RPS Planning, Transport and Environment

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A34 Newbury Bypass Berkshire / Hampshire	Details Stage 3 Archaeological Evaluation
Road Number A34	Date December 1996
Contractor Wessex Archaeology	
County Berkshire / Hampshire	
OS Reference SU46	
Single sided ✓ Double sided A3 0 Colour 0	

A34 NEWBURY BYPASS, BERKSHIRE/HAMPSHIRE
STAGE 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Reference No: 36494/5

Prepared For:

Highways Agency
5 Broadway
Broad Street
Birmingham
B15 1BL

And

Mott MacDonald
Capital House
48-52 Andover Road
Winchester
Hampshire, SO23 7BH

By:

Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
South Portway Estate
Old Sarum, Salisbury
Wiltshire, SP4 6EB

December 1996

SUMMARY

During the Stage 3 evaluation a total of 37 machine trenches were excavated. Of these 28 were to evaluate areas which could not be accessed during the Stage 2 evaluation, seven were excavated in order to investigate possible features identified during the geophysical survey at Enborne Street and two 20m by 20m trenches were excavated to investigate apparently isolated features identified during the Stage 2 evaluation.

With the exception of the seven at Enborne Street, no features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered in any of the evaluation trenches.

A ploughzone site of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, identified during Stage 2 at Curridge Road, was ploughed and fieldwalked. In spite of the recovery of a reasonable quantity of worked flint, no further identification of likely areas of archaeological significance was possible.

In addition five areas were stripped of topsoil in order to define the nature and limits of previously identified sites. This was originally planned for the sites at Great Pen Wood, Wheatlands Lane and Hills Pightle. However, following the completion of the machine trenching, it was decided that the same strategy would be employed at two further sites, those at Enborne Street and Elmore Plantation.

During the Stage 2 evaluation three possible features were found in a single machine trench in **Great Pen Wood**. Romano-British pottery was recovered from the surface of two of the features, none of which were excavated due to the prevailing wet conditions. During Stage 3 an area of *c.* 0.20 ha. (80m x 25m), centred on SU 45200 62600, was cleared of tree stumps and topsoil. A total of five archaeological features, all of Romano-British date, were identified, these comprised four heavily truncated pits and one small irregular hearth or pit.

At **Elmore Plantation** an area of *c.* 1800m^2, centred on SU 45920 67770, was stripped of topsoil and a colluvial deposit. This exposed a buried topsoil from which pottery dated to the 3rd or 4th century AD was recovered. A number of pits, postholes and linear features of Romano British date were sealed below this deposit. These were cut into a lower colluvial deposit which sealed another possible buried topsoil from which a single sherd of pottery, dated to the Late Bronze Age was recovered. The sequence of colluvial deposits was confined to a small coombe or bowl shaped depression approximately 30m long and 23m wide. The majority of the south-eastern part of the area was completely truncated by a large (c.36 by 20 metres and 2.23 metres deep) backfilled quarry, which was probably of post-medieval date.

During the Stage 1 and Stage 2 evaluation medieval material was recovered from trenches and test pits at **Hills Pightle.** Consequently an area of *c.* 0.40ha. (80m x 50m), centred on SU 46200 70000, was stripped of over a metre depth of valley base deposits (comprising topsoil, subsoil and colluvium), a total of six archaeological features, two linear features and four pits, all containing pottery of 13th/14th century AD date, were identified and excavated.

The Stage 1 and Stage 2 evaluation recovered large quantities of medieval pottery and tile at **Enborne Street,** although no features which might represent the source of this material were identified in the machine trenches. To further investigate the discoveries a geophysical survey (GeoQuest Associates 1994) was undertaken over the site. This survey suggested the presence of three ditches, possible pits and possible masonry features. Further evaluation trenches were excavated over the defined anomalies. A reasonable quantity of pottery was recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits together with some material from linear features. The location and type of features suggested by anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not confirmed by the trenching.

In order to clarify the nature of the site an area of approximately 2600m², centred on SU 44370 64050, was stripped of topsoil. No structural evidence, as was implied by the geophysical evidence, was encountered. However, the bases of at least seven pits were uncovered which contained vast quantities of pottery and tile (up to 130kg of tile in a single context), some of which was obviously kiln waste. All shows signs of heavy truncation, probably due to ploughing, and are badly preserved. At least one of the pit bases may have functioned as an oven or kiln. Other shallow linear features, also containing very large quantities of pottery (1721 sherds weighing 19477g in a 2.00m length), were excavated and it is provisionally thought that these may be associated with some of the pits, probably serving a drainage function. The pits and shallow linear features are assumed to be the main source of the medieval materials recovered during earlier evaluations, although other sources made lie outside the road corridor.

Two similar linear features, though even more disturbed, were found during topsoil stripping at **Wheatlands Lane,** where an area of approximately 3.5 ha, centred on SU 44400 64700, was cleared. Concentrations of pottery and burnt flint were also noted, however, no features appeared to be associated with these.

In addition to the stage 3 evaluation works two other stages of work have been undertaken. On 22nd July York Archaeological Trust started work on the Mesolithic site by the **Lambourn** near Bagnor. This excavation was completed on 11th October and at the time of writing the assessment stage is ongoing. The excavation work confirmed that the focus of Mesolithic activity lies to the west of the road line in an area to be preserved. However, large quantities of flint work were recovered from the adjacent excavation area, which will enable further characterisation of the nature of the Mesolithic activities to be undertaken during the assessment and post-excavation stages.

The operation of monitoring the preliminary groundworks started in a limited manner in July and has gradually been stepped up to keep pace with the scale of the enabling works. So far the works have been restricted to the recording of a limited number of poorly preserved features and the recording of the more recent aspects of our heritage, namely the railway. During the watching brief the areas to be preserved, at Enborne Road and near the Lambourn, have been closely checked to ensure their continuing survival, and on site advice has been given where requested to the main contractors and sub-contractors. This work will be continuing into the New Year.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Following the publication of the report of the Public Inquiry into the route of the proposed A34 Newbury by-pass, which indicated that the Department of Transport's preferred route lay to the west of Newbury, Wessex Archaeology was invited by Mott MacDonald, on behalf of the Department of Transport, to submit a project design and an estimate of costs for an archaeological assessment of the proposed route. The ensuing project design (Wessex Archaeology 1991a) was submitted to English Heritage in April 1991.

1.1.2 The work defined in the project design was divided into three sections: a desk-top study, a first stage of fieldwork involving limited ground intervention, and a second fieldwork stage comprising machine trenching. The desk-top study and first stage fieldwork were undertaken between November and December 1991, with a full report (Wessex Archaeology 1991c) being submitted on conclusion. The report included the results of a watching brief maintained during the excavation of geotechnic pits along the route.

1.1.3 Wessex Archaeology was then requested by Mott MacDonald, on behalf of the Department of Transport, to provide a project design and estimate, revised in accordance with the results of the first two components, for the second stage fieldwork, machine trenching. On acceptance of the revised project design (Wessex Archaeology 1993a) by English Heritage, and the relevant County Archaeological Officers, Wessex Archaeology undertook the machine trenching between August 1993 and April 1994.

1.1.4 A summary document covering all the evaluation work to that time was produced in May 1994 (Wessex Archaeology 1994c).

1.1.5 Since May 1994 there has been an on-going discussion as to the nature of archaeological work which should be conducted next. At a meeting between English Heritage and the Highways Agency (who have taken over from the Department of Transport in co-ordinating the construction of the route) in September 1995 it was agreed that a third stage of evaluation should be undertaken prior to commencement of road construction. The objective of the third stage of evaluation was to further

define potential archaeological sites to allow for them to be mitigated for in the main construction contract.

1.1.6 During this stage of work all areas which could not be accessed during the previous stages were evaluated using machine trenches. Areas of known archaeological potential identified during the Stage 1 and Stage 2 evaluations were dealt with on a site specific basis.

1.2 Geology and Topography, Landuse and General Archaeological Background

1.2.1 The geology, topography, land-use and archaeological background of the proposed route are fully detailed in previous Wessex Archaeology reports (1993a and 1994e), as are the evaluation results (Wessex Archaeology 1994c) and it is not proposed to repeat the information here.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Machine Trenches

2.1.1 A total of 37 machine trenches were excavated. Of these 28 were to evaluate areas which could not be accessed during the stage 2 evaluation, seven were excavated in order to investigate possible features identified during the geophysical survey at Enborne Street and two 20m by 20m trenches were excavated to investigate apparently isolated features identified during the stage 2 evaluation.

2.1.2 The trenches were excavated by JCB using a 1.70m wide toothless bucket down to either archaeological features or drift geology. Full textual, graphic and photographic records were made of all deposits using the Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* recording system.

2.2 Topsoil Stripping

2.2.1 The removal of topsoil from large areas, in order to define the nature and limits of previously identified sites was originally planned for the sites at Great Pen Wood, Wheatlands Lane and Hills Pightle. However, following the completion of the machine trenching, it was decided that the same strategy would be employed at two further sites, those at Enborne Street and Elmore Plantation.

2.2.2 The final extent and location of the stripped areas was dependant on the findings and was decided on site. Stripping was always continued until the full extent of a located archaeological site along and within the route corridor was defined. The stripping, under the control of the on-site archaeologist, was conducted using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.80m toothless bucket. The spoil was removed from site by dumper truck.

2.2.3 Stripping continued to the surface of the drift geology or archaeological deposits, whichever was encountered first. Following topsoil stripping all five areas were hand cleaned and hand excavated.

2.3 Area Excavation

2.3.1 Following the removal of the topsoil and appropriate hand cleaning all features were investigated by hand excavation. Full textual, graphic and photographic records were made of all deposits and features encountered using the Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* recording system.

2.4 Field Walking

2.4.1 Following the ploughing and after a period left for weathering, a number of fields adjacent to the present course of the A34 in the area of Curridge road were fieldwalked. The fieldwalking was undertaken by two people over two days. Conditions were dry with a strong summer sun. Surface visibility was hampered by direct sunlight and glare, but generally good ground conditions prevailed.

2.4.2 Collection was based on the Ordnance Survey Grid; within which complete hectares were subdivided into 25m long stints at 25m intervals. In total 115 stints were walked. The work concentrated on the recovery of worked flint and pottery. Modern material was noted in the field but not collected.

2.5 Watching Brief

2.5.1 The monitoring of compound construction and enabling works started in July and August as a series of limited inspections of works sites as necessary. In September and October the archaeological monitoring presence was increased. The archaeologist on site now routinely patrols the length of the route and is constantly contactable by mobile phone. On site office space has been provided for general use and the collation and temporary storage of records.

2.5.2 The archaeologist is kept appraised of rolling programme changes from day to day and also makes random inspections along the route. The facility exists, not yet used, to supply additional personnel to deal with any unexpected discovery.

2.5.3 As the general works progress, written, drawn and photographic records are made using Wessex Archaeology's standard recording system of all details of excavation and/or demolition likely to reveal material of archaeological significance.

2.5.4 The monitoring operation also serves to safeguard areas of high potential to be preserved, either by avoiding specific areas or by adapting the methods of construction to avoid damage to the existing ground surface. The on site archaeologist is present to maintain communication with the various work crews and supply background information and advice where necessary.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Machine Trenching

A catalogue of trench descriptions, giving brief soil descriptions, dimensions and finds information, can be found in Appendix 2. More detailed descriptions are available in the archive.

3.1.1 It was not possible during the earlier evaluation work to fully define the northern extent of the Elmore Plantation site due to dense woodland. To remedy this situation three machine trenches (trenches 700, 701 and 702) were excavated in order to complete the evaluation trenching within the route corridor after the removal to stump of the woodland. No archaeological deposits or features were located.

3.1.2 At the southern end of the route there were two areas, one to the south and one to the north of Tot Hill, where the stage 2 evaluation trenching was unable to proceed because of the tree cover. Nine machine trenches (trenches 703 - 711) were excavated to complete the trenching pattern. These trenches failed to reveal anything of archaeological significance.

3.1.3 A single complete Middle Bronze Age Globular Urn was found in a shallow scoop at Swilly Copse close to the proposed new junction with the A43 . Further trenching in the vicinity of the find failed to discover any related vessels, nor any features with which to relate the pot burial. An area of approximately 20m x 20m was stripped of topsoil (trench 712) over the immediate area of the Stage 2 evaluation trench. The only feature encountered within this trench was a small circular hearth (8023). The primary fill of this (8022) comprised a thin layer of charcoal from which no datable material was recovered. The upper fill (8021) appeared to be the result of natural silting.

3.1.4 To the west of the Swilly copse area and in the vicinity of Snelsmore House, five evaluation trenches were left unexcavated because of tree cover. In order to complete the trenching pattern five 25m trenches were excavated (trenches 713 - 717). These trenches failed to reveal anything of archaeological significance.

3.1.5 Approximately 150m to the north of the Swilly copse area a further machine trench (trench 718) was excavated in order to evaluate a small field which was not accessible during the Stage 2 evaluation. This revealed a shallow circular feature (8049), probably the base of a heavily truncated pit. No dateable material was recovered from either of the two fills (8048 and 8051), it is therefore uncertain if this feature is related to the scatter of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age worked flint, burnt flint identified in the Stage 2 evaluation.

3.1.6 A shallow feature was found in the Stage two evaluation trench (249), to the south of Nazareth House Lodge, from which Bronze Age pottery was recovered. In order to further investigate this feature an area of approximately 20m x 20m (trench 719) was excavated over the immediate area of this trench. This revealed a shallow irregular sub circular feature, probably a tree throw.

3.1.7 To the east of this area a single evaluation trench (266) was left unexcavated because of tree cover. This 25m long trench (trench 720) was excavated to complete the evaluation of this area. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

3.1.8 Trenches 721 - 724 were excavated in order to evaluate part of the floodplain of the River Enborne which could not be investigated during the Stage 2 evaluation due to dense woodland and access problems. During the Stage 1 evaluation burnt flint and medieval tile, and one undated feature, were found in test-pits on the floodplain. However, only one feature, an undated ditch on a north-south alignment in trench 722, was revealed.

3.1.9 Though only one feature was found at Enborne Street during the previous trenching/test pitting evaluation large quantities of medieval pottery were recovered from both the topsoil and subsoil. The results of the geophysical survey suggested that remains may survive. To investigate this possibility seven trenches (trenches 725 - 731) were excavated over the defined anomalies. These revealed a number of features. As the area was subsequently stripped of topsoil and excavated by hand these features are described in 3.3 below.

