19	-
311	386	Pit	-	-	0.23	0.10	-
312	387	Pit	-	-	0.26	0.18	-
313	388	Pit	-	-	0.80	0.15	-
314	389	Pit	-	-	0.25	0.15	Prehistoric
315	390	Posthole	-	-	0.26	0.15	-
316	391	Ditch (20)	-	0.70	-	0.24	Roman
317	392, 393, 394	Pit	-	1.00	-	0.57	Roman (phase 3)
318	395, 396	Pit	0.73	0.71	-	0.31	-
319	397, 398, 399	Pit	-	200	-	0.40	Roman (unphased)
320	450	?	0.40	0.70	-	0.28	-
321	451	?	-	0.20	-	0.40	-
322	452	Posthole	0.31	0.29	-	0.23	-
323	453	Posthole/pit	-	-	0.37	0.06	-
324	454	Pit	-	-	0.62	0.25	-
325	455	Pit	-	-	0.17	0.03	Prehistoric
326	456	Gully	1.30	0.50	-	0.10	-
327	457, 458, 459	Pit	1.50	1.00	-	0.42	Roman (unphased)
328	461	Posthole	-	-	0.40	0.09	?Prehistoric
329	462	Posthole/pit	-	0.60	-	0.33	-
330	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
331	460	Pit	0.45	0.90	-	0.22	-
332	463, 464, 468	Pit	-	-	3.00	0.75	Roman (phase 1)
333	465	Ditch (25)	-	-	0.40	0.22	-
334	466	Pit	-	-	-	0.48	Roman (phase 3)
335	467	Posthole/pit	0.40	0.40	-	0.21	Prehistoric
336	561	Pit	-	-	0.67	0.16	Saxon
337	560	Posthole	-	-	0.18	0.31	Saxon
338	469	Pit	1.18	1.12	-	0.38	Post-Medieval
339	470	Posthole	-	-	0.50	0.32	-
340	471, 472, 473	Pit	-	-	0.80	0.45	Roman (phase 1)
341	-	Posthole	-	-	0.22	0.20	-
342	474	Ditch (25)	-	1.10	-	0.34	Roman
343	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
344	569	Posthole	-	-	0.26	0.10	-
345	475	Posthole	-	-	0.27	0.21	-
346	481	Posthole	-	-	0.26	0.13	-
347	480	Posthole	-	-	0.17	0.09	-
348	479	Posthole	-	-	0.20	0.09	-
349	482	Posthole	-	-	0.30	0.16	-
400	483	Tree hole	-	-	-	-	-
401	484	Posthole	-	-	0.15	0.10	-

Appendix 1: continued

Cut	*Fill(s)/Deposits*	*Description*	*Length (m.)*	*Width (m.)*	*Diam. (m.)*	*Depth (m.)*	*Date*
402	485	Posthole	-	-	0.20	0.17	-
403	486	Ditch (30)?	-	0.94	-	0.32	Roman
404	492	Ditch	2.10	0.70	-	0.20	-
405	493	Ditch (20)?	2.10	0.65	-	0.17	-
406	494	Ditch (25)	-	0.55	-	0.15	-
407	488	Pit	-	-	-	0.60	Roman (phase 3)
408	490	Gully (438)	-	0.52	-	0.20	-
409	495	Gully	3.00	0.50	-	0.17	Roman (unphased)
410	498	Pit	-	-	-	0.30	-
411	562	Pit	2.00	-	-	0.13	-
412	550	Pit	-	-	-	0.72	Roman (unphased)
413	551, 552	Pit	-	-	0.74	0.57	Prehistoric
414	553, 554	Pit	-	0.64	-	0.52	Roman (unphased)
415	71	Ditch (30)	-	0.72	-	0.34	Roman
416	152	Ditch (30)	0.80	0.76	-	0.40	Roman
417	157	Ditch (30)	-	0.56	-	0.44	-
418	93, 94, 95	Ditch (25)	-	1.15	-	0.50	Roman
419	69, 70	Ditch (25)	-	0.84	-	0.36	Roman
420	81, 82	Ditch (25)	-	0.64	-	0.28	Roman
421	150	Ditch (25)	-	0.52	-	0.34	Roman
422	67, 68	Ditch (20)	-	0.84	-	-	Roman
423	83, 84	Ditch (20)	-	0.60	-	0.15	Roman
424	97	Ditch (20)	-	0.21	-	0.14	-
425	264, 265	Ditch (20)	-	1.25	-	0.45	-
426	487	Ditch (20)	-	-	-	0.20	-
427	251	Ditch (39)	-	0.53	-	0.34	-
428	171	Ditch (25)	-	1.05	-	0.32	-
429	170	Ditch (39)	-	0.45	-	0.23	-
430	156	Ditch (39)	-	-	-	0.20	-
431	98	Ditch (39)	-	0..60	-	0.30	-
432	92	Ditch (39)	-	0.98	-	0.36	-
433	169	Ditch (39)	-	1.18	-	0.43	-
434	477	Ditch (25)	-	0.60	-	0.50	-
435	489	Ditch (25)	-	0.50	-	0.23	-
436	266	Ditch (20)	-	0.70	-	0.20	-
437	491	Ditch (438)	-	0.65	-	0.20	-
438	-	Group no. for ditch	-	-	-	-	Roman (phase 3)
439	497	Ditch (30)	-	0.80	-	0.24	-
440	567	Ditch (30)	-	-	-	-	-
441	570	Posthole	0.50	0.36	-	-	-
442	468, 571, 572	Pit	1.0	1.90	-	0.55	Roman (unphased)

