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ARCHAEOLOGY ALONG THE CHALGROVE-DIDCOT BRITISH GAS PIPELINE, OXFORDSHIRE, 1995



Commissioned by British Gas plc
September 1995

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Roxby Engineering International Limited

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*P*ipelines are constructed with a bias away from known archaeological sites. One of the criteria is that the route is planned without archaeological questions in mind. Pipeline archaeology produces a random and important unbiased swathe of minor settlement evidence throughout an extensive strip of the countryside. This abundance of evidence would perhaps have remained unrecorded and unknown due to both its 'invisible' nature and the lack of opportunity to investigate such areas. It also provides geological and topographical information to advance research areas such as settlement patterns, land use and changes in a spatial and temporal context.

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PART I : INTRODUCTION

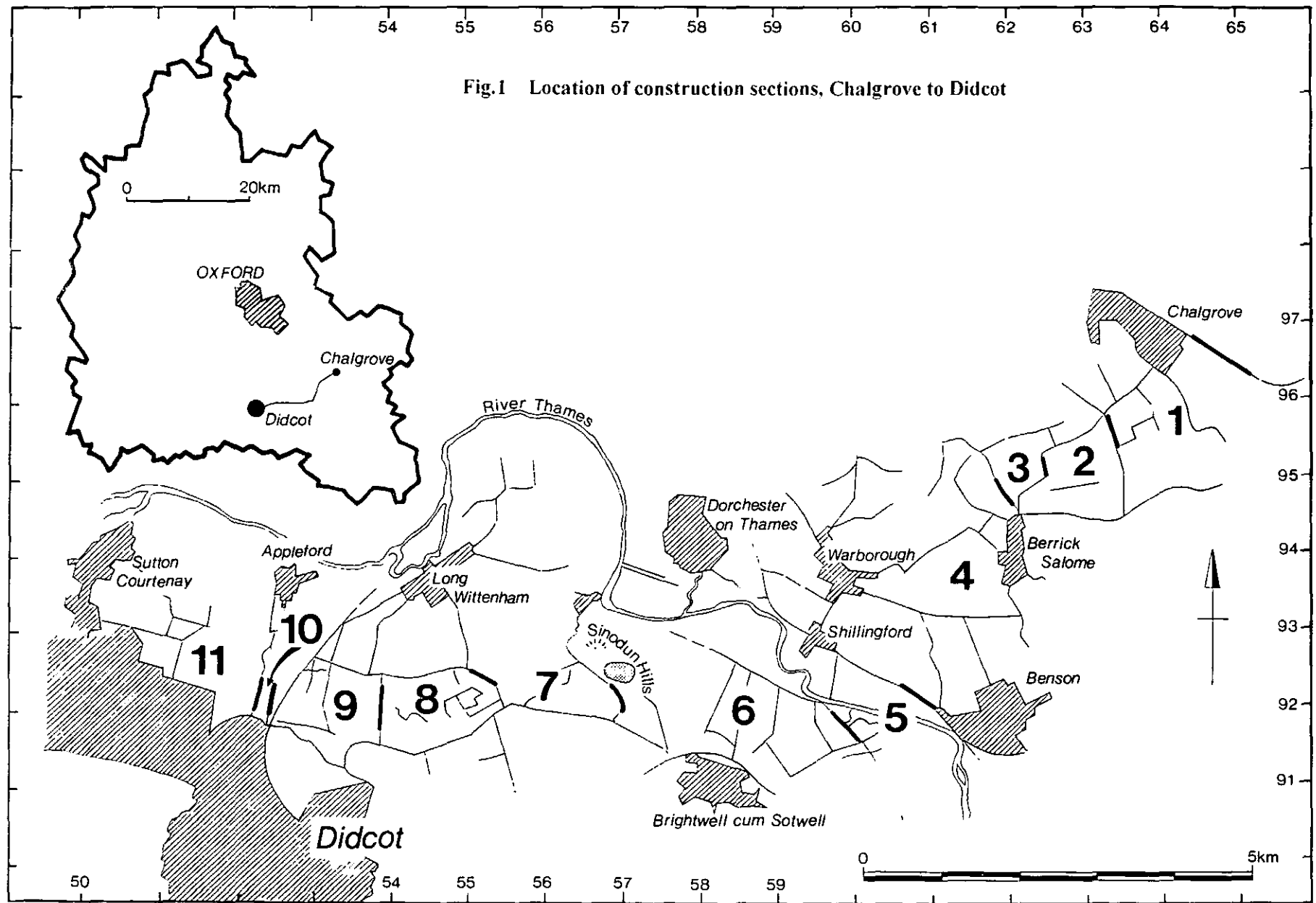
1. FORWARD

This report presents the results of the archaeological excavation and permanent-presence watching brief carried out along the route of the Chalgrove to Didcot British Gas 750mm pipeline between April and June 1995. The line ran for a distance of 17.5km from the Above Ground Installation (A.G.I.) at Chalgrove (SU 64953 96481) to the Power Station at Didcot (SU 50811 92420) in the County of Oxfordshire. The pipeline's construction was commissioned by National Power to British Gas plc., the contractor being Murphy Pipelines Ltd. Archaeological work during the construction phase of the project and post-excavation phase was undertaken by the two authors under contract from Roxby Engineering International Ltd.

The pipeline project allowed an opportunity to investigate a continuous narrow corridor of land within the County of Oxfordshire, producing important evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British settlement in the area.

Pre-construction fieldwork was carried out by British Gas plc. Archaeologists in 1992. The work comprised of use of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), geophysical survey, fieldwalking and more detailed gridwalking of the proposed pipeline corridor (Catherall *et al*, 1995). The combined results highlighted a density of archaeological 'sites' and other highly sensitive archaeological areas. Recommendations from English Heritage and the County Archaeologist resulted in a line re-route to avoid the main concentrations and minimise archaeological disturbance. The Pre-construction survey of the agreed route was carried out in 1994 (Brooks, 1994). A final fieldwalk of the centre-line and archaeologically sensitive areas was undertaken in March 1995 (Appendix 10).

The aims and objectives throughout the construction phase of the project were therefore to deal with archaeology which could not be detected through non-intrusive methods.



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2.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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3. SUMMARY

The pipeline project allowed an opportunity to investigate a continuous narrow corridor of land within the County of Oxfordshire, producing important evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British settlement.

Fieldwalking and Geophysical survey highlighted several areas of archaeological potential along the route with other areas being discovered during the construction phase. In particular, investigations south-east of Chalgrove revealed a significant prehistoric area, comprising a Bronze Age cremation, Bronze Age or Iron Age post-ring structure and a chalk-filled ditch, the latter having ritual connotations. The cremation has regional, if not national implications regarding the known distribution patterns of Deverel-Rimbury type assemblages in this country. Aerial photographic research suggests that the archaeology of this area may be more extensive. Forthcoming Radio-Carbon dating analysis will hopefully answer important questions concerning this site.

South-west of Berrick Salome an extensive, previously unknown site of the Iron Age and the Romano-British periods was investigated. Iron Age pits displayed particular characteristics which are discussed as the possible settings for weaving looms. Excavation of the Roman site revealed ditches of considerable depth and concentrations of features with artefacts dating to the mid 3rd to early 5th centuries AD. A cobbled area, possibly relating to an early track or road was also recorded.

The area around Sinodun Hills provides valuable information of prehistoric and Romano-British activities from both fieldwalking contexts and archaeological features. An extensive ditch feature was recorded to the south of the hillfort which could be of prehistoric origin and may have served an important function within the landscape due to its proportions.

Other isolated prehistoric and possible Romano-British features were recorded along the pipeline route, together with the remains of agricultural activity of various periods.

4. SCOPE AND LAYOUT OF THE REPORT

4.1 Scope of the Report

The report details the archaeological investigations which took the form of a permanent presence watching brief during the construction of a British Gas plc. pipeline from Chalgrove to Didcot in 1995 over a period of eleven weeks.

4.2 Layout of the Report

This report provides an illustrated account of the archaeological fieldwork, sequentially by construction section numbers, along the route of the pipeline from Chalgrove to Didcot. The report format follows the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (1994) of The Institute of Field Archaeologists. The report is presented in five parts.

Part I provides a brief historical and archaeological background to the locality, the geological and topographical characteristics of the region, and the methodologies employed in both the construction of the pipeline and the archaeological investigations.

Part II details the archaeology along the pipeline route. Due to British Gas policy the exact position of the pipeline route cannot be illustrated (Fig.1). It is divided into the individual and consecutive construction working sections. Each section provides: a list of the known areas of archaeological sensitivity and find spots in the more immediate locality (taken from the Oxfordshire SMR); a review of the archaeological pre-construction applications and results; working methodologies specific to each area of investigation; and the archaeological results of the construction phase. The whereabouts of archival material and finds is also detailed.

Part III contains the specialist reports.

Part IV contains the appendices. These comprise: all lists of site records from the construction phase; context summaries; drawings register; soil sample register; photographic register; the weekly report; a copy of the project specification; the detailed geological field record; a post-excavation aerial photographic survey summary; a gazetteer of SMR-listed sites in the locality of the pipeline route; details of the pre-construction surveys and field locations along the route.

Part V houses copies of the archaeological context sheets from the construction phase.

5. BACKGROUND

5.1. Geomorphology

The pipeline runs through a sequence of geological areas beginning at Chalgrove A.G.I. in Section 1 with Gault Clays (SU 64918 96414), transforming to a sequence of alluvial levels around Chalgrove Brook (SU 64739 96345 - SU 64264 96099), before again passing through Gault Clays until Section 4 where there is a change to Valley Gravels (SU 61598 945900). Substantial alluvial deposits occur around the Thames floodplain (SU 60898 92073 - 60131 91464). Section 6 begins with clays (SU 60131 91464), and has an increment of chalk from SU 58720 91791 - SU 57825 92094 and chalk and siltstone bands as the line approaches the area to the south of Sinodun Hillfort and to the end of this section (SU 59102 91664 - 56940 92063). Revealed in this part were also several areas of very prominent Greensand (SU 57747 92094 - 57678 92094, SU 5751 92095 - 57427 92096). Gault Clay dominates in Sections 7 and 8 (SU 56940 92063 - 53904 92172) with occasional chalk and siltstone bands. Sections 9, 10 and 11 comprise of a series of Gault Clays with recurrent pockets of sands and gravels (SU 53904 92172 - 50885 92438). A detailed geological field record taken from the pipetrench can be found in Appendix 7.

The topography of the line (Fig.37) begins at 75m O.D. at Chalgrove before falling to around 40m O.D at the river Thames in the valley bottom, from here the land rises to a peak of some 90m O.D around Brightwell Barrow before falling again to around 50m O.D. towards Didcot.

5.2 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork on the Pipeline Route

An original Chalgrove to Didcot pipeline route was proposed in 1991. Detailed archaeological fieldwork was carried out on this route by British Gas plc. Archaeologists, and involved the recovery of SMR data, followed by fieldwalking and geophysical survey. The results suggested that the proposed line would have passed through important archaeological sites. It was therefore partly re-routed. The reader is referred to the archive which was collated in 1995 and deposited in Standlake (Catherall *et al*, 1995). It has not been within the scope of this report to interpret the results of this earlier phase of survey but reference is made where applicable to the final construction route.

A modified route was instigated and a pre-construction survey carried out in 1994 (Brooks, 1994). A geophysical scan and where necessary, more detailed geophysical survey, was conducted (Price, 1994).

In March 1995 the new centre-line, together with the archaeologically sensitive areas were fieldwalked and relevant background research carried out (Appendix 10).

5.3 Archaeological and Historical Background.

The Upper Thames Valley has a rich and varied archaeological background. The geomorphology of the area being favourable for settlement, particularly on the well-drained valley gravels, with the Thames, its tributaries and environs providing a wealth of environmental resources.

The aerial photographic record for the Thames Valley is extensive with cropmarks being particularly responsive and conducive to the gravel conditions. These photographs have therefore highlighted numerous archaeological as well as geological 'sites.' A survey of these

prolific cropmark sites has been produced by Benson and Miles (1974). Their survey highlights the extensive palimpsests of human settlement within this area.

Neolithic and Bronze Age

An important prehistoric landscape is located only three kilometres north of the gas pipeline, to the north-west of Dorchester. This complex is important for both the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. It contains the site of the Big Rings henge monument, originally identified in 1927 and later photographed by Allen in 1938, as well as a cursus monument aligned north-west to south-east and running for over 1.65km. Other monuments include a mortuary site, a woodhenge type earthwork and numerous cremation sites and enclosures. Various excavations have been carried out within this area; early 'rescue work' by Atkinson was executed between 1946 and 1951, prior to extensive gravel extraction which destroyed an extensive part of the complex, including the Big Rings henge site (Atkinson, 1951). More recent work was carried out on the complex ahead of the construction of the Dorchester by-pass in 1981. On this occasion the cursus was re-examined and excavation carried out on sites such as woodhenge.

Many Neolithic sites retained their importance into the Bronze Age period such as those of Barrow Hills and Radley cemetery, aligned on the Earlier Neolithic enclosure at Abingdon. These sites can be considered with the major ceremonial *foci* on the Wessex chalk, such as Mount Pleasant, Knowlton, Stonehenge, Avebury and Marden. Indeed a number of burial sites from the Upper Thames Basin contain similar 'Wessex type' specialised burial goods whilst many of the ceremonial sites such as Dorchester seem to be accompanied by Early Bronze Age barrow cemeteries, thereby paralleling with the situation on the Wessex sites (Bradley, 1986, 38-39). In contrast, early settlement sites are hard to detect in the landscape, possibly due to the ephemeral nature of the features, these not being cut into the subsoil due to the nature of settlement and therefore the only evidence remaining in the ploughsoil.

By the early first millennium BC, the pattern of human activity in the form of these major ceremonial sites seems to have dramatically altered (Bradley, 1986, 43). The large monuments went out of use, pottery traditions changed, there were few burials with gravegoods and metalwork began to be deposited in rivers. The evidence for this may be misleading but it does appear that many early Bronze Age barrows were located in the uplands whilst the majority of the later Bronze Age metalwork is concentrated in low lying areas around rivers. This suggests that the Lower Thames area became a more important focus for human activity than the Upper Thames Valley.

The gas pipeline passed within 220m of the site of Brightwell Barrow, (SU 5761 9190). The barrow was 'opened' in 1923, (SMR 2936), and found to contain Early Iron Age pottery (SMR 2937), which he suggests to be primary, though no human bones were recovered. A circular cropmark feature situated 250m to the west, may be a similar feature, the period of which is unknown.

Iron Age

Iron Age settlement in the Upper Thames Valley is well attested, being a much researched (e.g. Hingley and Miles, 1984) and apparently densely settled region (Benson and Miles, 1974). This period is important to the present pipeline study as the route passes within 200m of an extensive Iron Age site, the hillfort on Castle Hill, Wittenham Clumps (SU 5694 9244, SAM 208). The hillfort covers approximately ten acres and consists of a single ditch and a

rampart. The fort itself has never been excavated but information has been recovered from various fieldwalking projects and through chance finds, all of these producing a range of Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon pottery. Excavation at the position of the present car park produced a well stratified Iron Age site (Hingley, 1980). The slight yet diverse artefactual and structural knowledge of the hillfort site on Castle Hill and its environs, coupled with its commanding topographical position, makes this area an important and so far little understood complex landscape unit. This gas project will yield more information to aid in the understanding of this area.

During the Late Iron Age a new settlement focus was established north of the Thames at the low lying *oppidum* site of Dyke Hills (SU 575 937), situated some 1.5km from the pipeline. This large site which encompasses some 114 acres has not afforded extensive excavation but does seem to have taken over the role of the once defended site at Wittenham Clumps. The Thames region was probably an area of intense activity in the Late Iron Age, being a frontier zone between the Dobunni to the west, the Atrebates to the south and the Catuvellauni to the east. Dyke Hills may have developed as a gateway settlement which served as a contact between these distinct tribal groups (Miles, 1986, 56). Its function becoming less important with the onset of the Roman political system.

Romano-British

Perceptions of the nature and extent of Romano-British settlement in the Upper Thames Valley have greatly changed over the last fifty years with the vast increase in aerial photography and archaeological fieldwork. The area is no longer conceived as some kind of 'Roman backwater' but seen as affording fairly extensive settlement.

No major Roman cities are known in the area of our study, the nearest being Cirencester, Silchester and Verulamium. The closest Roman town of any real significance however, is that of Dorchester which is situated 1.5km to the north of the pipeline route and is considered to have provided continuous occupation throughout the Roman period. Some of the earliest evidence is that of a wooden fort, normally associated with the military conquest in the mid-1st Century AD (Rowley, 1975, 117-8). Within the growing settlement in the 2nd Century AD evidence has substantiated an earthen rampart and an outer constructed wall in about 276-290 AD. The position of Dorchester meant it was excellently cited for commercial and trading links in the south of England.

Fairly large settlements have been located at Abingdon and Wallingford as well as lesser settlements such as Appleford c.1.5km from the line. There are no recorded villa-type complexes in the vicinity of the pipeline, but evidence from aerial survey work shows there is a dense concentration of enclosures on the valley gravels which could well represent isolated Roman farms and their associated field systems.

The road system linking Dorchester with the rest of the Roman Britain possibly had military origins. That to the north of Dorchester linked it with the walled town of Alchester, passing through a major Romano-British pottery producing area around Berinsfield, and continued to join Watling Street at Towcester. The road system is more tenuous to the south of Dorchester, with the route to Silchester unknown. A Thames crossing place for this route has not been located nor the road found on its southern bank. One possible fording site is in the vicinity of the aptly named 'Shillingford', but as yet no archaeological evidence has been recovered to substantiate this. Another important road link crossed the Thame below

Meadside and ran south through Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, possibly heading towards the Goring Gap.

The alignment of a road from the north-eastern sector of the town has been identified crossing the Thame in the region of Steadhampton. This road linked Dorchester with the cemetery site of Queenford Mill 700m from the town, and Church Piece, a cemetery on the opposite bank of the Thame, just over 1km from the town. Both these sites seem to have been in use in the fourth and early fifth centuries.

Post-Roman

Information from cemetery excavations in the region (e.g. Dorchester-on-Thames, Frilford and Long Wittenham) reinforces the long held assumption that the earliest Germanic settlers arrived in the 5th Century AD in the Upper Thames Valley as *foederatii* (Chadwick Hawkes, 1986, 74). The early settlements appear to have focused upon prime sites utilised in earlier periods, such as the two Late Iron Age valley-forts of Abingdon and Dyke Hills and the Roman town of Dorchester-on-Thames.

Recent excavations at Abingdon revealed evidence characteristic of the sixth to seventh centuries and with possibly some 5th century traces, although it is difficult to ascribe a precise date to this early evidence (Keevil *et al.*, 1992, 77). The demise of Dorchester as a place of strategic and commercial importance during the Anglo-Saxon period, came with the establishment of the *burhs* of Oxford, Cricklade and Wallingford.

The pipeline passes through an area of the proposed Deserted Medieval Village of Clapcot c.SU 605 916 (SMR 2133). It also runs through a series of Medieval and Post-Medieval field systems which will be discussed in relevant areas throughout the text.

6. METHODS

6.1 Pipeline Construction Methods

The whole pipeline length was divided into a series of eleven Sections (Fig.1). Each of these was defined by its position between roads encountered along the pipeline route. The site of each road was referred to as a 'Road Crossing'. The sections ran 'negative' to 'positive', (i.e. from Chalgrove A.G.I. to Didcot Power Station), and were numbered sequentially from the first road crossing.

The pipeline corridor was 30m in width and delimited by fences, this area being referred to as the pipeline 'easement'. An initial topsoiling of about half the width of the pipeline corridor was carried out by a series of back-acting earth-moving excavators. The remainder of the working easement was topsoiled by a team of bulldozers.

Trenching for the pipeline was carried out either by a back-acter or a Cleveland trenching machine, depending on local ground conditions and geology. The Cleveland trenching machine was most frequently used on the more solid and firmer geology. The pipetrench on average measured about 1m wide and 2m deep. When obstacles such as tracks, roads, dykes, ditches, existing services, and railway crossings were encountered large boring and reception pits were dug to take and receive the pipe, width and depth being dependant on the size of the feature to be engaged.

Where necessary pre and post-construction drainage was achieved via the excavation of a small trench about 0.30m wide into which a plastic drainage pipe was placed before being covered with coarse gravel and then being immediately back-filled. This drainage was carried out where necessary and is arranged to suit specific field conditions. Whenever possible, and in archaeologically sensitive areas any drainage operations were monitored. Where relevant this drainage will be described in the text.

6.2 Archaeological Working Methods

The construction of the pipeline necessitate two or three phases of archaeological investigation. The initial investigations took place during and after topsoiling operations, and consisted of evaluation and test-pitting to determine whether or not a more detailed examination was required. If archaeology was present, the area of interest was then defined and planned. Hand-excavation of a representative sample of the archaeological features was then undertaken to ascertain their physical characteristics, nature of composition, stratigraphical relationships, and to enable sufficient sampling of deposits in order to try and determine the date and function of the features.

Once the initial side-stripping had taken place, sufficient time was allocated and resources provided to enable 'evaluation excavation' strategies to be implemented within the 'rescue' environment, in order to ascertain archaeological potential and determine further investigation requirements. The constraints of the construction programme and the depth and the concealment of many features during the watching brief necessitated the employment on occasion of additional excavation machinery.

The recording of all archaeological features was carried out in accordance with British Gas Standard Archaeological Recording Procedures (Appendix 6), a copy of which was submitted to The Oxfordshire County Archaeologist.

All planned and sectioned archaeological features were surveyed by a Total Station (Wild TC 1600), into the National Grid and subsequent Computer-Aided-Design (CAD) drawings were produced for the archive at relevant scales.

The trenching operations were closely monitored and all visible archaeological features recorded. Certain geological anomalies were also recorded to ascertain if they were related to crop or soilmarks that had been noted as possible archaeological features in the Sites and Monuments Record.

Archaeological visibility was a variable factor within the pipeline construction, dependant on many factors the main considerations being machine type, topsoiling depth requirements, weather and geology and these factors were noted during all recording.

The initial topsoiling of about half the width of the pipeline corridor by the back-acter excavators produced the clearest view of any resultant archaeology. The remainder of the working easement was topsoiled by a team of bulldozers, leaving a smeared and uneven surface. The initial topsoiling operations by the back-acters were therefore monitored very closely and decisions were made at this stage concerning the preservation and potential of specific areas.

All trenching activities were monitored and features recorded. The Cleveland excavator cuts the pipetrench with a large rotating blade, followed by a coulter, thus leaving very clean sides and making archaeological visibility much clearer. One disadvantage with this trenching medium however, was that features could be smeared and distorted by the coulter, especially if the area was in heavy clay and the ground conditions were wet and the water table high.

Back-acting excavators frequently dug out the pipetrench when ground conditions were unstable, resulting in uneven sides, difficulty in defining features and more time spent in the cleaning up of sections. On very 'soft' ground the machines would immediately batter the sides of the trench to minimise collapse thus making visibility difficult, especially if the area consisted of running sands and gravels (as in Section 4).

A disadvantage of the archaeological sections often seen during trenching operations is that the features themselves are not cut perpendicular and therefore suffer from varying degrees of distortion and thus require rectification to ascertain their original form.

PART II : ARCHAEOLOGY ALONG THE PIPELINE

This section deals with the archaeology recovered during the construction phase of the pipeline project. For ease this is dealt with in order of retrieval using 'construction sections' which are delimited by Road Crossings from Chalgrove A.G.I. to Didcot Power Station (Fig.1). These sections should not be perceived as concealed or isolated landscape units and were not studied as such but only portrayed in this way for ease of recording purposes.

Individual Field Numbers are cited throughout the pre-construction and construction phases of this project and the resultant archive components and as such will be referred to in the text. The numbers all refer to Field Numbers supplied by the Ordnance Survey (Appendix 12).

When referring to contexts within the text of this report cuts are placed in square brackets and fills in round brackets.

7. SECTION 1

7.1 Introduction

Section 1 was located between the B480, Road Crossing 1, leading from Chalgrove A.G.I. (SU 64935 96423), to Road Crossing 2 (SU 63327 95619), a distance of some 1.785km (Fig.2).

7.2 Geomorphology

The geology in this Section consists of from Gault clays (SU 64918 96414 - 64739 96345), chalk and alluvial deposits, centred around Chalgrove Brook (SU 64739 96345 - 64264 96099), and again Gault clays (SU 64264 96099 - 63327 95619).

The topography in this Section is fairly flat and lies at about 70m O.D.

7.3 Known Archaeological Sites

Several Sites and Monument Record listed 'sites' exist in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline easement (Appendix 9) and are summarised below:

- SU 6483 9593 Romano-British glass and urn (SMR 2300).
- SU 6468 9592 Post Medieval moat (SMR 2301).
- SU 6390 9570 (centre point), (SMR 11386). A linear feature consisting of the existing hedge boundary. This has been suggested as a possible Roman road but there has been no reliable evidence to substantiate this.

7.4 Pre-Construction Fieldwork

Several areas of interest were identified along the pipeline route:

A small area of magnetic disturbance covering a distance of about 20m (SU 6392 9586), was revealed in the geophysical scanning of the area (Price, 1994).

Fieldwalking produced a small pottery and tile concentration in Field 3100 (SU 64410 96218-64224 96069), (Fig.3). Of the twenty-three pieces collected ten were Romano-British, four

Fig.2
Section 1: location of
construction section and
areas of archaeological
investigations

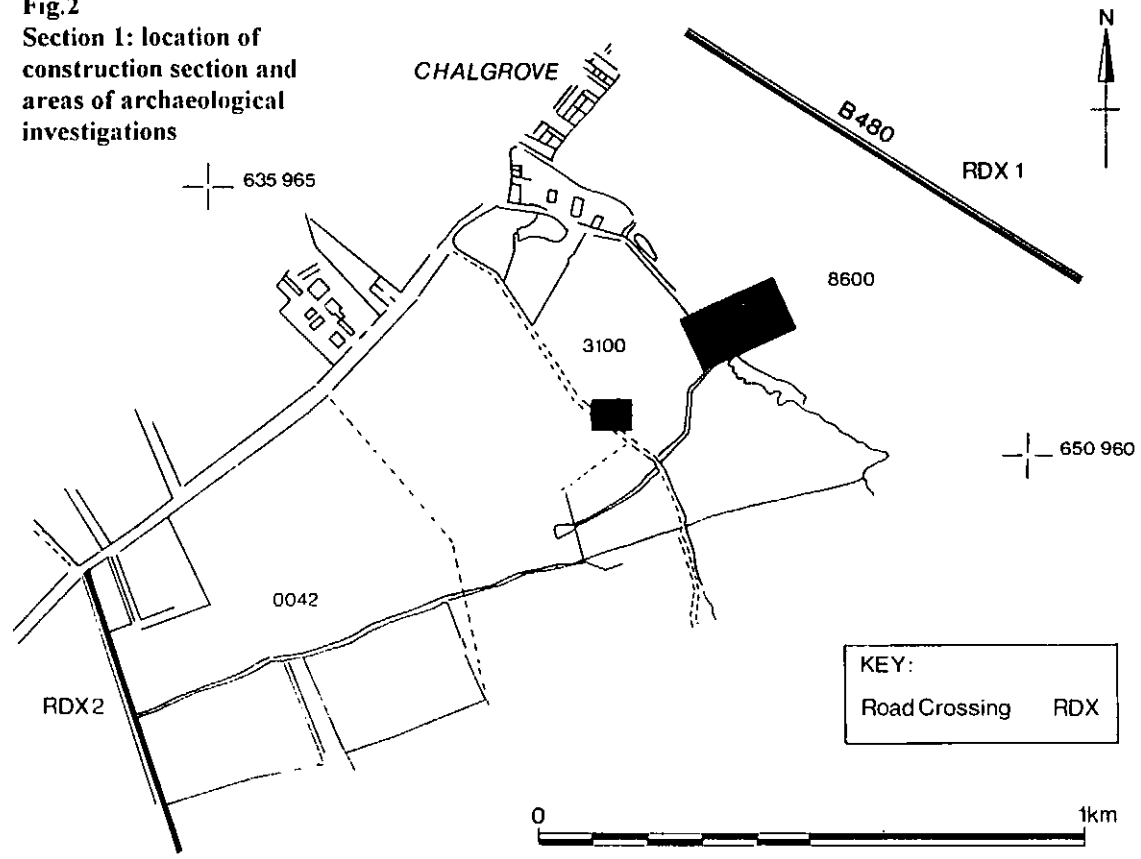
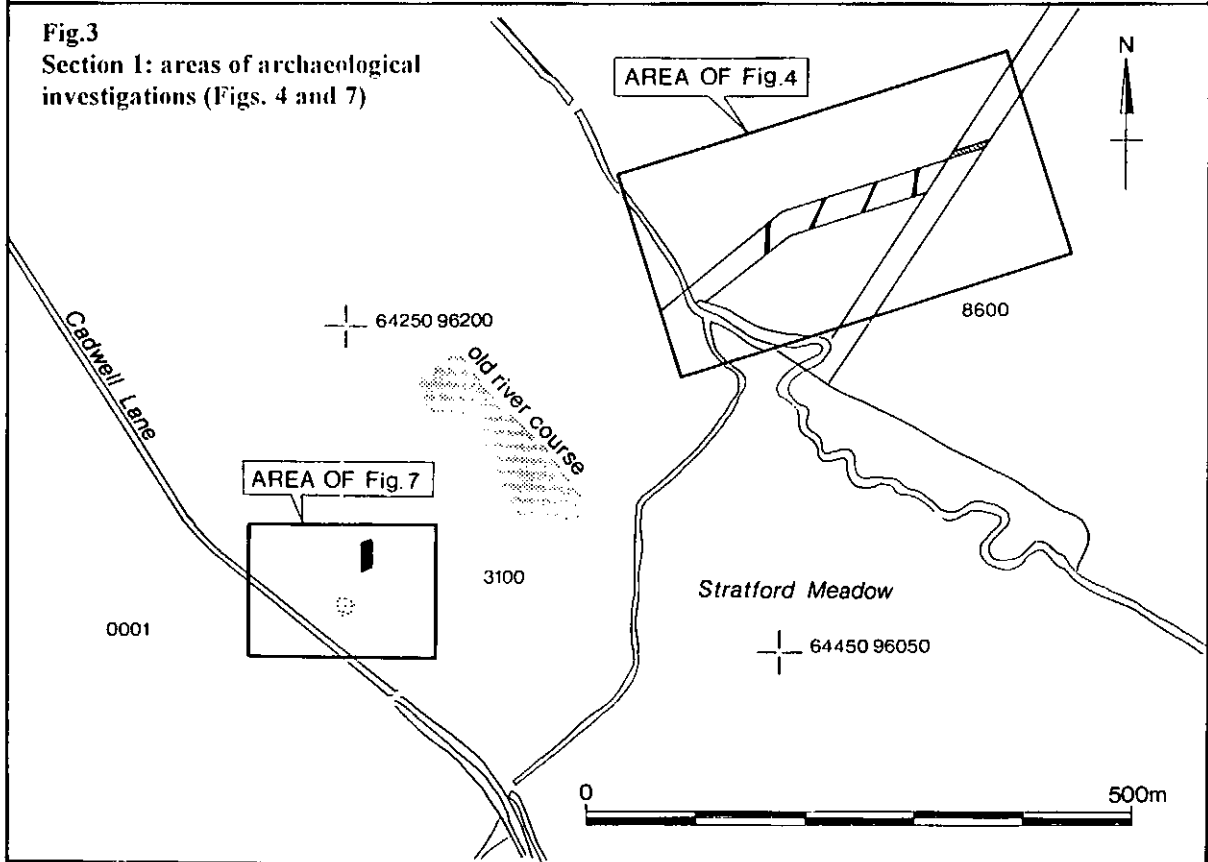


Fig.3
Section 1: areas of archaeological
investigations (Figs. 4 and 7)



Medieval and nine were brick and tile pieces possibly also relating to the Roman-British period (Brooks, 1994 and Appendix 10).

A slight concentration of twelve flint artefacts was collected in Field 3100, from a pipeline length of approximately 230m (centred on SU 64310 96140). These consisted of one un-retouched waste flake from the 1994 fieldwalking season and seven un-retouched waste flakes, one chip, one un-retouched blade-like flake as well as a miscellaneous retouched piece (CD95 Find no.41, SU 64263 96130) and a flake with ?used edge (CD95 Find no. 30, SU 64326 96174), (Bradley, this report, Part III). PRN
16329

A minor concentration comprising of six flint fragments was also recovered from Field 8600. From a pipeline length of approximately 550m (centred on SU 64630 96310), the flints comprised two cores, one miscellaneous retouched (?scraper), (CD94 Find no.2, SU 6473 9637), one un-retouched flake, one end-scraper (CD94 Find no.5, SU 6461 9633) and one un-retouched blade (Bradley, *op. cit.*) PRN
16330

Two pieces of flint were recovered from the remainder of Section 1; a possible piercer on a thermal blade (CD94 find no.9, SU 6393 9586), and a single waste flake (Bradley, *op. cit.*) PRN
16328

7.5 Construction Methodology

The pipeline easement was topsoil stripped half by back-acter and half by bulldozer. The pipeline trenching was carried out by the Cleveland excavator up to the plantation (SU 64544 96280) and due to the high water table back-acting excavators dug the pipetrench as far as Cadwell Lane (SU 64226 96068) where the Cleveland resumed trenching operations up to the road and the end of this Section.

The area under Chalgrove plantation (Fig.3), was not topsoiled in order to minimise disturbance to the trees.

7.6 Archaeological Methodology

All visible archaeological features were defined before being planned with the Total Station and then investigated.

The Pehistoric site (7.7.5), was partly revealed by a back-acting excavator during the topsoil stripping. The remaining ploughsoil was removed by hand and the area cordoned-off to avoid machine disturbance during the excavation of the site. All features were planned and the vast majority totally excavated.

Archaeological visibility within the pipetrench varied considerably depending upon machine type. Visibility was impaired during the back-acter excavations where the sides of the trench were unstable and smeared in places and therefore the section could not be cleaned. The Cleveland trench afforded the clearest archaeological visibility.

A post-excavation aerial photographic search was carried out at the Oxford Sites and Monuments Record Office (Appendix 8), in order to ascertain if any of the recovered features could be represented by crop and soilmark images.

7.7 Archaeological Results

PPN 16325

7.7.1 Linear Features [291], [292] and [293] SU 64545 96285 (Figs.2-5)

The area investigated north-east of Chalgrove Brook comprised two groups of linear features all on approximate north-east to south-west alignments (Fig.3). The group considered here consisted of three substantial parallel ditches running beneath and on the same line as the present linear plantation (Figs.4-5). The combined widths of the features was approximately 13m. The central ditch [292], and the deepest (3.3m), had a steep 'V'-shape profile, whilst the outer ditches [291] and [293], each approximately 2.3m in depth, were less inclined with gentle sloping sides falling to rounded bases. The pipetrench was not cut perpendicular to the features and therefore the section has been rectified (Fig.5).

The ditches all appeared to follow the same alignment and contained very similar material. The primary fills (294), (296) and (298) were all grey-light brown clayey silts with occasional flint pebbles. They appear to be the result of natural silting of the features. The most easterly ditch [291], had a secondary fill (295) consisting of a light orange silty clay with occasional flint pebbles. All the features had the same upper fill (297), a light orange silty clay with occasional flint pebbles. Due to the unstable nature of the trench and the collapse of it in part, it was not possible to clean the section and therefore any physical relationships between the features could not be established.

Interpretation

The function of this group of features is not entirely clear. Their proximity to each other and their almost identical fills tends to suggest contemporaneity although their true extent is unknown as the area was not topsoiled and no dating evidence was produced. Nevertheless the existing linear plantation does seem to have the same alignment which may suggest they served as field boundary drainage ditches. The plantation corresponds a plot division shown on the Tithe Award of 1841 (C.O.S.1), but it is not known how long this division had been in existence or whether it respected an earlier landscape feature. Certainly the steepness and 'V'-shaped profile of this central ditch might suggest that it once served a more significant function than just an ordinary drainage ditch.

It is possible that the features are the remains of either a more significant property division, or a route-way of some kind. Davis' map of 1797 (C.O.S.2) shows a track or road, crossing the Chalgrove Brook some 450m south-east of the sectioned features and continuing north-west towards Chalgrove. The scale and detail on the map is, however, unreliable and must therefore be treated with caution. Field divisions shown on the later Tithe Award map appear to represent a 'fossilisation' of the track at the time but this is some 30m away to the north-east and the track was not attested during construction. The First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1881 does not depict any linear features in this area of the enclosed field, but this does not preclude the existence of redundant landscape features. Aerial photographic research revealed a linear feature aligned almost north-south (Fig.38.1.1), close to this feature although a relationship if any is unclear (Appendix 8).

The names of adjoining fields to the south and south-west of the sectioned features are certainly suggestive of an early, possibly even Roman road somewhere in the vicinity: Stratford Way Furlong, Stratford Meadow and Stratford Corner.

7.7.2 Four Parallel Linear Features [11], [13], [15] and [17] centred on, SU 64455 96252 (Figs.2-4 and 6)

APN
16327

Situated some 40m to the south-west of the above features (Figs.2-3), were four roughly parallel linear features [11], [13], [15] and [17], all aligned north-east and separated at approximately 18m intervals. The features were defined and recorded in plan, and the most easterly one [11], hand-sectioned. In profile this feature possessed fairly steep sloping sides at the top before falling much steeply to a concave but flattish base (Fig. 6). It measured a maximum of 2.40m in width with a depth of 0.90m. Two fills were similar, the lower comprising of greenish-grey clay with occasional large flint pebbles and an upper fill (12), of mid-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal fleck. No dating evidence was recovered from either of the fills.

Conditions on site meant it was difficult to define these four linear features in the construction pipetrench. The high water table and the collapse of the trench greatly impaired visibility during trenching and for health and safety reasons the remaining three linear bands could only be viewed at a distance, but were seen to be of a similar form and depth.

Interpretation

The function and date of these features is unknown. They appear to be very deep for remnant furrows from a ridge and furrow farming system. A possibility is that they may pertain to a drainage or agricultural system.

7.7.3 Old River Course [301] SU 64340 96164 - SU 64321 96148 (Fig.3)

This feature could be seen prior to topsoil stripping as a dark stain running across the field north-east to south-east outside the pipeline easement (Fig.3). It was recorded during trenching being clearly visible in both sides of the pipetrench. Here, it was seen to be very substantial with a width of 25m and surviving to all the 2m of the pipetrench. It had very uneven sloping sides with a very dark brown-black humic peat fill. At this point the feature was sealed below approximately 1m of alluvial light grey clay.

As regards function this feature is interpreted to have been a former river course of Chalgrove Brook which flows 20m to the north-east.

7.7.4 Chalk-Filled Ditch [302], SU 64261 96094 - SU 64255 96089 (Figs.2-3 and 7-8)

PRN/16326
(note)

This north-south running ditch was located in both sides of the pipetrench during the trenching operations. It was located only 10m to the north of the prehistoric site exposed during the pipeline construction phase (Figs.2-3), (see 7.7.5).

The feature was not visible during initial topsoiling due to its concealment below (303), (Fig.8). The latter was an homogenous spread of material whose full extent was indefinable and which comprised a mid-brown silty clay with frequent sand mottling and flints and occasional flecks of chalk and charcoal. It may represent a redundant agricultural-related layer.

In section the feature had a very broad, uneven profile with gently sloping sides, a 'U'-shaped lower half and falling to a flattish base. The rectified profile shows it to be considerably narrower and steeper, (Fig.8) measuring approximately 6m wide and 1.7m deep.

The lowest fill of the ditch (308), comprised a grey-brown sandy silty gravel which may be an initial erosion product formed by material falling back into the ditch soon after its creation.

The major fills within the central part of the ditch were (306) and (313). Fill (306) comprised of a quite distinctive compact white clayey chalk with very fine, frequent orange mottling. This ditch doesn't appear to have been left open for very long after the deposition of this fill and seems to have been a deliberately placed deposit. Later fill (313) consisted of a silty, chalky clay and is also interpreted as a deliberate fill. This fill had a 'dirty' appearance, possibly due to the feature being left open for some time resulting in a downward erosion and a contamination.

Fills (307) and (312) lay on the north-east and south-west edges of the ditch respectively. They comprised thin bands (0.06m-0.08m wide), of grey-brown silty clay. Fill (307) may represent an immediate contamination or initial trampling episode executed during the construction of the ditch and in the case of (312) a contamination after the deposition of the first fill (308).

Directly above the deliberate chalk fill (313) lay (305), a mid-brown clayey silt containing occasional charcoal flecks; cut by [309] and [310]. Fill (304) comprised of c.0.05 m of white-grey chalky clay. Cut [310] and its fill (311) related to the 1993 pre-excavation pipeline drainage programme and (311) still contained plastic drainage pipe. Cut [309] was narrow and 'U'-shaped and truncated fills (304) and (302). It may represent a re-cut drainage channel of indeterminate date. Its fill (410), was indistinguishable from the later layer (303) and may therefore have been largely ploughed away. Fill (303) and (410) produced three abraded hand-made, flint tempered ceramic bodysherds of probable Bronze Age date (Timby, this report, Part III).

Interpretation

The most striking feature of this ditch is the apparently deliberate deposition and compaction of the rammed white chalk infill (306) and (313). They appear to have been placed in the feature fairly soon after the digging of the ditch, as erosion and silting are slight. Natural chalk was not seen within the narrow band of the pipetrench, but it seems possible that chalk does exist in the vicinity. This is supported by the presence of chalk flecks and pieces along the distance of the pipetrench in this area. Furthermore place-name evidence for the nearby settlement of Chalgrove associates its origin with a Chalgrove in Bedfordshire where the first part of the word translates into "*at the chalk- or limestone-pit*" and the second derives from the dative singular of *graef*, of which *grove* is a latter substitution (Gelling, 1953, 122).

It can therefore be suggested that the chalk was derived from a relatively local source. The question arises as to why it was deliberately placed within the feature. One consideration is the high visibility that would have resulted from such an act. It thus leads to the idea that the earthwork was making a fairly important statement within the surrounding landscape. Indeed the use of chalk as an indicator of status and power can be paralleled particularly in prehistory where it appears to have been used to transmit images of ownership, use and space. Certainly, if the ditch is that which relates to a barrow (see below), then visibility might well have been desirable.

Assigning the ditch to a period has its difficulties, unless of course it is that of a barrow (see below). The pottery recovered from the contaminated layer of the feature cannot be used as an *antequem* for its construction. Furthermore, the sherds themselves are sufficiently abraded as to suggest they may have lain about in the ploughsoil for a long period before finding their way into the top layer above the ditch.

It was not wholly possible to ascertain in plan the shape or extent of this ditch, (be it linear, curvilinear, circular etc.) due to the short expanse recovered in the pipetrench. It was seen to continue for at least 16m from observations made during the post-construction drainage (Fig.7).

Two hypotheses regarding form and function will be considered. The first that the feature was linear. A return was not observed from the pipetrench but limitations of visibility due to the construction of pipe reception pits either side of Cadwell Lane makes this assumption not definite. The reception pits removed approximately a 25m square of soil either side of Cadwell Lane. These pits were inspected with no feature being seen. It is of course possible that the feature was curvilinear/rectilinear in form with a return running directly underneath Cadwell Lane thus concealing it. Again a return may not have been seen if the feature was in part causewayed.

A second hypothesis concerns post-excavation aerial photographic research of this area. The aerial photograph (summarised in Appendix 8), suggests two probable near-circular soil marks at c.SU 642 960 (Fig.38, 1.2) with diameters of approximately 15m and 20m, the larger mark located in the area of the chalk filled ditch. A tentative darker patch was also thought to exist in the centre of the larger of these circles. One strong consideration is therefore that the ditch seen in the pipetrench corresponds to this larger soil mark. If this is the case it may be forming an enclosure ditch of some kind or even barrow ditch. It may tentatively be related to the Middle Bronze Age cremation discussed below (7.7.5). Nevertheless it is interesting at this stage to consider the relationship between barrows and specifically Deverel-Rimbury type cremations as the kind uncovered only 20m from this ditch. Cremation sites and the continuity and use of burial locations is seen for example at Stanton Harcourt and Radley where flat burials, inhumations and cremations were located close to burial mounds (Bradley, 1981, 40). Cunliffe reaffirms this idea and suggests that many urnfields grew up around earlier barrows, as at Steyning, Sussex where at least thirty-two urned and four un-urned cremations were placed inside a Middle Bronze Age barrow and a similar relationship was seen at Farm in Hampshire (Cunliffe, 1991, 56). Burial beneath barrows, usually smaller, also existed alongside urnfield burials for example at Plaitford in Hampshire where two urns were set into a shallow pit under a cairn and above a circular mound 1.5m high and 10.7m in diameter was constructed above it. These examples coupled with the post-excavation aerial photographic evidence from Chalgrove (Fig.38), may tentatively suggest a larger ritual complex.

7.7.5 Post-Ring Structure and Bronze Age Cremation, centred on SU 64249 96071 (Figs.2-3, 7, 9 and 10).

PPN 16326

These areas were situated approximately 20m from the chalk-filled ditch and some 10m from Cadwell Lane (Figs.2-3). They comprised nineteen pit and post-hole features, the majority of which formed an approximate circle and one the site of a human cremation (Figs.8-9).

Post-holes

Sixteen circular and two oval-shaped features, [51] and [31] as well as cremation [53] were recorded; four of the circular features remained unexcavated (Figs.9-10). The dimensions of the circular post-hole features, ranged from 0.20m to 0.86m in diameter (an average of 0.45m, excluding the cremation) and between 0.06m and 0.65m in depth (an average of 0.24m). The majority of the features (Fig.10), had fairly steep sloping sides with slightly rounded bases except for [53] and [30] which had slightly flatter bases. The fills of these features comprised dark brown sandy silts with occasional charcoal flecks and flint pebbles.

The largest and deepest of the circular features, context [29], was situated slightly east of the centre of the ring. In profile, this feature possessed vertical sides and a flat base, with a diameter of 0.54m and depth of 0.65m. It was filled with (30), an homogenous brown-black silty clay, containing occasional sandstone and flint pebbles and flecks and pieces of charcoal up to 0.04m in diameter, these becoming more frequent towards the features base. This fill provided one Bronze Age and one Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery sherd (Fig.11.4). Charred plant analysis of the fill produced a single sloe stone (*prunus spinosa*), an indeterminate cereal grain and a small amount of wood charcoal. The latter has been identified as mainly of the fast growing oak and *Pomoideae* (hawthorn, apple, pear, *Sorbus sapp.* etc.) types, (Campbell, this report, Part III). A sample of the *Pomoideae* type has been sent for Radio-Carbon accelerator dating, as has a sample of oak from cut [60], fill (61).