3.1.10 Five further machine trenches were excavated in order to complete the trenching pattern. Two of these were at Skinners Green (trenches 732 and 733) and three were at Castle Wood (trenches 734-736). No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

3.2 Great Pen Wood

3.2.1 During the Stage 2 evaluation three possible features were found in a single machine trench (trench 37) between Great Pen Wood and the dismantled railway line to the north. A total of seven sherds (25g) of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the surface of two of the features, none of which were excavated due to the prevailing wet conditions.

3.2.2 Later three 2m² test-pits (Trenches 656-8) were hand excavated to the south of Trench 37, but no archaeological remains were identified.

3.2.3 During the stage 3 evaluation/excavation, which comprised the removal of all tree stumps and controlled topsoil stripping over an area of *c.* 0.20 ha. (80m x 25m), centred on SU 45200 62600, a total of five archaeological features were identified, these are detailed below.

3.2.4 Cut 6034, which was located towards the eastern end of the stripped area, was a small sub-oval pit approximately 1.00m long and 0.50m wide with steep-moderate (*c.* 45°) concave sides, a slightly rounded base and a maximum depth of 0.23m. The fill (6033) comprised a firm silty clay with frequent lenses of burnt material from which small quantities of Romano-British pottery and tile were recovered. Given the quite large amounts of burnt material within the fill this feature could be interpreted as a hearth, however, the slightly irregular shape could perhaps indicate a natural origin, possibly a tree throw/root disturbance.

3.2.5 Six metres to the north of pit 6034 was cut 6036. This was a small (2.00m x 1.00m) oval pit with shallow, irregular sides, concave base and a maximum depth of 0.10m. The fill (6035) comprised dark greyish brown silty clay from which small quantities of burnt/fired clay were recovered. It is possible that this represents the base of a heavily truncated pit, or a natural feature such as root disturbance.

3.2.6 Approximately 25m to the west were two small, intercutting, sub-circular pits, the relationship between which could not be discerned. The larger pit [6038], which was 0.78m in diameter and 0.12m deep had a near vertical northern edge with a shallow, irregular southern edge and a slightly concave base. The fill (6037) comprised a grey sandy silt from which small quantities of pottery were recovered.

3.2.7 The smaller pit [6040] was 0.50m in diameter with a shallow 'U' shaped profile and had a maximum depth of 0.14m. The fill (6039), which was indistinguishable from 6037, also produced a small quantity of pottery. These features probably represent the bases of two heavily truncated pits.

3.2.8 A further 14m to the west of these was a sub-circular pit (1.70m x 1.50m) with moderate, concave sides and a flatish base, maximum depth 0.21m. The basal fill (6092) consisted entirely of charcoal *c.* 0.02m thick from which no artefacts were recovered. The secondary fill (6091) comprised a mid-light bluish grey very silty clay from which a single tiny sherd of ceramic material was recovered.

3.2.9 Given the large quantity of charcoal which comprised the primary fill, it is possible that this feature could be a hearth, however, no *'in situ'* burning/scorching of the natural sub-soil was noted. It appears therefore that this feature represents the base of a heavily truncated pit.

3.3 Enborne Street

3.3.1 A field boundary, shown on a tithe map dated 1775 ('A Map of the Manor of Enbourne 1775'), containing substantial quantities of medieval pottery of 12th-13th century date, was found in Trenches 79 and 525-6 during the Stage 2 evaluation. In association with this were quantities of medieval pottery and burnt flint both from the topsoil and from a layer of hillwash covering an area some 100-120m wide. These findings correspond closely to the distributions of medieval material revealed during surface artefact collection undertaken as part of the Stage 1 Evaluation. In addition, a Stage 1 test pit (519), at the southern end of the adjacent field to the north, produced 83 sherds of medieval pottery. This field contains surviving ridge and furrow earthworks, which may indicate the former existence of medieval common field systems, but apart from the material from Test Pit 519 little other than burnt flint was recovered.

3.3.2 No features which might represent the source of this medieval material were identified in the machine trenches. However, the quantity of the material, its localised concentrations and the predominance of domestic coarse cooking wares suggest the presence of settlement activity within the immediate vicinity, either within the road corridor, or up the slope to the north-west.

3.3.3 To further investigate the discoveries a geophysical survey (GeoQuest Associates 1994) was undertaken over the site. This survey suggested the presence of three ditches, possible pits and possible masonry features.

3.3.4 Though only one feature was found during the previous trenching/test pitting evaluation, the results of the geophysical survey suggest remains may survive. To investigate this possibility a number of trenches were excavated over the defined anomalies (trenches 725 - 731).

3.3.5 A reasonable quantity of pottery was recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits together with some material from linear features. The location and type of features suggested by anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey were not confirmed by the trenching.

3.3.6 Topsoil stripping, centred on SU 44370 64050, was commenced on 21/5/96 and an area of approximately 2600m² was cleared. The manual excavation which commenced immediately following the topsoil stripping was completed on 14/6/96. Considerable quantities of pottery dating to the 12th to 13th centuries AD have been recovered. Probable field boundary ditches, of possible post-medieval date, running both north-south and east-west have been encountered. No structural evidence, as

was implied by the geophysical evidence, has been encountered. However, the bases of at least seven pits have been uncovered, some of which contained vast quantities of pottery and tile. All shows signs of heavy truncation, probably due to ploughing, and are badly preserved. At least one of the pit bases may have functioned as an oven or kiln. Other shallow linear features containing very large quantities of pottery have also been excavated and it is provisionally thought that these may be associated with some of the pits, probably serving a drainage function. The pits and shallow linear features are assumed to be the main source of the medieval materials recovered during earlier evaluations, although other sources made lie outside the road corridor.

3.3.7 Immediately below the crest of the hill and close to the western limit of excavation a group of features were encountered. Pit 7004, a sub-circular feature 1.40m long, 1.05m wide and up to 0.21m deep with moderate side and a flatish base, with considerable scorching of the natural clay across its base and sides is almost certainly a hearth. Its basal fill (7007) comprises a dark reddish brown clay/sand with abundant charcoal inclusions (sample 10020) and also contained a small amount of pottery. The secondary fill (7006) appears to be a deliberate backfill of burnt material with *c.* 60% gravel inclusions. This was cut by posthole 7012 on its north-western side, the relationship between the upper fill of 7004 (7005) and the posthole fill (7013) could not be discerned.

3.3.8 On the western side of hearth 7004 was a shallow, irregular (possibly linear) feature [7014], the relationship between the two features could not be discerned. Feature 7014 was completely truncated on its western side by ploughing. Approximately 1.50m to the west of this truncation was a further sub-circular feature [7054] which also displayed signs of obvious '*in situ*' burning. This was approximately 2.60m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.20m. Large quantities of pottery were recovered from its greyish brown sandy clay fill (7053).

3.3.9 Immediately to the north of this group of features was a thin (0.05m) layer of burnt material, which contained large amounts of charcoal and a quantity of pottery. This was assumed to be associated with the activity/activities represented by the above group of features.

3.3.10 Approximately 8m to the south was a second group of features, which comprised three intercutting pits. The earliest of this group was probably (although there is some doubt as to relationships due to the similarity of the fills) 7027. This small circular pit was 0.45m in diameter, 0.28m deep and was filled with a greyish brown silty clay loam (7026) from which quantities of pottery and tile were recovered.

3.3.11 This was cut to the south-west by a large 'pear shaped' pit [7024] which was 2.10m long, 1.30m (average) wide and 0.68m deep. It contained three distinct fills, the primary fill was a firm silty clay (7028) which could only be definitely distinguished from the natural substrata by the presence of charcoal and pottery inclusions. The secondary fill (7035) comprised a dark greyish brown silty clay loam which appeared to be confined to the northern side of the pit. This was overlain by a thick (0.42m) homogenous brownish grey silty clay loam (7023) from which relatively large quantities of pottery were recovered along with fragments of tile.

3.3.12 Pit 7024 was cut to the north-west by a small sub-circular pit [7021] which contained two almost indistinguishable fills (7020 & 7022) from which large quantities of tile and lesser quantities of pottery and non-local ?burnt? stone were recovered.

3.3.13 Between 15 and 20m to the west of these features was a third group of features (group 7061). The relationships between the various features which comprise group 7061 could not be distinguished in plan, the whole group of intercutting features looked like a single, very large amorphous 'blob'. In order to clarify things a spit (7016) of the upper fills up to 0.20m deep was removed. Once the various features could be discerned they were dealt with individually in the normal manner.

3.3.14 The earliest feature represented within group 7061 is probably pit 7071, although its relationship with pit 7031 was uncertain. Pit 7071 was a large sub-rectangular pit (c. 3.00m x 2.50m) with vertical sides, a slightly concave base and a maximum depth of 1.15m. The primary fill (7073) comprised a light grey silty clay from which small quantities of pottery and tile were recovered. A concentration of charcoal was noted within this layer (sample 10021). The secondary fill (7072) was indistinguishable from the overlying 7016, but was seen to be cut by a later feature.

3.3.15 Pit 7031, which appears to have cut 7071, was a smaller sub-rectangular pit c. 2.80m long, 1.50m wide and up to 0.70m deep with steep-moderate , slightly concave sides and a flat base. The single fill was identical to the overlying 7016, however, once it could be discerned in plan, this was excavated in two 0.20m deep spits (7019 & 7032). These produced vast quantities of pottery, including at least one complete vessel, and lesser quantities of tile.

3.3.16 The latest feature discerned in the group was the larger sub-rectangular pit [7030], which was approximately 2.30m by 2.20m with a maximum depth of 1.00m. The sides, though slightly irregular, were very nearly vertical and the base flat. The primary (7056) and secondary (7057) fills appeared to comprise re-deposited natural clay with varying degrees of staining and inclusions. The third fill (7043) consisted almost entirely of

tile fragments within a greyish brown silty clay matrix. A 0.50m wide slot 2.40m long and 0.30m deep was excavated through this fill and all the tile, a total weight of 14,482 grammes, from this was retained. The remainder of the tile excavated from this context was discarded. Assuming that the density of the tile remained constant within this fill, the total weight of tile would have been over 130kg. The uppermost fill (7029) was indistinguishable from 7016.

3.3.17 Immediately to the south of pit 7071 was a linear feature [7033] which was aligned approximately north-south. This feature became progressively wider and deeper as it continued downslope to the south. The northernmost 2.00m length of this feature was filled almost entirely with pottery sherds (7034), this dense deposit of pottery appeared to terminate abruptly, however, The orange/brown silty clay matrix within which the pottery was lying continued to the south where it entirely filled the feature.

3.3.18 In addition to the above features a further four linear features of probable medieval date were excavated (7001, 7017, 7040 and 7045). Of these three are narrow gullies with a shallow 'U' shaped profile which become progressively wider and deeper as they continue downslope. The exception to this was ditch 7017, this was up to 1.80m wide and 0.75m deep with a fairly regular 'V' shaped profile.

3.3.19 A number of post-medieval ditches were also encountered. These appear comprised the field boundaries noted on the 1775 tithe map, one of which appears to have been re-established a least three times.

3.4 Wheatlands Lane

3.4.1 During the Stage 2 evaluation a single trench (trench 106) in the vicinity of Wheatlands Lane produced a subsoil layer containing a localised concentration of medieval pottery, of 12th-13th century date, and tile. The location of this layer corresponds closely to the distribution of medieval material revealed by the Stage 1 evaluation and with material found during the observation of geotechnical investigations in Reddings Copse (Geotechnic Test-Pit 20).

3.4.2 The Stage 2 trenching identified a concentration of artefacts to the south of Wheatlands Lane in Trench 103, immediately adjacent to the Geotechnic Test-Pit. In all 65 sherds (710g) of pottery dating to the 12th-13th century were recovered from a silty clay subsoil encountered in the trench.

3.4.3 To further investigate the discoveries a geophysical survey (GeoQuest Associates 1994) was undertaken over the site. This survey suggested the presence of possible pits.

3.4.4 The site at Wheatlands Lane can be defined as covering approximately a 150m length of the route corridor between Trenches 103 and 106. This can be divided into two sections, one either side of Wheatlands Lane.

3.4.5 To the south of Wheatlands Lane an area of approximately 50m x 40m was control-stripped over the immediate area of the Stage 2 evaluation Trench 103. The second area is to the north of Wheatlands Lane. An area approximately 90m x 45m was control-stripped over the immediate area of the Stage 2 evaluation Trench 106 at the southern end of the plot.

3.4.6 In the southern area two linear features were identified. In the northern area a linear feature and one other possible feature were identified, together with three less well-defined spreads of pottery and burnt flint. The pottery recovered from the topsoil and the surface of features during this operation has proved to be of 12th-13th century date.

3.4.7 The two features identified in the southern area were both shallow gullies (6017/6019 and 6022). Feature 6017/6019 comprised a small curvilinear gully which was traced for c. 7.00m running from western limit of excavation then turning towards the south (downslope) where it became impossible to discern, as the fill was indistinguishable from the natural sandy clays. Indeed the fill along its entire length comprised natural silting, the feature was only discerned because of dense concentrations of pottery within the fill. On excavation it appeared to have an irregular 'U' shaped profile 0.65m wide and 0.20m deep. It should be noted that the edges of this feature were near impossible to define, the above dimensions may be wrong.

3.4.8 In the period between initial machining and excavation many of the finds in this feature were removed/disturbed by person or persons unknown.

3.4.9 Gully 6022 was a very ephemeral feature, only discerned as a linear concentration of pottery, assumed to be the base of a small N-S drainage gully, but could equally be a chance alignment of material in the base of the subsoil. This feature had been cut into by both an earlier geotechnical pit and an evaluation trench.

3.4.10 To the north of Wheatlands Lane a further linear feature (ditch 6024) was identified. This was a slightly curving ditch traced for c. 22m on N-S alignment which proved very difficult to discern as fill (6023) was very similar to the sandy clay natural. On excavation this proved to have a very irregular 'V' shaped profile with an average width of 0.90m and an

average depth of 0.35m. This feature probably represents a silted up field boundary ditch.

3.4.11 The only other feature recognised in this area (cut 6103) was an amorphous/ oval feature, 4.50m long, 1.20m wide and up to 0.55m deep with steep, irregular sides and a flatish base. This could possibly a genuine archaeological feature, but is more probably a tree throw with accumulated debris.

3.4.12 Sondages were excavated into the substrata in the areas where concentrations of pottery and burnt flint were noted during the initial topsoil stripping. However, no features were discerned.

3.5 Elmore Plantation

3.5.1 The Elmore Plantation site lies on the southern face of a relatively steep hill. To the north, on the crest of the hill runs the A4 trunk road while to the south the topography levels out becoming the flood plain of the River Kennet. The area is bisected by a trackway leading from the A4 to the Kennet. To the east of this track running up to the road the land is wooded, while to the west pasture dominates.

