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A40 NORTH OXFORD BYPASS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCHING EVALUATION 1993  
VOLUME I

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The archaeological evaluation trenching survey was conducted by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) during March and May 1993 and was commissioned by Rendel Palmer and Tritton on behalf of the Department of Transport. This formed part of the study being carried out to assess the environmental impact of the proposed A40 North Oxford Bypass.
- 1.2 The survey brief was approved by the Department of Transport and their advisors English Heritage. The brief involved an archaeological evaluation to establish the location, extent, condition, character, quality, integrity and date of any archaeological remains within the area of land required for the Preferred Route, in order to enable the full archaeological implications of the development proposal to be understood.
- 1.3 A desk top study (OAU 1992c), reviewed existing archaeological data. A surface collection survey was carried out over areas where the land proved suitable and access was granted. A geophysical survey was conducted over available pasture and arable areas (OAU 1993).
- 1.4 The present evaluation consisted of sample trenching to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, along the line of the proposed road. The evaluation was complemented by an earlier archaeological inspection of all geotechnical test pits excavated by Soil Mechanics on behalf of Rendel Palmer and Tritton. A limited resistivity survey was also conducted over the site of Cutteslowe Deserted Medieval Village to locate and define areas of significant archaeological potential.
- 1.5 This report is published in two volumes with Volume II containing the illustrations that accompany the text (Volume I). The route has been divided into six zones and the results are presented according to these divisions for sections 2-4 of the report. The fieldwork results are summarised in section 4. Detailed results are given in sections 6-11 and are in trench number order for ease of reference.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 CASSINGTON, YARNTON AND WOLVERCOTE**

The geology of this length of the proposed road consists of the Thames floodplain and is crossed by numerous palaeochannels, now silted and covered with alluvium. The alluvium has important implications for the identification and preservation of archaeological deposits. These sites, not identifiable from surface finds or cropmarks, are often well preserved due to the depth of alluvial deposit.

2.2 The topographical relationships between areas of raised gravel and the palaeochannels are also important factors for the understanding of the pre-alluvial floodplain. The palaeochannels appear to have retained water until the Roman period, effectively dividing the floodplain up into gravel islands, where settlements and ceremonial monuments were created. The palaeochannels provided a variety of water based resources.

### 2.3 GOSFORD AND WATER EATON

The geology of this section of the route consists largely of Oxford Clay overlain by alluvium, especially along the Thames and Cherwell valleys.

### 2.4 MARSTON AND ELSFIELD

The geology of this part of the route consists predominately of Oxford Clay. Patchy areas of gravel and alluvium are known from the floodplain of the River Cherwell.

## 3 METHOD AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Two areas were highlighted as having particular archaeological potential. These were:

1. The area to the immediate south and west of the A.R.C. gravel quarry slip road, on the west-bound carriageway of the present A40, and to the immediate north of Yarnton Mead.

2. The supposed area of Cutteslowe Deserted Medieval Village to the immediate north and south of the present Water Eaton road.

Where access could be gained, within these areas, a 2% sample was investigated. In all other areas a 1 - 2% sample was assessed. Where possible the position of sample trenches was determined by the results of earlier aerial photographs, surface collection and geophysical surveys.

3.2 A total of 100 trenches, 101-197 and 300-303, were planned along the route of the proposed road. Access was permitted for 36 of these trenches, 101-113, 127- 132, 133-151, 156-170, 186 and 300-303. Trenches were typically 30m in length and 1.8m wide.

3.3 The layout of these trenches was determined by the results of the previous archaeological trenching evaluation (OAU 1992b) and geophysical survey (OAU 1993) and by areas of archaeological potential recorded within the Sites and Monuments Record of Oxfordshire County Council.

3.4 Trenches were excavated mechanically by either a JCB or a 360° excavator. Topsoil was, in every case, removed down to archaeological horizons or natural subsoil. All detailed excavation and recording work was conducted by hand in order to characterize stratigraphy and establish state of preservation and dating.

## 4 EVALUATION TRENCHING : SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 4.A LAND TO THE SOUTH OF THE A.R.C. SLIP ROAD (TRENCHES 101 - 106) AND TO THE IMMEDIATE NORTH OF YARNTON MEAD (TRENCHES 107 - 113), DAIRYSTOCK FARM, CASSINGTON. (Figure 2 & 3)

#### 4.A.1 BACKGROUND

- 4.A.1.1 A major archaeological study is at present being conducted by the OAU in advance of gravel extraction by ARC immediately to the north of the present A40. These studies have revealed significant new prehistoric sites, emphasising the previously largely undocumented archaeological potential of the Cassington and Yarnton areas.
- 4.A.1.2 Area excavation on the floodplain has revealed areas of prehistoric occupation associated with the raised gravel islands and palaeochannels. In the prehistoric period the water table was at a lower level than today and there is evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement and ceremonial remains. The rising of the water table towards the end of this period led to the abandonment of the area for settlement on the higher ground. Raised paths or causeways are known from this period (eg OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 025), sealed beneath alluvium.
- 4.A.1.3 During evaluation trenching conducted for the Witney-Cassington A40 improvements (Fig 1; OAU 1992c, 3; gaz. nos. 009; OAU 1993, 7; gaz. no. 060), a significant area of late Bronze Age activity was located N of the A40 approximately 250m NW of trench 101. A dense area of features indicating a middle Iron Age settlement was also located in previous 1992 trenching approximately 60m W of trench 101.
- 4.A.1.4 To the north of 009 a light scattering of Medieval pottery was identified during a surface collection survey of the gravel pit area (Fig 1; OAU 1992c, 3; gaz. no. 013). This may indicate a manuring scatter.
- 4.A.1.5 The presence of an E-W palaeochannel (Fig 1; OAU 1993, 7; gaz. no. 060) south of the ARC haul road marks an area of potentially significant archaeology.
- 4.A.1.6 Overlapping scatters of early prehistoric flint work (Fig 1, OAU 1992c, 13; gaz. no. 023), and Iron Age (gaz. no. 014), Roman (gaz. no. 021) and Medieval pottery (gaz. no. 013) have been located during a surface collection

survey conducted within the area of proposed future gravel extraction to the north the A40.

- 4.A.1.7 An earthwork, visible only as a cropmark (Fig 1; OAU 1992c, 3; gaz. no. 015) on air photographs. The quality of preservation, date and interpretation of this feature remains unknown.
- 4.A.1.8 A scatter of postholes and other associated features had been located by the OAU during trenching work conducted for the Witney-Cassington A40 improvements (Fig 1; OAU 1992c, 3; gaz. no. 001) approximately 80m W of trench 107. Pottery suggests these features to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. A cluster of pit-like anomalies (Fig 1; OAU 1993, 9; gaz. no. 045), located by the geophysical survey at the western end of this area may possibly represent further examples of such features, though it should be noted that overlying alluvium may here prove extensive.
- 4.A.1.9 A number of additional deposits (Fig 1; OAU 1993, 10; gaz. no. 065) have been recorded approximately 50m N of trench 109 beneath the alluvium at the edge of a palaeochannel (Fig 1; OAU 1992c, 12; gaz. no. 010). These deposits include a preserved early ground surface, with a dense scatter of worked flint, and a possible mound indicating a concentrated area of prehistoric activity.
- 4.A.1.10 A pit like anomaly (Fig 1; OAU 1993, 10; gaz. no. 046) has been located, in the area of trench 111, by the geophysical survey on the south side of the present A40 within an area of little alluvial overburden. The date of this feature is unknown, though it may be related to the prehistoric activity area described above.
- 4.A.1.11 Lot Meadows at Yarnton (West Mead), are named after the practice of drawing lots for the right to cut the meadow for hay. The Meadows may be late Saxon in origin. They have never been inclosed or ploughed. The practice of drawing lots ceased in 1978.

#### 4.A.2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 4.A.2.1 Alluvial overburden was recorded from trenches 105-113. Depth of alluvium measured between 0.27m and 0.76m (See stratigraphic depth table page 39).
- 4.A.2.2 A Palaeochannel running WSW/ESE was located in three different locations along its length. Trench 107 defined the N edge and trench 105 and 106 were completely within the channel. Its full width was not revealed but from the topography and previous exposures (OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 010), it is estimated at 20-30m in width. A prehistoric flint flake and a fragment of animal bone were recovered from the upper fill of palaeochannel 105/6.

- 4.A.2.3 Site 046 (4.A.1.10 above), detected during the geophysical survey, was not located by the evaluation trenching. It is possible, however, considering the depth of alluvium recorded across the western margins of the study area, that the magnetic anomaly represents either a modern cut or a metallic (iron) intrusion.
- 4.A.2.4 Prehistoric pottery and flint work, of predominately Neolithic / Early Bronze Age, was recorded from cut features within trenches 101, 102, 103, 105, 107, 111 and 112, a burnt clay deposit within trench 103 and topsoil contexts within trenches 104, 109, and 112. A human skeleton 102/14 (see fig. 10) was exposed. Only the lower mandible, some long bones and ribs were evident but it seemed to show that it had originally lain in a crouched position within an oval pit. The bones themselves were in a soft and poor condition. The remains were left *in situ*. The type of fill was very distinctive and identical to pit fill 102/3 and the pits excavated in trench 101 suggesting a contemporary date. The skeleton was badly truncated by the ploughsoil 102/2 so that only the lower mandible remained. The grave fill and skeleton was also partly cut away by ditch 102/8. No dating evidence was recovered but from the position and nature of the inhumation and comparison with fill 102/3 it would appear to suggest that it is of Late Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Finds of probable Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age date was recorded within trench 102. These find spots further demonstrate the two areas of potentially significant prehistoric activity at the western, A.R.C. slip road (OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 044), and the eastern, Yarnton Mead (OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 001), margins of the study area.
- 4.A.2.5 In trench 104 a single fragment of Roman tile was recovered from a ditch running along the edge of the gravel island. Roman pottery was recorded from the earlier ploughsoil of trench 101. These finds indicate an area of low level Roman activity.
- 4.A.2.6 A single fragment of fire cracked flint and a prehistoric blade-like flint flake was recovered from the fill (111/9) of a ditch (111/8). There are strong similarities between this ditch and ditches excavated on the opposite side of the A40, approximately 80m to the N. In the 1992 area excavations the ditches were angled in a rough herringbone pattern draining into a causeway ditch. The NW-SE sand and gravel causeway has been ascribed to the Iron Age to early Roman period, (Gill Hey pers comm). The gravel and sand causeway itself was not located in trench 111 or 110, however a possible related feature in trench 111 suggests the causeway is likely to be E of trench 110.
- 4.A.2.7 In trench 112, a ditch was revealed running E-W along the whole length of the trench (see fig. 14). The edges were slightly uneven, probably due to recutting of the ditch. The ditch was 0.90m in width and up to 1.00m in depth. In section the ditch had at least two recuts with a series of clay fills (see fig. 15). The upper fill was alluvium (112/4). The fill below this appeared to be very similar to the old ground surface (112/15), which it cut

through, suggesting deliberate backfilling. Pottery from one of the earlier fills (112/9) appears to be decorated Peterborough ware. This ditch is identical in character to two ditches excavated in the Neolithic site 350m WNW (see fig. 3). One of the ditches (the fully exposed ditch is 43m in length) in the open area, excavated in 1992 contained a number of recuts and also cut an old ground surface. Pottery from the ditch was also Peterborough ware.

4.A.2.8 A single fragment of Medieval pottery was recovered from the machine excavated topsoil of trench 104. The significance of this sherd is negligible.

4.A.2.9 Prehistoric tree clearance and burning was recorded beneath the alluvial deposits of trench 113.

#### 4.A.3 CONCLUSIONS

4.A.3.1 The area of Later Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement activity, first detected on a gravel island at the western margins of the study area during the archaeological trenching evaluation conducted for the A40 Witney - Cassington improvements (OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 044) was further defined by trench 101 which produced three small pits. Discovery of a grave containing the remains of a crouched human skeleton (trench 102) would suggest the presence of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age burial elements. It is not known whether this represents a single inhumation or part of a larger cemetery.

4.A.3.2 The area of pits in trenches 101 and 102 is of possible Bronze Age date and therefore associated with the features N of the disused railway located during the A40 Witney - Cassington improvements (OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 001).

4.A.3.3 The character and fills of the two ditches in trench 102 was similar to the features excavated 100m to the W (during the Witney-Cassington improvements, OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 044). This suggests they are probably middle Iron Age in date. In addition the finds recovered from these areas would appear to support a Neolithic / Early Bronze Age date and it is possible that the area represents part of an extensive spread of prehistoric ceremonial and/or settlement activity that originally spread across the northern margins of the present A40 (OAU 1993; gaz. no. 063).

4.A.3.4 Evidence of an earlier ground surface preserved under the alluvium was recorded between trench 112 and 108 extending for at least 360m along the proposed route. This earlier ground surface has only produced flint of a late Neolithic to early Bronze Age date.

4.A.3.5 The area of potential Roman activity upon the gravel island was low, a pot sherd from an earlier ploughsoil in trench 101 and a tile within ditch fill 104/29 in trench 104. From its topographic location and comparison to other areas previously excavated adjacent to the same palaeochannel it would seem



likely the ditch marks the boundary (following the edge of the palaeochannel) between Roman arable cultivation to the N on the gravel island and the wetter Thames floodplain to the S.