Two of the features forming the ring were more elongated than the others. The first was context [51], having a length of 0.74m, width of 0.36m and depth of 0.30m. The profile had fairly gentle sloping sides with a fairly flattish base. Its fill (52), was similar to the majority of the other features, being a dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and flint pebbles. It contained one Middle Bronze Age pot sherd probably from a bucket urn (Fig.11.2), nine Middle Bronze Age bodysherds, probably from urn-type vessels, one Bronze Age base sherd, twenty-four Bronze Age body and rim sherds (Fig.11.3), two rim sherds with a typological resemblance to Middle Iron Age material, four ?Bronze Age/Iron Age body sherds and one ?Iron Age sherd (Fig.11.5).

The other elongated feature, context [31] may have represented two separate circular features, although on excavation the fill (32), appeared homogenous and no division could be detected. The feature measured 1.18m, in length, 0.76m in width and had a depth of 0.45m. In profile it was deeper in its north-east aspect, having a steeper sloping edge compared to the south-west which was less steep and less deep, both fell to a rounded base. It was filled with dark brown sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and flint pebbles up to 0.05m in length.

Pit?

Circular feature [56] was slightly larger than the others at 0.86m in diameter and 0.20m in depth. It possessed fairly gradual sloping sides and a flat base and was filled with a dark brown-black silty clay containing many flecks and small pieces of charcoal, and occasional fragments of flint and sandstone. Artefacts recovered from this fill comprised five pig metapodials and three unbaked clay lumps, giving the impression of a refuse deposit, probably a small pit. The soil sample from this feature also produced the largest quantity of burnt flint, 103 g/l of pieces greater than 4mm (Campbell, this report, Part III).

Cremation

Cut [53] survived as little more than a depression in the ground, and housed an upright cremation urn containing a human cremation (28). The cremation survived incomplete but contained human, probably infant bone with the larger pieces tentatively identified as skull vault, vertebral articular facet, long bone shaft (possibly femur) and the proximal end of an immature long bone (possibly femur), (Boyle, this report, Part III). It also contained a small amount of animal bone, probably that of a sheep/goat and an unidentifiable animal epiphysis.

The cremation urn itself (28), is represented by 159 body sherds, five rim sherds and many very small pieces, less than 0.01m across. This calcined flint-tempered urn is very distinctive in

nature because of its inverted horseshoe handle (Fig.11.1) and can be assigned to the Middle Bronze Age (c.1250-1000bc), (Timby, this report, Part III).

A single abraded and probably residual black sandy ware sherd was also recovered from this context and has been tentatively assigned to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age.

A very small amount of oak charcoal was recovered from the cremation sample along with 2 g/l of burnt flint pieces greater than 4mm (Gill Campbell, this report, Part III).

Interpretation and Discussion

This area of investigation produced a cremation pertaining to the Middle Bronze Age and a prehistoric post-built structure of uncertain period. The ceramic evidence suggests both Bronze Age and Iron Age activity within this area.

Firstly the cremation shall be considered. The general burial rite of the thirteenth to eighth centuries BC in Britain was that of cremation often being interred in urns and sometimes being placed in or close to barrows. Another main burial practice of this period was interment in urn-field cemeteries sometimes exceeding 100 burials as at Kimpton in Hampshire (Dacre and Ellison, 1981). Latch Farm in Hampshire produced more than 90 urned cremations and illustrates a good range of burial practices, the urns frequently being up-ended and placed in shallow pits with some being set upright and occasionally containing subsidiary vessels. Some of the upright burials were covered with stone slabs and were therefore possibly intended to be visible. Two post-holes were excavated which may have been for wooden markers. A proportion of the urnfield burials are implied to have been made visible through markers (Latch Farm), under a small cairn (Plaitford, Hampshire) and indeed burial beneath barrows continued. This deliberation suggests that in some instances visibility was a factor.

Deverel-Rimbury Assemblages

The Middle Bronze Age pottery urn from the cremation context has been assigned to the Deverel-Rimbury tradition. This material is relatively uncommon in the Upper Thames Valley region with a greater concentration being found in the Middle and Lower Thames Valley (Bradley, 1986, 41). The Chalgrove vessel is therefore relatively rare to have been recovered this far north. However recent excavations are beginning to highlight the existence of Deverel-Rimbury assemblages in this area, from both cremation and domestic contexts. Examples of the latter include City Farm, Hanborough, Oxfordshire (Case, 1966), Brimpton (Lobb 1986-1990), Corporation Farm, Abingdon (Shand, 1985), Wallingford Road, Didcot (Ruben and Ford, 1992), whilst cremation cemeteries have been noted at Standlake Downs (Riley, 1947), Long Wittenham (Leeds, 1929) and Kimpton, Hampshire (Dacre and Ellison, 1981). The Chalgrove example adds to this distribution and as Ruben and Ford highlighted, the paucity of discoveries of Deverel-Rimbury material in contrast to the richness of the preceding period may be misleading (Ruben and Ford 1991, 29). Indeed taphonomy needs to be considered, the recovery of Bronze Age features may merely be a direct result of a more ephemeral nature of occupation, leaving less of a mark in the archaeological record, rather than a genuine absence of such material.

Consideration of the Chalgrove cremation with respect to the Kimpton urnfield cemetery

Although the size of the cemetery recovered at Kimpton was obviously larger than the single Chalgrove deposition, a few ideas and comparisons can be suggested:

The Chalgrove cremation vessel possesses very similar decoration to the Lower Thames Valley Type 10 recovered from Kimpton, with its finger-tipped horseshoe cordon, the Kimpton example dating to the latter Middle Bronze Age (Dacre and Ellison, 1981, 181). The same phase at Kimpton produced several bucket urns, and similarly at Chalgrove one probable bucket urn was recovered from context (52). Similar urns have also been recovered from Long Wittenham, Wallingford, Stanton Harcourt and City Farm, Hanborough (Timby, this report, Part III).

These parallels therefore associate the Chalgrove vessel with the so-called Deverel-Rimbury pottery from Central Wessex and Lower Thames Valley types.

As mentioned earlier the Chalgrove example produced three fragments of animal bone. It is also interesting to see the existence of animal bone in three of the cremations recovered from Kimpton (Dacre and Ellison, 1981, 187). They contained a fragment of sheep's mandible and a fragment of horse splint bone, both of which were highly calcined, and one unburnt fragment of cow molar.

The size of the majority of cremation fragments from Kimpton were very small (i.e. few skull fragments exceeded 20 x 20 mm and the long bones were very small). This practice of uniform pulverisation of the bone was prevalent in all phases of the cemetery which was in use for more than a millennium. Dacre and Ellison therefore suggest that efficient monitoring and possibly controlled inheritance of a specific ritual technique was in force throughout this duration (*op. cit.*, 197). The cremation fragments from Chalgrove, although not complete, were similarly fragmented with none being assigned to the 10mm sample, 41g in the 5mm sample and 47g in the 2mm. The largest fragment measured 25mm.

The Post-Ring Structure

The circle of postholes seem to have been dug for the erection of upright timbers to create some form of structure. The following discussion considers a Bronze Age or Iron Age construction date and also contemplates function as being secular or ritual.

The first hypotheses suggests that the structure was Iron Age and possibly a dwelling. The ring measures about 6m in diameter which is an average for such structures (Cunliffe, 1991, 242). The recovered plan of the Chalgrove structure is fairly simple. Its function cannot be ascertained however, as no floor levels survived, and it is always possible that it served an alternative function to a dwelling. Nevertheless, if it were for human occupation then it correlates to a basic house type and can be seen to collate to a simple post-ring construction such as excavated at Eldon's Seat in Dorset (Cunliffe, 1991, 243).

A characteristic of Upper Thames roundhouses is that they were bounded by small gullies most probably constructed as a form of drainage with little internal activity traces surviving except for the occasional hearth, clay lined rectangular pit, stake-holes or cobbled areas (Miles, 1986, 53). The Chalgrove example has no such gully or hearth or internal evidence of function. Indeed if it did have such features they have not survived agricultural activities. The largest internal feature was that of [29], situated slightly east of the centre which probably constituted a central support post. It has been suggested that for a small structure, such as that seen at Chalgrove, a central post would not have been needed (Cunliffe, 1991, 242). Logistically speaking this may be so or the post could have served one of many other uses; the support for an upper story or an attempt to shore up the roof suffering from structural decay

as suggested by Knight on a structure of similar proportions at Brigstock 1 (Knight, 1984, 133).

Indeed it is always possible that the feature situated off-centre may not be of the same phase as the circle: the feature does contain a possible Early Iron Age sherd, (Timby, this report, Part III). It is very difficult to substantiate the phasing of such an internal feature and as Cunliffe points out, pit digging immediately following demolition of a structure would provide much the same archaeological appearance as during the structures lifetime (Cunliffe, 1991, 60).

It is postulated that the direction of a possible entrance to the Chalgrove structure may have been in the north-east, with the features [31] and [56], possibly once holding the entrance posts (Fig. 9). Indeed the majority of roundhouse entranceways faced east or south-east thereby allowing for optimum light and avoidance of prevailing westerly winds (Bewley, 1994, 107). Fairly substantial door posts and short porches are known from similar circular post-built sites in Sussex. (Cunliffe, 243, 1991), although there is no evidence for a porch with the Chalgrove structure.

Burnt flint was present in various concentrations from the sampled features on the site (Campbell, this report, Part III). It may tentatively be speculated that the proportion of flint may represent a specific activity being carried out on the site, possibly associated with the production of the calcined flint tempered pottery or more simply the result of domestic practices. The use of calcined flint at Kimpton urnfield site in burial contexts (Dacre and Ellison, 1981, 197) may tentatively be considered here. Does the occurrence of flint represent normal domestic activity from the site or does it suggest the existence of more cremations in the area?

Two pieces of evidence support the suggestion of the Chalgrove structure being Iron Age. Firstly Iron Age activity is apparent in some form as the ceramic evidence shows. Secondly if the Bronze Age cremation was interred in a flat urnfield cemetery then Iron Age settlers may not have known of its existence. Indeed, if an earthwork, such as a barrow, was evident in the Iron Age then it may be suggested that there was no respect for the earlier burial traditions. On the other hand the ceramic evidence does not tightly date the site to the Iron Age. Therefore it is only tentative that the area was resettled in the Iron Age. Pottery was only recovered from four features on the site the majority being identified as Middle Bronze Age (Timby, this report, Part III). Iron Age sherds are suggested in posthole [47] but lack of diagnostic sherds could just as easily assign them to the Bronze Age. Similarly sherds recovered from context [29] could fit into the Iron Age or Late Bronze Age periods. The fill of the cremation urn contained a single Iron Age sherd which seems to have been intrusive. Feature [51] contained 34 Bronze Age sherds, 4 sherds that could be either Bronze or Iron Age, two rim sherds from Middle Iron Age tradition and one possible Iron Age sherd (Timby, this report, Part III). In summary the only positively dated Iron Age pottery comes from the cremation (and seems to be intrusive), and probably from feature [51] which it must be noted is situated just outside the posthole circle.

This leads to the second hypothesis for the date and subsequent function of the Chalgrove structure. As seen earlier the pottery may be inconclusive alone to positively date the post-ring feature to the Iron Age. Therefore another consideration may be that of a Bronze Age structure possibly relating to the Bronze Age cremation site with possible associations with the chalk-filled ditch (if contemporary).

As is demonstrated the dating of the Chalgrove structure is not certain and ultimately the function is also unclear. Hopefully new evidence from the forthcoming Radio-Carbon dating will help with this problem.

7.7.6 Flint Artefacts SU 3380 5650

An unstratified un-retouched flint blade (531+) was recovered from the latter part of this construction section.

7.8 Post-Excavation Aerial Photographic Research

Soil-mark 1.3 has already been discussed earlier in the text and several other marks have been identified from photographs (summarised in Appendix 8), (Fig. 38). A linear soil-mark was identified in the proximity of the post-structure and cremation site. It does not seem to line up with any of the excavated features but nevertheless needs to be considered (Fig.38, 1.2). A series of faint circular crop marks were also identified some 700m south-south-west of the excavated site and therefore needs to be regarded in future research of this increasingly complex area (Fig.38, 1.5).

Part of a field-system which belonged to the Parish of Chalgrove was recovered from an aerial photograph (Fig.38-1.4), appearing as soil-marks on a north-east to south-west alignment (centred on SU 640 962). This was later identified with a field recovered on the 1841 Tithe map (C.O.S 1).

7.9 Review

The magnetic disturbance recorded during the pre-construction survey at SU 6392 9586, was revealed to be a 'modern' dump of bricks possibly laid down to form a track.

The fieldwalking produced a slight concentration of material, from the Field 3100, which revealed the chalk filled ditch and Bronze/Iron Age site. This consisted of Romano-British material, probably the result of Roman manuring practices. The area also produced a collection of flints which may be related to the excavated features in this area and highlights wider prehistoric activity within the area.

Another slight flint concentration was recovered from Field 8600 adjacent to Field 3100 and separated by Chalgrove Brook, which again highlights prehistoric activity extending in this area.

The archaeology recovered from this Section proved to be of great regional significance and possibly with regard to the distribution patterns of Deverel-Rimbury pottery, of national importance. The site located from top-soil stripping in this Section produced a Middle Bronze Age cremation and a prehistoric structure. The fuller extent of this site is unknown but post-excavation aerial photographic research suggests that it may prove more extensive. The function of a ditch, located only 10m from the Bronze Age/Iron Age site and deliberately back-filled with compacted chalk is uncertain. If the prehistoric (?Bronze Age), pottery recovered from its top fill is not residual then this feature may be considered along with the prehistoric activity in this area.

The Section also produced a series of interesting features, a set of parallel linear features of unknown date perhaps related to agricultural activity, three fairly substantial ditches revealed

underneath a linear plantation and possibly related to a feature of some antiquity, and the remains of an old rivercourse of Chalgrove Brook.

Fig.4 Section 1: location of linear features

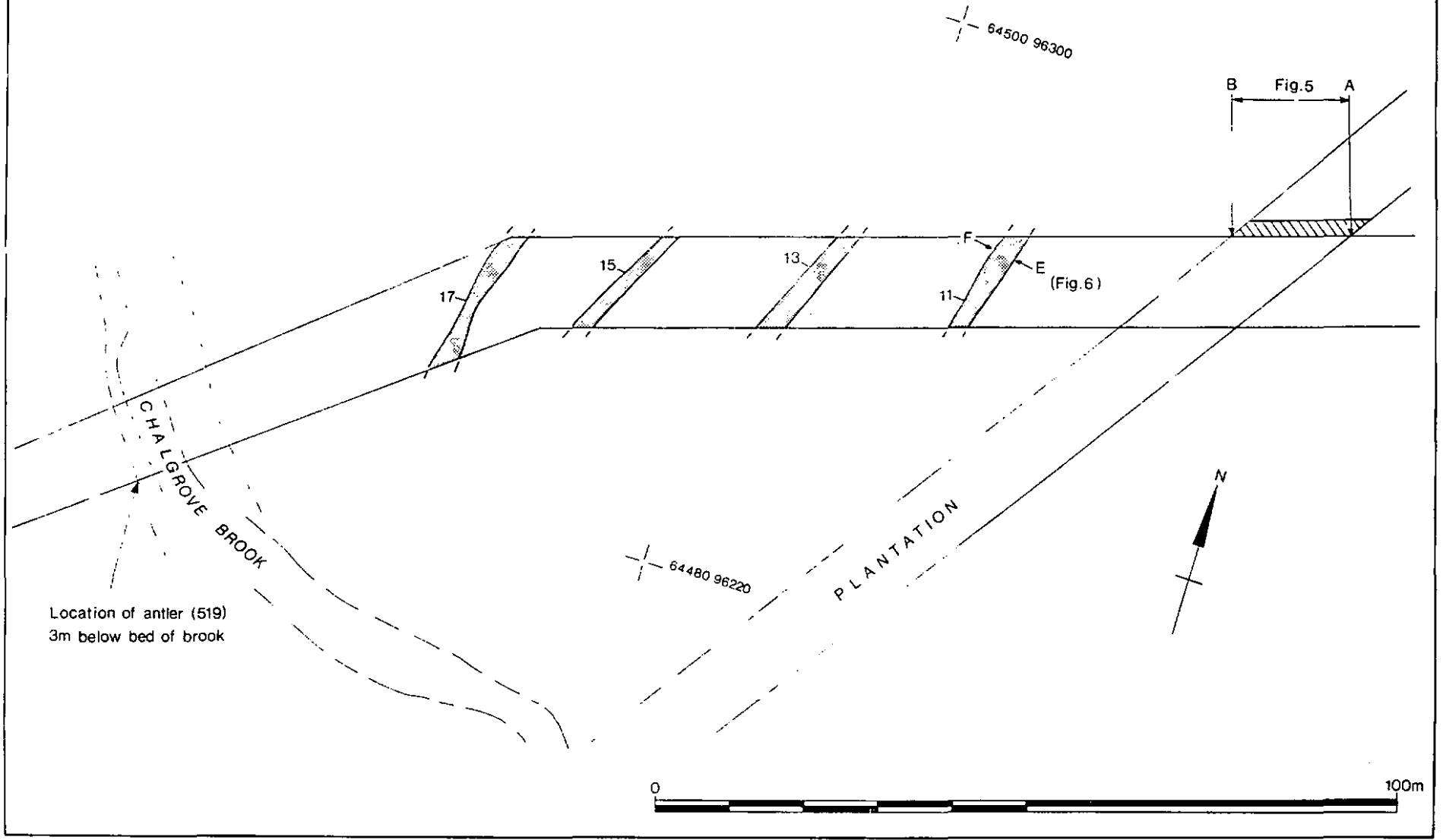


Fig.7 Section 1: location of prehistoric features in Field 3100

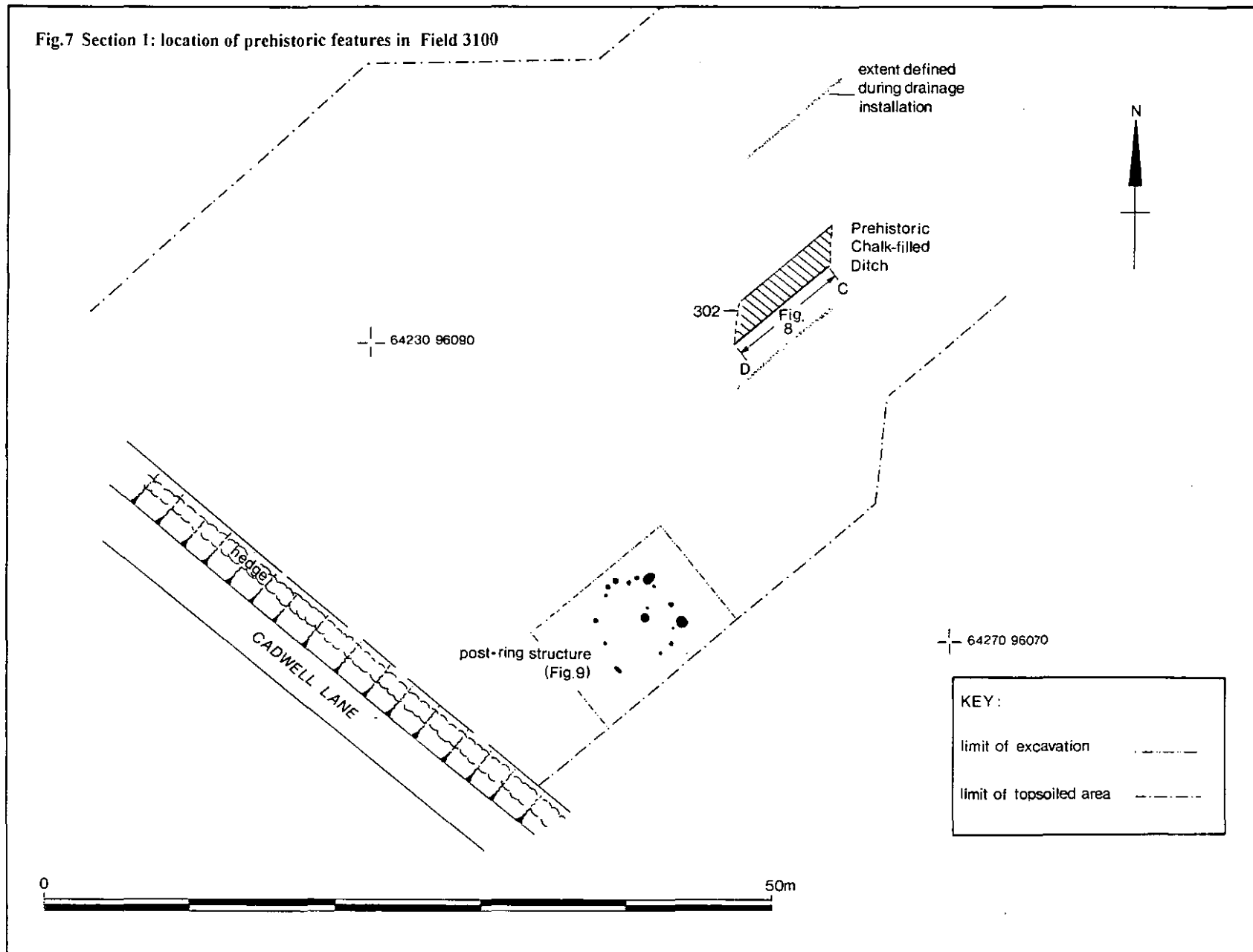


Fig.8 Section 1: pipetrench section through prehistoric chalk-filled ditch and rectified profile

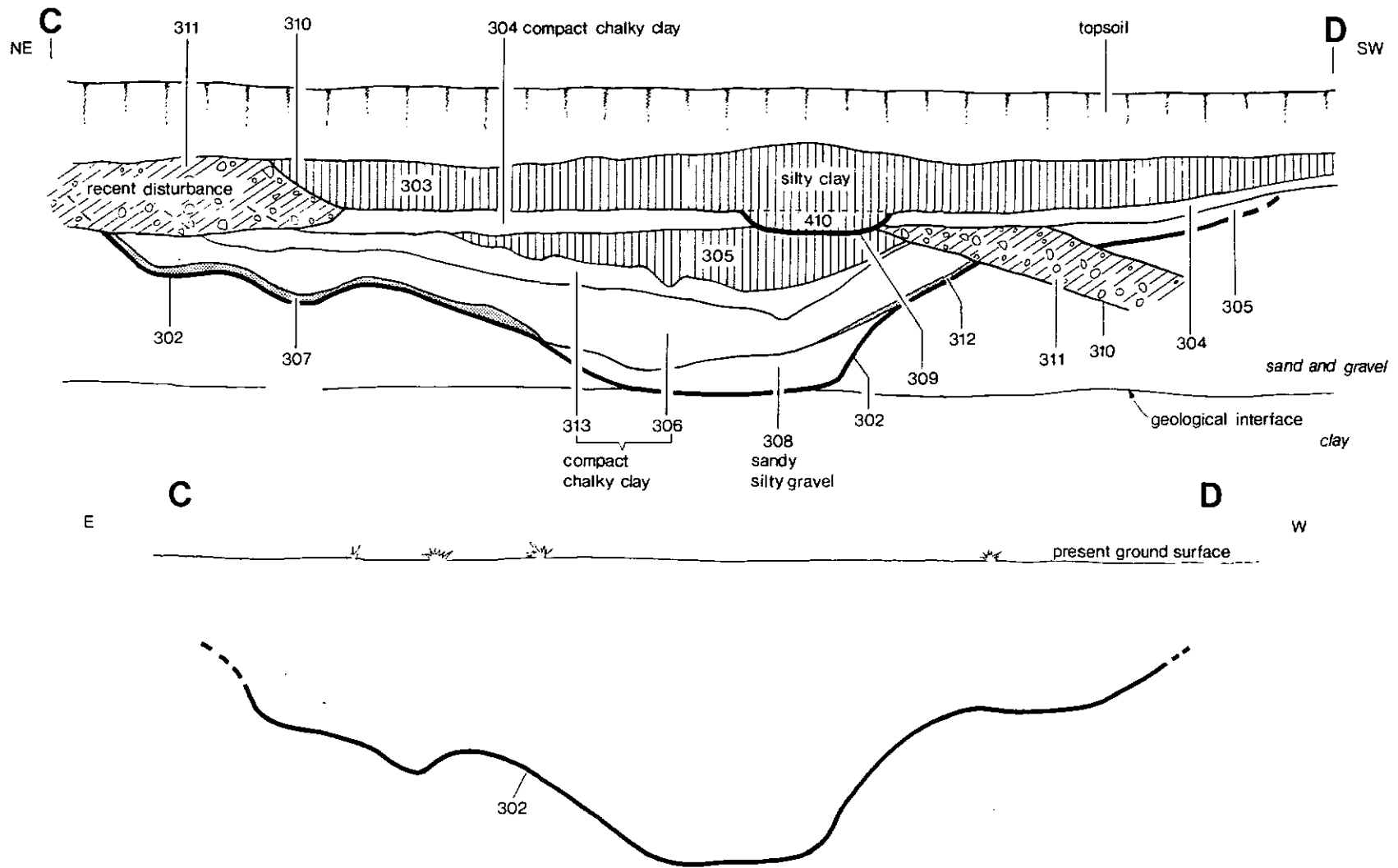


Fig.9 Section 1: plan of post-ring structure and Middle Bronze Age cremation

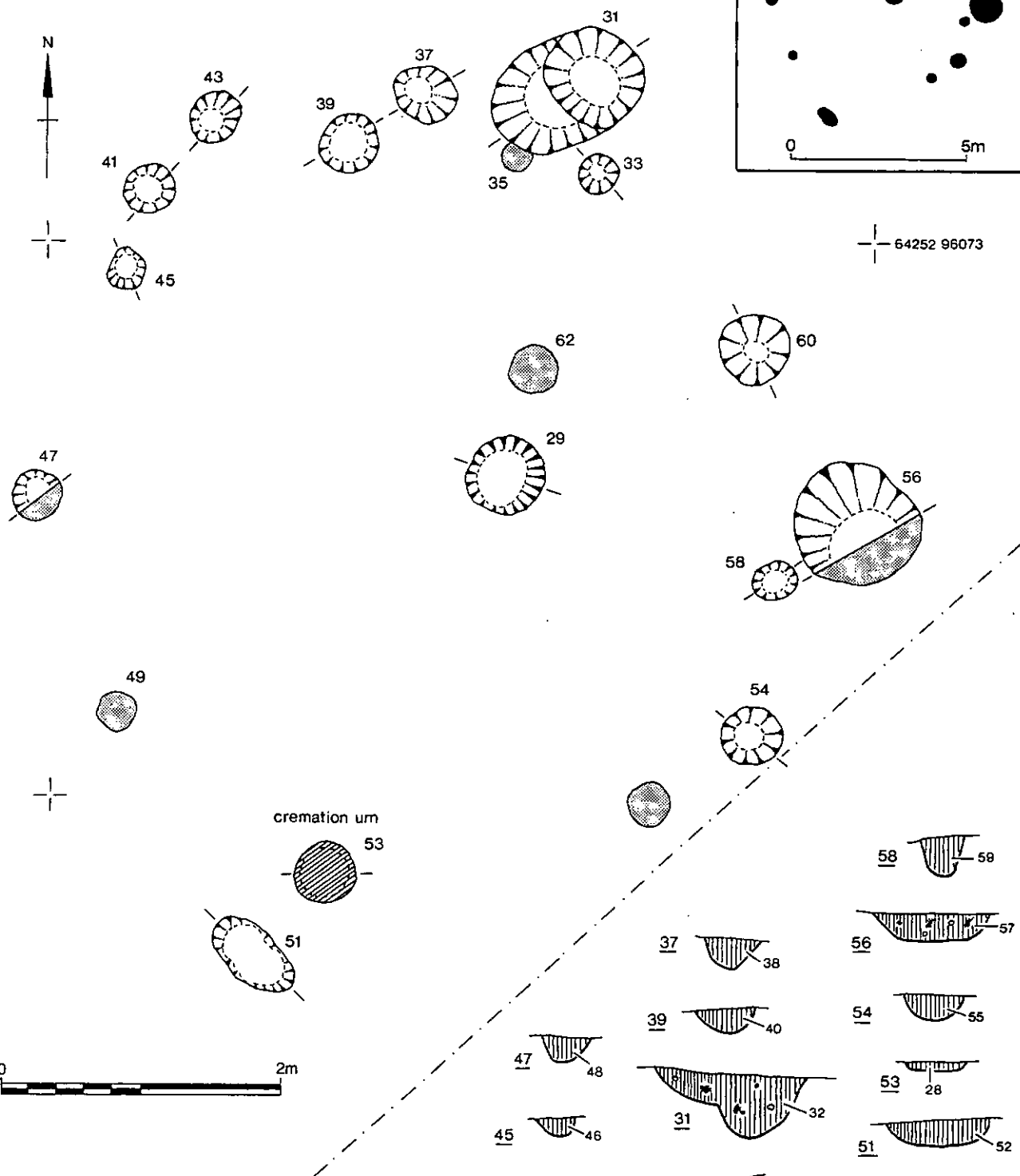
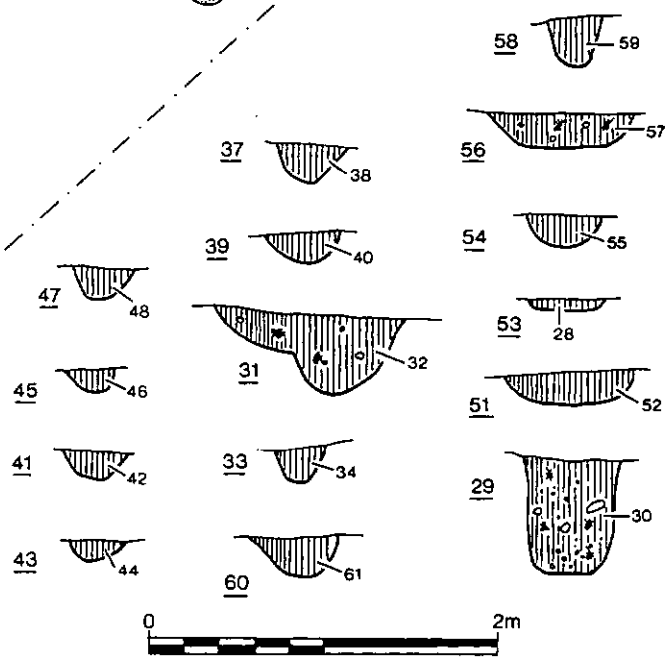


Fig.10 Section 1: sections of excavated features



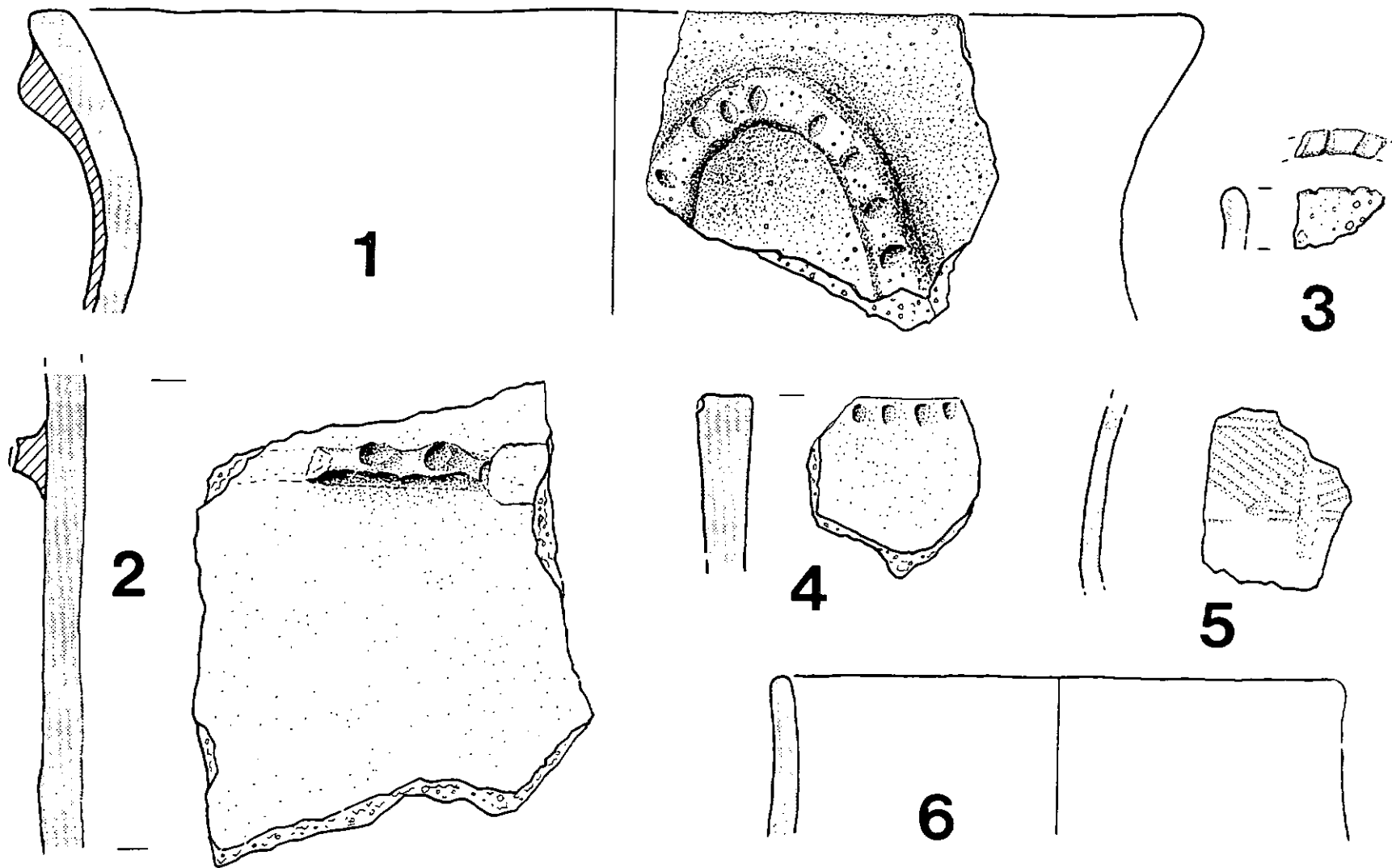


Fig 11. Section 1: Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery (scale 1:2)

1. Middle Bronze Age (context 28); 2. Middle Bronze Age (context 52);
 3. Bronze Age (context 52); 4. Middle Bronze Age (context 30);
 5. ?Iron Age (context 52); 6. Middle Iron Age (context 52).

8. SECTION 2

8.1 Introduction

Section 2 was located between Road Crossings 2 and 3, SU 63327 95619 - 62431 95201, a distance of some 960m.

8.2 Geomorphology

The geology in this Section comprises Gault Clays (SU 63327 95619 - 62438 95205). A detailed geological field record taken from the pipetrench can be found in Appendix 7.

The topography in this section lies at around 70m O.D.

8.3 Known Archaeological Sites

No Sites and Monument Record listed 'sites' exist proximal to the pipeline easement.

8.4 Pre-Construction Fieldwork

No anomalies were located along the pipeline route;

The geophysical scanning survey revealed no significant features (Price, 1994).

The pre-construction fieldwalking produced a single ?Medieval and Post-Medieval or 'modern' sherd (SU 6253 9521), (Brooks, 1995 and Appendix 10). It also produced a very slight background scatter of flint forming no great concentrations. The latter included a scatter comprising of eleven flint waste products, one of which is a core fragment (CD94, find no.17, SU 6318 9554).

8.5 Construction Methodology

The pipeline easement was topsoil stripped half by back-acter and half by bulldozer. The pipeline trenching was carried out by the Cleveland excavator. Visibility within this Section was therefore good.

8.6 Archaeological Results

No significant archaeology was recovered from this Section.

8.7 Review

No significant archaeology was recovered from this Section only an extremely light background scatter of fieldwalking material.

9. SECTION 3

9.1 Introduction

Section 3 was located between Road Crossing 3 and 4, SU 62431 95201 - 61843 94927, a distance of some 630m.

9.2 Geomorphology

The geology in this Section comprises of Gault Clays (SU 62438 95205 - 61834 94923). A detailed geological field record taken from the pipetrench can be found in Appendix 7.

The topography in this Section lies at around 70m O.D.

9.3 Known Archaeological Sites

No Sites and Monument Record listed 'sites' exist proximal to the pipeline easement.

9.4 Pre-Construction Fieldwork

Several slight anomalies were located along the pipeline route:

A curvilinear magnetic feature covering about 30m was located (c.SU 62370 95180-centre) during the geophysical scanning (Price, 1994).

The pre-construction fieldwalking produced only a single Medieval pottery sherd (Brooks, 1994 and Appendix 10).

A very low flint scatter was recovered for the whole of this Section comprising of two flint waste flakes (Brooks, 1994 and Appendix 10).

9.5 Construction Methodology

The pipeline easement was topsoil stripped half by back-acter and half by bulldozer. The pipeline trenching was carried out by the Cleveland excavator. Visibility within this Section was therefore good.

9.6 Archaeological Results

No significant archaeology was recovered from within this Section.

9.7 Review

The geophysical anomaly from the pre-construction survey was not recovered from either the topsoil stripping or construction phases. No significant archaeology was recovered from within this Section, apart from an extremely light background scatter of fieldwalking material.

10. SECTION 4

10.1 Introduction

Section 4 was located between Road Crossing 4 (SU 61843 94927) and the A423, Road Crossing 5 (SU 60894 92061), a distance of some 3.2km. The construction phase of the project encountered part of an upstanding ridge and furrow field system (SU 6160 9470, centre) immediately north and north-west of Berrick Salome (SU 6222 9390) and a previously 'unknown' extensive Iron Age and Romano-British settlement site between 1km and 2km west of Berrick Salome (Figs.12, 39).

10.2 Geomorphology

The geology in this Section comprises Gault Clays (SU 61834 94923 - 61598 94590), Valley Gravels (SU 61598 94590 - 61168 93190) and Valley Gravels over marly clays (SU 61168 93190 - 60898 92073). A detailed geological field record taken from the pipetrench can be found in Appendix 7.

The land in this Section lies at around 60m O.D. at Road Crossing 4 and falls to 50m O.D. by the A423 at the end of the Section.

10.3 Known Archaeological Sites

Several Sites and Monument Record listed 'sites' exist proximal to the pipeline easement.

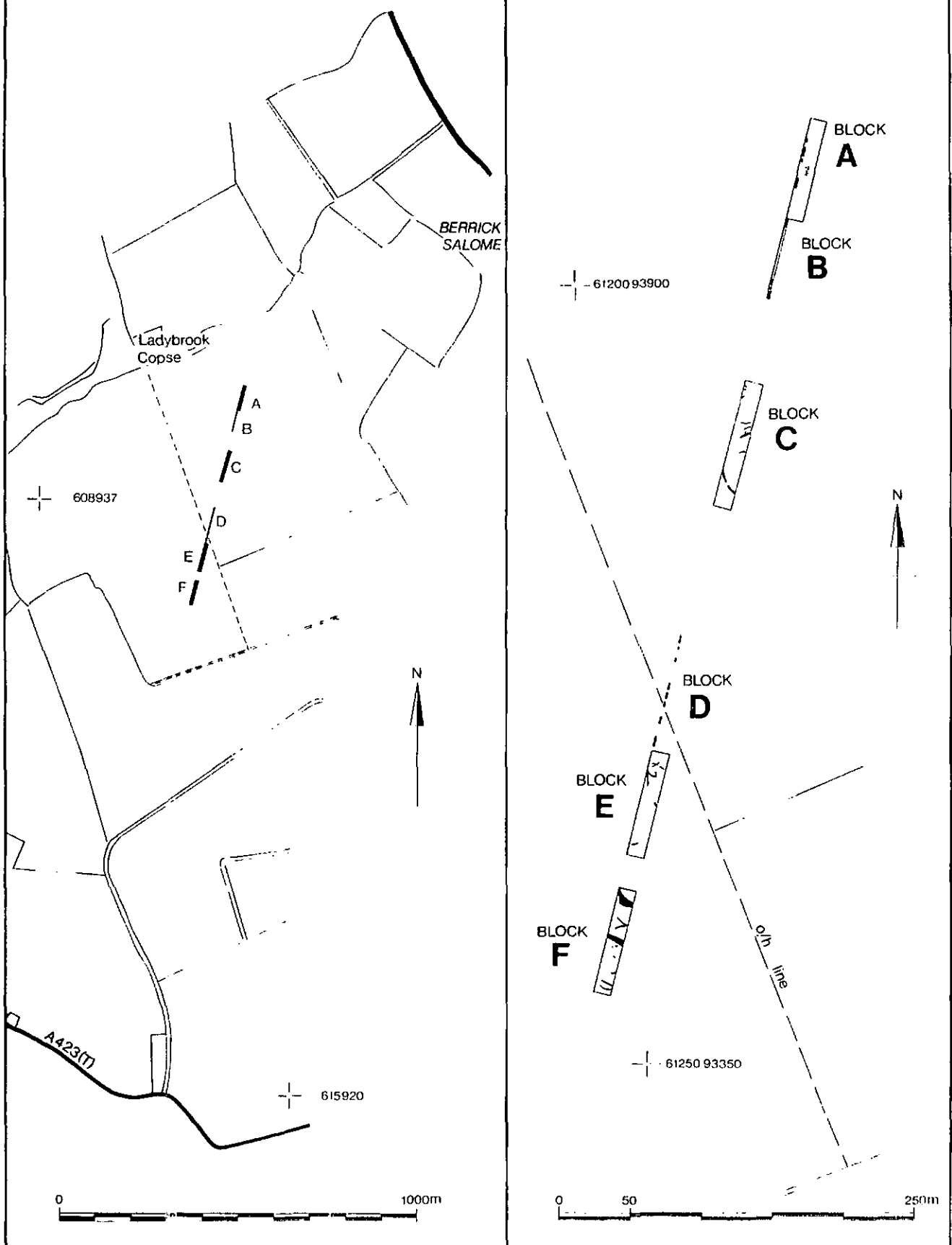
- SU 6070 9485, (SMR 15386). A cropmark, possibly an enclosure of unknown period.
- SU 6115 9175 (SMR 15387). A linear cropmark feature of unknown period.
- SU 6161 9317, (SMR 4494/4489). Possible Iron Age pottery recovered and 'pottery and rubble' recorded
- SU 6098 9295 (SMR 1093). Pottery recovered including a mortarium rim and several grey fabric sherds.
- SU 6115 9265 (SMR 4458/4466/4471). Three groups of artefacts recovered including flint implements and flakes, Romano-British pottery and Medieval sherds.
- SU 6100 9269 (SMR 2115). Human remains found in the field known as Gallow Leaze, possibly Roman.
- SU 6040 9260 (SMR 8580). Cropmarks, comprising of a sub-divided enclosure with a probable minor enclosure to the east and parallel linear features to the west.
- SU 5900 9275 - 6025 9250 (SMR 8580). Two sections of parallel lines running almost on the same alignment as the A423.

10.4 Pre-Construction Fieldwork

Several slight anomalies were located along the pipeline route:

The geophysical scanning survey produced two parallel linear magnetic features 80m and 55m in length respectively, running approximately east-north-east through Field 4300 (centred on SU 6130 9385). Two further magnetic areas were recorded some 260m to the south of the former, in Field 0005. These comprised small circular areas about 20m in diameter and 90m apart (SU 6123 9345) (Price, 1994).

Fig.12. Section 4: location of construction section and locations of Blocks A to F



An area of detailed geophysical survey was carried out along the pipeline route in the two fields leading down to Road Crossing 5 (SU 60894 92061). One anomalous feature was recorded in this area running south-west to north-east and was deemed to be either geological in nature or an old stream bed (*ibid*, Area 1C).

φ A detailed survey was carried out in a field just off the pipeline route (SU 6100 9210), originally planned as the pipe dump area. This survey produced two magnetic anomalies aligned south-west to north-east and are tentatively interpreted as ditches (*ibid*, Area 2).

? The pre-construction fieldwalking produced a concentration of Iron Age and Romano-British material in Field 4300 and one Romano-British sherd in the very southern extremity of Field 0005, (Brooks, 1994 and Appendix 10).

φ A low background scatter of ceramic material was recovered from the remainder of this Section (*ibid*).

• A small concentration of lithics was located in Field 4300 running for about 630m from SU 6412 94210 to 61260 93590. It comprised debris material from both the 1994 and 1995 fieldwalking collections and constituted nine flint waste flakes, two flint chips and one core fragment (CD94 Find no.36, SU 6140 9417) with an abraded platform edge (Bradley, this report, Part III).

φ A slight flint concentration was recovered from Field 0006 over a distance of approximately 320m along the pipeline route (centred on SU 61100 92900). It comprising of four un-retouched flint flakes, two un-retouched blades (one possibly exhibiting retouch), and one end and side scraper (Fig.43.8), (CD94 Find no.40, SU 6112 9297).

• A flint concentration was recovered from Field 4500/4065, the field known as Gallow Leaze (SU 61060 92770 - 61020 92530) and covered a distance of approximately 250m along the pipeline corridor. It consisted of sixteen un-retouched waste flakes, two irregular waste pieces and one core-rejuvenation flake. Three tools were identified, one ?miscellaneous retouched piece (Find no. 64, SU 4065 6108), one possible end and side scraper exhibiting extensive plough damage and possibly Early Bronze Age, (Find no.69, SU 4065 6108), and one end and side scraper (Find no.62, SU 4065 6102).

• A concentration of flint artefacts was recovered from Field 0005 (SU 61020 92522 - 60898 92080/Road Crossing 5), covering a distance of some 460m and comprised of nineteen flint waste flakes and one miscellaneous retouched piece (SU 6098 9234).

A very low background scatter of flint was produced throughout this Section, comprised wholly of flint waste.

10.5 Construction Methodology

The pipeline easement was topsoil stripped half by back-acter and half by bulldozer. The pipeline trenching was carried out by the Cleveland excavator until the geology changed to running sands and gravels at SU 61168 93190 in Field 0006. At this juncture the sides of the trench were battered by back-acters to minimise slippage and trench collapse.

The unstable nature of the underlying geology continued throughout the remainder of this section and the trenching was ultimately replaced by a series of back-acters which continued to batter the trench sides. The change in operations resulted in poor archaeological visibility throughout this sector of the pipetrench.

10.6 Archaeological Methodology

φ An area of upstanding ridge and furrow located immediately north-west of Berrick Salome (SU 6160 9470, centre) was surveyed by Total Station and included 'off-site' coverage to the west of the easement (Fig.39).

The initial topsoiling of the 10m wide side-strip revealed a varying frequency of artefacts over a distance of about 600m located between 1 and 2 kilometres west of Berrick Salome (SU 6222 9390), (Fig.12).

At this stage no features were discernible due to the predominance of an overburden which has been interpreted as a redundant ploughsoil and a product of 'recent' farming practices. A block-sampling strategy was devised to ascertain the nature and extent of any archaeological features and involved the stripping of this overburden to a depth of up to 0.20m in three major areas of artefact density, each measuring approximately 75m by 10m (Fig.12, Blocks C, E and F). Once the areas were stripped, all archaeological features were planned by Total Station survey. Sections across the major linear features were excavated by machine to ascertain depth and survival of deposits, and to provide samples for dating purposes. A representative sample of the minor features were hand-excavated. All sections were cleaned and recorded and appropriate soil samples taken.