3.5.2 During the Stage 2 evaluation archaeological features and deposits were found in three trenches (trenches 239, 520 and 522). In all 10 possible features were identified as was a colluvial deposit which contained many artefacts. A total of 41 sherds (229g) of pottery, 12 pieces (476g) of ceramic building material and 69 pieces (645g) of iron slag were recovered from the three trenches, as were small amounts of fired clay and burnt flint. The pottery from the excavated features has been dated to the early Romano-British period whilst that in the colluvium is of late Romano-British date. Similar artefacts were found in the vicinity during the Stage 1 evaluation test-pitting.

3.5.3 The nature of the artefact assemblage recovered from the site implied industrial activity taking place during the Romano-British period.

3.5.4 To further investigate the discoveries a geophysical survey (GeoQuest Associates 1994) was undertaken over the site. This survey suggested the presence of possible pits.

3.5.5 In May 1996 an area of *c.* 1800m² centred on SU 45920 67770 was stripped of topsoil, a colluvial deposit and a buried topsoil to the surface of an underlying colluvium. This exposed a number of archaeological features which were cut into the lower colluvial deposit (6067)/(6077). The sequence of colluvial deposits was confined to a small coombe or bowl shaped depression approximately 30m long and 23m wide towards

the north-western side of the stripped area. A cross-baulk was left across this area of the site in order to show the sequence of deposits and allow column samples to be taken.

3.5.6 Lying immediately above the very mixed clay and weathered chalk natural substrata was a 0.20m thick layer of silty clay with abundant gravel inclusions (6079) from which small quantities of worked flint and burnt flint were recovered. This was sealed below a slightly darker layer of similar silty clay (7078), again approximately 0.20m thick. In addition to worked and burnt flint a small quantity of pottery, dated to the Late Bronze Age, was also recovered from this layer. Layer 6078 was in turn sealed below a thick (0.60m) layer of mixed silty clay (6077) with a markedly lower gravel content from which small quantities of very abraded pottery, worked flint and burnt flint were recovered. Cutting into the surface of this deposit were a number of archaeological features of Romano-British date. These were sealed below a 0.25m thick layer of dark greyish brown silty clay loam (6075), possibly a buried topsoil. This was in turn sealed by a layer of dark yellowish brown silty clay (6074) which, at its thickest was 0.60m deep thinning towards the sides of the depression. Layer 6074 was sealed below the modern topsoil (6042).

3.5.7 A total of eleven definite archaeological features were found; six post-holes, a shallow gully and four pits. Two further features, which may be irregular pits or tree-throws were also recorded. All of these were sealed below the buried topsoil (6075). The majority of the south-eastern part of the area was completely truncated by a large (c.36 by 20 metres and 2.23 metres deep) backfilled quarry (6044), which was probably of post-medieval date.

3.5.8 The post-holes, which varied in size from 0.26m to 0.50m in diameter, were located towards the centre of the stripped area in two discrete groups of three, however, these did not appear to form any coherent structure.

3.5.9 The pits appear to fall into two categories. Pits 6049 and 6081 were both sub-circular, between 0.40m and 0.70m in diameter and between 0.20m and 0.40m deep, with steep bowl shaped profiles. The other two definite pits (6051 and 6070) were both sub-rectangular, between 1.20m and 1.60m long, between 0.60m and 0.80m wide and up to 1.15m deep with irregular profiles. The other two possible pits (6083 and 6085) were both irregular in shape with steep irregular side. These are probably the result of disturbance caused by tree roots, possibly large tap roots.

3.5.10 Towards the north-east of the stripped area was a small linear feature (6047) aligned north-south, this was 2.2 metres long, 0.30 metres wide and up to 0.20 metres deep. The sides were steep concave while the base was

rounded, though irregular. The only fill (6046) was a greyish brown silty clay from which pottery and iron slag were recovered.

3.5.11 Approximately 30m to the east of the stripped area an 'L'-shaped trench (trench. 737), a total of 39 metres long, was excavated in order to expose an oyster-shell deposits encountered during the Stage 2 evaluation. These deposits were located but found to be intermixed with the sandy silty clays lying above natural chalk and clay with flints. As such, they are unlikely to be of archaeological significance, however, a bulk sample (10002) was taken of the oysters to elucidate their nature and origin. A clue to this may be the fact that the sandy silty clays range from non-existent in the south to a depth of 1.30 metres in the north end of the trench. Therefore the oysters may have accumulated in a natural pond which silted up over a long period of time.

3.6 Hills Pightle

3.6.1 The site, centred on SU 46200 70000, lies within the base of a dry valley with two sink-holes to the north. The underlying natural strata comprises of a variety of interleaving fluvial deposits such as very pale brown weathered chalk, pale yellowish brown sandy gravels, tabular flint beds and stiff orange brown clays with only intermittent drainage. The presence of such varied natural strata and the proximity of the two sink-holes causes the dry valley to become waterlogged during wet periods.

3.6.2 During the Stage 2 evaluation machine trenching six possible features were found in five trenches (trenches 510-2, 382 and 384). From the trenches 139 sherds (1071g) of pottery of 13th/14th century AD date were recovered along with small amounts of other materials. Similar artefacts were recovered during the Stage 1 evaluation test-pitting in the area.

3.6.3 Later, as a further part of the Stage 2 evaluation, three more trenches (trenches 381 and 385-6) were excavated in the woodland directly to the north of the initial Stage 2 discoveries. With the exception of a thin layer of charcoal in Trench 381 no significant archaeological remains were identified.

3.6.4 During the stage 3 evaluation/excavation, which comprised of the redirecting of drainage channels and the controlled stripping of over a metre depth of valley base deposits (comprising of topsoil, subsoil and colluvium) over an area of *c.* 0.40ha. (80m x 50m), centred on trench 382, a total of six archaeological features, two linear features and four pits, were identified and excavated.

3.6.5 All of the features were cut into the mixed natural substrata and appeared to be sealed below a thick (0.40m-0.60m) layer of yellowish brown sandy clay colluvium (6028/7508). This was in turn sealed below a 0.20m-0.30m thick layer of light brown sandy clay subsoil (6029/7509) which lay directly below the silty clay loam topsoil. The natural substrata comprised a variety of deposits. Towards the north of the stripped area it comprised a mottled brown stiff silty clay, with lenses of fluvial flint gravel inclusions, possibly created by fluvial processes in stasis, such as deposition within a pond. Towards the south of the area it comprised a mixture of yellow coarse sandy clay and fluvial flint gravels with frequent outcroppings of weathered chalk.

3.6.6 Ditch 7529, which was on an east-west orientation, ran across the southern side of the stripped area, becoming narrower (from 1.3m to 0.8m in width) and shallower (from 0.43m to 0.24m in depth) towards the West. The primary fill (7514/7518) comprised a firm dark silty clay with frequent flint gravel inclusions from which small quantities of pottery and animal bone were recovered, while the upper fill comprised a light brown silty clay again with frequent flint gravel inclusions.

3.6.7 In the south-eastern area of the site, approximately 9m to the north of ditch 7529 was a large sub circular pit (7501). This was 1.80m in diameter with slightly irregular shallow concave sides and base with two distinct fills. The primary fill (7504) comprised a very pale brown slightly silty clay with sparse flint gravel inclusions. The secondary fill (7500) was a light brown silty clay with frequent flint gravel inclusions from which small quantities of pottery and animal bone were recovered. This feature probably represents the base of a large truncated pit which appears to have been deliberately lined with clay, possibly indicating a storage function.

3.6.8 Approximately 20m to the west were two intercutting sub-circular pits. The earliest of these, cut 7525 was approximately 1.20m in diameter and 0.67m deep, although the original dimensions are uncertain due to truncation by the later pit. The single fill (7524) comprised a greyish brown silty clay with frequent flint gravel and chalk inclusions, from which a small amount of abraded pottery and animal bone were recovered.

3.6.9 The later pit (7523), which was also sub-circular, was 1.50m in diameter and 0.63m deep with a shallow concave northern side, a steep concave southern side and a rounded base. The primary fill (7522) comprised a loose mid brown silty clay with occasional flint gravel inclusions, while the secondary fill (7521) was a very compacted dark brown silty clay, also with occasional flint gravel inclusions. A distinct band of charcoal was noted in the bottom 0.10m of this layer. Pottery, burnt flint, animal bone,

(?)worked sarsen stone and mortar were retrieved from both fills, but the majority of finds were recovered from the secondary fill.

3.6.10 Three metres to the north-west of these pits was a short, shallow ditch (7507), 6.50m in length and 0.85m wide, oriented north-east to south-west. The south-western terminal of the ditch ended in a sub-circular pit, 1.30m in width and 0.40m deep, in the base of which was a small posthole (0.25m in diameter and 0.12m deep). Towards the north-east the ditch narrows and becomes shallower ending in a sub-oval terminal (1.00m in width and 0.05m in depth). This feature had a uniform fill, (7506), which was indistinguishable from the fills of the pit and posthole at the south-western terminal, and comprised a mid brown sandy clay from which small quantities of pottery and burnt flint were recovered.

3.6.11 The only other possible feature encountered within the stripped area was a very irregular depression (7502) approximately 8.00m long and 4.00m wide with very irregular sides and base. Three sections were excavated in order to discern the nature of the deposit, all showed it to be very shallow (maximum depth 0.15m) and very irregular. The fill of this (7503/7516/7520), comprised a dark brown silty clay with frequent flint gravel inclusion, from which small quantities of pottery, worked flint and animal bone were recovered, as well as one iron object, probably a nail. It appears that this deposit is probably a remnant subsoil which has accumulated in a slight depression in the natural sub-strata.

3.6.12 Approximately 150m to the east of the stripped area a ditch and bank earthwork was noted running along the west facing slope of the dry valley. This appears to form a continuous north-south property boundary which can be traced for *c.* 1300m. In order to investigate the nature of this earthwork its course the bypass corridor was planned at an appropriate scale. Following this a single machine trench was excavated across the most appropriate section of the monument within the bypass corridor and a 1.50m section of the ditch was excavated by hand. Where a haul road cut through the earthwork on the southern side of the corridor a section through both ditch and bank was cleaned by hand and recorded.

3.6.13 The earthwork was found to comprise a broad shallow ditch ,*c.* 2.50m wide and 0.40m deep, and a low bank *c.* 2.80m wide and 0.40m high on the western down slope side. No dateable material was recovered from either the primary fill of the ditch or from the bank, however, modern (20th century) pottery and fragments of concrete were noted in the uppermost fills of the ditch. Ash trees up to 1.00m in diameter were noted growing on the bank to the north of the corridor, which would suggest an earlier date than the finds recovered from the ditch.

3.7 Curridge Road

3.7.1 A combination of the results from the Stage 1 test-pitting and fieldwalking (Wessex Archaeology 1991c, 20, A34.50-2) and the Stage 2 Phase II machine trenching identified a scatter of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age worked flint, burnt flint and to a lesser extent medieval pottery and tile covering an area of approximately 12.06 hectares (see DoT Sheets 11 and 12). Machine trenching only located four features (two features in Trenches 444 and one each in Trenches 458 and 465), none of which were datable and it appears that evidence of any settlement present has been badly disturbed by ploughing. The density of the finds was not great but was extensive enough to be of significance.

3.7.2 The site has two chronological components; a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age element and a less significant medieval element. Evidence of Late Neolithic\Early Bronze Age activity is relatively common in west Berkshire. Several contemporary finds spots are listed in the *Kennet Valley Survey* (Lobb in prep.) and in the *Archaeology of the Berkshire Downs* (Richards 1978). Such a site cannot, therefore, be classified as rare. Likewise neither can medieval findspots around Newbury, an important medieval town. It would appear that the site is almost entirely contained within the ploughsoil, which was on average only 0.27m thick. Of the four features identified three were less than 0.20m deep and none were securely dated. The site, therefore, is in a very poor state of preservation. The medieval artefact scatter is probably the result of material 'imported' during manuring and is of little importance save to indicate activity in the general area. Certainly the density and nature of the material recovered from Curridge Road is not of the same significance as the material recovered from Enborne Road and Skinners Green Lane where large amounts of domestic wares and building materials were found. No mitigatory measures will, therefore, be required for the medieval finds. In contrast a considerable degree of significance can be attached to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age remains for though many such sites are known hardly any have been studied in detail. Because of the truncated nature of the remains it is not possible to attribute a 'regional or county importance', but the site is extensive and significant enough to warrant a 'district or local importance'.

3.7.3 The stage 3 works arising from the above information resulted in the recovery of a total of 315 pieces of worked flint. The raw material is variable but generally consistent with the use of locally occurring river gravel deposits. A minority show their origins to be from a chalk source. The objects area generally in poor condition and show signs of heavy damage and crushing consistent with plough-damage.

3.7.4 Waste flakes represent the largest category in the assemblage with 249 complete flakes and 34 broken pieces. These are of irregular shape and

thickness and nearly all retain some traces of cortex. The rest of the assemblage comprise 25 cores, of which 11 were fragmentary, four scrapers, two retouched flakes and a hammerstone. Individually the pieces are undiagnostic as to date, but as with the stage 1 assemblage they are most likely to be of late Neolithic/Bronze Age date.

3.7.5 Other categories of finds were notable for their absence. Although a thorough search was made for more pottery of medieval date, and indeed for any pottery, none was recovered. One sherd of modern flower pot and one fragment of modern roof tile were found and discarded. The general level of modern debris across the field surfaces was very low, apart from specific areas of disturbance at the foot of the embankments for the existing A34 and immediately adjacent to Curridge Road opposite to the 'Fox and Hounds' public house. From this it can be stated that the field surfaces have not been generally disturbed by the addition of material in recent time and, therefore, the distribution of flint and lack of pottery is a reliable indication of the real state of affairs in this part of the route.

3.8 Lambourn Mesolithic site

3.8.1 During archaeological evaluation of the bypass route in 1993 an assemblage of Mesolithic flintwork was recovered by test excavation (Trenches 294 and 297) immediately south of the River Lambourn (Wessex Archaeology 1994c, 14) on the first gravel terrace (SU 454 690) at 82-83 m OD. The material was contained within a c. 0.20m thick layer of possibly `alluvial' silt sealed by 0.50m of topsoil and modern overburden and appeared to be *in situ*. The assemblage included a range of diagnostic Mesolithic pieces including scrapers, serrated blades, microliths, and a burin as well as discarded debitage consisting of blades, flakes, cores and core trimming flakes. A total of 445 worked pieces was recovered, together with a quantity of burnt flint and a possible hearth stone. Further test excavation indicated that the spread of flintwork was very limited in extent.