- 4.A.3.6 A WNW-ESW palaeochannel was recorded in three places along its length, in trenches 105, 106 and 107. This palaeochannel had been located before (OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 024), where structural wooden piles dated to the late Bronze Age, had been driven into the peaty waterlogged deposits. Cobbled surfaces and burnt mounds of stones have also been located during previous excavation. While no such structures and deposits were recorded in trenches 105, 106 and 107, the find of flint and bone in the channel could indicate localised activity nearby. The proximity of archaeological sites and palaeochannels offers extensive possibilities for obtaining further information on the role of palaeochannels upon Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement. The possibility also exists of locating waterlogged deposits and structural material on the channel edges.
- 4.A.3.7 The E-W ditch in trench 112 is clearly contemporaneous with the N-S ditch N of the A40. The area excavation produced flint flakes and tools over a large area and the ditches are elements of spacial demarcation and ceremonial significance. The location of a third ditch orientated E-W adds further to defining the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age landscape. The E-W ditch is possibly one side of a large segmented rectilinear enclosure. As the ditch in trench 112 can be placed within an excavated prehistoric landscape its significance is greater than that of an isolated feature. Information likely to be gained is likewise enhanced.
- 4.A.3.8 The presence of tree clearance from trench 113 containing charcoal, burnt clay and a single blade like flint flake, beneath the alluvial deposits, indicates potential to recover information about the date and nature of Neolithic / early Bronze Age tree clearance area and subsequent land use in the area. A dark grey clay was sampled from the fill of the E-W ditch in trench 112 (112/9). A sub-sample was examined by Dr. Mark Robinson of Oxford University Museum. The sample contained comminuted charcoal but no organic content. The staining in the sample indicates it once had some organic content, but it is not clear if the deposit became desiccated shortly after deposition or if the gravel extraction immediately to the N has recently had an affect on the water table.

**4.B LAND TO THE IMMEDIATE SOUTH WEST OF FRIEZE FARM  
(TRENCHES 127 - 132)  
(Figure 4)**

**4.B.1 BACKGROUND**

4.B.1.1 Discrete scatters of Palaeolithic flints (Fig 1; OAU 1992c, 5; gaz. no. 005) and Roman pottery (Fig 1; OAU 1992c, 5; gaz. no. 004) have been recorded as chance finds upon Pear Tree Hill, to the south west of Frieze Farm. They represent areas of considerable archaeological potential.

4.B.1.2 A circular cropmark is known to have been observed within an area of pasture to the immediate south west of Frieze Farm (Fig 1; OAU 1992c, 5; gaz. no. 006). The date, extent and significance of this cropmark remain unknown.

4.B.1.3 A recurrent linear pattern of magnetic anomalies was detected NW of Loop Farm during the geophysical survey (Fig 1; OAU 1993, 12; gaz. no. 047). These anomalies may represent the remains of an area of ridge and furrow cultivation.

4.B.1.4 A number of pit-like magnetic anomalies were located at the SW entrance to Frieze Farm during the geophysical survey (Fig 1, OAU 1993, 13; gaz. no. 048). No significant finds scatters were detected during the surface collection survey.

**4.B.2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

4.B.2.1 Site 048 (Fig 1; OAU 1993, 13), detected during the geophysical survey, was located and sample excavated within trenches 127 and 128. The magnetic anomalies proved to consist of a large ditch 127/15 (128/7, 127/7 are probably part of the same ditch), (see fig 16). The ditch was 2.3m wide, 0.71m deep. The primary fill (127/13) contained 17 pottery sherds, all from the same vessel. Substantial deposits of burnt residue was stuck to the inside of the vessel. The pot was early Saxon in date.

4.B.2.2 A possible pit or ditch (132/9) and a shallow segment of curved ditch (132/7), both containing Roman pottery, were recorded within evaluation trench 132 (see fig 17). Two undated linear ditches were also recorded within this trench, which are almost certainly also Roman in date.

4.B.2.3 Small quantities of prehistoric and Roman pottery, possibly suggesting areas of agricultural or low level settlement activity, were recorded within trenches 131 and 132.

- 4.B.2.4 Trenches 129, 130 and 131 revealed evidence of plough furrows, probably post-Medieval in date. Tree root hollows, also probably post-Medieval were also recorded within trench 129.

#### 4.B.3 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.B.3.1 The pottery from the large ditch in trenches 127 and 128 suggest an early Saxon date. The residue deposits suggest domestic occupation in the immediate area. The size of the ditch would be consistent with a Saxon enclosure ditch. The full extent of the ditch beyond the trench is unclear, although to the W it must have been truncated by the modern road Oembankment. The occurrence of early Saxon pottery near to an area of known Roman activity could provide useful information concerning the transitional period from Roman to Saxon. The presence of Bronze Age pottery in the upper fill would indicate disturbance of prehistoric features in the Saxon period.
- 4.B.3.2 Roman pottery was recovered from topsoil contexts within trenches 131 and 132, the upper fill of a ditch within trench 127 (127/8) and the primary fills of two features recorded from trench 132 (132/7 and 132/9). The Roman pottery and features were concentrated in trench 132. The orientation of the ditches suggest the Roman activity extends to the NW and the SE and for an unknown distance to the NE towards Frieze Farm. The limit to the SW probably lies between trench 132 and 130. This material, when combined with the Roman pottery recorded from Pear Tree Hill (OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 004), suggests a significant concentration of Roman activity.
- 4.B.3.3 The fieldwalking did not locate any Roman pottery along the road route at Frieze Farm although a light surface scatter of Roman pottery was observed during trenching between trench 132 and the concrete road leading to Frieze Farm. The low density of pottery within the features demonstrate that pottery within the ploughsoil will also be low.

#### 4.C LAND ADJACENT TO THE WATER EATON ROAD, CUTTESLOWE DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE (TRENCHES 133 - 151 AND 300 - 303) (Figure 5, Plates 1-2)

##### 4.C.1 BACKGROUND

- 4.C.1.1 Cutteslowe is recorded in the National Archaeological Record and the Sites and Monuments Record for Oxfordshire as a Deserted Medieval Village (DMV). The full extent of the settled area is unknown, though it is unlikely to have ever consisted of more than half a dozen houses.
- 4.C.1.2 The village, which is known to have developed from a Late Saxon estate, was largely depopulated by the later 15th century. The focus of settlement possibly moved south towards the area now occupied by St Frideswide Farm.
- 4.C.1.3 The area of the DMV formerly within Eaton Copse was brought into arable cultivation during the early 1970's (tenant farmer, Mr M. Smith 1993 pers comm). The move towards cultivation involved the bulldozing of existing trees, the burning out of roots and the levelling of most of the remaining Medieval earthworks.
- 4.C.1.4 A rectangular earthwork, now levelled through plough activity, is known to have existed at the northern extreme of the study area (see fig. 5) and the remains of a possible Medieval moated site, now occupied by St. Frideswide Farm, survive to the south. Two earthen burial mounds originally lay within the vicinity of Cutteslowe, to the SW of the proposed line of the A40 bypass. Both have been heavily ploughed.
- 4.C.1.5 Air photographs taken in the 1960's revealed traces of crofts, a hollow way and an extensive area of, apparently associated, field systems at Cutteslowe (Sutton 1966, fig. 38). More recent aerial photographic surveys have revealed a series of surface stone scatters, suggesting the presence of buildings, along the NW and SE margins of the hollow way.
- 4.C.1.6 Very few DMVs have been excavated in Oxfordshire. The type of remains which can be expected to be present at Cutteslowe can be envisaged from a comparison with Seacourt Deserted Medieval Village, excavated in 1958-59 in advance of the Oxford Western bypass. The village dated from the late 12th century and by 1439 it was deserted with the exception of two houses. Earlier timber buildings within the village were replaced by stone buildings from the mid-13th century. The typical Seacourt house was a rectangular structure 7.60m x 4.30m internally. Outbuildings, including small barns and byres, were also present.
- 4.C.1.7 Various finds of Medieval pottery have been made in the area (OAU 1993, 15) and a surface collection survey conducted along the line of the proposed line of the A40 North Oxford Bypass by the OAU in 1992 recorded a small concentration of Roman and Medieval pottery to the N of St Frideswide Farm. A geophysical survey conducted at the same time noted the presence of a possible ditch and several pit-like anomalies. Five sherds of Roman and 13 sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered from topsoil deposits during an archaeological examination of geotechnical test pits, by the OAU in January 1992. Test pit 228 was situated just beyond the W end of trench 141, Test pit

229 was situated immediately E of trench 144. Test pit 230 was situated 40m NE of trench 147). No archaeological features were seen during the test pit excavations, but three distinct stone scatters were noted N of T228; two of these scatters, (see fig. 5 A & F), were later sampled in trenches 300 and 301. At least two distinct stone scatters were seen E of T229 (see fig. 5 H & J). These scatters were later sampled by trenches 146 and 144.

#### 4.C.2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 4.C.2.1 A total of 20 machine dug trenches were excavated across the area of Cutteslowe Deserted Medieval Village. Eight trenches, 140, 144, 148, 149, 300, 301, 302 and 303, sampled surface scatters of stone, revealing evidence of Medieval masonry structures. At least six stone buildings were identified. Two of the buildings had cobbled areas on the outside. A well preserved sequence of floor layers associated with a large building, possibly a barn, was recorded in trench 148. The areas occupied by the buildings consisted of made-up ground. The made up deposits indicate potential for dating the stone buildings and the preservation of earlier phases of the village below. The existence of earlier phases is indicated by the presence of 10th century pottery in later layers. Part of a possible Medieval timber structure was also uncovered within trench 140. Such a sequence of buildings was suggested at Seacourt Deserted Medieval Village where timber buildings were replaced by stone buildings (Biddle 1961-2).
- 4.C.2.2 A survey of the road corridor revealed the existence of 14 distinct surface scatters of stone. Five were associated with a series of very low clay banks, and Medieval pottery around the eastern and western margins of a linear, NNW-SSE aligned hollow way. The low spread banks appear to representcroft boundaries and where sectioned in trenches 136 and 301, were found to be formed from clay that was very 'clean', lacking any finds.
- 4.C.2.3 Pottery evidence, suggesting a low level of Roman activity, was recorded within trenches 136, 142, 146. No Roman features were associated with the pottery with the possible exception of a pit (146/7). As the pit was within a medieval building it is likely the pottery is residual.
- 4.C.2.4 Undated features were exposed in trench 133, at the extreme NW opposite the North Oxford Golf Course. It consisted of four linear ditch-like features, one possible pit and a possible posthole. The character of the fill and occurrence of fire cracked flint in the posthole suggests a prehistoric date.
- 4.C.2.5 The resistivity survey has located distinct subsurface features corresponding to each of the surface stone scatters in area 1 (Fig 32). Buildings are not easy to identify clearly in a survey where any solid masonry is likely to be surrounded by areas of rubble or paving which obscure their plan. It is likely, however, given the very limited response from earthwork features in the wet

clay soil, that most of the areas of high readings seen in area 1 represent structural remains of some kind. They appear to be concentrated to the W of the hollow way in the N half of the survey, but to extend to the E of the hollow way in the S half.

In area 2, which is on lower ground, the anomalies are less distinct than in area 1, and there is not such a clear correspondence to the stone scatters. These less positive findings would be consistent with the presence of timber buildings, as noted in trench 140, which are less likely to be detected by the survey than stone structures. There are, however, some areas of high readings, which could be significant, and the survey plots show an overall rectilinear pattern which follows closely the plan of the soil marks.

#### 4.C.3 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.C.3.1 Roman pottery was recovered from topsoil contexts within trenches 136, 142 and 148, whilst a pit producing a single sherd of Roman pottery was recorded within trench 146 (146/7). This material, when combined with that recorded from the geotechnical test pit and surface collection surveys (OAU 1992), suggests the presence of a low level of Roman activity within the area of the Deserted Medieval Village.
- 4.C.3.2 Saxon pottery was recovered from trenches 141, 148 and 151. The material from 141 and 151, however, may prove to be residual. The Saxon pottery from 148 was retrieved from a shallow cut (148/23). The full extent, nature and date of this feature, and of the cut 148/29, remains unknown. The presence of Saxon pottery indicates potential for understanding the early period of the village during its period as a Saxon estate.
- 4.C.3.3 Previous evidence suggested that the Medieval village of Cutteslowe originally extended from the plough denuded earthwork in the north of the study area, to St Frideswide Farm in the south. The survey, conducted at the time of the archaeological sample trenching, suggests an uneven scattering of crofts, as marked by the surface stone scatters, distributed mainly to the W around the northern end of the hollow way.
- 4.C.3.4 Medieval masonry was recorded from the eight trenches sectioning surface scatters of stone (~~140~~<sup>146</sup>, 144, 148, 149, 300, 301, 302 and 303). Associated clay floors levels were recorded within trenches 144, 300, 302 and 303, while mortared and cobbled surfaces survived within trenches 146, 148, 300 and 303. The structural remains recorded presumably represent small crofts and associated paddocks, yards, and out-buildings. A probable Medieval timber wall slot, containing large amounts of structural daub, was recorded from trench 140 (140/7).