The above sampling strategy was sufficient to establish that throughout this particular area, the archaeology survived at a considerable depth below the required pipeline easement stripping level. Thus it was considered that the topsoiling of the remaining half of the easement would not cause unnecessary disturbance to the archaeology. The only destruction was in the pipetrenching operations and these features were recorded, planned and profiled by Total Station survey.

10.7 Archaeological Results

In order to aid explanation, the results of the archaeological investigations in the areas of Iron Age and Romano-British occupation are dealt with in six separate blocks. The spatial limit of each block has been determined by concentration of features, and ground visibility. The blocks run in alphabetical sequence from north to south. The more complex sections are accompanied by a matrix diagram showing the sequence of events, the earliest deposits or actions placed at the bottom, subsequent ones towards the top.

10.7.1 Block A. Berrick Salome-Iron Age and Romano-British Site (SU 61365 93980) (Figs. 13 and 15)

PRN26103

Summary. This area concerns a scatter of Romano-British pottery noted after topsoiling and a series of features recovered only in the pipetrench, but not seen after topsoiling.

Description and Distribution of Features. Nine features were observed in this area, all of them seen in both sides of the pipetrench and were recorded in the four sections **a-d** (Fig.13) and a further section *c*.20m north-north-east of **d**.

Section **a** comprised three almost adjoining and parallel, 'U'-shaped features ([342], [340], and [341]) of varying width and depth (1.80m x 0.90m, 3.1m x 1.1m, 1.6 x 0.4m respectively) (Fig.15). Two fills were present in [340]. These consisted of a lower deposit of dark brown/black charcoal-contaminated gritty dark brown/black silty clay (474) and an upper fill of gritty silty clay (473). The single homogenous fills of [341] and [342], (472 and 475) were of similar composition to the lower fill of [340].

Section **b** (Fig.15, [338]) concerns a shallow feature (2.6m width x 0.4m depth) aligned north-west to south-east with very gently sloping sides and an uneven base. The dark brown silty clay fill (339) was similar to (472), (474) and (475), but with only occasional charcoal contamination. The finds comprised a fragment of *tegulae*, a chip of 2nd century samian ware, and several Romano-British sherds including Oxfordshire white-slipped *mortarium* and Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (*c.* AD240-400).

Section **c** (Fig.15, [327], [329], [333]) records three 'bowl-shaped' features with gradually sloping sides and rounded bases, each with the same fill sequence and all on a west-south-west to east-north-east alignment. The depths of these features ranged between 0.50m and 0.64m, their widths between 1.50m and 1.80m. The earlier fill of each feature consisted of orange-brown silty clay (335-7) and was exposed at the surface, presumably after having been truncated. The upper fills were dark brown gritty silty clays similar to (473). No finds were revealed in the sections.

Section **d** (Fig.15, [325]) concerns a single feature aligned approximately east-west, with a width of 1.50m, and gradually sloping sides falling to a flattish base and had a depth of 0.48m. The fill comprised dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal contamination. No finds were recovered.

Approximately 20m north-north-east of **d** a further cut feature was recorded in the pipetrench [321]. This was fairly shallow (0.36m), the sides sloping to *c.*40 degrees to a rounded base. The feature was seen in both sides of the trench and had a width of *c.*1.6m. The exact location is unretrievable due to a datalog error. Its fill (322) was a dark brown clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, from which was recovered eight fragments of horse bone, all bearing signs of butchery, possibly having been cooked and split for marrow (Cook, this report, Part III).

Interpretation. Despite all of the features in this block being observed in both sides of the pipetrench, their function and extent is largely indeterminable (*i.e.* whether as presumably either a pit or ditch, *etc.*). The recovery of Romano-British pottery from one of the fills could suggest that they were all associated with activity around the mid-third to late fourth centuries AD. The scatter of Romano-British pottery (252) observed on the surface after the initial topsoiling of the area is also of this period.

PN 26115

10.7.2 Block B. Berrick Salome-Iron Age and Romano-British Site (SU 61344 93925) (Figs.12, 14 and 16)

Summary. This area details the pipetrench section through 'cut' features and archaeological layers, the latter including an extensive 'cobbled' area composed of flint pebbles which lay at a depth of up to 1m below the base of the modern ploughsoil. Prior to trenching operations all features remained 'undetectable' as in adjacent section A. Included in the Total Station survey of this block was a low rise discernible in the crop immediately 'off-site' at the eastern limit of the easement. The following descriptions of features are in stratigraphically descending order. To ease explanation and interpretation, the order of events is presented in the form of a matrix diagram.

Description and Distribution of Features. (Fig.16). The uppermost and latest archaeological deposit (344) was a layer of dark brown/black charcoal-contaminated silty clay between 0.10m and 0.50m in depth. This layer extended north-north-east to south-south-west in the section over a distance of some 32.5m before appearing to merge with the fill of a shallow 'V'-shaped linear feature [352] (351). The latter, which was observed in both sides of the pipetrench, had an east-west alignment, a width of c.1.4m and a depth of c.0.45m. Pottery sherds dating both to the prehistoric and Roman-British periods were present in layer (344).

A similar 'V'-shaped feature [363] was cut into the geology at the point at which the latter began to merge with a very mixed and undulating horizon of sands, clays and silty clays [367]. Cut [363] was c.1.25m wide and 0.45m in depth. No finds were recovered.

At a distance of 1.8m south-south-west of [352], a gentle 'V'-shaped cut [357] (2.55m width x 0.75m depth) was observed in both sides of the pipetrench. This feature cut both a sequence of archaeological layers, sealed for the most part beneath (344), and a flat-bottomed cut of the same depth to the south-south-west ([358]). The fill of [357], (361) consisted of a homogenous, charcoal contaminated dark brown to black silty clay, from which were recovered several fragments of sheep bone, a fragment of red deer jawbone, and five pottery sherds dating to the Iron Age. No artefacts were found in the fill of cut [358], a of mid-brown charcoal-contaminated sandy silty clay.

An isolated cut feature ([365]) also observed in both sides of the pipetrench, was located some 6m south-south-west of the main concentrations of archaeological deposits and disturbances and was cut into the mixed horizon [367]. This cut, with a width of c.3.8m, had fairly steeply sloping sides and a rounded base surviving to a maximum depth of 1.40m. The fill, (366), was composed of an homogenous charcoal-contaminated dark brown to black silty sandy clay. Several pig and sheep bone fragments were recovered together with two sherds of Iron Age pottery and a possible lump of slag.

Beneath uppermost layer (344) and extending over a distance of some 30.5m in the central area of the block, was a layer of mid to dark brown sandy silty clay with frequent charcoal flecking (350). It varied in depth between 0.10m and 0.95m, and was truncated at its south-south-west extreme by cut feature [357]. Throughout its extent layer (350) overlay a deposit of compacted flint pebbles and gravel (346). Lying immediately above the pebble layer (356) at its south-south-west limit was a contaminated mid-brown sandy silty clay (360) not dissimilar to (359). No artefacts were found in either deposit.

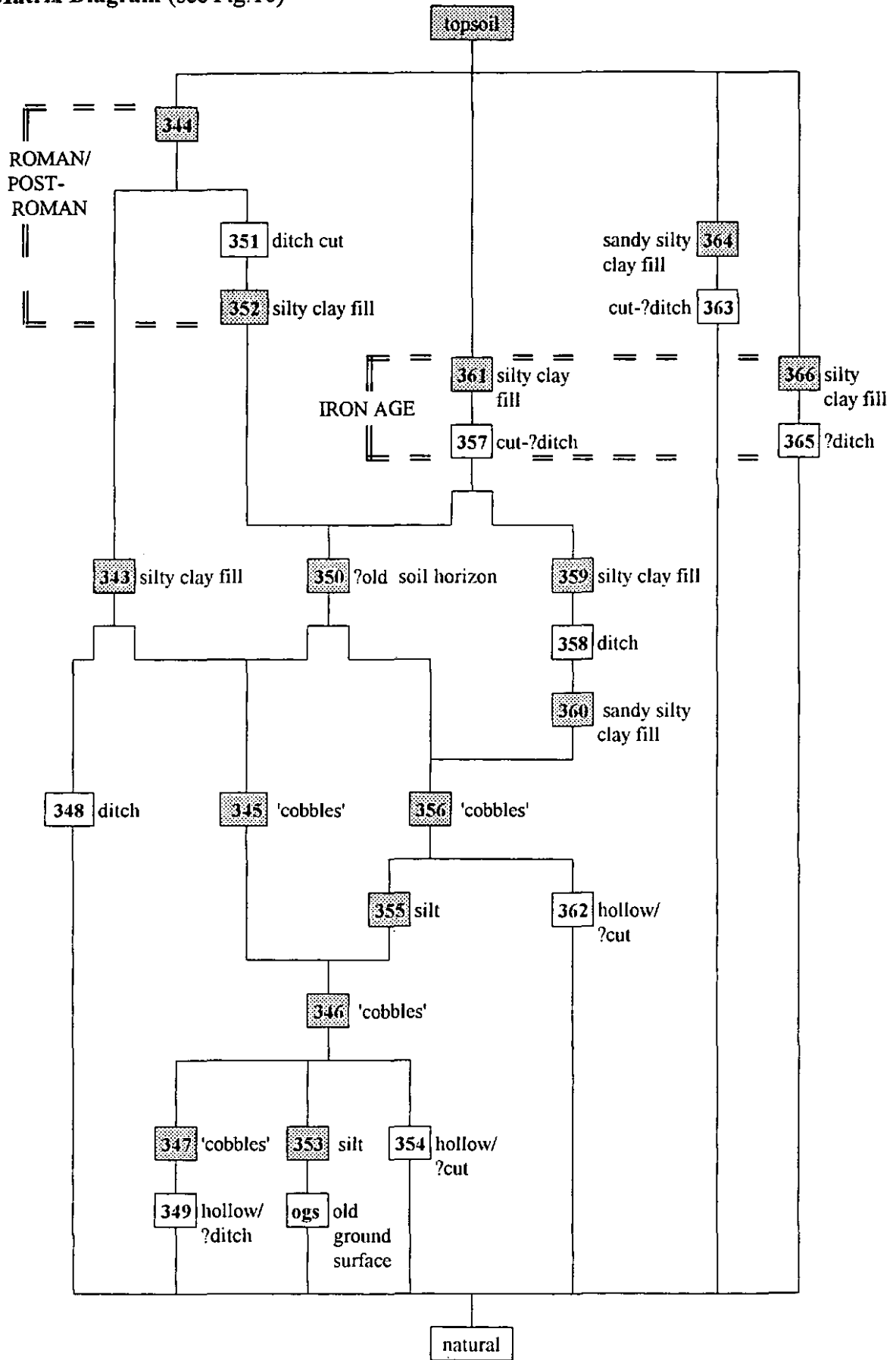
At the northern-most extent of the block beneath layer (344), was a large irregular-sided (30/60 degrees) 'U'-shaped cut [348] which was also observed in both sides of the pipetrench (Fig.16). In plan the feature appeared to follow a north-west to south-east alignment. It was cut into the geology and was filled with an homogenous contaminated dark brown to black silty clay (343). A few fragments of ox bone were present. The fill in part overlaid the pebble and gravel layer (345).

Towards the south-south-west extreme of the block and interrupted by later cut features [357] and [358], a layer of compacted flint pebbles and gravel extended for a distance of approximately 6m and terminated within the possible cut [362]. This layer varied in thickness up to a maximum of 0.30m. Beneath part of it was the upper fill of hollow [354] which consisted of a dark brown to black silty charcoal-flecked silty clay (355). No finds were present.

The layer of compacted flint pebbles and gravel (346) varied in thickness between 0.05m and 0.30m and was observed in both sides of the pipetrench for a distance of some 30.5m where it formed the undulating interface with the geology below. This deposit also constituted a fill of cut feature [349] and also the lowermost fill of [354]. The greater thickness occurred where undulations and hollows were present at the lower interface. No finds were recovered.

The greatest thickness of flint pebbles and gravel occurred within a flat-bottomed cut feature [349], at the north-north-east limits of the pebble deposits. This irregular-sided cut was observed in each side of the pipetrench, and was aligned north-west to south-east and parallel to [348]. The cut had a maximum width at this point of *c.*2.70m and a depth which varied between *c.*1.50m on the north-north-east side to 0.84m on the south-south-west side. The fill consisted of three pebble deposits with clear interfaces and included (346), which formed the central deposit. The uppermost deposit with a thickness of up to *c.*0.55m, lapped up and over the north-north-east side of [349] forming a kind of shoulder. The central deposit, (346), had a thickness of up to *c.*0.28m whilst the earliest layer (347) was *c.*0.25m thick. No finds were recovered from any of these deposits.

Matrix Diagram (see Fig. 16)



Interpretation. The features recorded in Block B appear to have been associated with Iron Age and later activity. If the features were of a linear nature then it is possible that they were ditches (*e.g.* [349], [357], 358], [358], [365]) and gullies (*e.g.* [351], [363]). It must be stressed, however that the dating evidence should be treated with caution, since samples taken from such homogenous deposits in a single sectioned feature may well yield finds which are not wholly representative of the chronology. Nevertheless, bearing in mind these parameters, a putative date may be suggested for at least two of the upper cut features (*i.e.* [357] and [365]). This is reinforced by the proximity of a number of Iron Age features in Block C (Figs.12 and 17). Since upper deposit (344) contained both prehistoric and 3rd - 4th century Roman pottery, it can at best be ascribed to the Roman period or later, especially given the nature of the layer, which suggests it is a product of agricultural practice. In such circumstances, the Roman sherds may be equally as derivative as the prehistoric. This does not however, preclude the possibility of manuring practice in the Roman period (*cf.* Ford, S and Hazell, A, 1989, p14).

The layers of flint pebbles and gravels (*i.e.* (345), (346), (347), (356)) appear to represent an attempt to 'cobble' a large area, perhaps as a track. The succession of layers in certain places, suggests the cobbled area was therefore in use for a considerable period of time. Layer (356) appears to have been made-up at least in part, with the infilling of a hollow (*i.e.* (355), [354]) above earlier metalled deposit (346) whilst the undulating surface below all the cobbling suggests a 'trackway' without cobbles was in use first. A phase of abandonment followed when deposits were allowed to accumulate, prior to the cutting of the gullies and ditches, the latter probably taking place sometime in the Iron Age, but perhaps also in later periods.

Whether or not the cobbled surface is linear it is difficult to determine, for it is not known at which angle the pipetrench sectioned the feature. It was observed however, that the cobble layers were visible in both sides of the pipetrench giving the appearance of a more or less perpendicular section. A further observation, although perhaps only co-incident, given the depth of the cobbling layers, is that the surface of the easement at this point had a slight, yet noticeable, linear rise which traversed the area. This low rise was also discernible, under the right lighting conditions, in the crops immediately 'off-site' at the eastern limit of the easement, and apparently corresponded to the concentration of archaeology noted in the pipetrench (Fig.14). The extent of the rise could not be established with any degree of certainty due to the limited visibility from ground level.

It is possible that the large ditch [348] to the north-north-east end of the block, was at some time contemporary with one of the cobbled layers, perhaps drainage for the track. The fill of this feature, as with all the presumed ditches and gullies in the block, showed no signs of silting-up or banding, but appeared as a single homogenous context of dark brown to black silty clay which was probably the result of infilling with settlement occupation rubbish, indicated by the frequent flecks of charcoal and pottery and the presence of ox bone fragments.

At the south-south-west extent of the Block, the natural geology was seen to merge with [367] a mixed undulating horizon of sands, clays and silty clays which was seen in the pipetrench to continue over a distance of some 50m. These disturbances appeared to be devoid of any finds and are thought to be periglacial disturbances.

10.7.3 Block C. Berrick Salome Iron Age Site (SU 61315 93785) PRN 26116
(Fig. 12 and 17)

Summary. Within this block, an area measuring approximately 70m x 10m was further stripped to a depth of approximately 0.1m-0.2m after initial 'topsoiling' in order to define clearly any archaeological features. The remainder of the features encountered were investigated during trenching operations. The archaeology in this block consisted of curvilinear features and pits, some of which were hand-excavated in the time allocated (Fig.18). One of the larger curvilinear features initially exposed and planned [121/374] during topsoiling, was recorded in section after trenching operations (Fig.18). Two further possible linear features, previously 'undetectable' were also recorded in the pipetrench ([368], [372], Figs. 17 and 18). All features sampled produced finds of Early or Middle Iron Age date.

Description and Distribution of Features (Fig.17). The majority of the curvilinear features exposed in the block shared a particular attribute, that of appearing to follow a similar pattern of orientation: the larger curvilinear features ([119], [121], and [143]), minor linear features [141], [483], and for part of its course [153] all followed this orientation, whilst the surveyed limits of two further probable linear features [372] and [368] may also be considered to share this common aspect. Only minor linear feature [485] was on a north-east to south-west alignment. The post-holes and pits exposed in the area may be placed into four discreet groups based upon their spatial layout and/or morphological characteristics (Fig. 17, a-d).

At least two of the larger linear features, [119] and [121], appeared to be components of the same feature, having an overall visible length of approximately 21m and interrupted in part for a distance of approximately 2m. The average width of this feature was 2.5m, and where sectioned by the pipetrench was c.2.30m (Fig. 18; NB: the pipetrench profile has been rectified). All of the other linear features also had a terminal present, with the exception of [153] which appeared to traverse the stripped area. The latter, when sectioned, proved to be quite shallow (0.1m) with a rounded base (Fig. 18).

The post-holes/pits in group **a** appeared to form two parallel lines at the western visible extent of gully [483]. The four post-holes excavated in this group ([145], [147], [149], [151]) shared broadly similar attributes in form and fills, being fairly steep-sided with flattish bases, and containing homogenous dark brown to black charcoal-rich clayey, sandy silts. Pottery sherds dating to the Iron Age were recovered from the fills of [145], [149] and [151].

The seven post-holes/pits which comprise group **b** were located approximately 2-4m north-east of linear feature [121]. Four of these were excavated and sampled, and proved to be quite dissimilar in size and depth, although each had a fairly flattish base (Fig.18). The more substantial of these [135] and [137], were each circular in plan, with steep sides falling to a fairly flat base; the former measured 0.80m diameter x 0.24m depth, the latter, c.0.80 x 0.37m depth. Post-hole/pit [135] had a dark brown charcoal-flecked, clayey, sandy silt fill which produced a single sherd of Iron Age pottery and a few fragments of ox bone. The black-brown charcoal-rich silty clay fill of [137], contained thirteen sherds of Early Iron Age/Iron Age date (illustrated sherds : Early Iron Age, Fig.27. 7 and 8), a number of daub fragments, oven/kiln material (Taylor, this report, Part III), a fragment of triangular loomweight (Fig.28), and several fragments of horse, oxen, and roe deer bone.

Group c comprised three pits (Figs.17 and 19; [123], [125], [127]), each roughly circular, bearing similar characteristics in plan, and measuring between 1.41m and 1.74m in diameter. Above and shouldering the sides around the circumference of each of these features were three or four apparent rectilinear slots at irregular intervals, each of the latter averaging between 0.22m x 0.16m, length by width (Fig. 19, [179] to [192], fills (180) to (193)).

The single pit of the group to be excavated ([123]), proved to be quite shallow (0.28m), to have very steep sides and a perfectly flat base. Its fill consisted of a dark brown charcoal-rich, clayey sandy silt and this contained a small quantity of artefacts, including five pottery sherds dating to the Middle to Late Iron Ages (Fig.27, 12, 13 and 14), several fragments of sheep and pig bone, loomweight fragments, and one piece of slag (Cook, this report Part III). Three of the four slots shouldering the circumference of the pit were excavated, revealing a depth of 0.12m in each case. Context [180] produced pottery of Middle Iron Age date (Fig.27.11).

Pit/post-hole group d (Fig.17) comprised nine unexcavated, roughly circular patches of material whose fills closely resembled those of the excavated features and were thus also presumed to be archaeological. The diameters of these features ranged between c.0.30m and c.1.1m. A meandering linear arrangement may be tentatively suggested for those at the southern extreme of the stripped area (i.e. [501], [503], [109], [505], [117]).

Three previously 'undetectable' features were recorded in the pipetrench approximately 6m north of the limits of the additionally stripped area (Figs.17 and 18; [368], [370], and [372]). Despite irregular 'V'-profiles being observable in both sides of the trench, the spatial extent and function of each feature was indeterminable. The fills of each were fairly homogenous, with no apparent signs of slow silting, and comprised either orange-brown sandy silty clay [371] or mid to dark brown silty clay, all with occasional charcoal contamination. Three Iron Age pottery sherds and a few sheep bone fragments were recovered from the section (context 373).

Interpretation. The analysis of artefacts and samples recovered from the excavated features suggest the area to have been occupied during the Middle to Late Iron Age and perhaps even during the Early Iron Age.

The three larger curvilinear features (121,119,143) appeared to form the ditch of an enclosure. Working on this hypothesis, it would mean that the minor linear features and pit/post-hole clusters a-c were located within an enclosed area.

The spatial arrangement of features in groups a, b and d does not readily suggest any recognisable structure or pattern within the exposed area, other than the rudimentary linear arrangements in a which could be a fence. Two of the circular features excavated within this latter arrangement may tentatively be assigned a post-hole function in view of size and form, yet only in one of the circular features excavated elsewhere (context [137], Fig.17, group b) was there evidence for the setting of a timber upright: fragments of pottery, daub, oven/kiln material (Taylor, this report Part III) and a large fragment of a baked-clay triangular loomweight were found compacted against the sides, indicating the 'packing' for a post.

Possible Loom Settings. The former presence of structures in this area is strongly inferred by the morphological characteristics of each of the three circular features in group c, all which lie

within the presumed enclosure area (Figs.17 and 19, [123], [125], [127]). Each of the features in plan, displayed very similar characteristics, ranging between approximately 1.50m and 1.7m in diameter, and each with an irregular arrangement of three to four small rectilinear protrusions around the circumference, sometimes distinguishable by a differential fill to that of the main feature.

As was noted above, the excavation of one of the three features [123], (the remaining two were to survive construction drainage operations), revealed a shallow and notably level-based pit with near-vertical sides (Figs.19 and 20) cut into the natural clay. The fill comprised a very dark brown charcoal-contaminated material which seemed to suggest infilling over a short period of time partly with burnt domestic rubbish, which included Middle Iron Age pottery (Fig.27, 12-14), fragments of baked-clay triangular loomweight(s) and a number of animal bone fragments. A single possible spelt glume base was present in the environmental sample from (124). No signs of *in situ* burning were present. The rectilinear protrusions around the circumference of [123] proved to be slots, in which presumably, would have been positioned, upright or near-upright timbers, the latter forming some sort of superstructural framework. A Middle to Late Iron Age rimsherd (Fig.27, 11) was recovered from the fill of (180).

The peculiar characteristics and components of these pits allow hypotheses as to their primary function (*i.e.* before they became used for the disposal of rubbish). One plausible suggestion, based upon circumstantial evidence, is their association with weaving activities.

The most frequently recognised archaeological evidence for weaving activity in the Iron Age must be that of loomweights themselves, whilst very occasionally, the more ephemeral and less enduring evidence has survived, such as the finished woven product itself (*cf.* Glob, 1977, 128-34). As weaving was most probably a seasonal occupation, the archaeological traces might reasonably be assumed to be 'temporary fixtures', represented by post-holes and pits. The means of support for the warp-weighted loom when in use, has long been a contentious issue, some archaeologists preferring to believe that the loom was not set in post-holes, but was only leaned against a roof beam or wall (*e.g.* Wild, 1988, 32). Nevertheless, the loom when fully-laden, despite its 'portable' character, must have been a hefty piece of equipment, as attempts to reconstruct have proved (*cf.* Allen, D. pers.comm. Andover Museum of the Iron Age).

An increasingly common practice during the Iron Age is considered to have been the use of a pit or hollow, over which the loom framework was positioned, in order to retain humidity and enable the easier working of textiles (Audouze and Buchsenschutz, 1991, 136). This practice has been recognised in earlier contexts such as at the Late Bronze Age site at Wallwitz, Saxony, where the loom is accepted to have been installed in an external pit which was flanked by two post-holes, and in which 27 loomweights were found aligned (*ibid.*, 1991,136). It is therefore postulated that the pits at Berrick Salome may have served the same function.

Comparable pits to those at Berrick Salome appear to have been encountered during the excavations at Halfpenny Lane, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire (SU 581839) in 1989. Here, a series of Iron Age pits were exposed which seemed to have displayed very similar morphological characteristics and dimensions (Ford, S. *et al*, 1990, 6-7, Figs. 5 and 6). The published sections reveal a number of very shallow flat-bottomed, near-vertical or undercut-sided pits ranging between c.0.9 and c.1.40m in diameter and less than c.0.30m in depth, some of which show suggestions of having slots above, or at their sides (*e.g.* Fig.5.17, 19). At the time of

excavation it was considered that the wider shallower pits may have had superstructures around them but no such features were observed (*ibid.*, 1990, 6). The function of the pits remained uncertain and although the possibility storage was considered, the author was never entirely convinced that they were used for such purposes (pers.comm. Steve Ford). Stored crop remains, as opposed to burnt crop-processing waste, were not present in the contents of the pits, which comprised a material indicative of back-filling with domestic refuse, and there were no indications of intact burnt primary fills (Carruthers, 1990, 23).

In the same manner as at Berrick Salome, the domestic waste used to fill some of the pits at Halfpenny Lane was found to include fragments of baked-clay triangular loomweights, which is not by itself evidence for the function of the pits, but does reflect the nature of the activity carried out somewhere within the settlement.

10.7.4 Block D. Berrick Salome-Iron Age and Romano-British Site (SU 61265 93625) (Figs. 12 and 21)

Summary. The majority of features recorded in this block remained concealed beneath the 'redundant' ploughsoil after topsoiling, whilst other features lay directly beneath an old field boundary of considerable width (between 15.00-18.00m), which took the form of a low linear mound on which the electricity overhead line stands. Features were consequently only revealed during trenching operations. The profiles of each feature were recorded in the north-west -facing section (Fig.21, i to xiii).

Description and Distribution of Features. A total of thirteen archaeological features were observed in both sides of the pipetrench in this block (Fig.21), and appear to be concentrated in three main areas. The fills appeared generally similar in composition, composed of a dark brown to black charcoal-contaminated sandy silty clay.

Interpretation. Despite the features being observed in both sides of the pipetrench their extents and functions were indeterminable.

10.7.5 Block E. Berrick Salome -Iron Age and Romano-British Site (SU 6125093535) (Figs.12, 22)

Summary. This area was further stripped to an extra depth of up to 0.2m after topsoiling operations in order to expose any archaeological features. Three sections in the block were excavated by machine (Fig 24), and further investigations were enabled during trenching operations. Not all features seen at the limits of topsoiling were visible in the pipetrench; this may have been due to their shallowness and consequent concealment in the upper batter of the trench sides.

Description and Distribution of Features. The archaeology comprised two narrow linear features, two terminals of probable curvilinear features and an amorphous hollow. The archaeology was unevenly distributed throughout the exposed area, the majority of features being concentrated to the north-east. The excavation of sections through each of the curvilinear features [93] and [95] revealed irregular-sided 'V'-shaped cuts; c.3m width x 1.6m depth and 0.90m wide x 0.70m deep respectively (Fig.24). An area of 'recent' disturbance was also encountered (Fig 22). The pottery recovered from the excavated features dates to the

Late Iron Age and Roman periods. Finds within feature [93] included bone fragments from sheep and horse.

Interpretation. The ditches and gullies in this area are thought to be associated with Iron Age and Romano-British activity. Three Iron Age sherds were recovered from the surface of gully [97], whilst one of the excavated ditches [93] produced sherds of Oxfordshire ware dating to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD. It is quite possible of course, that the Iron Age pottery sherds from gully [97] were residual and that all exposed features related to Roman or post-Roman activity. The charred plant remains from the Roman ditches, which included barley and wheat grains, are typical of Roman environmental assemblages (Campbell, this report Part III).

The spatial limits of the exposed area allowed no more than a rudimentary interpretation to the extent or function of the features present. It is possible that ditch terminals [95] and (100)/[402] (Fig. 21, xiv) constituted parts of the same feature, perhaps an enclosure.

The modern feature, [176], appeared to have been a fairly recent machine-dug pit, but it is not known for what purpose this was originally excavated. A section was excavated by machine, although the feature remained unbottomed.

10.7.6 Block F. Berrick Salome-Iron Age and Romano-British Site (SU 6122593435) b

(Figs. 23, 25-6).

Summary. As with Blocks C and E this area was further stripped of overburden to a further depth of up to 0.20m in order to define any existing archaeological features. All features exposed were recorded by Total Station survey, the majority of linear ones being excavated by machine to ascertain depth and survival of deposits and to provide samples for dating purposes (Figs 25 and 26). All sections were cleaned and recorded and appropriate soil samples taken. The larger and more complex section (Fig.25) is accompanied by a matrix diagram.

Description and Distribution of Features. The archaeology recorded in this block comprised two major groups of inter-cutting curvilinear features, two groups of narrow linear features, the terminal of a possible linear feature, and six isolated patches of dark silty material (Fig.23). Five of the latter, all of which remained undug, formed no recognisable spatial arrangement and were concentrated mainly to the south of the southern-most group of inter-cutting linear features. The major features traversed the stripped area on an approximate east-west alignment, one of them (157), perhaps having formed part of a more circular feature, as a probable further extent (404) was recorded during pipetrenching operations. The narrower linear features, all of which also traversed the stripped area, were on an approximate east-west alignment. Two of these were parallel to each other and were located south of the isolated silty patches. The other two which inter-cut at their eastern exposed ends, were located between two major groups of curvilinear features. Pottery samples taken from excavated features in this block date to the Iron-Age and Romano-British periods.

The northernmost group of major curvilinear features comprised a 'U'-shaped cut [159], cut at the south and north by irregular 'V'-shaped features [92] and [157] respectively (Fig.25). The 'U'-shaped cut had possessed irregular upper sides, was at least 1.85m wide and survived to a depth of at least c.1.55m. Three fills were discernible, the lowermost and middle fills

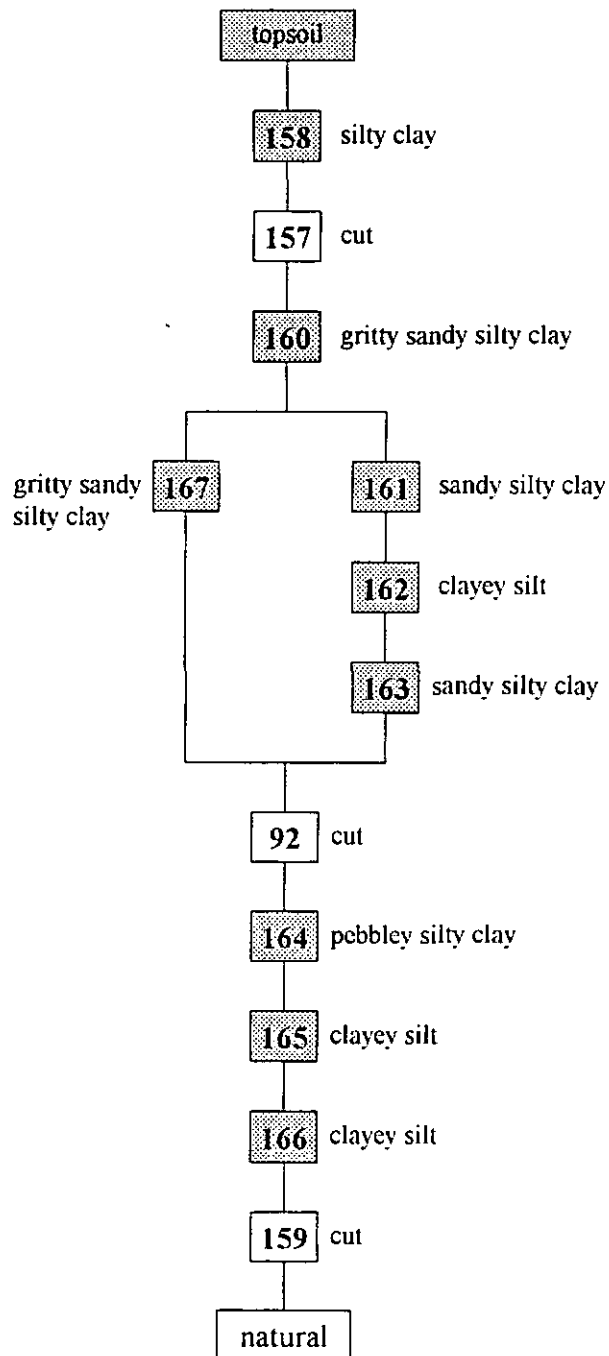
consisting of clayey silt (166 and 165), whilst the upper a pebbly silty clay. A diagnostic sherd of the Romano-British period was recovered from fill 165 (Fig.27.17).

The 'V'-shaped cut [92] where sectioned, was approximately 1.3m in depth and at least 5.2m wide, the upper edge of its northern side being cut by [157]. The sides of feature [92] were more steeply inclined to the north, with the earliest deposits of dark brown gritty sandy silty clay (163), and clayey silt (162) lying above the less inclined south side. Primary deposit (163) produced a diagnostic sherd of the Romano-British period (Fig.27.16). The three dark brown to black upper fills (161, 167, 160) had only vaguely discernible divisions in places. A few crumbs of Iron Age pottery came from fill 160. The northernmost feature [157] was the shallower in the group, with a depth of c.0.85m and a width of at least c.2.50m; it was filled with a fairly homogenous brown silty clay, and a single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered.

The southernmost major group of curvilinear features comprised three relatively shallow cuts with merging fills (Fig.26). The larger of the group [174], with a width of c.1.80m and depth of c.0.65m had irregular sides falling to a flat bottom. This was flanked to the south and north by 'V'-shaped cuts [172] and [171] respectively. The fills were fairly homogenous dark brown gritty, sandy silty clays with occasional charcoal contamination. The fill of the northernmost cut produced a fragment of ox bone and a single sherd of Romano-British pottery dating to the 2nd - 3rd centuries AD.

The four narrow linear features (contexts 88, 90, 71, 73) ranged in width between c.0.40m and c.1.10m, and a section through one of these (88), revealed a 'V'-shaped profile and a depth of 0.51m. The fill of the latter was a homogenous sandy silty clay and finds consisted of a single animal bone fragment and a sherd of Iron Age pottery.

Matrix Diagram (see Fig. 25).



Interpretation. The archaeology encountered in this block seems to suggest it was an area of Iron Age and especially Roman activity, perhaps on the periphery of a more extensive settlement. The machine-sections revealed inter-cutting ditches of Roman date (Figs. 25 and 26). In plan, the orientation of these features could not be firmly established owing to the similar nature of the upper fills which appeared to merge. Certainly, the dimensions of the northern-most group seem to suggest the function of large enclosing boundary ditches. At least one of these seemed to continue on a curvilinear course [404] and in doing so may indicate that it once formed an oval or circular enclosure.

The pottery from the earliest of the ditches (Fig.25, context 165 and Fig. 27.17) seems to indicate a usage dating at least to the 1st/early 2nd centuries AD. The nature of the silty clay fills suggests gradual accumulation. The later cutting feature [92] which also produced both sherds of this period (*e.g.* Fig.27.16) and residual Iron Age pottery (in upper fill 106) is also assumed to date to the Roman period. Charred plant remains, which include barley and wheat grain, were sampled from the earlier of the two ditches in the group and are typical of the Roman period (Campbell, this report, Part III).

The isolated, sometimes circular, patches of dark silty material remained undug but are assumed to have been pits or post-holes, on account of their similarity with the upper fill of dug features. The dates of these features are obviously unknown though it is perhaps most likely that they relate to either Iron Age or Roman activity.

10.8 Unstratified Finds

During the course of construction operations a quantity of unstratified artefacts were recovered. The material, which has been allocated either individual or group context numbers, consisted predominantly of Romano-British pottery sherds, but included the occasional fragment of brick and tile of the same period, which suggests the remains of a building somewhere in the locality. The fragmented remains of a quernstone (520)+ were recovered some 180m south-west of Block F (SU 61200 93276). The suggested provenance of the quernstone, which has been manufactured from a coarse sandstone or grit, is either the Rhineland, Massif Central or the Peak District (Cook, this report, Part III).

10.9 Review

Character and extent of settlements. Aerial photographic coverage reveals that the area of upstanding ridge and furrow located immediately north-west of Berrick Salome is the remains of an extensive medieval field system (Fig.39).

The archaeology encountered throughout Blocks A to F seems to be characteristic of rural settlement of the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The fuller extent of some features investigated however, was indeterminable. Aerial photographs reveal little, with the exception of a recent coverage which shows a particular 'noisy' area of differential crop growth approximating to the main features in Block F, but this is too ill-defined to suggest particular forms (Fig.39, 4.2). Other ill-defined cropmarks were noted approximately 300m north-east of Block A (SU 6160 9420, centre), (Fig.39, 4.3), and 800m south of Block F (SU 6120 9295), (Fig.39, 4.7). The nearest known settlements identified from aerial photographic analysis, and which may have possible associations, are situated just over 1km to the south-west (SU 603926) between Gallow Leaze and Shillingford (Benson and Miles, 1974, 71). These

comprise of a sub-divided double-ditched square enclosure and to the east, possibly minor circular enclosures.

Geophysical survey. The geophysical survey only provides approximate locations and therefore, the sketched outlines of the two circular anomalies (Field 0005) and two linear features (Field 4300) cannot be reliably correlated with any of the excavated features.

Fieldwalking. The 1995 fieldwalking programme revealed a low-density concentration of artefacts, largely composed of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, in the ploughsoil above the excavated features in Field 4300. Similarly, the fieldwalking of 1994 revealed a low density of artefacts in this area but the field at this time was under fairly dense crop.

Fig.13 Section 4: Block A, plan of pipetrench sections through linear features

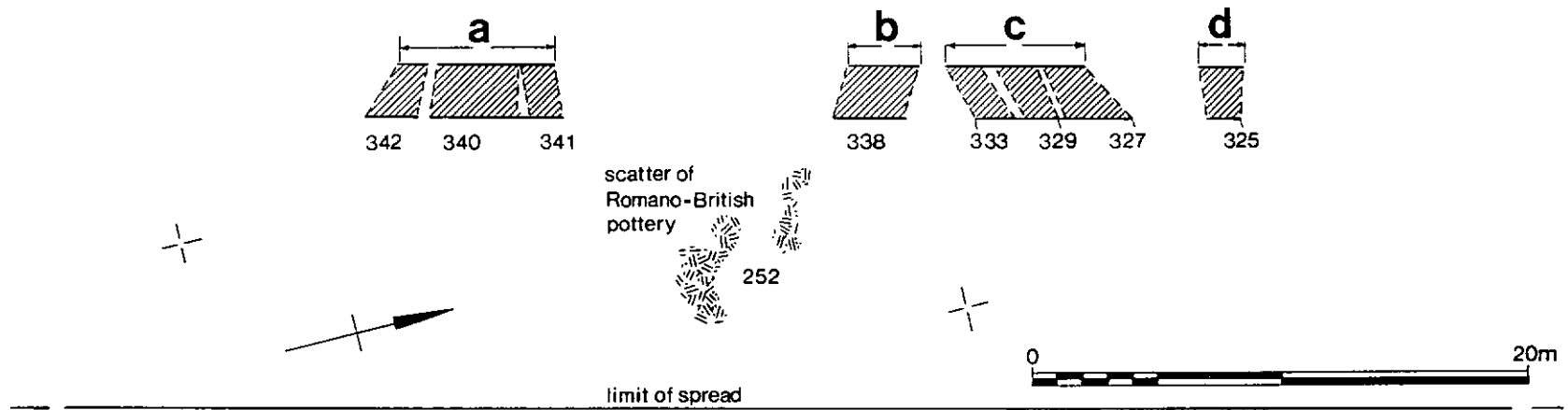


Fig.14 Section 4: Block B, plan of pipetrench section through 'cobbled' area and linear features

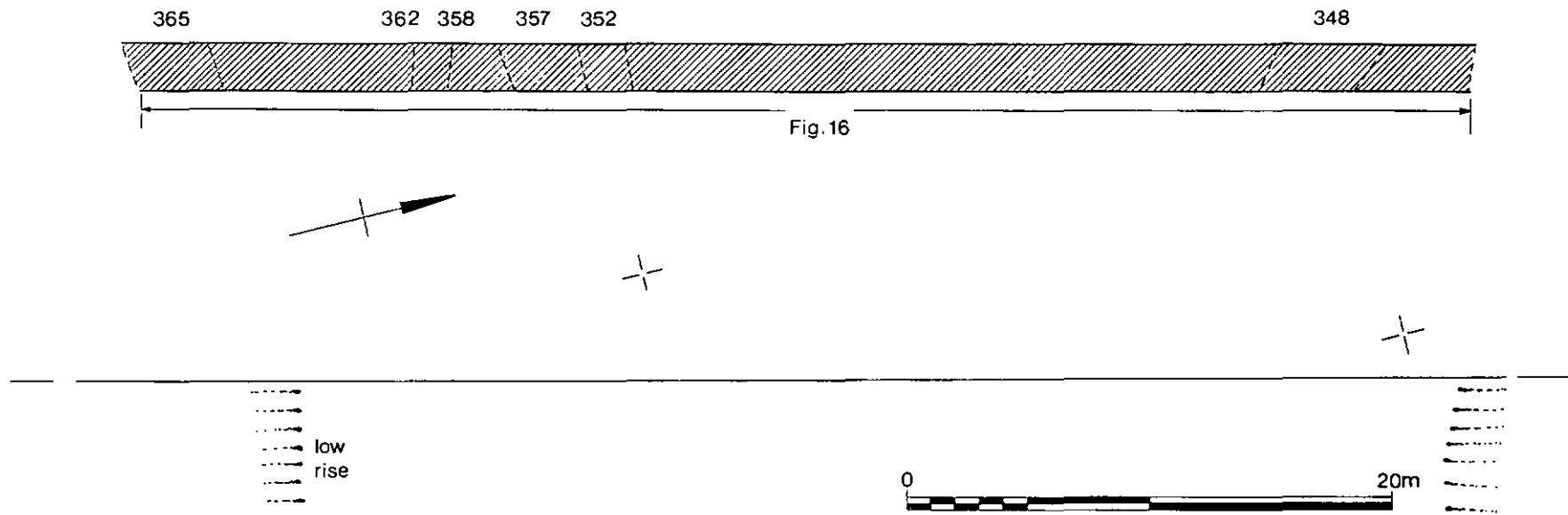


Fig.15 Section 4: Block A, pipetrench sections

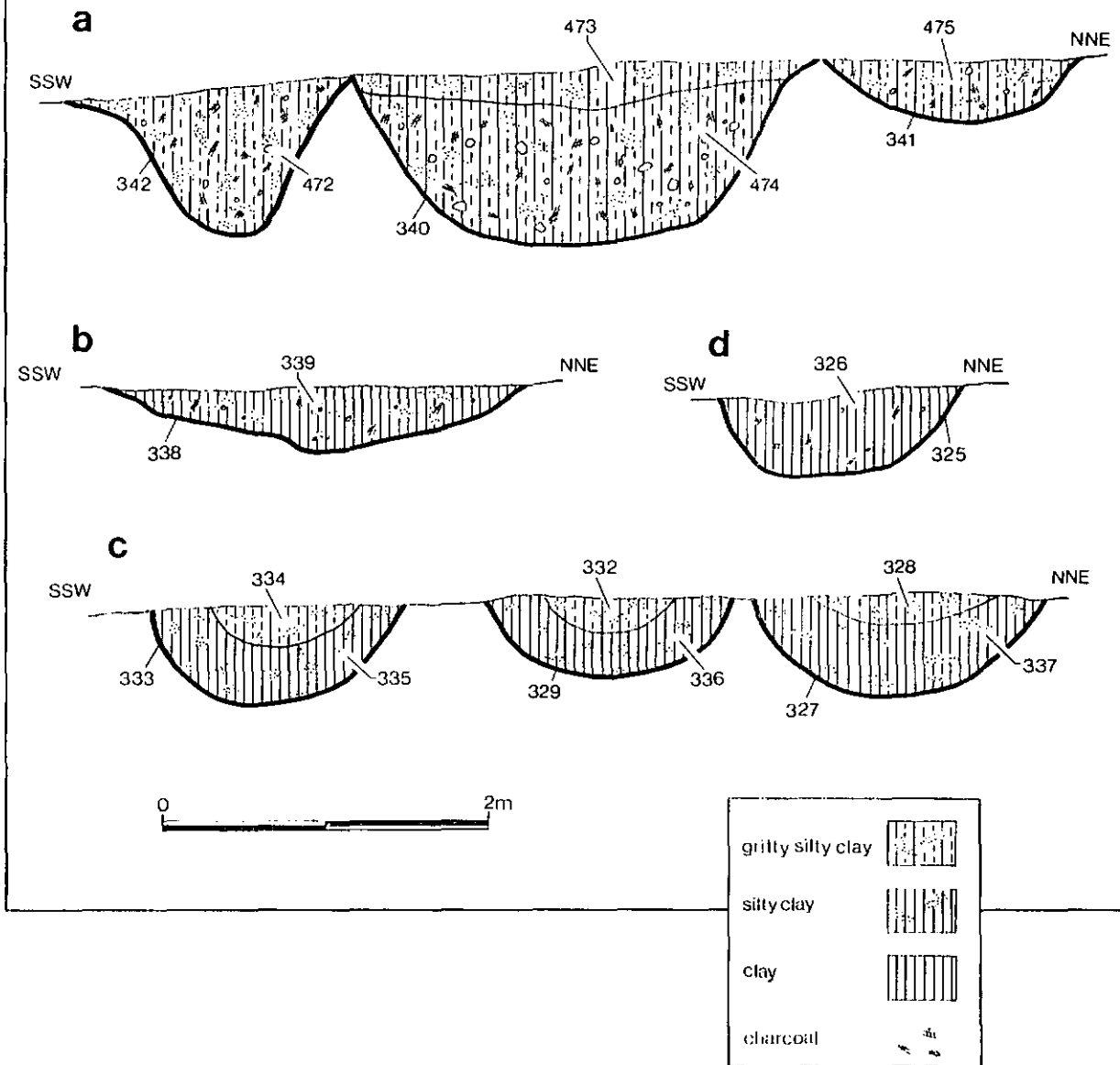


Fig.16 Section 4: Block B, pipetrench section of 'cobbled' area and linear features