3.8.2 This site is potentially of considerable importance. The assemblage was contained within a c. 0.20m thick layer of possibly `alluvial' silt sealed by 0.50m of topsoil and modern overburden and overlying silty clay alluvium with river gravel beneath. It appears to be *in situ*. *In situ* Mesolithic assemblages within an area which has such a long history of intense agricultural use have only very rarely been identified and investigated. This site lies just to the north of a major concentration of Mesolithic sites which extend along the Kennet Valley, including those at Wawcott (Froom 1976), Thatcham (Churchill 1962; Wymer 1959; 1962) and Newbury Sewage Works, Thatcham (Healy *et al* 1992). This concentration of sites is clearly focused on the river Kennet itself and the size and composition of the assemblages, their association with hearths, animal

bone assemblages, and antler and bone implements indicates extensive and locally intensive exploitation of the river and its valley resources.

3.8.3 Many of the largest concentrations along the Kennet are of earlier Mesolithic date (9th-7th millennium BC), indicated by the corroborative evidence of the typology of the assemblages, palaeo-environmental sequences and associated radiocarbon dates (eg Dimbleby 1959; Healy *et al* 1992). They have been interpreted as the remains of semi-permanent `home-bases' for hunter-gatherer communities which would have seen repeated occupation over long periods (cf Mellars 1976), especially during the winter when such valley locations offered shelter, relatively lush vegetation, congregating deer herds and other mammals as well as fish. Such sites would form part of a semi-sedentary settlement pattern in which seasonal exploitation of the higher gravel terraces, tributary stream valleys, upper valley slopes and chalk downlands would also be expected.

3.8.4 Excavations at Thatcham (Wymer 1962), Newbury Sewage Works (Healy *et al* 1992), and elsewhere in the Kennet valley have further indicated the presence of later Mesolithic sites. These assemblages tend to be spatially smaller and more discreet than the earlier sites and, on a regional basis, have been found over a much wider area and in much more diverse ecological settings (Gardiner 1988). The composition of the assemblages is also frequently indicative of specialised activity and the overall impression is of a more mobile population exploiting a wide range of resources from a large number of small, specific and probably short-lived camps.

3.8.5 The Lambourn site appears to be Late Mesolithic in date (6th-5th millennium BC), comprising a relatively narrow range of tool forms over a small, discreet area. It lies at a higher level than the Kennet sites, both in absolute terms (OD) and in terms of the river/terrace system. The assemblage of microlithic forms from the evaluation is too small to be quite certain of the date, but whether of earlier or later Mesolithic date it is of considerable potential importance in understanding patterns of exploitation of the Lambourn/Kennet valleys in the early prehistoric period. Known Mesolithic findspots in the Lambourn valley itself are very few (Richards 1978, 29, fig. 17) and consist of only a handful of essentially undiagnostic pieces so that the Lambourn site presents the first opportunity of investigating a site of this period in this catchment area. The Lambourn site has the potential of proving to be either a shorter-term, possibly summer-occupied, camp forming part of the wider earlier Mesolithic settlement pattern, or a specialist, possibly hunting, camp of the Late Mesolithic, about which much less is known in the Lambourn/Kennet area or the Berkshire Downs generally.

3.8.6 In view of the importance of the assemblage revealed in evaluation trench 297 it was decided that further stages of work would not include the area of the proposed balancing pond to the west of the road line, the pond site having been moved to the south to preserve the underlying remains. It was assumed, therefore, that the focus of the area of Mesolithic activity would remain untouched to the west of the route. However, evaluation trench 294 lay directly on the route. Accordingly an excavation strategy was drawn up by Wessex Archaeology and approved by English Heritage for the excavation of an area of the route centred on evaluation trench 294.

3.8.7 York Archaeological Trust was commissioned by the Highways Agency to undertake the excavation. The excavation was completed within the agreed period between 22nd July and 11th October 1996. Technical support to the Highways Agency's main agent, Mott MacDonald, was supplied by Wessex Archaeology. On site meetings were conducted involving representatives of English Heritage and Babtie Public Services, Mr R Thomas and Mr P Fasham, who also monitored the progress of the work and scope of works.

3.8.8 In summary, the excavation area covered 0.4 hectares (4,000 square metres) centred on SU 454 690. The overburden was removed by means of a tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. Thereafter the surface was hand cleaned and a four metre grid was set out across the site and elevations taken every two metres to map the relief of the deposit containing archaeological remains. hand excavation of a selected sample of the exposed surface was then undertaken. This was associated with a comprehensive bulk soil sampling strategy with on site processing facilities. A second stage of excavation involving a mechanical excavator was undertaken both to reduce the site to a single level of archaeological significance and to produce a section through the underlying subsoil deposits.

3.8.9 The excavation demonstrated that a substantial proportion of the eastern half of the site had already been disturbed by recent ground works. Had deposits of archaeological significance been present in that part of the site they would have already been removed. Across the western half of the site, although quantities of worked flint were recovered, in situ deposits similar to those uncovered in evaluation trench 297 were not encountered.

3.8.10 Mesolithic artefacts recovered by the excavation are exclusively worked flint artefacts. These artefacts include unretouched flakes, cores and a number of retouched tool forms including small arrowhead points or barbs known as microliths. Worked flint artefacts are distributed throughout the deposit both horizontally and vertically in varying

densities. To date, two concentrations of artefactual material representing the possible locations of Mesolithic activity have been identified. One concentration is composed of unretouched flakes, cores and retouched tools and may represent the location of a dump along. the edges of the living area when the site was occupied. The other is made up of unretouched flakes, cores and burnt flint and suggest the possible location of a hearth or campfire around which flint working activities took place.

3.8.11 York Archaeological Trust are currently preparing their assessment report for presentation to the Highways Agency and to English Heritage.

3.9 Watching Brief

3.9.1 The monitoring of enabling works to date has included the following; compound construction, temporary haul routes, borrow pits, preliminary bridging operations, drainage improvements, railway bridge and embankment reductions, and topsoil stripping for temporary soil stock piling. While many of these works have been, individually, of limited scope, when considered overall a considerable ground surface area has been opened for inspection. Where possible features have been revealed, these have been investigated by hand excavation and full recording. Where more recent features, notably parts of the disused railway and agricultural drainage systems, have been reduced, a full photographic record has been made, augmented by plans and sections where necessary.

3.9.2 The sites of high archaeological potential at Enborne Road and by the Lambourn have been closely monitored to ensure that everyone is aware of the measures in place to preserve these sites, and that they are adhered to. Advice has been given where variations and/or additions have been proposed to matters affecting the archaeological heritage. At Curridge Road it may prove necessary to take steps to protect a milestone during slip road re-alignment. A strategy has been discussed with the representatives of the county authorities and an on site scheme is ready should the need arise.

3.9.3 The watching brief to date has resulted in the recording of many features which proved to be of modern or natural origin. Two features of Bronze Age date were excavated and recorded to the north of the A4 near Speen. Surface finds of worked flint, medieval pottery, post-medieval brick and tile and modern building debris have also been encountered. Construction details of the railway embankment, and associated brick built culvert channels and road bridges have been made.

3.9.4 Although the results so far have been largely negative, this is to be expected, as it serves to validate the results of the evaluation stages which

suggested that much of the route passes over areas already truncated by railway construction and agricultural erosion. The Wessex Archaeology personnel on site are kept regularly informed of the progress of the general programme and day to day variations, and while general monitoring of the route will continue the work will focus on the areas of known archaeological potential.

4.0 THE FINDS

Introduction

4.0.1 Artefacts were recovered from a small number of evaluation trenches which completed the Stage 2 fieldwork, from five sites excavated during the Stage 3 fieldwork, and from surface artefact collection at one site. Only one site (Enborne Street) produced anything more than moderate quantities of artefacts. In this section the artefacts are discussed by material type within each site, and their nature, range and condition are assessed. Total quantities of artefacts recovered from each site are presented in Tables 1-5 Appendix 1 will assess the archaeological potential of the artefactual data from each identified site, and proposals for further analysis are set out in Section 9.4.

4.0.2 For this assessment, all artefacts from all sites have been scanned as part of a single operation, and dating information, as well as other relevant data, have been recorded. Spot dates have been recorded, where possible, on a context by context basis within each site. All metal objects have been X-radiographed in order to assess conservation requirements.

4.0.3 Tables 1-5 also include total numbers and weights of artefacts recovered during previous Stage 1 and Stage 2 fieldwork. These artefacts have already been quantified by hectare unit/context and discussed (Wessex Archaeology 1991, rep. W457.03; 1993, rep. W628.1; 1994a, rep. W628.2; 1994b, rep. W628.3); they are included in the tables in order to present overall quantification of artefactual assemblages by site, but are not discussed in this section.

4.1 Great Pen Wood

4.1.1 Only a small quantity of finds were recovered from this site, comprising ceramic building material, fired clay and pottery (see Table 1). Finds came from unstratified contexts during the Stage 3 fieldwork, and from three features (pits 6034, 6038, 6040).

Ceramic Building Material

4.1.2 Only five fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from this site, all from Romano-British features. Two are poorly wedged, grog-tempered Roman brick fragments. Another three undiagnostic pieces are in a similar fabric, and the fifth is in a sandy fabric.

Fired Clay

4.1.3 In total, thirty fragments of fired clay were recovered in association with Romano-British pottery, half of which are featureless. The rest of the

fragments have visible surfaces and may be structural or remnants of building material. None display any diagnostic features. Apart from three fragments which have an organic temper and are highly burnt, the rest of the fired clay is coarse grained and grog-tempered.

Pottery

4.1.4 All of the pottery is of Romano-British date, and consists of four sherds of samian, from a platter of form Drag 18 or 18/31, and 27 sherds of coarsewares, including both sandy and grog-tempered wares. A date range of 1st/2nd century AD may be suggested.

4.2 Enborne Street

4.2.1 This site produced the greatest quantity of artefacts, with an assemblage consisting mainly of pottery and ceramic building material (see Table 2). The quantity and condition of this material suggest that this is a production site, although the structural evidence for this was ambiguous.

Ceramic Building Material

4.2.2 Nearly 96 kg of ceramic building material was recovered from this site, and this represents a sample only of the total quantities observed during excavation. Particularly large quantities came from pits **7021** and **7030** and the upper fill (**7016**) of pit group **7061**. There is no evidence that these tiles had been used in any structure on the site and it seems likely, considering the quantities present, and the very homogeneous nature of the assemblage, that ceramic tiles were being produced on or near the site, together with pottery (see below).

4.2.3 The majority of the fragments came from medieval features associated with large quantities of 13th-century pottery (see below), and are assumed to be of similar date, although there are some diagnostic Roman fragments such as *tegulae* and poorly wedged, grog-tempered brick fragments. Given the lack of Romano-British pottery or other finds from the site, the latter fragments may have been deliberately collected from a nearby site for re-use.

4.2.4 Most of the medieval ceramic building is represented by flat tile, most of which is of a very similar appearance. Tiles, some with surviving peg/nail holes, range in thickness from 13mm to 18mm and are generally in a dense, fine grog-tempered fabric or, less frequently, a dense, sandy fabric. The majority have been fired in oxidising conditions, although some of the tiles appear to have been overfired or burnt. A small proportion have traces of a clear lead glaze on the upper surface. A small number of the tiles, around 6%, appear to have been cut*. As well as flat roof tiles there are at least three curved tile fragments, probably deriving from ridge tiles.

Fired Clay

4.2.5 Forty fragments in total were recovered from this site, all from medieval features, and most from a spread of burnt material (7055) associated with the possible truncated kiln (7054). Just over half of these have a visible surface and could represent either superstructure or lining from the putative kiln. All the fragments are in a similar moderately coarse grained sandy fabric and many pieces are blackened through heating or burning. The remaining fragments are featureless.

Worked and Burnt Flint

4.2.6 A small assemblage of worked flint was recovered from the site, 80% of which came from medieval features. The other 20% were recovered from unstratifed contexts. The assemblage comprises patinated blade fragments and undiagnostic and therefore undatable flakes, all of which are edge damaged. All the flint derives from a local gravel source.

4.2.7 Small quantities of burnt, unworked flint were also recovered, mainly from unstratified contexts during initial clearance. This material type is of uncertain date; while a prehistoric date cannot be discounted, some at least of this material may have resulted from the putative industrial activities taking place on site (see below).

Pottery

4.2.8 With the exception of three post-medieval sherds, all of the large pottery assemblage recovered from the site is of medieval date, and both the quantity and condition of this material indicate that this does not represent a normal domestic assemblage.

4.2.9 Two fabric groups dominate the assemblage. The vast majority of sherds are in calcareous fabrics with some flint. A smaller proportion is in sandy flint-tempered fabrics. The distinction between the two types is not always clear-cut, and there is a range of variation in the quantity and size of inclusions in each. All sherds are in poor condition, soft and abraded, the calcareous sherds heavily leached. Surface slips applied in order to disguise the inclusions and to provide a smoother surface finish have been particularly badly abraded. A few sherds show signs of spalling of the surface.

4.2.10 Vessel forms are similar for both fabric groups, although the calcareous fabrics have the greatest variety. The main vessel forms are jars and bowls, with a small range of rim forms. Jars (or cooking pots) are either necked, with thickened and flattened rims, or unnecked with simpler rims. A few have a row of impressed 'dimples' around the shoulder. Bowls are either shallow vessels, often with inturned rims, or deeper forms with everted rims, frequently decorated on the inside of the rim. Some of the

latter type may be curfews, as strap handles with perforated handle/body junctions, and perforated body sherds, indicate that these are present. Less common vessels include lamps, represented by three pedestal bases, a jug with strap handle, and a single cauldron. Two rod handles, one solid and one hollow, may derive from skillets or frying pans.

4.2.11 Decoration is scarce, and consists mainly of combed or incised wavy lines, which occur most commonly on bowls. Jars are generally plain, apart from a few with 'dimpled' shoulders; a handful of rims are finger-impressed. There is no evidence at all of glaze.

4.2.12 These two fabric groups have both been recognised from excavations within Newbury, and at other sites along the Kennet valley as far west as Devizes (Vince forthcoming, fabric groups A and B). Although one putative source has been proposed, in the Savernake Forest area, it is evident that these fabrics form part of a widespread tradition in central southern England, and that each type was probably manufactured at more than one location. The evidence from Enborne Street would suggest that this is one of those locations. The sheer quantity of material, and the nature of its deposition, would suggest repeated episodes of dumping, each involving large amounts of pottery. No obvious wasters, in the form of distorted vessels, were found, but the poor condition of the pottery could be a result of either underfiring or overfiring. Some spalling has been noted, which could also be attributed to firing faults. The assemblage is dominated by a very restricted range of vessel forms.