Waylands Nursery, Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire, 1997

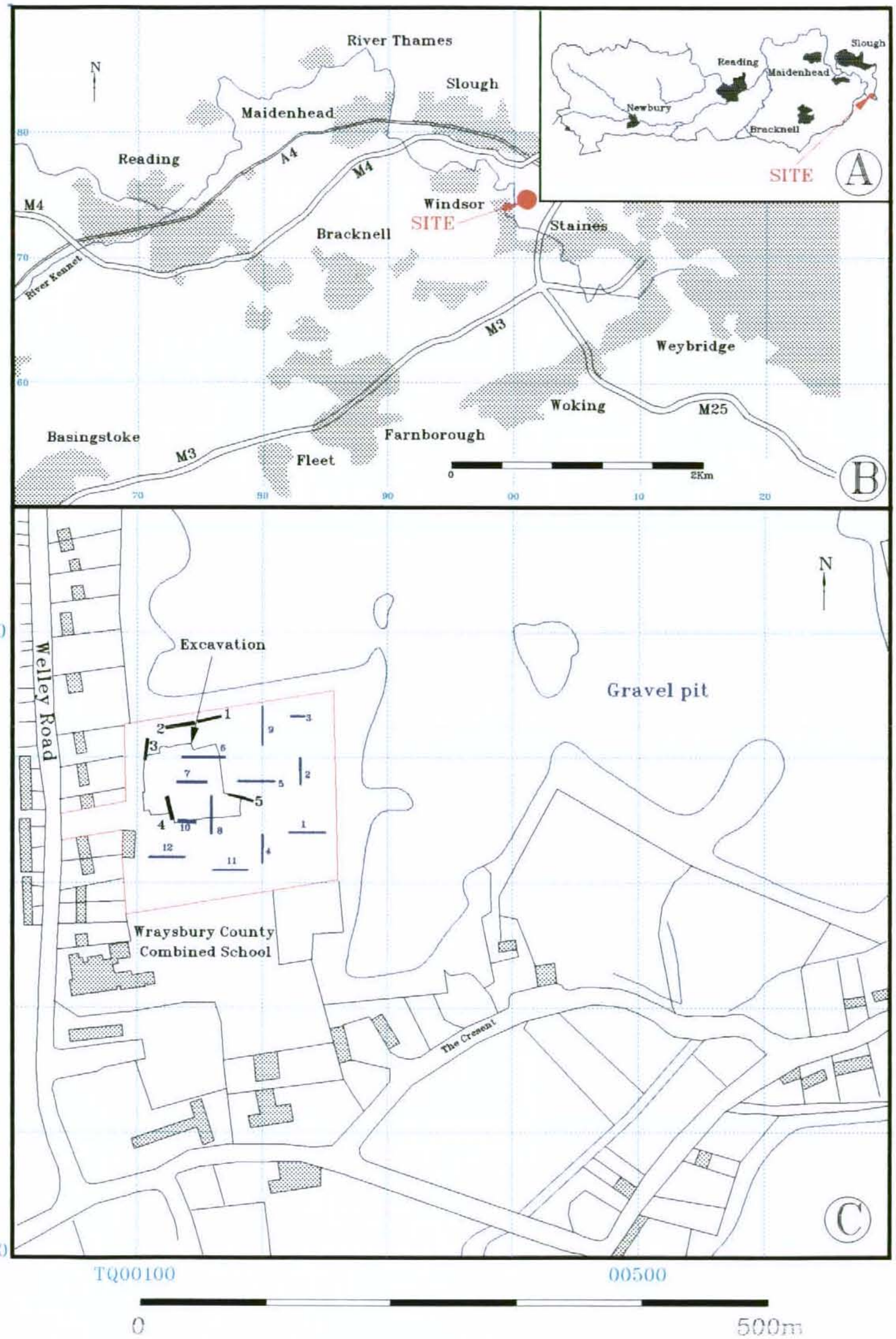

Figure 1. Location of Site within Wraysbury and Berkshire, showing excavated area and evaluation trenches (OAU trenches in blue, TVAS trenches in black).