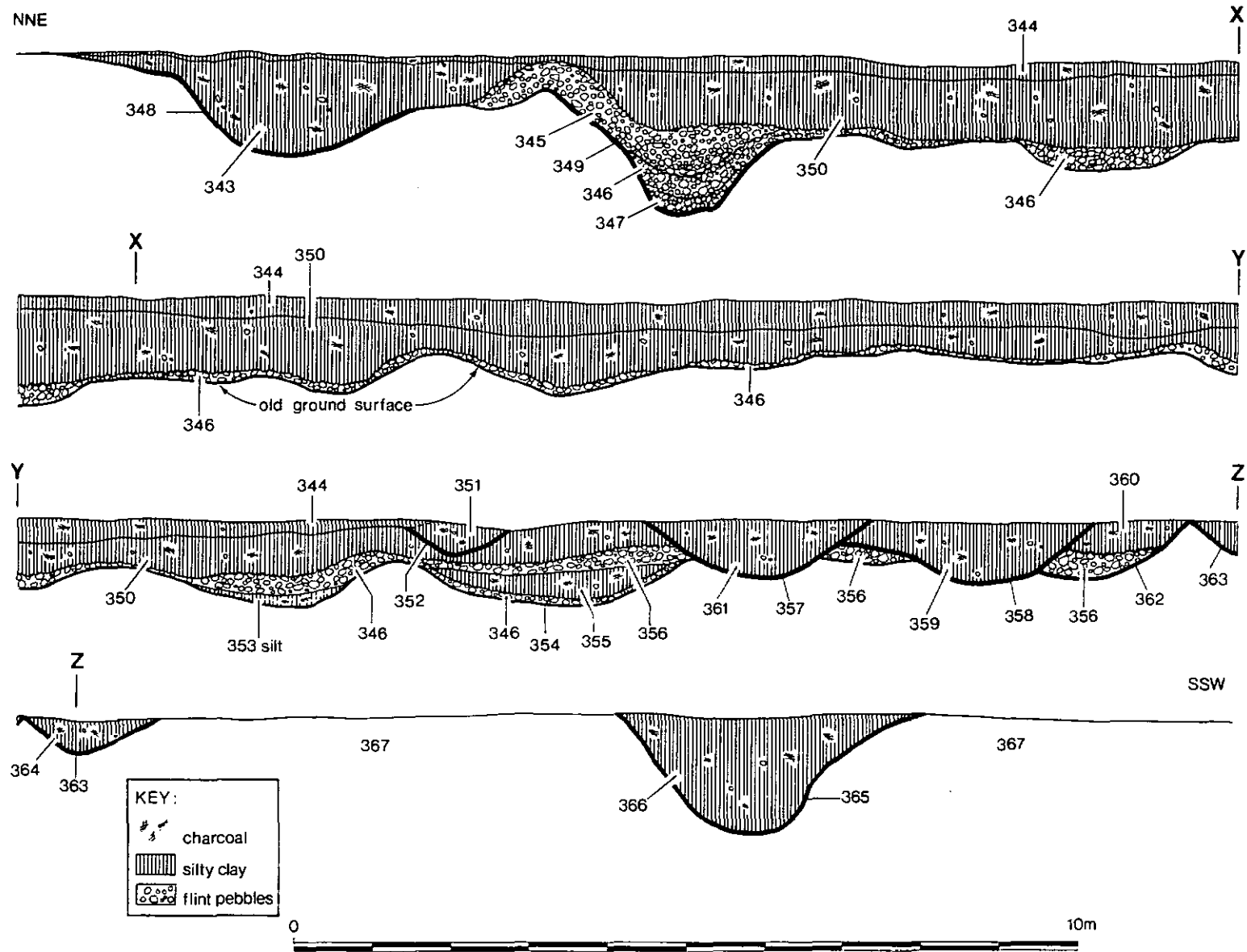
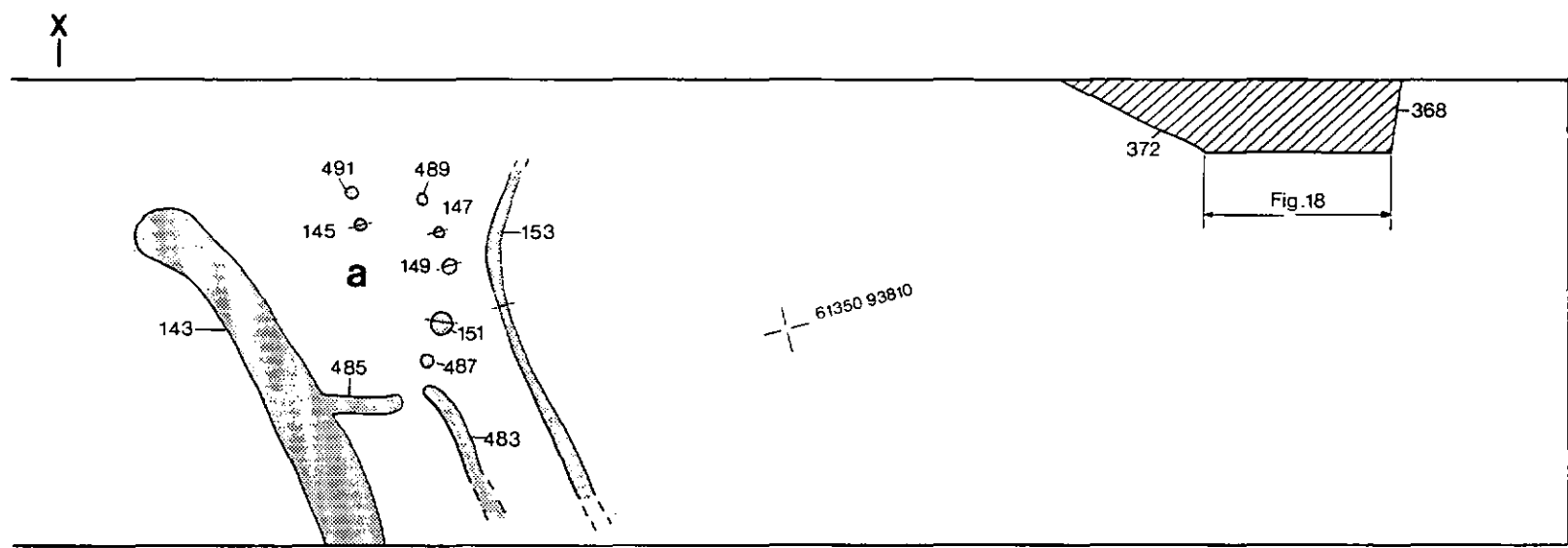
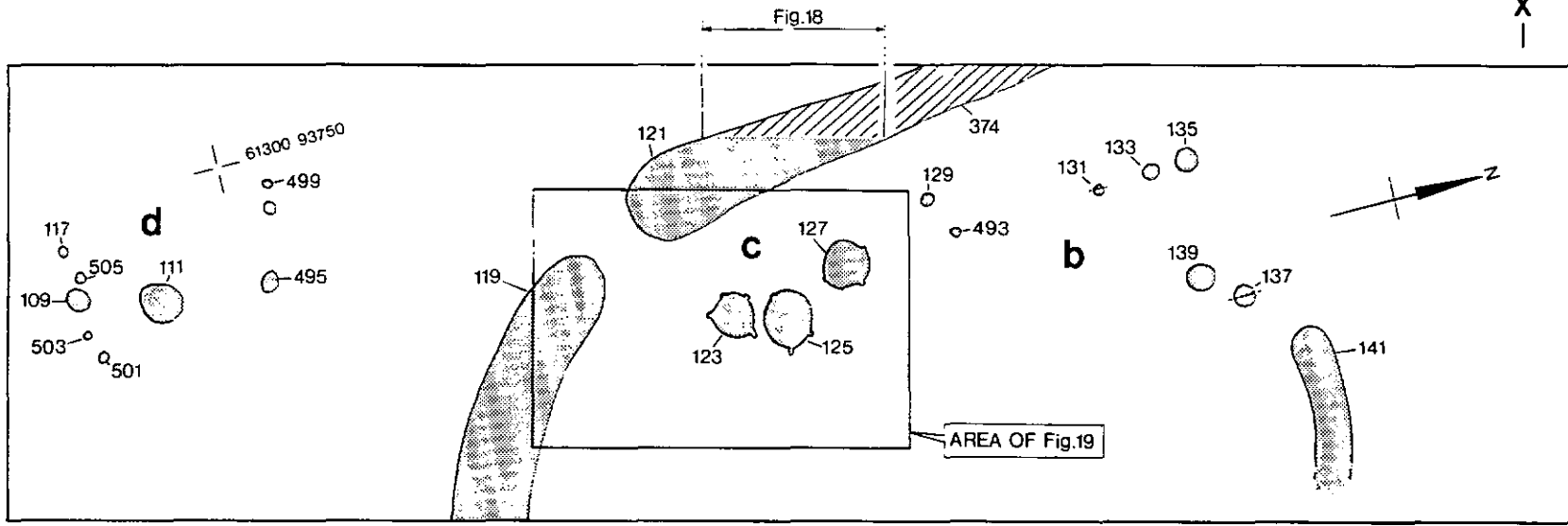


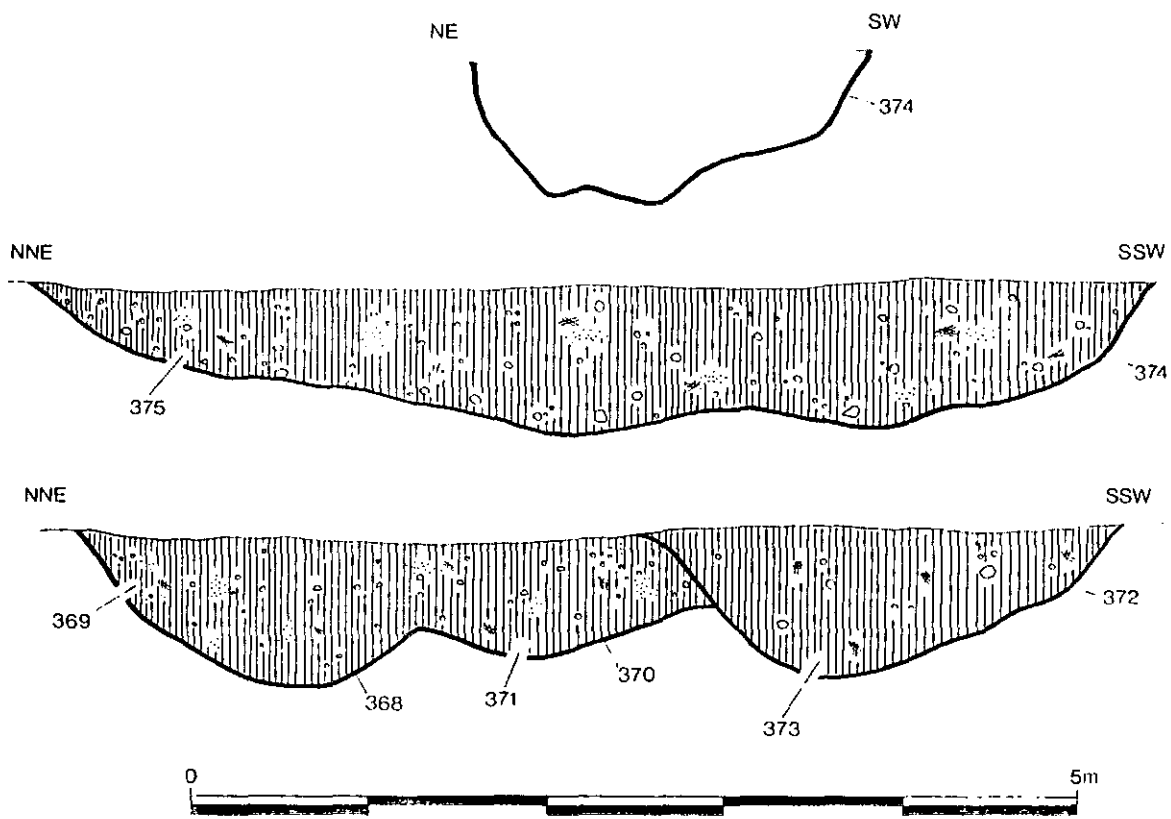
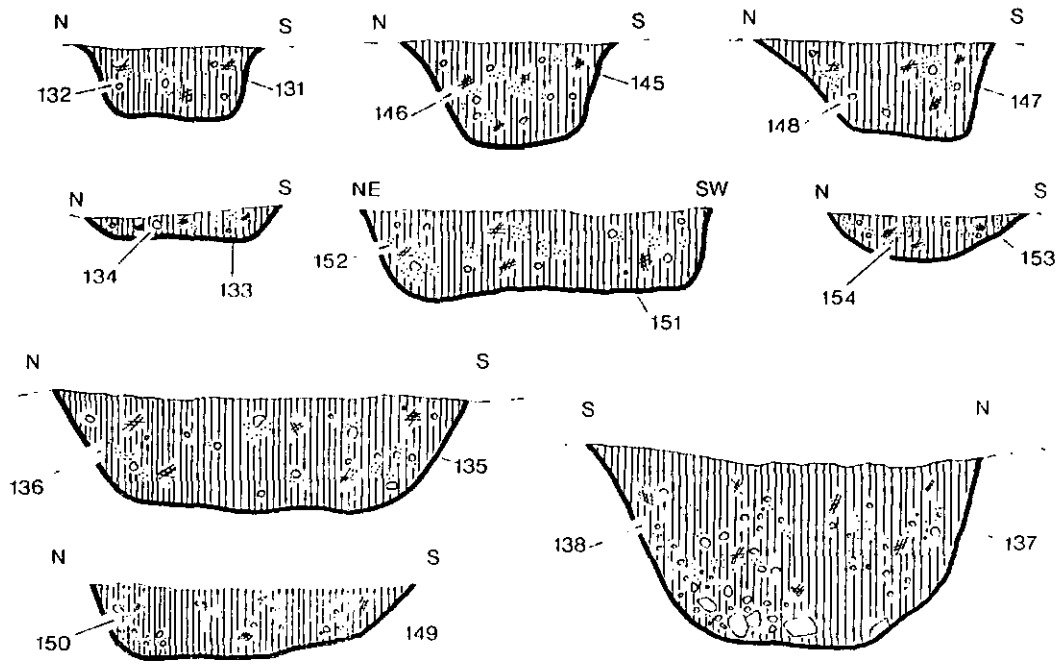
Fig.17 Section 4: Block C, plan of Iron Age features



KEY:
 construction trench section 



Fig.18 Section 4: Block C, sections



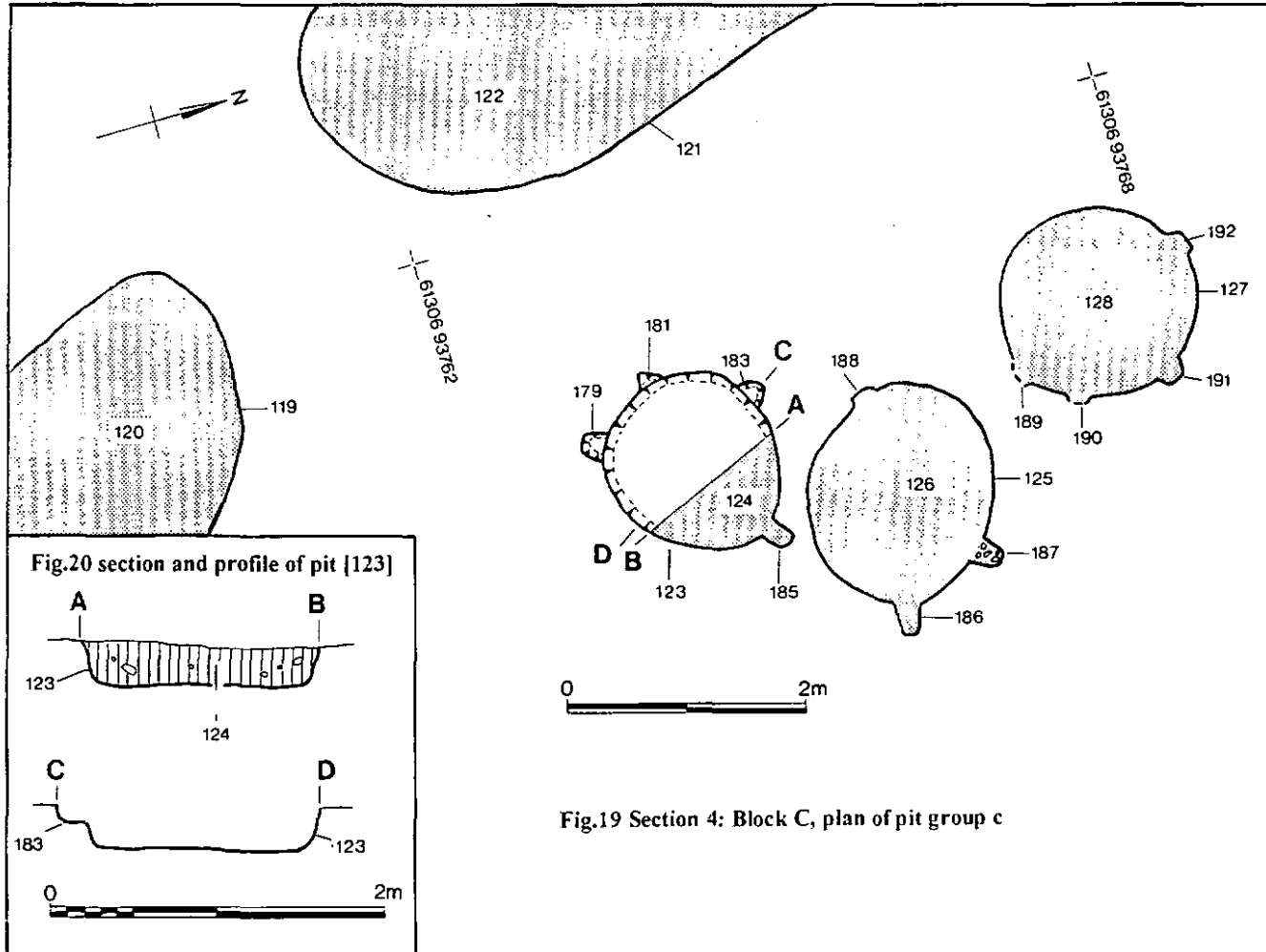


Fig.21 Section 4: Block D, plan and profiles of features sectioned by pipetrench

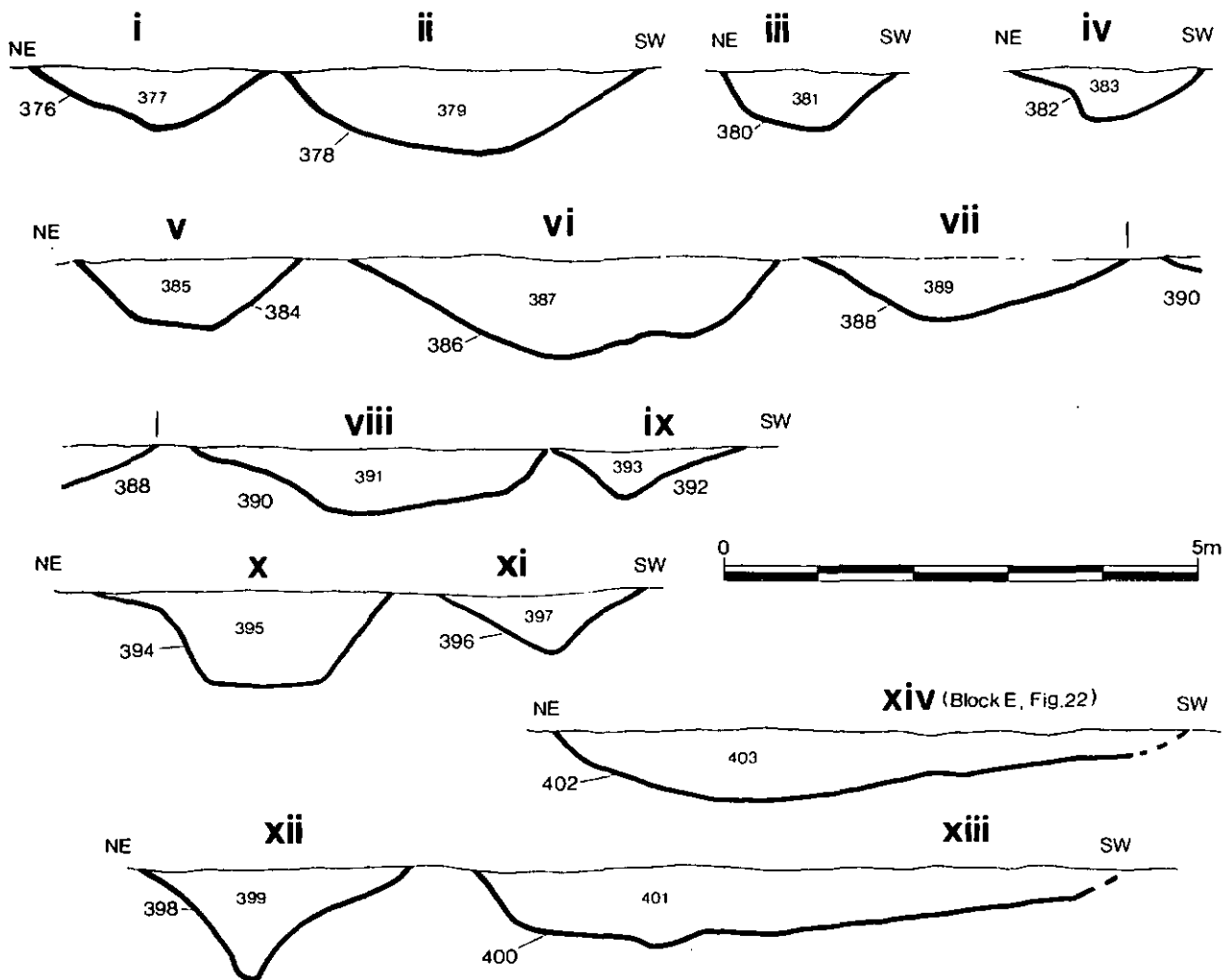
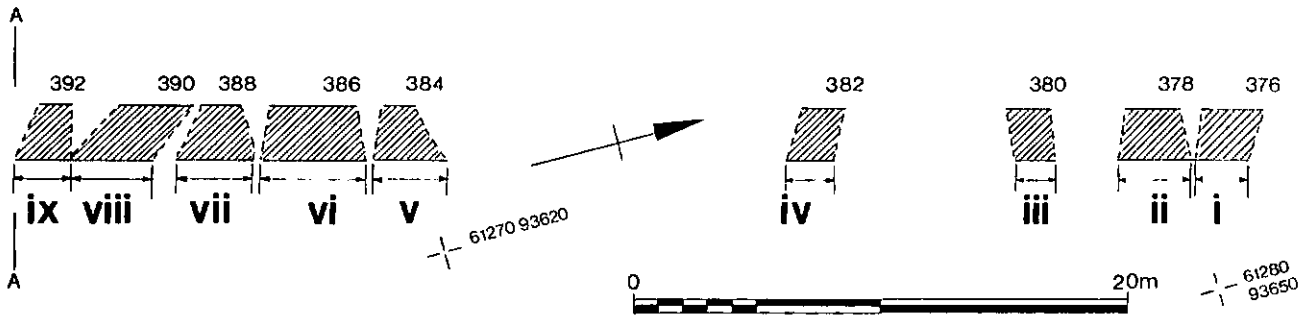
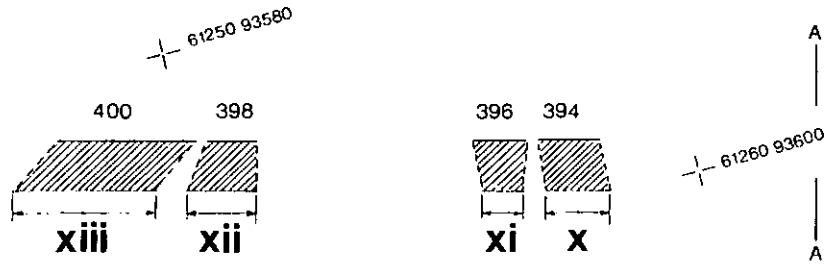


Fig.22 Section 4: Block E, plan and location of sections

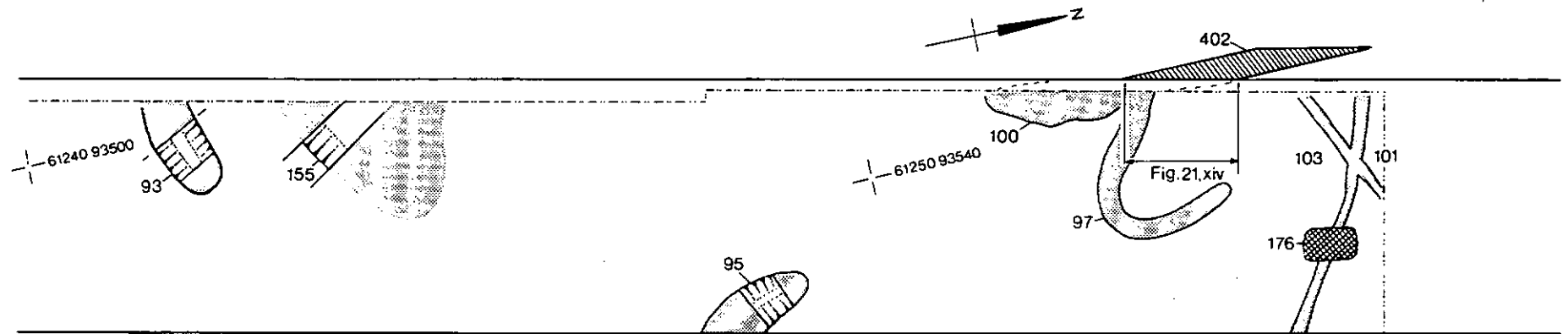


Fig.23 Section 4: Block F, plan and location of sections

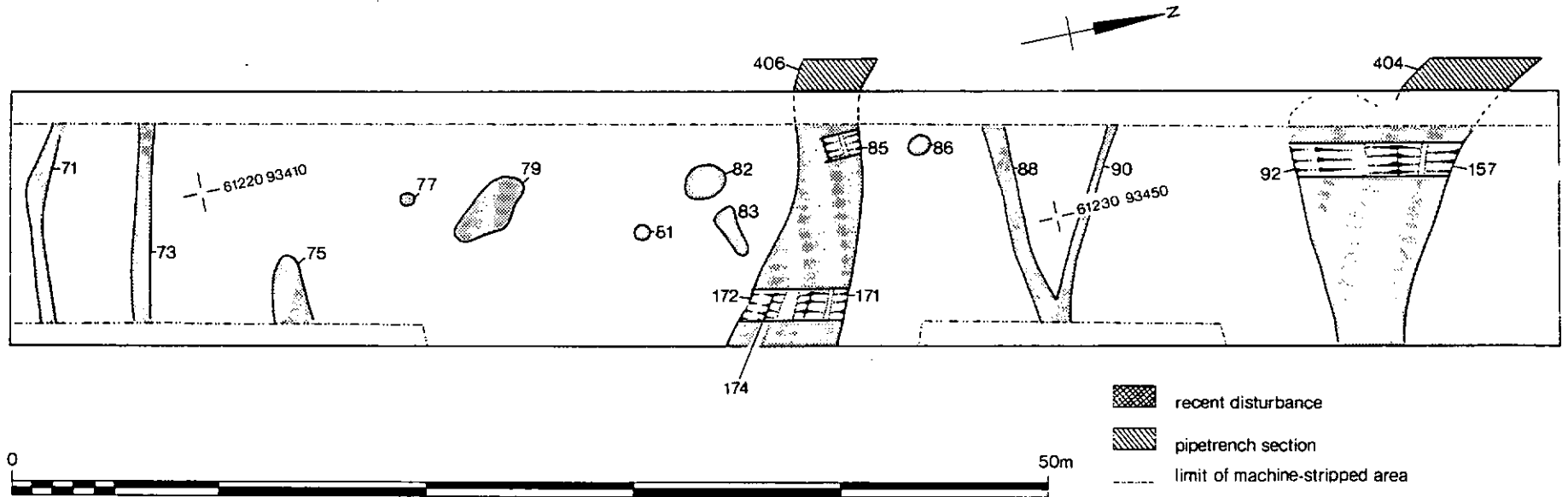


Fig.24 Section 4: Block E, sections

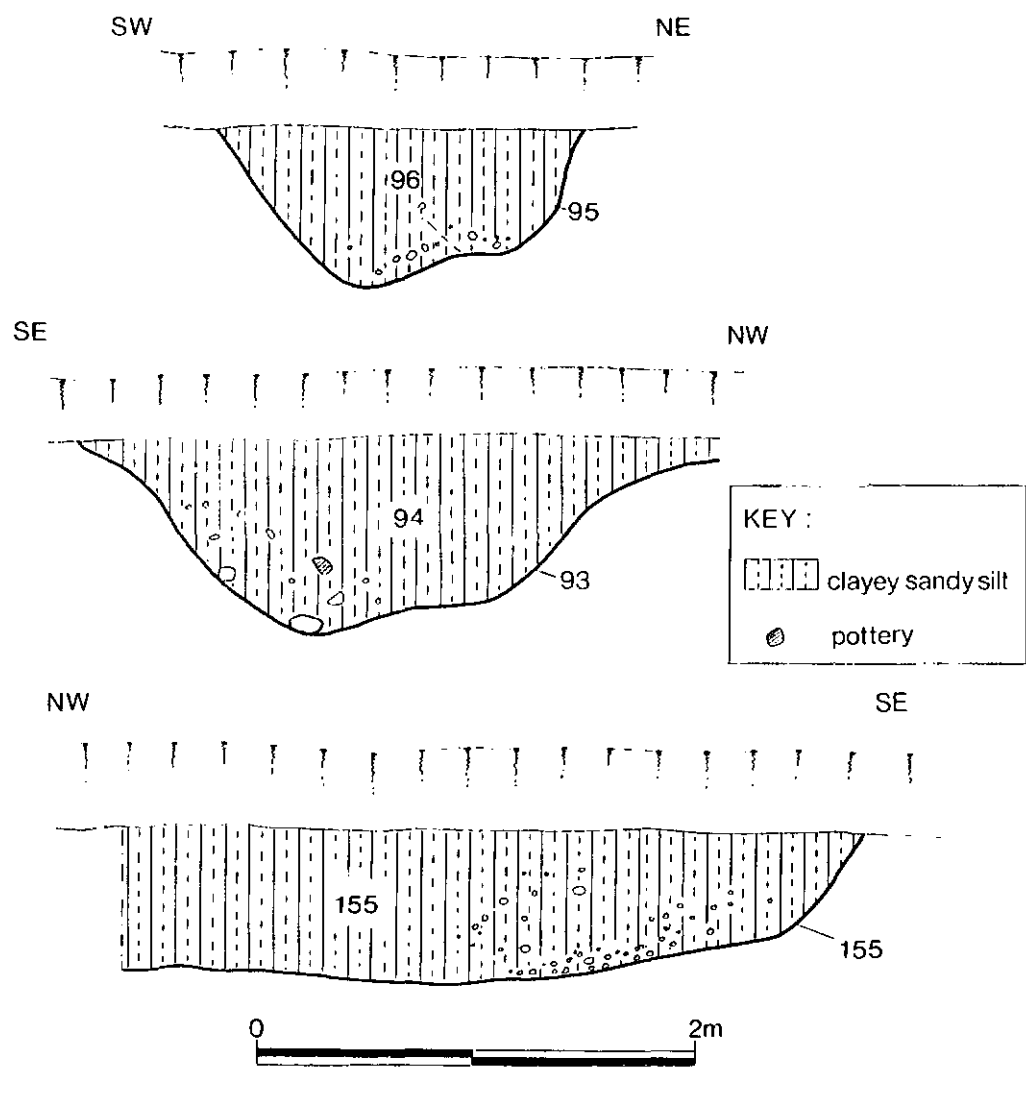


Fig.25 Section 4: Block F, section through Romano-British ditches

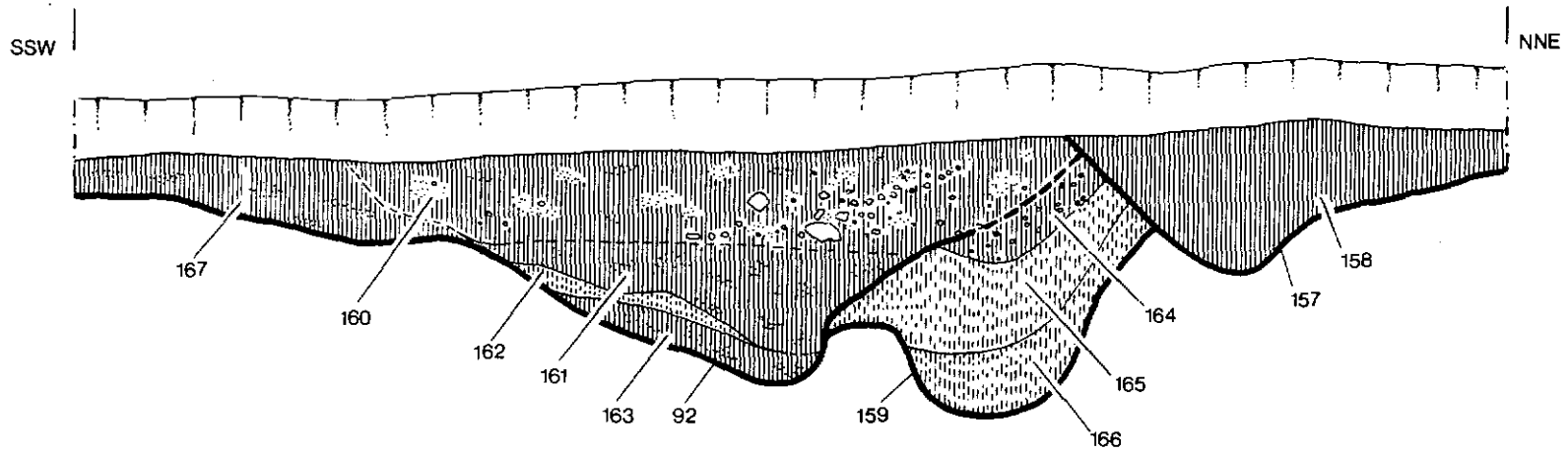
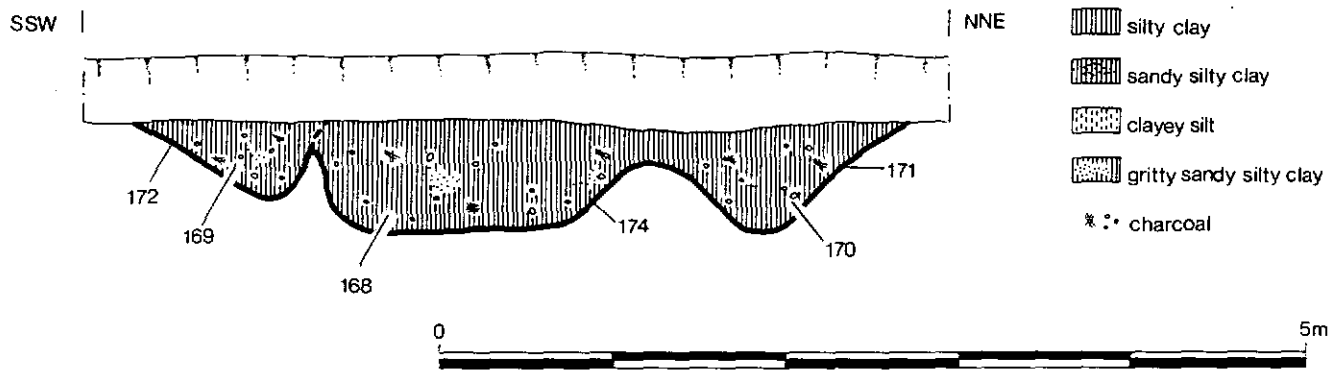


Fig.26 Section 4: Block F, section through ditches



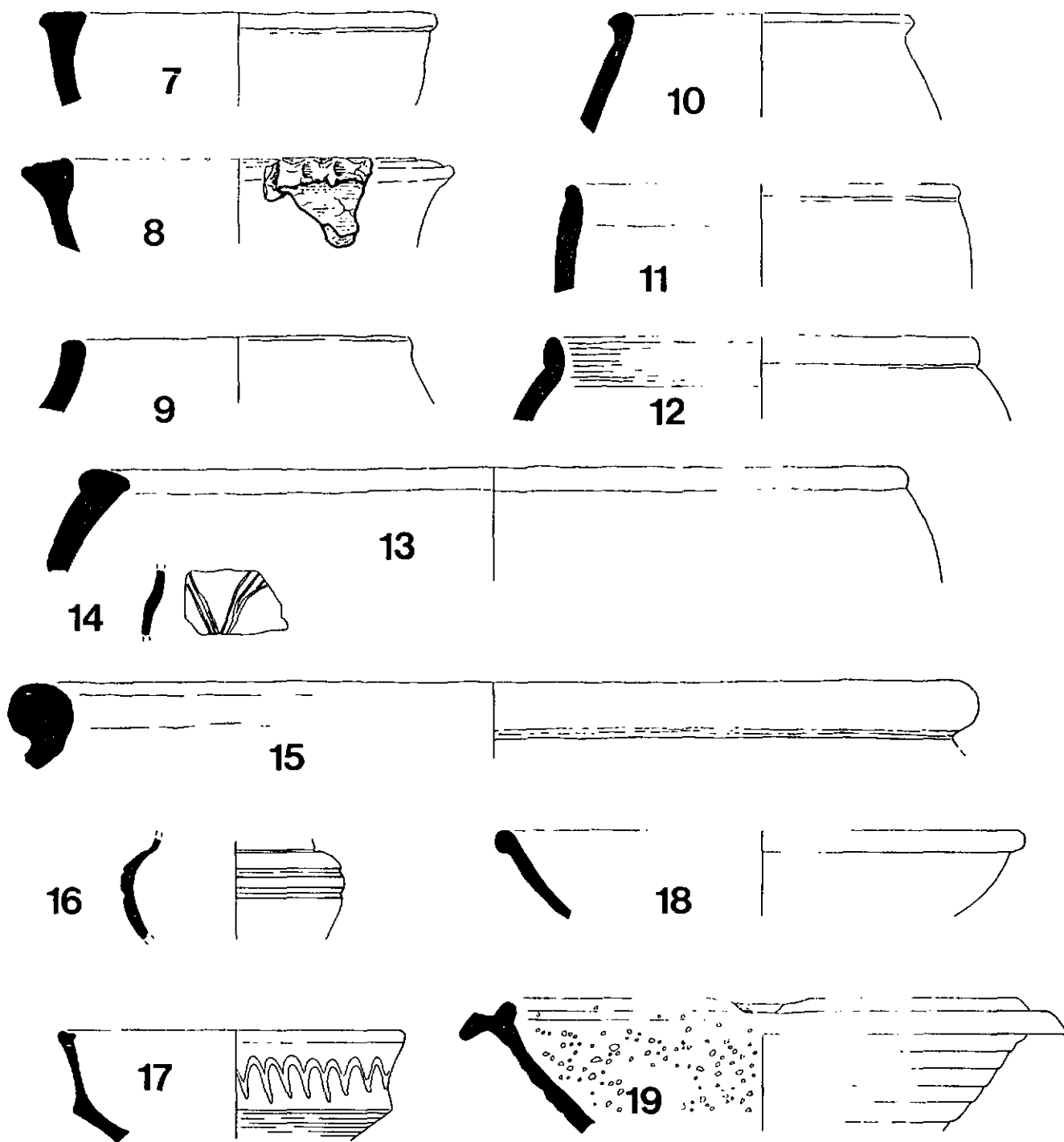
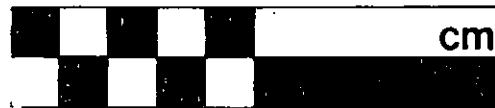
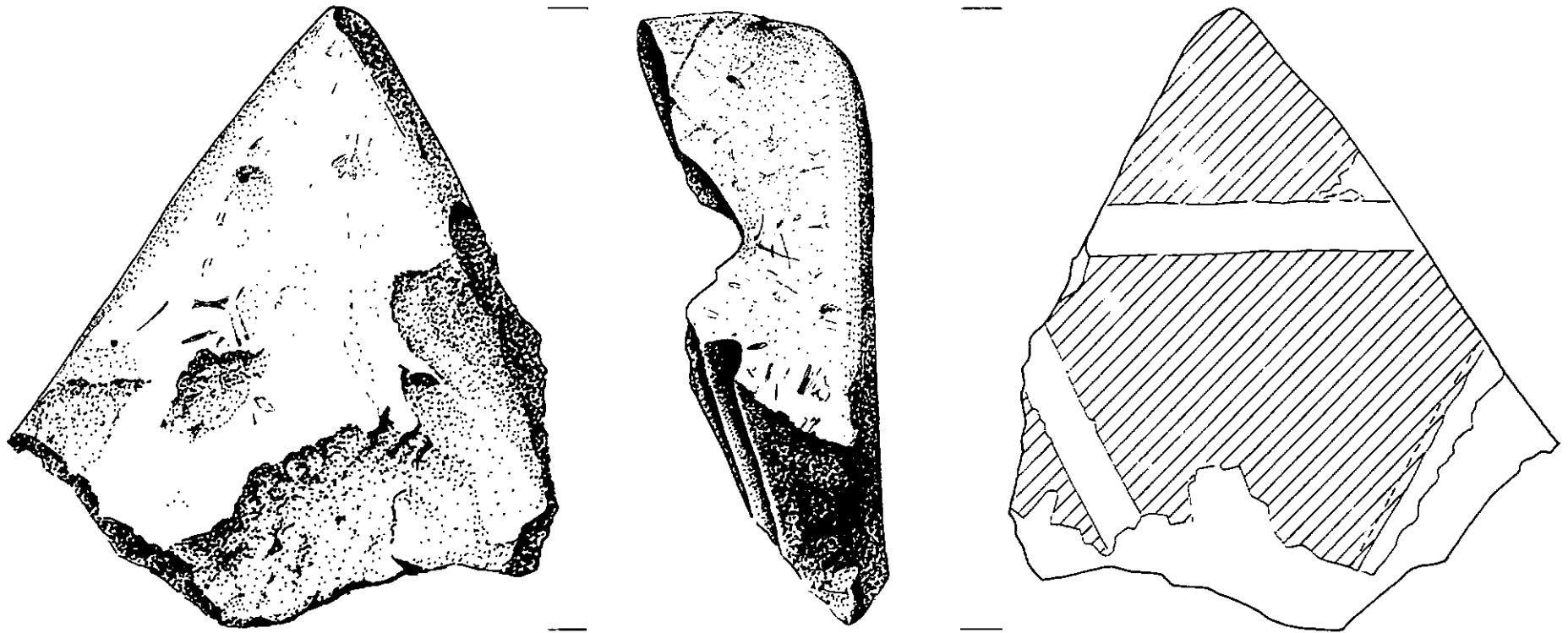


Fig.27 Section 4: Iron Age and Romano-British Pottery (scale 1:3)

7,8 Early Iron Age (Block C); 9 (Block C), 10, (Block E) Middle Iron Age;
 11,12,13 (Block C) Middle to Late Iron Age; 14 (Block C) ?Middle Iron Age;
 15 (Block E) Iron Age to Romano-British; 16, 17, 18, 19 (Block A) Romano British

Fig.28 Section 4: Loomweight from Block C, [124]



11. SECTION 5

11.1 Introduction

Section 5 was located between the A 423, Road Crossing 5 (SU 60894 92061) and Road Crossing (SU 60128 91494), a distance of some 1.3km, which included the River Thames.

11.2 Geomorphology

The geology in this Section comprises of alluvial deposits (SU 60898 92073 - 60131 91464). A detailed geological field record taken from the pipetrench can be found in Appendix 7.

The topography in this Section either side of the Thames, lies around 50m O.D either side of the River Thames.

11.3 Known Archaeological Sites

Several Sites and Monument Record listed 'sites' exist proximal to the pipeline easement (Appendix 9) and are summarised below:

- SU 605 916 (SMR 2133). Possible location for deserted medieval village of Clapcot; may be represented by Rush Court (SU 69SW.37, and Clapcot House (SU 69SW.38).
- SU 6078 9132 (SMR 2130). A Palaeolithic implement found in a sandpit near Rush Court.
- SU 602 915 (SMR 15450). Location of a hand-axe.
- SU 6129 9127 (SMR 2153). Discoidal flint knife.
- SU 6100 9101 (2157). Site of Clapcot Manor House.

11.4 Pre-Construction Fieldwork

Several slight anomalies were located along the pipeline route:

Magnetic features were identified in a detailed geophysical survey carried out in the field north of the River Thames (SU 61869196, Field 8300). This survey produced an indefinite diagonal feature of about 30m length, aligned north-west to south-east and probably representing a small ditch. Five parallel features 30m in length were also defined running on a north-south alignment and possibly interpreted as field drains. Two more substantial linear features running parallel to the present road for about 60m were also recorded (Price, 1995). φ

Geophysical scanning south of the River Thames revealed a large magnetic feature running east-west for about 160m (SU 60559145), (*ibid.*). φ

The majority of Section 5 lay under pasture. Pre-construction fieldwalking in the fields immediately north and south of the river produced only a background scatter of material largely comprising flint waste and two miscellaneous retouched pieces (CD94, Find no.109, SU 6073 9149, CD94, SU 6072 9152) from Field 0349. No ceramic material was recovered (Brooks, 1994 and Appendix 10).