4.2.13 Evidence from Newbury suggested that the flint-tempered fabrics (group A) were gradually replaced at around the end of the 12th or beginning of the 13th century by the flint-tempered/calcareous fabrics (group B), the latter continuing in use into the 14th century with little evidence of any chronological development. The Enborne Street assemblage includes both types, which might suggest a start date within the transitional phase, perhaps in the early part of the 13th century, although the undiagnostic nature of the group B vessel forms hinders the determination of an end date, which could be as late as mid 14th century.

4.2.14 In addition to the two main fabric groups, there is a small proportion of sherds in sandy fabrics. These are mainly glazed wares, deriving from jugs, some with slipped decoration; there is also one internally glazed dripping dish. A few sherds are in finer, pale-firing sandy fabrics, representing at least two glazed, slip-decorated jugs. These could be products of either the Surrey whiteware industry or the Laverstock kilns outside Salisbury, and are of 13th-century type.

4.2.15 Although pottery was recovered from features across the site, particularly large groups were recovered from five features: pits **7031** and **7030**, the upper fill of pit group **7061**, linear feature **7033** and ditch **8084**.

Slag

4.2.16 Only one piece of slag was recovered, from ditch **8096**. This is likely to represent smithing rather than smelting slag, but quantities are insufficient to indicate iron working on the site.

Stone

4.2.17 Twenty-seven fragments of stone were recovered, the majority of which came from pit 7021 and comprised fragments of local sarsen, unworked. The rest of the stone comprised two whetstone fragments; a fragment of sandstone with one polished surface, possibly utilised; and three unworked fragments of medium grained sandstone, probably burnt.

Metalwork

4.2.18 The metalwork comprises eleven iron objects and one lead object. The majority of the metalwork was found in medieval ditch, linear and pit features. One iron object was from a subsoil context, and a second, plus the lead object (a musket ball) were unstratified.

*All the iron objects are highly encrusted and therefore difficult to identify, however where identification is possible at least four nails and possibly three or four knife fragments were observed (*information from X-Ray to be added*).

4.3 Wheatlands Lane

4.3.1 A restricted range of finds were recovered from a small number of features, comprising mainly pottery, with smaller quantities of ceramic building material, fired clay, and burnt and worked flint (see Table 3). A large proportion of the finds came from topsoil contexts. Overall, the assemblage shows considerable similarities with that from Enborne Street (see above).

Ceramic Building Material

4.3.2 The ceramic building material derived almost entirely from topsoil and subsoil contexts. Of the 61 fragments recovered, only four displayed any diagnostic features; one Roman *tegula* fragment and three peg tiles. Apart from the *tegula* fragment, all the ceramic building material is assumed to be of medieval date.

4.3.3 The majority of the medieval ceramic building material are tiles, and the assemblage is visually very similar to that from Enborne Street (see above). The tiles range from 13mm to 18mm in thickness, and most are in

a fine, dense fabric with rare flint inclusions. Three fragments are glazed on the upper surface.

Fired Clay

4.3.4 Seven of the fired clay fragments came from the topsoil and two from ditch **6024**. As for Enborne Street (see above), all the fragments are in a similar moderately coarse sandy fabric. Only one piece has a visible surface. Five of the fragments are blackened from heating or burning. As for Enborne Street, the suggestion that these pieces derived from a possible kiln structure may be made, although the evidence here is even more ambiguous than for the other site.

Worked and Burnt Flint

4.3.5 A small number of worked flints was recovered, mainly from an unstratified topsoil context; the remainder comes from two medieval features (gully **6019**, ditch **6024**). The assemblage comprises one core and several undiagnostic flakes, all in local gravel flint. The items are all slightly patinated and show edge damage.

4.3.6 In addition, a small quantity of burnt, unworked flint was recovered, again mainly from the topsoil. Although intrinsically undatable, this material type is often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity.

Pottery

4.3.7 With the exception of three post-medieval sherds from the topsoil, the pottery is entirely of medieval date. The range of fabrics and forms present is very similar to that observed at Enborne Street (see below) and, as for the latter site, the condition of the sherds and the quantity recovered would suggest that this represents waste from a production site.

4.3.8 The assemblage is dominated by sherds in coarse flint- and flint-/limestone-tempered fabrics, comparable respectively with fabric groups A and B as identified at Newbury (Vince forthcoming). Vessel forms in these fabrics include jars, shallow bowls or dishes, deeper bowls, and curfews. Rod handles may derive from jugs, while strap handles could represent either jugs or curfews. Sandy wares (comparable to Newbury fabric group C: *ibid.*) are present in much smaller quantities; sherds derive from at least one jar, one hollow-handled skillet or dripping dish, and one jug. A few sherds have combed or incised curvilinear decoration. A date range within the 13th century may be proposed for this assemblage; the homogeneity of the pottery would suggest a fairly short timespan but neither fabrics nor forms are sufficiently diagnostic to enable closer dating.

4.4 Elmore Plantation

4.4.1 Finds were recovered from topsoil, subsoil, hill-wash and colluvial deposits, as well as several features (see Table 4). Pottery indicates that most of these contexts and features are of Romano-British date, although the colluvium appears to be of prehistoric date.

Worked and Burnt Flint

4.4.2 A small assemblage of worked gravel flint was recovered mainly from unstratified and colluvial deposits. The assemblage comprises a blade core, blade fragments and undiagnostic flakes. The majority of the flint is patinated and edge damaged.

4.4.3 In addition, a small quantity of burnt, unworked flint was recovered, mainly from hill-wash and colluvial deposits. This material is undatable, and here occurs mainly in contexts dated by pottery to the Romano-British period, although the presence of worked flint would indicate a prehistoric presence in the vicinity of the site.

Ceramic Building Material

4.4.4 The ceramic building material recovered consists entirely of Romano-British brick and tile fragments. The majority of these are undiagnostic, but three *tegulae* and three flue tile fragments were identified. The remaining fragments have been dated to this period largely on the basis of fabric.

Fired Clay

4.4.5 Seven fragments of fired clay were recovered from layer **6089**. Five pieces have a visible surface and may be fragments of building material.

Pottery

4.4.6 With the exception of two medieval sherds and two post-medieval sherds, all unstratified finds, and one prehistoric sherd, all the pottery is of Romano-British date.

4.4.7 The prehistoric sherd is an undiagnostic body sherd in a coarse flint-tempered fabric, probably of Late Bronze Age date. As the only sherd from colluvium **6078**, it provides valuable dating evidence for that context.

4.4.8 There is one sherd of samian, and a few sherds of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware; the remainder of the assemblage comprises coarsewares, including greywares and grog-tempered wares. On the basis of the Oxfordshire finewares, plus one drop-flange bowl of characteristic late Romano-British type, the assemblage can be dated broadly to the 3rd/4th century AD, although the samian would suggest the presence of at least some residual earlier material. The largest groups came from linear **6047** and from the buried topsoil (**6075**).

Stone

4.4.9 Six fragments of medium grained sandstone were recovered from the site, from a topsoil context, layer 6089 and linear 6047, all associated with Romano-British pottery. The stone fragments are flat and range between 15mm and 20mm in thickness. It seems likely that they represent building material such as tiles.

Metalwork

4.4.10 One copper alloy object and five iron objects were recovered, two unstratified, one from a hill-wash deposit (6067), two from buried topsoil (6075) and one from a tree bowl (6083). The iron objects comprise two encrusted nail shanks, and three highly encrusted nails. All are likely to be of Romano-British date. The copper alloy item, from hill-wash deposit 6067, is a small stud with a domed head and circular shank, which although not particularly diagnostic is most likely to be Romano-British in date.

Slag

4.4.11 The majority of the slag came from an unstratified context; the remainder is from Romano-British or natural features. This is all iron working slag, and with the absence of tap slags, it seems more likely that it represents smithing rather than smelting, although some of the pieces are quite dense. One fragment could possibly be part of a hearth bottom.

4.5 Hills Pightle

4.5.1 A moderate quantity of artefacts was recovered (see Table 5). Pottery is the only closely datable find, and would indicate a medieval date for the finds assemblage.

Ceramic Building Material

4.5.2 The majority of the ceramic building material recovered is of medieval date, with a few residual (and possibly re-used) Romano-British pieces. Most was unstratified. The medieval material consists largely of tiles with an average thickness of 15mm. Two have surviving peg holes, and four show the remains of a lead glaze on the upper surface. One fragment of medieval tile is shaped in such a way that suggests it may have been deliberately cut.

Worked and Burnt Flint

4.5.3 A small assemblage of gravel and chalk flint was recovered from the site, half of which was unstratified and the other half residual in medieval features. The assemblage comprises cores, blade fragments and undiagnostic flakes. The majority of the assemblage is highly patinated

and edge damaged; the raw material is a mixture of chalk- and gravel-derived flint.

4.5.4 In addition, a moderate quantity of burnt, unworked flint was recovered, mostly from a lens of burnt material within the upper fill of pit **7523**. This material type is undatable, although frequently associated with prehistoric activity; in this instance all burnt flint derived from medieval features.

Stone

4.5.5 All of the stone recovered consists of burnt and unworked sarsen. This was largely unstratified, with two pieces associated with the burnt flint in pit **7523** (see above).

Pottery

4.5.6 The entire pottery assemblage is of medieval date. Most sherds derived from the topsoil, and this context contained most of the diagnostic pieces. Again, flint- and flint-/calcareous-tempered fabrics are most common, in jar and dish/bowl forms. Sandy wares are less common, and are frequently glazed; vessel forms include bowls, jugs and one hollow-handled skillet or dripping dish. A date range in the 13th century is likely.

Iron

4.5.7 Four highly encrusted iron objects were recovered, one from an unstratified context, the others from pit **7502**, ditch **7515** and pit **7523**. All are likely to be of medieval date. One nail was identified.

Animal Bone

4.5.8 A small amount of fragmentary animal bone, all from domestic mammals, was recovered from several medieval contexts.

5.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Charred Plant Remains

5.1.1 A series of 11 bulk samples of 10 litres were taken from sealed and dated deposits from three of the sites. Samples were taken from specific features (pits, beamslots hearths) or from dated and sealed buried soils.

5.1.2 The samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (<5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.

5.1.3 The flots were scanned under a x10-x30 stereo-binocular microscope and presence of charred remains quantified by Michael J. Allen (Table 6), in order to present information about preservation and to determine the potential of the charred plant remains for analysis.

Results

5.1.4 In general all sites produced about average flot sizes (60ml ids the norm from a 10 litre sample). The results are summarised below by site.

Great Pen Wood

5.1.5 One sample was taken from a potential Romano-British hearth **6043.** The sample produced large quantities of recent rootlets, and apart from two fragments of charcoals larger than 5.6mm was devoid of charred plant remains, although a few smaller comminuted charcoal fragments existed. This is unlikely to be a hearth deposit in view of the paucity of charred remains and charcoals.

Enbourne Street

5.1.6 Two samples from a hearth (**7004**) and a pit (**7071**) both produced few gains and charred weed seeds. Charcoals were present in both.

Elmore Plantation

5.1.7 A small suite of four samples were taken. One from an undated horizon of 'oyster' shells was floated, but no charred material was present at all.

5.1.8 The two stratified Late Bronze Age (context 6078) and Romano-British (context 6075) buried soil horizons produced very sparse remains. The Romano-British beam slot (**6047**) also produced little, although some charcoal was present. The fragments were not, however, large enough to suggest that these represent the original beam.

Hills Pightle

5.1.9 Four samples were taken from medieval (12th/23th century) pits from the excavations at High Pightle. The samples produced about averaged sized floats (table **), and all pit fills sampled produced grain, charred weed seeds and charcoals. Chaff was noted in at least two pits. Land snails were present in all samples (see land snails).

5.2 Land Snails

5.2.1 Land snails were noticed in all samples from Hills Pightle. Although *Vertigo moulinsiana* was noticed in pit 7523, the contexts sampled are not palaeo-environmentally useful. Extraction, identification and analysis of these assemblages will not significantly enhance our understanding of the use of the medieval landscape.

5.3 Marine shells

5.3.1 A 70 litre sample of the shell and greensand material was taken. from the 'oyster bed' (context 6068) from Elmore Plantation. The sample was sieved very gently through mesh sizes 9.5mm, 4mm and 2mm for artefact retrieval, the flot (0.5mm) was also retrieved. to recover a number of identifiable and examinable specimens, and to recover any other species of molluscs within this bed.

5.3.2 A 1000g sub-sample was processed for molluscs following standard processing procedures for mollusc analysis, where the flots and residues retained on a 0.5 mm mesh sieve, in an attempt to recover small fresh and brackish water species.

5.3.3 The flot and coarse residue fraction from the mollusc sample were scanned but no molluscs were observed. The flot contained sparse uncharred plant matter but no charred remains were recorded.

5.3.4 The coarse fraction of the bulk sample was sorted and only contained oyster shell. No artefacts or other shell fragments were recovered.

The oysters

5.3.5 The shells were scanned and the following comments can be made:-

- The shells were very fragmented and in poor condition.
- The shells were markedly elongated - c.33% wider
- The shells were generally thick indicating age and lack of room for growth.
- The shells were generally heavily infested - rotten backs- by a boring sponge like organism - ? Cliona celata
- Some shells showed evidence of clumping and had fragments attached, indicative of a confined oyster bed.
- There was no evidence of cultch or any smaller shells.

- These shells appear to represent a 'natural' population rather than a 'farmed' one

5.3.6 One shell fragment was examined by Sarah F Wyles who reports that it does not appear to be the common flat or native marine oyster, *Ostrea edulis*. It is more likely to be a freshwater oyster rather than the introduced Portuguese oyster, *Crasostrea angulata* (the other main marine oyster species found off the coast of the British Isles). This specimen will need to be checked against reference literature and material.

5.4 Soils and Pollen

Elmore Plantation

5.4.1 The south facing section of the deposits was recorded in the field to contain two stratified buried soils separated by colluvium. Bulk samples fro charred remains from each buried soil horizon were processed and assessed. The entire sequence was sampled in two overlapping monolith tins to facilitate more detailed description and the sub sampling for pollen assessment/analysis.

Soils and sediments

5.4.2 The undisturbed *in situ* samples provide an ideal opportunity do describe the deposits accurately following standard pedological notion (Hodgson 1976) which will enable field interpretation to be confirmed and enable a detailed picture of the sediment history from the site to be obtained. Excavation and field interpretation, strongly indicates that the sequence, although of natural deposits, is an indirect result of the associated human activity.