WNW97/10

Waylands Nursery, Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire, 1997

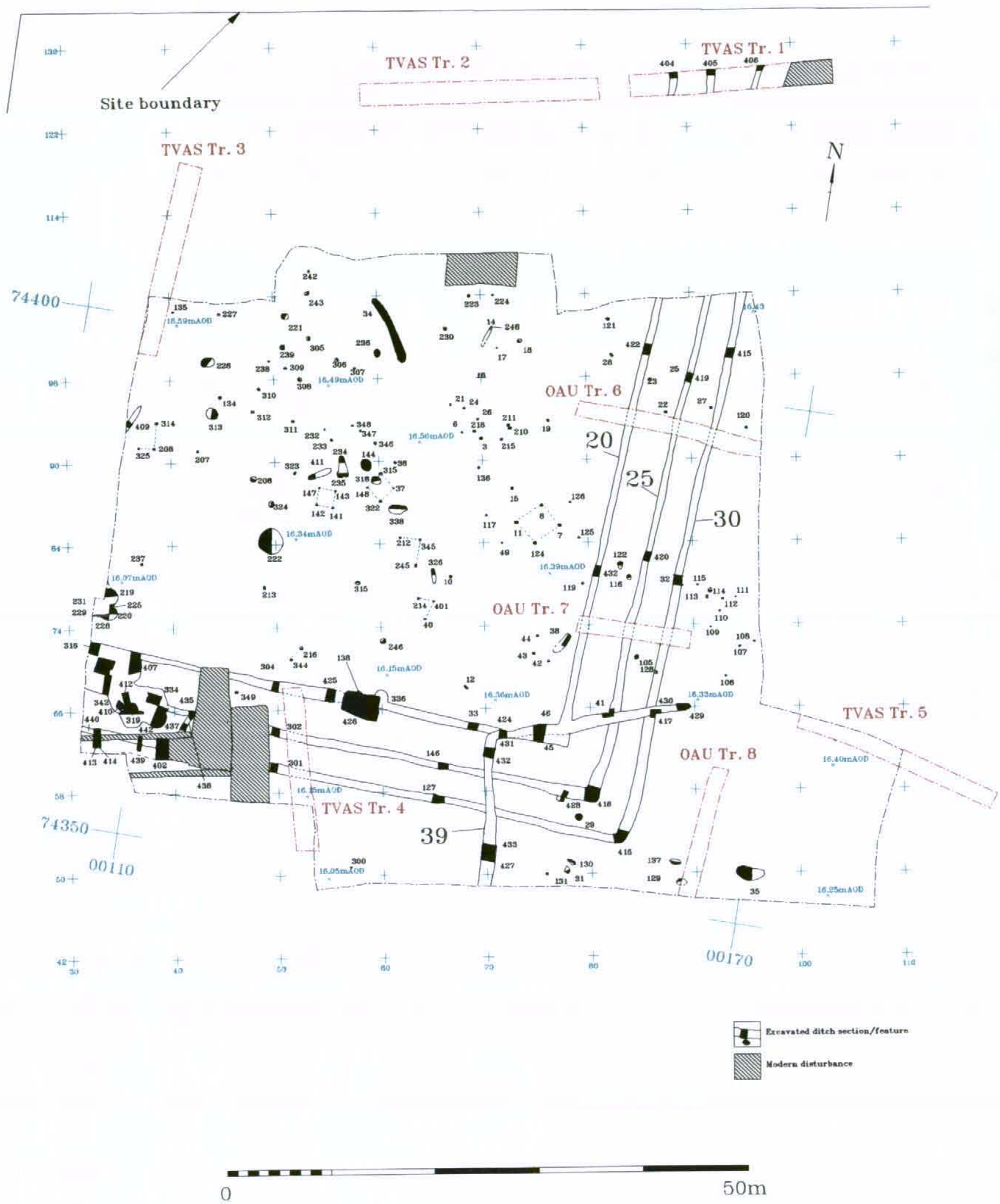

Figure 2. Plan of features.

