DEEN CITY FARM GRAZING,
Varley Way, Mitcham
London Borough of Merton

An Archaeological Evaluation

Museum of London Archaeology Service
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museum of LONDON

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Varley Way, Mitcham
London Borough of Merton

An Archaeological Evaluation

SITE CODE : DCF93
TQ : 26747 69144

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1.0) ABSTRACT

Deen City Farm Grazing, Varley Way, Mitcham, Surrey [London Borough of Merton] (M.o.L.A.S. Site Code: DCF 93) TQ 26747 69144

Archaeological evaluation excavations were carried out on the site in two phases between the 27th of September and 8th of October 1993 and the 11th and 22nd of October. During the first phase (consisting of the excavation of eight trenches) five possible inhumation burials were located on a N-S orientation to the W of a N-S ditch containing pottery of the AD 1st-early 2nd century. The burials formed two roughly aligned E-W rows. Two of the burials were noted to contain human bone, while a third contained both human bone and iron nails and a possible coffin fitting. In keeping with current evaluation policy the inhumations were not excavated.

A further ditch, containing a single sherd of shell-tempered pottery, was identified to the S of the burials and to the E of the projected line of the main N-S ditch. To the W of this what later proved to be the edge of a naturally cut channel or depression was encountered. Towards the western limit of the site three possible natural channel cuts were observed. Two were on an approximate E-W alignment, and the more southerly was demonstrated to cut the third which was aligned SE-NW. There were no diagnostic finds from their fills.

All features were overlain by a homogeneous sandy ploughsoil/overburden containing sherds of Roman Pottery (AD40-400), and medieval and post-medieval material. It also contained disarticulated human bone. There was clear evidence of truncation of both graves, ditches and natural features.

The second phase of evaluation work (a further five trenches) was designed to define the area of the site containing burials. During this work a further seven suspected inhumation burials were noted. Five lay to the N of the original group, one to the W, and one to the S. Three contained iron nails, of which one also appeared to contain an iron ring which may represent a bucket or barrel hoop. The most southerly burial contained human bone.

The natural cuts identified in the first phase may represent the edges of one or more of at least three natural channels which, following approximately the same course, ran onto the site from the S, before apparently turning to the W or NW. Finds of pottery tentatively dated to the Late Bronze Age were recovered from basal fills of two of the channels. The main N-S ditch may run into one of these channels. To the E, shallow undated features and recent cuts were observed, but all burials were concentrated to the N of the natural channels, and to the W of the N-S ditch.

After exposure, iron objects in graves were recorded by a conservator in order to assess current state of preservation, and the areas containing burials were backfilled using Terram permeable membrane material and salt and acid free sand as a temporary preservation method.

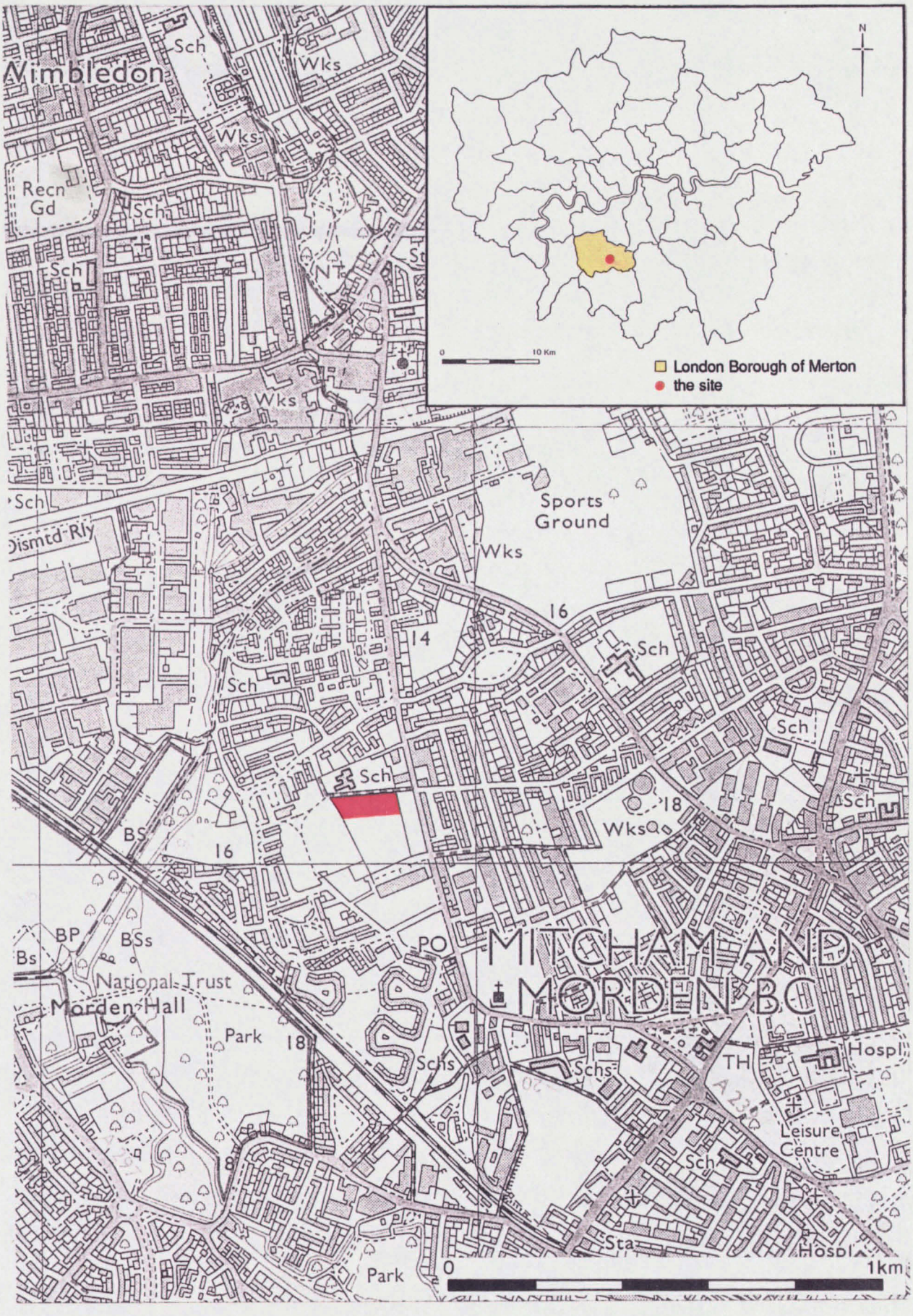

Figure 1: Site Location

2.0) INTRODUCTION

The following report deals with evaluation excavations carried out at Deen City Farm Grazing, Mitcham, Surrey (Ordnance Survey Grid Ref. for centre of site: TQ 26747 69144) for Willmot Dixon Southern Housing Limited, in two phases, between the 27th of September and 22nd of October 1993[1]. The site forms part of a redevelopment of the Phipp's Bridge Estate, Mitcham. It was proposed that low-rise housing with access and car parking be build on the area. This report has been prepared immediately after excavation, and therefore represents a summary of data and perceptions apparent at this stage rather than a comprehensive analysis of all evidence.

3.0) OBJECTIVES OF EVALUATION

The Planning Policy Guidance (PPG 16) on Archaeology and Planning, issued by the Department of the Environment in November 1990 identifies the need for early archaeological consultation to identify the impact of development schemes on buried archaeological heritage[2]. The bases for such decisions under PPG 16 should be a "desk-top" impact assessment, evaluation excavation, non-intrusive on-site evaluation techniques or a combination of these methods.

These methods should provide the local planning authority with enough information to make an informed decision as to whether archaeological material on the site is of **local, regional,** or **national** significance in terms of **period, rarity, documentation, survival** and **potential**[3]. The level of significance will influence the planning authority's deliberations in regard of possible mitigation strategies necessary to protect the archaeological resource.

In the case of the Deen City Farm Grazing site, which forms part of the larger Phipp's Bridge Estate redevelopment scheme, an Archaeological Impact Assessment suggested that the potential for archaeological survival on the site was "very high"[4]. As, however, the nature of the archaeological material could not be sufficiently well defined from documentary sources alone it was decided that the most appropriate means to obtain sufficient information to make informed decisions regarding the archaeological resource would be limited evaluation excavation.

The general objectives of evaluation excavation are threefold: firstly to ascertain the survival of archaeological remains or deposits within certain areas of the development site; secondly to determine whether such deposits are of sufficient significance that either preservation *in situ*, or detailed excavation prior to destruction would be necessary during redevelopment; and finally to determine the impact of proposed construction work on the total archaeological resource. Site specific research aims should also be formulated in advance where applicable[5]. With this in mind a specification/research design/methodology was produced by M.o.L.A.S.[6]. The

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1. See Figure 1

2. Department of Environment, 1990

3. Ibid.: Appendix 4

4. Grainger, 1993: Deen City Farm Grazing is referred to as Site 3.1 throughout

5. English Heritage, 1992

6. Densem, 1993(1)

specific research aims in this instance are dealt with below[1], after discussion of the physical background to the site, and the excavation methodology.

4.0) BACKGROUND

The geological, historical, and archaeological background of the Deen City Farm Grazing site has been previously addressed in the Phipp's Bridge Impact Assessment prepared by the Museum of London Archaeology Service earlier this year[2]. However it is worth summarising and amplifying some of this material in order to put the results of the evaluation into context.

4.1) Geology and Topology

The location of the site some 300 m from the present much altered and canalised course of the River Wandle clearly places it within the river's broad floodplain. Thus the geological subsoil consists of alluvial gravels and sands. However as the site is relatively close to the river, much of this material may represent recent (Flandrian) reworking of deposits identified as the Mitcham Terrace (Mitcham Gravel).

Although this is dated to the Upper Pleistocene and is likely to represent periglacial deposition in the Devensian epoch[3] radiocarbon dating from the vicinity suggests that flooding and the transportation of coarse gravels and sands occurred as late as the Bronze Age[4]. Evidence from a site on Wandle Bank, Colliers Wood located adjacent to the river itself showed reworking of material by the river until the AD16th century[5]. It was therefore possible that such processes would be observed on the Deen City Farm Grazing site.

On the ground the site could be seen to rise gradually towards the E to a point approximately 85 m from its western limit, thereafter it apparently levelled off with perhaps a very slight fall towards the SE throughout.

4.2) Historical

The site forms part of a parcel of land known as Short Batsworth (after which Batsworth Road to the S of the site was named)[6]. The first recorded of this nomenclature was in 1234-5, and may be derived from the old English for "Baetti or Baecci's homestead". A sale map of the Moore Estate in 1853 indicates that the site was covered by strip holdings at that date. These are likely to represent earlier strip fields forming part of the one of the three common fields of Mitcham, called Blacklands. The area was probably used as arable during the 19th, according to the Tithe Map of 1847 and register of 1847. The site was acquired by Mitcham Urban Dis-

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1. Section 5.0

2. Grainger, 1993

3. Peake, 1982

4. Peake, 1971

5. Nielsen, 1989

6. Montague, 1989: Historical details given here are largely derived from this manuscript

trict Council in the 1920s for use as allotments prior to its most recent usage as grazing for animals belonging to the Deen City Farm.

4.3) Archaeological

The archaeological background to the site has been well covered in the Impact Assessment, however a few more details of the burials and ditches located in 1966-8 at the Haslemere First School site directly to the N of it are perhaps appropriate.

Two of the three burials located were found by workmen digging engineering test pits "approximately where the school building now stands"[1]. The first was described as lying ""between 2'3" [0.68 m] and 2'6" [0.75 m] below ground level", in the commencement of the sandy stratum which underlies the loam and topsoil"[2]. It was orientated NW-SE, and was described as an adult with it legs extended and arms at its side (fig 12 [B1]). Its head lay to the SE, with the chin resting on its chest. The second burial (fig 12 [B2] was found at a similar depth in a second test pit some 6' to the SW of the first. It was orientated N-S with legs extended, hands crossed on the chest. Its head lay to the S and was turned to the right.

The third burial [B3] was located during excavations by the Merton Historical Society. These were planned to consist of a series of ten 10' (3.00 m) by 4' (1.20 m) aligned N-S and spread along a 100' (30.5 m) E-W base line "immediately to the S of the two burials". The burial was situated between trenches 3 and 4 (the trenches were numbered from E-W), and was seen in the W section and NW corner of Trench 3. It was orientated N-S with the head at the S end. It is described as much disturbed and as being nearer the ground surface than the other two.

No grave goods were found with any of the burials, but some Romano-British pottery was found in association with them. As there was considerable disturbance in the vicinity of the burials found in the test pits, and as this material may have been intrusive or residual the excavator could not date the burials with any certainty, though a Romano-British provenance was favoured. All burials appear to have lain to the W of a two parallel N-S ditches (fig 12), the more easterly and larger of which produced considerable quantities of pottery dating to the AD1st-2nd, including locally produced shell-tempered fabrics. However, this again need not necessarily represent a feature contemporary with the burials.

Trenches located between the graves and to the W of [B2] failed to locate further inhumations, as did observation of later building work on site.

The findings of 1966-8 were uppermost in M.o.L.A.S.'s considerations when framing both the research design, and methodology appropriate to the Deen City Farm Grazing site.

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1. E. N. Montague pers. comm.; with the help of his drawings and information the location of the burials has now been established see figure 12

2. Montague, 1989

5.0) METHODOLOGY

A fuller description of the general methodology for archaeological evaluation excavations may be found in the Specification/Methodology for this site[1]; this adheres to the latest generalised English Heritage guidance on such documents[2]. The evaluation locations were selected, as has been suggested, to sample the areas of greatest potential impact of the new development, and to best produce a representative sample across the site. This produced a pattern of eight trenches placed within the footprints of the proposed development[3]. The proposed evaluation trenches' area (c. 315 m^2) represented approximately 4% of the area of the Deen City Farm Grazing (3.1) site. This represents an acceptable sample, falling between the 2% and 10% suggested elsewhere[4].

The methodology took into account the possibility of encountering human burials at a comparatively high level as suggested by the findings on the Haslemere First School site, by indicating that bulk soil removal by mechanical excavator should proceed in spits of not more than 0.20 m in depth, and at all times be overseen by the site supervisor.

During the excavation, the site specific research questions were also borne in mind.These were as follows:

- *what was the nature of the prehistoric exploitation of the area?*

- *is there any evidence for Romano-British or later burial or settlement activity?*

- *can the date range for the ancient cemetery be established, and additionally what information does it contain for religious belief and ritual and for socio-economic, mortality and population studies?*

-*can the full extent and date range and nature of the ancient site here be defined?*

-*what contribution can the palaeo-environmental study of the site make to the understanding and knowledge of the ancient environment?*

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1. Densem, 1993(1)

2. English Heritage, 1992(2)

3. Figure 2

4. English Heritage, 1992(3)

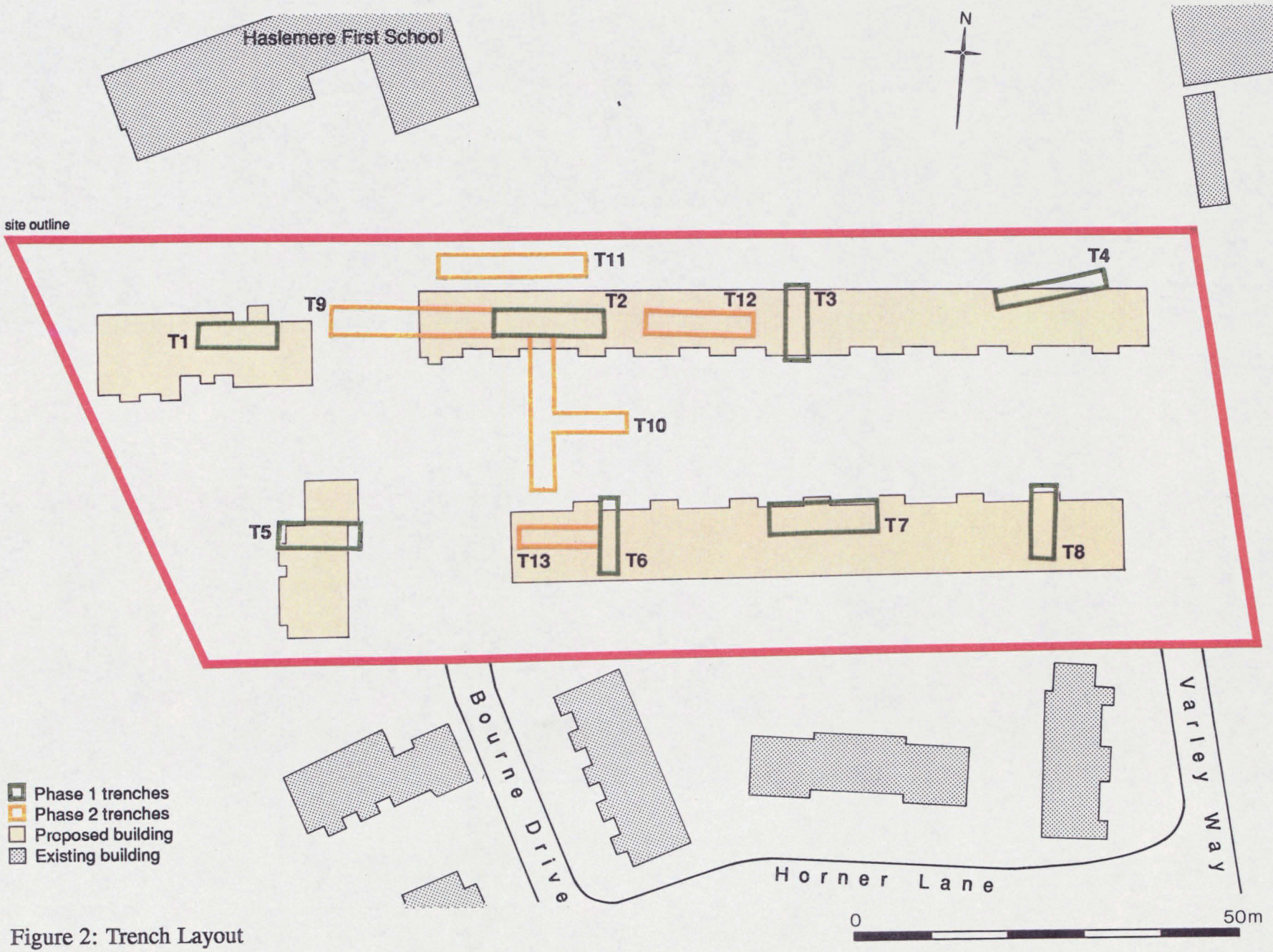


Figure 2: Trench Layout

6.0) RESULTS (PHASE 1)

The eight evaluation trenches (Trenches 1-8, numbered in two "rows" from W-E) were initially excavated to the level of archaeologically significant deposits, in this instance the interface between overburden and geological subsoil, by means of a Hitachi 360° tracked excavator under the supervision of the Site Supervisor. This was followed by partial hand excavation (where necessary), of archaeological features in order to determine their likely nature. The results of this work were then recorded as per the standards laid down in the evaluation Specification/Methodology[1].

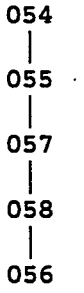
This recording method assigned "context numbers" to individual layers, cuts, fills and deposits; in the following text these are referred to in square parentheses, thus: [XX]. All heights refer to the Ordnance Datum, (ie. +XX.XX m OD). A Harris stratigraphic matrix for each trench is included, earliest contexts are at the bottom, latest at the top.

6.1) Trench 1 (figs 3,4a)

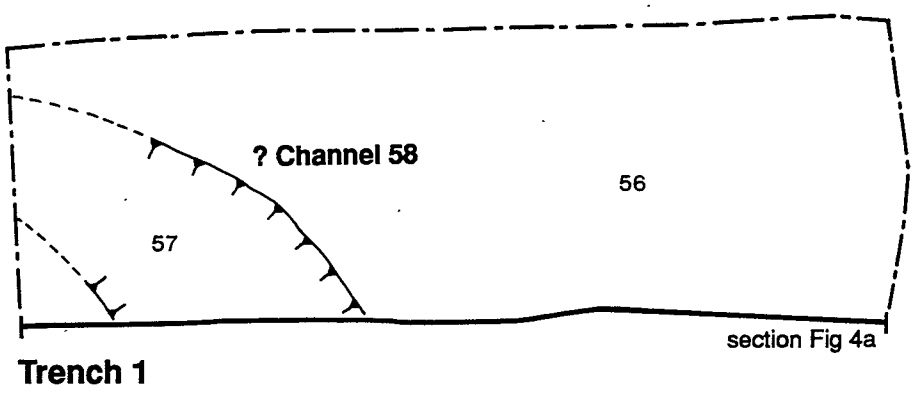
Underlying a dark grey/brown loamy topsoil and turf layer [54] some 0.30-0.40 m thick, and with its surface at a height of between +15.87 and +15.80 m OD a deposit of mid-brown silty sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles [55] was removed by machine. The deposit was 0.54-0.60 m thick, and its interface with the overlying material lay at a height of +15.61-15.43 m OD. It contained finds of medieval,post-medieval pottery and tile, and a sherd of Romano-British Highgate Wood pottery (c. AD70-160). The deposit appeared to slope towards the W.