- 4.C.3.5 The sample trenches, whilst demonstrating the close correlation of surface stone scatters with structural walls and cobbled surfaces, have indicated the variable survival of archaeological deposits. Four courses of masonry, floor and foundation levels survived, for example, within trenches 302 and 303, while at least 0.9m of stratified archaeological deposits were recorded from trench 148. It is difficult to generalize without seeing complete buildings. The deeper stratigraphy within trench 148 is probably accounted for by its location within a large building, the E wall, 303/3, of the building being located in trench 303 (see fig. 31). The depth of wall foundation up to 0.50m in depth in trench 303 and associated sequence of floor layers in trench 148 could be a substantial building with earlier Saxon deposits preserved under the floor layers. As the wall in trench 303 suggests a building of some size, and so status, part of manorial buildings nearby St. Frideswide Farm. It is may be significant that the only two small finds, a large copper alloy stud and an iron riding spur were found in this area, in trench 149.
- 4.C.3.6 The buildings exposed in the trenches are similar to those described by M. Biddle in his account of the excavation (Biddle 1961-2) of Seacourt Deserted Medieval Village. The pottery from Cutteslowe indicates an earlier date for the earliest phases of the Cutteslowe. Incidentally the Seacourt excavations also exposed Roman features in some areas and Roman pottery occurred over most of the area excavated.
- 4.C.3.7 The suggestion that most of the original area of Water Eaton copse was bulldozed prior to cultivation (the tenant farmer M. Smith 1993 pers comm) appears to be confirmed by the results of evaluation trenches 141, 142, 143 and 145, which proved devoid of Medieval structural remains. This may also explain the lower levels of pottery recovered from the central portion of the site during the surface collection survey (OAU 1992).
- 4.C.3.8 A series of shallow linear cuts producing Medieval pottery, were recorded from trenches 140, 141, 148 and 149. These features may be interpreted as potential Medieval drainage / boundary ditches. Other features producing Medieval pottery were recorded from trenches 141, 146 and 148.
- 4.C.3.9 Trenches 147, 150 and 151 produced a series of amorphous linear features suggestive of cultivation furrows. Trenches 143 and 145 proved archaeologically sterile. It is probable that the area to the immediate east of the hollow way was under arable cultivation during the life of Cutteslowe village (cf. Sutton 1966, fig 38).
- 4.C.3.10 Undated features were recorded within trench 133, NW of the main area of

Medieval settlement, although undated; their character suggest a prehistoric date. All remaining undated features recorded from the evaluation survey presumably relate to Medieval activity within the area of Cutteslowe village.

#### **4.D LAND TO THE NORTH WEST OF SOUTHFIELDS FARM (TRENCHES 156 - 165) (Figure 6)**

##### **4.D.1 BACKGROUND**

4.D.1.1 Two finds of late prehistoric date, a neolithic perforated antler tine hoe/pick (OAU 1992c, 8; gaz. no. 041) and a neolithic polished stone axe (OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 042), and a Roman or Medieval fishing net sinker had been recorded as chance finds from the southern bank of the river Cherwell NE of trench 156.

4.D.1.2 A small, undated mound, tentatively identified as a barrow, is recorded to the immediate north west of Southfields Farm (OAU 1993, 17; gaz. no. 040) near to trench 168. The feature would appear more likely to be associated with an area of headland.

4.D.1.3 A surface collection survey, conducted by the OAU in 1992 within the area of proposed A40 bypass land take, located a discreet scatter of three prehistoric worked flints (OAU 1993; gaz. no. 066) in the area of trench 159.

4.D.1.4 The low mound and discrete scattering of prehistoric finds, if taken as a whole, suggest an area of archaeological potential.

##### **4.D.2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

4.D.2.1 The area contained datable features which were clearly medieval furrows. The undated features are probably contemporary with the medieval cultivation.

4.D.2.2 The low mound, apparently depleted through plough disturbance, was sampled by trench 158. It produced (residual?) prehistoric and Roman pottery. A linear ditch, possible posthole and charcoal deposit, all undated, were also detected within the trench.



4.D.2.3 Three undated ditches, two areas of probable Medieval cultivation and an undated pit, were also observed within trenches 160, 161, 162 and 163. Tree root hollows were recorded within trenches 156, 157, 159 and 160. Four cultivation furrows were located in trench 160. Pottery from the furrows indicate a date range of 12th to 14th century. In trench 161 an undated scoop contained burnt clay. An undated ditch was exposed in trench 161 and 162. A single undated cultivation furrow was excavated in trench 163, which is probably Medieval in date.

4.D.2.4 Two small sherds of Roman pottery and 3 Medieval pottery sherds suggest low density areas of agricultural activity in the vicinity of trenches 158, 160. The small quantity of Roman pottery would be consistent with light manuring.

#### 4.D.3 CONCLUSIONS

4.D.3.1 All three trenches sampling the area of headland (trenches 158, 160 and 161) produced subsurface archaeological remains. The full extent, nature and date of these features could not be ascertained within the confines of the trenches. The low mound sampled by trench 158 produced one sherd possibly prehistoric in date and one sherd of Roman pottery. Though these finds may not relate directly to the constructional date of the mound.

4.D.3.2 The series of early plough furrows recorded within trenches 160 and 163 may indicate that, in the Medieval period at least, the immediate headland environs were under cultivation. The undated features are probably of a similar date. Within the field signs of ridge and furrow were masked by a crop over most of the field.

**4.E LAND TO THE EAST OF CUTTESLOWE PARK RECREATION GROUND  
(TRENCHES 166-170)  
(Figure 6)**

**4.E.1 BACKGROUND**

4.E.1.1 A few scattered and doubtful pit-like anomalies, together with a line of disturbances, possibly indicating a former field boundary, were located at the northern margins of the study area during a geophysical survey conducted by the OAU within the area of proposed land take for the A40 North Oxford Bypass (OAU 1993, 17; gaz. no. 056).

4.E.1.2 A discreet scatter of worked prehistoric flints (OAU 1993, 17; gaz. no. 057) in the vicinity of trench 168, was located during the OAU surface collection survey near to the River Cherwell. The position of this discreet scatter next to the river, the possible presence of alluvium and the location of a few well defined pit-like magnetic anomalies immediately to the east (OAU 1993; gaz. no. 058), detected during the geophysical survey, suggests the potential for subsurface archaeological remains.

**4.E.2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

4.E.2.1 The only datable deposits and features which were investigated were medieval in date. No archaeological deposits, relating to the recorded surface scatters of prehistoric flint, were observed during the excavations. A burnt flint was recovered from the earliest ploughsoil in trench 168. A total of five medieval sherds were recovered from trenches 168, 169, and 170.

4.E.2.2 A single Roman sherd in trench 167 suggests areas of early agricultural activity. Combined with the small number of Roman sherds recovered in trenches 156-165 it is consistent with a manuring scatter.

4.E.2.3 Trenches 169 and 170 revealed evidence for an area of ridge and furrow cultivation typical of the Medieval period. The five pottery sherds probably derived from manuring indicate a 13th/14th century date.

4.E.2.4 Ditches were observed within trenches 166 and 169. The ditch in trench 166 is probably post-Medieval in date. A single sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered from the ditch within trench 169. Natural features possibly tree root hollows were recorded within trenches 168 and 170.

#### 4.E.3 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.E.3.1 None of the ditches are earlier than Medieval in date. A burnt flint from trench 168 is possibly linked to the surface scatter (OAU 1992; gaz. no. 057). Medieval ploughing has probably disturbed the flint; the likely survival of shallow features associated with the flint is low. The amorphous features excavated in trench 168, 169 and 170 were earlier than the medieval ploughsoil. They are probably natural but the possibility of tree clearance hollows before the medieval period cannot be completely ruled out.
- 4.E.3.2 The trenches had two earlier ploughsoils within them. The total depth of modern and earlier ploughsoils was deepest in trench 166, up to 0.68m. Pottery from the earliest ploughsoils indicate a 13th/14th century date. Ridge and furrow was evident in the field around trench 169 and 170. Ridge and furrow could not be seen around trenches 166 and 167 due to the high crop.
- 4.E.3.3 None of the ditches pre-date the earliest ploughsoil. Although the ditch in trench 169 was orientated along the side of a ridge.

#### 4.F LAND TO THE IMMEDIATE SOUTH EAST OF CHERWELL FARM, MILL LANE, MARSTON COMMON (TRENCH 186) (Figure 7)

##### 4.F.1 BACKGROUND

- 4.F.1.1 There is no previous record of archaeological remains on the proposed line of the A40 North Oxford Bypass in this section.
- 4.F.1.2 The only elements of archaeological interest which have been noted in the immediate vicinity belong to the Medieval centre of Old Marston to the south of the present A40.
- 4.F.1.3 Little access was gained to this area during the archaeological surveys conducted by the OAU in late 1992.
- 4.F.1.4 Faint traces of linear magnetic anomalies were located at the south western margins of the study area during the geophysical survey conducted by the OAU in 1992. These anomalies are likely to represent the remains of Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

**4.F.2            SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

**4.F.2.1**        A single sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered from an earlier ploughsoil. No further archaeological remains were observed.

**4.F.3            CONCLUSIONS**

**4.F.3.1**        The archaeological potential for this area is not high, though the possibility that additional archaeological remains survive within the immediate vicinity of trench 186 should not be completely discounted.

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## A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS &amp; FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
<b>TRENCH 101</b>					
101/1	Modern Topsoil	0.20			
101/2	Ploughsoil	0.15			1 RB pot sherd
101/3	Natural gravel				
101/4	Fill of 101/5	0.34			
101/5	Pit	0.34		2.00	
101/6	? Burrow	0.04		0.4	
101/7	Burrow	0.04			
101/8	Fill of 101/9	0.11			1 burnt flint flake
101/9	Pit	0.11	0.68	0.40	
101/10	Fill of 101/11	0.21		0.98	
101/11	Pit	0.21		0.98	
<b>TRENCH 102</b>					
102/1	Topsoil	0.25-0.30			1 bone
102/2	Ploughsoil	0.11-0.16			1 bone
102/3	Fill of 102/13	0.07			1 broken flint flake
102/4	Natural sandy silt				
102/5	Fill of 102/6	0.18			
102/6	NE-SW Ditch	0.18		1.20	
102/7	Fill of 102/8	0.28			3 bone
102/8	NE-SW Ditch	0.28		0.72	
102/9	Grave	0.16	0.60+	0.27	
102/10	Fill of 102/9	0.16			
102/11	Posthole	0.25		0.60	
102/12	Fill of 102/11	0.25			
102/13	Seoop	0.07		1.50	
102/14	Skeleton in 102/9				
<b>TRENCH 103</b>					
103/1	Topsoil	0.28			
103/2	Plough disturbance	0.03			
103/3	Natural silt				
103/4	Burnt silt	0.25		2.00	
103/5	Modern disturbance		1.10+	0.25	
<b>TRENCH 104</b>					
104/1	Topsoil	0.20-0.30			1 broken flint flake. 2 pot sherds 18th cent. 1 pot sherd St Neot's type 10th-11th cent.
104/2	Layer	0.12			

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
104/3	Layer	0.12			
104/4	Fill of 104/25	0.22			1 pot sherd ? 2 bone
104/5	Fill of 104/6	0.65			
104/6	Fill of 104/29	0.60		1.60	1 RB Tegula tile
104/7	Fill of 104/24	0.24			
104/8	Fill of 104/25	0.27			
104/9	Fill of 104/26	0.13			
104/10	Fill of 104/27	0.23			
104/11	Fill of 104/28	0.33			
104/12	Fill of 104/28	0.20			
104/13	Fill of 104/28	0.09			
104/14	Fill of 104/29	0.15			
104/15	Fill of 104/29	0.15			
104/16	Fill of 104/29	0.16			
104/17	? Alluvium	0.16			
104/18	Alluvium	0.11			
104/19	Alluvium	0.12			
104/20	Fill of 104/30	0.13			
104/21	Fill of 104/24	0.41			
104/22	? Natural feature	0.18			
104/23	Fill of 104/24	0.12			
104/24	ENE-WSW ? Ditch	0.65+		7.30	
104/25	NE-SW Ditch	0.28		0.90	
104/26	NE-W Ditch	0.14		0.46	
104/27	NE-SW Ditch	0.26		0.95+	
104/28	NE-SW Ditch	0.62		0.95+	
104/29	NE-SW Ditch	0.41		1.50	
104/30	NE-SW Ditch	0.13		0.40	
<b>TRENCH 105</b>					
105/1	Topsoil	0.20			
105/2	Alluvium	0.20			
105/3	Alluvium	0.12			
105/4	Alluvium	0.22			
105/5	Alluvium	0.13			
105/6	Fill of Palaeochannel	0.44			1 retouched flint flake
105/7	Natural gravel				
<b>TRENCH 106</b>					

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
106/1	Topsoil	0.28			
106/2	Alluvium	0.18			
106/3	Alluvium	0.22			
106/4	Alluvium	0.20			
106/5	Alluvium	0.16			
106/6	Fill of Palaeochannel	0.42			3 bone
<b>TRENCH 107</b>					
107/1	Topsoil	0.15-0.22			
107/2	Alluvium	0.21			
107/3	Alluvium	0.22			
107/4	Alluvium	0.09			
107/5	Alluvium	0.09			
107/6	Alluvium?	0.12			
107/7	Fill of Palaeochannel	0.17+			
107/8	Ploughsoil?	0.11			
107/9	Ploughsoil	0.09			
107/10	Natural sandy silt				
107/11	NE-SW Ditch	Not excavated		0.70	1 broken flint flake
107/12	NE-SW Ditch	Not excavated		1.12	
107/13	NE-SW Ditch	Not excavated		0.38	
<b>TRENCH 108</b>					
108/1	Topsoil	0.19-0.23			
108/2	Alluvium	0.11			
108/3	Alluvium	0.16			
108/4	Ploughsoil?	0.04-0.09			
108/5	Old ground surface?	0.10-0.15			
108/6	Natural gravel?	0.11+			
108/7	Natural clay silt	0.12			
108/8	Pit?	0.13	0.60	0.43	
108/9	Fill of 108/8	0.12			
108/10	Fill of 108/8	0.03			
108/11	Tree throw hole	0.49		1.00	
108/12	Fill of 108/11	0.22			
108/13	Fill of 108/11	0.16			1 blade-like flint flake. 1 pot sherd late Neo-EBA. 1 pot sherd LA?? 4 bone
108/14	Fill of 108/11	0.17			
108/15	Fill of 108/11	0.06			