WNW97/10

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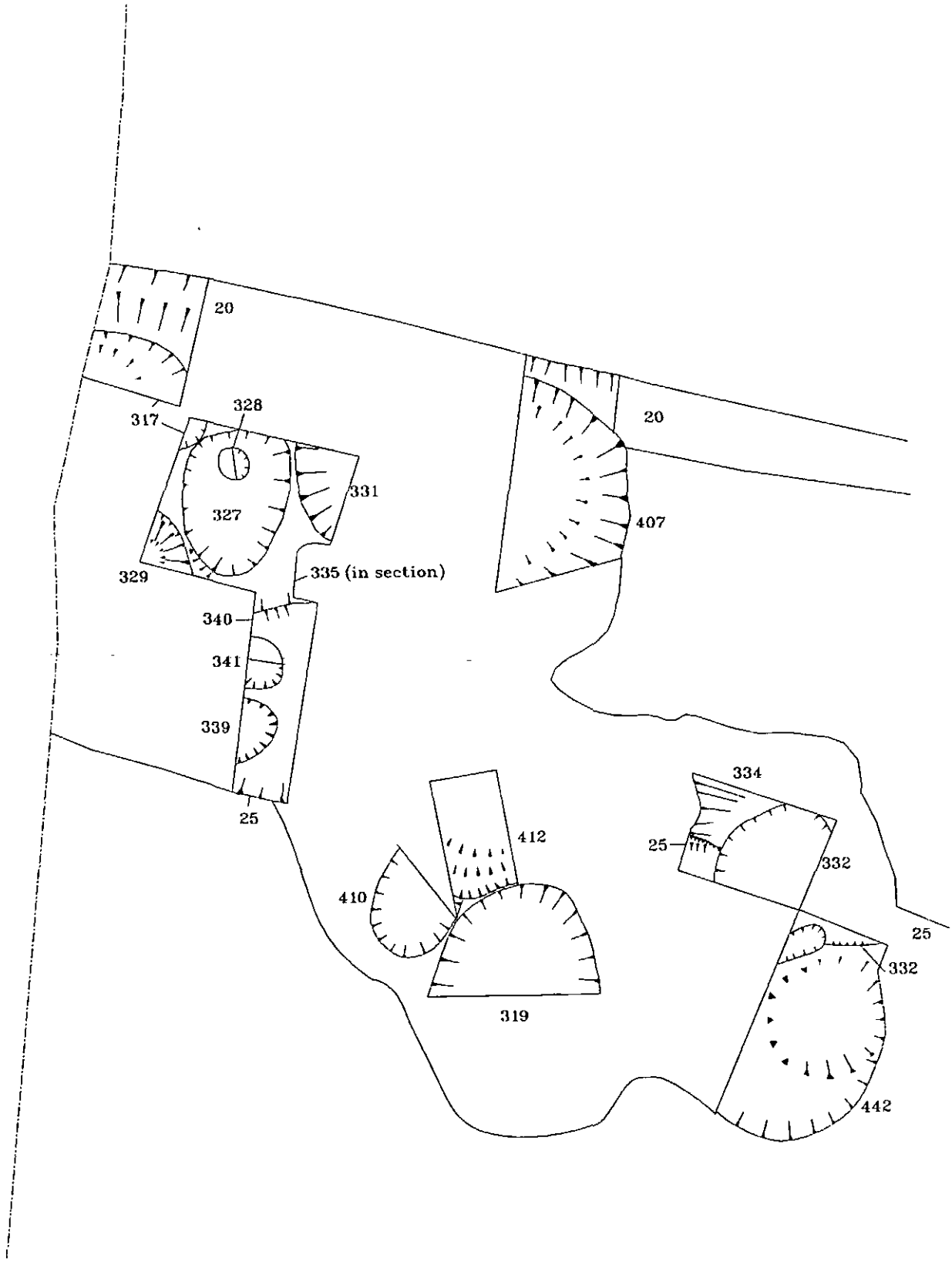

Figure 3. Plan of pit group.

WNW97/10

Waylands Nursery, Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire, 1997

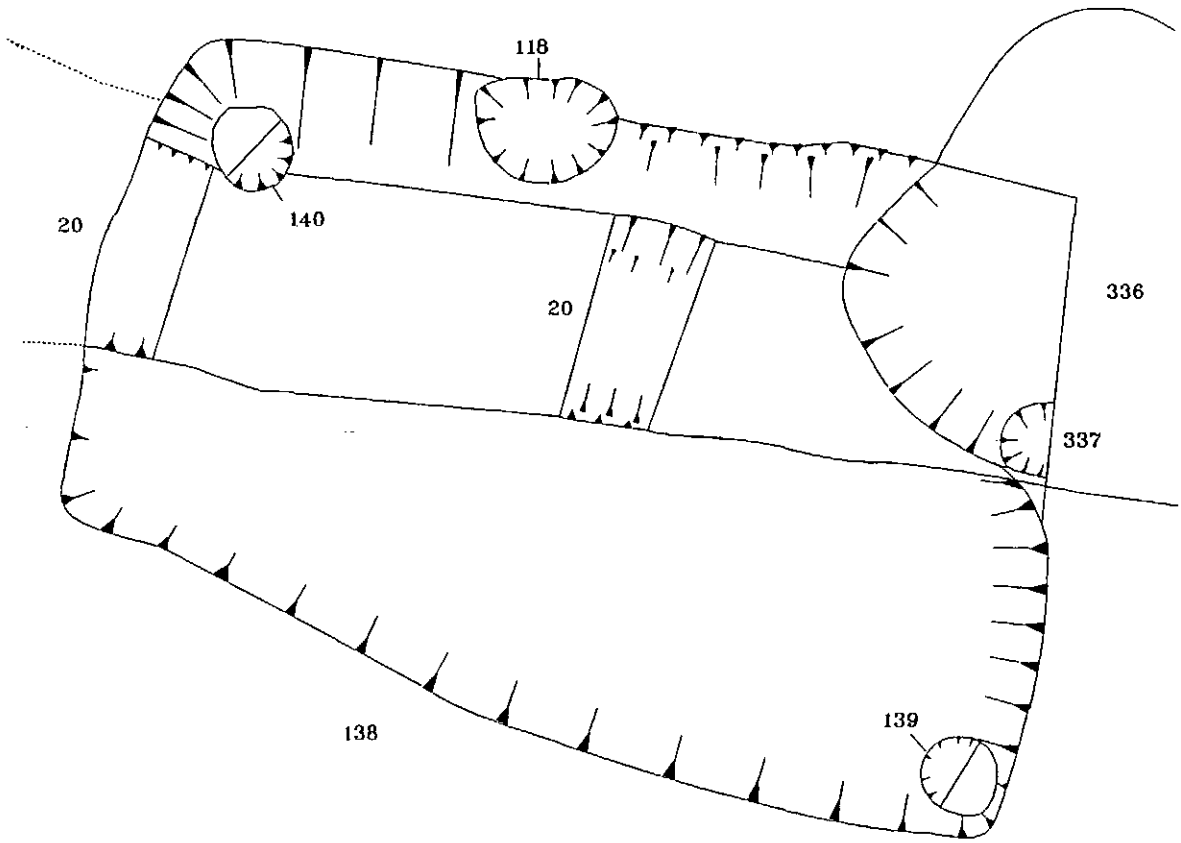

Figure 4. Plan of sunken-featured building. WNW97/10

not arranged in an easily usable form. - why can't they be grouped according to structures / phases etc. - no sections of Struc 2