A linear feature [58] and its fill of grey/brown clayey silt with very frequent coarse gritty sand and sub-angular pebbles [57], were found to run SE-NW across the western end of the trench. Due to the flooding of the trench , which could only partly be controlled by the use of a pump, this feature was not excavated, however a small sondage suggested that the fill was at least 0.35 m deep. The surface of this material lay at a height of +14.93 m-14.79. No finds were recovered from the fill. The linear feature cut a loose yellow/grey gravel and sand deposit [56], which appeared to be a geological sub-soil. This deposit sloped from E to W at a height of between +15.10 and +14.92 m OD.

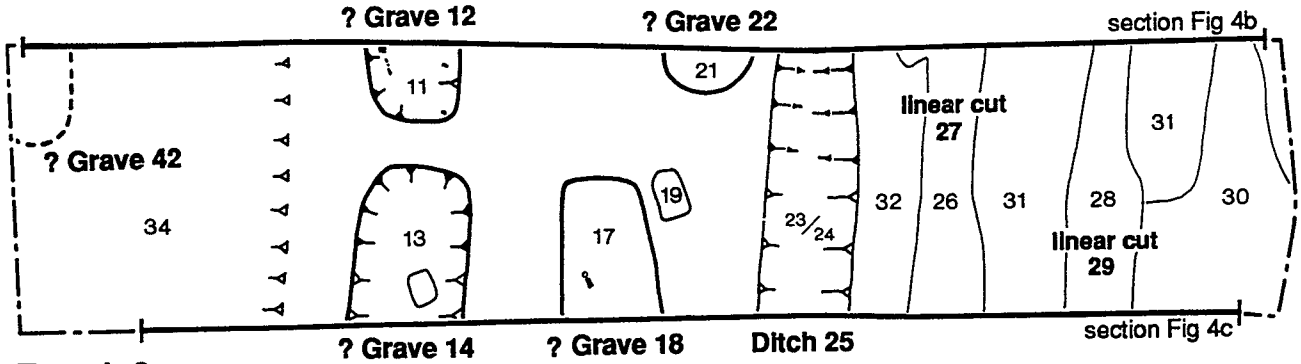
6.1.1) Matrix



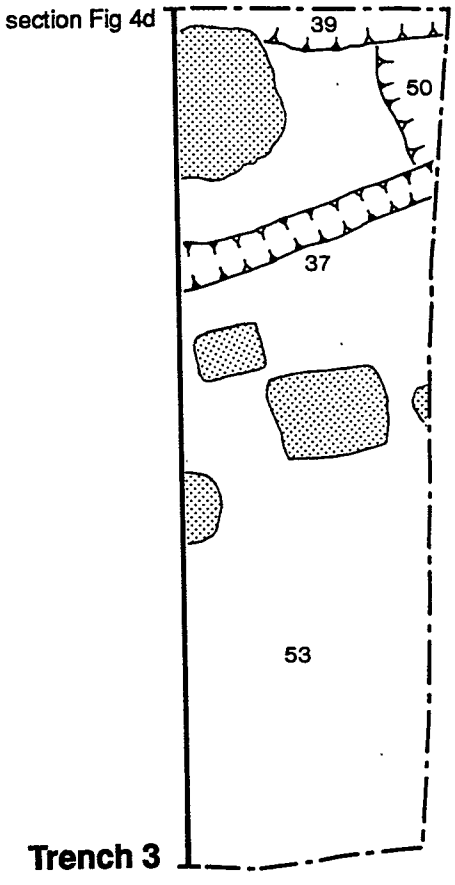
1. Densem, 1993(1)



Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3

KEY (Figs 3-11)

trench outline / limit of excavation

modern

topsoil

feature : found and conjectured

extent of context

0 4m

Figure 3: Trenches 1-3: Features

6.1.2) Discussion

The basic stratigraphy in Trench 1 appears to consist of a comparatively recent dark humic topsoil deposit, overlying a clayey silt homogeneous subsoil, which may represent a plough-soil/agricultural soil containing redistributed finds dating from the Roman to post-medieval period. The linear feature underlying this is likely to be a a natural channel; undateable by finds this may be of prehistoric or later origin. It may represent a tributary channel to the Wandle.

6.2) Trench 2 (figs 3,4b,4c)

The surface of the turf and topsoil deposit, a dark grey/brown sandy silt [35], lay at a height of between +16.53 and +16.35 m OD. Two sub-rectangular cuts, apparently cut from "within" the topsoil deposit, [16] and [20] were observed cutting a subsoil deposit of mid-brown sandy silt [40]. Pit [16] was approximately 0.35 m (NW-SE) x 0.30 m (NE-SW). Its fill was not excavated but was a mid-dark grey/brown sandy silt [15] strongly resembling the topsoil material. A piece of china was noted in its fill. The fill [19] of the other cut [20] was extremely similar, and contained fragments of ash and clinker. It too was not excavated.

The surface of the subsoil stratum [40] lay at a height of between +16.21 and +16.00 m OD. Finds of medieval and post-medieval pot and tile, and one sherd of Alice Holt Romano-British pottery (AD40-160) were recovered from this deposit. In addition fragments of disarticulated human bone were collected throughout the context, obviously having been disturbed or redeposited[1]. While removing this material in 0.20m spits a number of rectilinear or elongated oval cuts were observed, as were three linear cut features running N-S across it.

The most westerly of the discrete cuts [42] was accidentally disturbed during the machining process, with the upper half of a human inhumation burial being removed. The skeletal remains were recovered, and closer examination of the other cuts suggested that these too might represent inhumations all orientated approximately N-S. Closer examination of these features yielded the following results:

> **Grave? [12]**: A sub-rectangular cut [12] extending c. 0.90 m to the S of the N limit of excavation and approximately 1 m wide. A mid-grey/brown sandy silt fill with moderate inclusions of rounded and sub-rounded pebbles up to 30mm in size and occasional fragments of a fine grey clay or chalky material [11] was sectioned on the western side of the feature. The fill was virtually indistinguishable from the overlying subsoil deposit in section.
>
> In the N-E corner of this section bone was encountered, which appeared to be a human tarsal (toe/foot bone). This suggested that the feature was an inhumation burial with, in all likelihood, the head at its N end. In addition three iron objects were located on the W side of the base of the cut, possibly representing coffin nails or fittings[2]. The fill in this section was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.10 m, though it may be as much as 0.20 m in depth. The surface of the fill, as cleaned down to, lay at a height of +15.58 m OD. During further cleaning prior to a conservator's examination and photography two further iron objects were identified on the eastern unexcavated portion of the fill.

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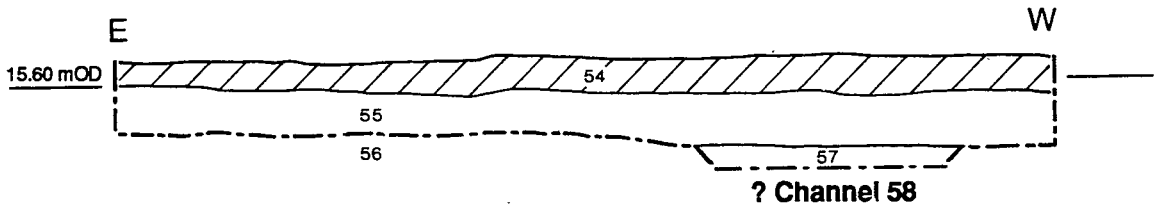
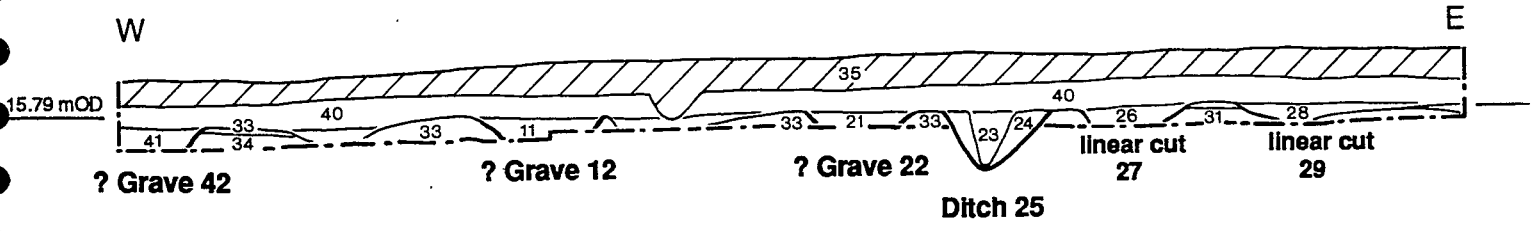
1. See Appendix D for a discussion of this material

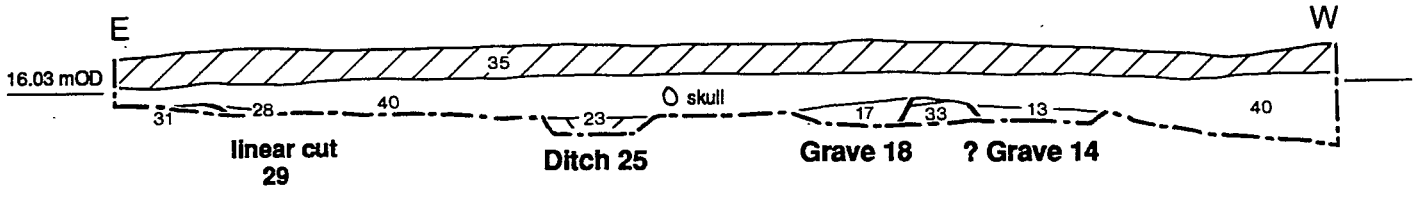
2. See Appendix G for a more detailed examination of these objects



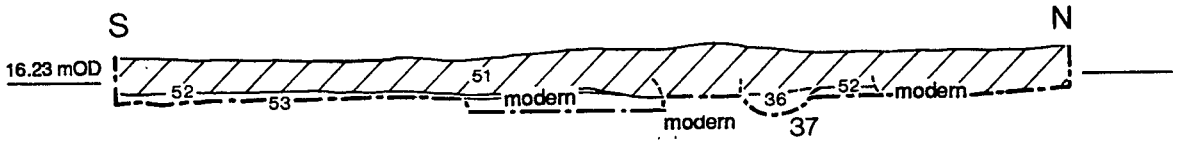
a) **Trench 1**



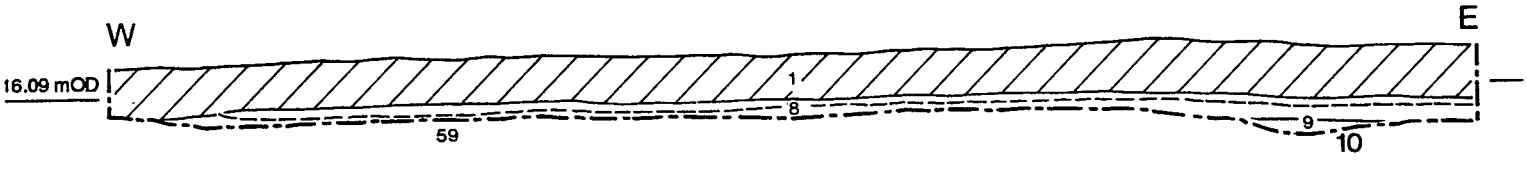
b) **Trench 2** south facing



c) **Trench 2** north facing



d) **Trench 3**



e) **Trench 4**

Figure 4: Trenches 1-4: Sections

Grave? [14]: This ovaloid cut [14] extended 1.80 m N of the S limit of excavation of the trench, and was approximately 1.20 m wide. It was filled with a mid-grey/brown sandy silt with moderate pebble content, again very similar to the overlying subsoil [13]. This fill, at the N end of the cut, was partially excavated to a depth of approximately 0.20 m. The cleaned surface of the fill lay at a height of +15.63 m OD. A piece of pot was recovered from the surface of the fill. This was tentatively identified as an earlier medieval greyware, however as the fill and the overlying subsoil were essentially indistinguishable this cannot definitely be said to have been "in" the grave. Again possible toe bones were exposed at the S end of the excavated portion, and a section of long bone, possibly a femur was observed at the surface of the fill to the S, suggesting that the head might lie at the S end of the cut. The grave? was also cut by the later feature [16].

Grave? [18]: A sub-rectangular cut [18] extending 1.60 m N of the S limit of excavation and 1.15 m (E-W) wide. This possible grave was filled with a mid-brown/grey sandy silt, with moderate rounded and sub-rounded pebbles up to 50 mm in length [17]. The surface of the fill lay at a height of +15.63 m OD after cleaning.

Grave? [22]: A semi-circular cut extending 0.55 m s of the N limit of excavation, and 1.05 m wide (E-W). It was filled with a mid-grey/brown sandy silt with occasional fragments of fine grey clay(?)[21]. This material was not excavated. Its surface lay at a height of +15.64 m OD after cleaning.

Grave [42]: The exact shape of this cut [42] was not known due to truncation during machining; from the section it could be determined that it was approximately 0.24 m deep and greater than 0.75 m wide. The pelvis cut by the machine in section lay at a maximum height of +15.58 m OD. The grave was filled with a mid-dark grey/brown sandy silt with pebble inclusions [41]. The bones recovered after machining suggest that the head lay to the S end of the grave cut.

When the disturbed bone from this grave was being retrieved a sherd of Thameside Kent jar was recovered. This Romano-British ware dates to c. AD180-250, but as is the case with the pottery from Grave? [14] this may be intrusive, or from the disturbed overburden.

Of the three linear cuts the westernmost proved to be the most substantial. This was a steep sided cut [25], approximately 1.10 m wide and 0.50 m deep its base at its northern end was at a height of +15.26 m OD. It was steep sided with a V-profile and contained two fills which showed evidence of truncation. The later of these formed a band c. 0.56 m wide down the middle of the cut.

It was a mid-dark grey sandy silt with moderate inclusions of pebbles up to 50 mm in size [23], and its surface after cleaning lay at a height of +15.77 m OD. It also included considerable amounts of pot in its matrix, including fragments from a single vessel. The pottery included Alice Holt Romano-British ware (c.AD40-160) and an assemblage of reduced wares which appear to be locally produced. The single vessel was of this type, being a handmade shell and grog tempered necked jar, with incised arcading on the shoulder/body. The latter material owes much to the late Iron Age tradition of potting[1]. Other finds from this fill included some

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1. See Appendix B for a discussion of this assemblage

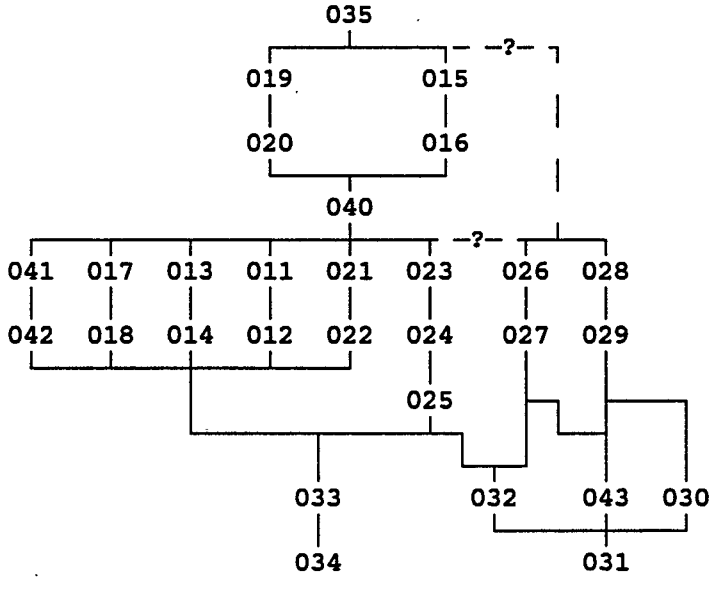
animal bone (possibly including horse/pony), burnt flint and daub, and one flint flake likely to be a by-product of prehistoric flint tool manufacture, which may have been redeposited in this context. Also apparent were a number of shells of the grove or dark-lipped banded snail (Cepaea Nemoralis).

By contrast the primary fill, a mid-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded and sub rounded pebbles up to 20 mm in size [24], produced no finds. Its surface after cleaning also lay at a height of +15.77 m OD.

To the E of [25] two more linear features of a rather less well defined nature were encountered. The more westerly was shallow (c. 40 mm) [27] and contained a fill of mid-dark grey sandy silt with moderate rounded and sub-rounded pebbles up to 40 mm in size [26]. There were no finds from this context. Further E a 0.30-0.90 m wide irregular cut [29], parallel to [29] contained a similar fill of mid-dark grey sandy silt [28], which contained one sherd of brown post-medieval stoneware and was some 60 mm deep.

The possible graves and linear features all cut a geological subsoil comprising interleaved sand and gravel bands which tended to run from N- S across the trench [30,31,32,33,34,43]. These naturally deposited materials were recorded in detail in this trench in order to better reflect the overall nature of the geological deposits. Their surface lay at a height of between +15.80 and +15.55 m OD.

6.2.1) Matrix



6.2.2) Discussion

The topsoil and subsoil deposits are similar to those in Trench 1, except that the subsoil material is sandier and less clayey. This may be due to the admixture of clayier silts to the stratum in Trench 1. These are possibly derived from the fill of the possible channel in that area or may reflect the lower lying situation of that trench in an area more prone to flooding and, therefore, the deposition of such sediments.

The major features in Trench 2, the potential graves and linear cut have clearly been truncated. The lack of differentiation between the fills and the reworked subsoil stratum presented a

problem in the identification of these features above the level of the geological subsoil. Unfortunately, in the case of the possible graves their fills appear to lie slightly above the base of the subsoil deposit but are indistinguishable from it, hence the damage to Grave 42.

The putative graves are roughly arrayed in two rows, with the most north-easterly example adjacent to the linear feature containing early Roman pottery. They are aligned N-S, and do not intercut one another suggesting a degree of formalisation in their layout, and an awareness of the positions of earlier interments. There was an absence of burials to the E of the linear feature, which appeared to be a man-made ditch, suggesting it might have represented a boundary to the area of burials or reflect such a limit.

The two linear features to the E, it was suggested by the excavator, might represent agricultural or horticultural features, possibly the bases of bedding trenches. These may either have been cut from within the subsoil or topsoil deposits, though the former is more likely, with a possible C17th-18th date for the more westerly cut. The two small sub-rectangular pits [16] and [20] are likely to represent fairly recent post holes, and were filled with material virtually identical to the topsoil after disuse.

6.3) Trench 3 (figs 3,4d)

The topsoil deposit in this trench [51] was essentially the same as those encountered in Trenches 1 and 2. Its surface was at a height of between +16.58 and +16.43 m OD, and the stratum was a maximum of 0.43 m thick. The subsoil [52], though resembling that in Trench 2, was a much thinner deposit (between 20 mm and 0.10 m thick, with its surface at between +16.13 and +16.05 m OD). It was cut by several very modern pits, containing 20th century builder's rubble. These were presumably cut from the topsoil level, as was suggested by the resemblance of their fills to that deposit. They were not contexted, but were recorded in plan.

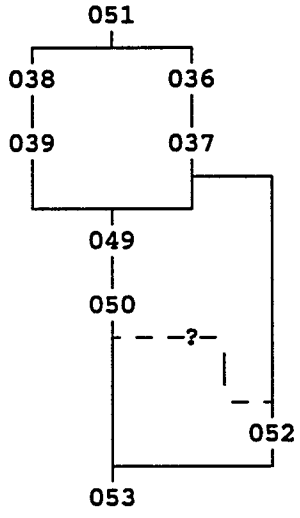
At the base of the subsoil three distinct cut features were distinguished at the N end of the trench. The earliest [50] was cut by the others [37,39]. It lay in the NE corner of the trench, and its shape was therefore indeterminable. It was filled with a yellow-grey/brown silty sand [49], and was 0.18 m deep to a cleaned height of +15.91 m OD. The base of the cut was at +15.73 m OD. The fill contained no finds.