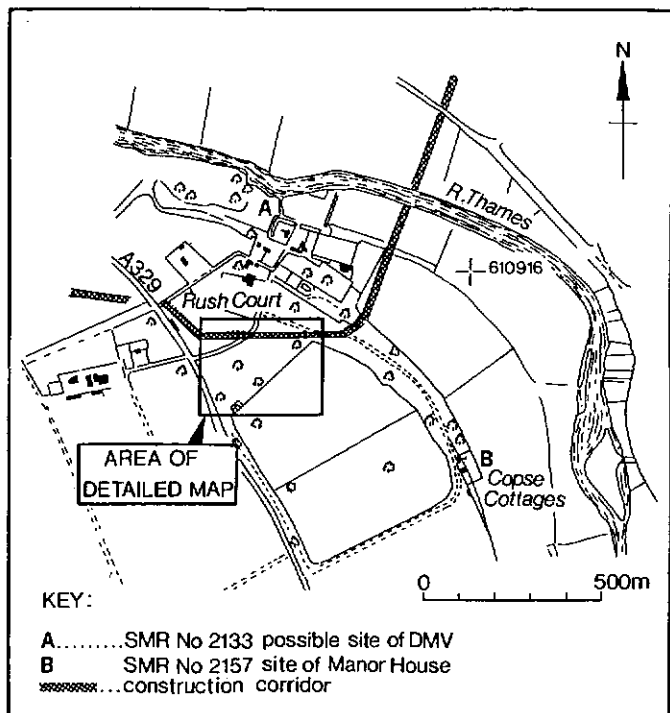
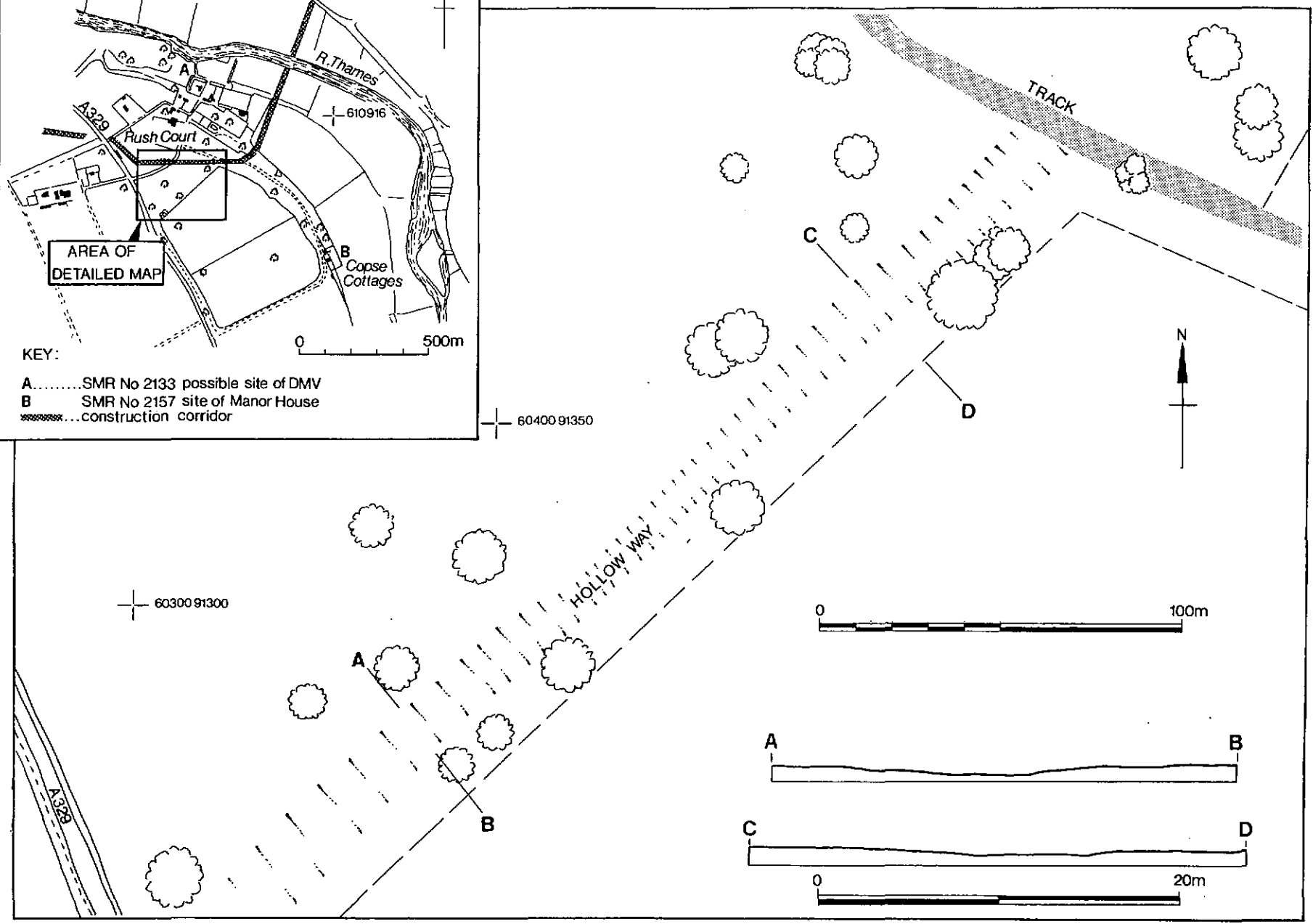


Fig.29
 Section 5: Investigations in the vicinity of Clapcot DMV
 and survey of hollow-way



11.5 Construction Methodology

The pipeline easement was topsoil stripped half by back-acter and half by bulldozer. The pipeline trenching was carried out by back-acters due to the unstable nature of the geology. The construction of pipe reception pits either side of the Thames for boring operations, and the insertion of piling equipment, were substantial and were also carried out by back-acters. The running sands and gravels meant that large batters were immediately put on the trench sides. Visibility in both areas of work was very poor and inspection was also restricted by health and safety regulations. The geology south of the Thames in the vicinity of Rush Court and the purported deserted medieval village site proved to be generally more stable, therefore battering of the trench sides was kept to a minimum, improving archaeological visibility.

11.6 Archaeological Methodology

This area was archaeologically sensitive due to the possibility of sites being preserved under alluvium and the potential for waterlogged deposits. The area around the flood plain was therefore monitored very closely during all stages of construction.

The topsoiling operations did not expose archaeological features north of the Thames. The material below the topsoil consisted of a deposit of fine sandy silt, apparently the product of periodic flooding. Several test pits were hand-dug into this material to a further depth of up to 0.20m, especially in the areas of the geophysical anomalies (Price, 1995, Area 1A). However, no traces of archaeology were revealed. During trenching and boring operations, the unstable nature of the geology in this area prevented more than photographic records and rudimentary descriptions. South of the Thames the surface anomalies (low mounds and hollows), within the easement at Rush Court were photographed prior to topsoiling operations. Archaeological visibility was less restricted during construction operations south of the river, allowing a more thorough investigation.

11.7 Archaeological Results

11.7.1 Parallel Ditches SU 6091 9203

North of the Thames, trenching and boring operations revealed two substantial parallel linear cut features on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig.39). Each feature had a flat-bottomed 'V' profile (contexts [530] and [532]) and measured c.4.5m in width and c.2m depth. Prior to trenching, the feature had been concealed beneath the flood deposits of fine sandy silt to a depth of up to 0.80m. The fills of each were of apparently similar composition to the flood deposits, the depth and instability of the section preventing cleaning and closer inspection. φ

These features are possibly the ditches which bordered the course of an early route-way, being on a similar alignment to two further segments of parallel features to the north-west at SU 599 927 and SU 602 925 (Fig. 39; Benson and Miles, 1974, 69, 71; SMR 8580).

11.7.2 Possible Location For the Deserted Medieval Village of Clapcot SMR 2133

No archaeology was present immediately south of the river, whilst the only feature to have been concealed beneath the pasture (Field 4337) consisted of a metalled track containing brick fragments (Fig.29). The metalled track ran east-west towards the entrance and was undoubtedly the large magnetic feature recorded during the geophysical survey. The visible make-up of the track was fairly recent. The surface anomalies within the pasture proved to be PRN
2133

the remains of rotted and/or removed tree stumps, the area having the appearance of having been landscaped. No artefacts were recovered.

It is clear from the investigations along the pipeline corridor that there was no evidence of the Deserted Medieval Village of Clapcot, as reported in the Domesday Survey and believed by many to have been located somewhere in this area. A hollow-way (context 516) was planned and profiled by Total Station survey to the south of the easement in Field 4337 (Fig.29). This was possibly associated with an earlier phase of the Rush Court complex.

11.8 Review

Despite the potential either side of the Thames for locating sites masked by alluvium, no new archaeological sites were discovered.

The magnetic pre-construction survey in the field north of the Thames produced one diagonal feature. This was revealed during trenching activities to equate to parallel ditches, possibly bounding an earlier route-way, and perhaps related to two further segments of parallel features located as cropmarks to the north-west.

The five magnetic features recorded in the same field running north-south and believed to relate to 'modern' drainage (Price, 1994) were not located during stripping or trenching activities and obviously the pipetrench did not cut them.

The geophysical disturbance located to the south of the Thames was revealed to be that of a metal track containing 'modern' brick.

To reiterate the majority of this Section lay under pasture but a very slight background scatter of flint was recovered.

The suggestion recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record that part of the deserted Medieval village of Clapcot lay in the construction corridor to the south of the Thames was not attested and therefore provided valuable negative evidence. Nevertheless a hollow-way was surveyed running to the south of the construction easement.

12. SECTION 6

12.1 Introduction

Section 6 was located between, the A329, Road Crossing 6 (SU 60128 9149) and Road Crossing 7 (SU 456938 92063), a distance of some 3.1km. The latter half of the Section ran between the two scheduled sites of Sinodun Hillfort (SU 5694 9244) and Brightwell Barrow (SU 5761 9190).

12.2 Geomorphology

The geology of this Section comprises soft grey marly chalk in marly clays with an increase in chalk and siltstone bands towards the latter of the Section (SU 60131 91464 - 58720 91791) where chalk then becomes more dominant (SU 58720 91791 - 57747 92094). A series of Greensand outcrops occur at SU 57747 92094 - 57678 92094 and SU 57514 92095 - 57427 92096. The remainder of Section 6 comprises a series of clay and chalk with chalk and siltstone bands (SU 57427 92096 - 55113 92438). The detailed geological field record taken from the pipetrench can be found in Appendix 7.

The topography of this Section begins at around 50m O.D. and rises up to 80m O.D. by the time it passes between Brightwell Barrow and Sinodun Hillfort.

12.3 Known Archaeological Sites

Several Sites and Monument Record listed 'sites' exist proximal to the pipeline easement (Appendix 9) and are summarised below:

- SU 5990 9132 (SMR 3117/3118). Two coins recovered.
- SU 5952 9189 (SMR 2926). Romano-British pottery found.
- SU 5827 9207 (SMR 8924). Supposed course of Dorchester to Silchester Roman road.
- SU 5841 9246 and SU 5833 9216 (SMR 2928). Romano-British pottery recovered from the supposed line of the Roman road.
- SU 5870 9300 (SU 5870 9300). Human bones recovered of unknown date.
- SU 5838 9252 (SMR 12305). A cropmark site consisting of a sub-rectangular enclosure.
- SU 5761 9190 (SMR 2936), (SAM 52). Brightwell barrow.
- SU 575 920 (SMR 1106) Cropmark "L" shaped cropmark feature; period and function unknown.
- SU 5744 9179 (SMR 8576). Cropmark feature, probable barrow site.
- SU 5755 9182 (SMR 5615). Cropmark features, probable ploughed out lynchets.
- SU 5725 9240 (SMR 5725 9240). Linear cropmark features, period and function unknown.
- SU 5710 9252 (SMR 13698). Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon burials buried at the foot of the rampart on the Eastern side of Sinodun Hillfort.
- SU 5693 9258 (11605). Bronze bracelet recovered.

- SU 5693 9267 (approximate location), (SMR 3157). Human remains located on the North side of Sinodun Hillfort, the precise location is not known.
- SU 5688 9260 (SMR 3163). Recovery of a Romano-British bracelet from the centre of the copse on Sinodun Hillfort.
- SU 3164 (SU 5671 9266). A small bronze awl recovered.
- SU 5658 9268 (SMR 3160/3161), Romano-British building and Iron Age hut site and associated pottery.
- SU 5670 9245 (SMR 15361) Linear cropmark features, period and function unknown.
- SU 5694 9244 (SMR 3153), (SAM 208). Iron Age Hillfort on Castle Hill

12.4 Pre-Construction Fieldwork

Several slight anomalies were located along the pipeline route;

A small linear magnetic anomaly of about 12m in length was recovered, running north-south at c.SU 5914 9170, Field 0055, (Price, 1995). b

A concentration of pottery and flint (see below), was recovered from the Field 0002 north of Brightwell Barrow and south of Sinodun Hillfort (SU 5827 9207 - 5723 9208). This included at least 35 probable prehistoric sherds, a high percentage having a calcined flint temper (Timby, this report, Part III). Of particular note is a decorated sherd (CD95 Find no.207, SU 57625 92979), the style of which suggests a Later Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date (Timby, 1995, 10, this report, Part III). The other finds in this field indicate Iron Age, Roman and Medieval activity.

For ease and accuracy during the 1995 fieldwalking the large Field 0005 was divided into three consecutive areas and labelled a (SU 5898 9169 - 5926 9163) and b (SU 5965 9155 - 5926 9163) and c (SU 5964 9155- 6011 9150) respectively from west to east.

A small concentration of lithic material was recovered from the eastern end of Field 0005c, running for about 150m along the pipeline corridor (SU 6100 9149 - SU 5997 95156). It comprises five flint waste flakes and chips and two tools; a borer/awl (CD95, Find no.74, SU 60046 91507) and an oblique arrowhead (Fig.42.1), broken at the tip (CD 95, Find no.77, SU 60066 91501). The arrowhead is attributed to the later Neolithic, c.3rd millennium BC (Bradley, this report, Part III). One waste flake was recovered from the 1994 fieldwalking (SU 5991 9151) and may be grouped with the above scatter (Brooks, 1994). A thin spread of lithic material was found in the remainder of this field and comprised several waste flakes and tools. The tools are a possible denticulate produced on a thermal blade (Fig.42.2), (CD95, Find no. 69, SU 59231 91639) and a possible scraper on an almost wholly cortical flake with irregular retouch across its distal end and possibly attributed to the Late Bronze Age period (CD95, Find no.70, SU 459542 91568), (Bradley, 7, this report, Part III).

A background scatter of material was found through the middle of this Section with several waste flakes being recovered and also a possible scraper (CD 95, Find no.128, SU 5924 9165).

A concentration of flint was recovered from Field 0002 (SU 5827 9207 -5723 9208), with a slightly denser concentration towards the east half of the field. It comprises forty-three waste pieces constituting a high percentage of un-retouched flakes. Seven tools were recovered; a miscellaneous retouched piece possibly a scraper (CD95, Find no.100, SU 58221 92093), a possible knife fragment (CD95, Find no.108, SU 58003 92094, Fig.42.4), a miscellaneous retouched piece (CD95, Find no.159, SU 58040 92086), a miscellaneous retouched piece, possibly a scraper (CD95, Find no.173, SU 58034 92093), an end and side scraper (CD95, Find no.222, SU 57394 92082, Fig.42.3) and a miscellaneous retouched piece (CD95, Find no.241, SU 57488 92109).

12.5 Construction Methodology

As a mitigation strategy due to the concentration of artefacts from Field 0002 and the latter's proximity to the two scheduled areas of Sinodun Hillfort and Brightwell Barrow this area was topsoiled stripped in advance by back-acter to afford a maximum watching-brief and to give maximum time for any resultant archaeology.

For the remainder of this Section the pipeline easement was topsoil stripped half by back-acter and half by bulldozer. The pipeline trenching was carried out by the Cleveland excavator and this provided good visibility within the pipetrench.

12.6 Archaeological Results

12.6.1 Drainage Features centred on SU 6004 9151

A series of inter-cutting drains were recorded at the beginning of this Section in field 0055, running for approximately 21m, seen in both sides of the pipetrench. Many of these features still contained pieces of drain. They were recorded to assign their origin in any resultant aerial photographic survey. P

12.6.2 Gully centred on SU 59092 91666 [425], (426) (Fig.30)

A feature was seen to run both sides of the pipetrench during trenching activities. In profile it had very steeply sloping sides before forming an almost 'V'-shaped base. It was deeper towards its western extreme with a width of 0.52m with a depth of 0.26m (Fig.30). The feature was aligned northeast-southwest and concealed by approximately 0.70m of mid-brown sandy clay. This layer could be seen for a considerable distance in the pipetrench, forming various 'pockets' and is postulated to be related to a now obsolete forested area (seen on the 1960's aerial photographs). The cut, context [425], contained (326), an homogenous dark brown black, loam containing abundant charcoal. This fill produced seventeen small Iron Age sherds, probably from the same vessel, and five fragments of fired clay. Biological remains included three indeterminate cereal grains, a small vetch or tare (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and a seed of blinks (*Montia fontanna*). Both these taxa can grow as weeds of disturbed ground (Gill Campbell, this report, Part III). P

Interpretation

This feature appears to be Iron Age in date but its function is unclear, possibly relating to a gully. It may well have been linear/curvilinear in form as a return was not apparent in the trench but this could have been removed through forestry activity in the area.

12.6.3 Series of Geological Features c. SU 57230 92080 - 57607 92100

A series of features with 'U'-shaped or irregular profiles was observed in the pipetrench running spasmodically in Field 0002 for about 440m. They ranged from 0.80m-2.60m in width, and in depth from 0.22m-0.60m. They did not appear to be archaeological in nature but their positions were noted (Geological Report, Appendix 7).

Several much larger geological anomalies were noted in this Section measuring up to 8m in width and 2m in depth, and located between SU 57093 92073 - 57073 92072 (see Geological Report, Appendix 7).

12.6.4 Area of Shallow Features SU 57710 92090 - 57640 92090 (Fig.32)

Eight features were recovered during the initial advanced topsoil stripping. An area covering approximately 70m revealed linear, curvilinear and circular features.

The majority of the linear and curvilinear features were shallow ranging from 0.10m to 1m depth and 0.50m to 1.00m in width; the length of [3] and [7] was indeterminate as they were seen to run into the southern bank. Feature [7] was sectioned in two places both had irregular profiles and rounded and flat bases. Feature [3] had in section a flat base with only the south-west side surviving at an angle of 45 degrees. The terminals of the two latter features were visible in the stripped area.

Two features ([20] and [22]), were annular in plan. In section their sides sloped at approximately 30 degrees, the inner side showing an 'under-cutting'. The other feature [24], appeared to be isolated. It was shallow, 0.30m, in width and ran for 2.m. The fills of all the above features were similar consisting of homogenous grey-brown silty clays.

Three circular features were also recorded. In profile the larger of these, [1], had almost vertical sides. It was excavated to a depth of 0.50m and had a diameter of 1.2m, the fill comprising again of grey-brown silty clay with abundant chalk mottling. Circular feature [5], situated at the western extreme of the investigated area, was 0.72 m in diameter and only 0.13m in depth. Its section revealed a feature with gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. The homogenous fill, (6), consisted of a dark-brown clay. Circular feature [66] was cut into the eastern side of the linear feature [7] and survived to a maximum depth of 0.37m with a diameter of 0.29m, the homogenous fill consisted of a dark brown silty clay with frequent chalk mottling. No finds were recovered from any of the excavated features.

Interpretation

The topsoil over the entire area was extremely shallow with the sub-soil in places showing evidence of plough-scoring. The features had therefore obviously suffered from plough damage and any less substantial features would have not survived. The linear features [7] and [3] appear to have been archaeological, whilst due to the unusual characteristics of [20] and [22], it is assumed that they were product of animal activity.

Circular feature [1] is possibly an unlined well, the local farmer having mentioned the existence of wells in the area. Feature [5] may be the remains of a pit, whilst [66], a small circular feature, had the appearance of a post-hole.

No date was ascertained for the above 'site'. It is possible in such cases for 'sites' only to survive in the ploughsoil. Indeed the fieldwalking of this area yielded a high percentage of prehistoric and Roman-British artefacts.

12.6.5 Purported Roman Road SU 5827 9207 (Fig.31)

The purported course of the Roman road (SMR 8924), which the pipeline trench crossed at SU 5827 9207 did not appear in the trench throughout the intensive watching-brief in this area. All neighbouring tracks and boundaries were inspected but no trace of this route was evident. The area of this supposed 'road' was nevertheless photographed for future reference.

12.6.6 ?Ditch centred on, SU 57006 92066 [437], (440), (441) and (442) (Fig.33)

HN 3153

This probable ditch was seen in both sides of the pipetrench, located some 200 m to the south of Castle Hill and some 60m from Road Crossing 7, (Wittenham Lane). In profile [437] had a very wide 'U'-shaped cut with its east slope falling to about 60 degrees and the west slope being slightly stepped before falling to a rounded base. It was cut into natural chalk and had a width of 9.50m and a depth of 2.10m. The feature contained three distinctive fills, the primary one (442), comprising of c.0.60m dark brown silty clay with the occasional pebble and seemed to have been natural silting. The middle c.0.80m fill (441), comprised of mid-olive brown compact silty clay, with the occasional flint pebble. The upper fill (440), had a maximum depth of 0.80m and comprised a compact mid-brown silty clay (20/80%) with occasional frequent chalk flecks and moderate flint pebbles (up to 0.03m), and the occasional sandy mottle. This fill contained prehistoric body sherds, eight pig bone fragments and one flint fragment. The feature was not identified during topsoil stripping as the it lay beneath contaminated 'overburden'.

Interpretation

It is postulated that the above feature is a ditch and may be of prehistoric origin. Several friable calcined tempered bodysherds, possibly of Iron Age date were recovered from the upper fill. The ditch was not clear visible on aerial photographic research (Appendix 8), but the photographed showed a lot of background 'noise'. The feature lies in a very 'busy' archaeological landscape close to Castle Hill with its associated activity areas to the north (identified in the SMR above), and Brightwell Barrow and a set of possible lynchets to the east. Certainly, this feature was very substantial and must have afforded great time for its construction, thus suggesting it served an important function.

12.6.7 Flint Artefacts (530+) (SU 58000 92100)

An unstratified single platform blade core was recovered from this Construction Section (Fig.43.7).

12.7 Review

Fieldwalking: The fieldwalking results reiterate the palimpsest of human activity within this area, particularly in Field 0002 with its concentration of pottery, particularly prehistoric, and lithic material. The fieldwalking artefacts may be seen as important, due to the poor survival of the topsoil and the subsequent erosion of features, they may be the only remaining indicator of human activity.

Geophysical Survey: The small linear magnetic anomaly recorded at c.SU 5914 9170, Field 0055, was not located in either the topsoiling stripping or the construction pipetrench (Price, 1995).

General Discussion

This Construction Section produced a series of probable prehistoric features, notably at the start of the Section with the masked ?prehistoric gully [425], and at the end with the very substantial feature [437], containing prehistoric pottery. The fieldwalking finds also allude to prehistoric activity which are seen predominantly to exist only in the ploughsoil context.

The purported Roman road was not attested to anywhere within the pipeline stripping or trenching activities.

The various undatable features recovered from the advanced topsoil stripping show the possible destruction of 'sites' by agricultural and natural erosive processes and the ultimate importance of fieldwalking.

Fig.30 Section 6: location and pipetrench section of prehistoric gully

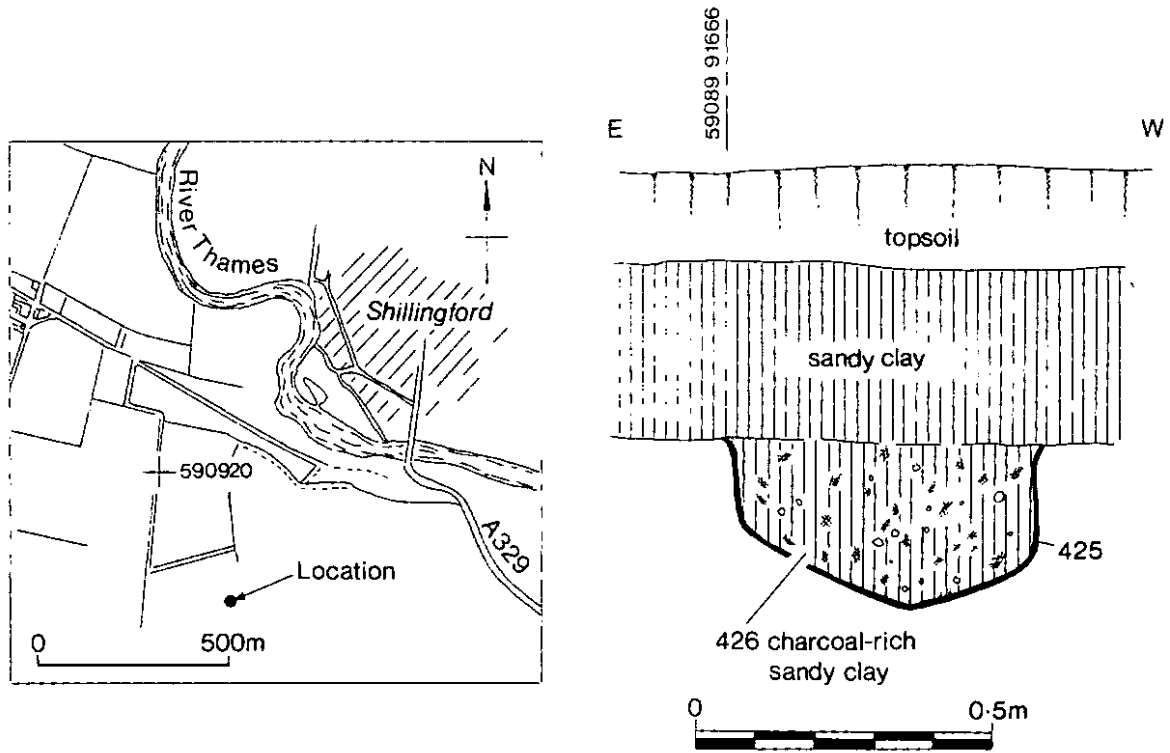


Fig.31 Section 6: areas of archaeological investigations along the construction corridor south of Castle Hill and SMR listed sites

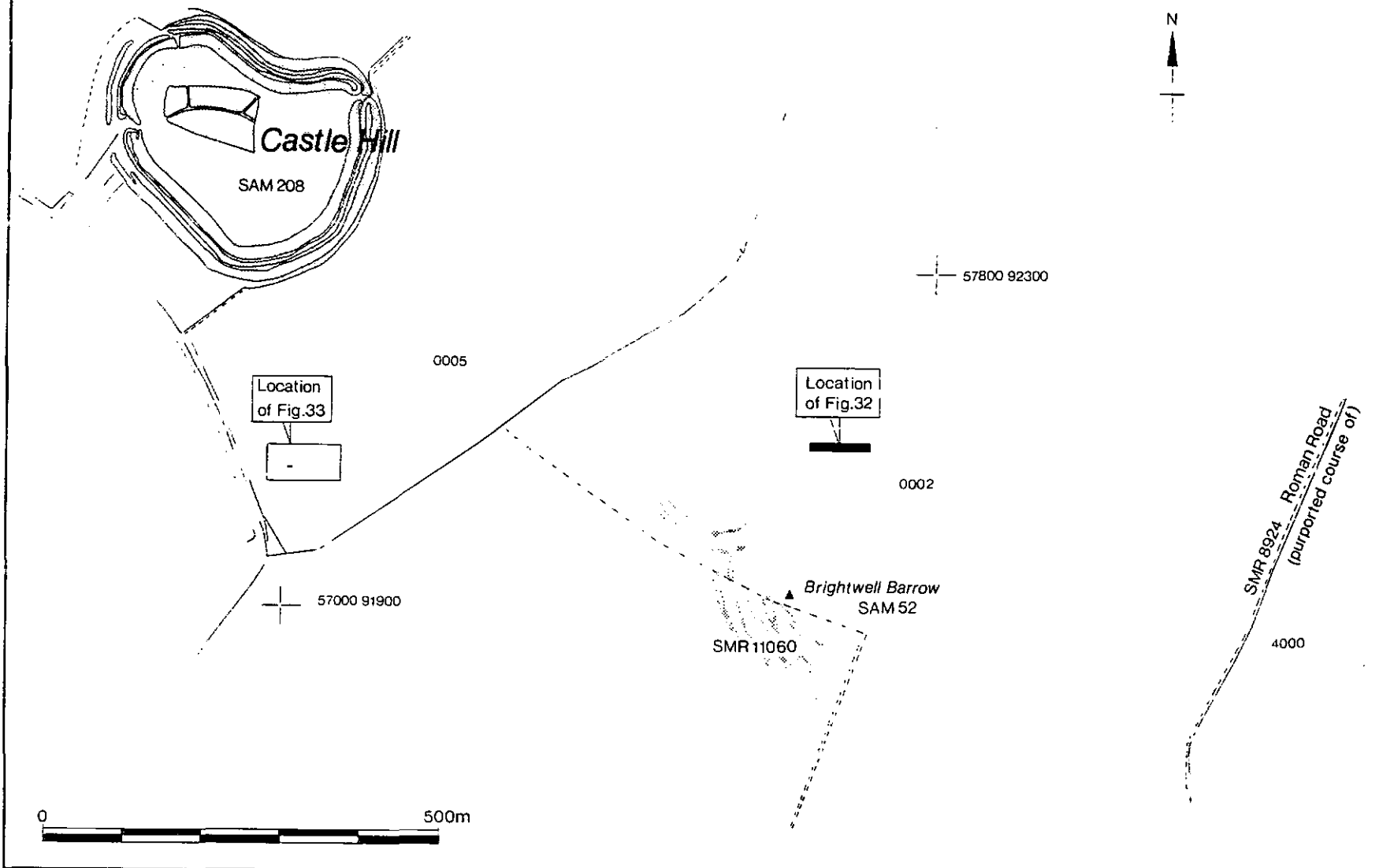
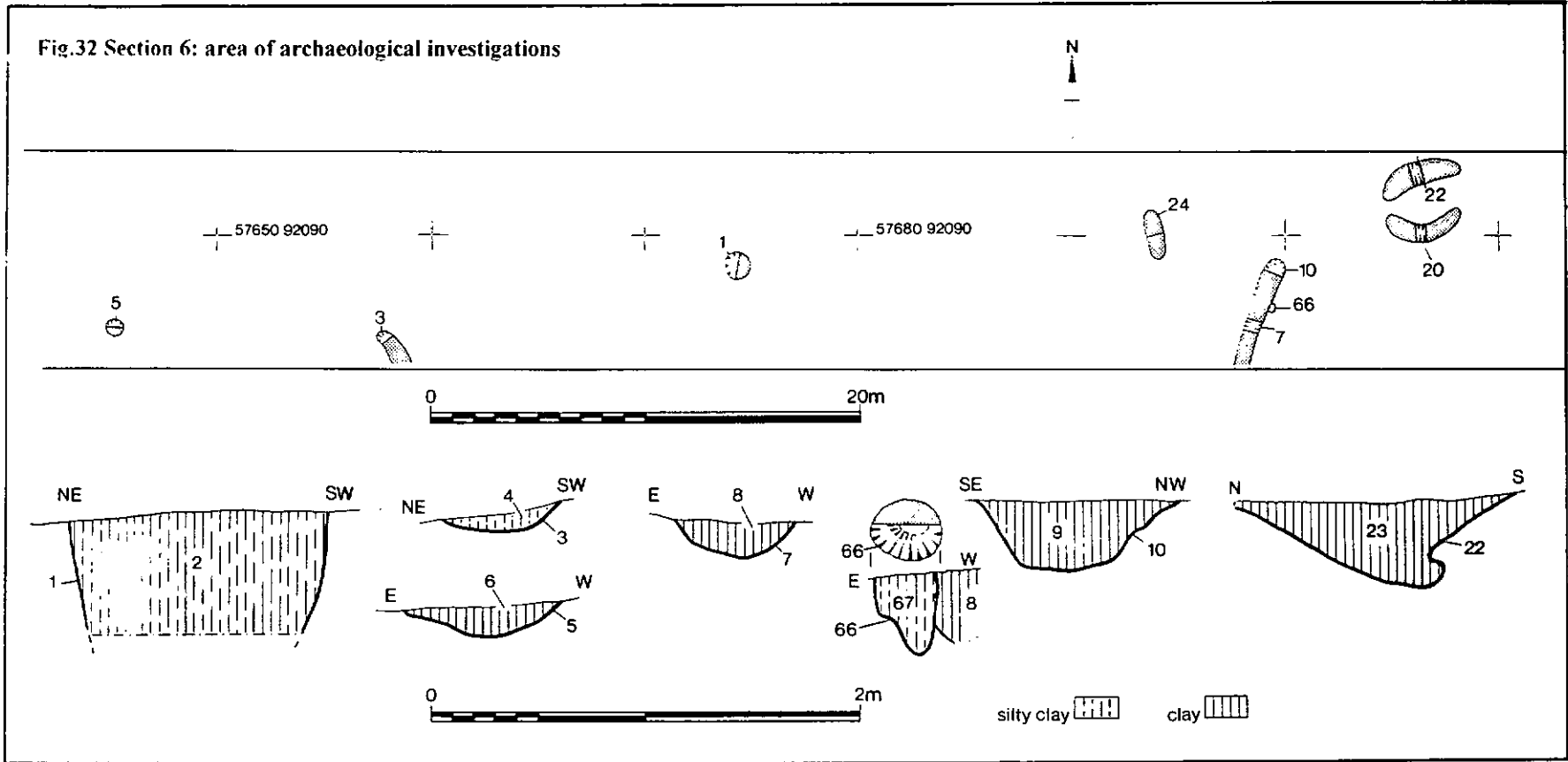


Fig.32 Section 6: area of archaeological investigations



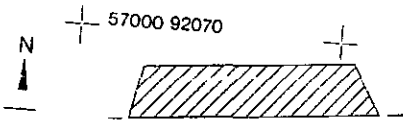
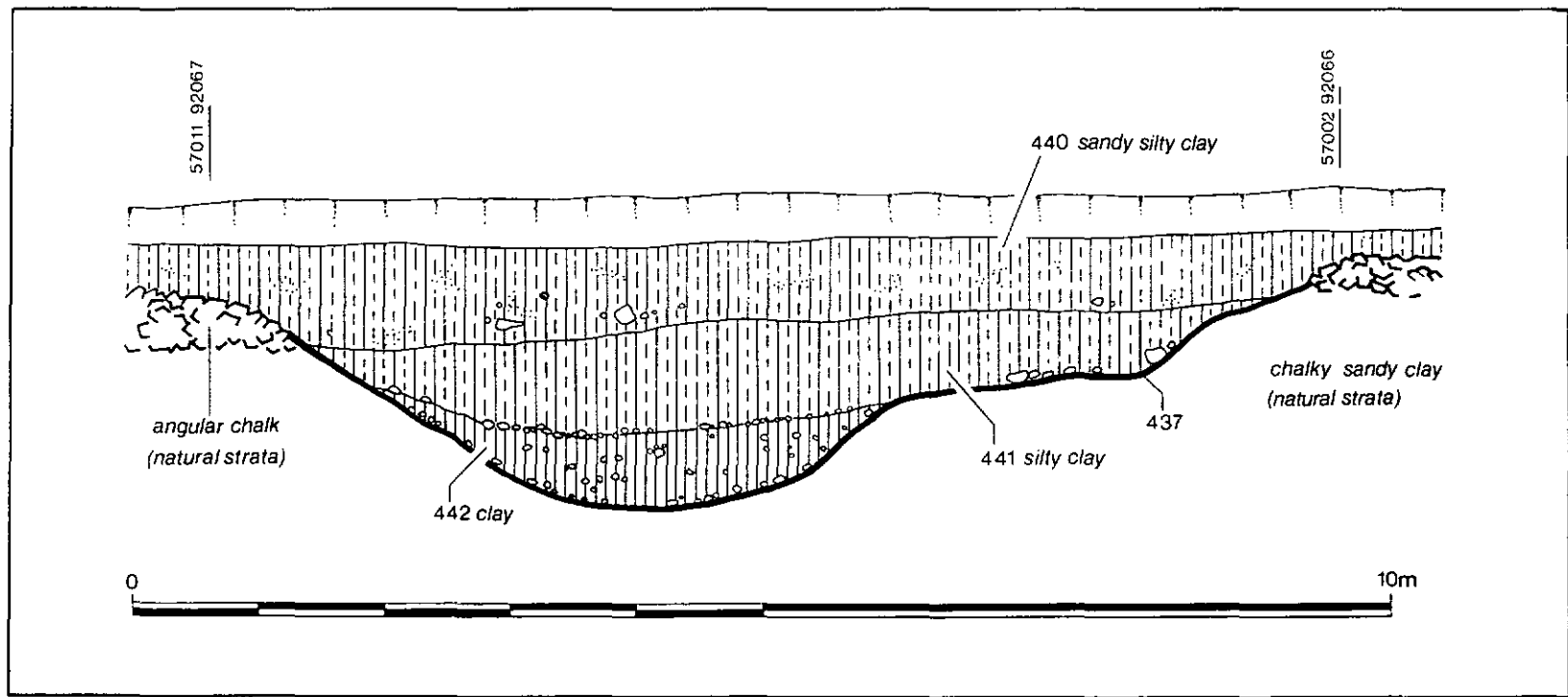


Fig.33 Section 6: pipetrench section through prehistoric ditch south of Castle Hill



13. SECTION 7

13.1 Introduction

Section 7 was located between Wittenham Lane, Road Crossing 7 (SU 456938 92063) and Road Crossing 8 (SU 55104 92436), a distance of some 1.5km.

13.2 Geomorphology

The geology of this Section comprises of Gault Clay with occasional siltstone bands (SU 56940 92063 - 55113 92438). A detailed geological field record taken from the pipetrench can be found in Appendix 7.

The topography of this Section begins at around 80m O.D. and falls to about 60m O.D.

13.3 Known Archaeological Sites

Several Sites and Monument Record listed 'sites' exist proximal to the pipeline easement (Appendix 9) and are summarised below:

- SU 5670 9140 (SMR 15359). Cropmark feature forming a possible enclosure whose period and function is unknown.
- SU 5623 9262 SMR (3159). Saxon remains found in 1877.
- SU 5623 9262 (SMR 3158). Two large cut stones and two small Roman cups and an iron lampstand were recovered.
- SU 5633 9239 (SMR 3154). Bronze Age pottery sherds recovered.
- SU 5632 9240 (SMR 3155). Romano-British pottery sherds recovered.
- SU 5630 9240 (SMR 15360). Linear feature cropmarks whose period and function are unknown.
- SU 5561 9529 (SMR 8529). Part excavated cropmark complex comprising Bronze Age ring ditch, possible henge and barrow site.
- SU 5675 9275 (SMR 15362). Cropmark enclosure feature whose period and function is unknown.

13.4 Pre-Construction Fieldwork

Several slight anomalies were located along the pipeline route:

The first field in this Section, Field 7800 (SU 456938 92063 - 55968 92194), was subjected to a detailed geophysical survey which resulted in no significant anomalies (Price, 1994).

The remainder of this Section was subjected to a geophysical scan, again resulting in no significant anomalies (*ibid.*).

1992-1993 Field Survey Results

Previous detailed fieldwalking in the northern extent of Field 7800 (centred on, SU 5670 9215), produced a high artefact density of Romano-British and prehistoric material (Appendix 11). This information led to a re-routing of the line.

PPW
26095

The ceramics from the above survey were examined by P.Booth of the Oxford Archaeological Unit, (Catherall *et al*, 1995 and Appendix 11), his findings are summarised below:

The above concentration consisted of 965 artefacts. The pottery equating to 700 sherds, some of which were very eroded. Of these 691 could be identified and were assigned to the following periods; prehistoric (Bronze Age/Iron Age)- 461, Roman-174, ?Anglo-Saxon 1, Medieval 47 and Post-Medieval 8. Only one significant piece of Roman tile, belonging to a *tegula* flange was noted. The prehistoric concentration has provided important evidence for activity in the area, especially when one regards its close proximity to Sinodun Hillfort. The Early Roman concentration of material in the north-west side of this field suggests it may be connected with an area of Roman settlement sampled by Rhodes in 1948 who noted *tegulae*, loose *tesserae*, pottery and painted plaster (Rhodes, 20, 1948).

26095
A concentration of flint from the 1992-3 fieldwalking season analysed by I. Brooks (in Catherall *et al*, 1995), was recovered from the area around Sinodun Hillfort. Another density was noted in Field 0005 (Bradley, this report, Part III and Catherall *et al*, 1995), and in Field 7800 (*op.cit.*). The assemblage, comprising of 138 flakes, 21 tools, 14 cores and worked lumps, was seen to contain elements from the Early Neolithic to the Middle Bronze Age, although the majority of the assemblage was ascribed to the Early to Middle Bronze Age (*op.cit.*).

1994 and 1995 Field Survey Results

Fieldwalking of the new pipeline corridor within Field 7800 in Section 7, a distance of some 980m, produced a concentration of material of at least 40 sherds from Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval periods. The majority of the prehistoric material appears to be Iron Age (Timby, this report, Part III). This area also produced a concentration of 37 flint waste pieces comprising largely of un-retouched flakes.

The remainder of this Section lay under pasture at the time of the fieldwalking surveys and therefore produced no finds, except for the last field which was walked which produced a single Romano-British sherd (Field 2446, SU 55218 92429). ϕ

A series of upstanding ridge and furrow was located in Field 7251 centred on SU 55850 92350 ϕ

13.5 Construction Methodology

The pipeline easement was topsoil stripped half by back-acter and half by bulldozer. The pipeline trenching was carried out by the Cleveland excavator. Visibility within this Section was therefore good.

13.6 Archaeological Results

13.6.1 Furrow SU 56900 92060 - 56400 92060

Remnant ridge and furrow were evident after initial topsoil stripping running for approximately 500m in Field 7800. They were aligned approximately north- south, the relict furrows spaced between 5 to 10m apart and became fainter in the west of the field before dying out. They were approximately 1m in width. ϕ

13.6.2 ?Ditch centred on SU 56119 92147

A feature aligned approximately north-south, was recorded running both sides of the pipetrench. In profile the east west section of [449], had irregular sloping sides and a flat base. Its width was 2.60m and depth 0.90m. The homogenous fill (450), consisted a mid-grey clay with occasional sandy mottle, chalk fleck and large flint.

13.6.3 ?Ditch centred on SU 56632 92056

A probable ditch [451], running both sides of the pipetrench, aligned north-north-east to south-south-west was recorded. In section it was irregular with sloping sides and falling to an undulating almost pointed base. The dimensions of this profile attained to a width of 2.10m and a depth of 0.60m. The fill (450), was homogenous comprising of grey-brown sandy clay with a moderate amount of small pebbles, flints and the occasional chalk fleck.

Interpretation

Both the above features appeared of similar form and both had similar homogenous fills. The position of the feature [451], correlates to a grubbed out field boundary (Fig. 40), located on an aerial photograph (Appendix 8). It is possible that feature [449] had similar origins.

13.6.4 Post-Medieval Building 2, centred on SU 55330 92380

Feature [507] was revealed during topsoil stripping and comprised of a rectilinear brick wall foundation with dimensions of 6.00 length and 4.00m width. The rubble from the building contained several post-medieval and 'modern' sherds and several pieces of clay pipe stem (508).

13.6.5 'Modern' Track SU 55280 92400

Approximately 15m to the west of building [507] and probably associated with it, was a track. This was seen on topsoil stripping running the course of the easement, on a north-south alignment, and revealed in the pipetrench to be a single layer of limestone cobbles.

13.7 Review

The concentration of fieldwalked material from the 1992-93 field survey (Catherall *et al*, 1995), suggests the existence of a Romano-British site located in the northern sector of Field 7800, possibly associated with the one investigated by Rhodes in 1948. It also highlights extensive prehistoric activity in the form of pottery and flint. The re-route of the pipeline to the final construction route some 200m to the south produced less of a concentration.

The collection of both lithic and ceramics from Field 7800 recovered from the pipeline route and the lack of related features within the construction corridor suggests that the ceramic part of the assemblage is possibly the product of agricultural activity, the finds coming from a 'site' in the vicinity. This 'site' seems to be located more towards the north of the pipeline construction area, where the artefact collection rate was higher (Catherall *et al* 1995). The concentration of flint recovered from the length of Field 7800 suggests prehistoric activity in this area possibly only surviving within the ploughsoil. The recovery of artefacts from this Section is not surprising when you regard this information in context, in that Sinodun Hillfort, Brightwell Barrow lie in the vicinity.

In addition to the concentration of fieldwalked artefacts the construction phase produced a series of possible field boundaries and both relict and upstanding ridge and furrow.

14. SECTION 8

14.1 Introduction

Section 8 was located between the B4016, Lady Grove, Road Crossing 8 (SU 55104 92436) and Road Crossing 9 (SU 53904 92171), a distance of some 1.15km.

14.2 Geomorphology

The geology of this section comprises of Gault Clays (SU 55113 92438 - 53904 92172). The detailed geological field record taken from the pipetrench can be found in Appendix 7.

The topography throughout this Section lies at around 60m O.D.

14.3 Known Archaeological Sites

Several Sites and Monument Record listed 'sites' exist proximal to the pipeline easement (Appendix 9) and are summarised below:

- SU 548 922 (SMR 9327). A round scraper of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age type was found.
- SU 542 927 (SMR 8516). Cropmark rectilinear enclosure features, possibly forming strips within an open field system.
- SU 613 913 (SMR 1254). Post-Medieval lock.
- SU 540 919 (SMR 7944). Reported Romano-British pottery and foundations.
- SU 5425 9350 (SMR 2383). Ten Anglo-Saxon burials and associated burial goods recovered. found 0.25 mile West of Free Acre Anglo-Saxon cemetery in 1862.
- SU 5406 9232 - SU 5420 9233 (SMR 2384). Early Iron Age site.

14.4 Pre-Construction Fieldwork

No anomalies features were recognised along the pipeline route;

The magnetic scanning produced no anomalous features (Price, 1994).

The pre-construction fieldwalking survey produced no concentrations of material, although the majority of this section lay under pasture (Brooks 1994 and Appendix 10). Fieldwalking in 1995 (Appendix 10), produced a flint borer (Fig.42.5), from Field 3900 (CD95 Find no.248, SU 52760 92248).

14.5 Construction Methodology

The pipeline easement was topsoil stripped half by back-acter and half by bulldozer. The pipeline trenching was carried out by the Cleveland excavator for the first half of the section and then replaced by a series of back-acter excavators for the latter half due to the wet ground conditions and unstable nature of the trenches. Visibility was therefore poor in the latter half of the Section. Archaeological visibility was hindered in the latter half of this section during the topsoil stripping of Field 0011 (SU 54232 92240 - 53904 9217), directly negative of Road Crossing 9. This field contained upstanding ridge and furrow, detailed below, the topsoiling of which was not executed to the base of the furrows and thereby masked any resultant archaeology.

14.6 Archaeological Results

14.6.1 Ridge and Furrow SU 54232 92240 - 53904 9217, [518]

Field 3900 (SU 54508 92300 - 54232 92240), contained ephemeral upstanding ridge and furrow faintly visible before topsoil removal on a north-west to south-east alignment. The width of these features were approximately 8m apart and survived to a depth of 0.20m, when visible in the pipetrench. φ

Field 0011 (SU 54232 92240 - 53904 9217) contained upstanding ridge and furrow on a north-south alignment. The average width of the features was 7m and they were seen to a depth of 0.50m in the pipetrench. As detailed earlier topsoil stripping was not carried out to the base of the furrows.

14.6.2 'Modern' Well SU 54550 92310, [514]

A 'modern' well was half sectioned during trenching. The feature was brick-lined with 'modern' bricks having a diameter of c. 1.50m and depth of c. 1.80m.

14.7 Review

The potentially archaeological sensitive area around the Early Iron Age site, located only 110m from pipeline centreline (SMR 2384, SU 5406 9232 - 5420 9233), does not appear to have extend as far south as the pipeline corridor. No features were located in this area during trenching activities. φ

The aerial photographic coverage indicates that the ridge and furrow encountered forms part of a more extensive medieval field system (Fig.41).