Waylands Nursery, Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire, 1997

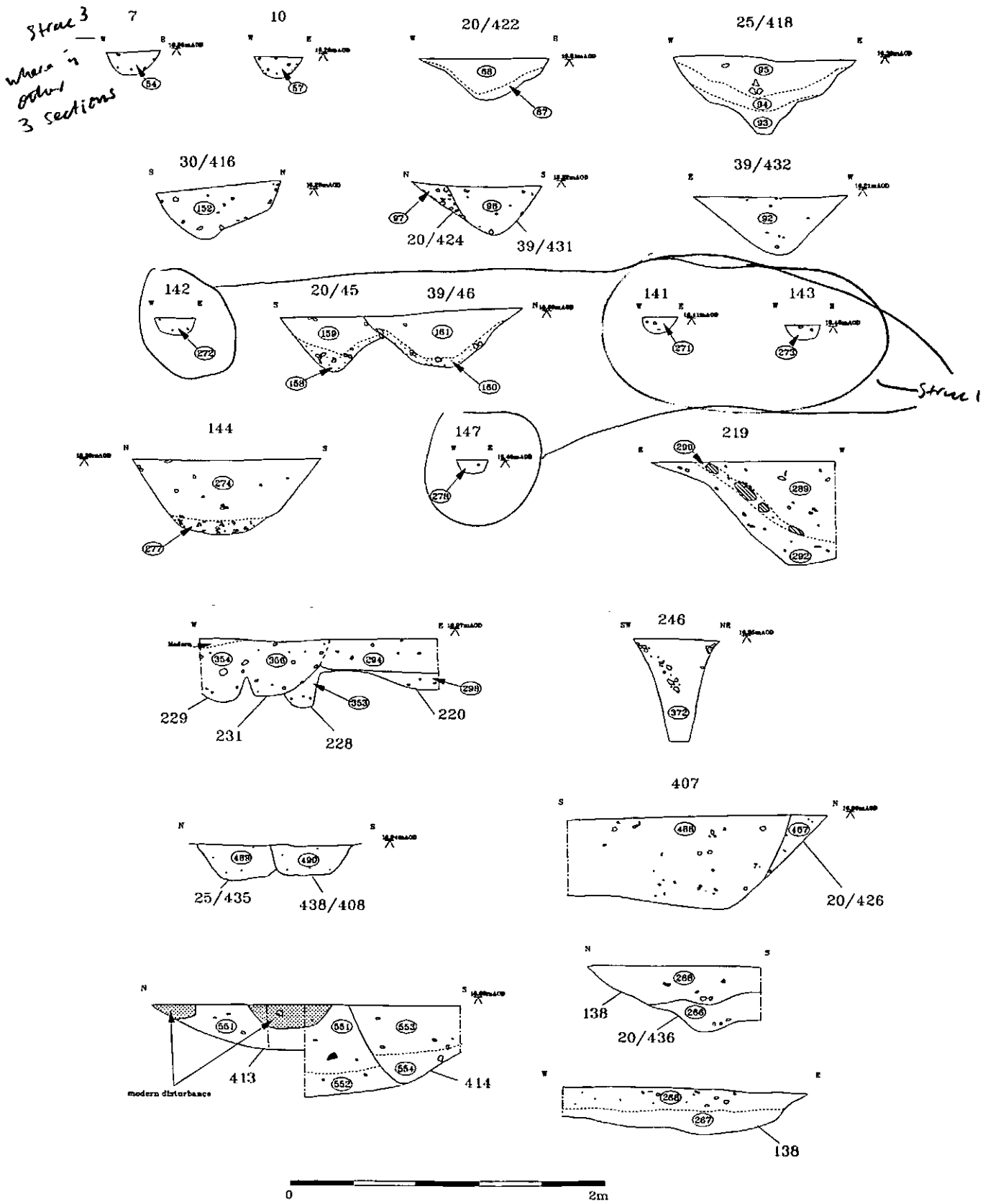

Figure 5. Sections.