Context [37], cutting the above, was a slightly curved linear feature, 0.17 m deep, and with steeply sloping sides. Its base where excavated was at a height of +15.71 m OD. It was filled with a grey/brown sandy silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular pebbles [36] with its cleaned surface at a height of +15.96 m OD. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

The other feature cutting [49] was again of indeterminate shape, being cut by a modern intrusive pit to the SW and running under the limit of excavation to the N, E, and W [39]. It was steep sided, and was at least 0.38 m deep. It was not bottomed as an influx of ground water made this impossible. The fill was a soft grey/brown sandy silt with frequent sub-angular pebbles, with its cleaned surface lying at a height of 15.88 m OD [38]. Again no finds were retrieved from this material.

The geological subsoil in this trench resembled that encountered in Trench 2, though if anything it was more consistently gravelly with a higher proportion of larger pebbles than there [53]. Its surface was at a height of between +16.03 and +16.01 m OD.

6.3.1) Matrix



6.3.2) Discussion

The three intercutting features towards the N of Trench 3 produced no finds making dating impossible. They did not however appear to be filled with topsoil material, and are therefore likely to predate the 19th century. [39] was also cut by a modern feature, further supporting this conjecture. [37], taking the form of a trench or ditch, running SE-NW across the trench may be a drainage feature either agricultural or natural.

The geological subsoil deposit was encountered at a higher level than elsewhere on the site, and may represent the top of a slight ridge running approximately N-S across the site. It may also represent the S end of such an eminence, as the geological subsoil was at a lower level in Trench 7[1]. The high level of the geological subsoil may also account for the comparatively thin deposit of overburden/ploughsoil in this trench. This is again indicative of truncation.

6.4) Trench 4 (figs 4e,5)

The topsoil deposit [1] in Trench 4 was approximately 0.70 m thick, and was identical to material encountered in other trenches. Its surface lay at a height of between +16.61 and +16.41 m OD. It overlay a 0.30-0.40 m thick deposit of grey/brown sandy silt with moderate small angular pebbles [8], with its surface at a height of +16.03-15.90 m OD. It differed slightly from other comparable subsoils across the site as it contained discontinuous patches or lenses of chalk or lime. These did not form a discernible layer. At the base of the subsoil in the NE corner of the trench a shallow cut feature [10] was encountered. It appeared to be oval, but extended beyond the N limit of excavation. It had gently sloping sides, and was 1.40 m long in the excavated area by 0.90 m wide. It was approximately 0.15 m deep, with its base at a height of +15.53 m OD. Its fill was a moderately compact grey/brown fine sandy silt with frequent lenses of pebbles and some iron panning [9]. It contained no finds.

[10] cut the geological subsoil, a yellow/grey homogeneous sand and gravel mixture,

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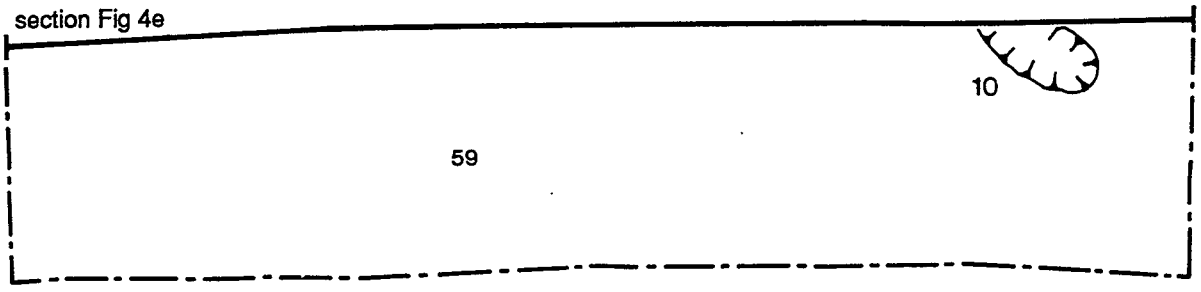
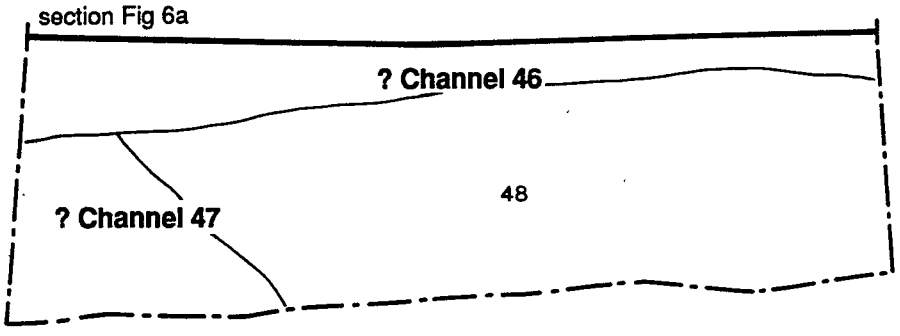
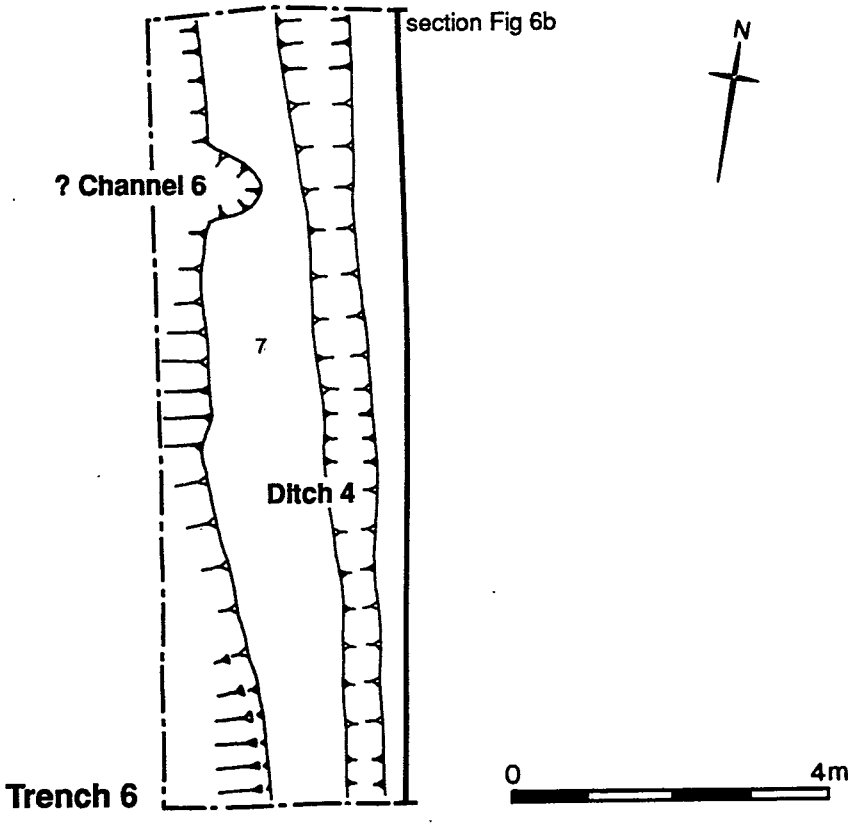
1. See Section 6.7 below



Trench 4



Trench 5



Trench 6

Figure 5: Trenches 4-6: Features

which also appeared to have a thin coating of pale yellow sandy clay on its surface. The height of this deposit was recorded as between +15.84 and 15.68 m OD.

6.4.1) Matrix

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6.4.2) Discussion

The chalky, limey admixtures to the overburden/subsoil may be due to attempts to lime the soil at various stages, though this is by no means certain. The feature [10] may be a pit or the butt end of a ditch. It was reminiscent in its fill and form of features in Trench 3, and like them contained no finds. The fine sand clay overlying the more normal geological subsoil deposit, appears to be a vestigial survival of a possible loess deposit formed over the sands and gravels. The level of this stratum shows a slight fall from the vicinity of Trench 3 to the W.

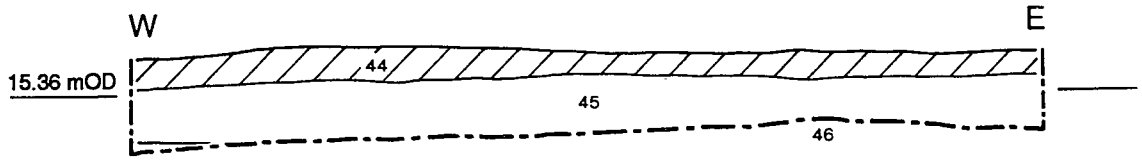
6.5) Trench 5 (figs 5,6a)

The Trench lay towards the SW corner of the site, with Trench 1 to the NW. The topsoil material was again a dark grey/brown, silty, sandy loam [44], approximately 0.30 m thick with its surface at a height of between +15.87 and +15.72 m OD. It was removed by machine, as was a mid-dark brown silty, sandy clay subsoil overburden [45]. The surface of this material was at a height of between +15.56 and 15.41 m OD.

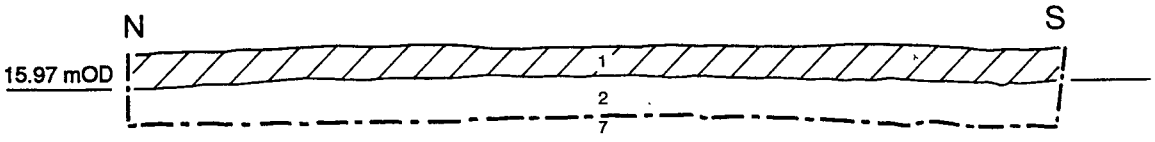
At the base of this stratum two linear, or apparently linear features were encountered. The later, represented by its fill [46] ran approximately E-W along the full length of the N limit of excavation of the trench. The fill was a mid-grey silty, sandy clay gravel consisting of sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded pebbles up to 70 mm in size. There was occasional organic staining, and large numbers of water snail shells were observed. There were no finds from this deposit. The surface of this material was at a height of between +15.06 and 14.84 m OD. Due to flooding of the trench by ground and rain water the context could not be excavated or the nature of the cut determined; it did however appear to cut across a similar fill [47].

This ran SE-NW across the W end of the trench, and was a dark brown/black with grey and yellow pebbles. The pebbles (up to 50 mm) made up most of the matrix which also appeared to contain organic remains and coarse sand, occasional vegetal material was also observed. This material could not be excavated or sampled due to flooding, thus the cut could also not be examined, though it would have been at least 3.30 m wide. The surface of the fill lay at a height of between +14.83 and +14.79 m OD.

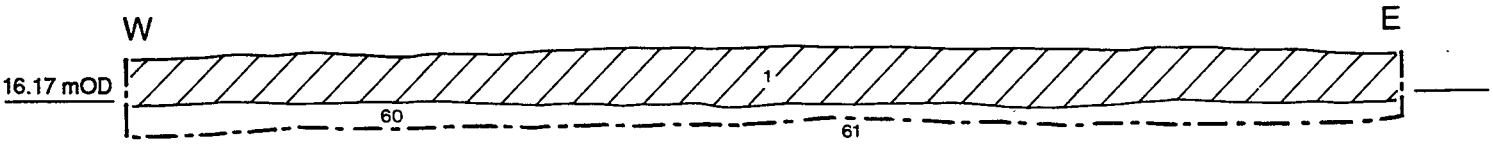
Both [46] and [47] cut a yellow-grey gravel, grit and coarse sand deposit, which had occasional paler chalky clay banding. The latter phenomenon was particularly apparent along the edge of the linear feature [46]. The surface of this geological subsoil was at a height of between +15.21 and 14.81 m OD.



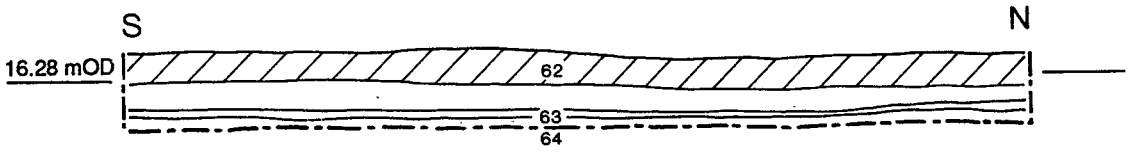
a) **Trench 5**



b) **Trench 6**



c) **Trench 7**



d) **Trench 8**

Figure 6: Trenches 5-8: Sections

6.5.1) Matrix

6.5.2) Discussion

The subsoil overburden [45] is very similar to that encountered in Trench 1, with a much higher clay content than analogous material to the E. This is likely to represent the disturbance of the upper fills, [46] and [47], of natural channels running across the trench. Though undated these features therefore predate reworking of the site by ploughing.

The channel filled by [46] seems to cut across an earlier SE-NW channel [47] which probably silted up before this incident, suggesting that the drainage dynamics altered over a relatively long period of time. The greater survival of organic material in the latter may indicate changes in climatic or depositional conditions.

6.6) Trench 6 (Figs 5,6b)

The surface of the topsoil deposit [1] in this trench lay at a height of between +16.42 and 16.27 m OD. It and a subsoil/overburden deposit [2] were both removed by machine. The latter resembled equivalent material in Trench 2 which lay to the N, and its surface lay at a height of between +16.07 and 15.95 m OD. It overlay the fills of two linear features running approximately N-S across the trench.

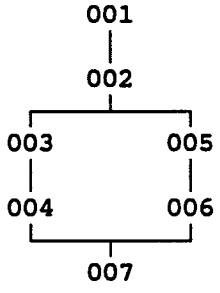
The more easterly [4] was a fairly shallow, (c. 0.28 m deep, with its base at a height of between +15.48 and 15.24 m OD), man-made cut. It had steeply sloping, in places almost vertical, sides and was between 0.75 m (at its N end) and 0.50 m (at its S end) wide. This variation was as much a function of differential truncation of the feature, presumably by ploughing, as any other factor. The ditch or gully was possibly recut at some stage. Its fill was a grey/brown clayey, slightly sandy silt with moderate inclusions of sub-angular and rounded pebbles up to 0.10 m in diameter [3]. The truncated surface of which was at a height of between +15.55 and 15.47 m OD. The material was slightly darker towards the centre of the cut but no clear interface could be inferred. A large piece of unabraded shell-tempered Romano-British or Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from it.

The second cut [6] ran along the W edge of the trench, and was on a NNW-SSE, rather than a true N-S, alignment. It was therefore at least 1.30 m wide at its S end while only 0.60 m of its width was exposed at the N end of the trench. Again ground water made full excavation of the fill at its S end impossible, with a minimum height of c.+15.30 m being reached. Sections further to the N merely exposed its stepped convex sides. A slight irregularity in the line of the edge was noted towards the N end of the trench. The feature was filled with a mid brown silty,

sandy clay with occasional to moderate inclusions of flint pebbles, up to 70 mm in size [5]. The only cultural material recovered was a small (c. 3 mm) fragment of burnt daub. The height of the truncated surface of this material was at +15.58-15.40 m OD.

Both linear features were found to cut interleaved sand and gravel deposits similar to those in Trench 2. The banding of this material [7] tended to be on a NE-SW alignment. The surface of this material lay at a height of between +15.58 and 15.40 m OD.

6.6.1) Matrix



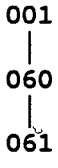
6.6.2) Discussion

The features in this trench were identified as ditches and were assumed to be related to features found in Trench 2, particularly the N-S ditch [25][1]. At this stage it was not clear which of the two features was a continuation of the latter. The presence of shell-tempered pottery not dissimilar to material recovered from the fill of [25] ([23]), also suggested potentially contemporaneous features.

6.7) Trench 7 (fig 6c)

This trench contained no cut features of archaeological note, and is therefore not illustrated in plan, though a sectional drawing is included. The topsoil and subsoil overburden strata were removed by machine. The topsoil [1] was similar to that elsewhere on the site. Its surface was at a height of between +16.67 and 16.56 m OD. From within this deposit two modern cuts were identified at the W end of the trench, one containing an iron water tank and 20th century enamelled advertising signs, the other a length of steel pipe. These were recorded in plan only and not contexted. The subsoil [60] resembled material in Trenches 2,3, and 6 and it survived to a height of between +16.17 and 16.05 m OD. It overlay a yellow/grey gravel and sand geological subsoil with sand banding [61], at a height of between +15.87 and 15.67 m OD, the deposit sloping towards the W.

6.7.1) Matrix



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1. See Sections 9.2, 9.5, and 10.0 below for a reassessment of this interpretation during the second phase of evaluation.

6.7.2) Discussion

The trench contained no features of archaeological note. It confirmed the impression of a falling way of the surface of the geological subsoil towards the W and S noted above[1].

6.8) Trench 8 (fig 6d)

Again Trench 8 contained no cut features of archaeological significance, and is therefore not illustrated in plan, though a sectional drawing is included. The topsoil and subsoil overburden strata were removed by machine. The topsoil [62] was similar to that in other trenches except that as the evaluation trench lay in a garden associated with the Deen City Farm it was well turned and was not covered in turf as elsewhere. Its surface was at a height of between +16.58 and 16.47 m OD. The subsoil [63] resembled material in Trenches 2,3, 6, and 7 and it survived to a height of between +16.29 and 16.14 m OD. It overlay a yellow/grey gravel and sand geological subsoil with a thin surface covering of sandy clay material [64] similar to that observed in Trench 4. It was revealed at a height of between +15.80 and 15.74 m OD.

6.8.1) Matrix

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064

6.8.2) Discussion

The trench contained no features of archaeological note. As with Trench 4 the geological subsoil was located at a lower level than in Trench 3 suggesting a slight fall towards the S and E.

7.0) DISCUSSION (PHASE 1)

The Geological Subsoil

The evaluation confirmed the suggestion made elsewhere that the basic subsoil was of the Mitcham Sand/Gravel deposit. This has been dated elsewhere to the Late Devensian period, though later reworking cannot be discountenanced. This deposit may grade into the Thames Shepperton Gravel or Lower Floodplain Gravel, which in turn may be a reworking of the earlier Taplow material[2]. To the E of the site a thin survival of a loess-like material was also noted which may have been wind-blown or alluvial in deposition.

The highest part of the site appeared to be in the vicinity of Trench 3, with the ground falling away to the W and E, and probably towards the S.

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1. Section 6.3

2. Gibbard, 1985

The Prehistoric

The prehistoric period was represented by a flint waste flake redeposited in fill [23] of the linear feature [25] in Trench 2. A by-product of tool production it would probably date from the Mesolithic - Bronze Age eras (c. 8,000 - c. 700 BC), and is likely to indicate human activity in the area in this epoch.

The possible channels in Trenches 1 and 5 ([46,47,57,58]), are undated by artefactual evidence but by comparison with features elsewhere along the Wandle Valley it may date from any time during the prehistoric period. The channel fills clearly predate the disturbed ploughsoil overburden which contains finds from the Roman period onwards.

The deposition of the ploughsoil deposits, or rather the material which was reworked to form them, would have carried on from the prehistoric to the present day by the usual agencies.

The Roman (43 AD - c. 400 AD)

The main evidence for Roman occupation of the site is artefactual and consists of an assemblage of pottery covering the whole of the Roman occupation period[1]. Apart from residual material derived from the ploughsoil overburden this evidence was derived from three contexts. The vast majority came from the fill [23] of a N-S ditch [25] in Trench 2, and included what appeared to be locally produced material in the Iron Age tradition. The latest surviving silting of the ditch appears to date to the period AD 40-100 or perhaps slightly later. Another sherd of presumably locally produced pottery was found in the fill [3] of the more easterly linear feature [4] in Trench 6, which also appears to be a ditch. The other linear feature in Trench 6, [6], was at this point tentatively identified as a southward continuation of [25], though no dating material was derived from it.

A comparison between descriptions of pottery found in burials, ditches, and general contexts on the Haslemere First School site and the material derived from the present site suggested a high degree of correlation, particularly in respect of the locally produced hand or slow wheel made fabrics and forms[2].