A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
<b>TRENCH 109</b>					
109/1	Topsoil	0.23			
109/2	Alluvium	0.14			
109/3	Alluvium	0.13			
109/4	Old ground surface?	0.14			2 flint flakes. 1 flint core. 1 flint piercer (Neolithic?)
109/5	Natural clay silt	0.31			
109/6	Periglacial hollow	0.31	1.38+	0.92	
109/7	Fill of 109/6	0.10			
<b>TRENCH 110</b>					
110/1	Topsoil	0.20			
110/2	Alluvium	0.03-0.06			
110/3	Alluvium	0.14-0.20			
110/4	Old ground surface	0.11-0.17			
110/5	Natural pebble layer	0.04			
110/6	Periglacial hollow	0.23		1.30	
110/7	Fill of 110/6	0.10			
110/8	Fill of 110/11	0.07			
110/9	Fill of 110/11	0.18			
110/10	Fill of 110/6	0.20			
110/11	Periglacial hollow?	0.26	0.90	0.41	
<b>TRENCH 111</b>					
111/1	Topsoil	0.21			
111/2	Alluvium	0.06			
111/3	Alluvium	0.25-0.29			
111/4	Alluvium	0.09-0.20			
111/5	Alluvium	0.06-0.21			
111/6	Old ground surface?	0.19			
111/7	Periglacial channel deposit??	0.18			
111/8	NW-SE Ditch	0.25		0.45	1 burnt flint
111/9	Fill of 111/8	0.16			
111/10	Posthole?	0.06		0.34	
111/11	Fill of 111/10	0.06			
111/12	Fill of 111/8	0.09			1 blade like flint flake
<b>TRENCH 112</b>					
112/1	Topsoil	0.32			
112/2	Alluvium	0.10			

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
112/3	Alluvium	0.40			
112/4	Alluvium	0.25			2 bone + fragments
112/5	Fill of 112/6	0.25			
112/6	E-W Ditch recut?	0.25		0.37	
112/7	Fill of 112/14	0.11			
112/8	Fill of 112/10	0.09			
112/9	Fill of 112/10	0.16			1 pot sherd late Neo-EBA
112/10	E-W Ditch	0.38		0.62	
112/11	Fill of 112/10	0.09			
112/12	Fill of 112/14?	0.09			
112/13	Fill of 112/14	0.13			
112/14	E-W Ditch	0.46		0.90	
112/15	Old ground surface	0.24			1 pot sherd late Neo-EBA. 1 blade-like flint flake. 1 broken scraper (Neolithic?). 1 misc. retouched flint flake. 4 bone
112/16	Fill of 112/14	0.23			
112/17	Periglacial channel deposit??	Not excavated			
112/18	Finds reference from E-W ditch				1 retouched flint (transverse arrowhead, late Neolithic?)
112/19	Fill of 112/32	0.12			
112/20	Fill of 112/32	0.07			
112/21	Fill of 112/32	0.10			
112/22	Fill of 112/32	0.09			
112/23	Fill of 112/31	0.15			
112/24	Fill of 112/31	0.08			
112/25	Fill of 112/31	0.16			
112/26	Fill of 112/31	0.13			
112/27	Fill of 112/31	0.42			
112/28	Layer	0.18			
112/29	Layer	0.22			
112/30	Same as 112/17	0.22			
112/31	E-W Ditch	1.00		0.90+	
<b>TRENCH 113</b>					
113/1	Topsoil	0.20-0.24			
113/2	Alluvium	0.07			
113/3	Alluvium	0.26-0.31			
113/4	Alluvium	0.14-0.17			

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
113/5	Tree throw/clearance	0.04-0.26+	3.00	1.86+	1 blade-like flint flake
113/6	Layer	0.15			
113/7	Periglacial channel deposit??	0.09-0.21			
113/8	Same as 113/5	0.10			
113/9	Natural gravel				
<b>TRENCH 127</b>					
127/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.14-0.35			
127/2	Ploughsoil	0.12			2 pot sherds 18th cent. + 1 horseshoe fragment 1 bone
127/3	Fill of 127/7	0.31			1 RB pot sherd
127/4	Natural sandy silt				
127/5	Fill of 127/7	0.05			
127/6	Fill of 127/7	0.27			
127/7	Ditch/pit?	0.57			
127/8	Fill of 127/9	0.16			1 pot sherd prehistoric? 1 bone
127/9	NE-SW Ditch	0.16		0.62	
127/10	Fill of 127/15	0.24			1 RB pot sherd. 3 frags of fired clay 6 bone + fragments
127/11	Fill of 127/15	0.16			
127/12	Fill of 127/15	0.14			
127/13	Fill of 127/15	0.14			17 pot sherds (from 1 vessel) early Saxon
127/14	Fill of 127/15	0.10			
127/15	E-W Ditch/pit?	0.71		2.30	
<b>TRENCH 128</b>					
128/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.18-0.25			
128/2	Ploughsoil	0.16-0.21			1 RB? pot sherd. 1 pot sherd IA?
128/3	Natural clay and silt				
128/4	Fill of 128/7	0.30			50 fragmented pot sherds BA (mid-late?) 6 bone
128/5	Fill of 128/7	0.20			
128/6	Fill of 128/7	0.30			
128/7	E-W Ditch	0.65		1.50+	
<b>TRENCH 129</b>					
129/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.20			
129/2	Ploughsoil	0.10			

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
129/3	Approx E-W Furrow?	0.14		1.20	
129/4	Approx E-W Furrow?	Not excavated		1.11	3 pot sherds 18th cent. 1 glass
129/5	?Feature	0.12		1.05	
129/6	?Feature	0.15		0.46	
<b>TRENCH 130</b>					
130/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.16-0.20			
130/2	Ploughsoil	0.08			
130/3	E-W Furrow?	0.05		2.00	
130/4	Pit? Root clearance?	0.27		0.80	
130/5	Fill of 130/4	0.15			
130/6	Fill of 130/4	0.12			
<b>TRENCH 131</b>					
131/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.18			
131/2	Ploughsoil	0.11-0.13			1 RB pot sherd
131/3	Natural sandy silt				
131/4	ENE-WSW Furrow	0.08		0.60	
131/5	NNW-SSE Furrow?	0.20		0.61	
131/6	NNW-SSE Furrow?	0.18		1.21	
131/7	Same as 131/4	0.08		0.91+	
<b>Trench 132</b>					
132/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.22			
132/2	Ploughsoil	0.16			1 RB pot sherd
132/3	SE-NW Ditch	0.37		0.72	
132/4	Fill of 132/3	0.27			
132/5	SE-NW Ditch	0.19		1.18	
132/6	Fill of 132/5	0.19			
132/7	SE-NW Ditch	0.26		0.95	
132/8	Fill of 132/7	0.26			1 RB pot sherd
132/9	Ditch?	0.30		1.90	
132/10	Fill of 132/9	0.10			7 RB pot sherds
132/11	Fill of 132/12	0.19			3 RB pot sherds 1 bone
132/12	Scoop	0.08		1.80	1 pot sherd prehistoric? 2 bone 1 RB pot sherd
132/13	Unstratified finds				1 RB sherd
<b>TRENCH 133</b>					
133/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.14-0.20			1 perforated metal plate

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
133/2	Ploughsoil?	0.20			
133/3	Gully	0.14		0.30	
133/4	Fill of 133/3	0.14			
133/5	Ditch	0.30		0.55	
133/6	Fill of 133/5	0.30			
133/7	Posthole	0.14	0.25	0.20	
133/8	Fill of 133/7	0.14			Fire cracked flint
133/9	Modern land drain	Not excavated		0.15-0.20	
133/10	Fill of 133/9	Not excavated		0.15-0.20	
133/11	N-S Ditch?	Not excavated		0.80	
133/12	Fill of 133/11	Not excavated			
133/13	Pit?	Not excavated		0.40+	
133/14	Fill of 133/13	Not excavated			
133/15	N-S Ditch	0.32		1.20	
133/16	Fill of 133/15	0.32			
133/17	N-S Ditch/Gully	Not excavated		0.40	
133/18	Fill of 133/17	Not excavated			
<b>TRENCH 134</b>					
134/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.20			
134/2	Ploughsoil	0.20			
134/3	Ploughsoil	0.40			1 whetstone. 1 bone. 5 complete iron horseshoes & 5 fragments
<b>TRENCH 135</b>					
135/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.22-0.26			
135/2	Ploughsoil	0.12			1 pot sherd 16th/17th cent.
135/3	Natural silt clay subsoil				
135/4	Mole drain	0.26		0.17	1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent.
<b>TRENCH 136</b>					
136/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.16-0.24			1 RB pot sherd
136/2	Ploughsoil	0.13			
136/3	Layer	0.15			
136/4	Natural clay subsoil				
136/5	Fill of 136/6	0.40			
136/6	N-S Ditch	0.40		0.93	
<b>TRENCH 140</b>					
140/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.18			1 Quernstone fragment. 1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent.
140/2	Ploughsoil?	0.16			

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
140/3	Fill of 140/8	0.23			
140/4	Fill of 140/8	0.36			1 bone. 2 pot sherds 12th cent. +
140/5	Fill of 140/8	0.61			15 bone. 2 pot sherds med.
140/6	Fill of 140/7	0.25			Daub. 7 pot sherds 12th cent. +
140/7	E-W Ditch /timber slot?	0.25		1.10	
140/8	ENE-WSW Ditch	1.0		4.60	
<b>TRENCH 141</b>					
141/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.21			
141/2	Ploughsoil?	0.13			
141/3	Fill of 141/5/layer	0.20			1 slag. 12 pot sherds mid-late 12th cent. 1 pot sherd 12th/14th cent.
141/4	Fill of 141/5	0.30			Bone fragments. 1 pot sherd 12th-14th cent. 1 pot sherd 1th-12th cent. 5 pot sherds 12th cent. 1 daub??/AS?
141/5	NNW-SSE Ditch	0.50		0.83	
141/6	NNW-SSE Ditch	0.69		1.25+	
141/7	Fill of 141/6	0.18			11 pot sherds mid-late 12th cent.
141/8	Fill of 141/19	0.14			
141/9	Fill of 141/10	0.44			1 bone. 15 pot sherds 12th cent. +
141/10	NNW-SSE Ditch	0.44		0.60	
141/11	Fill of 141/6	0.38			5 pot sherds late 11th/early 12th cent.
141/12	Fill of 141/9	0.26			4 pot sherds early 12th cent.
141/13	Ditch fill	Not excavated		0.40	
141/14	Fill of 141/19	0.12			
141/15	Ditch fill	Not excavated		0.40	
141/16	Ditch fill?	Not excavated		0.20+	4 pot sherds 11th/12th cent.
141/17	Ditch fill?	Not excavated		1.00	2 pot sherds mid-late 12th cent. 1 pot sherd 12th/14th cent.
141/18	Ditch fill?	Not excavated		1.10	1 pot sherd early 12th cent.
141/19	NNW-SSE Ditch	0.50		1.25	
141/20	Ditch fill	Not excavated		1.70	
141/21	Natural clay subsoil				
<b>TRENCH 142</b>					
142/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.20			

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
142/2	Ploughsoil?	0.04-0.12			1 RB pot sherd. 1 RB? 2 pot sherds 11th/12th cent.
142/3	Natural clay subsoil				
<b>TRENCH 143</b>					
143/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.20			
143/2	Ploughsoil?	0.12			
<b>TRENCH 144</b>					
144/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.35			
144/2	NW-SE Wall	0.28	1.85	0.65	
144/3	NW-SE Wall		2.50	0.30	
144/4	Expansion? Wall			0.80	
144/5	Floor			2.96	
144/6	Floor			0.35 +	
144/7	Rubble			0.44	
144/8	Wall/Rubble		1.85	0.05	
144/9	Wall/Rubble			0.24	
144/10	Floor?			0.88 +	
144/11	Foundation trench?				
144/12	Fill of 144/19	0.24			1 bone
144/13	Fill of 144/19	Not excavated		0.15 +	
144/14	Fill of 144/17	0.18			
144/15	NW-SE Wall		1.70	0.20-0.80	
144/16	Rubble/Wall?	Not excavated			
144/17	NNW-SSE Ditch	0.18		0.85	
144/18	Foundation trench?	Not excavated			
144/19	Foundation trench?	0.18-0.24		0.94	
144/20	Ploughsoil?	0.18			
144/21	Layer	0.35			
144/22	Fill of 144/23	0.50			1 pot sherd 12th/14th cent.
144/23	SW-NE Ditch	0.50		0.83 +	
<b>TRENCH 145</b>					
145/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.20			2 pot sherds 12th/13th cent. 3 pot sherds 11th/12th cent.
145/2	Ploughsoil?	0.30			
<b>TRENCH 146</b>					
146/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.40			3 pot sherd 14th cent. 5 pot sherd 13th cent. + 1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent. 1 tile Post-med?