WNW97/10

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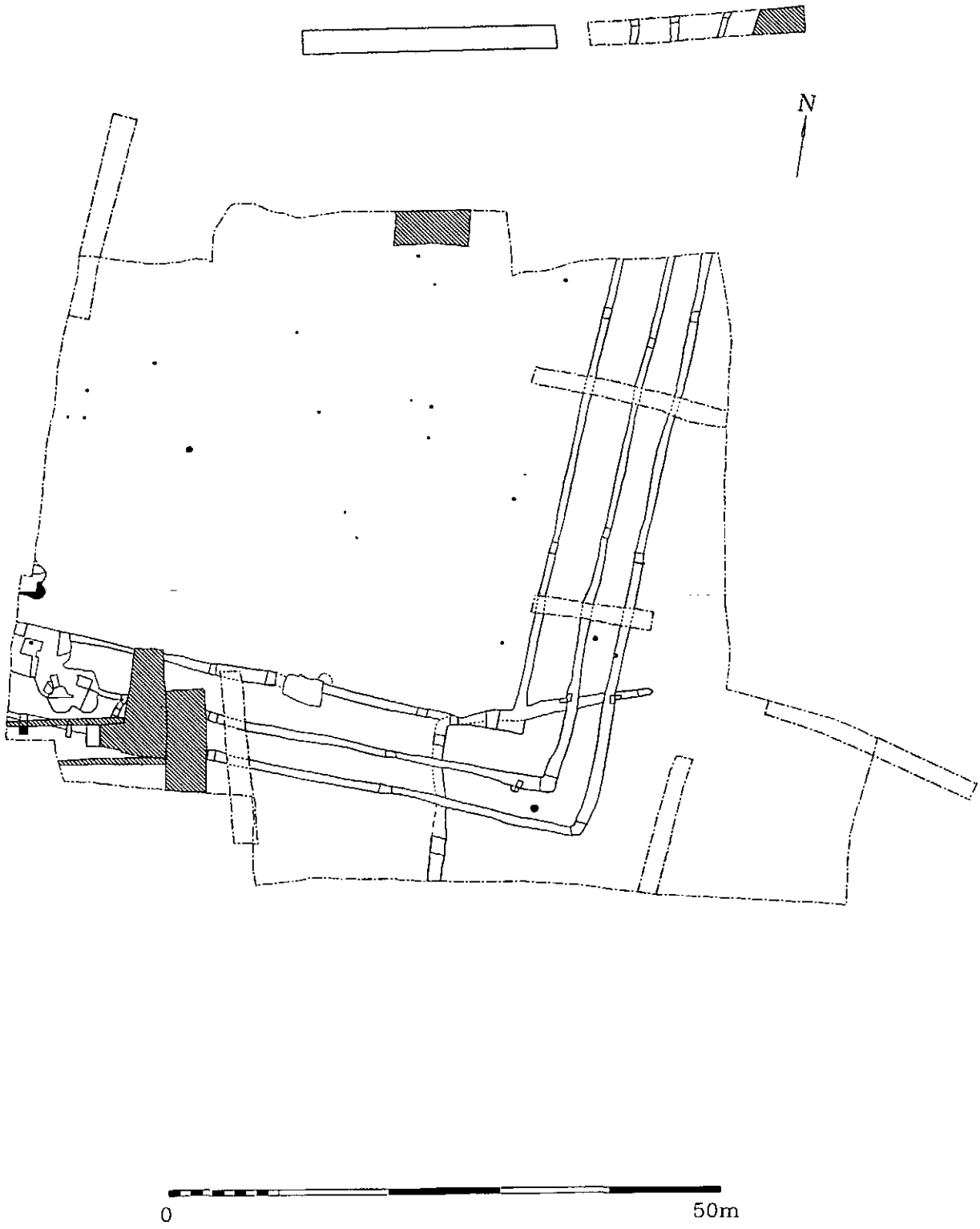

Figure 6. Prehistoric phase plan.

WNW97/10

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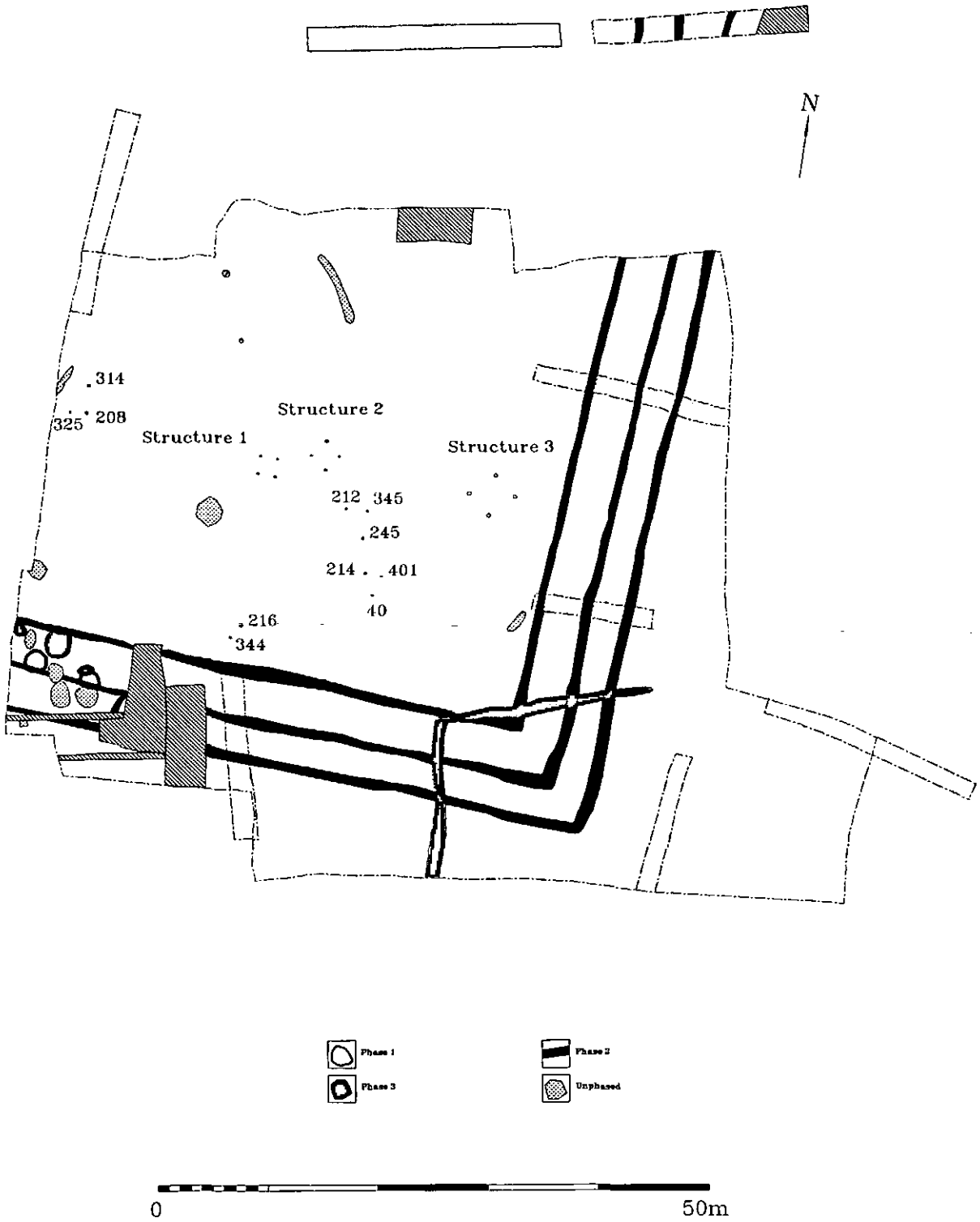