The remaining piece of "stratified" Romano-British pottery came from the disturbed fill of Grave [42]. The problems of provenance for this sherd have already been discussed, but if it does belong in the grave the date range of AD180-250 would fit in with the practice of inhumation burial in romanized Britain. The presence of coffin nails or fittings in Grave? [12], would also be in keeping with this practice. The fact that Grave [42] appears to contain an extended burial tends to rule out a Late Iron Age date for the five inhumations located in this evaluation. Not only was cremation predominant in the South-East of England prior to and up to approximately 150 years after the Roman occupation, but the prevailing traditions of inhumation elsewhere in the British Isles tended to involve the placing of the body on its side and/or in a crouched position[3]. Equally the use of coffins in pre-Christian Saxon England (c. AD 5th-7th centuries) is very rare. The orientation of burials on a N-S axis, as appears to be the case here,

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1. For an analysis of this material see Appendix B

2. Jo Groves, pers. comm.

3. Philpot, 1991

has traditionally been identified with pre-Christian Romano-British practice however more recent research has suggested this is not a hard and fast rule[1].

No burials were found in Trench 2 to the E of the ditch [25], and Graves? [18] and [22] are close to, and possibly aligned with it. This presents a problem, for if indeed it does delimit the area in which burials were placed its secondary fill is dated to the AD 1st century and possibly to the earlier part of it[2], that is before the practice of inhumation became widespread in the SE of England. It has been noted that inhumation tended to be practised earlier in rural contexts, though this more commonly involved bodies in crouched posture[3]. The conflict between the most likely dates for inhumations (c. AD 170 onwards) and the ditch dating evidence may be resolved by the truncated nature of the site as a whole. This is indicated by the homogeneous nature of the overburden, and by the very shallow survival of the graves. If upper fills of the ditch were removed during the process of truncation, or if a later feature which mirrored the line of the 1st? century ditch has disappeared then a more typical date range for the burials, as suggested by the pot sherd from Grave [42] may be inferred. Though ultimately the dating of the burials, without further excavation, is open to doubt a Roman date, possibly later than AD 180 is the most likely option.

The location of the burials found in 1966 to the W of a N-S ditch, their N-S orientation, the possibility of Romano-British pottery from one of them [B3] strongly suggest that they and the burials in Trench 2 are related.

The density of burials in this trench was calculated at 0.11 burials per m^2 this a fairly low figure, reflecting the fact that there were no intercutting graves on the site. This suggests that usage of the burial ground was not intensive, and that the locations of pre-existing burials were, by some means, known and avoided.

Undated "Pre-ploughsoil" Features

These consist of three cuts in Trench 3 ([37],[39], and [50]) and one in Trench 4 [10]. These are not strictly "pre-ploughsoil", as they may have been cut from within this layer at any stage of its formation or reworking; as such they might date from any time from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period. They are, however, distinguished from more recent features by their fills which do not contain the high proportion of dark, loamy topsoil observed in dated 19th-20th century features associated with the use of the land as allotments or, more recently, as grazing.
The only feature with an identifiable form [37] appears to have been a gully, or ditch of unknown purpose.

Medieval

Medieval pottery was identified from overburden/ploughsoil deposits and was therefore assumed to be residual or redeposited. No features on the site could be assigned to the medieval

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1. Ibid.

2. See Appendix B

3. Philpott, 1991

period[1]. The piece of coarse greyware derived from the surface of Grave? [17] has been dated to c.1150-1300, but there are serious doubts as to the soundness of its attribution to that feature.

Post-Medieval

The topsoil deposit covering the whole site was also found to fill cut features in Trenches 2,3,5 and 7. The majority of these were pits, though two contexted features in Trench 2, [16] and [20] are likely to represent post holes for a fence. Two cuts in Trenches 5 and 7 were found to contain iron water tanks. Though originally domestic it is likely that these had been reused as sunken cisterns on allotment plots. A number of shallow pits into the topsoil containing articulated pig and sheep bones were noted during machining. These were associated with the Deen City Farm.

The post-medieval period is also represent by pottery, brick and tile found in the general topsoil and ploughsoil contexts. The latter contained material dating from as late as the 19th century[2].

The main area of archaeological concern with regard to the first phase of evaluation was the presence of five possible human inhumations, tentatively dated to the Roman period and apparently lying to the W of a N-S ditch which running across most of the site (between Trenches 2 and 6). These were likely to be related to findings of the 1960s on the site of the Haslemere First School lying directly to the N of the Deen City Farm Grazing.

A meeting took place on the 7th of October between representatives of Willmot Dixon (the developer), the London Borough of Merton (the planning authority), English Heritage (archaeological advisors), and the Museum of London Archaeological Service (archaeological contractors). The object was to review the implications of the findings with regard to the proposed development. In discussion it became apparent that a decision regarding the future of the archaeological resource on the site could not be made without obtaining further information by means of evaluation excavation. Principally this would involve an attempt to define the extent of the area likely to contain burials. In order to achieve this a further specification for work and an additional trench layout design was requested by the developers from English Heritage and the Museum of London.

8.0) PHASE 2

The second phase of evaluation took place between the 11th and 22nd of October 1993. There continued to be problems caused by very heavy rainfall and a rising water table. This factor severely hampered excavation and made some parts of the site almost impossible to work. The use of pumps on site necessitated the creation of sumps, and drainage channels were cut on parts of the site to clear more water. The excavations were carried out according to the methodology described below.

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1. See Appendix C for details of these finds

2. See Appendices C,E, and F

8.1) Methodology

The basic methodology employed in the second phase of evaluation essentially resembles that used in the first, and was set out in a Specification/Methodology/Research Design as before[1]. The main variations were in the research aims, and in the approach to exposing potential graves and other features. The former were stated as follows:

- *what was the nature of the prehistoric and later exploitation and topography of the area?*

- *to determine as far as is possible the date of the burials*

- *how densely are they laid?*

- *are they orientated in the same direction?*

- *are there any children?*

- *is there any evidence for cemetery organisation?*

- *what belief system do the burials represent?*

- *what features, such as ditches, are associated with the burials?*

As suggested elsewhere these aims might not be fully achieved in the limited ambit of evaluation work.

It was decided that, in view of the proximity of burials to the interface between overburden and geological subsoil and the possibility of damage to them, machine excavation would cease at a level of at least 0.10 m above the estimated level of the interface. From that point excavation would be by hand.

The trench layout was designed to obtain the maximum amount of information for the minimum intrusive impact, and involved the excavation of five more trenches (Trenches 9-13). These comprised an additional evaluation area of 291 m² representing a further 3.7% of the total area of the Deen City Farm Grazing. The overall proportion of the site evaluated was therefore 7.7%. The trenches were located for the following reasons:

Trench 9: To establish the extent of burials to the W of Trench 2.

Trench 10: To establish the extent of burials to the S, to verify the continuity of the N-S ditch, and to examine the area E of the ditch for burials.

Trench 11: To establish continuity of burials and N-S ditch towards the 1966-8 graves and ditch to the N.

Trench 12: To further examine the area to the E of the ditch for burials.

Trench 13: This trench was initially to be held in reserve, in order to resolve any doubts thrown up during the course of the evaluation work.

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1. Densem, 1993(2)

Trenches 9-12 were opened and excavated to the required level by means of a mechanical 360° excavator.

9.0) RESULTS (PHASE 2)

9.1) Trench 9 (fig 7)

The topsoil was removed by machine, along with a larger part of the overburden/ploughsoil. The former [1] resembled the analogous material elsewhere on the site, with its surface at a height of +16.20 - 15.91 m OD. One modern cut containing similar material was also recorded in plan. The topsoil was approximately 0.30-0.40 m thick and overlay the overburden at a height of +16.03-15.62 m OD.

This deposit [106A] changed imperceptibly from a sandy silt, which continued the equivalent deposit in Trench 2 [40] towards the W, and a clayey material more reminiscent of strata in Trenches 1 and 5. The two matrices could not be definitively distinguished, due, in part, to the extreme waterlogging of this trench. Post-mediaeval finds were recovered from the deposit, as was a fragment of Ver Region Romano-British ware (from St. Albans) dated between AD 50 and AD 400[1].

The material identified as context [106] was, by necessity further sub-divided. This was because a number of cut features could, after hand excavation, be identified in section. These cut a lower deposit of subsoil [106 B] and appeared to be overlain by an upper deposit [106A]. These could not be distinguished in plan or in areas where cut features were not present.

The cut features appeared to be a possible grave and three linear features. They can be described thus:

Grave? [93]: A sub rectangular cut, with apparently steep sides aligned N-S and extending under the N limit of excavation (1.48 m N-S x 1.12 m E-W). It cut the lower subsoil deposit [106B]. Filled with a dark grey sandy, silty clay with small sub-angular pebbles [92]. The surface of the fill was at a height of between +15.77 and 15.70 m OD. The feature was not excavated, and no finds were recovered during cleaning.

Linear Cut [88]: Aligned N-S the feature had gradually sloping sides, and ran beyond both N and S limits of excavation. It was filled with a mid-dark grey sandy, silty, clay [87] with its surface at a height of between +15.63 and 15.65 m OD. The cut was sectioned but contained no dating material. This context is possibly related to a cut located in Trench 11 [113][2]

Linear Cut [109]: Again aligned N-S the feature had gradually sloping sides, and had its base at a height of c. +15.60 m OD where sectioned. It cut the east side of an earlier linear feature [111]. It was filled with a mid brown sandy silt with moderate inclusions of pebbles with its surface at a height of between +15.80 and 15.60 m OD [108]. No finds were recovered from two sections across the feature.

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1. See appendices B,E and F

2. See Section 9.3 below

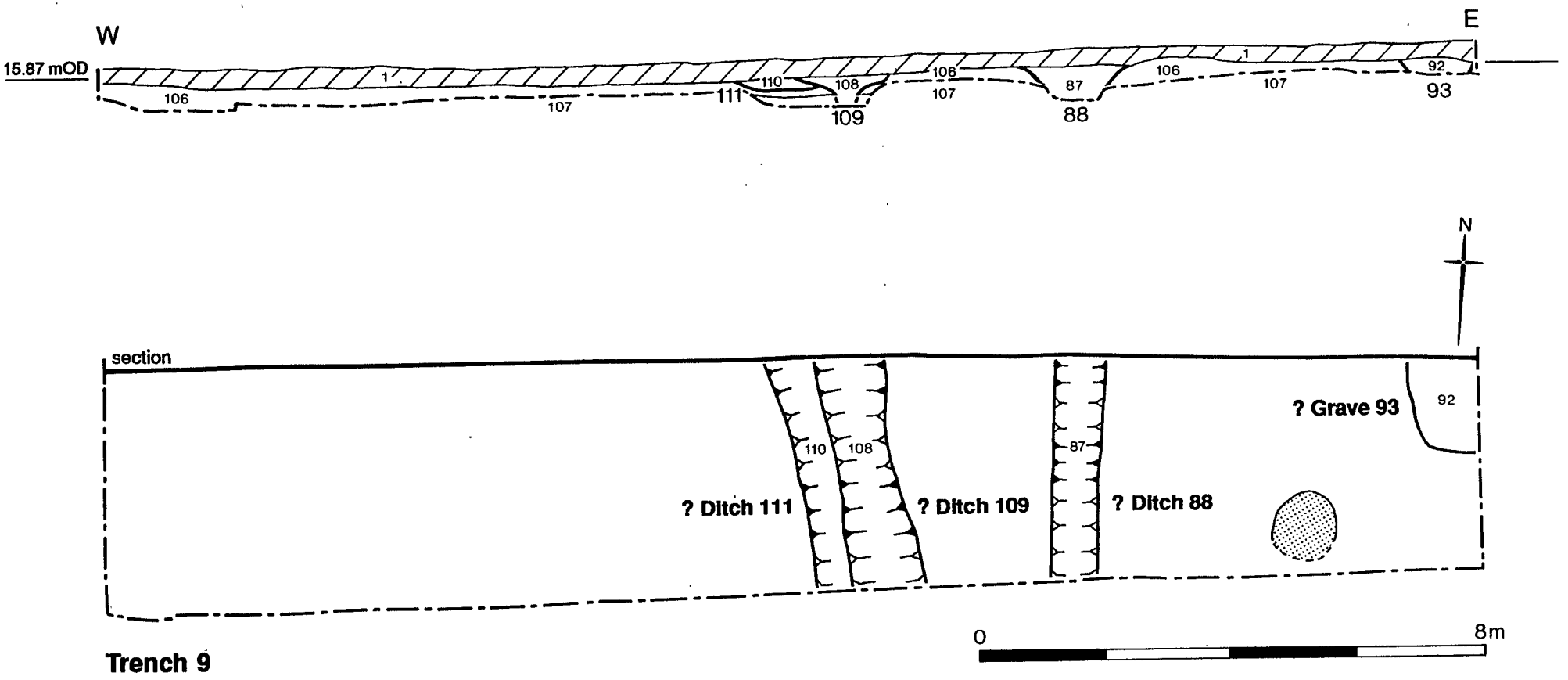
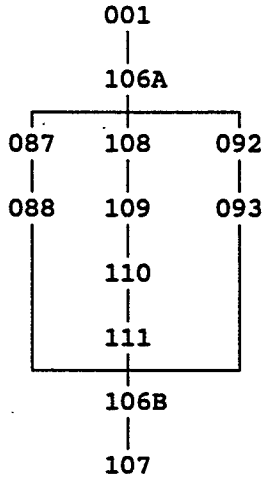


Figure 7: Trench 9: Features & Section

Linear Cut [111]: The context was aligned N-S, and was cut to the E by [109]. It had gradually sloping concave sides, cutting the lower subsoil deposit [106B]. It contained a fill of mid-brown silty sand and clay with small angular and sub angular gravel [110], it was similar to [108] (the fill of [109]), but was slightly lighter in colour. There were no finds from this context.

The lower subsoil/overburden overlay the geological subsoil, as did the undifferentiated subsoil/ploughsoil elsewhere. The surface of this material lay at a height of between +15.79 and 15.27 m OD. It sloped towards the W, with a distinct break in this slope towards the W end of the trench. The geological subsoil consisted of mid-light grey/yellow gravel with N-S sand banding [107]. The W end of Trench 9 was heavily flooded making excavation and recording problematic.

9.1.1) Matrix



9.1.2) Discussion

The presence of a distinction between two elements of the sandy, silt overburden ([106A] and [106B]) was of significance. However it could only be established by the presence of cut features in section. That one of these [93] may represent a grave suggests the limited survival of an earlier subsoil [106B]. If the grave is of Roman date as suggested elsewhere, this material must predate that period. The absence of further grave to the W of this possible example suggests a possible western limit to the burials. The linear cuts ([88],109],[111]), also cutting the lower subsoil, may represent ditches or natural channels. As these are undated they may be assigned to any period prior to the formation of the darker topsoil deposit.

The suggestion of a clayey ploughsoil/overburden towards the W end of the trench tends to confirm that the W side of the site was considerably wetter than the central and eastern areas, and the admixture of clay/silt channel fills to the matrix by disturbance may also be a contributary factor.

9.2) Trench 10 (Figs 8,9a,9b)

The topsoil deposit [1] with its surface at a height of between +16.47 and 16.18 m OD was removed by machine as was a proportion of the ploughsoil overburden deposits. A small sub-

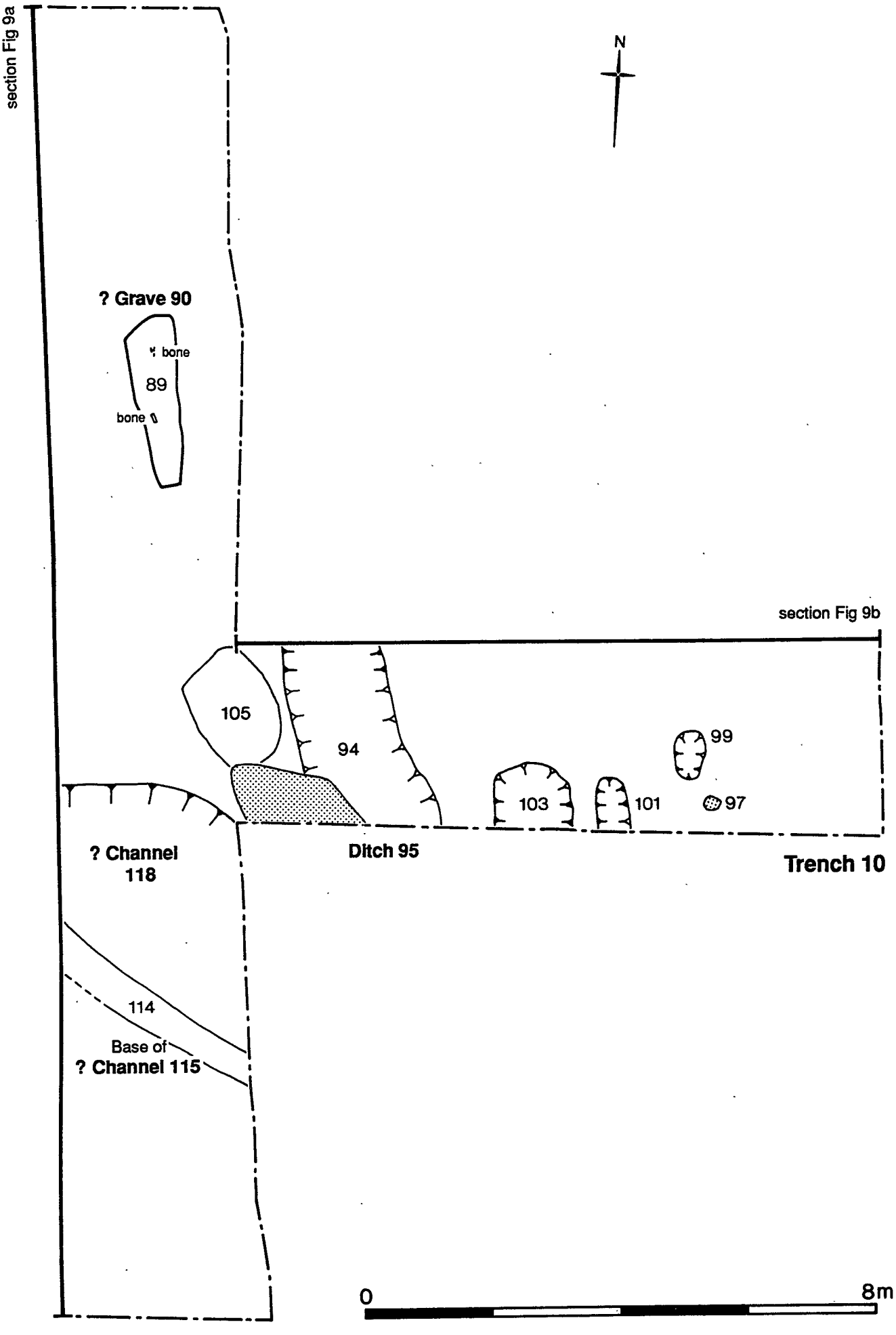


Figure 8: Trench 10: Features

rectangular cut [97] was filled with material similar to the topsoil [96]. This feature was not excavated. Another feature filled with this material [130] (fill was [129]) was found to contain the articulated skeleton of a piglet. Two other modern cut features, [105] and an uncontexted pit containing a length of steel pipe, were also identified by their fills.

Towards the N end of the trench and in the E-W spur the ploughsoil/overburden [86] resembled the equivalent deposit in Trenches 2 and 6 in that it was moderately sandy. S of the spur the material had a higher clay content [119]. [86] produced finds of Romano-British pottery dating between AD 40 and AD 160, and medieval and post-medieval material. A fragment of the upper part of a human left femur was also recovered[1]. The deposit's surface lay at a height of +16.13 m OD and 15.92 m OD. The finds from [119] included a sherd of Romano-British red coated ware, dating from between AD 270 and AD 400, as well as more medieval and post medieval finds. The surface of this deposit was at +15.92- 5.77 m OD and it was approximately 0.40 m thick.

A number of cut features were located in Trench 10 beneath the sandy overburden deposit [86]. They were as follows:

Grave? [90]: A sub-rectangular cut, approximately 3.65 m (N-S) x 0.80 m (E-W). The fill of this possible inhumation was encountered at a relatively high level above the geological subsoil (c. 0.10-0.15 m). The fill was a mid-dark grey sandy silt, with frequent small and moderate large flint pebbles [89]. It was located during cleaning, but was not fully defined due to the presence of human bone. This appeared to consist of a number of phalanges, and tarsals (toe bones) at the N end of the grave, and what appeared to be a humerus further towards the S, suggesting a burial with its head towards the S. There is a strong likelihood that the burial has been disturbed by ploughing, considering the high level at which it was encountered, ie. +15.86-15.81 m OD. This possible burial represented the most southerly encountered during the evaluation.