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
146/2	Ploughsoil?	0.35			2 bone. 1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent. 1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent.
146/3	Scoop	1.10		11.00	
146/4	Fill of 146/5	0.12			1 bone
146/5	Posthole	0.12	0.58	0.5	
146/6	Fill of 146/7	0.20			1 RB pot sherd
146/7	Pit?	0.20		3.30	
146/8	Layer	Not excavated		1.00+	1 bone. 2 pot sherds 13th/14th cent. 3 pot sherds 12th/14th cent. 2 pot sherds 10th cent. 1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent 1 pot sherd AS 1 Tile
146/9	Fill of 146/10				
146/10	Burrow				
146/11	Rubble fill of 146/3	0.10	5.50		
146/12	Fill of 146/3	0.23			
146/13	Layer	0.15			
146/14	??Wall		3.80	0.54	
146/15	Surface/mortar?	Not excavated		0.58	
<b>TRENCH 147</b>					
147/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.18-0.25			
147/2	Ploughsoil	0.09-0.12			
147/3	Layer	0.13			1 Glazed tile
147/4	Fill of 147/5	0.25			
147/5	Furrow	0.25		1.70	
147/6	Fill of 147/7	0.13			2 pot sherds 11th/12 cent.
147/7	Posthole?	0.13		0.21	
147/8	Fill of 147/9	0.13			
147/9	Furrow	0.11		1.20	
147/10	Furrow	Not excavated		0.90	
147/11	Furrow	Not excavated		0.50	
147/12	Furrow	Not excavated		0.60	
147/13	Furrow	Not excavated		2.00	1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent. 1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent.
147/14	Furrow	Not excavated		1.50	
147/15	Furrow	Not excavated		0.60	
147/16	Furrow	Not excavated		1.10	
147/17	Furrow	Not excavated		1.00	



A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
147/18	Furrow	Not excavated		0.90	
147/19	Furrow	Not excavated		1.80	1 pot sherd 11th-12th cent.
147/20	Furrow	Not excavated		0.45	
147/21	Furrow	Not excavated		1.30	
147/22	Furrow	Not excavated		1.30	
147/23	Furrow	Not excavated		0.80	
<b>TRENCH 148</b>					
148/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.20-0.25			4 bone + fragments. 1 pot sherd early-mid 12th cent. 1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent. 1 Tile
148/2	Ploughsoil	0.05-0.20			1 RB? pot sherd 1 pot sherd 13th cent.
148/3	Layer	0.44			1 slag
148/4	Surface	0.02-0.14			1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent. 1 pot sherd AS? 1 pot sherd 12th/14th cent. 2 pot sherds 12th/13th cent.
148/5	Pit	0.30		1.00	
148/6	Fill of 148/5	0.03			7 pot sherds late 12th/13th cent. 14th cent. iron spur.
148/7	Layer/same as 148/11?	0.04-0.20			
148/8	Fill of 148/24	0.27			
148/9	Pit	0.25		1.10	
148/10	Fill of 148/9	0.25			1 pot sherd 12th/13th cent.
148/11	Layer/same as 148/7?	0.20			5 pot sherds mid 12th cent. 1 pot sherd 12th/14th cent. 1 pot sherd 12th cent. +
148/12	NE-SW Ditch	0.50		0.90	
148/13	Fill of 148/12	0.50			1 pot sherd 12th/14th cent.
148/14	E-W Ditch	0.50		1.00	
148/15	Fill of 148/14	0.50			
148/16	Layer	0.17			
148/17	Ditch?	0.20		1.20	
148/18	Fill of 148/17	0.20			
148/19	Layer	0.25			
148/20	Ditch	0.18+		0.80	
148/21	Fill of 148/20	0.18			
148/22	Fill of 148/20	0.11			
148/23	Scoop?	0.14			1 Pot sherd AS?
148/24	Ditch			0.30+	
148/25	NE-SW Linear feature	0.14		1.40	

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
148/26	Fill of 148/25	0.14			
148/27	Wall?	0.35		0.50	
148/28	Fill of 148/23	0.14			1 bone. 1 pot sherd 17th cent. + 1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent. 1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent.
148/29	NE-SW Linear feature	0.14		1.50	
148/30	Fill of 148/29	0.14			
<b>TRENCH 149</b>					
149/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.40			
149/2	Fill of 149/3	0.30			3 pot sherds 12th cent. 1 pot sherd 11th/12 cent.?
149/3	ENE-WSW Ditch	0.30		1.00	
149/4	Fill of 149/5	0.30			2 bone + fragments 2 pot sherds 12th cent. + 4 pot sherds 11th-12th cent.
149/5	NW-SE Ditch	0.30		1.30	
149/6	Modern tree clearance		1.18	0.15-0.40	4 bone. 1 pot sherd AS? 1 pot sherd 12th cent. 1 pot sherd late 12th cent. 1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent.
149/7	E-W Wall		1.90	0.49	
149/8	Fill of 149/9	0.30			4 glass
149/9	Modern tree clearance	0.30			1 iron fragment. 1 gun cartridge
149/10	WNW-ESE Wall Trench?	0.32		1.50	
149/11	Fill of 149/10	0.16			1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent. 1 copper alloy stud.
149/12	Fill of 149/10	0.15			
149/13	Ploughsoil?	0.05-0.10			
149/14	Fill of 149/19	0.26			
149/15	Modern tree clearance				
149/16	Ploughsoil?	0.15-0.20			
149/17	Ploughsoil?	0.05-0.10			
149/18	Fill of 149/3	0.20-0.25			
149/19	ESE-WNW Ditch?	0.30		0.50	
<b>TRENCH 150</b>					
150/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.27-0.36			1 pot sherd 13th cent. 1 pot sherd 11th-12th cent. 1 pot sherd 12th/13th cent.
150/2	Fill of 150/3	0.35			1 bone. 1 Brick
150/3	NNW-SSE Ditch	0.35		0.85	

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
150/4	Fill of 150/7	0.15			
150/5	Layer				
150/6	Layer	0.09-0.20			
150/7	Modern Mole drain?	0.15		0.25	
<b>TRENCH 151</b>					
151/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.23			
151/2	Ploughsoil	0.04-0.10			2 bone
151/3	Ploughsoil?	0.15			
151/4	Layer	0.12			1 pot sherd AS/Prehistoric. 1 pot sherd ? <del>2 pot sherd AS</del>
<b>TRENCH 156</b>					
156/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.20-0.35			
156/2	Ploughsoil?	0.16-0.28			
156/3	Natural clay subsoil				
<b>TRENCH 157</b>					
157/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.17-0.22			
157/2	Ploughsoil?	0.20			
157/3	Natural clay subsoil				
<b>TRENCH 158</b>					
158/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.30			
158/2	Ploughsoil	0.75			1 RB pot sherd. 1 pot sherd prehistoric?
158/3	Burnt layer	0.02			
158/4	Natural clay subsoil				
158/5	Ploughsoil?	0.20			
158/6	Fill of 158/7	0.15			
158/7	Furrow?	0.15		0.60	
158/8	Fill of 158/9	0.04			
158/9	Posthole/Pit?	0.04		0.37	
158/10	Fill of 158/11	0.16-0.22			
158/11	Tree throw hollows?	0.22	1.80	1.0	
<b>TRENCH 159</b>					
159/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.26			
159/2	Ploughsoil?	0.02-0.05			
159/3	Tree disturbance	-			
<b>TRENCH 160</b>					
160/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.22-0.27			
160/2	Ploughsoil?	0.12			

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
160/3	Natural gravel and clay subsoil				
160/4	Fill of 160/5	0.25			1 pot sherd C12. 1 pot sherd C13/C14
160/5	Furrow	0.22		2.0	
160/6	Fill of 160/7	0.30			
160/7	Tree root hollows	0.30	2.0	1.20	
160/8	Fill of 160/9	0.20			
160/9	Furrow	0.20		0.90	
160/10	Fill of 160/11	0.30			1 RB pot sherd. 1 pot sherd C13/C14
160/11	Furrow	0.30		2.20	
160/12	Fill of 160/13	0.24			
160/13	Tree root hollow	0.33		0.90	
<b>TRENCH 161</b>					
161/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.20			
161/2	Ploughsoil?	0.22			
161/3	Fill of 161/4	0.12			
161/4	Scoop	0.14		0.80	
161/5	Fill of 161/7	0.21			
161/6	Fill of 161/7	0.15			
161/7	E- Ditch	0.36		0.80	
161/8	Natural clay subsoil				
<b>TRENCH 162</b>					
162/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.19			
162/2	Ploughsoil?	0.26			
162/3	Natural clay subsoil				
162/4	Fill of 162/5	0.30			
162/5	Gully	0.30		0.65	
<b>TRENCH 163</b>					
163/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.17-0.25			
163/2	Ploughsoil?	0.19			1 bone + fragments
163/3	Natural clay subsoil				Iron nail?
163/4	NW-SE Furrow	0.18		1.50	
163/5	NW-SE Furrow	0.15		0.80	
<b>TRENCH 164</b>					
164/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.19-0.24			
164/2	Ploughsoil?	0.10			
<b>TRENCH 165</b>					

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
165/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.19-0.22			
165/2	Ploughsoil	0.10			
<b>TRENCH 166</b>					
166/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.18-0.23			
166/2	Ploughsoil	0.13-0.19			1 pot sherd ?
166/3	Ploughsoil	0.26			
166/4	Natural sandy silt subsoil				
166/5	Ditch	0.61		1.80	
166/6	Fill of 166/5	0.38			
166/7	Fill of 166/5	0.23			
<b>TRENCH 167</b>					
167/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.18			
167/2	Ploughsoil	0.12-0.19			
167/3	Ploughsoil	0.19-0.24			1 RB pot sherd. 1 fired clay?
167/4	Natural sandy silt subsoil				
<b>TRENCH 168</b>					
168/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.18-0.22			1 flint flake? 1 pot sherd med.
168/2	Ploughsoil	0.12-0.18			
168/3	Ploughsoil	0.14-0.17			1 burnt flint
168/4	Natural sandy silt subsoil				
168/5	Natural feature?	0.17		0.95	
168/6	Fill of 168/5	0.17			
168/7	Natural feature?	0.23		0.60	
168/8	Fill of 168/8	0.23			
<b>TRENCH 169</b>					
169/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.19			1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent.
169/2	Ploughsoil	0.12-0.20			
169/3	Ploughsoil	0.20			
169/4	Natural sandy silt subsoil				
169/5	Ditch	0.30		1.20	
169/6	Fill of 169/5	0.30			1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent. 1 bone
169/7	Fill of 169/5	0.04			
169/8	Furrow	0.20		1.30	
169/9	Natural feature?	0.26		1.56	
169/10	Fill of 169/8	0.26			
169/11	Fill of 169/9	0.04			

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
2169/12	Fill of 169/9	0.21			
<b>TRENCH 170</b>					
170/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.19			1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent.
170/2	Ploughsoil	0.18			
170/3	Ploughsoil	0.08			1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent.
170/4	Natural sandy silt subsoil				
170/5	Natural feature?/root disturbance?	0.22		0.62	
170/7	Fill of 170/5	0.22			
170/8	Fill of 170/5	0.20			
170/9	Natural feature?	0.09		0.46	
170/10	Fill of 170/9	0.09			
170/11	Natural feature?	0.51		1.52+	
170/12	Fill of 170/11	0.51			
<b>TRENCH 186</b>					
186/1	Topsoil	0.32			
186/2	Ploughsoil	0.09			1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent.
186/3	Natural clay and gravel subsoil				
<b>TRENCH 300</b>					
300/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.20-0.25			1 bone.
300/2	Layer	0.18			
300/3	NNW-SSE Wall	min 0.08	1.40	0.80	
300/4	NNW-SSE Wall	min 0.08	1.5	0.80	
300/5	Rubble	Not excavated		3.20	
300/6	Limestone spread	Not excavated		2.90+	1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent. 3 pot sherds 13th cent. 1 pot sherd 12th/13th cent.
300/7	Layer within building	Not excavated		14.00	1 bone. 21 pot sherds 11th/12th cent. 1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent. 1 pot sherd 12th/13th cent. 3 pot sherds 12th/13th cent. 5 pot sherds 13th/14th cent.
300/8	Limestone spread	Not excavated		3.00	1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent.
300/9	Partly robbed wall?			0.31	
300/10	Foundation trench?	Not excavated		0.75	1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent.?
300/11	Fill of 300/12	Not excavated			
300/12	Undefined feature				
300/13	Fill of 300/14	Not excavated		0.20	
300/14	Pit?				