Pollen

5.4.3 The 1.4m sampled stratified sequence embraces a period of some 1500 to 2000 years covering the Late Bronze Age to Romano-British occupation and later. If pollen is preserved within these deposits this provides a significant opportunity to obtain a long sequence of vegatational history from the valley but which is also related to human activity. Preserved pollen will therefore provide details of the human modification and management of the vegetation and provide the basis for understanding the settlement activity.

5.4.4 If pollen is preserved, the nature of the despoils only warrant sampling at crude sample intervals.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Great Pen Wood

6.1.1 The features excavated at Great Pen Wood comprise heavily truncated pits of uncertain function. No structural features were located, probably due to the truncations caused by the construction of the railway embankment and the removal of trees.

6.1.2 If these do represent Romano-British settlement or industrial activity the main focus of this appears to lie outside the road corridor, or has been so heavily truncated within the corridor that its original function cannot be discerned.

6.2 Enborne Street

6.2.1 The large assemblage of pottery and tile recovered from this site, and the relatively narrow range of forms represented within this assemblage, appears to relate to a medieval production centre, probably of 13th century date. This site, along with the site at Wheatlands Lane, could be considered together as part of what may have been a large, dispersed, pottery and tile production complex in this area, which would probably have exploited the natural London Clay substrata of the local area, this being "excellent for throwing" (Musty et al 1969), as a source of clay. It is therefore possible that further features will survive both within and outside the road corridor. Although no documentary references to medieval ceramic production have been located, a short newspaper article, dated February 1885, states that "On Mr. Valpy's estate at Enbourn an immense number of pieces of Roman pottery ..... were dug up in the clay a few years since, which had every appearance of being the refuse of pottery kilns", as far as can be ascertained Mr. Valpy's estate included both the Enbourn Street and the Wheatlands Lane sites. However, no records of the exact location and circumstances of the discovery, or the current location of the material have been found. It is possible that the pottery was misidentified due to its poorly fired nature, the reference to the fact that they were "dug up in the clay" could indicate that they were discovered during the construction of the railway cutting immediately to the east of the Enbourn Street site, which was excavated between 1882 and 1885.

6.2.2 Given the obviously intense burning associated with pits 700, 7054 and the associated features, they could perhaps be interpreted as a heavily truncated kiln, 7004 being the 'fire pit', feature 7014 the flue and feature 7054 the base of the kiln. The spread of burnt material could be seen as the fire debris 'raked out' of the features after a firing. It is interesting to note that several fragments of fired clay were recovered from this deposit,

these could represent fragments of either the superstructure or lining of the putative kiln. However, it could be that these are in fact merely a group of hearths and be unconnected with ceramic production.

6.2.3 It is possible that the primary fill of pit 7024, a coarse sandy clay, represents the unwanted coarse component of the natural clay which would have sunk to the bottom of a levigation (clay puddling) pit, however ,this is uncertain. The other pits in this group appear to be too small to have served this function, an interpretation of rubbish disposal pits is therefore suggested.

6.2.4 Assuming that all of the features in pit group 7061 have been truncated from above by ploughing, it could be argued that the small linear feature represents a small gully constructed to drain liquid from the upper part of a levigation pit, represented by (probably) pit 7071. which was subsequently utilised to dispose of kiln waste. The only other explanation which suggests itself is that these are some form of quarry pits and the linear feature is unassociated with them.

6.2.5 Drainage would have been a major problem on this site, built as it was on solid clay, for water had to be kept away from the kilns and from where the pottery was made and stored. The shallow 'U' shaped gullies (7001, 7045 etc.), which appear to be contemporary with the possible kiln and pits, possibly served a drainage function. Similar gullies have been found on other medieval kiln sites, in particular the site at Harefield Lane, Nuneaton, Warwickshire (Moorhouse 1981), where a drain constructed of broken pots was also excavated. It could be that the concentrations of pottery recovered from relatively short sections of some of these gullies in fact represent the remains of short lengths of similar 'pot drains', possibly where they passed below structures or surfaces. An alternative interpretation is that these gullies were utilised in the levigation process. The clay slip would have flowed slowly along the gully before being collected, the concentrations of pottery could have functioned as 'baffles' within the gullies which would have trapped the coarser or heavier particles, whereas the finer material would have remained in suspension (Rye 1981).

6.2.6 The larger medieval ditch (7017), and the later post-medieval ditches all appear to represent field or property boundaries.

6.3 Wheatlands Lane

6.3.1 Despite the relatively large quantities of medieval pottery and tile recovered in this area only two feature of indisputable medieval date were located. These were both shallow 'U' shaped gullies, very similar to those located at Enborne Street, and a similar drainage function is assumed.

6.3.2 The similarity of these features to those at Enborne Street, their possibly contemporary date and close proximity suggest that these represent the remains of a similar, if not the same, dispersed production complex. Although heavy truncation is assumed, these features were probably on the periphery of a settlement which probably lies outside the road corridor, or has been destroyed by the construction of the railway.

6.4 Elmore Plantation

6.4.1 The Romano-British features excavated at this site only appear to have survived within the colluvial deposits which built up within the small coombe during the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods. The features appear to represent the remains of a small farmstead, probably of 3rd or 4th century date.

6.4.2 Two possible buried soils were located within the colluvial deposits, one dated to the Late Bronze Age and one to the Romano-British period. The colluvial deposits, although natural, are an indirect result of agricultural activity (ploughing). It could be that the two soil horizons represent breaks in the continuity of the agricultural activities in the immediate vicinity, possibly caused by a change from agricultural to domestic and/or industrial use.

6.4.3 The features which were sealed below the Romano-British buried soil indicate that this would certainly appear to be the case in the Romano-British period. However, as no features or other indications of Late Bronze Age settlement were located the reason for the apparent temporary break in land use is uncertain.

6.5 Hills Pightle

6.5.1 Given the orientation and dimensions of ditch 7529, this could be interpreted as a small boundary ditch possibly marking the southern extent of an enclosure or a field boundary.

6.5.2 The burnt material at the base of layer (7521) could suggest a hearth, however the lack of in-situ burning and the depth of cut [7523] suggest the feature is the base of a truncated refuse pit. Cut [7525] could therefore be the pre-cursor to pit [7523], with the latter being re-excavated after the former was either naturally or deliberately backfilled with layer (7524). However the homogeneity of fill (7524) and the irregularity of cut [7525] as well as the abrasion of the finds within the feature could suggest a possible tree-throw hollow used for the excavation of pit cut [7523] due to the ease of digging fill (7524) compared to the surrounding natural strata.

6.5.3 Feature 7507 probably represents the base of a heavily truncated ditch which, with the orientation and increasing depth of the linear, terminating in a sub-circular pit, could possibly indicate a use for drainage.

6.6 Curridge Road

6.6.1 The nature of the flint work recovered, being generally in poor condition and mainly consisting of waste flakes, is consisted with material which has travelled downslope under the impetus of erosion encouraged by long-term agricultural activity. The amount of material does suggest the presence of focii of prehistoric activity in the general area, but upslope at some distance from the area walked. These foci area most likely to be nearer the brows of the ridges forming the valley at this point and not coincident with the area of road construction, re-alignment and widening at this point.

7.0 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

The recipient museum is:

Newbury Museum
The Wharf
NEWBURY
Berkshire

Curator: A. Higgott

The museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive as part of the overall archive relating to the Newbury Bypass.

7.2 Conservation

There were no immediate conservation requirements in the field. All metal objects have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment stage. None warrant further investigative conservation.

7.3 Storage

The finds are currently held in 00 cardboard or airtight plastic boxes. The complete site archive, which will include records, plans, photos, artefacts, ecofacts and sieved residues, will be prepared to comply with the museum's guidelines, and in general following the guidelines set out in *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive* (SMA 1995).

7.4 Discard Policy

Wessex Archaeology, in consultation with recipient museums, follows the guidelines set out in *Retention, Selection and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 1993), which makes recommendations for the dispersal of selected artefacts categories which, it is considered, may not warrant further analysis. In this instance, burnt, unworked flint has been discarded following quantification, and consultation with the recipient museum may result in further artefacts, particularly those from unstratified contexts, being targeted for discard.

8.0 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Structural and Stratigraphic Results

8.1.1 Introduction

The potential of the archaeological features and deposits from each site is discussed below. These statements are based on data recovered during all stages of the project. While each site is presented here individually, it is not intended that each should be considered in isolation but rather related wherever possible to other sites within the project, as well as other sites in the region.

8.1.2 Great Pen Wood

The features excavated at Great Pen Wood comprise heavily truncated pits of uncertain function. If these do represent Romano-British settlement or industrial activity the main focus of this appears to lie outside the road corridor, or has been so heavily truncated within the corridor that its original function cannot be discerned.

The potential of these features is therefore low. Brief descriptions of the features, their location, the dating evidence recovered from them and possible parallels could provide useful information for future researchers, but further analysis is not proposed.

8.1.3 Enborne Street

The features and deposits excavated at Enborne Street appear to relate to a medieval ceramic production centre dating to the 13th century. If this is the case, this is one of only three pottery kiln sites so far excavated in Berkshire, and the only known kiln site of this date to also be producing tiles. As such, it would almost certainly have been supplying the local area. It can potentially provide invaluable information relating to the nature, organisation and techniques of pottery and tile production at this period, particularly given the possible evidence of different potting-related activities on the site, and is of regional significance.

8.1.4 Wheatlands Lane

The features excavated on this site are very similar, though even more truncated than, those recorded at Enborne Street. The material recovered from this site appears to represent waste material relating to pottery and possibly tile production, probably in the 13th century. The two sites of Wheatlands Lane and Enborne Street should be considered together as part of what may have been a dispersed ceramic production complex in this area, the significance of which is discussed further above.

8.1.5 Enborne Road

During the stage 2 evaluation archaeological features and deposits dating to the early and late Romano-British period were found across the site, which covered an area of approximately 6500m². The discovery of large amount of ceramic building material on the site, in addition to several dressed blocks and the identification of postholes, implies that substantial buildings once stood on the site. Ditches found during the work show that the buildings stood amongst a field system. It is likely, therefore, that the settlement represented was a Romano-British farmstead, which may be termed a villa, given the substantial 'Romanised' structures which must have stood on the site.

The most important aspect of the site is the discrete pre-Flavian element. This may represent military activity as part of the campaigns and consolidation, or be evidence of early settlement. The understanding of the immediate post-conquest period has always been of great interest and English Heritage specifically list the era as being of particular importance in 'Exploring Our Past', a discussion document for directions in future archaeological research. Farmstead/villas vary much in status and complexity. The artefact assemblage recovered from the site, though extensive for an evaluation, displayed few exotic finds, but the site did cover a large area and most likely extends off the road corridor to the west. The pre-Flavian element and the excellent preservation on the site means that it is of 'regional or county importance'.

8.1.6 Elmore Plantation

The colluvial sequence recognised on this site appears to represent a period of approximately 1500-2000 years covering the Late Bronze Age to Romano-British period and later. This could possibly provide important evidence of the changing local environment over this period. The site has also produced a moderate quantity of stratified Romano-British material, most of which appears to date from the 3rd/4th century, although residual earlier (1st/2nd century) material is present in smaller quantities. The presence of a small quantity of ceramic brick and tile indicates the existence of a substantial building in the vicinity of the site, however, no features or deposits which could relate to such a building were identified within the road corridor. The Romano-British features and deposits excavated would seem to represent part of a small farmstead. The evidence for iron working on site is also of importance.

8.1.7 Hills Pightle

The features and deposits excavated at this site appear to be more or less contemporary with the Wheatlands Lane and Enborne Street sites. The truncated nature of the excavated features possibly indicate that much of the site has been destroyed , probably by post-medieval ploughing. The finds recovered from these features would seem to represent a normal domestic assemblage, however, no structural features appear to have

survived the later disturbances. The pottery acts as a chronological indicator, and also provides a useful comparison with the other two medieval sites.

8.1.8 Swilly Copse

A single Middle Bronze Age (*c* 1600-1100 BC) Globular Urn was found, placed upside down, in an evaluation trench. No other features were recorded in the trench, and in order to determine whether the pot was an isolated deposit or part of a group, four additional trenches were excavated, however, none of them produced further evidence. During the stage 3 evaluation an area 20m x 20m was stripped of topsoil, this revealed a small, undated, hearth which may be associated with the urn.

The vessel is of a common type and has been proved to not be definitely associated with any discernible features nor any other pot burials. The find is of 'district or local importance'.

8.1.9 Curridge Road

The stage 3 results did not add substantively to the results of the earlier fieldwalking and evaluation trenching. Further analysis of the spatial distribution of the material recovered is not recommended as the results so far suggest considerable movement of the material within an eroding agricultural soil deposit. Uncertainties over the date range of the material and a lack of any convincing concentrations precluded further fieldwork. Further discussion would be necessary only if the watching brief work uncovers material in this area.

8.2 Statement of potential of artefactual data

8.2.1 Introduction

The potential of the artefactual data from each site is discussed below, and these statements are based on the complete artefactual assemblages, i.e. including material from Evaluation Stages 1 and 2. While each site assemblage is presented here individually, it is not intended that each should be considered in isolation but rather related wherever possible to material from other sites within the project, as well as other sites in the region.

8.2.2 Great Pen Wood

The small quantity of artefacts recovered from this site has a low archaeological potential; their value is purely as dating evidence for the few features excavated.

8.2.3 Enborne Street

Of the five sites, this site has the highest potential in terms of artefactual evidence. The large assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material appears to relate to a medieval production centre dating to the 13th century. If this is the case, this is one of only three pottery kilns so far excavated in Berkshire, and the only known kiln to be producing the flint-tempered and flint-tempered/calcareous wares identified on sites across north Hampshire, west Berkshire and north-east Wiltshire. As such, it would almost certainly have been supplying Newbury and Kintbury, and possibly also the manorial site at Faccombe Netherton, just over the Hampshire border (Fairbrother 1990). It can potentially provide invaluable information relating to the nature and organisation of pottery production at this period, particularly given the possible evidence of different potting-related activities on the site, and is of regional significance.

The potential evidence for tile production on the same site can be tied in with documentary evidence for the later medieval period in this area (e.g. Hare 1991), and is of similar significance given the previous lack of excavated sites to support the documentary data, and the early date of this site.