15. SECTION 9

15.1 Introduction

Section 9 was located between the B4016, Lady Grove, Road Crossing 9, (SU 53904 9217) and Road Crossing 10 at (SU 52375 92157), a distance of some 1.5km, which included the railway.

15.2 Geomorphology

The geology of this Section consists of Gault Clays (SU 53904 92172 - 52988 92134) and very mixed Gault Clay with recurrent sand and gravel pockets (SU 52988 92134 - 52353 92153). The detailed geological field record taken from the pipetrench can be found in Appendix 7.

The topography lies at around 60m O.D. throughout this Section.

15.3 Known Archaeological Sites

Several Sites and Monument Record listed 'sites' exist proximal to the pipeline easement (Appendix 9) and are summarised below:

- SU 5379 9245 (SMR 2382). Bronze Age/Iron Age cremations and Possible Roman skeletons.
- SU 5379 9245 (SMR 2385). Roman skeletons and associated pottery and coins.
- SU 5320 9215 (SMR 2861). Linear cropmarks whose function and period is unknown.
- SU 5345 9280 (SMR 11608). Cropmark site whose period and function is unknown.
- SU 523 997 (SMR 3156). Late Medieval iron spearhead found.
- SU 535 925 (SMR 8492). Cropmark site whose period and function is unknown.
- SU 5358 9147 (SMR 7674). Saxon pottery recovered.

15.4 Pre-Construction Fieldwork

No detectable anomalies were located along the pipeline route;

The geophysical scanning of this Section produced no anomalous features (Price, 1995).

Fieldwalking produced no artefacts but it must be stressed that the majority of the Section lay under pasture (Brooks 1995 and Appendix 10).

15.5 Construction Methodology

The pipeline easement was topsoil stripped half by back-acter and half by bulldozer. The pipeline trenching was carried out predominantly by the Cleveland with the last third being executed by a series of back-acters due to the running sands and gravels.

15.6 Archaeological Results

15.6.1 Possible Romano-British Ditches, centred on SU 53546 92188 (Fig.34)

At least three probable linear features ([281], [283], [277]), aligned north-north-east to south-south-west were recovered during the digging of a 'dummy ditch', and were seen in both sides of the pipetrench. They appeared sealed beneath a layer of a mid grey-brown clay (287), which ran for distance of c.11m at a depth of c.0.40m; the divisions between the fills of the features (dark brown clay) and this layer were unclear. The most easterly feature [281], had gradual sloping sides and a rounded base; [283] had steep sloping sides (the west side almost vertical, the eastern more gradual) which both fell to a rounded base. The widths of these features were between 0.78m and 0.85m. A single bodysherd of Romano-British greyware was recovered from the section (fill 278).

Interpretation. The date of the features is only putatively suggested as the sherd may be intrusive, similarly their function is indeterminate. It is worth noting that aerial photographic survey which includes a part of a redundant field system in this location, reveals the area to be prone to seasonal inundation (Appendix 8 and Fig.41). Indeed, layer (287) may be the result of such processes. It is notable that Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the adjacent field to the west during construction; from a ditch [455] some 280m away (SU 53060 92140) and as an unstratified surface scatter (529).

15.6.2 Possible Romano-British Ditches, centred on SU 53062 92140 (Fig.35)

Two flat-bottomed features, probably ditches, were revealed in the pipetrench containing two distinct fills. Ditch [455] had a width of 0.5m and a depth of 0.8m, with sides inclined at c.40 degrees. The primary fill (459), comprised dark grey compact silty clay, and the upper fill (460), dark brown to dark green compact clay. No finds were recovered. Feature [458] had a width of 3.1m and a depth of 0.84m, the sides stepped and irregular. The primary fill (456), comprised a dark grey clay whilst the upper fill (457), a dark brown to dark green sandy clay. Two rim sherds of Romano-British greyware were recovered from the upper fill.

Interpretation. As with the ditches discussed above (15.6.2), a Romano-British date is only tentatively suggested as the sherds may be intrusive. Similarly, functions remains indeterminate.

15.6.3 Cobbled Area [509], centred on SU 53020 92126 and Post-Medieval/'Modern' Building 1 [510], centred on 53025 92110 (Fig.36)

A cobbled area [509], was seen in both plan after topsoil stripping and in section It comprised a single layer of limestone cobbles, which ran into the baulk, measuring 9m by 4.5m where visible, and with a maximum depth of c.0.40m. It appears to have been related to a low rectilinear mound [510], lying 11m to the east, just outside the pipeline corridor.

Interpretation

The earthwork did not appear of great antiquity as concrete and 'modern' brick littered the surface. The features appear to be a small building, probably agricultural, and cobbled yard.

15.6.4 Ditch, SU 52430 92060

A large linear feature, aligned north-south was recorded in both sides of the pipetrench. In section it was 'U'-shaped, having steep sloping sides and a rounded base [453]. The width was

c.4m and depth 2.50m. It contained (454) which comprised a dark brown-grey silty clay with a moderate amount of stones.

Interpretation

The feature was aligned to and only 5m from the existing railway line, it is therefore probable that it was related to the construction of the embankment of the railway. Linear features following the course of the railway were noted on aerial photographs (Appendix 8, Fig.41).

15.6.5 Cropmarks

The linear cropmark features, (SMR 2861), located at SU 5320 9215 were not apparent during topsoil stripping or trenching activities, even though visibility was good.

15.7 Review

This Section has produced signs of Romano-British activity, but whether the sherds were recovered from features of the same date is uncertain. Various linear cropmarks are recorded in the vicinity (SMR 2861), but these were not attested in the pipetrench; the geology however, was seen to be of an inconsistent nature, alternating between clays and sand and gravel pockets (Appendix. 7).

Fig.34 Section 9: possible Romano-British ditches

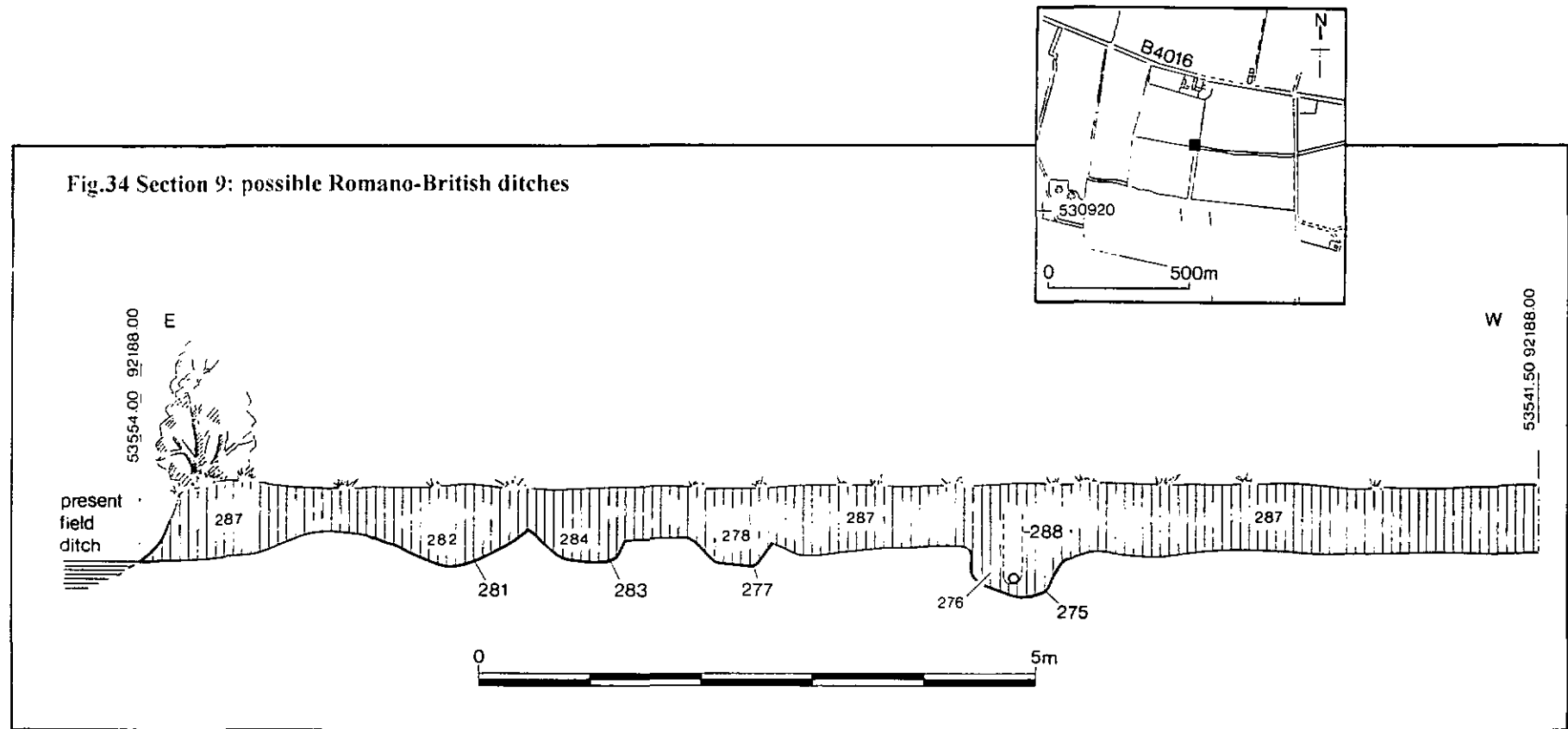


Fig.35 Section 9: possible Romano-British ditches

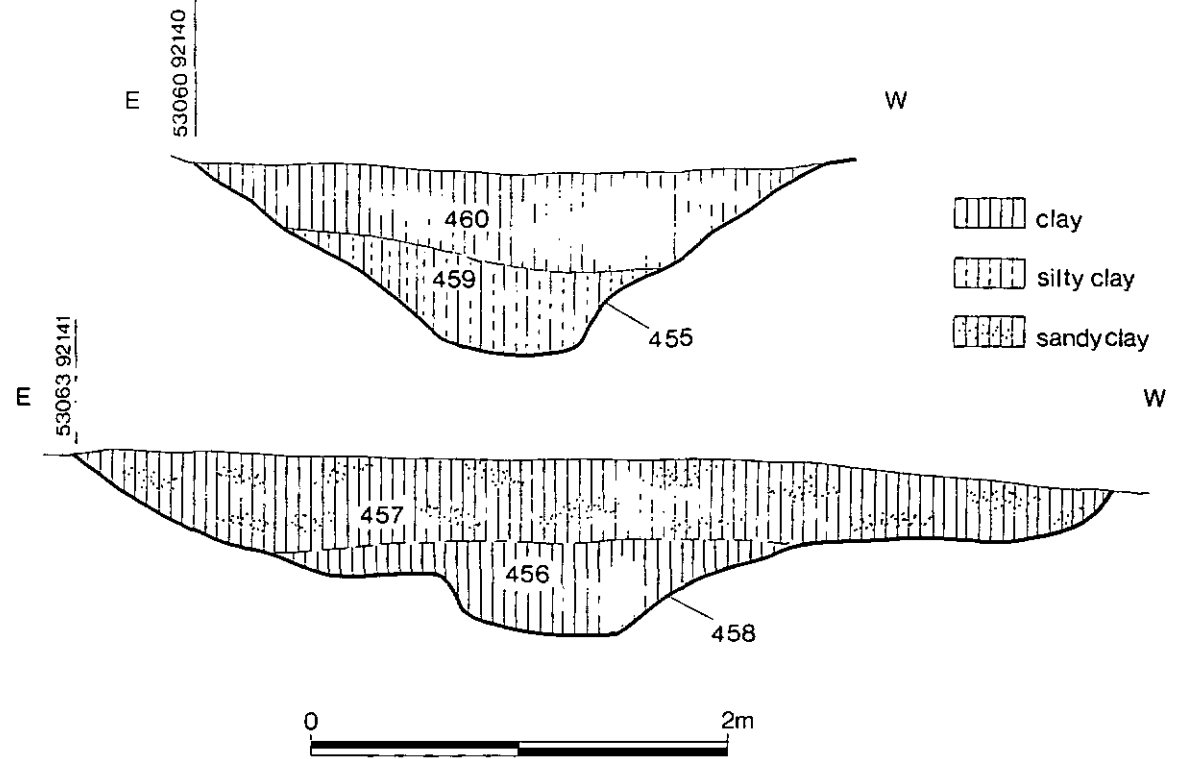
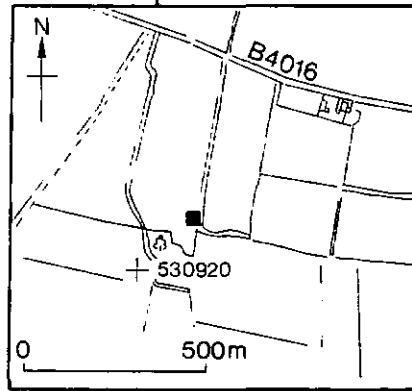
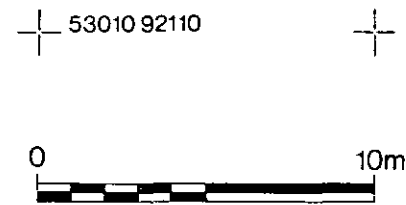
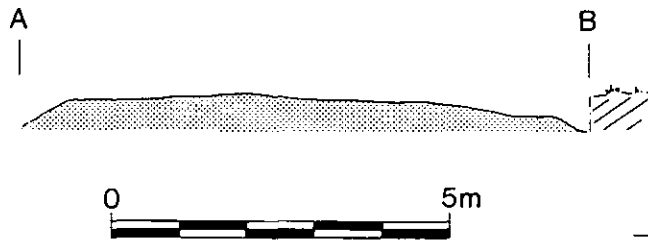
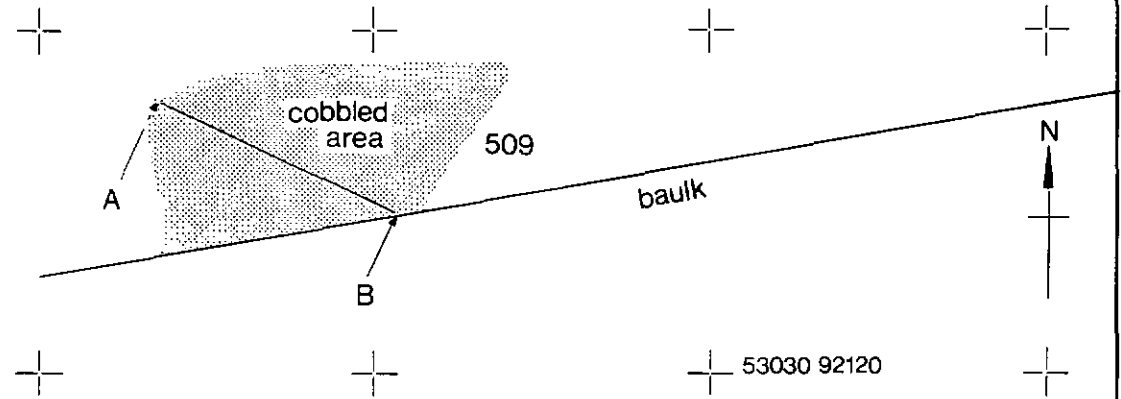
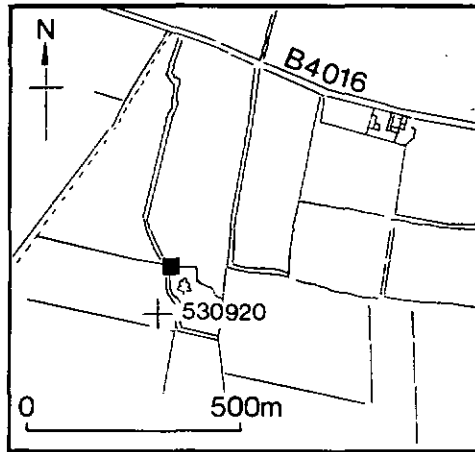


Fig.36 Section 9: post-medieval features



16. SECTION 10

16.1 Introduction

Section 10 was located between Road Crossing 10 (SU 52375 92157), and Road Crossing 11 (SU 52261 92135), a distance of some 110m and comprised of a single field.

16.2 Geomorphology

The geology in this section consists of Gault Clays with recurrent sand and gravel pockets (SU 52462 92162 - 52272 92137). The detailed geological field record taken from the pipetrench can be found in Appendix 7.

The topography lies at around 60m O.D.

16.3 Known Archaeological Sites

A Sites and Monument Record listed 'sites' exist proximal to the pipeline easement (Appendix 9) and is summarised below:

- SU 5198 9198, (centred on), (SMR 2838). Cropmarks of doubtful archaeological significance, possibly geological.

16.4 Pre-Construction Fieldwork

No magnetic anomalies were recorded during magnetic scanning (Price, 1994).

The pre-construction fieldwalking recovered no finds as this area was under pasture at the time of survey (Brooks 1994 and Appendix 10).

16.5 Construction Methodology

The pipeline easement was topsoil stripped half by back-acter and half by bulldozer. Trenching was carried out by a back-acter excavator.

16.6 Archaeological Results

No archaeological features were identified.

16.6.1 Cropmarks *deleted* *noted* ✓

The pipeline route passed through a cropmarked area detailed on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR's 2861 and 2838). No features could be identified during topsoil stripping but the inspection of the pre-construction drainage trench highlighted dramatic changes in the geology, which was seen again in the pipeline trench. The geology comprised of Gault Clays with recurrent running sand and gravel pockets. The cropmarks therefore appear to be geological in nature.

16.6.2 Modern Feature

Pylon Base [513] c.SU 52285 92130

16.7 Review

The investigations revealed no archaeological features but provided valuable negative evidence.

17. SECTION 11

17.1 Introduction

Section 11 was located between Road Crossing 11 (SU 52261 92135) and Didcot Power Station (SU 51141 92350), a distance of some 1.35km.

17.2 Geomorphology

The geology in this section consists of Gault Clays with recurrent sand and gravel pockets (SU 52272 92137 - 50885 92438). The detailed geological field record taken from the pipetrench can be found in Appendix 7.

The topography lies at around 60m O.D. throughout this Section.

17.3 Background

Several Sites and Monument Record listed 'sites' exists proximal to the pipeline easement;

- SU 5198 9198, centred on (SMR 2838). Cropmarks of doubtful archaeological significance, possibly geological.
- SU 5158 9200 (SMR 7664). Three mammoth molars recovered.
- SU 5039 9264 (SMR 2538), Cropmark features showing a probable Romano-British enclosure site and a hut and field system.

17.4 Pre-Construction Fieldwork

The magnetic scanning produced no anomalous results (Price, 1994).

The pre-construction fieldwalking produced no finds (Brooks, 1994 and Appendix 10).

17.5 Construction Methodology

The pipeline easement was topsoil-stripped half by back-acter and half by bulldozer. Trenching was carried out by the Cleveland excavator up to c.SU 51500 92270. The corridor, prior to entering the power station, was re-routed in the final stages, thus being constructed outside the power station to the north in an area which was not topsoiled (SU 51700 92400). Due to the existing gravel workings and an existing gas main (SU 5182 9220 -5114 9235), trenching was carried out by back-acters.

17.6 Archaeological Results

17.6.1 Cropmarks

The pipeline route passed through a cropmarked area detailed on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR 2838). No features were identified during the topsoil stripping and inspection of the pipeline trench revealed geology comprising Gault Clays with recurrent running sand and gravel pockets. The cropmarks therefore appear to be geological in nature. A number of these were drawn and photographed for future reference (Appendix 7).

17.6.2 Modern Feature centred on SU 52720 92160

A modern dump of material [512] was noted and included 'modern' bricks, car parts and 'modern' pottery, covering an area of approximately 2m square.

17.6.3 Ditches, centred on, SU 51500 92270

Features [476], [479] and [480], were aligned north-south and had steep sides and flattish bases and filled with gravelly grey-brown silts. The features are considered to be related to relict ridge and furrow and associated field ditches noted on aerial photographs (Fig.41 and Appendix 8).

17.7 Review

As with the previous Section, the investigations, revealed few archaeological features but noted a dramatic geological changes which seem to relate to crop and soilmarks in the SMR.

18. DISCUSSION

The Chalgrove to Didcot Pipeline Project has generated valuable archaeological information to deepen the knowledge and understanding of the region. Previously 'unknown' sites of significance were discovered, both in the course of field survey (with relevant actions being taken), and during the construction phase.

One corollary of the field observations and records is the information they present to the important research area which concerns the relationships between archaeological subsoil features and non-invasive survey methods.

In addition, the value of 'negative' evidence is emphasised by the decision to record geological changes and anomalies (not always thought to be the task of the archaeologist), along the route. This was carried out in order to reduce the possibilities of misinterpretation of cropmarks and soilmarks by future aerial photographic researchers.

The Prehistoric Period

The extensive pattern of prehistoric settlement in the Thames Valley was apparent both in the planning and field survey stages of the project and in the final construction phase. Lithics were recovered from the majority of the pipeline route with slightly denser concentrations on the valley floor and around Castle Hill. There was an absence from Sections 8 onwards but most of the fields here were under pasture. In general, a Neolithic or Bronze Age date was suggested for the material recovered, the majority apparently derived from local river gravel resources. Of the worked pieces, the scrapers appear to conform generally to a Bronze Age date: one finely worked piece (C-D94/69) may be Early Bronze Age with the rest possibly Mid-Late Bronze Age. The only firmly datable find recovered was the Late Neolithic oblique arrowhead from the beginning of Section 6. Potentially earlier Neolithic flintwork was thinly distributed along the pipeline but did become slightly more abundant in the eastern part.

The features recovered in Section 1, notably the Middle-Bronze Age cremation site, the prehistoric post-ring structure and the possibly associated chalk-filled ditch, highlight a previously unknown area of activity. This area was only sampled, and from soilmark evidence the site is potentially much more extensive. The Middle-Bronze Age cremation urn gives important distribution evidence for Deverel-Rimbury type assemblages, a greater number increasingly discovered outside the traditional core area.

Iron Age settlement was encountered in Section 4 where pits, post-holes and ditches were located. It is considered that the pits in Block C could be associated with weaving activities.

Further prehistoric evidence was encountered in Section 6 which produced a gully of possible Iron Age date, which again suggests the possibility of more extensive settlement within the vicinity.

The environs of Castle Hill (the end of Section 6 and beginning of Section 7), is a very important area for archaeological study, as no Oxfordshire hillforts have yet been excavated on any large scale, and so, little is known about detailed chronologies or indeed their more precise functions, in contrast with the extensively excavated area of Wessex (Cunliffe, 1984). The fieldwalking around the hillfort showed this to be an archaeologically 'busy' area

producing important activity evidence only visible in the ploughsoil context. If large ditch [437] located only 200m from the hillfort, does indeed belong to the Iron Age, then it will have further added new and important evidence for the study of this landscape.

The Roman Period

The main concentrations of features were located under arable land on the valley floor south-west of Berrick Salome, and approximately 3.5m south-east of the Roman settlement of Dorchester-on-Thames. The archaeology encountered in this area seemed to be characteristic of rural settlement and consisted of ditches, gullies and possibly pits and post-holes. At least one group of ditches (Block F, Fig.23) was substantial enough to infer an enclosure and it is possible that the site (or sites) is associated with a large rectilinear enclosure 1km to the south which has been identified from aerial photographs (Benson and Miles, 1974, 71). The finds comprised pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone. The pottery, for the most part, indicates that much of the activity took place around the mid 3rd to late 4th centuries. The presence of earlier Roman pottery (2nd to 3rd centuries) and residual Iron Age pottery, together with Iron Age features within the excavated areas, suggests that the location was recognised as a desirable location for settlement for a considerable length of time. Continuation of settlement, however could not be inferred from the archaeology recovered.

Signs of Romano-British activity were recorded elsewhere along the easement, either as surface scatters of pottery or as occasional sherds. In Section 1, low density concentrations of pottery may suggest Roman manuring practices (Appendix 10). The 1992 re-route was moved away from a high density concentration of Romano-British pottery and ceramic building material in Field 7800, immediately west of Castle Hill (SU 5694 9244) following detailed survey (see Catherall *et al*, 1995). The concentrations may indicate the presence of a substantial Roman building in the vicinity. Further fieldwalking on the re-route in the same field produced a general background scatter of pottery which may be the product of agricultural activity. Towards Didcot in Section 9, infrequent surface finds and occasional sherds from linear features (Fig.34, SU 53548 92188 and Fig.35, SU 5306 92141) may similarly be indicative of Roman farming activity in the locality.

Further evidence for a Roman presence in Section 1 comes from both the place-name '*strael*' possibly suggesting the location of a Roman road somewhere in the vicinity, and the reported discovery of a Roman vessel in the 1950's from a field approximately 500m to the south-east at Bushy Leaze (SMR. 2300).

Construction of the pipeline produced no traces of the Silchester to Dorchester Roman road at its suggested location (SMR 8924, SU 5827 9207) or in the environs.

The Post-Roman Period

During the course of the archaeological investigations, indications of past activity, which could be ascribed to the early Medieval settlement of the region proved to be negative. This apparent absence of evidence, however, does not preclude the later re-usage patterns of existing agricultural land divisions which may often mask traces of early settlement. Difficulties are faced when trying to establish the earliest date for a repeatedly re-cut field dike which is still in use today, and for which early cartographic information is lacking. It has been demonstrated from a combination of aerial photographic research and fieldwork, that by the early medieval period in the area between Sutton Courtenay and Dorchester at least, there was a complete

abandonment of many elements of what had comprised the Romano-British landscape, the land only to be used again for agricultural purposes (Hinchliffe and Thomas, 1980, 111).

The many villages which border the route taken by the pipeline (Fig.1) are of doubtless considerable antiquity, whilst the evidence of abandoned villages provide further information of the distribution character of medieval settlement in the region. Evidence for medieval farming practices is ubiquitous throughout the area, showing up as cropmarks and soilmarks on aerial photographs, especially in the areas of lighter valley soils which are still arable today (e.g. Figs.38 and 41), or remaining upstanding to a greater or lesser degree in the areas of more heavier soils, now under pasture, such as to the west of Sinodun Hills (see Sections 8 and 9). The pipeline corridor encountered the remains of rig and furrow along much of its course (much of the better, upstanding examples were surveyed and later re-instated). It also passed within the purported reaches of the Domesday-listed, and now 'deserted', village of Clapcot, south of the Thames in the vicinity of Rush Court (Fig.29). The latter construction area presented the unique and valuable opportunity to prove or disprove any surviving settlement evidence in this area.

Of the post-medieval period the construction phase revealed the remains of two buildings (in Sections 8 and 9), one possibly associated with a 'track', the other associated with a cobbled surface. A ditch probably related to the construction of the railway was revealed running parallel to the latter in Section 9.

The route also encountered a number of undatable features, a high proportion of these probably related to agricultural processes, i.e. extinct field boundaries and dykes with a percentage of these having been seen on aerial photographs and old maps.

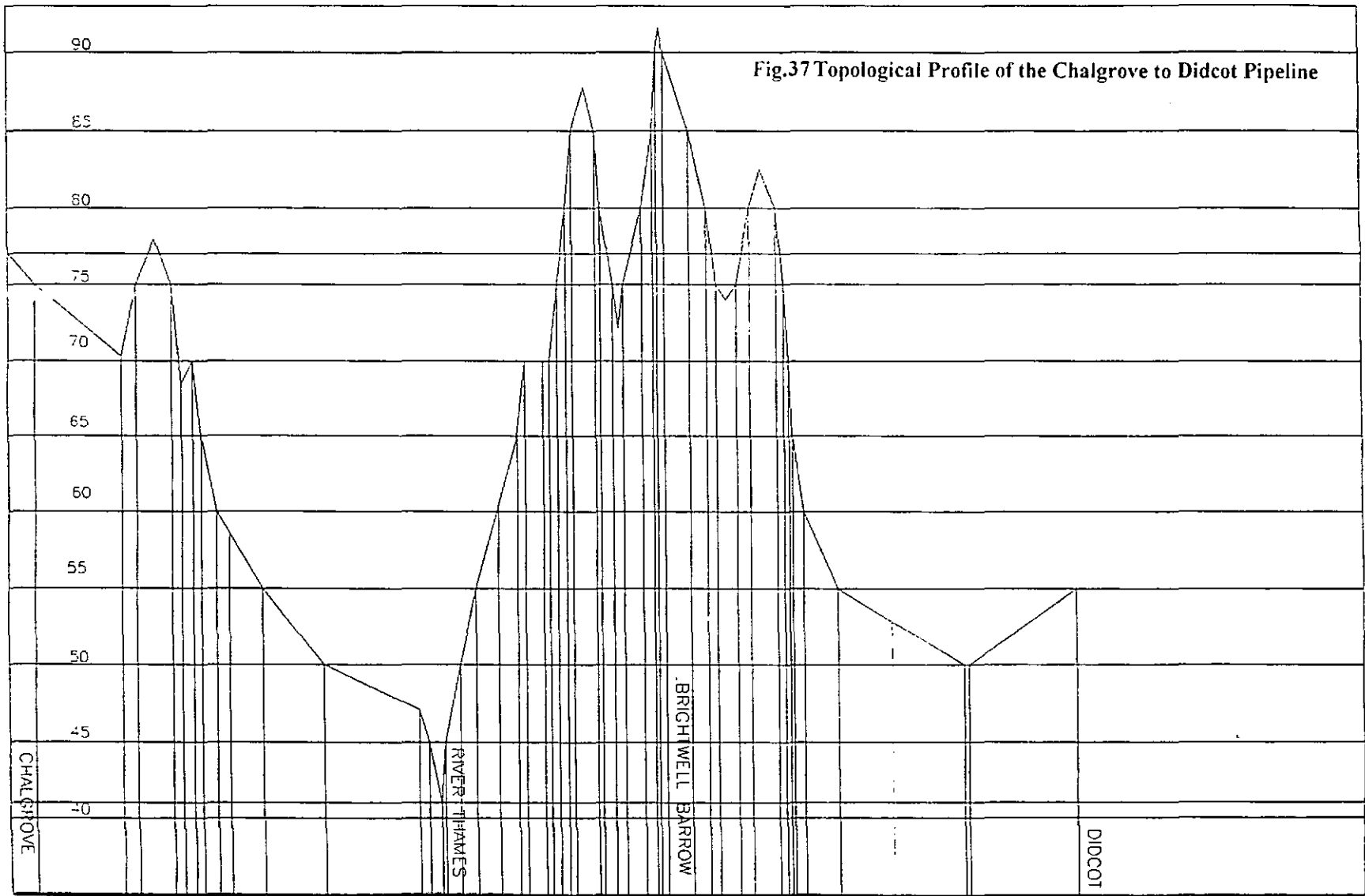


Fig.37 Topological Profile of the Chalgrove to Didcot Pipeline

0 17.5km

Fig.38
Features transcribed from aerial photographs
in environs of Section 1

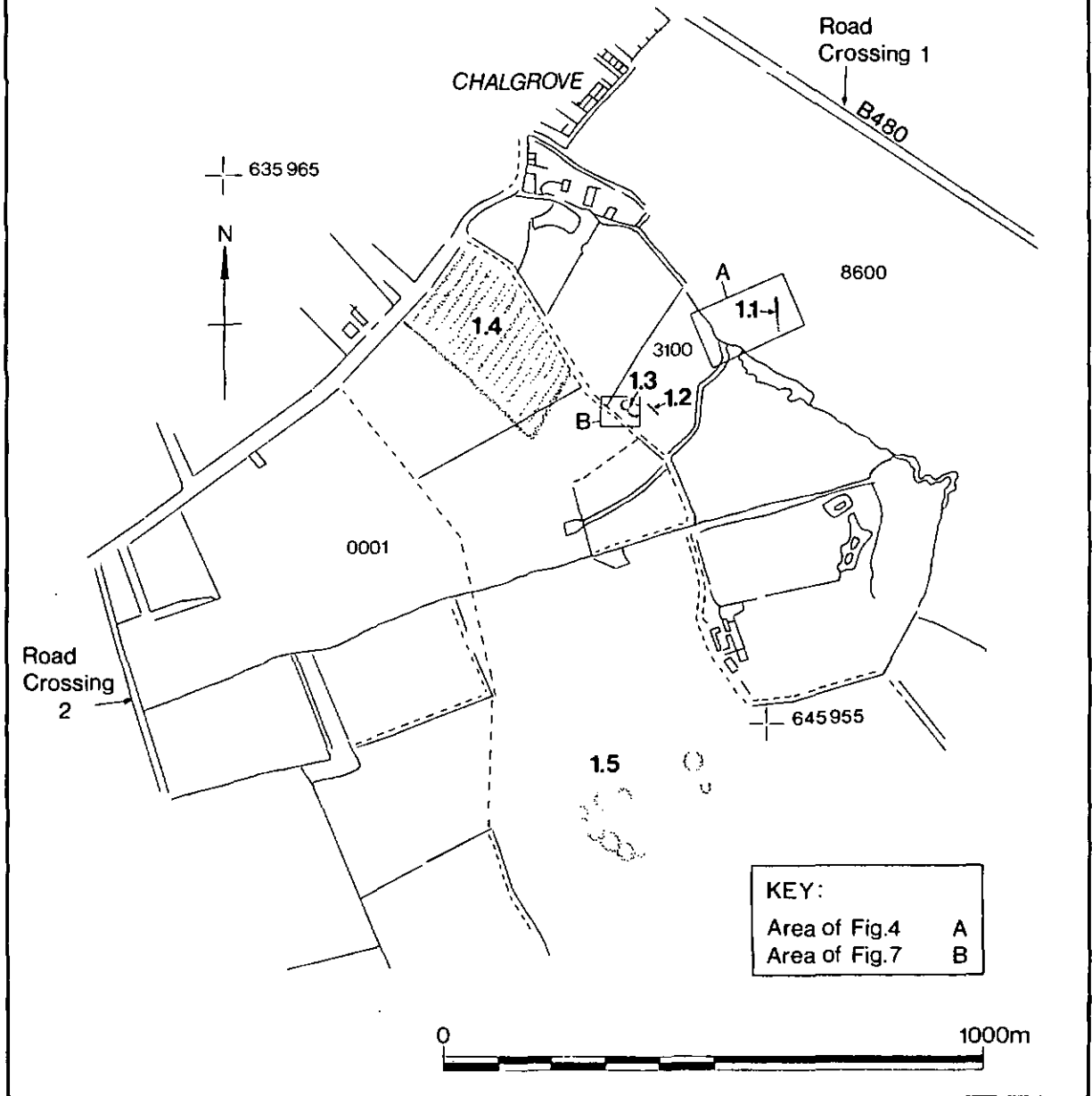
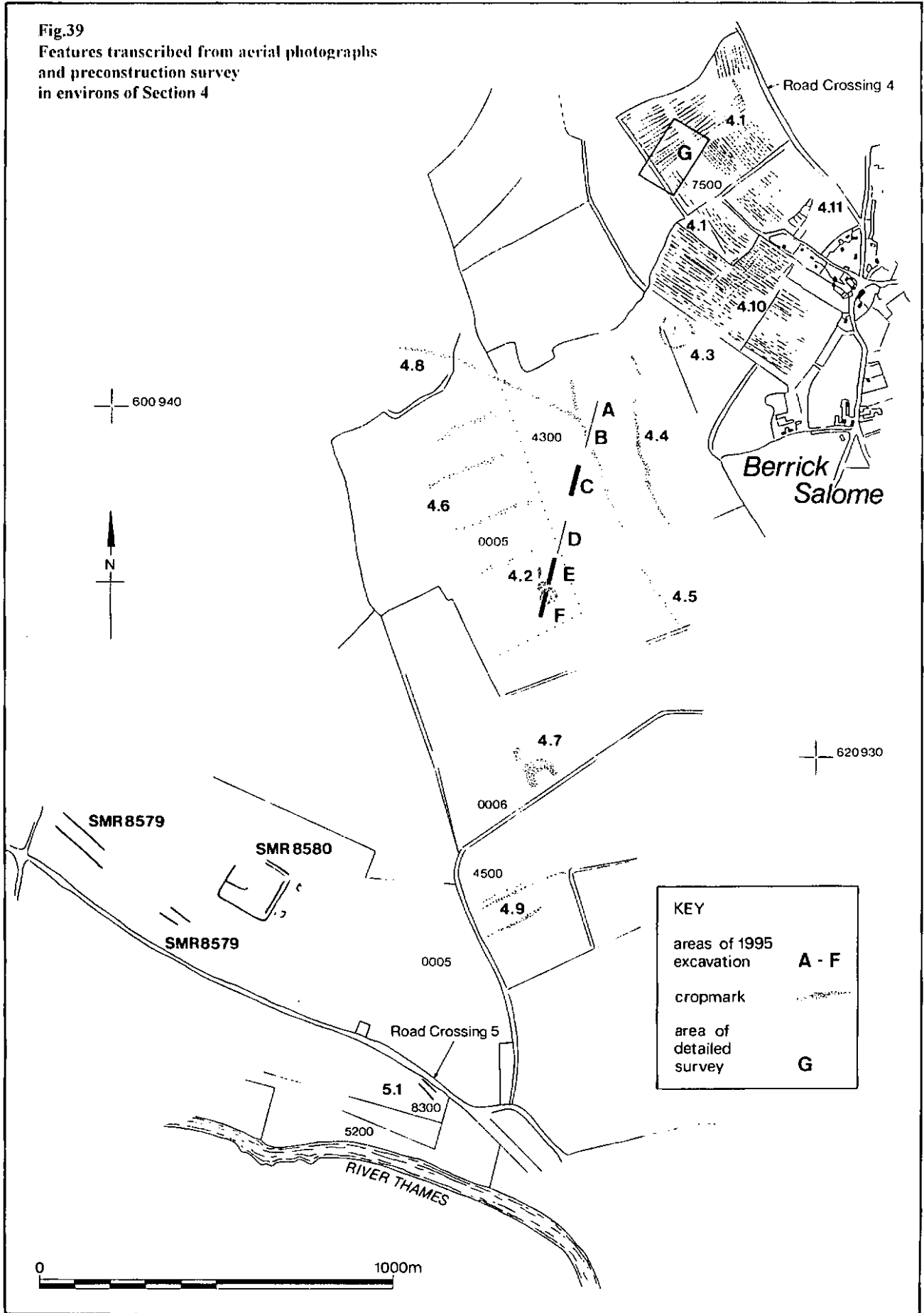


Fig.39
Features transcribed from aerial photographs
and preconstruction survey
in environs of Section 4




KEY	
areas of 1995 excavation	A - F
cropmark	
area of detailed survey	G

Fig.40 Features transcribed from aerial photographs in environs of Section 6

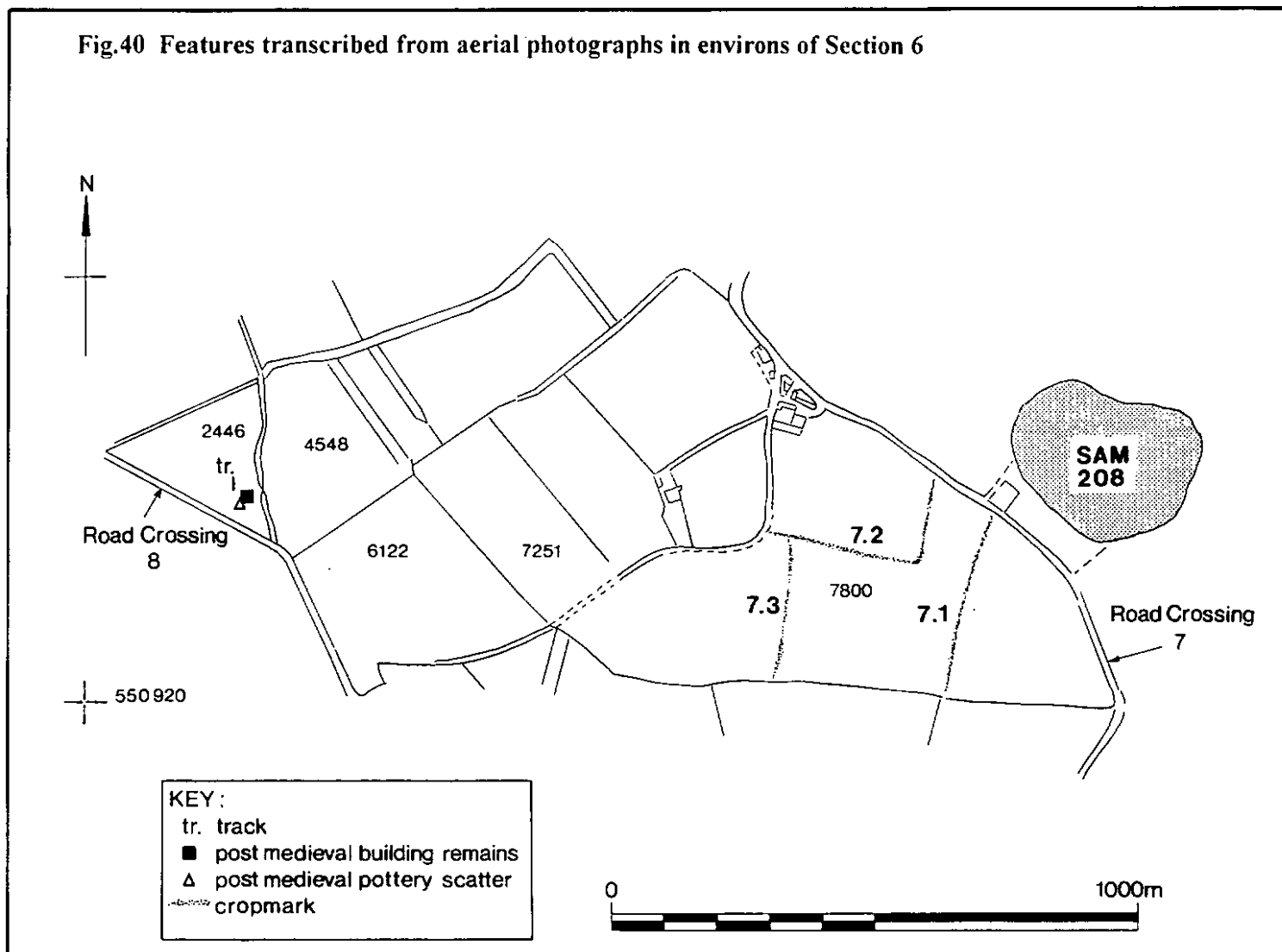
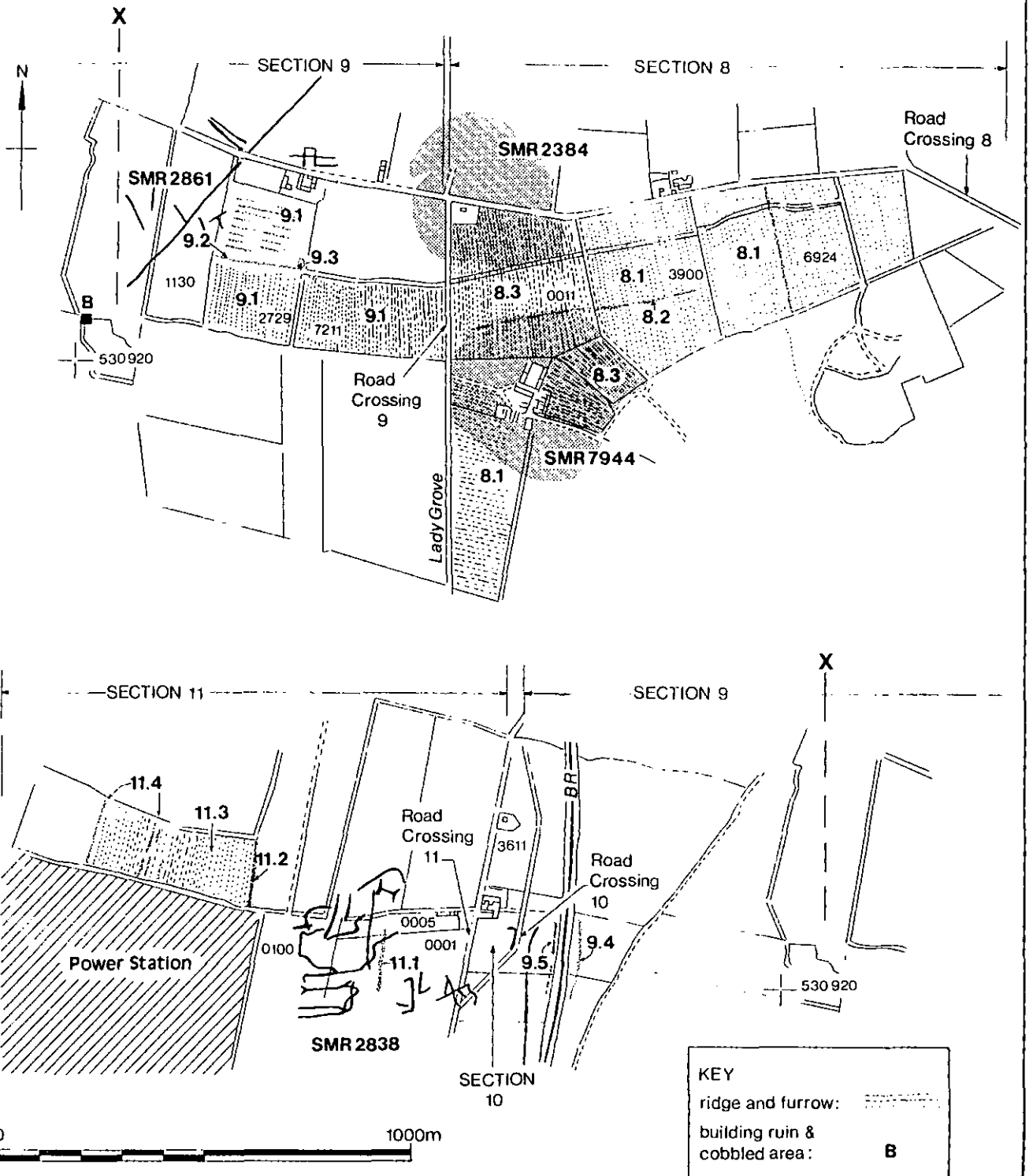


Fig.41
 Features transcribed from aerial photographs
 in environs of Sections 8, 9, 10 and 11



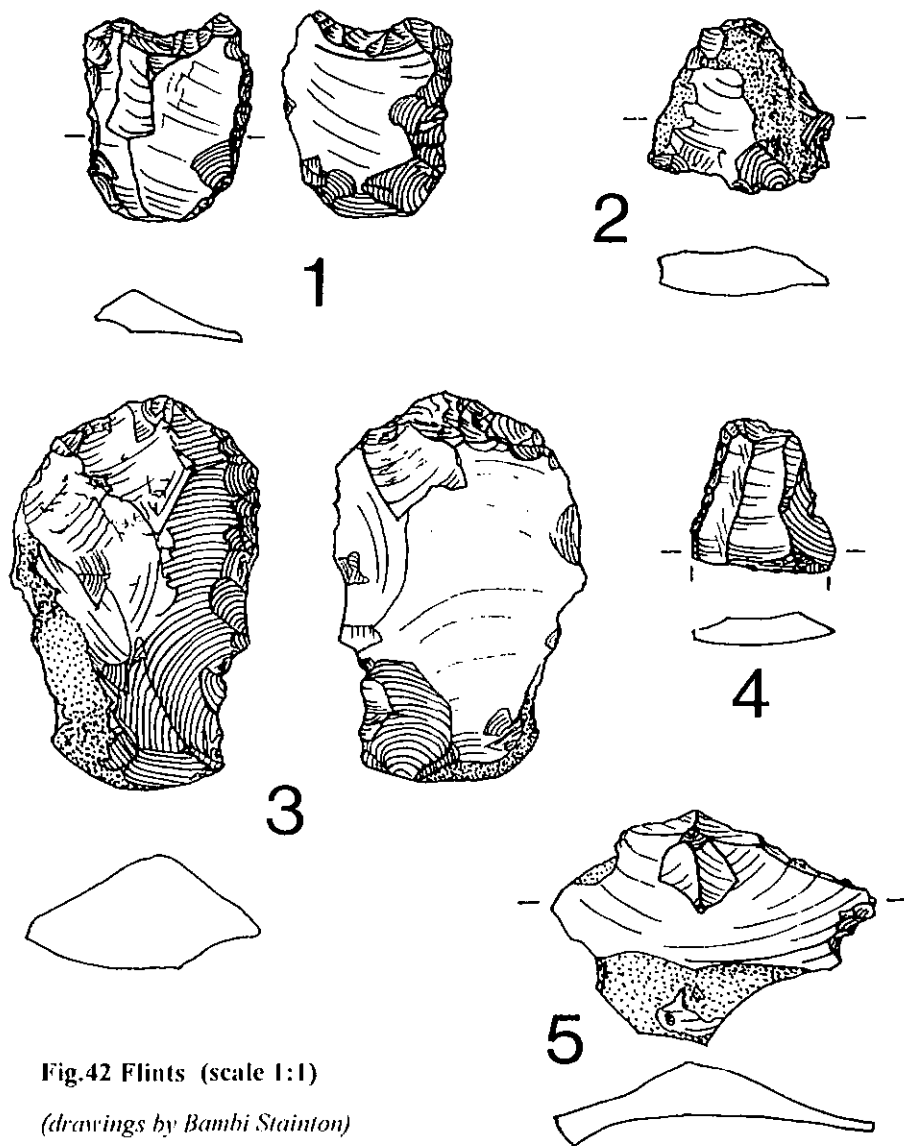


Fig.42 Flints (scale 1:1)
(drawings by Bambi Stainton)

1. Oblique arrowhead (C-D 95, Section 6, Field 0055, Find #77);
2. Denticulate on a thermal blank (C-D 95, Section 6, Field 0055, Find #69);
3. End and side scraper (C-D 95, Section 6, Field 0002, Find #222);
4. Knife/scraper fragment (C-D 95, Section 6, Field 0002, Find #108);
5. Borer (C-D 95, Section 8, Field 3900, Find #248).