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
300/15	Foundation trench?	Not excavated		1.05	
300/16	Cobble surface	Not excavated		10.50	
<b>TRENCH 301</b>					
301/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.28			2 pot sherds 12th/14th cent. 3 pot sherds 14th cent. + 6 pot sherds 11th/12th cent. 1 pot sherd 12th cent.
301/2	Bulldozed layer	0.20			
301/3	Layer	0.11			
301/4	Layer	0-0.21			
301/5	Natural clay subsoil				
301/6	Tree clearance?	Not excavated			
301/7	Stone wall?			0.20-0.28	
301/8	Limestone spread			0.60+	
301/9	Layer which 301/7 set into				
<b>TRENCH 302</b>					
302/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.25			
302/2	NW-SE Wall + return	0.28	5.50	0.81	2 pot sherds 11th/12th cent. 1 pot sherd 12th cent. 4 pot sherds 12th/14th cent.
302/3	Layer	0.03-0.08			1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent.
302/4	Layer with rubble			4.00+	3 pot sherds prehistoric? 25 pot sherds 14th cent. 1 pot sherd 11th/12th cent. 1 pot sherd 12th/14th cent.
302/5	Layer probably same as 302/4	0.11		4.00	1 bone. 5 pot sherds 12th cent. 4 pot sherds 11th/12th cent. 2 pot sherds 13th/14th cent. 1 pot sherd 12th cent.
302/6	Layer	0.04-0.09			
302/7	Layer	0.06			
302/8	Layer	0.12-0.18			2 pot sherds 13th cent. 1 pot sherd 10th cent. + 1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent.
302/9	Layer	0.19			3 pot sherds 11th/12th cent. 1 pot sherd late 12th cent. 1 RB pot sherd 2 pot sherds 1A?
<b>TRENCH 303</b>					
303/1	Modern ploughsoil	0.20			2 pot sherds 14th cent.? 1 pot sherds 14th cent.
303/2	Plough disturbed rubble				
303/3	Wall		8.00	0.79	
303/4	Foundation wall		1.10		

A40 TR 93 and WECS 93 TABLE OF CONTEXTS & FINDS

Context No	Description	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Finds
303/5					
303/6	NW-SE Ditch	0.60		1.00	1 pot sherd 13th/14th cent.
303/7	Stone band		1.20	0.45	
303/8	Floor surface				
303/9					
303/9					
303/10					
303/11	Rubble				
303/12	Fill of 303/16				
303/13	Floor	0.36			
303/14	Ploughsoil?	0.05			
303/15	Drain?				
303/16	Part of Hollow Way				
////////	//////////	////	////		

AS = Anglo Saxon/early medieval

cent. = century

EBA = early Bronze Age

IA = Iron Age

Med = Medieval

Neo = Neolithic

RB = Romano-British



## 7. DEPTH TO TOP OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS OR NATURAL SUBSOIL

'N' is used where the depth to natural subsoil is the same as the level of archaeological deposits (if they occur).  
 'A' is used where the depth to the archaeological features is less than that of the natural subsoil

TRENCH	DEPTH TO TOP OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS (A); OR NATURAL SUBSOIL (N) (in metres, from top of present ground surface)		
101	0.35		N
102	0.46		N
103	0.31		N
104	0.30		N
105	Topsoil + alluvium = 0.87		A
106	Topsoil + alluvium = + 1.04		A
107	W end 0.42	E end Topsoil + alluvium = 0.95	A
108	Topsoil + alluvium = 0.40		A
109	Topsoil + alluvium = 0.45		A
110	Topsoil + alluvium = 0.46		A
111	Topsoil + alluvium = 0.71		A
112	W end Topsoil + alluvium = 0.61	E end Topsoil + alluvium = 0.88	A
113	W end Topsoil + alluvium = 0.79	E end Topsoil + alluvium + 0.68	A
127	SW end 0.35	NE end 0.47	N
128	0.46		N
129	0.30		N
130	0.28		N
131	0.31		N
132	0.32		N
133	0.34-0.40		N
134	0.40-0.80		N
135	0.26-0.34		N
136	0.26-0.37		N
140	0.34		N
141	0.34		N
142	0.24-0.32		N
143	0.32		A
144	0.18-0.26		A
145	0.50		N
146	SW end 0.17	NE end 0.70	A

147	0.18-0.28		A
148	0.25-0.45		A
149	0.40		N
150	0.36		A
151	0.27-0.33		A
156	0.36		N
157	0.37		N
158	0.60-0.90		N
159	0.51		N
160	0.34		N
161	0.44		N
162	0.36-0.50		N
163	0.36-0.50		N
164	0.29		N
165	0.29		N
166	0.68		N
167	0.61		N
168	0.44		N
169	0.38		N
170	0.40		N
186	0.41		N
300	0.17 - 0.38		A
301	N end 0.14	S end 0.43	A
302	NW end 0.17	SE end 0.28	A
303	0.20		A

## 8. GEOTECHNICAL TEST PIT INSPECTION

### A.1 INTRODUCTION

A.1.1 A series of 59 geotechnical test pits (T201-T260), cut along the proposed line of the A40 Northern Oxford Bypass, were archaeologically examined between 13 January and 17 February 1993.

A.1.2 The top 0.5m was carefully removed from the area of each test pit by a mechanical excavator using a 0.9m wide toothed bucket. Test pit sections were examined at this stage for potential archaeological remains. Topsoil and turf deposits were monitored during the initial excavation stage and all excavated deposits were examined by hand for possible archaeological material.

### A.2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A.2.1 Subsurface archaeological remains were observed within three test pits (T217, T245 and T246), while archaeological artefacts, consisting primarily of Roman and Medieval pottery, were recovered from topsoil layers within an additional seven (T208, T228, T229, T230, T232, T243a and T258). Post Medieval and modern "made ground" deposits were encountered within test pits T203, T216, T222, T223, T225 and T247.

### A.3 CONCLUSIONS

A.3.1 The close association of Medieval pottery and discrete surface scatters of stone within the immediate vicinity of test pits T228, T229 and T230 appear to indicate the former position of Cutteslowe Deserted Medieval Village. As no subsurface archaeological features were detected during the excavation of these three geotechnical pits, the character, extent and survival of potential Medieval deposits within the area of the village remains unknown.

A.3.2 Subsurface archaeological remains were recorded during the excavation of three geotechnical test pits: T217, T245 and T246. Unfortunately the limited size of the machine excavated pits (c.1 x 3.4m) makes any interpretation of subsurface features difficult. It is however possible that all recorded features originally formed land boundary or drainage ditches. The date of the recorded features is unknown and the single sherd of Roman pottery recovered from cut 217/3 within pit T217, may be residual. The possibility that additional subsurface archaeological features exist in the immediate vicinity of T217, T245 and T246 should not, however, be discounted.

A.3.3 The small quantities of Roman and Medieval pottery recovered from topsoil layers within test pits T224, T232, T237, T243 and T258 may represent the remains of agricultural manuring scatters. The possibility that subsurface archaeological remains survive within the immediate vicinity of these pits should not, however, be discounted.

### A.4 DETAILED ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF GEOTECHNICAL TEST PITS (Figs 8, 8a, 9, 9a)

#### Test Pit T208

This pit was cut through a series of backfilled quarry deposits producing extensive quantities of Post Medieval and modern brick and tile. Two pieces of residual Prehistoric flint work were also recovered from T208, though their significance, within modern quarry backfill deposits, is negligible.

#### Test Pit T213

Pit T213 was cut through an area of disused railway embankment (OAU 1992: gaz. no. 029) to the west of Loop Farm. Five pieces of modern brick and one fragment of Post Medieval pipe stem were recovered from the machine excavated spoil.

#### Test Pit T217

Pit T217 was cut through an area of arable to the immediate east of Frieze Farm. A shallow NE-SW aligned cut/scoop (217/3) was detected beneath ploughsoil deposits 217/1 and 217/4 at the southeastern end of the test pit. The cut, measuring in excess of 1.4m in width and 0.34m in depth, was filled with a brown clay loam (217/2). A single sherd of, possibly residual, Roman pottery was recovered from the exposed south west facing section of 217/2. No additional finds were recovered during the hand examination of the machine excavated spoil. Cut 217/3 may represent the plough denuded remains of a NE-SW aligned drainage ditch or land/field boundary. It should be noted, in this respect, that it lies to the immediate north west of a possible circular crop mark detected during a recent aerial survey (OAU 1992: gaz. no. 006) and a small, undefined scatter of Romano-British pottery (OAU 1992: gaz. no. 004).

#### Test Pit T224

One sherd of Medieval pottery, two sherds of Post Medieval pottery, two pieces of modern glass and one fragment unidentifiable animal bone were recovered from the machine excavated topsoil of test pit T224. No subsurface archaeological features were recorded during the excavation of the pit. It is therefore possible that the finds represent part of an agricultural manuring scatter.

#### Test Pit T228

One sherd of Roman pottery and seven sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered from the machine excavated topsoil of test pit T228. No subsurface archaeological features were detected during the excavation of the pit. The close proximity of at least three distinct surface scatters of stone and Medieval pottery to T228, would however appear to suggest an area of Medieval activity within the immediate vicinity. This area of activity presumably relates to Cutteslowe Deserted Medieval Village (OAU 1992: gaz. no. 007).

#### Test Pit T229

One sherd of Roman pottery, three sherds of Medieval pottery and one fragment of modern brick were recovered from the machine excavated topsoil of test pit T229. No subsurface archaeological features were detected during the excavation of the pit. The close proximity of at least two distinct surface scatters of stone and Medieval pottery to T229 may, as with T228, suggest an area of Medieval activity within the immediate vicinity. This area of activity presumably relates to Cutteslowe Deserted Medieval Village (OAU 1992: gaz. no. 007).

#### Test Pit T230

Three sherds of Roman pottery, three sherds of Medieval pottery, two sherds of Post-Medieval pottery and six fragments of Post Medieval brick were recovered from the machine excavated topsoil of T230, a test pit cut at the northern edge of the Water Eaton road. No subsurface archaeological features were recorded from the pit. The recorded Roman pottery may indicate a low level area of activity possibly relating to agricultural manuring practices. The Medieval pottery may relate to the general area of Cutteslowe Deserted Medieval Village (OAU 1992: gaz. no. 007). Post Medieval finds probably relate to an area of discard activity at the edge of the Water Eaton road.

#### Test Pit T232

Pit T232 was cut to the north of the River Cherwell within an area of recently flooded arable. Four sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered from the machine excavated topsoil. No subsurface archaeological features were detected during the excavation of the pit. The finds therefore probably represent part of an agricultural manuring scatter.

#### **Test Pit T234**

Two sherds of Post Medieval pottery were recovered from the machine excavated topsoil of test pit T234. These finds probably represent part of an agricultural manuring scatter.

#### **Test Pit T235**

Three sherds of Post Medieval pottery, one fragment of modern brick and one fragment of Post Medieval clay pipe stem were recovered from the machine excavated topsoil of test pit T235. These finds are likely to represent part of an agricultural manuring scatter.

#### **Test Pit T237**

One sherd of Roman pottery, two sherds of Medieval pottery and three fragments of modern brick were recovered from the machine excavated topsoil of test pit 237. These finds suggest low level areas of activity possibly relating to agricultural manuring practices.

#### **Test Pit T243a**

One sherd of possible Roman pottery, three sherds of Medieval pottery, two sherds of Post Medieval pottery, three fragments of modern concrete, one fragment of unidentified animal bone and a single piece of tarmac were recovered from the machine excavated topsoil of test pit T243a. No subsurface archaeological features were detected during the excavation of this pit. The Roman and Medieval pottery finds suggest low level areas of activity, possibly relating to agricultural manuring practices. Post Medieval finds presumably represent constructional debris from the A40 dual carriageway to the south west.

#### **Test Pit T245**

Test pit T245 was cut within an area of agricultural set-aside to the north east of the A40 Marston interchange. A shallow north-south aligned linear cut (245/4), measuring 1.3m in width and 0.38m in depth, was recorded from beneath topsoil deposits (245/1) and (245/2) during the initial stages of machine excavation. No archaeological finds were recorded from either the exposed feature sections or the machine excavated topsoil. The cut, which was filled with a stiff brown clay (245/3), may be interpreted as either a drainage or field/boundary ditch of uncertain date.

#### **Test Pit T246**

Test pit T246 was cut within an area of agricultural set-aside to the north of the A40, approximately 180m to the south east of T245. A small NE-SW aligned linear cut (246/4), measuring 0.9m in width and 0.4m in depth, was recorded from beneath topsoil deposits (246/1) and (246/2) during the initial stages of machine excavation. No archaeological finds were recorded from either the exposed feature sections or the machine excavated topsoil. The cut, which was filled with a blue grey silt (246/3) may be interpreted as either a drainage or field/boundary ditch of uncertain date.

#### **Test Pit T249**

Two sherds of Post Medieval pottery and one fragment of modern brick were recovered from the machine excavated topsoil of test pit T249. These finds probably represent part of an agricultural manuring scatter.

#### **Test Pit T258**

Two sherds of Medieval pottery, two sherds of Post Medieval pottery and one fragment of modern brick were recovered from the machine excavated topsoil of test pit T258. These finds probably represent low level agricultural manuring scatters.

## 9. DETAILED ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATION TRENCHES

### Trench 101 (see fig. 10)

This trench was cut in to further define the extent of the Later Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement complex located during preliminary trenching for the A40 Witney - Cassington improvements (OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 044).

Topsoil 101/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies a tenacious brown silty sand, 101/2, containing 40% gravel, to a maximum depth of 0.15m. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this layer. 101/2 probably represents an early ploughsoil.

A single feature, 101/6, was observed to cut deposit 101/2. When excavated it was clear it was an animal burrow.

Three features were detected beneath 101/2, cutting the natural gravel. 101/5 measured 0.34m in depth and was exposed for a length of 2m. The full diameter of this feature could not be gauged due to its proximity to the SW section edge. No archaeological finds were recovered from the fill (101/4). 101/5 is most likely to be a pit.

101/9 consisted of an oval cut measuring 0.68 x 0.4m in width and 0.21m in depth. 101/11 consisted of an irregular shaped cut measuring c. 0.7m in diameter and 0.21m in depth. A single burnt Neolithic/Bronze Age flint flake was recovered from the fill of 101/9 (101/8). No archaeological finds were recovered from the fill of 101/11 (101/10). Both may be interpreted as small pits or possible postholes.

### Trench 102 (see fig. 10 & 11)

Topsoil 102/1 to a depth of 0.3m. Overlies a compact light brown sandy silt, 102/2, to a maximum depth of 0.16m. Probably represents an early ploughsoil.