Linear Cut [95]: This was a concave-sided feature running N-S across the E-W spur of Trench 10. It was 1.50 m wide, and continued to both N and S of the excavated area. It was filled with a light grey/brown sandy, silty clay, with occasional inclusions of small-medium pebbles, moderate inclusions of snail shell, and occasional fragments of burnt daub and burnt flint [94]. The surface was at a height of +15.79-15.68 m. A section was cut across the feature, but could not be bottomed due to the ground water level. No pottery or other artefactual evidence was retrieved during this process.

Cut [99]: A shallow oval feature, 0.74 m (N-S) x 0.48 m (E-W), located in the E-W spur of Trench 10. It had gradually sloping concave sides. Its base lay at a height of +15.71 m OD where sectioned. It was filled with a light grey/brown clayey, silty sand with occasional to moderate small pebbles [98]. This material contained occasional fragments of burnt daub or other ceramic building material, but no other finds. Its surface when cleaned lay at a height of +15.81 m OD.

Linear Cut? [101]: This had steeply sloping concave sides, and an apparent butt end to the N. It was 0.87 m N-S (running under the limit of excavation to the S) x 0.55 m (E-W). The base of the feature lay at a height of +15.64 m OD,

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1. See Appendix D

where sectioned. The fill was light grey/brown clayey, sandy silt with occasional pebbles and snail shells [100]. There were no finds from this context.

Cut? [103]: An oval or round ended linear feature, with steep sides. It measured 1.26 m (E-W) x 0.98 m (N-S, running under limit of excavation to S. Where sectioned the feature had its base at +15.69 m OD. It was filled with a light grey/brown clayey, silty sand with occasional-moderate pebble inclusions, and moderate inclusions of snail shell [102]. This deposit was extremely shallow (50 mm deep), with its cleaned surface at a height of +15.77-15.75 m OD. No artefacts were recovered.

Towards the S end of Trench 10, where the ploughsoil/overburden [119] was clayier, a number of more substantial features were sampled. Initial the upper fills were removed by hand, but the ground water conditions, and the comparative depth of their fills made a machine cut section necessary to determine their nature. They were therefore largely recorded in section[1], though certain linear elements (contexts [114], [115], [118]) were recorded in plan. Analysis has suggested the following individual features:

Linear Cut [115]: This consisted of a concave sided cut running SE-NW across the evaluation trench. It was 3.25 m wide, and extended beyond the E and W limits of excavation. Towards the SE it was cut by linear cut [131], and [115] itself cut the fills of [118]. It contained three discernible fills: [114],[125], and [126]. The basal deposit was not completely excavated due to flooding but consisted of a mid orange/brown silty sand and gravel mixture. The gravel consisted of rounded and sub-rounded pebbles up to 80 mm in size. It was identified in plan at the base of the machine cut section, which at this depth quickly filled with water. The minimum excavated height of this deposit was +15.16 m OD. It contained one large sherd of prehistoric pottery, which has tentatively been dated to the late Bronze Age (c. 1000-c. 650 BC)[2].

The next fill consisted of a dark brown/grey sandy clayey silt with moderate angular and sub-angular pebbles up to 60 mm in size [126]. It contained moderate inclusions of aquatic snail shell and fragments of burnt daub. This deposit presumably overlay [114], and sloped into [115] from its NE side. Its slightly concave surface varied in height between +15.58 m and 15.22 m OD. The deposit was a maximum of 024 m thick. It was overlain by a deposit of mid-brown/grey clayey sandy silt [125]. This had no inclusions. Its apparently truncated surface was at a height of between +15.76 and 15.50 m OD. It was approximately 0.34 m deep.

Linear Cut [118]: This consisted of the NE side of a feature, surviving to a width of 4.44 m, running approximately ESE-WNW across Trench 10. It was excavated by hand to the N of a baulk running E-W across the trench, and in section by hand and machine to the S of the baulk. Its fills consisted of [117] to the N of the baulk, and [123] and [127] to the S. These fills were identical and were a dark-mid grey/brown clayey silt with frequent small rounded pebbles or gravel. They contained frequent aquatic snail shell. The most southerly fill was cut by linear cuts [131] (to the S) and [115] (to the N). The latter also cut [127] which lay to the N of it. No finds were recovered from these fills. [118] seemed

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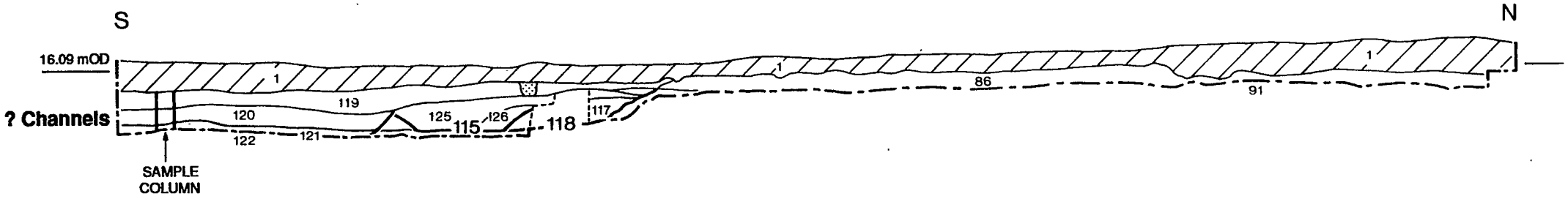
1. See Figure 9

2. See Appendix A

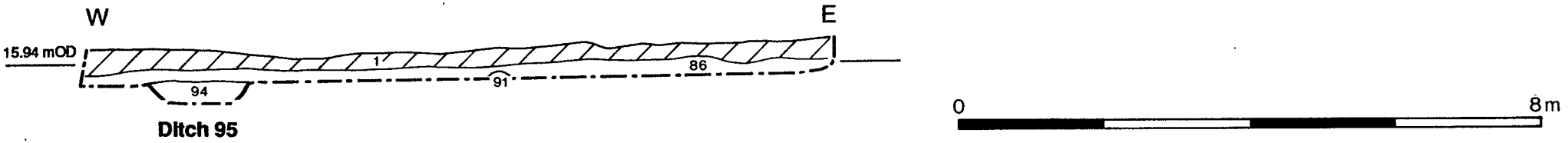
cut geological subsoil? deposits [124] and [128] which may, in fact represent early silting of the feature at its base and geological subsoil [91] to the N. Its base lay at a height of +15.22 m OD. [117] was some 0.35 m thick and survived to a height of +15.66-15.69 m OD; [127] was 0.30 m thick and survived to +15.52 m OD; [123] was a maximum of 0.23 m thick and survived to a height of +15.43 m OD between truncations. None of these contexts produced finds.

Linear Cut [131]: This consisted of the N side of a feature running ESE-WNW or SE to NW (it was impossible to determine this during excavation). It cut linear cut [115] to the N. The WSW or SW edge of this feature lay beyond the S limit of excavation. The feature contained two fills: the lower/basal fill was a brown/grey sandy clayey silt, with inclusions of aquatic snail shell [121]. The base of the fill was at +15.14 m OD, and it was approximately 0.12 m thick. This deposit contained no finds. It was sampled for environmental analysis including identification of the mollusc species which may indicate the type of watercourse represented by [131]. The upper fill, was a mid-brown/grey sandy, clayey silt (more sandy than [121]). Again containing snail shell and occasional fine gravel inclusions the deposit [120] produced several fragments of a friable shell-tempered reduced/oxidised pottery, which has provisionally been dated as Late Bronze Age. Also included in this material were large fragments of burnt daub, one of which bore the impression of a stick, possibly representing the hurdling/wickerwork to which it had been applied. A flint flake was also recovered. The context was sampled for environmental analysis. Its surface lay at a height of between +15.61 and 15.46 m OD. It was approximately 0.25 m deep, and appeared to have been truncated during ploughing, possibly forming the clayier component of [119].

The geological subsoil to the N of, and cut by, the linear cut [118] consisted of gravel with sand banding, similar to material in trenches 2 and 6 [91]. Its surface lay at a height of between +15.74 and 15.86 m OD. The material underlying the bases of the linear cuts [115],[118], and [131] was essentially similar but contained a considerable amount of chalky clay in its matrix [122]. In this it resembled [48] in Trench 5 where it met the edge of the possible channel represented by fill [46]. Its surface was at c. 15.20 m OD, though this could not be firmly established due to flooding of the trench.



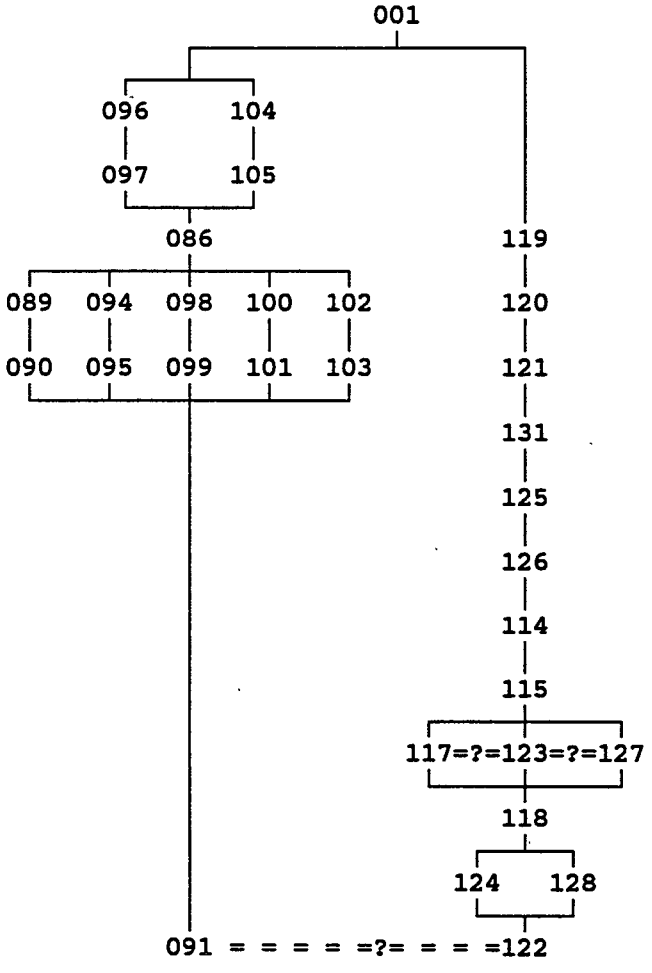
Trench 10 section a



Trench 10 section b

Figure 9: Trenches 10: Sections

9.2.1) Matrix



9.2.2) Discussion

The possible grave [90] appears to represent the most southerly extent of burials in the evaluation area. It again appears to lie close to the W edge of a ditch represented by context [95]. This feature is on the same alignment as the ditch section revealed in Trench 2 [25][1]. It has several undateable features to the E of it, but no graves were apparent in the E-W spur of Trench 10 which extended in that direction.

Some 1.5 m to the W of the ditch, and 4.00-5.00 m to the S of the burial a set of three linear cuts appear to represent natural channels running towards the NW. The earliest [118] extends furthest to the N, and had a clearly defined bank cutting the geological sub-soil. It was cut first by [115],which contained material of potential Bronze Age date towards its base, which was in turn cut by [131] containing additional evidence of possible Late Bronze Age activity in the area. It is likely that these represent several reformations of what would essentially be the same channel presumably draining eventually into ,or into a tributary channel of, the Wandle to the NW. It is possible that the features in Trench 10 may be associated with likely natural channels observed in Trenches 1 and 5.

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1. See Figure 12

9.3) Trench 11 (figs 10,11a)

This trench lay to the N of Trench 2. The topsoil deposit [1], with its surface at a height of between +16.32 and +16.12 m OD and part of the sandy silt ploughsoil/overburden [71], which had its surface at +16.06-15.76 m OD,were removed by machine. A single small oval cut [76] was cut from "within" the topsoil and contained a similar fill [75]. This feature was not excavated but had a fragment of clay pipe in the cleaned surface of its fill at the level to which the trench was machined.

The ploughsoil/overburden deposit was sub-divided after examination of sectional drawings, as it was possible to see cuts from within this deposit as was the case with Trench 9, context [106].

The upper material [71A] was excavated by hand and produced finds ranging from between the Roman and post-medieval periods. At the base of the deposit a number of features were identified, these were as follows:

Grave? [66]: The cut was rectangular with well rounded corners, and extended 1.73 m to the S of the N limit of excavation of the trench. It was 0.70 m wide (E-W). It was filled with a light brown clayey, sandy, silt with occasional small-medium pebbles [65]. It also contained snail shell and a small c. 20 mm fragment of chalk. The surface of this material, which was not excavated lay at a height of +15.84-15.94 m OD. A circular iron object, possibly a barrel or bucket hoop, approximately 0.35 m in diameter was observed on the surface of the fill at the S end of the cut. In addition three nails were observed along the E and W sides of the cut[1]. There were no other finds. The potential grave lies on a N-S alignment to the W of a linear cut [70] and E of Grave? [68].

Grave? [68]: A rectangular cut, approximately 1.90 m (N-S) x 0.80 m (E-W), with a fill of mid-brown sandy silt, with occasional gravel inclusions [67]. This deposit was not excavated but two objects (nails?) were identified on its surface, which lay at a height of +15.86 m OD. If [68] is a grave it lies on a N-S alignment to the W of Grave? [66], NE of Grave [78] and NNW of Grave? [22] (Trench 2).

Grave? [74]: A rectangular? cut with well-rounded corners this feature measured 0.10 m (N-S, extending under the N limit of excavation) x 0.68 m (E-W). It contained a fill of mid-light brown clayey, sandy silt with occasional small-medium pebbles. This material, with its cleaned surface at +15.80 m OD was not excavated, and produced no finds. If [74] represents a grave it would again appear to be on a N-S alignment. It lies to the NW of Grave? [78].

Grave? [78]: Rectangular with well-rounded corners, this feature was 0.35 m (N-S, extending under S limit of excavation) x 0.85 m (E-W). It was filled with a light brown clayey, sandy silt with occasional small-medium pebbles and flecks of orange sand [77]. Its unexcavated surface lay at a height of +15.78 m OD. It contained no finds. If a grave, it is orientated N-S and lies directly to the N of Grave? [12] (Trench 2), and to the SW of Grave? [68].

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1. For details of the iron objects from this and other possible graves, which were left *in situ* after the completion of excavation, see Appendix G. Further iron objects were exposed in some cuts during the process of cleaning for conservator's examination, and photography.

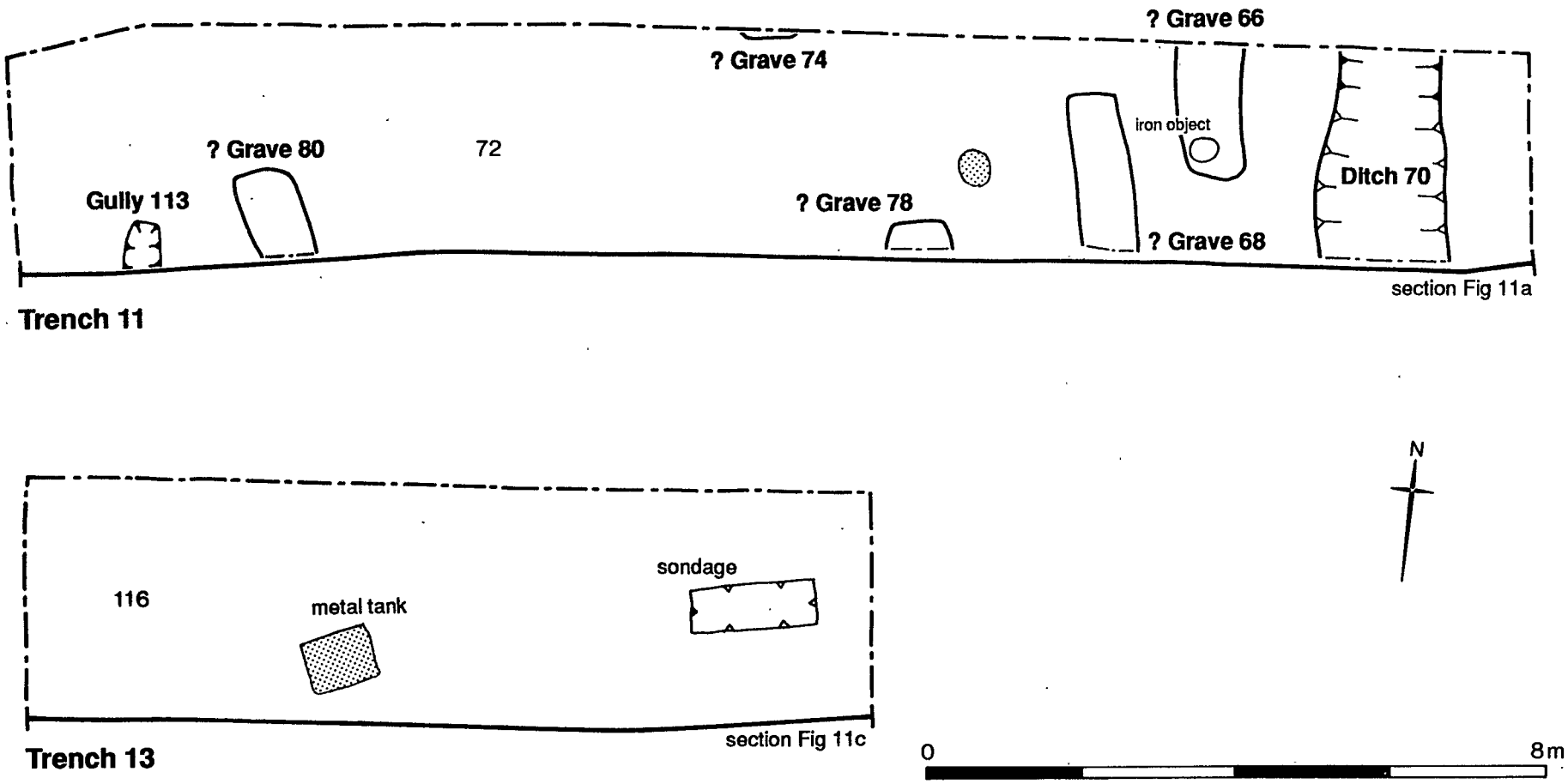


Figure 10: Trenches 11 & 13: Features

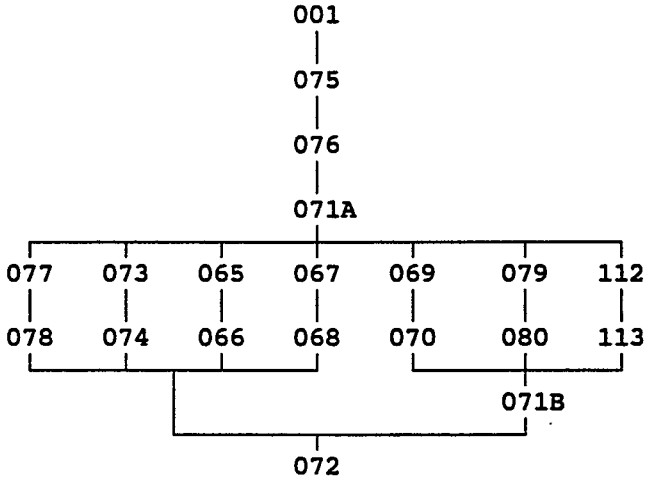
Grave? [80]: A rectangular cut with rounded corners extending 1.10 m to the N of the S limit of excavation, and 0.75 m wide. This feature apparently cut a lower deposit of subsoil overburden [71B]. The fill was a mid-grey/brown clayey, sandy silt with occasional small-medium pebbles [79]. It lay at a cleaned height of +15.73-15.67 m OD. Two iron objects, possibly nails, were observed on the surface of the fill as were unidentified bone fragments. There were no other finds from this context during evaluation. If a grave, it is aligned NNW-SSE and lies to the NW of Grave? [93] (Trench 9). It was the most westerly potential grave located during the evaluation.

Linear Cut [70]: A N-S cut with steep sides which extended to both N and S of the limits of excavation. It was sectioned at it N end and proved to be a maximum of 1.70 m wide. Due to ground water conditions the feature could not be bottomed, but was at least 0.22 m deep. It was filled with a light grey-brown clayey, sandy silt, with occasional small-medium pebble inclusions [69]. Snail shell and fragments of burnt daub were also recovered from this context, as was a sherd of Romano-British greyware and some locally produced shelly ware similar to the material from [25] (Trench 2). The feature was suspected to be a continuation of the latter to the N.