Figure 7. Roman phase plan, also showing possible post-built structures.

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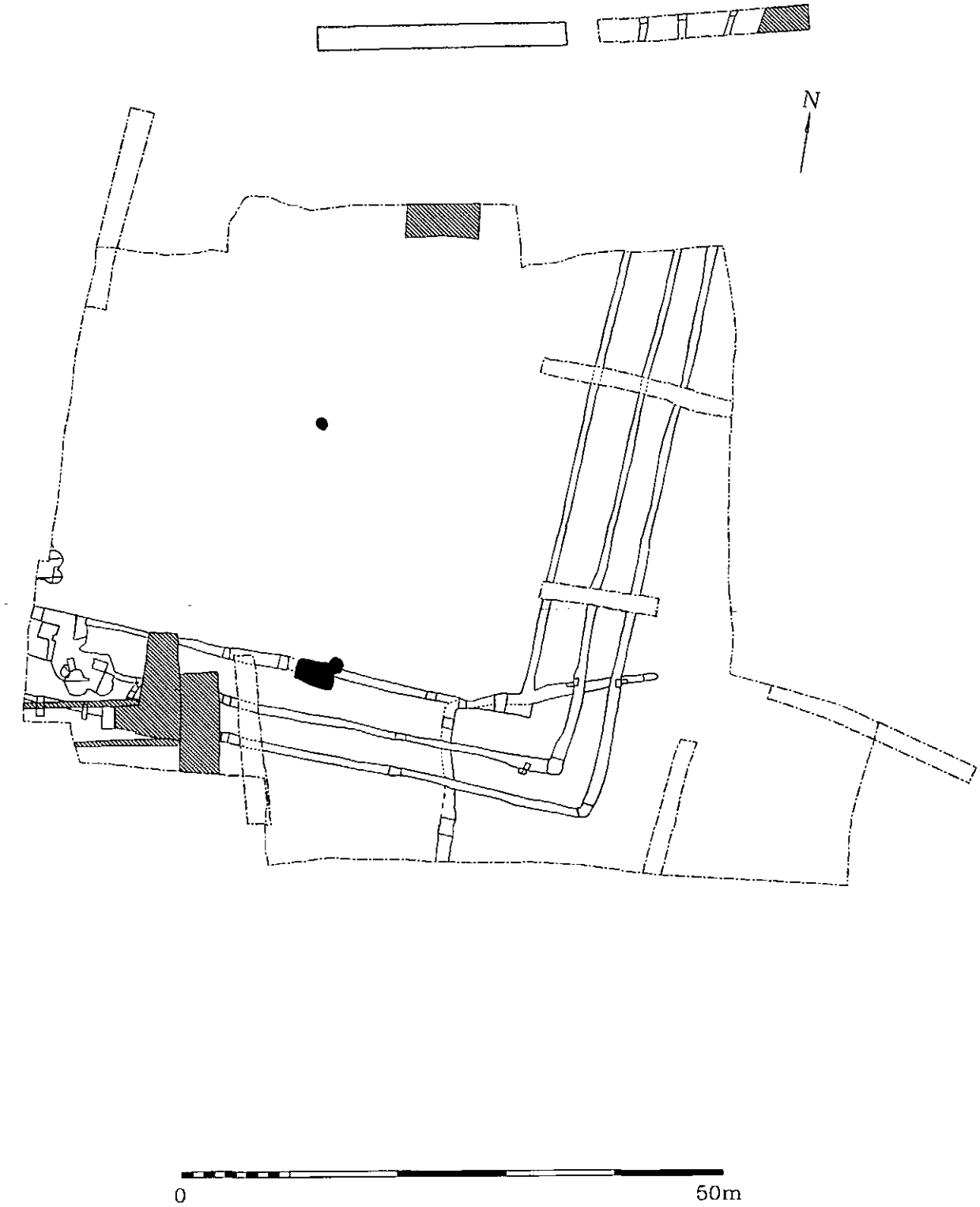


Figure 8. Saxon phase plan.