Underlying 102/2 were a series of features cut into the natural sand and gravel. Two roughly parallel SW-NE aligned linear ditches, 102/6 and 102/8, were recorded at the SE end of the trench. Cut 102/6 measured 1.2m in width, 0.18m in depth and was exposed for a length of 1.7m. Cut 102/8 was 0.72m in width, 0.28m in depth and was exposed for a length of 1.75m. Neither feature produced datable archaeological artefacts. The character and fills of the ditches was similar to the features excavated 100m to the W (during the Witney Cassington improvements, OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 044). This suggests they are probably middle Iron Age in date.

102/9 consisted of a roughly oval 0.16m deep cut. The full dimensions of the feature could not be ascertained due to its proximity to the SW section edge. Feature 102/9 was cut by, and is therefore earlier than, ditch 102/8. Fill 102/10 contained 102/14, a human inhumation. Enough was exposed of the skeleton, lower mandible and ribs, to show that it had originally lain in a crouched position within the oval pit and that the bones themselves were in a soft and poor condition. The remains were left *in situ*. The type of fill was very distinctive and identical to 102/3 and the pits excavated in trench 101 suggesting a contemporary date. The skeleton was badly truncated by the ploughsoil 102/2 so that only the lower mandible remained. The grave fill/ skeleton was also partly cut away by ditch 102/8. No dating evidence was recovered but the position and nature of the inhumation and comparison with fill 102/3 it would appear to suggest that it is of Late Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

102/11 consisted of a roughly circular cut, 0.6m in diameter and 0.25m deep. No finds were recovered from the fill (102/12). It may be interpreted as a posthole or small pit. 102/13 consisted of a 1.5m wide irregular sided shallow, 0.07m, cut/scoop. A broken flint flake recovered from the fill (102/3). It may possibly be interpreted as either a shallow pit or possibly a disturbed grave cut.

### Trench 103

This trench was cut to locate an E-W aligned Palaeochannel (OAU 1993; gaz. no. 060)

Topsoil 103/1 to a depth of 0.28m. Overlies a friable light brown silt, 103/2, possibly an early ploughsoil, to a depth of 0.03m.

A 0.25m thick deposit of friable red brown silty sand, 103/4, with 0.5% charcoal and 1% burnt clay inclusions, was noted beneath 103/2 within the E half of the trench. The full extent and nature of 101/4 could not be gauged within the confines of the trench but its irregular nature suggests it is not a dug feature.

#### Trench 104

(see fig. 12)

Topsoil 104/1 to a maximum depth of 0.3m. Two sherds of 18th century pottery, a single sherd of Saxo-norman (10th/11th century) pottery and a single Neolithic/Bronze Age flint flake were recovered from this layer. 104/1 overlies a compact light brown silty clay, 104/2, probably an early ploughsoil, to a depth of 0.12m.

A series of six features, 104/20, 104/28, 104/25, 104/22, 104/24 and 104/6, cut into the natural sand and gravel, and one deposit, 104/21, were observed beneath 104/2. 104/6 consisted of a linear SW-NE aligned cut measuring 1.6m in width and 0.6m deep. A single fragment of Roman tegula tile was recovered from the fill (104/29). 104/6 may be interpreted as a possible Roman boundary/drainage ditch.

104/6 disturbed an earlier feature, 104/24, a 7.3m wide cut in excess of 0.65m deep. 104/24 was not bottomed for safety reasons. Its full nature and dimensions could not be ascertained within the confines of the trench. No finds were recovered from this feature. 104/24 may be interpreted as either part of a wide ditch or a segment of infilled gravel pit. Deposit 104/21, recorded from the S margins of 104/24 may in this respect represent a spoil dump/depleted bank or waste material from the larger feature.

104/22, underlying deposit 104/21, consisted of a linear E-W aligned cut, 0.3m wide, 0.1m deep and exposed for a length of 0.99m. No finds were recovered from the fill. The irregular nature of feature 104/22 suggests that it may represent an area of tree root disturbance.

104/25, a roughly linear NE-SW aligned cut, measuring 0.9m in width and 0.28m deep, was exposed at the S end of the trench. A single undatable sherd of coarse pottery was recovered from the upper fill of this feature (104/4). No finds were recovered from the lower fill (104/8). The nature of the cut, originally excavated as a series of shallow, interlocking pits, may indicate a prehistoric (Neolithic) origin.

104/29, a linear NE-SW aligned cut, measuring 1.5m in width and 0.41m deep, was recorded to the immediate S of 104/25. No finds were recovered from the fill. 104/29 may possibly be interpreted as a drainage ditch.

104/22, a linear NE-SW aligned cut (?), measuring 0.18m in width, may be interpreted as a natural feature.

#### Trench 105

This trench was cut to locate and sample a NE-SW aligned palaeochannel (OAU 1993; gaz. no. 061).

Topsoil 105/1 to a depth of 0.22m. Overlies 105/2, 105/3, 105/4 and 105/5, a series of alluvial deposits 0.67m in depth. No finds were recovered from these layers.

Underlying the alluvium was an approximately NE-SW aligned Palaeochannel, 105/7. The upper level of the channel, layer 105/6, was 0.44m in depth. A single retouched Neolithic/Bronze Age flint flake and an unidentifiable fragment of animal bone were recovered. The peaty palaeochannel 105/6 contained very little wood, only very small pieces of wood were evident.

#### Trench 106

Topsoil 106/1 to a depth of 0.28m. Overlies a series of alluvial deposits, 106/2, 106/3, 106/4 and 106/5 to a depth of 0.76m. No finds were recovered from these layers. Underlying the alluvium the upper fill of a Palaeochannel, 106/6, was observed. 106/6 was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. No archaeological finds were recovered.

#### Trench 107

(see fig. 13)

This trench was cut to define the extent of the possible Neolithic activity area recorded during the evaluation trenching for the A40 Witney-Cassington improvements (OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 001), but also to locate and sample a potentially NE-SW aligned palaeochannel (OAU 1992; gaz. no. 045).

Topsoil 107/1 to a depth of 0.22m. Overlies alluvial deposits 107/2, 107/3, 107/4, 107/5 and 107/6 to a depth of 0.73m. No finds were recovered from these layers. Underlying the alluvium were layers 107/8 and 107/9 to a depth of 0.2m. Both deposits consisted of mid brown clay silt and may be interpreted as the possible remains of earlier ploughsoils.

Underlying 107/9 was the NW edge of a NE-SW aligned Palaeochannel, 107/7. The waterlogged fill of this channel was partially machined out to a depth of 0.4m. No finds were recovered.

A linear NE-SW aligned cut, 107/11, measuring 0.7m in width and 0.4m deep, was detected at the NW edge of the Palaeochannel. A single broken prehistoric worked flint flake was recovered from the upper fill of this feature. The date of this cut is uncertain, the single flint flake may be residual, and it is possible that the feature may represent a Medieval or later drainage ditch/feeder ditch to a now disused pond to the N.

#### **Trench 108**

(see fig. 13)

This trench was cut to locate a NE-SW aligned palaeochannel (OAU 1993; gaz. no. 045).

Topsoil 108/1 to a maximum depth of 0.23m. Overlies alluvial deposits 108/2 and 108/3 to a depth of 0.27m. Overlies alluvial deposits 108/2 and 108/3 to a depth of 0.27m. No finds were recovered from these layers. Underlying the alluvium was 108/4, a mid brown silty clay, to a depth of 0.09. Possibly the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

Two features, 108/8 and 108/11, were noted beneath deposit 108/4, cut into the natural gravel. 108/8 consisted of a roughly oval cut measuring 0.43 x 0.6m in width and 0.13m deep. No finds were recovered from fills 108/9 and 108/10. The feature may possibly be identified as a small pit, almost certainly contemporary with 108/11.

108/11 consisted of an irregular shaped hollow measuring up to 1m in width and 0.49m deep. A single prehistoric blade like flint flake, a single sherd of Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age sherd and a single sherd of possible Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fill (108/13). The irregular nature of feature edges suggest that 108/11 may be interpreted as a tree throw pit.

#### **Trench 109**

Topsoil 109/1 to a depth of 0.23m. Overlies alluvial deposits 109/2 and 109/3 to a depth of 0.27m. No finds were recovered from these layers. Underlying the alluvium was a mid brown silty clay, 109/4, to a depth of 0.14m. Layer 109/4 was sampled by hand digging three one metre squares, which produced two prehistoric worked flint flakes, one prehistoric flint core and a single prehistoric (Neolithic) flint piercer. 109/4 may be probably a former ground surface.

A series of natural periglacial hollows were observed beneath 109/4. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

#### **Trench 110**

This trench was cut to locate a NNE-SSW aligned palaeochannel (OAU 1992c; gaz. no. 010).

Topsoil 110/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies alluvial deposits 110/2 and 110/3 to a depth of 0.5m. Underlying the alluvium was a mid brown silty clay, 110/4, to a depth of 0.17m. Probably the remains of either an early ploughsoil or a former ground surface. No finds were recovered from these deposits.

A series of natural periglacial hollows were observed beneath 110/4. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

#### **Trench 111**

(see fig. 14 & 15)

Topsoil 111/1 to a depth of 0.21m. Overlies alluvial deposits 111/2, 111/3, 111/4 and 111/5 to a maximum depth of 0.76m. Underlying the alluvium was a mid brown silty clay, 111/6, to a depth of 0.19m. Probably the remains of an early former ground surface. No finds were recovered from these deposits.

Two cut features, 111/8 and 111/10, and a the upper fill of a natural periglacial channel, 111/7, were recorded beneath 111/6. 111/8 consisted of a linear, NW-SE aligned cut measuring 0.45m in width and 0.25m deep. A single fragment of fire cracked flint and a prehistoric blade like flint flake was recovered from the fill (111/9). 111/8 may possibly be interpreted as the remains of a prehistoric boundary or ditch. There are strong similarities between this ditch and ditches excavated on the opposite side of the A40, approximately 80m to the N. In the 1992 area excavations the ditches were angled in a rough herringbone pattern draining into a causeway ditch. The NW-SE sand and gravel causeway has been ascribed to the Iron Age. The causeway itself was not located in trench 111 or 110 however possible related features suggest it is likely to be E of trench 110.



111/10 consisted of a small, roughly circular cut measuring 0.34m in diameter and 0.06m deep. No finds were recovered from the fill (111/11). 111/10 may possibly be interpreted as the truncated remains of a posthole.

#### Trench 112

(see fig. 14 & 15)

Topsoil 112/1 to a depth of 0.32m. Overlies alluvial deposits 112/2, 112/3 and 112/4 to a depth of 0.75m. No finds were recovered from these deposits. Underlying the alluvium was a grey brown silty clay, 112/15, to a maximum depth of 0.24m. One prehistoric blade like flint flake, one Neolithic scraper, one miscellaneous flint flake and a single sherd of Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age pottery were recovered from this deposit. 112/15 probably represents the remains of a former ground surface.

A single cut feature, 112/14, and a natural periglacial channel, 112/17, were recorded beneath 112/15. 112/14 consisted of a linear E-W aligned cut measuring c. 0.9m in width, at least 1m deep and was exposed for a length of 30.6m. The feature may have been recut on at least two separate occasions (112/6 and 112/10). A total of 13 fills (112/5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27) were identified from 112/14. A single sherd of Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age pottery was recovered from fill 112/10 and a single retouched flint (possibly a broken Late Neolithic transverse arrowhead) was recovered, 112/18. 112/14 may therefore represent the remains of a Neolithic ditch.

#### Trench 113

This trench was cut to locate, sample and date the magnetic anomalies detected during the geophysical survey (OAU 1992; gaz. no. 046).

Topsoil 113/1 to a depth of 0.24m. Overlies alluvial deposits 113/2, 113/3 and 113/4 to a maximum depth of 0.56m. Underlying the alluvium was a mid brown silty clay, 113/6, to a depth of 0.15m. Probably the remains of either an early ploughsoil or a former ground surface. No finds were recovered from these deposits.

A single feature, 113/5, and a natural periglacial channel deposit, 113/7, were recorded beneath 113/6. 113/5 consisted of an irregular hollow measuring approximately 3m in width and around 0.3m deep. Fill 113/8 contained 10% charcoal and 5% burnt clay flecking. A single prehistoric blade like flint flake was also retrieved. The irregular, amorphous nature of the feature edges suggest that 113/5 may be interpreted as a tree throw clearance.

#### Trenches 127 and 128

(see fig. 16)

This "Y"-shaped trench was cut to locate, sample and date the series of pit-like anomalies recorded at the south western edge of the study area during the geophysical survey.

Ploughsoil 127/1 to a maximum depth of 0.35m. Overlies a friable yellowish brown sandy silt 127/2, to a depth of 0.12m. Two sherds of 18th century pottery were recovered from this layer. It probably represents the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

Two modern overlapping land drains were detected within the NE half of trench 127.

A linear, E-W aligned cut, 127/15 (128/7), measuring 2.28m in width, 0.71m in depth and exposed for a length of over 11.2m was recorded at the NE end of trench 127 and the N half of trench 128. Three fragments of poorly baked clay and a single sherd of Roman pottery were recovered from the upper fill of this feature (127/10), while a 17 sherds of early Saxon pottery was recovered from the primary fill (127/13). It is therefore probably that the cut is of Saxon or date. If Saxon, then the Roman pottery material from the upper ditch fills may prove to be residual. The feature may plausibly be interpreted as a land or settlement boundary. The varying nature of its upper fills account for the irregular, pit-like anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey.