Linear Cut [113]: A linear butt ended cut extending 0.70 m N of the S limit of excavation. With near vertical sides the feature had its base at a height of +15.39 m OD, and appeared to cut the lower overburden deposit [71B]. The feature was filled with a dark grey sandy silt with mid-grey blotches [112], the cleaned surface of which was at +15.75-15.68 m OD. No finds were recovered from this context. It is likely that [113] represents a northwards continuation of [88] (Trench 9).

The surviving pre-burial overburden [71B] was only distinguishable from the upper material, [71A] in the areas where it was cut by features. It was up to 0.12 m thick and overlay the geological subsoil in this trench. This was a yellow grey sand and gravel, with N-S sand banding as in other central evaluation trenches. Its surface was at a height of between +15.91 and 15.63 m OD, sloping towards the W.

9.3.1) Matrix



9.3.2) Discussion

The location of five possible graves in this trench confirmed the continuation of the area of burials to the N of Trench 2, and the likelihood of association with the three burials found on the Haslemere First School site. The presence of possible coffin nails or fittings in three of the five contexts also indicates that the probable use of coffins was not an isolated phenomenon. The graves were again to the W of a N-S ditch, which represents a continuation of that previsly located in Trench 2. In addition both sections of ditch appear to align with a ditch located in the 1966-8 excavations[1]. A pattern of burial appears to emerge where burials are more densley, though not very intensively, located closer to the ditch with, generally, a petering out to the W where wider intervals occur.

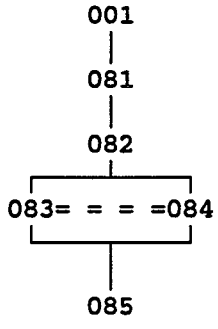
The existance of an undateable ditch to the W may represent a boundary to burials, but equally may be an unassociated feature. A slight survival of pre-burial overburden was observed in the area of this feature and of the most westerly grave [80]. This may reflect the more steeply sloping geological subsoil deposit at this end of the trench.

9.4) Trench 12 (fig 11b)

The trench lay to the E of Trench 2. It was found to contain no features predating the ploughsoil/overburden deposit, and has therefore not been illustrated in plan. During machining two features cut from within the topsoil deposit [1] (surface at a height of +16.73-16.09 m OD) were noted. One was a pit containing scrap iron and 19th century pottery which was not contexted. The other was a linear cut running N-S across the trench [82]. Approximately 4.00 m wide and 0.50 m deep, the cut was filled with, sucessively: a layer of cinder metalling (the surface of which lay at c.+16.44 m OD), a layer of light brown-yellow clay, a layer of brick and concrete rubble hardcore, and a compacted layer of gravel (all [81]). Material derived from these fills suggested a late 19th-early 20th century date for the feature, which could be seen on the ground running across the whole site as a ridge of raised ground.

Underlying the topsoil a deposit of ploughsoil/overburden was observed [83/84]. It was the same sandy silt as encountered elsewhere in the central part of the site, and was at a height of between +16.37 and 15.94 m OD. This material sloped slightly towards the E. The geological subsoil consisted of a typical banded yellow/grey gravel and sand [85]. Its surface was at a height of between +15.93 and +15.67 m OD, sloping from the middle of the trench to both E and W.

9.4.1) Matrix



1. See Figure 12

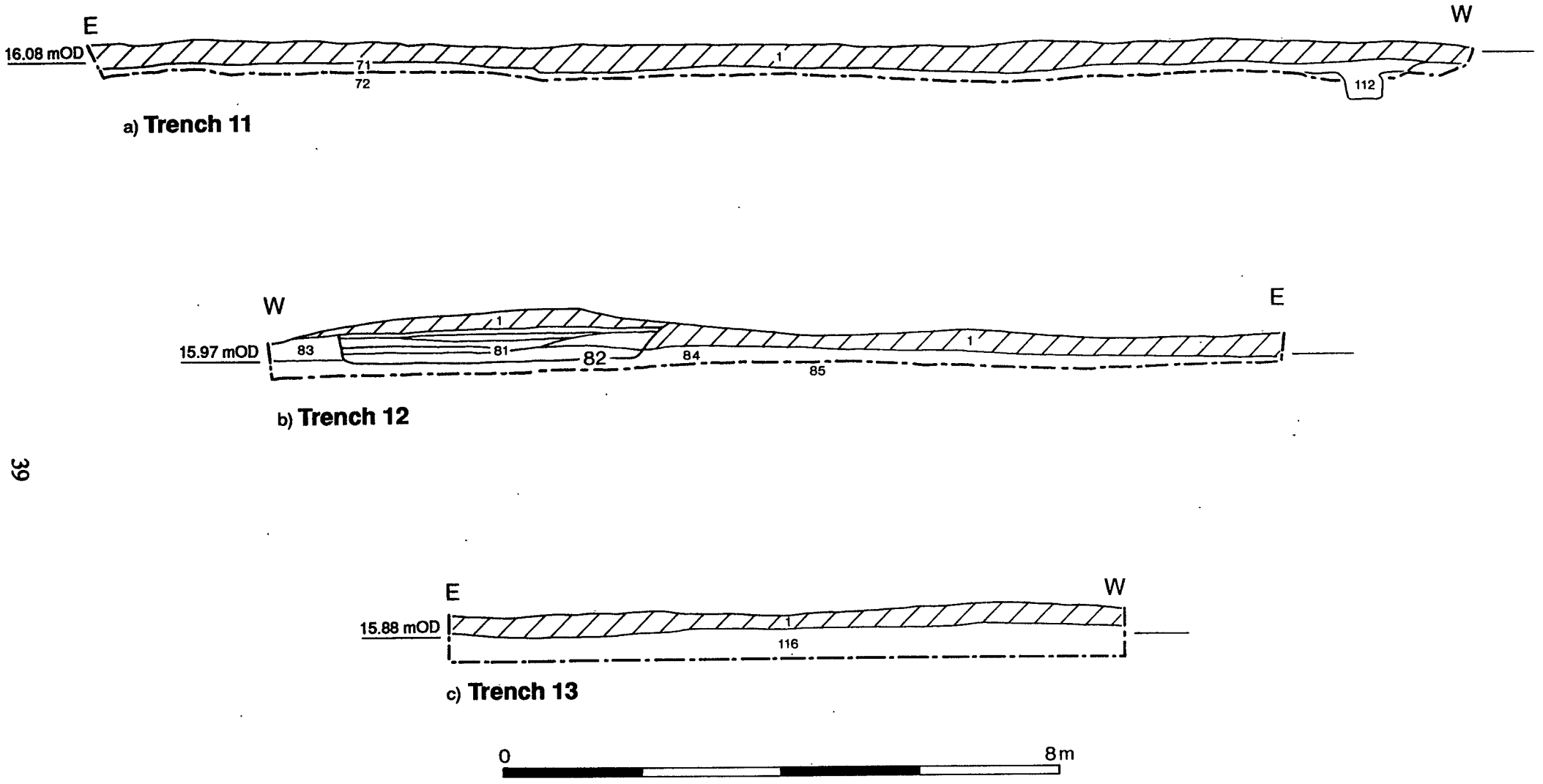


Figure 11: Trenches 11-13: Sections

9.4.2) Discussion

The absence of graves from Trench 12 tends support the contention that these were deliberately placed to the W of the N-S ditch crossing Trenches 2,10, and 11. The raised cut feature [82] and its fill represent a recent trackway associated either with the allotments or farming of the land.

9.5) Trench 13 (fig 10,11c)

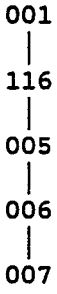
This trench had originally been intended to be positioned on the site in order to gain additional information after consideration of the results from Trenches 9-12. The presence of a number of channels in Trench 10 suggested that the unbottomed cut feature in Trench 6 [6] might not in fact be a ditch, as supposed in the first phase of evaluation, but possibly a continuation of [118] the N bank of the most northerly channel. To attempt to confirm this Trench 13 was sited running E-W at right angles to the W edge of Trench 6.

The topsoil [1] (surface: +16.34-16.18) and part of an underlying deposit [116] were removed by machine. The latter was mid-brown sandy, silty clay. It appeared to be similar in composition to [119] the ploughsoil/overburden material over the channels in Trench 10. However, with depth it became less distrubed, more clayey, and lighter in colour resembling the undisturbed channel fills in Trench 10. The surface of the deposit was at a height of between +16.04 and 15.88 m OD.

Due to pressure of time a small sondage only was excavated to the base of this deposit (or these deposits), which lay at a height of between +15.19 and +15.22 m OD. It was also established that the lower part of this deposit corresponded to context [5] (Trench 6), the fill of the cut feature [6]. A sherd of shell-tempered reduced ware pottery of the same type as those found in the channel fill context [120], which has provisionally been dated to the late Bronze Age, was recovered during excavation.

The only other feature of note was a cast iron water tank sunk into the ground from the topsoil in a similar fashion to those found in Trenches 5 and 7, and presumably for the same purpose.

9.5.1) Matrix



9.5.2) Discussion

The excavation of Trench 13 demonstrated that the cut feature [6] was of the same nature as [118] in Trench 10, and is probably the same channel bank. The fact that the layer [116] extends over the whole of Trench 13 to the W also indicates a fairly broad complex of channels crossing this part of the site, probably with migrating courses. These may have been open for

long periods, and at least two versions existed in the late Bronze Age. Roman material from the disturbed upper material [119] tends to support this suggestion.

The channel represented by [6] and [118] curves from a course just E of S - just W of N (Trenches 6 and 13) to a course just S of E - just N of W. This suggests a meandering stream which would be consistent with its position in a low-lying and fairly flat river floodplain.

10.0) DISCUSSION (PHASE 2)

The second phase of evaluation was successful in its primary aim of attempting to define the area likely to contain burials on the Deen Farm Grazing site. The results may be summarised thus:

Geological Subsoil

The geological subsoil material examined in this phase confirmed the conclusions of the first phase in regard to the nature of the deposit, and of the underlying topology of the site. It was of note that this material had been cut into by a series of prehistoric channels, and that chalky material had been mixed into the matrix at their bases. The transportation of such material from the downlands to the S along the Wandle Valley is a recognised phenomenon, and has been noted on other archaeological sites in the area[1]

Prehistoric

The discovery of at least three prehistoric channels ([115],[6/118],[131]) was the major new development of our understanding of the site during this period. The earliest of these features was undated, but the two subsequent channels, or courses of the same channel, both contained pottery of the late Bronze Age. In addition burnt daub was also recovered. This may indicate settlement activity in the area; certainly the larger daub fragments would have sunk very much where they had fallen as the sediments in the channels are fine and suggest a fairly slow rate of flow. The channels would have taken relatively long periods of time to silt up under these conditions. The evidence from Trench 13 tends to suggest that there may be more channel beds to the SE of the redevelopment area, or, as no banks on this side were noted for [115] or [131] that some of these features may be relatively wide. Disappointingly there was no further evidence of prehistoric activity in the area, apart from the recovery of another flint flake from the overburden deposit in Trench 10 [86]. It may, however, be possible that some of the undated contexts are of this period,.

Undated "Pre-ploughsoil" Features

A number of these features were again noted. In Trench 9 three ditches or gullies ([88],[109],[111] were observed. [109] cut [111] and may represent a re-cut of that feature. [88] appeared to extend into Trench 11 and terminate in a butt end there. In Trench 10 three features, two gullies or similar and a pit were noted. These were not obviously related to other features on site. All of these features, as in the first phase of evaluation, could date to any period prior to the cessation of ploughing and the formation of the topsoil deposit.

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1. Nielsen, 1989; and others

Roman

Evidence from Trenches 10,11, and 12 supported the thesis that burials, tentatively dated to the Roman period, were located only to the W of the N-S ditch first located in Trench 2. Moreover the concentration of graves or possible graves in near proximity to this feature, with examples becoming more dispersed to the W became more apparent.

The most westerly burial ([80], Trench 10) is likely to represent of near represent the furthest extent in that direction as no burials were found beyond it in Trench 9. The suggestion of wetter ground in that direction may have had an influence on this though another possibility is discussed below[1]. The most southerly burial ([90], Trench 10) lay some 4.50 m to the N of an area characterised by channels cut into the geological subsoil ([115], [6/118], and [131]) which may again have formed a natural limit to the burials. To the N burials found on the Haslemere First School site in the 1960s suggest a continuum in that direction carrying the area of burials beyond the northern edge of the present site, as does the presence of a N-S ditch, aligned with that observed on Trench 11[2].

That ditch ([70]), in turn, aligns with similar features in Trenches 2 and 10 ([25] and [95] respectively). The fate of this clearly Roman feature to the S of Trench 10 is uncertain, but there are two possibilities. The first is that it joins one of the channels located in Trenches 6,10 and 13 or a version of the same contemporary with it. The other is that it skirts the area of potential wet ground or a channel in that area and is continued to the S in the form of the linear feature [4] noted in Trench 6. It may be germane that the latter contains a sherd of the typical locally produced Romano-British material. In either case, it will be apparent that the channels would have had to have been a discernible feature on the contemporary landscape, either as a water course or a depression, and therefore an influence on the location of burials.

Ditches noted to the W of the most westerly burials in Trench 9 and 11 may or may not be related to the burials; as no dating evidence was recovered it is not possible to categorise them into any period.

Medieval

More sherds of pottery were recovered during this phase of excavation, but the conclusion that the land was under cultivation during this period remains the same.

Post-medieval

Further cut features, typically filled with material similar to the topsoil deposit, included post holes in Trenches 10 and 11, and an animal grave in Trench 10. These are consistent with the use of the site as an allotment and later as the City Farm grazing.

A second meeting of the interested parties took place on the site on the 21st of October. As the likely area of burials had been defined, it was decided that this area would be protected until such time as a decision be made as to its future, in order that work on other parts of the site might commence. This protection was to take the form of a secure fence around the presumed

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1. Section 11.0

2. See Figure 12

area of burials, and the covering of exposed burials with a special backfill, the latter process is described in Appendix H below.

11.0) OVERALL DISCUSSION

With regard to the original and revised objectives of the evaluation it may be seen that the primary aim of defining the likely area of burials on the Deen City Farm site has been achieved. This is indicated in Figure 17 as the proposed protective fence line.

Answers to the specific research questions were not all obtainable within the limited scope of evaluation excavation, but can be dealt with briefly here:

- *what was the nature of the prehistoric exploitation of the area? (Phase 1)*

-*what contribution can the palaeo-environmental study of the site make to the understanding and knowledge of the ancient environment? (Phase 1)*

- *is there any evidence for Romano-British or later burial or settlement activity?* (Phase 1)

The possibility of prehistoric exploitation, particularly during the late Bronze Age period has been discussed above, but its full nature cannot be determined from the evidence of finds in silted up channels. Samples from the channel fills still await analysis, but these may produce evidence of the environmental conditions during the process of silting. The possibility of the reworking of riverine deposits associated with the Wandle during the Bronze Age has already been mentioned. There may be a correlation between the formation of these channels, and evidence of climatic deterioration noted elsewhere in the British Isles, during the later part of the Bronze Age[1]. The evidence for later exploitation has also been discussed with the possible Roman cemetery being the prime area of concern.

- *can the date range for the ancient cemetery be established, and additionally what information does it contain for religious belief and ritual and for socio-economic, mortality and population studies? (Phase 1)*

- *are they orientated in the same direction? (Phase 2)*

- *are there any children?* (Phase 2)

The dating of the burials is still dubious, however the evidence of orientation, the practice of inhumation, the association with a ditch containing clearly dateable Roman material, and the presence of iron coffin nails point towards a pre-Christian Roman provenance. Without full investigation of at least a sample of the burials, this cannot be conclusively proven. The bone from the disturbed grave [42] suggests that palaeopathology of the inhumations is possible which would give information as a basis for population and mortality studies. The presence of possible grave goods, indicated by the iron circular object in Grave? [66] might mean that socio-economic comparisons could potentially be made. The burials are all aligned on an approximate N-S axis, which may reflect the alignment of the ditch to the E, or some other observable feature. There is no evidence of child burial on the site, though without intrusive investigation of individual burials this cannot be proven.

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1. Macklin *et al.*, 1992

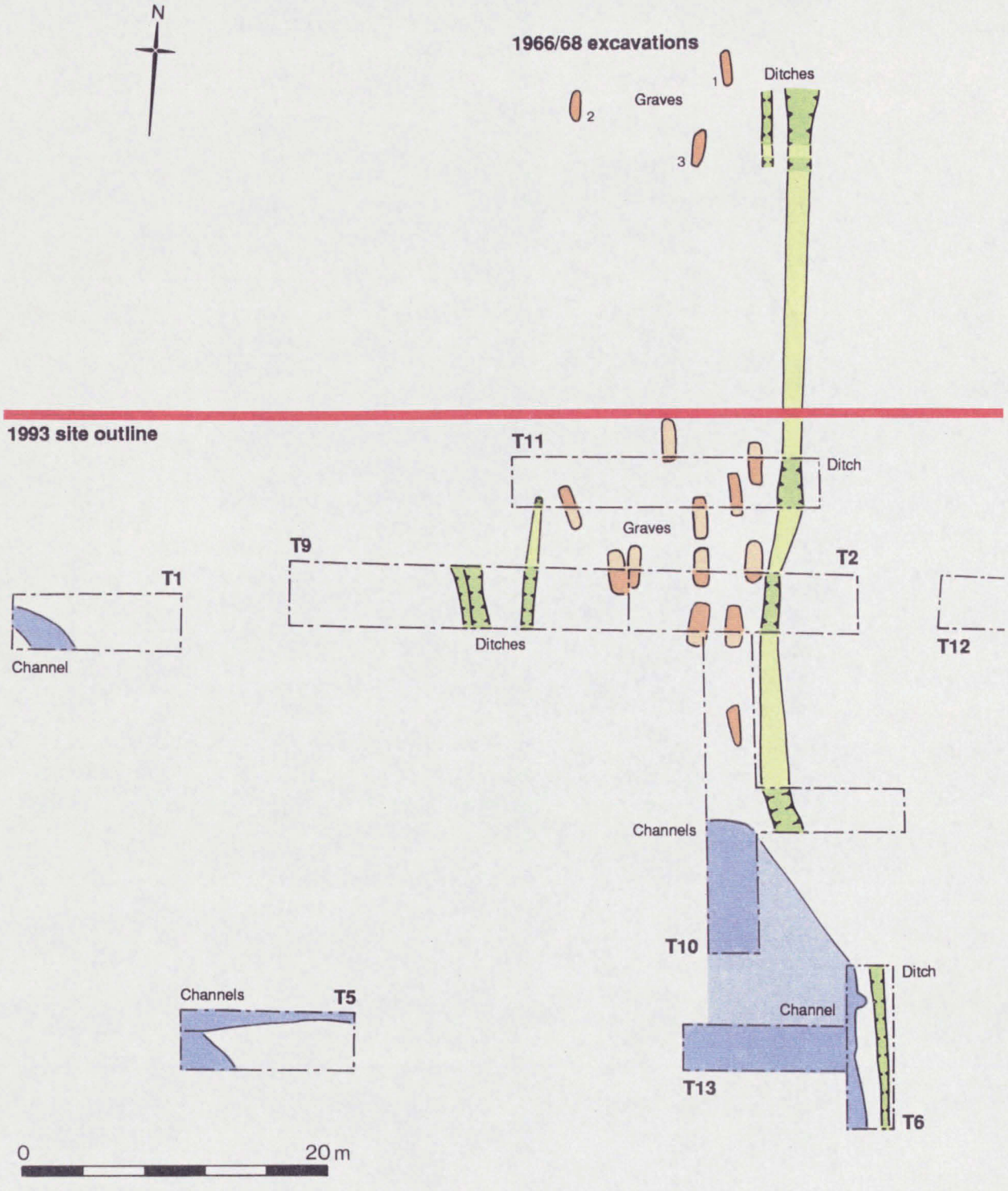

Figure 12: Overall Plan: Burials & Ditches

-can the full extent and date range and nature of the ancient site here be defined? (Phase 1/2)

- how densely are they [the burials] laid? (Phase 2)

- is there any evidence for cemetery organisation? (Phase 2)

- what features, such as ditches, are associated with the burials? (Phase 2)

It is likely that the burials are associated with a rural settlement. The sample here obtained suggests that they are ranged fairly tightly along the W side a N-S ditch for a distance of over 50 m, if the 1966-8 burials are included. This may form the boundary of a burial plot or may represent a drainage channel alongside a trackway. No evidence exists for the latter but the absence of graves to the E of the ditch may be indicative. It is unlikely that such a track would be metalled, or that, after the severe subsequent truncation of the site, evidence of what could essentially be a dirt track would not survive.