8.2.4 Wheatlands Lane

The quantity of artefacts recovered from this site is not great, but the similarities with the medieval pottery and tile assemblage from Enborne Street (see below) must be noted: quantities of visually homogeneous pottery in poor condition, dumped into a number of linear features, together with a smaller quantity of tile. This again seems to represent waste material relating to pottery and possibly tile production, probably in the 13th century. The two sites of Skinners Green Lane and Enborne Street should be considered together as part of what may have been a larger pottery production complex in this area, the significance of which is discussed further above.

8.2.5 Enborne Road

Artefacts from this site were recovered during the Stages 1 evaluation; the site will be preserved *in situ* without further archaeological investigation. The features excavated on this site relate to a probable Romano-British villa, and the artefacts recovered represent a small assemblage, mainly of late Romano-British date (3rd/4th century AD), although earlier material (1st/2nd century) is also present. This small quantity of material, representing as it does only a very small proportion of the total artefactual assemblage from the site, can provide only a limited amount of information, mainly chronological.

8.2.6 Elmore Plantation

A single sherd of prehistoric pottery provides valuable dating evidence for the colluvium on this site. Otherwise, the site has produced a moderate quantity of Romano-British material, most of which appears to date from the 3rd/4th century, although residual earlier (1st/2nd century) material is present in smaller quantities. The presence of a small quantity of ceramic brick and tile indicates the existence of a substantial building on or near the site. This assemblage would seem to represent a small farmstead. The evidence for iron working on site is interesting.

8.2.7 Hills Pightle

The date range of the pottery from Hills Pightle indicates that it is more or less contemporary with the Skinners Green Lane and Enborne Street sites. The condition and nature of deposition of the pottery, however, is markedly different; here there are generally small quantities of pottery, in relatively good condition, from a number of features. This would seem to represent a normal domestic assemblage. The pottery acts as a chronological indicator, and also provides a useful comparison with the other two medieval sites. Other finds have limited potential, although the large deposit of burnt flint from a single pit is interesting.

8.2.8 Swilly Copse

A single complete Middle Bronze Age Globular Urn, found during the Stage 2 evaluation, was apparently isolated. No human remains were associated with the vessel. Such vessels are commonly found on Middle Bronze Age sites and a number are known from Berkshire. Beyond an indication of Middle Bronze Age activity on the site, this find has limited potential.

8.3 Statement of potential of environmental data

8.3.1 The potential of samples from Great Pen Wood and Elmore Plantation is low because of the sparse remains recovered. Those from Enbourne Street, although relatively low have the potential to provide information about function and economy. Those from Hills Pightle have the potential to aid in determining the function of the pits, the nature of arable economy and discern whether the remains were grown locally or traded from market.

8.3.2 Great pen Wood and Elmore Plantation

No analysis can be usefully conducted of the charred remains from Elmore plantation or Great Pen Wood.

8.3.3 Enbourne Street

The identification of woody species and presence of roundwood twiggy material may help to confirm the field interpretation of the structure as a hearth and even whether it is typically domestic or more specific (i.e.

strong selection of woody species). Analysis of charred plant remains from the pit will provide some indication of the farming economy, nature of cereals and possibly when harvested (summer or winter sown crops) and whether from local soils).

8.3.4 Hills Pightle

Although charred plant remains and charcoals are present in all samples, only selective analysis is recommended. Charcoals from pit **7523**, context 7521) will provide a compassion with the woody species utilised on the broadly contemporary site at Enbourne Street.

Charred plant remains from the pits may aid in determining both pit function, and the nature of the medieval farming economy. One sample from each pit is therefore recommended for analysis (samples ,10,023 and 10,025)

8.3.5 Summary of analysis recommendations:

Charcoal identification:	Enbourne Street; hearth **7007**
	Hills Pightle; pit **7523** (sample 10,023)
Charred plant remains	Hills Pightle; pit **7523** (sample 10,023)
	Hills Pightle; pit **7525** (sample 10,025)

9.0 ANALYSIS AND REPORTING PROPOSALS

9.0.1 It is proposed that the final report of the evaluation, excavation and watching brief will be an expanded and fully integrated report; including the results of the desk based study in summary and the evaluation, the excavation and watching brief in detail where necessary. The efficacy of the evaluation methods will also be examined. Given below is an outline of the structure of headings, expansion of the sub-sections will be considered as necessary to include a suitable depth of description and synthesis. The following outline estimates the number of words for each section/sub-section, together with illustrations.

9.0.2 It should be noted that this estimate does not include any consideration of the possibility of publishing the results of York Archaeological Trust's excavation at Lambourn in a combined volume. Neither does this estimate cover the results of the watching brief.

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 Project Background
This section will briefly detail the reasons why the project was undertaken, and when the various stages of work were undertaken.
Estimated length: 500 words

9.1.2 Geology, Topography and Land-Use
This would describe the geological sequence, related to specific heights, encountered within the road corridor. It would also describe and discuss the landscape and land-use, providing a background within which to set the archaeological remains and processes detailed below.
Estimated length: 1000 words

9.1.3 Archaeological Background
This section would summarise the findings of the desk based study and expand on details pertinent to the subsequent results.
Estimated length: 2000 words

9.2 Methodology

9.2.1 Evaluation Methodology
This would detail the methods employed during the various stages of the evaluation and the reasons for their use. It would also briefly summarise the results of the evaluation and discuss the efficacy of the evaluation strategy in the light of subsequent excavations.
Estimated length: 3000 words

9.2.2 Excavation Methodology

This would briefly summarise the objectives of the excavations and the methods employed.
Estimated length: 500 words

9.3 Results

9.3.1 Prehistoric

This section would detail, in chronological order, the prehistoric features and deposits recorded during the evaluation and subsequent excavations and watching brief. This would include a brief description of the Mesolithic deposits encountered during the second phase of evaluation at Bagnor, and detailed descriptions of the results of fieldwalking and excavations undertaken at Curridge Road and Swilly Copse. It would also describe the colluvial sequence encountered at Elmore Plantation and comment on the residual nature of prehistoric artefacts recovered during various phases of work.
Estimated length: 2000

9.3.2 Romano-British

This would describe the features and deposits encountered during the evaluation on the possible villa site at Enborne Road and briefly describe the mitigation strategy employed to preserve this site. It would also describe the features and deposits of Romano-British date recorded at Great Pen Wood and Elmore Plantation during the evaluation and subsequent excavations.
Estimated length: 3000 words

9.3.3 Medieval

This section would describe the possible structures, features and deposits excavated at Enborne Street, Wheatlands Lane and Hills Pightle during both the evaluation and subsequent excavations.
Estimated length: 3500

9.3.4 Post-Medieval

This section would describe the linear earthwork which crossed the road corridor to the east of Hills Pightle. It would also describe all significant post-medieval features or deposits encountered during the various stages of evaluation and excavation.
Estimated length: 1500 words

9.4 The Finds

Most analysis will be undertaken in-house by Wessex Archaeology, with external specialists being engaged where appropriate expertise is not available. The report, as presently envisaged, would concentrate on the

assemblage of medieval pottery from Enborne Street. The overall size of the finds reports can not yet be accurately estimated until the watching brief stage has been completed.
Estimated length: 3000 words

9.5 The Environmental Evidence

This section is very much dependent on the quantity and quality of material recovered during the watching brief as the road construction programme crosses the bases of the river valleys. Informative estimates cannot be made until this part of the monitoring operation is complete.

9.6 Discussion

The various sites will be considered chronologically against the background of the known development of the landscape and contemporary sites in the vicinity. The evidence of settlement and industry of the prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval periods will be summarised, and contemporary local, regional or national parallels cited and discussed. This will centre mainly on a consideration of the structural, artefactual and environmental evidence.
Estimated length: 3000 words

9.7 Illustrations

The following list describes the provisional illustrations for the publication report:

1 Site location - Map of by-pass route showing location of sites referred to in text.

2 Curridge Road - Finds Distribution

3 Elmore Plantation - Section through colluvial deposits

4 Elmore Plantation - all features site plan

5 Great Pen Wood - all features plan

6 Enborne Road - Evaluation trench location plan showing all features

7 Enborne Street - all features plan including evaluation trench locations

8 Enborne Street- plan of possible kiln structure

9 Wheatlands Lane - all features plan including evaluation trench locations

10 Enborne Street/ Wheatlands Lane - representative sections through pits and ditches

11 Hills Pightle - all features plan including evaluation trench locations

11 Finds Illustrations

9.8 Archive deposition

9.8.1 On completion of the project, the complete archive will be ordered and fully indexed, and a microfilm copy prepared of the paper records. The archive will then be deposited at Newbury Museum, as discussed in Section 7.1.

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Appendix 1: Tables

Table 1: Great Pen Wood - all finds by context

Feature	Context	Burnt Flint	CBM	Fired Clay	R-B Pottery
	Stage 2	*2/43*			*7/25*
Unstrat.	6032		4/526	11/144	20/416
Pit 6034	6033		1/12	55/218	9/62
Pit 6038	6037				3/14
Pit 6040	6039				3/6
	TOTAL	2/43	5/538	66/362	42/523

Table 2: Enborne Street - all finds by context

Feature	Context	Burnt Flint	CBM	Clay Pipe	Fired Clay	Worked Flint	Medieval Pottery	Post-med Pottery	Slag	Stone	Cu alloy	Iron	Lead
	Stage 1	*5/59*	*85/2737*			*5/11*	*88/440*			*1/15*	*1*	*1*	
	Stage 2	*18/440*	*80/1942*			*3/16*	*437/4710*					*1*	
Linear 7002	7003		3/14				8/28					1	
Hearth 7004	7005	4/100	25/1210				48/381						
"	7006		1/68				3/4						
"	7007	1/16					7/52						
Ditch 7008	7009	1/88	3/22				4/12					2	
Ditch 7017	7011	1/26	1/32			3/12	75/1018						
Posthole 7012	7013						4/10						
Linear 7014	7015						1/4			1/46			
Pit Group 7061	7016	1/172	194/11435			1/2	528/5824			1/106			
Ditch 7017	7018		1/50				46/531						
Pit 7031	7019		8/520		1/28	1/16	267/3031					1	
Pit 7021	7020	4/404	304/24959				43/364			12/572		1	
"	7022		62/4555				6/57			9/710			
Pit 7024	7023		52/1491			3/24	168/1550						
Ditch 7010	7025		1/212				31/198					1	
Pit 7027	7026		7/614				1/10						
Pit 7024	7028	1/30					2/26						
Pit 7030	7029		53/4399				103/3113						
Pit 7031	7032		25/1339			1/23	438/6069					1	
Linear 7033	7034						1723/19503						
Ditch 7038	7036			1/4			14/176						
Gully 7040	7039		1/2				12/124						
Gully 7042	7041						3/16						
Pit 7030	7043		346/30690										
Gully 7045	7044						28/194						
Ditch 7051	7049						60/661						
"	7050						35/302						
?Hearth 7054	7053	1/6	5/148				110/1325						
Burnt material	7055		3/88		29/354		12/120						
Pit 7030	7056		10/280				100/431			1/90			
Ditch 7077	7058		29/3293					2/216				1	
Ditch 7091	7059	3/36	5/252				49/671						

Table 2 (continued)

Feature	Context	Burnt Flint	CBM	Clay Pipe	Fired Clay	Worked Flint	Medieval Pottery	Post-med Pottery	Slag	Stone	Cu alloy	Iron	Lead
Ditch 7090	7060		11/293				105/1670					1	
Ditch 7064	7062						14/132						
"	7063						2/10						
Ditch 7067	7065						13/228						
"	7068						12/80						
Pit 7070	7069					1/37	7/60						
Pit 7071	7072	2/118	3/412			1/2	21/188						
"	7073		17/1710			2/186	64/1074			2/112			
Pit 7093	7074		4/107				34/352						
Ditch 7081/7083	7079						26/440						
Ditch 7090	7086						4/52						
Subsoil	7089						1/10						
Linear 8080	8079						29/332						
Ditch 8084	8083		3/100				100/3566						
Ditch 8096	8095		6/230				22/252		1/110				
Soil horizon?	8097						3/88						
Linear 8099	8098		15/418				17/228						
"	8111		3/16				1/4						
Subsoil Tr 729	8102		1/64				13/370					1	
-	U/S ES1	45/932	126/6628			2/60	944/10890			1/74		1	1
-	U/S ES2						2/20						
-	U/S ES4	1/168	4/259			1/12	57/730	1/2					
	TOTAL	88/2595	1497/100589	1/4	30/382	24/401	5928/71597	3/218	1/110	28/125	1	13	1

Table 3: Wheatlands Lane - all finds by context

Feature	Context	Burnt Flint	CBM	Fired Clay	Worked Flint	Medieval Pottery	Post-med Pottery	Iron
	Stage 1	*1/11*	*93/1539*			*17/108*		*1*
	Stage 2		*99/1999*			*175/2475*		
Topsoil	6020	44/2480	21/1308	7/114	26/460	523/7364	3/120	
Subsoil	6014		39/2082			57/630		
Gully 6017	6016	4/19				146/1006		
Gully 6019	6018	9/40			1/4	259/2895		
"	6101					55/940		
Gully 6022	6021	3/32	1/20			138/1530		
Ditch 6024	6023			2/14	1/34	15/388		
Feature 6103	6102					6/140		
	TOTAL	61/2582	253/6948	9/128	28/498	1388/17476	3/120	1

Table 4: Elmore Plantation - all finds by context

Feature	Context	Burnt Flint	CBM	Fired Clay	Worked Flint	Prehist. Pottery	R-B Pottery	Med. Pottery	P-med Pottery	Shell	Slag	Stone	Cu alloy	Iron
	Stage 1	*1/18*	*13/297*		*1/4*		*3/11*							
	Stage 2	*6/99*	*18/579*	*1/6*	*8/101*		*42/238*			*49/1845*	*70/650*			
Unstrat.	6041	1/6	22/1339		12/356		18/318	2/22	2/40		69/3813	4/430		2
Topsoil	6042		1/136		2/16									
Linear 6047	6046		1/28		1/10		25/366				2/78	1/346		
Pit 6049	6048						2/19							
Linear 6051	6050	1/26			3/6		7/34							
"	6053						1/40							
Posthole 6055	6054						8/32							
"	6056				1/12						1/40			
Hill-wash	6067				1/18		1/6						1	
Pit 6070	6069	1/4	2/4		1/1		1/12							
Subsoil	6074		1/24											
Buried topsoil	6075	4/90	21/760		8/64		31/228							2
Hill-wash	6077	30/258			14/64		5/16							
Colluvium	6078	14/218			9/60	1/2								
Gravel interface	6079	6/98			3/58									
Pit 6081	6080						7/56							
Tree bowl 6083	6082				1/16		3/10				2/112			1
Tree bowl 6085	6084						4/10				1/74			
Posthole 6088	6086						2/4				1/30			
Layer	6089	1/4		7/134	1/14		2/4				3/30	1/220		
	TOTAL	65/821	79/3167	8/140	66/800	1/2	162/1404	2/22	2/40	49/1845	149/4827	6/996	1	5