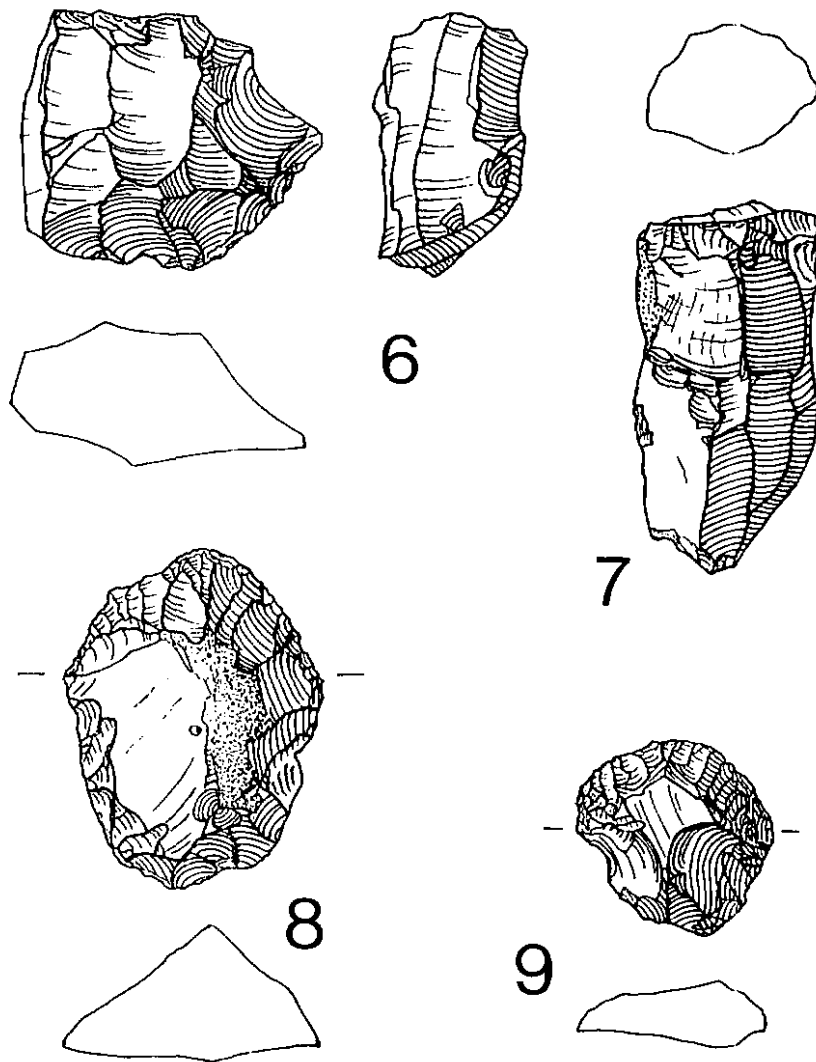


Fig.43 Flints (scale 1:1)

(drawings by Bambi Stainton)

- 6. Opposed platform blade core (C-D 94, Section 1, Field 8600, Find #1);
- 7. Single platform blade core (C-D 95, Section 6, Field 0002, context 530+);
- 8. Scraper (C-D 94, Section 4, Field 0006, Find #40);
- 9. End and side scraper (C-D 94, Section 4, Field 0005, Find #69).

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20. Archiving of Finds and Disposal

The archive consists;

- 524 Context records
- 1 File Colour Slides
- 12 Drawings
- 8 Boxes of finds
- 1 Lever Arch File of CAD Drawings

All primary records and finds are kept at:

Oxfordshire County Council,
Department of Leisure and Arts,
Oxfordshire Museum and Archive Store
Lakeside Industrial Estate,
Standlake,
Oxon OX8 7QG
Telephone: 01865 300557

Accession Number: 1993.114/CD95.114

Landowners who retain their finds:

Mr. E. Ryall, (17 Prehistoric pottery sherds, 5 lumps of fired clay and 1 Romano-British sherd).

Castle Farm,
Castle Lane,
Wallingford,
Oxon, OX10 OBN

Northmoor Trust (47 flint piece, 13 Prehistoric pottery sherds, 21 Romano-British pottery sherds and 1 piece of tile).

Little Wittenham Nature Reserve
Manor House
Little Wittenham
Abingdon
Oxford, OX14 5RA

DJ & RD Greasby (61 flint pieces, 37 Prehistoric pottery sherds, 37 Romano-British pottery sherds, 1 Medieval pottery sherd and 1 bone fragment.)

Highlands Farm
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
Wallingford,
Oxford, OX10 OQX

PLATES

Plate 1. Section 1: pipetrench section through prehistoric chalk-filled ditch [302], looking south-east.

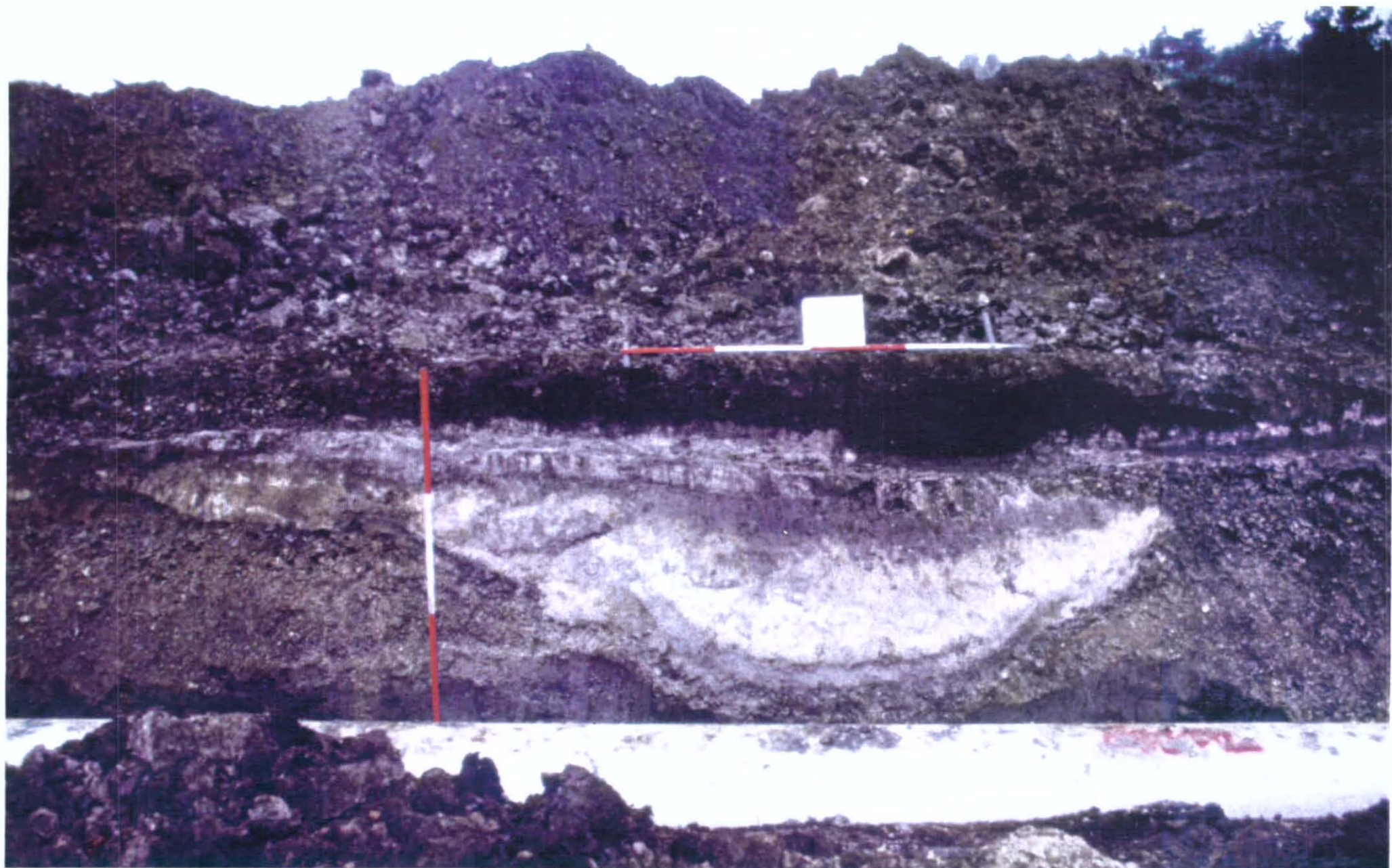


Plate 2. Section 4: Block C, possible loom-setting [123], looking east.



Plate 3. Section 6: pipetrench section through prehistoric ditch south of Castle Hill [437],
looking north-west.



PART III : SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Cremation *by Angela Boyle*

The Worked Flint *by Philippa Bradley*

The Biological Remains *by Gill Campbell*

The Soil Samples *by Greg Campbell*

The Archaeozoology Report *by Alan F. Cook*

The Stone Report *by Alan F. Cook*

The Daub and Other Building-related Artefacts *by Chris Taylor*

The Pottery *by Jane Timby*

The Chalgrove to Didcot British Gas plc 750mm Pipeline The Cremation by Angela Boyle

Introduction

A single cremation (28) was recovered from a feature [53] which had been badly truncated by plough activity. The cremation was contained within a pottery vessel which has been dated to the Middle Bronze Age (Timby, this report, Part III). The decorated vessel was tempered by fragments of flint. The vessel had suffered plough damage. The fill of the urn also contained numerous small fragments of burnt flint and a considerable quantity of charcoal. This material may represent 'pyre debris' (the residue from the cremation ceremony) which was deliberately placed in the feature immediately prior to burial.

Results

The bone was passed through a series of three sieves with various mesh sizes (10, 5 and 2mm). The cremation deposit was small and weighed only 88g. A complete adult cremation deposit weighs between 1600 and 3000g so it should be clear that this example is a very insubstantial one (though see below). All surviving bone was extremely fragmented and none was assigned to the 10mm sample. There were 41g in the 5mm sample and 47g in the 2mm. The largest fragment measured 25mm.

Only a few fragments could be tentatively identified and they were skull vault, a vertebral articular facet, long bone shaft (possibly femur) and the proximal end of an immature long bone (possibly femur).

The sample was almost entirely white and well calcined with the exception of a few fragments which were bluish-grey.

At least three fragments are animal bone and have been identified as belonging to probable sheep or goat metapodials. An animal epiphysis is also present.

The remains are likely to represent those of an infant and although a weight range such as that referred to above would not be excepted in this case the deposit is nonetheless far from complete.

Chalgrove-Didcot Gas Pipeline 1994-1995

The Worked Flint by Philippa Bradley

Introduction

A total of 229 pieces of worked flint and 3 pieces of burnt unworked flint was recovered from fieldwalking and excavation along the route of the pipeline. The material can be broken down as follows (all pieces classified are summarised in the catalogues):

Flakes*	158
Chips	21
Irregular waste	18
Cores/core fragments	9
Retouched pieces	23
Burnt Unworked flint	3
TOTAL	232

* (including blades, blade-like flakes and core rejuvenation flakes)

Raw materials and condition

The flint was generally heavily abraded and plough damaged. Some pieces exhibited glossing and iron-staining; cortication varied from light to very heavy. The raw material was varied in colour and many thermal fractures were noted. Cortex where present was generally thin, stained and abraded suggesting a derived source. There were a few pieces of better quality flint, dark brown to black in colour with a white or grey abraded cortex, which may be chalk flint. Two pieces of Bullhead flint (Shepherd 1972) were recovered from Section 7. The raw material were probably obtained relatively locally either within river gravel deposits around Dorchester-on-Thames (Gibbard 1985) or derived chalk flint from the south and south-east.

Technology and Dating

The majority of the unretouched flakes were hard-hammer struck and tended to be small with wide butts. Classifiable cores were heavily reduced and with the exception of two blade cores from Section 1 and Section 6 (construction, U/S) and a blade core fragment from Section 4, were irregularly worked. Eight blades and blade-like flakes were recovered (Sections 1, 4, 5, and 6), some of which were soft-hammer struck. These pieces together with the blade cores and three core rejuvenation flakes (tablets) indicate a controlled element to the assemblage, perhaps of Neolithic date.

The retouched component is summarised below:

Scrapers	7 (3 end and side, 1 disc, 3 on thermal blanks)
Piercers/borers	3
Denticulate	1
Knife	1
Oblique arrowhead	1
Miscellaneous retouched	9
TOTAL	22

The retouched pieces recovered would be in keeping with a Neolithic or Bronze Age date. The nine miscellaneous pieces are unclassifiable, atypical or broken forms. The scrapers were quite varied in character, one quite finely worked scraper may be early Bronze Age (C-D94 find number 69). The remaining are hard to date although some of the crude step flaked examples and those on thermal fragments may be of mid-late Bronze Age date.

The only piece which provides any firm dating is the oblique arrowhead from Section 6, these types being current during the later Neolithic, c 3rd millennium cal BC, and are frequently associated with the Durrington Walls and Clacton substyles of Grooved Ware (Green 1980, 108, table V.1). Some of the retouched pieces are relatively crude, minimally retouched and sometimes on thermal blanks, for example find numbers 40, C-D95 70, 83 and 100, This material may be of mid-late Bronze Age date. The denticulate is also probably of this date.

Discussion

In general a Neolithic or Bronze Age date for this material would not be out of place. A few of the cruder retouched pieces may be of mid-late Bronze Age date. Struck flint was recovered from Sections 1-8 of the pipeline although the quantities produced from individual sections varied greatly. Sections four and six produced the largest quantities of material but it should be borne in mind that these were amongst the longest sections of the pipeline. Material within the sections seems to be relatively thinly distributed. Potentially earlier flintwork (blades, blade-like flakes and blade cores) was thinly distributed along the pipeline but perhaps becoming more frequent in the eastern part.

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Chalgrove-Didcot Gas Pipeline 1994: Flint Catalogue:Pre-Construction

Finds Number	Strip Map	Field Number	Eastings	Northings	Flint Type
1	1	8600	6491	9641	Opposed platform blade core, 27 g
2	1	8600	6473	9637	Miscellaneous retouched piece, possibly a scraper
3	1	8600	6469	9634	? Unretouched flake
4	1	8600	6460	9630	Core fragment
5	1	8600	6461	9633	End scraper
7	1	3100	6425	9610	Unretouched flake
8	1	42	6394	9586	Unretouched flake
9	1	42	6393	9586	? Piercer on a thermal blank
12	2	6	6278	9535	Unretouched flake
13	2	6	6290	9531	Unretouched flake
14	2	6	6299	9545	Unretouched flake
16	2	6	6308	9550	? Unretouched flake
17	2	6	6318	9554	Core fragment
18	2	6	6323	9557	Unretouched flake
19	2	6	6330	9559	Unretouched flake
20	3	2400	6239	9519	Unretouched flake, heavily burnt
22	3	2400	6235	9514	Irregular waste (possibly natural)
24	4	4300	6122	9341	Unretouched flake, heavily burnt
25	4	4300	6121	9344	? Unretouched flake
26	4	4300	6123	9349	Unretouched flake
27	4	4300	6130	9362	Irregular waste (possibly natural)
29	4	4300	6130	9380	Unretouched flake
30	4	4300	6129	9385	? Unretouched flake
31	4	4300	6132	9388	Unretouched flake
32	4	4300	6138	9389	? Unretouched flake
36	4	4300	6140	9417	Core fragment, abraded platform edge and blade-like scars
37	5	6	6107	9279	Unretouched flake
38	5	6	6110	9284	Unretouched blade, ? used edge
39	5	6	6110	9287	Unretouched flake
40	5	6	6112	9297	End and side scraper
42	5	6	6110	9305	Unretouched flake
44	5	6	6114	9308	Unretouched blade
46	5	6	6115	9311	? Unretouched flake
49	5	4065	6104	9255	? Unretouched flake

Finds Number	Strip Map	Field Number	Eastings	Northings	Flint Type
50	5	4065	6105	9256	Unretouched flake
51	5	4065	6102	9258	Unretouched flake
52	5	4065	6102	9259	Unretouched flake
53	5	4065	6107	9258	? Unretouched flake
54	5	4065	6105	9259	Irregular waste
56	5	4065	6104	9260	Unretouched flake
57	5	4065	6103	9261	? Unretouched flake
60	5	4065	6104	9263	Unretouched flake
62	5	4065	6102	9266	End and side scraper
63	5	4065	6106	9265	Unretouched flake
64	5	4065	6108	9267	? Miscellaneous retouched piece
65	5	4065	6107	9268	Core rejuvenation flake (tablet)
66	5	4065	6103	9269	Unretouched flake
67	5	4065	6106	9270	Unretouched flake
68	5	4065	6109	9271	Unretouched flake
69	5	4065	6108	9272	Scraper, possibly end and side but badly plough damaged
70	5	4065	6107	9273	Unretouched flake
71	5	4065	6105	9275	Unretouched flake
73	5	5	6100	9228	? Unretouched flake
76	5	5	6097	9248	? Unretouched flake
78	5	5	6098	9242	Unretouched flake
79	5	5	6098	9240	? Unretouched flake
81	5	5	6098	9234	Miscellaneous retouched piece
82	5	5	6099	9230	? Irregular waste
84	5	5	6093	9230	Unretouched flake
85	5	5	6097	9226	Unretouched flake
86	5	5	6097	922	? Unretouched flake
87	5	5	6093	9225	Unretouched flake
88	5	5	6090	9222	Unretouched flake
90	5	5	6091	9220	Unretouched flake
91	5	5	6091	9217	Unretouched flake
93	5	5	6090	9214	Unretouched flake
94	5	5	6090	9213	Unretouched flake
96	5	5	6089	9212	Unretouched flake
97	5	5	6089	9211	Unretouched flake
99	5	5	6090	9209	Unretouched flake
100	5	5	6091	9209	Unretouched flake

Finds Number	Strip Map	Field Number	Eastings	Northings	Flint Type
101	5	349	6077	9163	? Unretouched flake
104	5	349	6073	9159	Unretouched flake
105	5	349	6072	9155	Unretouched blade-like flake
106	5	349	6072	9152	Miscellaneous retouched piece
107	5	349	6070	9150	Unretouched flake
108	5	349	6073	9150	Unretouched flake
109	5	349	6073	9149	? Miscellaneous retouched piece
110	6	55	5991	9151	Unretouched flake
111	6	55	5929	9163	Unretouched flake
113	6	55	5932	9163	Unretouched flake
114	6	55	5935	9163	? Unretouched flake
115	6	55	5939	9160	Discoidal flake core 33 g
116	6	55	5941	9160	Unretouched flake
117	6	55	5941	9161	Unretouched flake
123	6	55	5959	9157	Irregular waste
126	6	1545	5915	9165	Chip
128	6	1545	5924	9165	? Scraper
129	6	9000	5893	9170	Irregular waste
131	6	9000	5886	9175	Unretouched flake
134	7	6251	5875	9177	? Unretouched flake
136	7	6800	5861	9187	Unretouched flake
137	7	4000	5838	9198	Unretouched flake
138	7	4000	5840	9200	Irregular waste
139	7	4000	5845	9200	Chip
141	7	4000	5850	9190	Irregular waste
142	7	4000	5852	9190	Chip
144	7	2	5816	9206	? Unretouched flake
157	7	2	5745	9211	Unretouched blade-like flake
162	7	2	5739	9209	Core rejuvenation flake (tablet)
165	7	2	5734	9210	Unretouched flake, very heavily burnt
169	8	5	5713	9208	Irregular waste
170	9	7800	5598	9218	Irregular waste
172	9	7800	5599	9218	Unretouched flake, lightly burnt
173	9	7800	5601	9217	Unretouched flake
174	9	7800	5602	9217	Unretouched flake
175	9	7800	5604	9217	Unretouched flake

Field 7800 -
linked to PRN 26095

Finds Number	Strip Map	Field Number	Eastings	Northings	Flint Type
176	9	7800	5605	9217	Unretouched flake
178	9	7800	5613	9213	Unretouched flake
179	9	7800	5615	9213	Unretouched flake
180	9	7800	5617	9212	? Unretouched flake
183	9	7800	5625	9210	Unretouched flake
189	8	7800	5659	9203	Unretouched flake
199	9	7800	5604	9218	Unretouched flake
201	9	7800	5616	9215	Unretouched flake (Bullhead flint)
202	9	7800	5619	9215	Unretouched flake
203	9	7800	5620	9212	Unretouched flake
205	9	7800	5625	9211	Tested nodule
206	9	7800	5626	9209	Irregular waste
207	9	7800	5627	9210	Unretouched flake
208	9	7800	5631	9209	? Unretouched flake
209	9	7800	5635	9208	Unretouched flake
210	9	7800	5638	9207	? Tested nodule
211	9	7800	5639	9203	Unretouched flake
213	8	7800	5646	9206	Unretouched flake
216	8	7800	5655	9206	Unretouched flake
218	8	7800	5659	9207	Unretouched flake
220	8	7800	5662	9207	? Irregular waste
223	8	7800	5668	9206	? Chip
225	8	7800	5672	9208	Unretouched flake
229	8	7800	5677	9206	Unretouched flake
230	8	7800	5677	9203	Unretouched flake
232	8	7800	5679	9209	Tested nodule
233	8	7800	5681	9205	? Chip
234	8	7800	5683	9205	Unretouched flake
235	8	7800	5683	9206	Unretouched flake, burnt
238	8	7800	5687	9206	Unretouched flake (Bullhead flint)
240	8	7800	5689	9204	Unretouched flake
242	8	7800	5691	9207	? Irregular waste

The following finds numbers were unworked: 6, 15, 21, 47, 48, 55, 58, 59, 61, 72, 74, 75, 77, 80, 83, 89, 92, 95, 98, 102, 103, 112, 118, 120, 121, 122, 124, 125, 130, 132, 133, 135, 143, 149, 151, 152, 153, 154, 158, 159, 161, 181, 192, 221, 222, 227 and 231.

Chalgrove-Didcot Gas Pipeline 1995: Flint Catalogue:Pre-construction

Finds Number	Field Number	Strip Map	Section	Eastings	Northings	Flint Type
3	0005	8	6	456947	192088	Irregular waste
5	0005	8	6	457174	192088	Burnt unworked flint, heavily calcined
7	0005	8	6	457192	192082	Unretouched flake
14	3100	1	1	464309	196138	Chip
15	3100	1	1	464296	196128	Unretouched flake
18	3100	1	1	464244	196084	Unretouched flake
19	3100	1	1	464260	196088	Unretouched flake
21	3100	1	1	464295	196111	Unretouched flake
23	3100	1	1	464360	196169	Unretouched flake
24	3100	1	1	464385	196179	Unretouched flake
28	3100	1	1	464324	196126	Unretouched Blade-like flake
30	3100	1	1	464326	196174	Flake with ? used edge
41	3100	1	1	464263	196130	Miscellaneous retouched piece
44	3100	1	1	464228	196100	Unretouched flake
46	0006	2	2	462748	195349	Unretouched flake
47	0006	2	2	462789	195368	Unretouched flake
48	0006	2	2	462825	195383	Unretouched flake
50	0006	2	2	463238	195578	Unretouched flake
52	8600A	1	1	464784	196358	Unretouched blade
55	5000?	5	4	46098	192271	Unretouched flake
56	4500	5	4	461043	192606	Unretouched flake
58	4500	5	4	461061	192699	Irregular waste
59	4500	5	4	461059	192707	Unretouched flake
61	0006	5	4	461134	193056	Unretouched flake
67	4300	4	4	461287	193689	Unretouched flake
69	0055A	6	6	459231	191639	Possible denticulate on a chert blank
70	0055B	6	6	459542	191568	Possible scraper, almost wholly cortical flake, irregular retouch across distal end, possibly LBA
71	0055C	6	6	459973	191516	Unretouched blade-like flake
73	0055C	6	6	460018	191515	Chip
74	0055C	6	6	460046	191507	Borer/awl
76	0055C	6	6	460076	191502	Unretouched flake ?
77	0055C	6	6	460086	191501	Oblique arrowhead, broken at tip
79	0055C	6	6	460087	191514	Unretouched flake
80	0055C	6	6	461003	191500	Unretouched flake

Finds Number	Field Number	Strip Map	Section	Eastings	Northings	Flint Type
81	0055C	6	6	461004	191495	Unretouched flake
83	0005	4	4	461259	193559	? Scraper on a thermal flake
84	4300	4	4	461273	193634	Chip
100	0002	7	6	458221	192093	Miscellaneous retouched piece on thermal blank
101	0002	7	6	458213	192094	? Unretouched flake
108	0002	7	6	458003	192094	? Knife fragment
114	4300	4	4	461358	193881	Chip
119	4300	4	4	461269	193697	Unretouched flake
120	7800	8	7	456057	192167	Chip
121	7800	8	7	456080	192159	Chip - ? chert
123	7800	8	7	456386	192068	Chip
126	7800	8	7	456511	192056	? Unretouched flake
137	0002	7	6	457894	192078	Chip
140	0002	7	6	457938	192080	Unretouched flake
144	0002	7	6	458010	192079	Unretouched flake
148	0002	7	6	458089	192078	Chip
156	0002	7	6	458176	192076	Irregular waste
157	0002	7	6	458249	192071	Unretouched flake
159	0002	7	6	458040	192086	Miscellaneous retouched piece
163	0002	7	6	457934	192085	Unretouched flake
164	0002	7	6	457904	192086	Irregular waste
167	0002	7	6	457833	192106	Unretouched flake
168	0002	7	6	457840	192106	Unretouched flake ?
169	0002	7	6	457895	192103	Chip
171	0002	7	6	457942	192105	Unretouched flake
173	0002	7	6	458034	192093	Miscellaneous retouched piece, possibly a scraper
176	0002	7	6	458036	192104	Unretouched flake
178	0002	7	6	458080	192104	Chip
179	0002	7	6	458100	192106	Unretouched flake
181	0002	7	6	458133	192103	Unretouched flake
184	0002	7	6	458263	192084	Unretouched flake
188	0002	7	6	458212	192116	Unretouched flake
190	0002	7	6	458178	192119	Unretouched flake
193	0002	7	6	458135	192117	Unretouched flake
194	0002	7	6	458118	192115	Irregular waste
195	0002	7	6	458082	192118	Unretouched flake
199	0002	7	6	457767	192115	Unretouched flake

Finds Number	Field Number	Strip Map	Section	Eastings	Northings	Flint Type
202	0002	7	6	458021	192130	Chip
203	0002	7	6	458088	192130	Core rejuvenation flake (tablet)
206	0002	7	6	457658	192087	Chip
212	0002	7	6	457579	192079	Chip
215	0002	7	6	457509	192072	Chip
222	0002	7	6	457394	192082	End and side scraper
225	0002	7	6	457328	192085	Unretouched flake
226	0002	7	6	457382	192089	Unretouched flake
233	0002	7	6	457630	192106	Unretouched flake
237	0002	7	6	457548	192109	Unretouched flake
238	0002	7	6	457541	192111	Chip (NB listed as R-B/Prehistoric sherd)
241	0002	7	6	457488	192109	Miscellaneous retouched piece
242	0002	7	6	457443	192109	Unretouched flake
248	3900	10	8	45276	192248	Borer

The following finds numbers were unworked: 51, 78, 165, 166, 175, 191 and 196.

Chalgrove-Didcot Gas Pipeline 1995 : Flint Catalogue: Construction

Section 1 (c1.6 km) U/S

Section 1 Feature 12 (50) Unretouched flake

Section 6 (440)

Unretouched flake and two burnt unworked flints

Section 6 U/S

Single platform blade core, platform edge abrasion, 26g

Illustrated Flint

Fig. 42

1. Oblique arrowhead (C-D 95, Section 6, Field 0055, Find #77);
2. Denticulate on thermal blank (C-D 95, Section 6, Field 0055, Find #69);
3. End and side scraper (C-D 95, Section 6, Field 0002, Find #222);
4. Knife/scraper fragment (C-D 95, Section 6, Field 0002, Find #108);
5. Borer (C-D 95, Section 8, Field 3900, Find #248).

Fig. 43

6. Opposed platform blade core (C-D 94, Section 1, Field 8600, Find #1);
7. Single platform blade core (C-D 95, Section 6, Field 0002, context 530+);
8. Scraper (C-D 94, Section 4, Field 0006, Find #40);
9. End and side scraper (C-D 94, Section 4, Field 0005, Find #69).

(drawings by Bambi Stainton)

**Biological Remains from the Chalgrove to Didcot British Gas 750mm
Pipeline
Gill Campbell**

Fourteen soil samples, and two charcoal samples were available for analysis from the site. Samples were taken principally for the recovery of snails, charcoal and charred plant remains.

The snails recovered from the ditch fills were all species characteristic of an open landscape. It was felt that further analysis of these soil samples was not merited.

Very few charred plant remains were recovered. However sample sizes were very small ranging from 1 to 9 litres.

Sample 1 from fill 30 of a steep sided pit [29] produced a single sloe (*prunus spinosa*) stone, an indeterminate cereal grain and a small amount of charcoal. This was mostly fast growing oak but *Pomoideae* type hawthorn, apple, pear, *Sorbus* spp. etc.) charcoal was also present. A very tiny amount of oak charcoal was recovered from the cremation sample. This could have been derived from elsewhere.

Sample 9, from cut [425] and fill (426) was recovered from a prehistoric gully and produced three indeterminate cereal grains, a small vetch or tare (*Vicia/Lathyrus sp.*) and a seed of blinks (*Montia fontana*). Both these taxa can grow as weeds of disturbed ground. Sample 10 from the fill of an Iron Age pit (124) produced a single possible spelt glume base.

Three samples from Roman or possible Roman ditch fills produced barley and wheat grain and a single possible spelt glume base. Small vetch or tare seeds, a single dock (*Rumex sp*) seed, and a seed from the *Malvaceae* (mallow) family were also present.

The remains from the Roman ditches are typical of the period.

The Chalgrove to Didcot British Gas plc 750mm Pipeline
The Soil Samples
Greg Campbell

Introduction

Fourteen soil samples from the project were processed to recover environmental indicators. The average sample size was 2.8 l, and ranged from 0.5 to 9 l.

The method employed to recover charred plant remains and to sample the mollusca from the samples was the same. The material was agitated in cold water, the water decanted and then filtered through 0.5mm mesh to collect the flots. The agitation and decanting was continued until no material appeared to be in the decanted water. The flots were then air-dried and transferred to the environmentalist. The residues were wet-sieved through 4 and 0.5 mm meshes, with the larger than 4mm residue sorted for artefacts.

The potential waterlogged samples were processed in the same manor with the flots collected on 0.2m mesh. As none of these deposits contained material preserved by waterlogging, these samples were treated as the others.

Burnt flint was present in various concentrations in the sampled deposits in Section 1. Sample 5 (of the fill of posthole 60 in the post-circle), contained four pieces of burnt flint over 4 mm in size and Sample 1 (of fill 30 of large pit 29 in centre of the post-circle) contained 2 g/l of burnt flint over 4mm long. The richest sample for burnt flint was Sample 3 (of fill 57 in the small pit 56) which contained 103 g/l, and sample 4, (from the cremation deposit 28), contained 2 g/l of burnt flint over 4 mm.

All of these deposits also contained fine burnt flint, the cremation deposit in some quantity. It is possible that some of the fine burnt flint in the cremation deposit 28, was tempering from eroded fragments of the cremation vessel, but not all, as it contained burnt flint (greater than 4mm) too large to have been tempering. The high concentration of burnt flint in pit 56 led to the speculation that this pit may have received the waste from the production of the tempering for the cremation vessel.

Chalgrove to Didcot British Gas plc. 750mm Pipeline Archaeozoology Report

by

Eur. Ing. Alan F. Cook B.Sc., C.Eng., C.Geol., F.G.S., M.I.Min.E., M.B.G.S

The osseous fragments were recovered during the course of archaeological investigations in Sections 1, 4 and 6.

The most abundant remains are those of *ovis*, the sheep. These remains are not as large as modern day varieties. This may be due to the breeding and eating cycle of the particular settlement. It may be due in part to the smaller skeletal frame of earlier breeds. There are at least 8 individuals preserved.

The next most abundant remains are those of *equus*, the horse. The osseous fragments belong to one body in all probability with the exception of the high number of Radius/Ulna bones which indicate at least 4 individuals. These do not appear to be large horses. The next most abundant remains are those of *Bos*, the ox. There are at least 3 individuals, evidence of butchering is common.

Pig is not as common as has been noted on other sites. There at least 2 individuals.

The presence of Red Deer and Roe Deer are worth noting. They are both single individuals and may have been washed in.

The majority of these bones have suffered demineralisation through solvent groundwater activity and therefore loss of mass. Evidence of disease is rare.

Tabulated Summary of the Counts

(left and right are not differentiated, therefore a dividing factor of between 1.5 and 2.0 should be applied; distal and proximal ends have not been specified).

	Ox	Sheep	Pig	Red Deer	Horse	Roe Deer?
Horn/Antler				1		
Skull		1				
Upper Jaw					1	
Lower Jaw	6	16		1		
Teeth	2	7				
Vertebrae	1		1		7	
Scapula			3			1
Humerus					1	
Radius						
Ulna					8	
Carpals/Metacarpals.						
Pelvis	6	2	2		5	
Femur						
Tibia	1				3	
Tarsals/Metatarsals.						
Phalanges						
Metapodials	2	3	5		1	
Ribs			4		11	
Fragments	3	5	13		2	2
Species total (excludes ribs and fragments)	18	29	11	2	27	1
Total number of bones	21	34	24	2	29	3

Identification Number and Location

C-D 95 (519)+ Section 1, Field 0005, SU 64509 96220

(Stray find: c.3m beneath Chalgrove Brook during thrust boring operations).

1 *Cervus* - Red Deer, adult male, antler burr and 1st tine, butchered and split for cooking? cut surfaces very worn (by humans or river erosion?)

C-D 95 (57) Section 1, Field 3100, SU 64252 96071

(Fill of prehistoric pit/post-hole)

- 1 *Sus* - Pig - Metapodials broken, decayed, possibly cooked
- 2 *Sus* - Pig - Metapodials broken, decayed, possibly cooked
- 3 *Sus* - Pig - Metapodials broken, decayed, possibly cooked
- 4 *Sus* - Pig - Metapodials broken, decayed, possibly cooked
- 5 *Sus* - Pig - Metapodials broken, decayed, possibly cooked
- 6 *Sus* - Pig - Metapodials broken, decayed, possibly cooked

C-D 95 (300) Section 1, Field 0001, SU 63530 95710

(Within track 'make-up' -also included 'modern' brick and tile.

- 1 *Equus* - Horse - broken Pelvic acetabulum, juvenile, some arthritis
- 2 *Equus* - Horse - Pelvic fragment

C-D 95 (94), Section 4, Field 0005 SU 61238 93507

(Within the fill of a Romano-British ditch - pottery sherds of 2nd-3rd centuries AD)

- 1 *Equus* - Horse - Cannon Metapodial iii whole
- 2 *Equus* - Horse - Tibia broken
- 3 *Ovis* - Sheep - Cannon Metapodial, juvenile, decayed

C-D 95 (98), Section 4, Field 0005 SU 61255 93552

(Unexcavated upperfill of a curvilinear feature containing Iron Age pottery)

- 1 *Bos* - Ox - Pelvis acetabulum broken
- 2 *Bos* - Ox - Pelvis fragment broken
- 3 *Ovis* - Sheep - Lower left Jaw, broken with teeth
- 4 *Ovis* - Sheep - Metapodial broken
- 5 *Sus* - Pig - Pelvic fragment
- 6 *Sus* - Pig - diaphysis of long bone broken, possibly butchered

C-D 95 (124), Section 4, Field 4300 SU 61308 93764

(Within the fill of an Iron Age pit)

- 1 *Ovis* - Sheep - Lower Jaw, broken , without teeth
- 2 *Ovis* - Sheep - tooth
- 3 *Ovis* - Sheep - Pelvic fragment
- 4 *Ovis* - Sheep - Pelvic fragment
- 5 *Sus* - pig - long bone fragment
- 6 *Sus* - pig - long bone fragment
- 7 *Sus* - pig - long bone fragment
- 8 *Sus* - pig - long bone fragment
- 9 *Ovis* - Sheep - Lower Jaw without teeth
- 10 *Ovis* - Sheep - bone fragments
- 11 *Ovis* - Sheep - bone fragments

- 12 *Ovis* - Sheep - bone fragments
- 13 *Ovis* - Sheep - bone fragments
- 14 *Ovis* - Sheep - bone fragments

C-D 95 (126), Section 4, Field 4300 SU 61308.8 93765.5

(From the surface of an unexcavated pit. Iron Age material present)

1. *Bos* - Ox - fragment?

C-D 95 (136), Section 4, Field 4300 SU 61307.5 93778.5

(Fill of an Iron Age pit/post-hole)

1. *Bos* - Ox - single tooth (Lower Jaw)
2. *Bos* - Ox - Metapodial broken
3. *Bos* - Ox - Metapodial broken

C-D 95 (138), Section 4, Field 4300 SU 61311.5 93779.5

(Fill of an Iron Age pit/post-hole)

1. *Bos* - Ox - Lower Jaw broken
2. *Equus* - Horse - Tibia, broken
3. *Equus* - Horse - Upper jaw, fragment
4. *Capreolus* - Roe Deer? - Scapula broken, right
5. *Equus* - Horse - Tibia, broken
6. *Capreolus* - Roe Deer? - long bone fragment
7. *Bos* - Ox - Lower Jaw right broken
8. *Bos* - Ox - tooth
9. *Equus* - Horse - tooth
10. *Bos* - Ox - Thoracic vertebra, broken, juvenile?
11. *Bos* - Ox - Lower Jaw right broken
12. *Capreolus* - Roe Deer? - long bone fragment
13. *Equus* - Horse - long bone fragment
14. *Ovis* - Sheep - Lower Jaw with teeth
15. *Ovis* - Sheep - Lower Jaw
16. *Ovis* - Sheep - bone fragments
17. *Ovis* - Sheep - bone fragments

C-D 95 (156), Section 4, Field 0005 SU 61243.0 93514.0

(Fill of ?ditch - contains pottery of the late Iron Age/ early Romano British period)

1. *Bos* - Ox - Tibia, broken fragment
2. *Bos* - Ox - Pelvis, broken fragments
3. *Bos* - Ox - Pelvis, broken fragments
4. *Bos* - Ox - Pelvis, broken fragments
5. *Bos* - Ox - broken long bone fragments
6. *Ovis* - Sheep - Metapodial, broken

C-D 95 (170), Section 4, Field 0005 SU 61221 935441

(Fill of Romano- British ditch (sherds dated to 2nd-3rd centuries AD))

1. *Bos* - Ox - broken Pelvic ilium, juvenile, decaying

5. *Ovis* - Sheep - Lower Jaw, (*ramus*) broken , toothless section

C-D 95 (375), Section 4, Field 4300, SU 61316.0 93824.0

(Fill of ditch containing Iron Age pottery sherds)

1. *Bos* - Ox - bone fragment?

C-D 95 (377), Section 4, Field 4300, SU 61274.0 93652.0

(Fill of undated ditch)

1. *Sus* - Pig - Pelvic fragment, decayed
2. *Sus* - Pig - neural spine of thoracic vertebra, broken
3. *Sus* - Pig - rib decayed
4. *Sus* - Pig - rib very decayed, burrowed
5. *Sus* - Pig - rib very decayed
6. *Sus* - Pig - rib totally decayed to marrow
7. *Equus* - Horse - broken rib
8. *Equus* - Horse - broken rib
9. *Equus* - Horse - broken rib
10. *Equus* - Horse - broken rib
11. *Equus* - Horse - broken rib
12. *Equus* - Horse - broken rib
13. *Equus* - Horse - Pelvic acetabulum fragment
14. *Equus* - Horse - Thoracic vertebra, broken
15. *Equus* - Horse - Thoracic vertebra, broken
16. *Equus* - Horse - Thoracic vertebra, broken
17. *Equus* - Horse - Thoracic vertebra, broken
18. *Equus* - Horse - Thoracic vertebra, broken
19. *Equus* - Horse - Lumbar vertebra, broken
20. *Equus* - Horse - Lumbar vertebra, broken
21. *Equus* - Horse - broken ribs
22. *Equus* - Horse - broken ribs
23. *Equus* - Horse - broken ribs
24. *Equus* - Horse - broken ribs
25. *Equus* - Horse - broken long bone
26. *Equus* - Horse - Humerus broken
27. *Equus* - Horse - Pelvic ilium, broken, adolescent, possibly butchered, decayed
28. *Equus* - Horse - rib
29. *Equus* - Horse - Humerus broken

C-D 95 (440), Section 6, Field 0005, SU 57002 92066

(Upper fill of prehistoric ditch south of Castle Hill)

1. *Sus* - Pig - Scapula, broken fragments
2. *Sus* - Pig - Scapula, broken fragments
3. *Sus* - Pig - bone fragments
4. *Sus* - Pig - bone fragments
5. *Sus* - Pig - bone fragments
6. *Sus* - Pig - bone fragments

7. *Sus* - Pig - bone fragments

Acknowledgements:

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Chalgrove to Didcot British Gas plc. 750mm Pipeline Stone Artefacts

by

Eur. Ing. Alan F. Cook B.Sc., C.Eng., C.Geol., F.G.S., M.I.Min.E., M.B.G.S

C-D 95 (30), Section 1, Field 3100, SU 64249.3 96071.3

(Fill of probable Bronze Age pit/pit/post-hole)

2 Fragments. This rock is a fine grained sandstone to coarse grained siltstone. It has a slightly calcareous cement. The grains are well-rounded and ellipsoidal resembling oolitic texture. The rock has typical sedimentary structures such as ripples and flute casts. The rock could have been used for fine honing, but is probably too soft. The fissured piece is most likely displaying frost weathered discontinuities. It is a Mesozoic sedimentary type from the region.

C-D 95 (123), Section 4, Field 4300, SU 61308 93764

Slag? This could be a natural Iron Oxide such as Goethite/Limonite. However its voided nature is more in keeping with a man-made iron oxide.

C-D 95 (163), Section 4, Field 0005, SU 61228 93464

(Fill of Romano-British ditch - pottery sherds date to early-mid 2nd centuries AD)

12. Fragments. This is a very hard, dense material, it has many irregularly-shaped voids, varying in size from 0.2mm to 0.7mm long. The material may be a basic volcanic lava or hypabyssal intrusive slaggy crust. However it resembles man-made slag in its chemical behaviour. It does not have gaseous emanations when heated which many slags possess.

C-D 95 (520)+, Section 4, Field 0005, SU 61200 93276

(unstratified find)

Possible Quernstone 3. Fragments. This is a coarse sandstone or grit. The quartz grains range from angular to rounded, spherical to platy. The cement is partly siliceous with minor feldspathic and micaceous cements. It would be ideally suited for quernstones, several well-shaped querns are known from the Midlands in very similar rock. It is possibly a Millstone Grit type from the Peak District or one of the Rhenish or Massif Central grits.

C-D 95 (521)+, Section 4, Field 0003, c.SU 61840 94960

(unstratified find)

Possible Whetstone 2 Fragments. This is a lightly metamorphosed rock such as Phyllite, the slaty cleavage is developed more than slate but has not developed Schistosity. There are similar rocks in Wales and Scotland. It is capable of being used as a fine abrasive. The shape is unusual and it is probably man-made, but Phyllites can naturally fracture in this way.

CHALGROVE - DIDCOT 1995: DAUB AND OTHER BUILDING-RELATED ARTEFACTS

C Taylor

SUMMARY

A small assemblage of daub and other construction materials was recovered from three 'sites' excavated along the Chalgrove to Didcot British Gas pipeline route. The artefacts were found in features of various periods ranging from The Bronze Age to the post-Medieval era, the majority being identified as Iron Age/Roman kiln/oven daub. The recovery of the latter, all from Section 4, attests to the existence of such a structure(s) at or near this location during this period.