If this were the case, the disparity between the date of the ditch and the traditional dating of the burial practice of inhumation might not be of significance as the track rather than the silted ditch might persist. The practice of roadside or track-side burial is well documented in both urban and rural situations during the Roman period. Though always a tenuous interpretive practice, the extrapolation of the line of the ditch to the N would extend it to the region of the conjectured Stane Street Roman road crossing of the Wandle, while to the S it would pass just to the W of the site of Roman activity at Benedict Road Primary School[1]. This is particularly-true if ditch [4] represents a skirting of channels or wet ground to the W and the line iof that feature is continued.

The factor that graves do not appear to intercut is also of significance suggesting the possibility that thay were marked in some way, or stood proud of the ground as mounds. The respect for previous burials may also suggest the tighter society of a small settlement, where individuals would be commonly known and their funerary dispositions respected. The density of burials also points to a relatively small community, though the extent to the N beyond the burials in the Haslemere School is not known.

12.0 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation excavations at Deen City Farm Grazing have provided a wealth of evidence for the occupation and usage of the site over an extended period of time. The evidence of prehistoric activity which parallels discoveries made elsewhere in the area of the Wandle flood plain increases our knowledge of the extent of what appears to be a high level of activity in the Late Bronze Age. This material derived from a series of natural water courses which appear to cross the W side of the site from SE - NW, may guardedly be interpreted as indicating settlement in the vicinity of the site. If this is correct then such a settlement might parallel finds made at Wandle Meadows, Hackbridge[2]. There is however the possibility that the truncation, presumably by ploughing, clearly evident on the site may have adversely affected the survival of occupational deposits. The potential of such material, even if only surviving within channel fills, makes the site of local archaeological significance in its own right.

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1. Hailley, 1989

2. Bazley, 1988; Saxby, 1990(1); Saxby, 1990(2)

However the evidence that the site encompasses part of an ancient burial ground of probable Roman provenance, particularly one associated with a possible rural settlement, increases the site's status to one of regional and possibly national note on grounds of period, rarity, documentation, survival/condition[1].

In terms of **period** the site demonstrates characteristics suggesting a pre-Christian Roman cemetery.

In terms of **rarity** there are comparable known sites in many parts of the country. However, despite considerable evidence regarding the large urban cemeteries of the Roman city of London and its Southwark suburb has been recovered by excavation, relatively few rural burial grounds have been examined in the London area. These include Warbank Cemetery, Keston[2]; North Ockendon[3]; Roman Road, East Ham[4]; and, Old Ford[5]. Of these only the last has had settlement evidence associated with it. Closer to the present site are sites at Coulsdon Woods, Croydon[6]; Spring Park, West Wickham; and, Kings Wood, Sanderstead[7]. The latter burials were closely associated with a settlement site. Chance finds also suggest Roman burial grounds at Beddington, and in central Croydon. The site can therefore be seen to be comparatively rare in local and regional terms.

The site is **documented** from discovery of part of what is presumably the same burial ground to the N in the 1960's. This material has not been published and it has been suggested by the original excavator that the two sites might be treated as one in future analysis.

As regards the **survival** of the archaeological resource encountered on site, the evidence from the evaluation trenches suggest that the ploughsoil/overburden deposits represent a considerable truncation and reworking of the archaeological deposits, with graves being located at what is essentially the base of these strata. There is also evidence of the disturbance of burials by ploughing. With regards to the burials it is suggested that the survival of the bone is suprisingly good considering the likelihood that the gravel subsoil would be acidic[8], while the condition of metal objects is less satisfactory[9].

The probable Romano-British remains identified on the site are considered of regional if not national importance, while it is suggested that the Bronze Age channel material is at least of local importance; the London Borough of Merton, in conjunction with their archaeological advisers English Heritage, will wish therefore to safeguard them. The preferred means of

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1. Department of the Environment, 1990: Appendix 4

2. SMR 07064002001, TQ 4145 6325

3. SMR: 06009303, TQ5790 8435

4. SMR: 060210, TQ 4213 8225

5. SMR: 080757,080758,080797,080824, TQ 3711 8322

6. SMR: 02027902 TQ 302 595

7. SMR: 020297 TQ 352 608

8. See Appendix D below

9. See Appendix G below

doing this under Planning Policy Guidance 16 is by **preservation *in situ***, however if this is impractical or likely to cause design or constructional difficulties the mitigation strategy of **preservation by record**, ie. archaeological excavation, may be the means of achieving this end. The adoption of either strategy will discharge the developers obligations under the planning guidance.

The possible archaeological options may therefore be stated as follows:

a) **full preservation *in situ***; that the redevelopment of the site be abandoned or modified in order that no further intrusions into archaeologically sensitive material occur

b) **partial preservation *in situ*/partial excavation**; that elements of the redevelopment be redesigned in order to leave the most significant parts of the site unaffected/protected

c) **excavation**; that the present design be followed after excavation of the archaeological remains

In all cases detailed project designs should be commissioned in consultation with period, excavation, artefactual, environmental, and conservation specialists. Should full or partial preservation *in situ* be required **a project design for safeguarding archaeological remains exposed during evaluation**, involving the above parties is recommended. If full excavation is envisaged, in view of the importance of the archaeological resource, a **research/project design** and methodology of the same high standard will again be necessary.

R.L.L. Nielsen M.A.(Oxon.) A.I.F.A

13.0) APPENDICES

These appendices deal consist in the main of reports compiled by period/materials specialists of the Museum of London Archaeology Service Specialist Services Department, and deal with various aspects of the finds, conservation, and protection of the site.

APPENDIX A: The Prehistoric Pottery

7 sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from deposits representing the fills of suspected natural channels. 5 were from context [120], one from context [114] and one from the base of context [116]. All sherds were non-diagnostic, but appear to have been derived in the main from thick walled cooking vessels. All but one were made from a coarse shell-tempered reduced (black interior)/oxidised (red/brown) fabric with surface pitting or voiding through the leeching out or dislodgement of fragments of tempering material. The other sherd (context [120]) was of a sandy fabbric, with a buff exterior and dark grey interior. The pottery is remarkable similar to that found in larger quantities at the recent Wandle Valley Hospital Site, Hackbridge. This material has been provisionally dated to the late Bronze Age (c. 1000 - c. 650 BC) by comparison with material derived from elsewhere in the Greater London area.

APPENDIX B: The Roman Pottery

There are approximately 100 sherds of Roman pottery. This assemblage consists almost entirely of abraded material with most contexts containing only one sherd. Nevertheless it does provides evidence of Roman presence in the area from the 1st century to the late Roman period.

The largest group is from Context [23] (ditch fill). It is composed of reduced wares and includes a smashed shell and grog-tempered necked jar with incised arcading on the shoulder/body. This vessel is handmade and is presumably a local product. The remainder of the assemblage is mostly composed of other unidentified handmade grog and shelly wares.

Assignment of this group to the Roman period may have been uncertain if not for the presence of some Alice Holt Surrey ware sherds (AHSU c. AD 40-160). There are also two sherds tentatively identified as Early Roman Micaceous Sandy ware (ERMS) which is of 1st century date. This group is possibly very early Roman but because of its small size and the absence of diagnostic identifiable types it has been dated broadly to c. AD 40-100.

Although most of the Roman pottery from the site is likely to be locally produced there are a few vessels represented which show that the area had trading links with other parts of the country. There is a red colour-coated ware bowl (OXRC IV) from Oxfordshire, a jar from Thameside Kent (TSK IIF6) and other vessels from the Surrey/Hampshire border (AHSU), Highgate Woods (HWC) and St Albans (VRW).

List of Roman pottery from DCF93

Context	Fabrics/forms	Date
3	SHEL ?RPOT	Uncertain
23	SHEL IIA, SHEL/GROG NJ NCD, GROG NJ AHSU II, SAND II ?ERMS, SHEL, SAND/ OXID, GROG	40-100
40	AHSU	40-160 res
41	TSK? IIF6	180-250
55	HWC	70-160 res
71	AHSU	40-160 res
86	SAND NJ ?AHSU, GROG ?RPOT, SAND/OXID IVA, SAND	40-160 res
106	VRW, SAND ?AHFA/AHSU	50-400 res
119	OXRC IV	270-400 res

Jo Groves

APPENDIX C: The Post-Roman Pottery

A small quantity of pottery of Post-Roman date was recovered from features excavated at Varley Way, Mitcham (DCF93).

Although some of the sherds were stratified (15 in total), there were also 22 unstratified sherds which were recovered from trenches 6 and 10.

A single sherd of a medieval coarse greyware was recovered from a grave fill [17], dated c.1150-1300. This may perhaps have been produced at a kiln site at Limpsfield in Surrey, to the South-east of the excavation. The majority of other Post-Roman sherds were found in deposits interpreted as plough-soil. Often early medieval pottery was found with post-medieval fabrics which were dated as late as the 19th century. The presence of an early medieval shelly cooking pot rim found in [83] dated to 1050-1150 and other fabrics of a similar date confirm that this area was being supplied with late eleventh/ twelfth century pottery which was being widely distributed around the London area. In addition the appearance of a sherd of a slipped and glazed jug with incised ring and dot decoration typical of the production site at Earlswood in Surrey shows that more locally made pottery was also reaching the site at Mitcham[1].

Richenda Goffin

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1. Turner, 1974

APPENDIX D: The Human Bone

Introduction

A small amount of human bone was excavated during archaeological evaluation at Dean City Farm Grazing. Other skeletons were exposed, but it was not within the Research Design to excavate them. Human bone from this site is of interest as it is possibly of Roman date. The bone recovered came from three contexts: [41], the bone from which was thought to be part of a burial (Grave [42]); [40], which was plough-soil containing disarticulated bone; and [86] which was also plough-soil containing one piece of bone. The following report is restricted to a catalogue of the bone present and the limited interpretation of those remains that was possible given the small amount of bone recovered.

Methods

Standard human osteological methods were used in the recording of the bone. A full discussion of these is included in the St Mary Spital human bone archive report (Conheeney 1992), available from the Museum of London Archaeological Service.

The bone from disturbed Grave [42]

The recording sheets for this skeleton are available in the archive.

The bone was well preserved in that it was hard and strong, but the surface was badly eroded. This means that some evidence may have been lost. For example, gross pathologies may survive, whereas slight changes to the bone surface will be lost.

Approximately 15% of the skeleton was recovered. The bones present were;

-Acromion of right scapula
-Distal end of right clavicle
-Distal end of right humerus
-Two fragments of right proximal ulna
-A tiny fragment of iliac crest, could be either side
-Fragment of a right rib and three unsided fragments of rib
-Coracoid of left scapula
-Two fragments of left distal humerus and shaft
-Proximal end of left radius
-Upper half of left patella
-Fragment of left glenoid fossa and scapula axillary border
-17 fragments of long bone, all of humerus shaft thickness
-23 fragments of cranium, including occipital protuberance and the right mastoid process
-Two fragments of anterior mandible, including sockets for teeth 42 round to 34 (no maxilla or teeth were present)
-12 vertebral bodies which may be T3 to T8, T12 to L2, and L4 and 5, and a thoracic between 8 and 12, though all are somewhat eroded
-10 fragments of vertebral articular facets

The only joints present were: the right distal humerus with the proximal ulna; and the left distal humerus with the proximal radius.

In addition, there were two fragments of animal bone; a cow-sized proximal humerus and a cow-sized proximal radius.

There was nothing to suggest that more than one individual was represented by the bones[1]. The complete fusion of epiphyses indicated that the skeleton was that of a mature adult, and the advanced nature of the osteophytes on the majority of the vertebrae suggested that the person was not a young adult.

The pelvis was not available for sexing. Surviving cranial characteristics suggested that the skeleton was male. All the bones were generally large and robust.

The remains were too fragmented for measurements to be taken, or for the skull shape to be assessed. No non-metric traits were present.

Three locations where entheses sometimes occur on the bone survived. The lateral epicondyle of the right humerus and the tubercle of the left radius were unaffected by entheses. There was a slight enthesis on the right ulna olecranon. The presence of these bony spurs is used to interpret possible physical activity. However, with such limited data as this, no interpretation is possible.

The majority of the pathology present was of a degenerative nature, which is one of the most common types of pathology in any sample. Seven of the 10 vertebral bodies present were affected by osteophytes. The best preserved of these were very advanced; the rest may have been, but were eroded away. The exact location of the osteophytes is described on the vertebral pathology recording sheet included in the archive. The location and nature of the osteophytes conformed with the normal degenerative process associated with ageing, and indicated that the individual was mature rather than young and may well have been middle-aged or older. There was a small area of inter-vertebral disc disease on the superior surface of the body of the eighth thoracic vertebra. This is also usually attributed to degenerative processes associated with ageing.

There were possible Schmorl's nodes on the inferior surface of the bodies of thoracic vertebrae 6 and 7. These are the result of herniation of the inter-vertebral disc into the vertebra surface. The cause of this is usually attributed to the individual lifting heavy weights at an early age.

The fragments of mandible present were too eroded to assess for periodontal disease.

The bone from context [40]

The bone was in a similar condition to that from context 41.

There was nothing to suggest that the bone came from more than one person, indeed, the two fragments of right and left tibia shafts were very similar in form and could be a pair. Even if all the bone is assumed to belong to one person, only approximately 5% of a skeleton was recovered. The bone present included;

-Right tibia shaft and distal end
-Fragment of left tibia shaft
-Distal end of left fibula

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1. Author's Note: Except the presence of a patella (knee cap) fragment in an assemblage derived from above the pelvic region. This may however still belong to the same individual and have been dislodged or moved by ploughing

-Two left rib fragments and two unsided fragments
-Six cranial fragments
-Arch of a thoracic vertebra
-Four shaft fragments, probably humeral
-Four fragments, probably from tibia and a fragment of tibia proximal articular surface
-Three fragments of fibula shaft

There were two unidentified fragments, one of which may be from a human femoral shaft. There were no joints present.

There were four fragments of animal bone including; a fragment of a sheep-size mandible, two fragments of cow-size proximal phalange, and a fragment of a cow-size rib with butchery marks on it.

None of the characteristics used for sexing were present. The only indication of the age of the skeleton was the fused distal tibia, which placed the person at anything over 12 years if female and over 15 years if male.

There was no enthesis on the distal left fibula, and no other potential sites survived. The remains were too fragmentary to measure or to assess cranial shape. There were no non-metric traits and no pathology.

The bone from context [86]

The single fragment recovered from this context was the upper part of a left femoral shaft. Age and sex estimates were not possible. Two measurements were possible;

The subtrochanteric anterio-posterior diameter 27.3mm
The subtrochanteric medio-lateral diameter 33.2mm

Calculation of the meric index from these measurements gave an index value of 82.2, which meant that the individual was platymeric. This index describes the degree of anterio-posterior flattening of the femur at a point just below the trochanter. Platymeric means that this individual's left femur was flattened rather than rounded. Flattening has been attributed to many causes, such as resulting from mechanical stresses on the femur, but no definitive cause is known.

None of the locations where non-metric traits occur had survived. There was no pathology present.

Acknowledgements

Alan Pipe, of the Museum of London Archaeological Service, kindly identified the animal bone fragments.

J. Conheeney

APPENDIX E: Accessioned Finds

The site produced nine accessioned finds, six of probable post-medieval date, the remainder prehistoric flintwork. There is no material of obvious Roman date.

The three worked flakes, residue from tool-making, came from a channel fill in Trench 10 ([120]) <5>, a ditch fill in Trench 2 ([23]) <2> and ploughsoil in Trench 10 ([86]) <3>.

The sandier ploughsoil which extended over Trenches 2-4 and 6-8, also produced other finds; two iron objects of indeterminate function [71] <8>, [86] <9> and two fragments of lead, probably waste [86] <6>, [106] <7>.

The remaining objects, a fragment from the neck of a post-medieval bottle and a copper alloy ring, which is a fitting, possibly a curtain ring, were unstratified.

List of accessioned finds

Copper alloy

<1> [+] Ring, used as a fitting. Rectangular section, diameter 35mm. Post medieval

Iron

<8> [71] Plate or sheet 110 x 80mm. Post-medieval, from the condition of the metal. Requires x-ray.

<9> [81] ?Bar (requires x-ray). Length 95mm. Post-medieval from its condition.

Lead

<6> [86] Folded sheeting, 75 x 35mm, the metal very degraded. This is probably waste and is undatable, but by association with the other artefacts may be post-medieval. Its condition however could indicate a Roman date.

<7> [106] Lead bar, length 70mm. Post-medieval from condition.

Glass

<4> [+] Neck of bottle; brown glass. Post-medieval.

Flint

<2> [23] Flake, very abraded.
<3> [86] Flake
<5> [120] Flake

Angela Wardle

APPENDIX F: The Building Material

Building material was recovered from six contexts. This material was been recorded as has the unstratified tile.

1. Peg Roofing Tile

All the roofing tile is either late medieval or more likely post-medieval in date. Round and square nail hole types are present. The tile occurs in fabrics 2271, 2276, 2586 and perhaps a variant of 2273. One peg tile (context [86] <*>) has the faint impression of rodent foot prints.

2. Brick

Only very small fragments of red brick were recovered, all are probably post-medieval although none can be dated with any certainty. Fabric types are 3030, 3033, 3065 and perhaps a fabric variant of 3032.

3. Stone

A very small fragment of chalk occurred in context [23].

4. Fired ceramic

Fragments of irregular fired ceramic were found in contexts [23], [119] and [120]. One has a circular impression down one side. It is likely that these are fragments of burnt daub. The impression being made by the hurdling to which the material would have been applied to make a wall.

Further unidentified abraded ceramic occurred in context [23] made of a different type of clay. The latter may well be eroded fragments of brick or tile.

APPENDIX G: Condition Report on *in situ* Artefacts

Introduction:

The evaluation at Deen City Farm revealed the positions of 12 possible graves. During the carrying out of the evaluation on site it was noted that iron artefacts were visible on the surface of four of the grave fills (fig 17).

As the site was to be backfilled pending a decision on its long term future, it was decided to make a detailed visual record of all artefacts visible on the surfaces of the unexcavated graves. If the trial areas are uncovered in the future a comparison can be made of the condition of the objects before backfilling and after re-exposure. This will add to the knowledge of the rate and extent of the corrosion process that may or may not occur once the equilibrium of the archaeological deposits has been disturbed.

Methodology:

The four graves in which the presence of artefacts were identified were studied individually. A detailed assessment of the condition of the iron objects was made. It should be stressed that all the following descriptions and observations are based on a purely visual analysis without the use of techniques such as microscopy.

Each grave is referred to by its cut number and the artefacts visible on each fill have been given an individual number.
Photographic records were made of each grave and all the artefacts. Both black and white prints and colour transparencies were taken.

Site conditions:

During the evaluation several of the trenches had been waterlogged to a depth of several centimetres and pumps were required to remove the water, in order for the recording process to proceed. The detailed recording of the condition of the artefacts took place 6 days after the completion of the archaeological evaluation. By this time trenches 9 and 11 only contained water at their west ends. Trenches 1 and 5 still contained a substantial depth of water.

Timetable of evaluation and recording:

The archaeological evaluation took place in two phases over a period of 4 weeks. There was then a time delay before the detailed recording of the exposed artefacts was undertaken one week after the completion of the evaluation. During this time there appeared to have been quite considerable animal activity across the site. For example dog, fox, a sizeable bird and pig prints were visible in the soft deposits in the trenches. It is understood that apparently a pig found its way onto the site from the adjacent farm.
Trench 9 had been exposed from the beginning of the evaluation, trench 10 was opened during the second phase of the evaluation. The backfilling took place in the sixth week after the commencement of the evaluation.

Soil conditions:

The grave fills were generally of a fine sandy silt containing intermittent pebbles.

Condition report of artefacts contained in graves [12], [66], [68] and [80]:

Trench 9, Grave [12] (fig 13):

Part of the of the grave had been revealed, c.920mm, the remainder extended into the section. The fill had been sectioned and half of the fill removed to a depth of c.100mm from the general surface (area A). This section contained water which had to be removed with a sponge before recording could take place. Sponging was necessary throughout the process due to the rate that the depression refilled with water. The higher section of the fill (area B) remained damp.

Record of objects:

Area A:

Object 1: ?Iron nail - (fig 13 a,b,c) only partially visible and had become corroded to surrounding stones. Due to the corroded nature of the metal the form was not recognisable. Orange/brown corrosion products, bad condition.