WNW97/10

Plate 1. General shot of parallel ditches 20, 25 and 30, looking south.

Plate 2. Section of pit 144 looking east, scale: 0.50m.

Plate 3. Slot 33 through Ditch 20, looking west, horizontal scales 2m and 1m.

Plate 4. Section of pit 219, looking south, scale: 0.50m.

Waylands Nursery, Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire, 1997

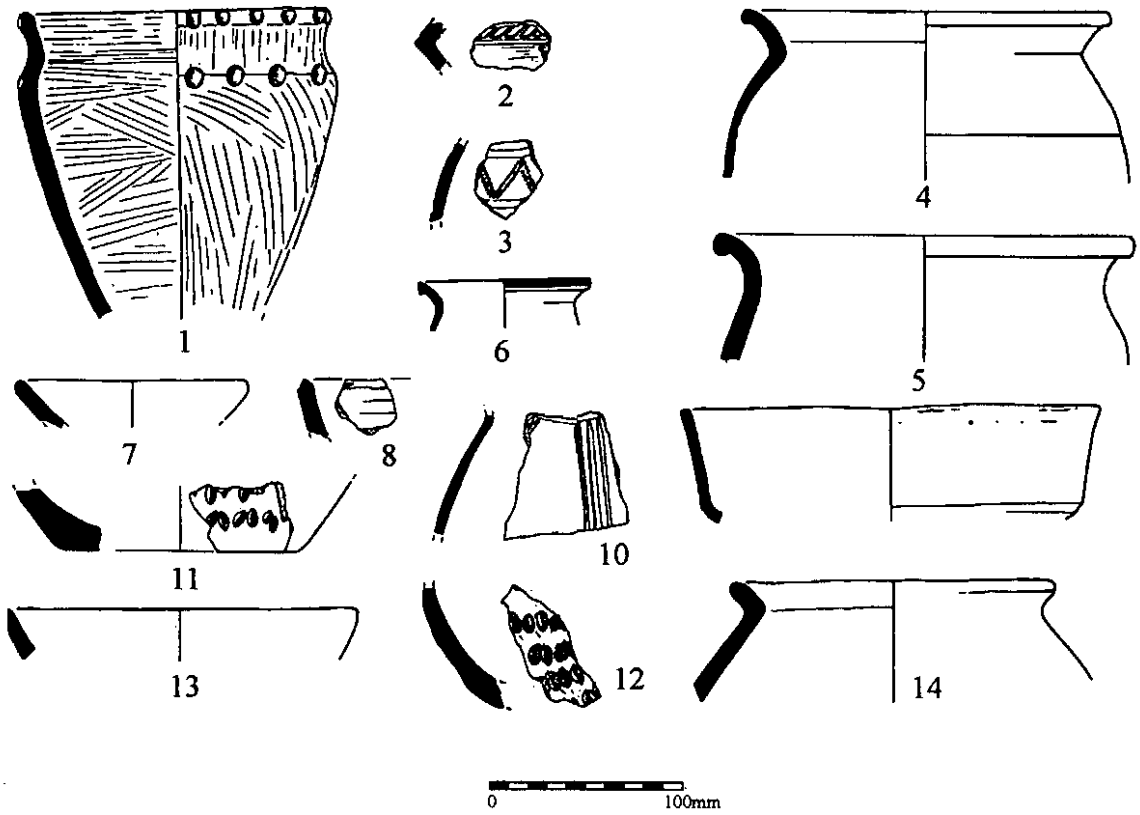


Figure 9. Pottery.

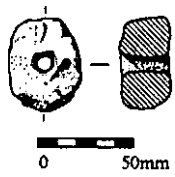
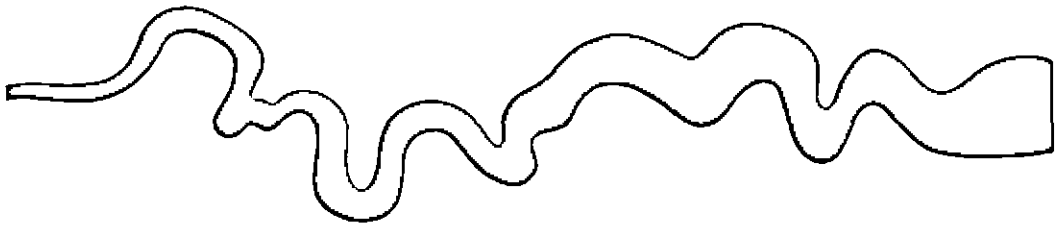


Figure 10. Chalk Spindlewort from SFB 138.

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10,000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	50,000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70,000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC



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