INTRODUCTION

A total of 34 different artefacts was collected from Sections 1, 4 and 7. These can be divided into the following: sixteen fragments of daub from an Iron Age pit at Section 4 (SU 61308 93764); four unidentified pieces from a pit and ditch at Section 1 (SU 64252 96071); seven fragments of Romano-British brick and tile from Section 4 (SU 612 935); and six pieces of brick, slate and tile from a Post-Medieval building at Section 7 (SU 55330 92380). These different material categories are defined below:

(i) **Daub**: clay mixed with varying quantities of tempering material; normally used to make walls for buildings and kilns or ovens; as such, each fragment represents one part of a single structure. On one surface (which may be flat or curved/angled), pieces display signs of having been smeared, scored and generally moulded with hands and fingers. Opposite surface sometimes has wattle impressions. Usually has been subjected to some kind of heating, either deliberate or coincidental, partial or complete, or pre- or post-depositional;

(ii) **Unidentified**: pieces with no signs of finger moulding, and generally too fragmentary and/or abraded to be recognised. May or may not show the same signs of having been heated as daub;

(iii) **Brick and tile**: recognised by form and fabric as typical Romano-British building materials;

(iv) **Bricks, slate and tile**: recognised by form and fabric (and, in this case, by context) as typical Post-Medieval building materials;

In *Table 1*, each artefact is recorded by context. Where more than one fragment was recovered from a single feature, each piece is individually recognisable by being listed as a sub-division of that context. Thus, at Section 4, context 138 contains 17 clay artefacts, and these are listed 138/1, 138/2, 138/3 through to 138/17. The order in which such artefacts are listed within any one context is arbitrary.

In addition to the above, the following conventions/abbreviations are also used in *Table 1*: fragment thicknesses (listed under the heading 'THICK') were only recorded where both sides of the artefact survived; the term 'unid' refers to unidentified fragments; and the word 'imps' in the General Description column is an abbreviation for 'impressions'.

FABRIC ANALYSIS

The identification of fabrics was carried out by eye and based on the following criteria (abbreviations in brackets refer to those used in *Table 2*):

Texture (fairly smooth (fsm), fairly coarse (fc), coarse (c)). Reflects nature of original clay body and of inclusions;

Porosity (porous (p) - abundant voids; fairly dense/porous (d/p) - occasional voids; dense (d) - no or very occasional voids). Recognised in section. Reflects quality and thoroughness of clay preparation;

Homogeneity (homogeneous (homog) - absence of clay folds and/or even distribution of inclusions; fairly homogeneous (fyhomog) - occasional clay folds and/or some unevenness in distribution of inclusions; non-homogeneous (nonhomog) - occasional/abundant clay folds and/or uneven distribution of inclusions). Recognised in section. Reflects quality and thoroughness of clay preparation;

Hardness (fairly soft (fs), fairly hard (fh), hard (h)). Identified with use of finger nail. Reflects degree of baking (if heated) and nature of original clay body and of inclusions;

Inclusions (**quantity**: none, very few (vfew), some, many; **type**: quartzite (q), calcareous (ca), flint (fl), feruginous sandstone (fgss); **size**: range in mm). Recognised in section. Reflects nature of clay preparation and nature of original clay body;

Colour (or=orange, r=red, br=brown, bf=buff, gr=grey). Reflects conditions of baking (if heated), nature of original clay body, and post-depositional processes.

In total, 10 fabrics were identified: Fabrics 1-6 relate to daub and unidentified clay artefacts, Fabric 7 to Romano-British brick and tile, and Fabrics 8-10 to the post-medieval brick and tile. The post-medieval slate fragment was not given a fabric number.

THE ASSEMBLAGES

The 16 daub fragments from Section 4 were found pressed-hard against the sides and bottom of 137 (fill 138), an Iron Age pit. They were all made in Fabric 4, a poorly prepared sandy clay containing many calcareous inclusions (?chalk or limestone), so all could have belonged to the same structure. Many of the pieces have flattish outer and irregular inner surfaces, some of the latter possessing distinct wattle impressions. One example (138/6) rim-like in form with a clean smoothed outer surface and a sooty/burnt inner, probably represents the outermost portion of a kiln/oven opening, whilst another (138/4) has a curved, smeared inner surface and irregular outer, suggesting that it once formed part of the wall or lining for a kiln/oven.

containing many calcareous inclusions (?chalk or limestone), so all could have belonged to the same structure. Many of the pieces have flattish outer and irregular inner surfaces, some of the latter possessing distinct wattle impressions. One example (138/6) rim-like in form with a clean smoothed outer surface and a sooty/burnt inner, probably represents the outermost portion of a kiln/oven opening, whilst another (138/4) has a curved, smeared inner surface and irregular outer, suggesting that it once formed part of the wall or lining for a kiln/oven. The recovery of these two items suggests that the other daub fragments were also derived from such structures, perhaps even the same one. Of course, on form alone, these other pieces could equally have come from the wall of a vertical building. This, however, is unlikely when one considers that the fabrics of all 16 pieces are identical, and that the material appears to have been thoroughly baked; vertical wall daub normally remaining raw.

The Romano-British artefacts consist of a fragment of brick (used for a variety of purposes including floor supports in hypocaust systems, as flooring itself, as bonding tile in walls or in wall arches), a piece of tegula (flat roofing tile) and 5 unidentified fragments. The material was recovered during the topsoiling operations at Section 4 and presumably reflects the former existence of a Romano-British roofed building in the vicinity.

The more recent building materials from Section 7 came from the foundations (SU 5530 92380) and immediate environs (SU 55330 92370) of 'Building 2', a post-Medieval rectangular structure, perhaps a farm building. The three brick fragments (507/1-3) clearly represent the well-recognised rectangular type still used in wall construction today, whilst the two pieces of tile (507/5-6), both possessing nail holes approximately 45mm from one of their respective corners (and therefore not equidistant between the two tile edges), were possibly roof tiles. The larger fragment (507/6) has a yellowish-cream mortar adhering to both its flat surfaces and its broken edges, indicating that it had probably been reused for something such as gap-filling.

CONCLUSION

The most distinctive group of artefacts from all of the sites is the small collection of daub found exclusively at Section 4, some of which clearly derives from kilns/ovens, the remainder of which could also have come from such a structure. Despite the limited size of the daub assemblage, the fragments recovered from this Iron Age site do demonstrate the use of clay for kilns and/or ovens during this period, and therefore indicate the presence of a settlement of such date closeby.

CHALGROVE - DIDCOT 1995 : DAUB AND OTHER BUILDING-RELATED ARTEFACTS

TABLE 1 : Materials by Context

CONTEXT	SECTION	CONTEXT DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL CATEGORY	WGHT (gms)	THICK	WATTLE DIAM	FAB NO	GENERAL DESCRIPTION
577/1	1	IA pit	unbaked mud	10			1	
577/2	1	IA pit	unbaked mud	15			2	
577/3	1	IA pit	unbaked mud	10			3	
138/1	4	IA/RB pit	daub	180	37	10	4	flatish outer, 2 ?finger smears/wattle imps
138/2	4	IA/RB pit	daub	95	45	10	4	flatish outer, 1 wattle imp, 2 poss wattle imps
138/3	4	IA/RB pit	daub	85		5 and 11	4	flatish outer, 2 wattle imps
138/4	4	IA/RB pit	daub	55			4	smear'd, concave inner, rough outer
138/5	4	IA/RB pit	daub	55			4	irregular lump
138/6	4	IA/RB pit	kiln/oven daub	50	18		4	curved outer, burnt inner: kiln/oven entrance
138/7	4	IA/RB pit	daub	50	35	10	4	flatish outer, wattle imp
138/8	4	IA/RB pit	daub	40			4	irregular lump
138/9	4	IA/RB pit	daub	30			4	flatish outer
138/10	4	IA/RB pit	daub	25		9	4	wattle imp
138/11	4	IA/RB pit	daub	25		14	4	flatish outer, wattle imp
138/12	4	IA/RB pit	daub	20			4	flatish outer
138/13	4	IA/RB pit	daub	20			4	irregular lump
138/14	4	IA/RB pit	daub	15		16	4	wattle imp
138/15	4	IA/RB pit	daub	15			4	irregular lump
138/16	4	IA/RB pit	daub	10			4	irregular lump
138/17	4	IA/RB pit	mud	15			5	irregular lump
303	1	Linear feature	mud	15			6	
344	4	RB layer	brick	1270	43		7	2 surviving sides
523+/1	4	unstrat.	tegula					
523+/2	4	unstrat.	tegula					
523+/3	4	unstrat.	tegula					
507/1	7	PMED building	brick	1600	55		8	mortar
507/2	7	PMED building	brick	490	61		9	mortar
507/3	7	PMED building	brick	440	59		9	mortar
507/4	7	PMED building	slate	35	5			
507/5	7	PMED building	tile	40	11		10	nailhole near corner
507/6	7	PMED building	tile	280	14		10	nailhole near corner, mortar both sides: reuse

CHALGROVE - DIDCOT 1995 : DAUB AND OTHER BUILDING-RELATED ARTEFACTS

TABLE 2 : Fabrics

	SECTION	MATERIAL CATEGORIES	COUNT	WGHT (gms)	FAB TYPE	TEXT	POR	HOMOG	HARD	NO INCS	TYPE INCS	SIZE INCS	SURF COL	CONTENTS
FABRIC														
1	1	unbaked unid	1	10	clayey	fsm	p	homog	fs	vfew	q	less 0.5	or	57
2	1	unbaked unid	1	15	clayey	fsm	p	homog	fs	some	q	less 1.0	or	57
3	8	unbaked unid	1	10	clayey	fsm	d/p	nonhomog	fh	vfew	q	less 0.5	or	57
4	4	daub	16	815	very sandy	c	d/p	nonhomog	h	many	fl. ca. fgss. q	0.5 to 22	or, r-or, bf	138
5	4	unid	1	15	clayey	fsm	d/p	fyhomog	fh	some	q	0.5 to 2	gr, or-br	138
6	1	unid	1	15	clayey	fsm	d/p	fyhomog	fs	many	fl, fgss	0.5 to 3	r-or	303
7	4	RB brick	1	1270	clayey	fsm	d/p	nonhomog	h	some	q, fgss	0.5 to 4	or	344
8	7	brick	1	1600	sandy	fc	d	fyhomog	h	some	fgss	0.5 to 2	r-or	507
9	7	brick	2	930	sandy	fc	d/p	fyhomog	h	some	fgss. q	0.5 to 3	r-or	507
10	7	tile	10	320	clayey	fsm	d/p	fyhomog	fs	none			r-or	507

BRITISH GAS PIPELINE CHALGROVE TO DIDCOT, OXON

THE POTTERY *by Jane Timby*

INTRODUCTION

Three separate collections of pottery were submitted for examination: two from excavation/salvage recovery during the laying of the pipeline, one from surface collections prior to the earth-works. The first two groups were amalgamated and are discussed below according to the main chronological period represented. This is followed by a catalogue itemising every sherd. A selection of the more diagnostic or representative sherds have been illustrated (Figs. 11 & 27) The second section deals with the field-walking material which is also briefly catalogued.

(i) Pottery from the Pipeline

A moderately small collection of c 340 sherds of pottery was recovered from work associated with the laying of the gas pipeline. This number includes 120 sherds belonging to a single Bronze Age cremation urn. The material broadly fell into three chronological groups: Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman. Other periods (Medieval/Post-medieval) were represented by a very small number of sherds. Although several sherds are identified to specific features the number of associated sherds is low, thus hampering any detailed consideration of date. Where there are no featured sherds present it has been necessary to identify material by analogy with comparable fabric types encountered elsewhere in the Thames Valley. Generally speaking the material was in relatively good condition with average-sized sherds. A few pieces, mainly from surface collections, were less well-preserved with abraded edges. Many of the colour-coated wares had lost their surface finish.

In the following report the material is briefly discussed following the different periods present. With such a small group of obvious divergent chronology, and bearing in mind the nature of the recovery, where there is negligible stratigraphic data, it was not considered a worthwhile exercise to quantify the material in detail other than by sherd count. The fabrics were briefly examined using a x20 binocular microscope.

DISCUSSION: PREHISTORIC

Approximately 72% of the sherds by count belong to the Prehistoric period. The majority of these (65%) date to the Bronze Age period, although the number of individual vessels represented is low. It was clear that in some cases features contained pottery of more than one period, for example ext. (28), ext. (52) and possibly ext. (30) indicating continued use, or more likely re-use of the site.

Bronze Age

A number of sherds could be identified as dating to the Middle Bronze Age. The majority of the sherds were recovered from a single feature [53] and are likely to derive from a single vessel, probably a cremation urn of Middle Bronze Age date. The vessel is a particularly distinctive type and relatively rare this far north. The majority of the other sherds recovered appear to belong to vessels of similar date (ie c 1250-1000 bc), with a few pieces potentially of Iron Age date. The low incidence of featured sherds and the similarity of fabrics makes positive identification difficult, particularly as the material possibly of conflicting date appears to derive from the same features. The material is described in detail below with comments on its likely chronology.

An increasing number of Middle Bronze Age (Deverel Rimbury) assemblages are being recognised from Oxfordshire and adjacent counties, from both domestic and funerary contexts (cf Case et al 1964/65, 73ff; Lobb 1986-90). Of particular possible relevance to this site is an occupation site with an associated field system recently investigated at Wallingford Road, Didcot (Ruben and Ford 1992), with a second possibly similar site at Corporation Farm, Abingdon (Shand 1985).

Section 1 ext. (28)

a) Approximately 120 sherds including four rimsherds belonging to a single large urn were recovered from this feature. The vessel was set upright (?) within the pit but had evidently suffered damage from surface disturbance and compression. The sherds belong to a handmade urn distinguished by the presence of a single extant inverted horseshoe handle. Five fragmentary sherds show a slight carination with impressed notches around the angle indicating that the vessel originally had a slight biconical form. The rim diameter is in the region of 340 mm whilst the base measures 360-380 mm with a wall thickness of 14-17 mm.

One rim sherd carries an applied inverted notched horseshoe handle. This projects slightly more forward at the top suggesting it would have in fact been functional as well as decorative. The sherd is broken before the terminals. A small bodysherd shows traces of a second similar applied band but insufficient survives to reconstruct the complete scheme.

The fabric is moderately hard varying in colour through shades of brown to grey-black indicative of slightly uneven firing. The paste has a hackley fracture and contains a moderate to common frequency and crushed, angular, calcined flint ranging in size from very fine up to 3 mm across.

The urn is very characteristic of a specific tradition dating to the Middle Bronze Age period (c 1250-1000 radiocarbon years bc), ie in the later half of the second millennium BC. A paper by Calkin (1962) identified twenty-three examples of horseshoe handled urns from Wessex (in particular Wiltshire and Dorset) which appeared to show a noticeable concentration around the Amesbury area. Most examples, where documented, appear to come from burial contexts, barrows or flat cemeteries. A few examples have been recorded from Oxfordshire, for example, Radley (Barrow Hills), Mount Farm and just over the Gloucestershire border at Shorncote (Alistair Barclay pers comm) and Swell (O'Neil and Grinsell 1960, 131), but generally speaking they are not very common.

A vessel very similar to the Chalgrove example was found in the urn cemetery at Kimpton, near Andover, Hampshire (Dacre and Ellison 1981, fig 19 E3). A typology

evolved by Ellison based on regional Middle Bronze Age assemblages regarded this particular urn, as in the Lower Thames Valley tradition and dating to the later Middle Bronze Age. The vessel also has a similar fabric to the Chalgrove example. The same phase at Kimpton shows the association of Central Wessex globular and bucket urns alongside this Lower Thames Valley type. In this respect the possible cordoned bucket urn (see no 3 below) could be regarded as contemporary.

Section I cxt. (52)

a) One large handmade bodysherd, thickness 13 mm. The sherd is from a large vertically-sided vessel, probably a bucket urn, decorated with an applied, horizontal thumbed cordon. Coarse calcined flint-tempered fabric. Middle Bronze Age (see (28) above). Bucket urns have been documented elsewhere from Oxfordshire and nearby, for eg. Long Wittenham, Berks. Wallingford, Stanton Harcourt and City Farm, Hanborough (cf Case et al 1964/65).

b) Nine thick-walled calcined flint-tempered sherds from urn-type vessels. Middle Bronze Age.

c) Twenty-two small brown fragments with a grey core and matt surfaces. Thinner walled compared to b). Two rimsherds, probably from the same vessel, wall thickness 8 mm. The upper rim surface is impressed with diagonal lines. Fragments too small to determine vessel form. Bronze Age.

Section I cxt. (30)

a) Rimsherd from a large urn decorated with small knicks on the outer rim edge. Coarse calcined flint fabric. Thickness 12 mm. Middle Bronze Age.

b) Small bodysherd from a carinated or shouldered vessel. The sherd is thinner walled and unlike the above vessels has a smoothed finish. The fabric contains a medium-fine calcined flint temper. Carinated and shouldered vessels begin to make an appearance in the later Bronze Age (cf Barrett 1980). Tentatively this sherd may belong to this period but equally well be of early Iron Age date.

Iron Age

The majority of the remaining handmade sherds (23% of the total assemblage) date to the Iron Age. The sherds show a diverse number of minor fabric differences typical of handmade material made from a number of local sources. The main fabric groups represented can be summarised as: sandy, ferric inclusions, mixed sand and ferric, mixed sand and calcareous, calcareous, grog, and flint. As far as can be determined from such a small group with a limited number of diagnostic sherds material of early, and middle Iron Age appears to be present.

Some of the features containing Middle Bronze Age pottery (see above) also produced sherds more consistent with an Iron Age date: cxt (28) produced a single abraded sherd of black sandy ware and cxt (52) produced five bodysherds and two rimsherds, all with a finer calcined flint fabric. Feature cxt. (48) within the same complex produced four bodysherds also with a finer calcined flint temper which may be either Bronze or Iron Age. The only featured sherds, those from cxt. (52), come from a straight-sided vessel of Middle Iron Age

tradition. In conclusion it appears that the site had been used as a cemetery during the Middle Bronze Age and was later the site of an Iron Age settlement from at least the Middle Iron Age period if not slightly earlier (cf carinated sherd from cxt. (30). Sherds of bronze age urn appear to have been re-used as packing in the later postholes. This suggests that either the area was no longer recognised as a burial area or that there was no formal recognition by the later people of earlier burial traditions.

Of the remaining iron age assemblage from the locality, early material is represented by two vessels from (138) and the carinated bodysherd from cxt. (30). The former vessels show the classic expanded rim, one with finger-tipping. The fabrics are coarse with calcareous inclusions (fossil shell/limestone), and a ferric and calcareous fabric respectively. The carinated sherd is also typical of vessel forms at this period. Comparable vessels have been published from Ashville Trading Estate, Abingdon (DeRoche 1978, 41, form A). Early Iron Age pottery has been identified from several nearby sites, notably Stanton Harcourt (Hamlin 1966); Wytham Hill (Mytum 1986, fig 3); and Mount Farm, Dorchester (Myres 1937, fig 7). Similar vessels have also been found at Wittenham Clump (Rhodes 1948, fig 9; Hingley 1980).

Most of the other featured sherds can be paralleled with pottery from the Thames Valley dating to the Middle Iron Age period (eg contexts 98, 124 and 373). Both the fabrics and forms find close parallel with material recently published from Watkins Farm, Northmoor, Oxon (Allen 1990, 32ff). Other comparable groups are known from Cassington (Harding 172); Stanton Harcourt, Ashville (De Roche 1978), Farmoor (Lambrick and Robinson 1979), and Whitehouse Road, Oxford (Timby 1993). Many forms, particularly the more globular bowls, continue into the later Iron Age period. The present group is too limited to determine whether this is the case here, although the beaded rim bowl from (180) may be a candidate, although could equally well be paralleled in the Middle Iron Age. The very large storage jar from (69) is also difficult to place, the style continuing into the Roman period. Such vessels tend to be quite long-lived in rural contexts.

Unfeatured sherds of Iron Age date were also recovered from contexts (1, 89, 126, 136, 146, 150, 152, 160, 361, 366, 375, 379, 383 and 426). The absence of the coarser calcareous fabrics (fossil shell and limestone) from these contexts suggest that most of them are likely to be middle iron age rather than early. This is certainly the case for contexts 89, 136, 150, 361, 375, and 379 which are predominately sandy or ferruginous fabric types.

ROMAN

At least 94 sherds (27.5% of the total assemblage) date to the Roman period. The most distinctive material is that belonging to the Oxfordshire industries dating to the later Roman period, in particular the mortaria and colour-coated wares from contexts (339; 344). A number of further examples were recovered from unstratified collections. At least two sherds of the Oxfordshire whiteware industry are also present (+, 165) probably dating to the second or third century. Of similar date are the grog-tempered storage jars, probably also of local manufacture (contexts 94, 170). Several grey sandy wares are present, although difficult to date closely, along with some miscellaneous oxidised wares, mainly from unstratified groups. Other contexts with Roman pottery include (?)(156), (158), (163), 344 [340]. Imports

are represented by two sherds of samian, one with a broken potter's stamp (339). Both sherds are likely to be second century. Two other second century vessels were present in context (163), both bowls.

Although evidence is sparse the range of Roman pottery might suggest continuity of occupation in the locality from at least the second to fourth centuries. First century occupation is more difficult to identify and there may well have been a hiatus of activity in this particular area around this time.

Catalogue

(arranged in Section and Context number)

Abbreviations used: hm - handmade; wm - wheelmade

5.11 (+) c 10 m pos of RDXII Rim Medieval cooking-pot. Hard sandy ware with oolitic limestone. 12-13th century.

Section I

- (48) Four hm bodysherds. Smoothed black surfaces with a calcined flint temper. Bronze Age/Iron Age.
- (52) One hm bodysherd from a straight-sided vessel, probably a bucket urn, with an applied horizontal thumbed cordon. Coarse calcined flint fabric. Middle Bronze Age
- Nine hm bodysherds, probably from urn type vessels. Calcined flint temper. Middle Bronze Age.
- One basesherd from a large vessel, containing a medium frequency of coarse angular calcined flint. Bronze Age.
- Twenty-two small brown fragments with a grey core and matt surfaces. Thin-walled. Two rimsherds, probably from the same vessel, wall thickness 8 mm. The upper rim surface is impressed with diagonal lines. Fragments too small to determine vessel form. Bronze Age.
- Two rimsherds in a dark blackish-brown ware with a smoothed exterior surface. Diameter 160 mm. A moderately hard, well-fired fabric with a calcined flint temper. Typologically this vessel resembles the saucepan pot style of the middle Iron Age (c 3rd-2nd century BC).
- Four calcined flint-tempered bodysherds with no diagnostic traits apart from a smoothed exterior surface. ?Bronze Age/Iron Age.
- One thinner walled light orange-brown bodysherd with a grey core. Slightly finer grade of calcined flint temper. ?Iron Age.
- (28) Approximately 116 sherds and four rimsherds from a single large urn. Coarse calcined flint-tempered ware. Bronze Age.
- One hm bodysherd, medium-fine black sandy ware. Iron Age.

- (30) Rimsherd from a large urn decorated with small knicks on the outer rim edge. Coarse calcined flint fabric. Thickness 12 mm. Middle Bronze Age.
- Small bodysherd from a carinated or shouldered vessel. The sherd is thinner walled with a smoothed finish. The fabric contains a medium-fine calcined flint temper. ?Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age
- (303) Three abraded handmade bodysherds with a coarse calcined flint temper. Oxidised. Bronze Age.
- Section 2
- (12) Fragment of modern tile and clay pipe stem.
- Section 4
- (-) Condition abraded.
- Three fragments of tile. Roman
Oxfordshire mortaria, one bodysherd. AD240-400
Oxfordshire colour-coated wares, 10 bodysherds, 1 rim. includes Young (1977) form C51, and sherd with rosette stamp. AD300-400
One wm grey sandy ware. Roman
Four miscellaneous oxidised bodysherds. Probably Roman
One oxidised sherd with internal brown glaze. Post-medieval/modern
- (-) 4.5 km Condition poor.
- Tile x2 fragments
Oxfordshire whiteware, one bodysherd. 2nd-3rd century
Oxfordshire white-slipped mortarium rim: three bodysherds colour-coat. AD240-400
Miscellaneous fine oxidised ware, three bodysherds, one rim. Roman
Two rims, one bodysherd grey sandy wm jars. Roman
Flange, burnt fine oxidised bowl/dish. Roman
One very small sandy oxidised ware. ?Medieval
- (-) W65 One bodysherd, wm fine grey sandy ware. Roman
- (-) Weld 66 Rim wm, expanded rim jar. Grey sandy ware. Roman
One hm bodysherd, orange-brown in colour. The fabric contains fine calcined flint and fine ill-sorted sand. Prehistoric.
- (+) Weld 68 Rim Oxfordshire colour-coated ware. Young (1977) form C51. AD240-400+
- (+) [159] or [92]c One basesherd with detached spall. Samian dish with an incomplete central potters stamp ...IVI. ?Late 1st century
- (1) W65 One very small hm sherd. Sandy with iron grains. Iron Age
- (69) Beaded rim from a large hm storage jar. Fabric contains sub-angular to rounded buff clay pellets/grog and quartz sand. ?Late Iron Age/early Roman.
- (89) One hm brown ware with a grey core. Sandy with a moderate frequency of ferruginous pellets. Iron Age

- (94) Three bodysherds hm grog-tempered grey ware, Oxfordshire type. Date: 2nd-3rd century
 One wm grey/brown sandy ware basesherd. Roman
 One wm grog-tempered black/brown ware. Roman
- (98) Two rim and one bodysherd = join plus one bodysherd with fresh break but does not join. Hm, light brown ware with dark grey inner core. Finely micaceous clay with ill-sorted fine sand. Iron Age.
- (124) Rim hm beaded-rim jar. Glauconitic sandy ware with brown surfaces and a black core. Sparse scatter of fine limestone/fossil shell. Iron Age.
 Rim hm black ware with a dark grey-black core. Fine, dense sandy ware with smoothed matt surfaces. Iron Age.
 Bodysherd, hm, with a sooted exterior. Fabric contains ferruginous pellets. Surface shows fine striated smoothing lines.
 Bodysherd, hm, glauconitic sandy ware. Iron Age
 Hm bodysherd, black, fine sandy ware. Exterior surface is decorated with poorly executed lines incised after firing. Iron Age.
- (126) One bodysherd, hm, medium sandy ware with sparse flint gravel. Iron Age
- (136) One hm dark brown, fine sandy ware. Iron Age
- (138) Expanded hm rim, coarse fabric with a hackley fracture. Black exterior with an oxidised interior. Coarse fossil shell/limestone temper, some as voids, with occasional iron. Early Iron Age.
 Similar rim to above but with finger-tipping. Frequent ferruginous pellets with fossil shell / limestone. Early Iron Age.
 One hm bodysherd, thin-walled black sandy ware: sub-angular to rounded quartz sand, rare limestone, iron and organic inclusions.
 Three hm bodysherds, two of which join: roughly burnished. Medium-fine sandy with sparse limestone.
 One hm bodysherd, coarse textured containing sand and a moderate frequency of fossil shell and limestone. Iron Age
 One hm bodysherd containing ferruginous inclusions and sand. Iron Age.
 One hm bodysherd with a finely micaceous clay matrix containing fine-medium sand. Iron Age.
 Four fragments with one flat surface, either pottery or fired clay. Sandy texture with a mixture content of rounded quartz sand, oolitic limestone and occasional flint.
 One hm bodysherd, fine sandy ware with sparse limestone. Smoothed exterior. Iron Age.
 Two handmade bodysherds, black granular sandy ware with sparse flint. Iron Age.
- (146) One hm light brown ware with a dark grey core. Sandy with ferruginous pellets.
 Three hm bodysherds with orange exterior and grey core. Irregular surface. Sandy with sparse large limestone inclusions or voids. Iron Age
- (150) One hm bodysherd with ferruginous clay pellets. Orange with grey core. Iron Age
 One hm bodysherd with sparse rounded ferruginous pellets, ill-sorted rounded quartz sand and sparse calcined flint. Iron Age
 One hm bodysherd with ferruginous clay pellets and glauconitic sand. Iron Age
 One hm bodysherd, overfired. Fine ill-sorted sand with some organic material.
- (152) One bodysherd, hm containing ferruginous clay pellets and oolitic limestone. Iron Age
- (156) One hm thinner-walled black ware containing grog/clay pellets and sand. ?Late Iron Age/early Roman

- (158) Wm bodysherd with grog temper. Roman
- (160) Orange-brown hm bodysherd with sandy texture (ill-sorted rounded quartz sand) and rare very large flint inclusions (up to 15mm). Iron Age.
- (163) One wm bodysherd, bowl with sooted exterior. Fine, sandy ware. 1st-early 2nd century
Rim from a carinated dish with burnished wavy line decoration. Grey sandy ware. Early-mid 2nd century.
- (165) Basesherd, wm Oxfordshire whiteware. Closed form. Perforation drilled through base. 2nd-3rd century.
- (170) One bodysherd Oxfordshire grog-tempered storage jar. 2nd-3rd century
- (180) Beaded bowl rimsherd. Black, fine dense sandy ware with a smoothed exterior surface finish. Hm. Late Iron Age.
- (324) One tile fragment. ?Roman
- (339) Fragment of Roman tegula tile
Chip of samian. 2nd century
Oxfordshire white-slipped mortarium. One rim and two bodysherds. Young (1977) type WC7. AD240-400. (Fig 0.15).
Oxfordshire colour-coated ware: rim dish Young (1977) form C45 (Fig 0.16); rim from a flared wall bowl; rim from a dish; bodysherd from a rouletted beaker. AD 240-400
- (344) [340]c One bodysherd wm grey sandy ware. Roman
- (344) Oxfordshire colour-coated ware: flange and rim from dishes Young (1977) form C50, one with painted line decoration on inner rim face. AD 240-400
One basesherd wm grey sandy ware. Roman
Three crumbs hm dark brown ware with ill-sorted rounded quartz and rare flint gravel. Prehistoric.
- (361) Two bodysherds, hm with oxidised exterior and black interior. Fabric contains quartz sand, iron and sparse limestone. Iron Age
One hm bodysherd with medium sand temper. Iron Age
One hm bodysherd, sandy fabric with sparse flint inclusions. Iron Age
One hm bodysherd with vertically smoothed exterior, roughly burnished black interior. Glauconitic sand temper. Iron Age
- (366) [365] One hm bodysherd, black sandy ware with rare calcined flint. Iron Age
One hm sherd, either pottery or fired clay. Sandy with a moderate frequency of limestone inclusions, some represented by voids. ?Iron Age
- (373) Rim, overfired/burnt. Hm orange/grey/brown ware with a moderate frequency of bright orange and grey ferruginous clay pellets and sparse rounded limestone. Iron Age. One
bodysherd hm black sandy ware. Iron Age
One bodysherd black hm ware with grey core. Glauconitic sand temper. Iron Age.
- (375) Hm thick-walled basesherd, sandy ware. The matrix contains fine quartz sand with a scatter of slightly larger rounded grains. Iron Age
- (379) Bodysherd, hm black ware with a well-sorted medium-fine quartz sand temper. Iron Age.
- (383) One hm bodysherd, vertically smoothed. Fabric contains ill-sorted quartz sand, rare iron and

flint. Iron Age

Section 6

- (426) Seventeen sherds (some very small), hm fine calcined flint-tempered ware. Thinner-walled with a smoothed exterior surface. Probably from one vessel. Iron Age
Five fragments irregular-shaped fired clay

Section 7

c100m - RDX8 (+)35 wm bodysherds, fragmented but probably from a single vessel, a small jar or beaker.
Black fine sandy ware with a red-brown core. Roman, ?2nd century.

Section 9

(+) Weld 63 Field 1130

- One wm basesherd, grey sandy ware. Roman
Oxfordshire colour-coated bodysherd. AD240-400
One wm grey ware with dark grey clay pellets. Roman
One hm thick-walled pale orange ware. Slightly micaceous clay matrix with quartz sand, occasional limestone and ferruginous pellets. ?Storage jar ??Roman

Catalogue of Illustrated Sherds:

- Fig.11.1.(28) Rim sherd from Middle Bronze Age urn with horse-shoe handle.
Fig.11.2.(52) Body sherd from an urn with an applied thumbed strip.
Fig.11.3 (52) Rim sherd with upper rim impressed with diagonal lines. Bronze Age.
Fig.11.4 (30) Rim sherd from a large urn with small knicks on the outer edge rim.
Fig.11.5 (52) Body sherd with faint burnished line decoration in a herring bone. ?Iron Age.
Fig.11.6 (52) Straight-sided pot with smoothed exterior. Middle Iron Age.
Fig.27.7 (138) Flat-topped expanded rim bowl. Early Iron Age
Fig.27.8 (138) Flat-topped expanded rim sherd with finger-pressed exterior. Early Iron Age.
Fig.27.9 (373) Handmade bowl with simple incurved rim. Middle Iron Age.
Fig.27.10 (98) Bowl with slightly expanded rim. Mid-late Iron Age.
Fig.27.11 (180) Bowl with slightly beaded rim. Smoothed exterior. Mid-late Iron Age.
Fig.27.12 (124) Globular bowl with short vertical rim. Mid-later Iron Age.
Fig.27.13 (124) Large bowl with expanded rim. Mid-later Iron Age.
Fig.27.14 (124) Body sherd in a fine black sandy ware. Lines scratched on to surface after firing. ?Middle Iron Age.
Fig.27.15 (690) Large rounded rim handmade storage jar. ? Later Iron Age or Roman.
Fig.27.16 (163) Body sherd, jar 1st-early 2nd century centuries AD.
Fig.27.17 (163) Carinated bowl with burnished wavy-line decoration. Roman, probably first half second century.
Fig.27.18 (339) Oxfordshire red colour-coated bowl, Young (1977) typeC45. Roman AD 240-400+.
Fig.27.19 (339) Oxfordshire white-slipped mortarium. Roman, AD240-400.

Addendum:

Additional sherds were recovered from the environmental samples: (28) 42 body sherds, 1 rim sherd, 1 decorated body sherd, 1 bag 4-10mm pottery fragments.

Several prehistoric calcined flint-tempered body sherds were recovered from Section 6 (440).

Fieldwalking Pottery

The pottery was briefly scanned and a catalogue prepared (see below). The assemblage for the main part comprised exceptionally small, abraded sherds, very typical of material that has been in a ploughsoil environment for some time. There was no evidence of any sherds suggestive of recent disturbance of any underlying archaeological features. The exceptionally fragmentary nature of the material limited the level of certainty that could be placed on the dating in many instances. With Prehistoric ceramics the low firing temperatures generally makes the material much less robust compared with kiln fired Roman and later wares and thus material of this date might be less well represented. In the Roman and Medieval periods midden material was frequently distributed over agricultural land and thus the presence of material of this date does not necessarily imply the existence of settlement of this date immediately below any such findspots, although generally speaking Roman material is indicative of a settlement in the general locality.

The criteria used to discriminate material was based on fabric inclusions and wall thickness for many pieces. Calcined flint is generally associated with prehistoric material, particular the Bronze Age and early Iron Age periods. In some cases the angular white grits appeared to be quartzite rather than flint and with thinner walled, harder fired vessels a Medieval date is suggested. Wheelmade vessels date to the Roman and later periods although handmade vessels reappear in the Saxon and early Medieval periods.

Looking at the overall assemblage, approximately 24% by count date to the Prehistoric period, 51% to the Roman period and 17% to the Medieval period. The extremely poor quality of most of the material and thus the low level of reliability that can be placed on secure dating mitigates against any detailed statistical or other analysis. Many of the sherds probably weigh less than 5 gms: a significant number only 1-2 gms.

A concentration of Prehistoric material is particularly noticeable in Field 0002 (SM7). This included a number of sherds with a calcined flint temper. Of especial note is the only decorated sherd to be present (no 207). The style might suggest a later Bronze Age or early Iron Age date. Other sherds from this field indicate Iron Age, Roman and Medieval activity. The Roman material contained little diagnostic material but did include at least one sherd of Savernake ware. This industry, based in Wiltshire was in production from the first to early/mid second century.

Further prehistoric material, probably of iron age date was noted in fields F0005 (SM4) and F7800 (SM9). Material from previous fieldwalking in Field 7800 was similarly noted as small and heavily abraded, causing problems in identification (Booth nd). However, it would appear that the same range of wares were identified although with the earlier collection more of the material was in better condition with some featured sherds.

Other concentrations of Roman material were noticeably present in fields F4300 (SM4) and F3100 (SM1). Much sparser spreads were present in fields F0005 (SM4); F0006 (SM5); F0002 (SM7); F0055 (SM6); F7800 (SM8,9); F4300 (SM4); F400 (SM7); F3800A (SM6). The majority of the fabrics were reduced grey sandy wares, and other wares where recognisable belonged to the later Roman Oxfordshire industries. Medieval material was

particularly marked in field F7800 with a light scatter over most of the other fields. A possible Saxon sherd was noted in F0002, although this could equally well be Prehistoric.

Catalogue of Pottery from surface collections 1994 and 1995

The following pottery is catalogued very briefly noting only the main characteristics where determined. All sherds unless otherwise noted are bodysherds. Note is made where sherds are demonstrably handmade (hm) but in the majority of cases the pieces are too small to determine. Other sherds are either wheelmade or not determined. Featured sherds, ie rims or handles etc crucial for establishing a firm chronology were unfortunately extremely sparse.

1994

F0006 SM2

11 x1 glazed orange sandy ware. Post-medieval/modern

F4300 SM4

28 tile fragment. ?date

33 x1 hm sandy. Medieval

34 x1 tile. Post-roman

35 x1 sandy micaceous. ?Roman

F0006 SM5

41 1 hm limestone-tempered black ware. Iron Age

43 1 wm greyware. Roman

45 1 wm fine sandy greyware. Roman

F3800A SM6

119 Rim black sandy ware jar. Roman

F400 SM7

140 Rim grey ware jar. Roman

F0002 SM7

146 x1 ?hm limestone-tempered greyware. ?Medieval

147 x1 finely micaceous with flint temper. ?Iron Age

148 x1 hm sandy with sparse organic inclusions. ?Saxon

150 x1 wm greyware. Roman

156 x1 hm quartzite-tempered. ?Medieval

160 x1 hm sandy. ?Iron Age

163 x1 hm greyware. ?Roman

164 x1 hm black sandy. Iron Age

166 x1 fossil-shell tempered. ?Prehistoric

167 x1 wm orange fineware. Roman

F7800 SM9

- 171 x1 hm fine calcined flint. ?Prehistoric
- 177 x1 hm sandy. ?Medieval
- 182 x1 basesherd. Medieval
- 184 x1 sandy ware. ??Roman
- 185 x1 fine greyware. Roman
- 186 x1 hm fine calcined flint. Prehistoric
- 187 x1 clay-pellets. ?Medieval
- 188 x1 rim sandyware. Medieval
- 190 x1 grey sandy ware. Roman
- 191 x1 colour-coat. ?Oxfordsh. Unusual internal ?moulded decoration. ?Roman
- 193 x1 fine sandy. Roman
- 194 x1 hm greyware. white grits. ?Prehistoric
- 195 x1 hm quartzite/clay pellets. Medieval
- 196 x1 greyware. ?Roman
- 197 x1 grey/brown. quartz-tempered. ?Prehistoric
- 198 x1 rim sand and limestone. ?Medieval
- 200 x1 pale orange ware. ?Roman
- 204 x1 quartzite-tempered. ?Medieval
- 212 x1 greyware. Roman
- 214 x1 rim grey ware jar. Roman
- 215 x1 rim black sandy ware. Roman
- 217 x1 greyware. Roman
- 219 x1 sandy: too small. No date. x1 hard fired ware. ?Roman
- 224 x1 flint-tempered. Medieval
- 226 x1 rim sandyware. Medieval
- 228 x1 hm micaceous with sparse ?quartzite. Prehistoric
- 236 x1 fine greyware. Roman
- 237 x1 rim grey sandy ware. Roman
- 239 x1 rim cooking pot. Medieval
- 241 x1 quartz/clay pellets. Medieval

1995

F0005 SM8

- 2 x1 sandy ware. ?Roman
- 8 x1 sandy ware. Medieval
- 9 x1 flint/sand/limestone tempered. Newbury B. 12-14th century

F0055c SM6

- x1 hard fired ware. ?Roman

F3100 SM1

- 10 x1 hm bodysherd. ?Medieval
- 11 x1 black colour-coat. Roman
- 12 x1 rim grey sandy ware. Roman
- 13 x1 grey ware. Medieval
- 16 x2 tile. ?Roman
- 17 x1 bodysherd. Medieval
- 20 x1 base. Dorset black-burnished ware. Roman
- 22 x1 ?tile/non-pot. ??Roman

26 x1 tile. ?Roman
27 x1 stone
29 x1 tile. ?Roman
31 x1 grey sandy ware. Roman
32 x1 tile. ?Roman
33 x1 tile. ?Roman
34 x1 tile. ?Roman
35 x1 black sandy. Roman
36 x1 tile. ?Roman
37 x1 tile. ?Roman
38 x1 sand with flint. ?Medieval
39 x1 grey sandy ware. Roman
40 x1 fine grey sandy. Roman
42 x1 black sandy. Roman
43 x1 fine grey/brown. ?Roman
45 x1 grey sandy. Roman

F0006 SM2

49 x1 very small, sandy. ?Medieval

F2400 SM3

54 x1 sandy with green glaze. Medieval

F4500 SM5

57 x1 oxidised sandy; glazed. Post-medieval

F0006 SM5

60 x1 fine grey ware. Roman

61 x1 tile. Possibly Roman

F4300 SM4

62 x1 tile. No date

64 x1 grey sandy ware. Roman

65 x1 very small, sandy. No date

66 x1 sandy. Medieval/Roman?

99 x1 very small, fine sandy. ??Roman

F4300 SM4

85 x1 Oxfordshire mortarium. Late Roman

86 x1 grey sandy ware. Roman

87 x1 orange ware. Medieval/Roman?

88 x1 rim jar. Roman

89 x1 grey sandy ware. Roman

90 x1 grey sandy ware. Roman

91 x1 grey-brown ware. Roman

92 x1 orange ware. Roman

93 x1 grey ware. Roman

94 x1 grey ware. Roman

95 x1 grey-white ware. Roman

- 96 x1 fine orange ware with grey core. Oxford. Late Roman
 97 x1 basesherd, fine grey ware. Roman

F0055

- 68 x1 base Oxfordshire colour-coat. Late Roman

F0055C SM6

- 75 x1 grey micaceous ware. Roman
 82 x1 rim colour-coat. Late Roman

F2446 SM9

- 130 x1 grey ware. Roman

F0002 SM7

NB Sherds particularly small and abraded.

- 102 x1 very small black sandy. ??Roman
 103 x1 grey/brown sandy. undated
 104 x1 tile. ?Roman
 105 x1 sandy. ??Roman
 106 x1 hm sandy. ?Iron Age/Roman
 107 x1 tile. Roman
 109 x1 fine grey ware. Roman
 110 x1 sandy, ?calcined flint. Prehistoric, ?Iron Age
 111 x1 grey sandy. Roman
 112 x1 black sandy + grits. ?Iron Age/Roman
 113 x1 Savernake type. Roman
 135 X1 fine micaceous black with organic matter. ??Iron Age/sub-Roman
 136 x1 grey-white sandy. Roman
 138 x1 hm sandy with grits. ?Iron age
 139 x1 hm sandy, large clay pellets. ?Iron Age/Roman
 141 x1 sandy. ?Roman
 142 bone fragment
 143 x1 very small fragment. ??Roman
 145 x1 sandy with flint. Medieval
 146 x1 grey/brown fine sandy. Roman
 147 x1 very small with flint. ?Prehistoric
 149 x1 quartzite and sand. ?Medieval
 150 x1 grey ware. Roman
 152 x1 grey/brown sandy. ?Medieval
 154 x1 ferruginous pellets. Iron Age
 155 x1 fired clay fragment. Undatable
 158 x1 grey/brown sandy. ?Roman
 160 x1 sandy ware. ?Roman
 161 x1 hm black sandy. Iron Age
 162 x1 grey/brown, sparse flint. Iron Age
 170 x1 black with sparse flint. Iron Age
 172 x1 sandy with sparse limestone. Iron Age
 174 x1 very small crumb. Undatable
 177 x1 coarse calcined flint-tempered. Prehistoric
 180 x1 black/brown sandy, sparse grits. Prehistoric
 182 x1 dark grey clay pellets. ?Roman

- 183 x1 black sandy. Iron Age
- 185 x1 tile fragment. ?Roman
- 187 x1 black sandy. ?Medieval
- 189 x1 tile fragment. No date
- 197 Rim black/brown sandy. Prehistoric
- 198 x1 black/brown sandy with grits. ?Iron Age
- 200 x1 fine grey sandy. ?Roman
- 205 x1 sandy crumb. No date
- 207 x1 brown/grey fine sandy ware with sparse angular flint. Bodysherd from just below the rim with a raised band decorated with incised herring-bone. Prehistoric.
- 208 x1 sandy with grits. Iron Age.
- 209 x1 Savernake type. Roman
- 210 x1 black/brown sandy. ?Medieval
- 210 x1 sandy with grits. Medieval
- 211 x1 very small with shell temper. ??Prehistoric
- 213 x1 bodysherd with calcined flint. Prehistoric
- 214 x1 black with grits. ?Iron Age
- 216 x1 stone
- 217 x1 black/brown with grits. ?Iron Age
- 218 2=1 very small fragments. ?Iron Age
- 220 x1 fired clay. Undatable
- 221 x1 dark grey sandy + grits. ??Iron Age
- 223 x1 grey sandy ware. Roman
- 224 x1 rim, glazed. Post-medieval
- 227 x1 shell-tempered. Prehistoric
- 228 x1 sandy ware. ??Iron Age
- 229 x1 grey sandy. No date
- 230 x1 micaceous, sparse grits. ??Prehistoric/sub-Roman
- 231 x1 sandy. No date
- 232 x1 Savernake ware. Roman
- 232 x1 calcined flint-tempered. Prehistoric
- 234 x1 orange with grey core. Roman
- 235 x1 black/brown sandy. Iron Age
- 239 x1 very small with calcined flint. Prehistoric
- 240 x1 grey sandy ware. Roman
- 243 x1 with fine calcined flint. ?Iron Age
- 245 x1 oxidised, Oxford industry. Roman.

F0005 SM4

- 89 x1 grey sandy. Roman
- 115 x1 grey sandy. Roman
- 116 x1 very small. Late Roman
- 117 x1 hm black sandy. Iron Age
- 118 x1 Oxfordshire colour-coat. Late Roman
- 131 x1 light brown sandy. Roman
- 132 x1 tile. No date
- 133 x1 oxidised with internal glaze. Post-medieval/modern
- 246 x1 grey sandy. Roman
- 247 x1 fine sparse grits. ?Prehistoric

F7800 SM8

- 122 x1 tile fragment. No date
- 124 x1 black sandy ware, internal glaze. Medieval
- 125 x1 light grey sandy. Roman
- 127 x1 basesherd. Roman
- 128 Rimsherd. grey ware. Roman
- 129 x1 sand with iron. Medieval/Roman?

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