Table 5: Hills Pightle - all finds by context

Feature	Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	CBM	Worked Flint	Glass	Medieval Pottery	Stone	Iron
	Stage 1		*3/249*	*8/128*		*1/8*	*13/33*		
	Stage 2	*9/68*		*41/1759*	*3/62*		*156/1167*	*3/92*	*9*
Unstrat.	**6025**	**5/40**		**36/1910**	**11/116**		**232/2499**	**30/1476**	**1**
Ditch 6030	**6031**	**47/64**			**2/162**		**4/20**		
Pit 7501	**7500**	**2/4**					**8/78**		
Pit 7502	7503		1/136		1/12		7/26		
"	7516		1/34	1/24	1/3		12/64		1
"	7520	2/4					4/30		
"	7526		1/2				15/270		
Ditch 7507	7506	1/24	6/1095	3/404			16/143		
Disturbed Natural	7511		1/10		2/26		2/26		
Ditch 7515	7513	12/40	6/276	1/50			19/178		1
"	7514	8/4					3/50		
Ditch 7519	7517		11/936		3/36		5/16		
Pit 7523	7521	11/86	227/21714				1/4		1
"	7522		17/1908				3/12	2/200	
Pit 7525	7524	5/16		1/2			1/14		
Ditch 7527	7528	1/16	4/282	1/112	1/8				
	TOTAL	**103/366**	**278/26642**	**92/4389**	**24/425**	**1/8**	**501/4630**	**35/1768**	**13**

Table 6. Assessment of the charred plant remains

			Flot							Residue
Feature type/ no	Context	Sample	flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred	Weed seeds charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm
GREAT PEN WOOD - Romano-British										
hearth 6034	6033	10,000	60 (50)	-	-	-	-	C		-
ENBOURNE STREET - 12th/13th cent										
hearth 7004	7007	10,020	20 (15)	C	-	-	C	A		1g
pit 7071	7073	10,021	75 (10)	C	-	-	C	A		5g
ELMORE PLANTATION - undated, LBA and Romano-British										
layer	6068	10,002	200 (5)	-	-	-	-	-		-
BA buried soil	6078	10,006	10 (5)	-	C	-	-	-		-
RB buried soil	6075	10,005	30 (20)	-	-	c	-	-		-
beamslot 6047	6046	10,001	50 (40)	-	-	c	C	C	shell B	2g
HILLS PIGHTLE - 12/13th cent - medieval										
ditch 7507	7506	10,022	75 (50)	B	C	-	B	B	snails A	2g
pit 7523	7521	10,023	50 (15)	A	C	c	B	A*	snails A	1g
pit 7523	7522	10,024	30 (5)	A	-	c	C	B	snails A	-
pit 7525	7524	10,025	45 (5)	A	-	c	B	A	snails A	-

KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items,

NOTE: [1]flot is total, but flot in brackets = ml of rooty material. [2]unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains

Appendix 2: Catalogue of Trench Descriptions

Trench 700 15m x 4m	**Elmore Plantation**	**Ground Level** 106m O.D.	**SU 44940 67940**
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Dark yellowish brown peaty silt loam topsoil.		6000
0.30-0.80m	Light grey silty clay subsoil with occasional gravel lenses.		6001
0.80m +	Natural orange/brown sandy clay.		6002

Trench 701 20m x 3m	**Elmore Plantation**	**Ground Level** 104.50m O.D.	**SU 44940 67900**
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Dark brown silty clay loam topsoil.		6003
0.30-0.80m	Light grey silty clay subsoil with occasional gravel lenses.		6004
0.80-1.30m	Natural orange/brown sandy clay.		6005
1.30m +	Natural bluish grey clay.		6006

Trench 702 28m x 3m	**Elmore Plantation**	**Ground Level** 102m O.D.	**SU 44940 67880**
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.25m	Dark yellowish brown peaty silt loam topsoil.		6007
0.25-0.55m	Orange brown sandy clay subsoil with localised grey mottling..		6008/6009
0.55-1.05m	Bluish grey sand natural.		6010
1.05-1.65m	Bluish grey clay natural.		6011
1.65m +	Light yellowish brown sand natural		6012

Trench 703 25m x 1.70m	**Tot Hill**	**Ground Level** 146.37m O.D.	**SU 46035 60920**
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8000
0.30m +	Brownish yellow silty clay natural.		8001

Trench 704 25m x 1.70m	**Tot Hill**	**Ground Level** 142.14m O.D.	**SU 46200 61150**
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.20m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8002
0.20m +	Brownish yellow silty clay natural.		8003

Trench 705 25m x 1.70m	**Tot Hill**	**Ground Level** 143.64m O.D.	**SU 46060 61220**
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.25m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8004
0.25m +	Brownish yellow silty clay natural.		8005

Trench 706 25m x 1.70m	**Tot Hill**	**Ground Level** 144.39m O.D.	**SU 46030 61185**
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.25m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8006
0.25m +	Brownish yellow silty clay natural.		8007

Trench 707 25m x 1.70m	Tot Hill	Ground Level 142.18m O.D.	SU 46110 61335
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.20m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8008
0.20m+	Brownish yellow silty clay natural.		8009

Trench 708 25m x 1.70m	Tot Hill	Ground Level 141.46m O.D.	SU 46110 61370
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.20m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8010
0.20m+	Yellowish brown silty clay natural.		8011

Trench 709 25m x 1.70m	Tot Hill	Ground Level 136.69m O.D.	SU 45895 62050
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.20m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8012
0.20m+	Greyish brown silty clay natural.		8013

Trench 710 25m x 1.70m	Tot Hill	Ground Level 134.41m O.D.	SU 45845 62130
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Dark greyish brown humic silty clay topsoil		8014
0.30m+	Grey sandy silt natural.		8015

Trench 711 25m x 1.70m	Tot Hill	Ground Level 132.31m O.D.	SU 45780 62200
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.20m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8016
0.20m+	Yellowish brown silty clay natural.		8017

Trench 712 20m x 20m	Swilly Copse	Ground Level 106m O.D.	SU 46840 70400
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8018
0.30-0.40m	Yellowish brown silty clay subsoil.		8019
Feature	Circular hearth, 0.75m in diameter and 0.23m deep with 'bowl' shaped profile. Filled with 8022 (primary fill with abundant charcoal & pottery) and 8021 (upper fill).		8021, 8022 & 8023
0.40m+	Yellowish brown silty clay natural with gravel lenses.		8020

Trench 713 25m x 1.70m	Swilly Copse	Ground Level 109m O.D.	SU 46695 70460
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.10m	Dark yellowish brown friable humic loam topsoil.		8024
0.10-0.20m	Pale grey silty clay loam subsoil.		8025
0.20m+	Yellowish brown silty clay natural with gravel lenses.		8026

Trench 714 25m x 1.70m	Swilly Copse	Ground Level 114m O.D.	SU 46670 70420
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.20m	Dark greyish brown silty loam topsoil.		8027
Feature	Sub rectangular pit, 3.00m long & 1m+ wide. Lined with broken peg tiles.		8030 & 8031
0.20-0.30m	Dark greyish brown sandy clay subsoil		8028
0.30m+	Brownish yellow sandy clay natural.		8029

Trench 715 25m x 1.70m	Swilly Copse	Ground Level 116m O.D.	SU 46660 70410
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.10m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8032
Feature	Modern land drain		8034 & 8035
Feature	Modern drainage ditch		8036 & 8037
0.10m+	Brownish yellow sandy clay natural.		8033

Trench 716 25m x 1.70m	Swilly Copse	Ground Level 118m O.D.	SU 46650 70385
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.10m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8039
0.10-0.20m	Light brown silty clay subsoil.		8040
Feature	Modern drainage ditch		8041 & 8042
0.20m+	Brownish yellow sandy clay natural.		8043

Trench 717 25m x 1.70m	Swilly Copse	Ground Level 120.80m O.D.	SU 46635 70360
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.20m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8044
0.20m+	Brownish yellow sandy clay natural.		8045

Trench 718 25m x 1.70m	Curridge Road	Ground Level 95.70m O.D.	SU 47130 70815
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.25m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8046
0.25-0.50m	Yellowish brown firm silty clay subsoil.		8047
Feature	Shallow circular pit, 0.90m in diameter and 0.22m deep with two fills. Burnt flint recovered from basal fill.		8049, 8049 & 8051
0.50m+	Weathered chalk natural.		8050

Trench 719 20m x 20m	Nazareth House Lodge	Ground Level 118.10m O.D.	SU 44840 68150
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Greyish brown sandy loam topsoil		8121
Feature	Probable tree throw - recorded in stage 2 eval. as ditch.		8053 &8054
0.30m+	Yellowish brown gravel natural.		8052

Trench 720 25m x 1.70m	Nazareth House Lodge	Ground Level 103.50m O.D.	SU 45130 68410
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.20m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8055
0.20-0.30m	Light greyish brown silty clay subsoil.		8056
0.30m+	Yellowish brown clay and gravel natural		8057/8058

Trench 721 25m x 1.70m	River Enborne Flood Plain	Ground Level 99.35m O.D.	SU 44235 63310
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.20m	Dark yellowish brown friable silty clay loam topsoil.		8059
0.20-0.30m	Greyish brown silty clay subsoil.		8060
0.30m+	Brownish yellow silty clay natural.		8061

Trench 722 25m x 1.70m	River Enborne Flood Plain	Ground Level 98.30m O.D.	SU 44280 63380
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Dark greyish brown silty loam topsoil.		8065
0.30-0.60m	Brown sandy silt subsoil.		8066
Feature	Ditch on N-S alignment, 1.50m wide and 0.50m deep with 'V' shaped profile. Burnt flint recovered from fill.		8067 & 8068
0.60m+	Brownish yellow silty clay natural.		-

Trench 723 25m x 1.70m	River Enborne Flood Plain	Ground Level 97m O.D.	SU 44275 63410
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.20m	Dark yellowish brown friable silty clay loam topsoil.		8062
0.20-0.50m	Yellowish brown silty clay subsoil.		8063
0.50m+	Brownish yellow silty clay natural.		8064

Trench 724 25m x 1.70m	River Enborne Flood Plain	Ground Level 95.74m O.D.	SU 44225 63440
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.15m	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay loam topsoil.		8069
0.15-0.40m	Dark brown silty clay subsoil.		8070
0.40m+	Brownish yellow silty clay and gravel natural.		8071

Trench 725 7m x 1.70m	Enborne Street	Ground Level 110.00m O.D.	SU 44320 64010
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.40m	Dark brown sandy loam topsoil.		8077
Feature	Large linear feature, 3.50m wide on E-W alignment. Not excavated		8079 & 8080
0.40m+	Yellowish brown sandy clay natural.		8078

Trench 726 13m x 1.70m	Enborne Street	Ground Level 110.00m O.D.	SU 44395 64060
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.35m	Dark brown sandy loam topsoil.		8072
Feature	Linear feature on E-W alignment. Not excavated		8075 & 8076
Feature	Linear feature on E-W alignment. Not excavated		8074
0.35m+	Brownish yellow silty clay and gravel natural.		8073

Trench 727 13m x 1.70m	Enborne Street	Ground Level 112m O.D.	SU 44350 64070
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Dark grey silty clay loam topsoil		8081
Feature	Shallow ditch on E-W alignment. Abundant pottery in fill.		8083 & 8084
0.30m+	Yellowish brown clay natural		8082

Trench 728 10m x 1.70m	Enborne Street	Ground Level 107.00m O.D.	SU 44330 63995
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Dark grey silty clay loam topsoil		8085
Feature	Linear feature on NW-SE alignment. Not excavated.		8088 & 8089
Feature	Modern land drain.		8090 & 8091
0.30m+	Yellowish brown clay natural		8086

Trench 729 165m x 1.70m	Enborne Street	Ground Level 106.00m O.D.	SU 44335 63970
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Dark grey silty clay loam topsoil		8101
Feature	Modern land drain. Cuts linear feature 8103		8104 &8105
Feature	Modern land drain.		8106 &8107
Feature	Linear feature on NW-SE alignment. Probably same as 8088 in Tr. 728. Not excavated		8103 & 8122
0.30-0.35m	Dark yellowish brown silty clay subsoil.		8102
0.35m+	Yellowish brown clay natural		-

Trench 730 21m x 1.70m	Enborne Street	Ground Level 106.50m O.D.	SU 44310 63970
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Dark grey silty clay loam topsoil		8092
0.30m+	Yellowish brown clay natural		8093

Trench 731 25m x 1.70m	Enborne Street	Ground Level 107.00m O.D.	SU 44370 64010
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Dark grey silty clay loam topsoil		8094
Feature	Modern land drain		8109 & 8110
Feature	Post-medieval or modern field boundary ditch on NW-SE alignment.		8095, 8096, 8108 & 8112
Feature	Large linear feature (later excavation proved this to be three parallel ditches of post-medieval date).		8097, 8098, 8099 & 8111
0.30m+	Yellowish brown clay natural		8100

Trench 732 25m x 1.70m	Skinners Green	Ground Level 92.40m O.D.	SU 44455 65350
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.25m	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay loam topsoil.		8113
0.25m+	Orange brown silty clay natural.		8114

Trench 733 25m x 1.70m	Skinners Green	Ground Level 85.50m O.D.	SU 44610 65820
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.25m	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay loam topsoil.		8115
0.25m+	Orange brown silty clay natural.		8116

Trench 734 25m x 1.70m	Castle Wood	Ground Level 102.00m O.D.	SU 45670 69535
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.25m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8117
0.25m+	Weathered chalk natural.		8118

Trench 735 25m x 1.70m	Castle Wood	Ground Level 120.00m O.D.	SU 45830 69670
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8119
0.30m+	Yellowish brown silty clay natural.		8120

Trench 736 25m x 1.70m	Castle Wood	Ground Level 114.00m O.D.	SU 45765 69750
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.30m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		8123
0.30m+	Weathered chalk natural.		8124

Trench 737 32m x 1.80m	Elmore Plantation	Ground Level 93.28m O.D.	SU 44960 67800
Depth	**Description**		**Context Number**
0-0.20m	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil.		6071
0.20-1.50m	Orange brown sandy clay subsoil.		6072
1.50-2.10m	Greenish grey sandy clay with abundant oyster shell inclusions. Sample 10002 taken.		6068
2.10m+	Weathered chalk natural.		6073