Object 2: ?Iron nail - (fig 13 a,b,c) c.35mm x 20mm, only partially visible due to the presence of a piece of mineral preserved wood that obscured the metal. The wood remains were stained orange/brown by the iron corrosion products. Condition of metal difficult to assess. No staining of the surrounding soil was noted - bad condition.

Object 3: ?Iron nail - (fig 13 a,b,c) c.65mm x 20mm, only partially exposed. Shape was distorted by voluminous corrosion products, orange/brown in colour. No staining of surrounding soil was noted - bad condition.

Bone: - a few fragments of bone were exposed towards the edge of the section. These were fragmentary and slightly reddish in colour but in reasonable condition.

Area B:

Object 4: ?Iron nail - (fig 13 a,b) c.30mm x 10mm, only partially exposed and uneven in shape. Voluminous orange/brown corrosion products obscured the shape, no staining of the surrounding soil was noted - bad condition.

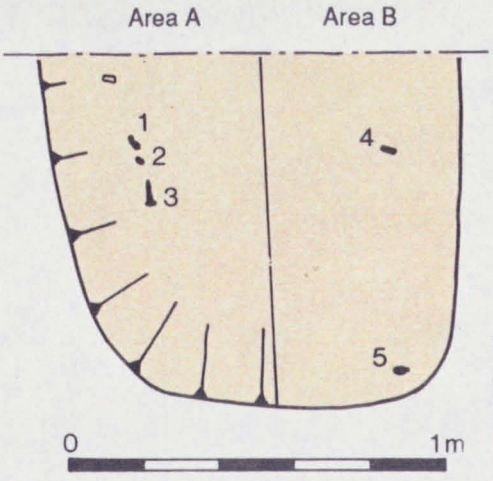
Object 5: Iron nail - (fig 13 a,b,d) c.40mm x 30mm, mostly exposed and loose in the ground, corroded to a pebble. The corrosion was voluminous and red/brown in colour. Despite the extent of the corrosion, the shape was recognisable as a large headed nail - bad condition.

Trench 11, grave [66] (fig 14):

The major part of the grave had been exposed and the fill was standing c.80mm higher than the surrounding level. The soil was damp but no longer waterlogged.

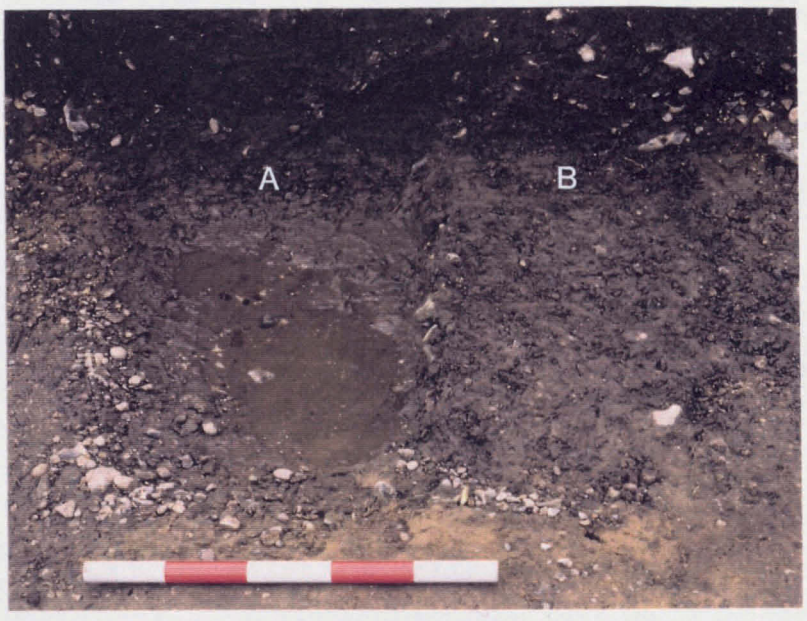
Record of objects:

Object 1: Circular iron object - (fig 14 a,b,c) c.300mm diameter. The outline of this object had been revealed at one end of the grave, some surface loss appeared to have occurred, as a clear section of the object was visible. The objects consisted of a c.1mm thickness of mineralised metal surrounded by a layer of



a) **Grave 12**

b) **Grave 12**

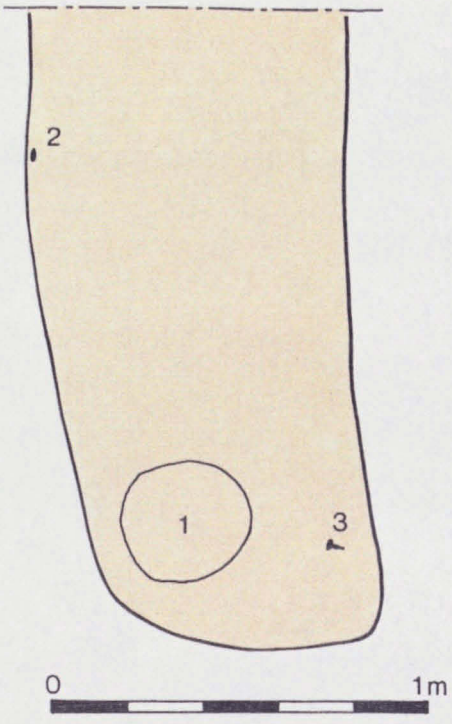


c) **Area A** **Objects 1, 2, 3**

d) **Area B** **Object 5**

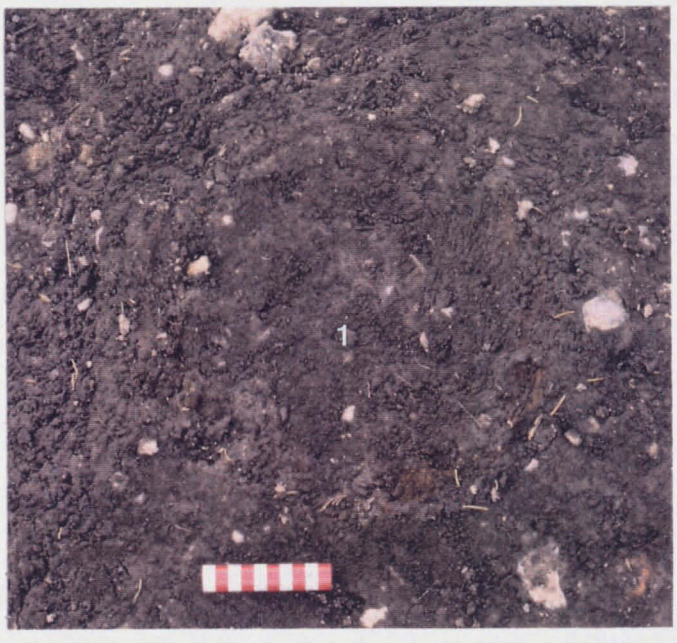
Figure 13: Grave? [12]: *in situ* Objects

a) **Grave 66**



b) **Graves 66 and 68**

c) **Object 1**



d) **Object 2**

Figure 14: Grave? [66]: *in situ* Objects

orange/brown corrosion products extending up to 10mm into the surrounding soil. A gap of c.1mm was visible between the mineralised metal and the corrosion layer. It could be seen that the object was in a fragmentary state. In general the exposed section was in a corroded and fragile state - bad condition.

Object 2: Iron object - (fig 14 a,b,d) c.20mm x 7mm, was only partially revealed. A rounded end was visible with a possible rectangular cross section. Only light red/brown corrosion was visible on the surface with no staining to surrounding soil - good condition.

Object 3: ?Iron nail - (fig 14 a,b) only the tip was visible in a very corroded state. Orange/brown corrosion was present on the uneven surface, laminations were also visible - bad condition.

Trench 11, Grave [68] (figs 14,15):

Most of the grave outline had been revealed, one end extended into the section. The soil condition was damp but had been waterlogged previously.

Record of objects:

Object 1: Iron nail - (fig 14 b; fig 15 a,b) c.30mm x 12mm. The full extent of the nail was visible, one end appeared to be missing. A thin layer of orange/brown corrosion was present on the surface of the nail. No staining of the surrounding soil was detected - reasonable condition.

Object 2: ?Iron nail - (fig 14 b; fig 15 a,b) c.45mm x 4mm. The object was partially soil covered with no head visible and possibly square in section. A thin layer of reddish/orange corrosion was visible on an uneven surface. No staining of surrounding soil was detected. The surface appeared sound with no signs of laminating or cracking - reasonable condition.

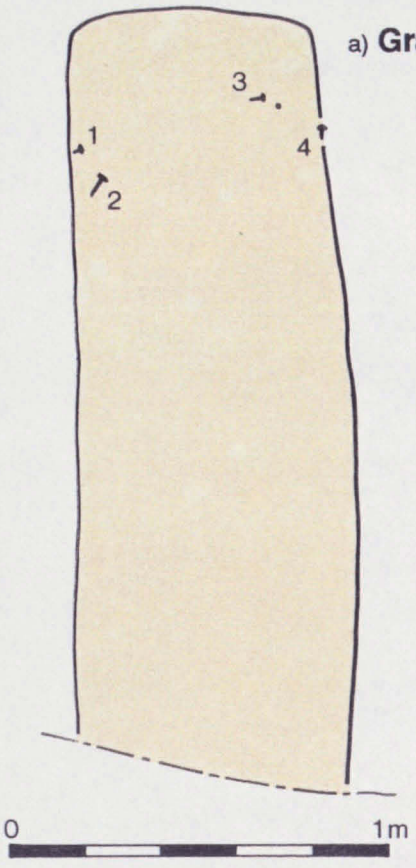
Object 3: ?Iron nail - (fig 14 b; fig 15 a,c) c.45mm x 15mm. The object was in a more corroded state than nails 1 and 2. The object was partially soil covered and covered by voluminous corrosion products that had resulted in distortion of the shape. No staining of surrounding soil was visible - bad condition.

Object 4: Iron nail - this object was recorded on the original plans but by the time the recording of the artefacts occurred this nail could no longer be located.

Object 5: ?Iron nail - (fig xx) c.5mm x 3mm. A small piece of iron located close to 3. Orange/brown corrosion products were visible on the surface but no staining of the surrounding soil had occurred - bad condition.

Trench 11, Grave [80] (fig 16):

The outline of the grave cut was difficult to identify due to the similar colour of the surrounding soil, therefore a photograph was not taken. This grave was located at the lower end of the trench where water was lying on the surface, although the grave fill was only damp. Two iron objects were recorded on the original plans, however it proved to be only just possible to locate one when it came to record them. During the cleaning up of the feature for photography a third object was revealed (3).



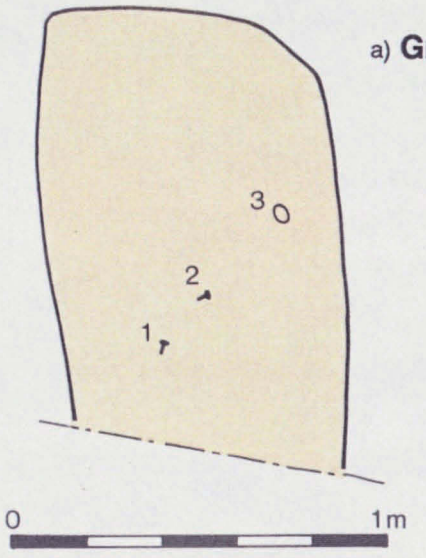
a) **Grave 68**

b) **Objects 1 and 2**

c) **Object 3**

Figure 15: Grave? [68]: *in situ* Objects

a) **Grave 80**



b) **Object 1**

c) **Object 3**

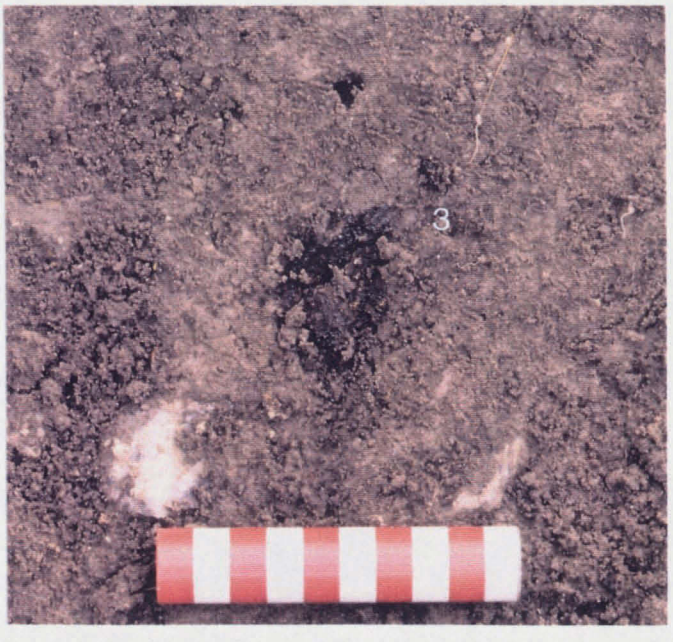


Figure 16: Grave? [80]: *in situ* Objects

Record of objects:

Object 1: Iron object - (fig 16 a,b) the shape was only just visible due to its small size. It was only recognisable by the presence of a small patch of orange/brown corrosion products - bad condition.

Object 2: ?Iron object - no possible to locate.

Object 3: Industrial waste - (fig 16 a,c) a patch of black coloured material was visible. On closer inspection the material appeared to be vitreous in nature containing air bubbles and quantities of both white and reddish inclusions. The general condition of the material was brittle - reasonable condition but fragile.

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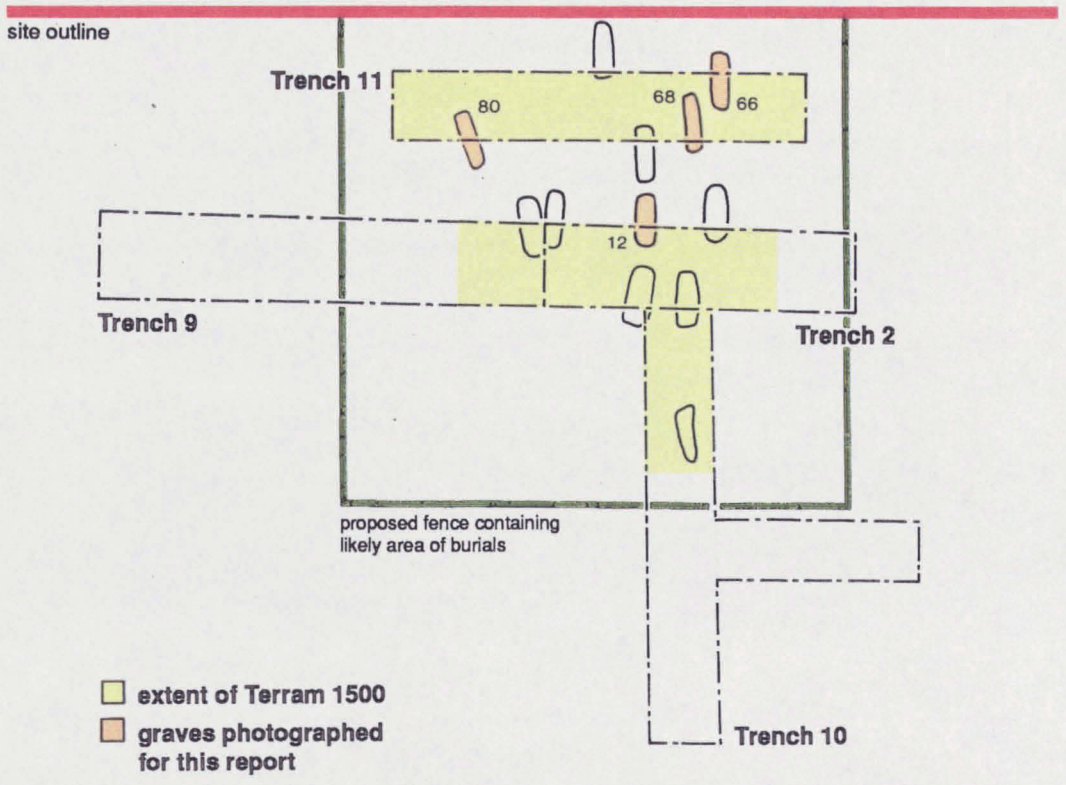

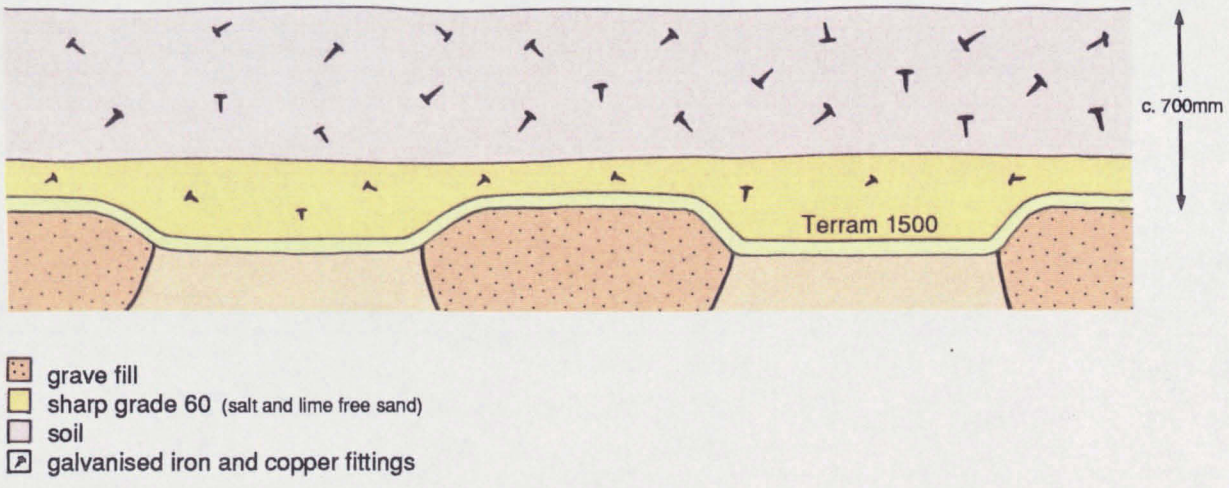

Figure 17: Conservation & Protection of Burials

APPENDIX H: Backfilling of trenches 9, 10 and 11

Introduction:

A methodology for a temporary backfill was agreed and was applied to trench 11, where graves occurred throughout and to the areas of trenches 9 and 10 where graves were visible (figure 18). A complicating factor was that several iron objects had been revealed on the surface of four grave fills, as a result a detailed condition report was prepared of these objects (see Appendix G).

It was agreed that Terram 1500 (inert geotextile) was laid over the areas in which graves had been revealed. A layer of damp sharp grade 60 salt and lime free sand was to be placed over the Terram to a depth of c.100mm. The remaining depth was to be filled with soil that had been previously removed from the trench, where possible avoiding the inclusion of large stones and rubble. Trenches 9, 10 and 11 that contained the graves were not to be compacted.

Implementation:

Due to the positioning of the trenches within the field, there was a problem of access for the machine. Therefore the trenches in which no graves had been revealed were backfilled first. It was not considered necessary to apply Terram and sand to these trenches. After the pumping out of any water, they were backfilled by machine, using soil that had been previously removed. As no graves had been revealed it was possible to compact these trenches using machine tracking, thus creating access to the trenches containing archaeological features.

Lengths of 4.5m wide Terram 1500 were cut and laid in trenches 9, 10 and 11 covering all visible features. The Terram extended up the sections at either side of the trenches. To prevent movement of the Terram as a result of wind action, several wheelbarrow loads of sand were deposited on the Terram and spread along the angle of the trenches. The remainder of the sand was introduced into the trench by machine. Due to the type of bucket attachment that was used, a small amount of soil became mixed in with the sand. The sand was levelled using shovels and hoes, making certain that the trapping of air pockets did not occur in the areas where grave fills stood higher than the surrounding levels (fig 18). Care was taken to avoid treading on the covered features while the levelling was taking place. A uniform level of c.100mm of sand was achieved in this way. The depth was measured by the insertion of a hand tape into the sand.

The remaining depth of the trenches was then filled using the soil that had been previously removed from the trench. Any Terram that extended above the height of the sections was trimmed away. Gentle pressure was applied by the machine bucket to ensure that no gaps were left between the sections and the backfill material. No other compression of the backfill took place. As a result, the surfaces of trenches 9, 10 and 11 appear more uneven than the trenches that the machine was able to track over. All traces of the Terram lining were covered by the soil backfill.

In attempt to discourage metal detectorists from disturbing the site, a selection of brass and galvanised steel fittings were introduced into the backfill levels.

Virginia Neale

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