An apparently linear, NE-SW aligned cut, 127/9, was noted at the NE end of trench 127. The full extent and dimensions of the feature could not be ascertained, due to its proximity to the S trench section edge. The relationship between 127/9 and 127/15 (128/7) was unclear due to the positioning of a modern land drain within the confines of the trench. It is possible, however, that 127/9 represents the earlier feature. A single sherd of possible prehistoric pottery was recovered from the upper fill (127/8).

#### Trench 129

Ploughsoil 129/1 to a depth of 0.25m. Overlies a dark reddish brown silty sand, 129/2, to a depth of 0.1m, probably an earlier ploughsoil.

Two linear features, 129/3 and 129/4, were observed below 129/2. 129/3 was approximately aligned WNW-ESE, while 129/4 was aligned E-W. No finds were recovered from 129/3. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from 129/4. The highly irregular nature of both features suggests that they may plausibly be interpreted as cultivation furrows.

Two irregular pit-like features, 129/5 and 129/6, were examined to the immediate N of 129/4. No finds were recovered from these features. The irregular nature and loose fill of 129/5 and 129/6 suggest that both may be interpreted as tree clearance/disturbance.

#### **Trench 130**

Ploughsoil 130/1 to a depth of 0.20m. Overlies a loose reddish brown sandy silt, 130/2, to a depth of 0.08m. Probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

A linear E-W aligned feature, 130/3, measuring 0.2m in width 0.05m in depth and exposed for a length of 4.7m was recorded beneath 130/2. No finds were recovered from the fill. The irregular, amorphous nature of 130/3 suggests that it may plausibly be interpreted as a cultivation furrow.

A small area of root disturbance, 130/4, and a series of modern plough furrows were recorded at the NE end of the trench.

#### **Trench 131**

Ploughsoil 131/1 to a depth of 0.18m. Overlies a red brown sandy silt, 131/2, to a depth of 0.13m. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this layer. 131/2 probably represents the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

A modern land drain was recorded at the extreme E end of the trench.

A series of three linear cuts, 131/4/7, 131/5 and 131/6, were observed beneath 131/2. No archaeological finds were recovered from these features. The irregular, amorphous nature of the cuts and the fact that 131/5 and 131/6 intersect 131/4/7 at 90°, suggest that all three may be interpreted as post-medieval cultivation furrows.

#### **Trench 132**

(see fig. 17)

Ploughsoil 132/1 to a depth of 0.22m. Overlies a red brown silt clay, 132/2, to a depth of 0.16m. A single sherd of Prehistoric and three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this layer. 132/2 may be interpreted as the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

Four linear ditches were truncated by 132/2. 132/3 consisted of a NW-SE aligned cut measuring 0.72m in width, 0.27m in depth and exposed for a length of 1.8m. No finds were recovered from the fill, 132/4, but it is almost certainly Romano-British in date.

132/5 consisted of a linear cut measuring 1.8m in width and 0.19m deep. The exact relationship between 132/5 and 132/7. An apparently curving segment of ditch measuring 0.95m in width and 0.36m deep, by 132/5. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the fill of 132/7 (132/8).

Cut 132/9, at the approximate centre of the trench, consisted of a possible linear NW-SE aligned cut, measuring 1.9m in width and 0.2m deep. Fill 132/10 contained seven sherds of Roman pottery. 132/9 may be interpreted as the truncated remains of a probable Roman ditch or pit.

#### **Trench 133**

(see fig. 18)

Ploughsoil 133/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies a friable mid brown sandy silt 133/2, up to 0.2m deep, probably an earlier ploughsoil.

Underlying 133/2 were a series of features cut into the natural clay. Two roughly parallel NE-SW aligned linear cuts, 133/6 and 133/9, were recorded at the eastern end of the trench. Cut 133/6 was 0.55m wide and 0.3m deep with a steep sided, flat bottomed profile. Cut 133/9 was 0.15-0.2m wide. No datable artefacts were recovered from 133/6. 133/9 was not sectioned as it appeared to represent part of a comparatively recent land drain.

Feature 133/6 appeared to cut part of an earlier linear, N-S aligned, gully 133/3, measuring 0.3m in width and 0.14m in depth. No finds were recovered from 133/3. The fill contained 5% charcoal flecking. 133/9 cut earlier feature 133/12, a possible ditch terminal aligned N-S and measuring 0.8m in width. A small circular cut, 133/7, measuring 0.25m in diameter and 0.14m in depth was detected to the immediate N of 133/6. 0.40g of fire cracked flint were recovered from the fill (133/8). This feature may tentatively be interpreted as a posthole.

A modern land drain was detected at the centre of trench 133.

Three features, cut into the natural clay, were detected at the W end of the trench other features were a possible pit of unknown date (133/14), a 0.4m wide 0.2m deep N-S aligned linear cut curving to the W as it approached the S edge of the trench (133/16), and a 0.18m wide linear N-S aligned cut to the E of 133/14 (133/18). 133/16 contained 5% charcoal flecking. It may be interpreted as a ditch. 133/18 may be interpreted as a modern land drain.

#### Trench 134

This trench was cut in order to sample an area of high magnetic activity as recorded during the geophysical survey (OAU 1993; gaz. no. 049).

Ploughsoil 134/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies a friable mid brown sandy silt, 134/2, up to 0.2m deep, probably an earlier ploughsoil. Underlying 134/2 was a light brown sandy silt, 134/3, up to a maximum depth of 0.4m. Five complete Medieval iron horseshoes and fragments of a further five were retrieved from this layer. 134/3 probably represents the remains of an early ploughsoil.

#### Trench 135

Root sorted topsoil 135/1 to a depth of 0.26m. Overlies a friable light brown silty clay, 135/2, up to 0.12m deep, probably an earlier ploughsoil. Three modern land drains were detected within the trench. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the machine excavated topsoil.

#### Trench 136

Ploughsoil 136/1 to a depth of 0.24m. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this layer. Overlies a light brown silty clay, 136/2, up to 0.13m deep, probably an earlier ploughsoil.

A 0.15m thick deposit of reddish brown clay silt was noted beneath 136/2, at the SE end of the trench. It overlay a N-S aligned linear cut 136/5 measuring 0.93m in depth and 0.4m deep. No datable finds were recovered from the fill.

#### Trench 140

(see fig. 18)

Ploughsoil 140/1 to a depth of 0.18m. Overlies a light brown silty clay, 140/2, 0.16m deep, probably an earlier ploughsoil.

Two E-W aligned linear features 140/7 and 140/8, cutting the natural, were noted at the N end of the trench. 140/7 measured 1.1m in width and was 0.25m deep. It terminated 0.3m from the W edge of the trench. Fill contained 15% charcoal flecking, 10% burnt wall daub and 5% burnt stone (averaging 0.25m in diameter). A single sherd of 12th c. pottery was also recovered from the fill. 140/7 may be interpreted as either the butt end of either a ditch or the foundation trench to a timber wall or palisade

Cut 140/8 measured 4.6m in width and was 1m deep. Fill contained 5% burnt clay flecking and two sherds of 12th c. pottery. 140/8 may be interpreted as a boundary ditch.

#### Trench 141

(see fig. 19)

Ploughsoil 141/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies a mid grey silt clay, 141/2, 0.13m deep, probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

A 0.2m thick deposit of mottled brown clay, containing three sherds of late 12th c. pottery, was noted at the E end of the trench. It appeared to overlie a series of features cut into the natural clay.

Feature 141/19, a roughly oval shaped cut, was 0.5m deep and up to 1.25m wide. Three sherds of early 12th c. pottery were recovered from fill 141/12. 141/19 may be interpreted as a Medieval pit. It was truncated at its W

edge by 141/6, a N-S aligned linear ditch 0.69m deep and up to 1.25m in width. 11 sherds of mid-late 12th c. pottery were recovered from fill 141/7. Five sherds of late 11th/early 12th c. pottery were recovered from fill 141/11. The feature may be interpreted as a Medieval boundary / drainage ditch.

Feature 141/10, a 0.6m wide, 0.44m N-S aligned cut, disturbed both 141/19 and 141/6. Fill 141/9 contained three sherds of late Medieval pottery.

Layer 141/20 probably represents the upper most fill of a linear cut running parallel with 141/6. It was not investigated further.

141/16 and 141/17 probably represent the upper most fills of two linear features. Both deposits proved difficult to define and were not investigated further.

Feature 141/5, a linear NNW-SSE aligned cut, measured 0.83m in width and was 0.5m deep. Fill 141/4 contained five sherds of early Medieval pottery and a single sherd of possible Saxon (residual?) pottery.

141/5 was disturbed at its NW edge by a modern land drain.

#### Trench 142

Ploughsoil 142/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies a mottled grey yellow clay, 142/2, 0.12m deep, probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil. Two sherds of Roman pottery and two sherds of probable Medieval pottery were recovered from this layer. No subsurface archaeological features were observed.

#### Trench 143

Ploughsoil 143/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies a mid grey silt clay, 143/2, 0.2m deep, probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil. Four distinct areas of extensive tree root disturbance were noted within the trench. These presumably relate to the former area of Water Eaton Copse. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

#### Trench 144 (figure -)

This trench was cut to sample a dense surface scatter of stone and investigate potentially related subsurface features.

Ploughsoil 144/1 to a depth of 0.35m. Overlies a compact yellow silt loam, 144/20, possibly the remains of an earlier ploughsoil, and a dense red brown deposit of clay loam, 144/21, containing 5% burnt clay inclusions.

Underlying 144/1, at the E end of the trench, were a series of masonry features.

144/2 consisted of a N-S aligned, four course wall of medium sized, 0.15 x 0.2m, limestone blocks. No bonding course was evident. Four of the limestone blocks had at some stage been subjected to an intense heat. 144/2 measured 0.65m in width and, as exposed, was over 1.85m in length. Its western edge had been roughly faced. A single sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered from the structural make up of wall. 144/2 may be interpreted as the W outer wall of a small Medievalcroft.

Bonded into the eastern, inner face of 144/2 was an E-W aligned unfaced wall, 144/3, composed of small, c. 0.1 x 0.05m, limestone blocks. Three of the limestone blocks had at some stage been subjected to an intense heat. As exposed, 144/3 measured 2.5m in length and was a maximum of 0.3m wide. No bonding matrix was evident. 144/3 may be interpreted as an internal partition wall.

Bonded into the western end of 144/2 was a N-S aligned wall, 144/15, composed of medium sized, c. 0.1 x 0.3m, limestone blocks. Nine of these blocks had at some stage been subjected to an intense heat. As exposed 144/15 measured over 1.7m in length and was 0.2m wide, expanding to around 0.8m in width (144/4) at its junction with 144/3. The eastern edge of 144/15 had been roughly faced. No bonding matrix was evident. Expansion 144/4 may be interpreted as a doorsill / point of entrance into the room defined by walls 144/2, 144/3 and 144/15.

A fourth linear band of masonry lay to the immediate E of 144/15. This consisted of an irregular, roughly N-S aligned spread of limestone blocks, 144/8, set within a possible foundation trench, 144/18. As exposed 144/8 measured over 1.85m in length and was c. 0.5m wide. It is possible that this feature represents either a second internal partition wall, or part of a non-contemporary structural phase. Masonry area 144/9, at the E margins of

the trench may represent a non-structural rubble spread.

Layer 144/5, the limits of which were defined along the E, S and W by walls 144/15, 144/3 and 144/2, consisted of a dense deposit of red brown baked clay. This layer probably represents a floor. It was not investigated further. Mid brown, silt clay layers 144/6, 144/7 and 144/10 may also represent floor levels. 144/10 contained 40% mortar inclusions.

Two features, cut into the natural clay, were detected at the W end of the trench. A shallow, 0.22m max., 0.9m wide linear, N-S aligned, straight sided cut, 144/19, containing large amounts of medium sized, 0.1 x 0.3m, limestone rubble. 0.25m from the S edge of the trench, 144/17 altered course, continuing W for an additional 2.4m. No datable finds were recovered from the fill. It may be interpreted as a robbed out footing of earlier date than 144/2.

144/17 consisted of a 0.85m wide linear N-S aligned cut containing 2% charcoal flecking. 0.25m from the S edge of the trench, 144/17 altered course, continuing W for an additional 14.2m. No datable finds were recovered from the fill. It may be interpreted as a ditch.

#### Trench 145

Ploughsoil 145/1 to a depth of 0.2m. A single sherd of 12th/13th century pottery was recovered from this layer. Overlies a mid grey silt clay, 145/2, 0.3m deep, probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed from this deposit.

#### Trench 146

(see fig. 20)

This trench was cut to sample a dense surface scatter of stone and to investigate an area of high magnetic activity, suggesting the presence of a possible ditch and pit, recorded during the geophysical survey (OAU 1993; gaz. no. 051).

Ploughsoil 146/1 to a depth of 0.4m. One sherd of 13th century pottery, one sherd of 14th century pottery and one fragment of Post Medieval tile were recovered from this layer.

A 0.35m thick deposit of red brown clay silt was noted beneath 146/1 at the E end of the trench. It overlies an NW-SE aligned linear cut (146/3), contained two fragments of 12th/13th century pottery, and possibly represents the remains of an early ploughsoil.

Cut 146/3 measured a maximum 0.3m in depth and was exposed for a length of 4.5m along the N edge of the trench. The full width of the feature could not, unfortunately, be gauged. Upper fill 146/11 consisted largely of limestone rubble, averaging 0.2 x 0.1m. Fill 146/12 contained 2% charcoal flecking, 5% burnt clay flecking. No finds were recovered from either layer. 146/3 may possibly be interpreted as the butt-end of a NW-SE aligned ditch.

Two features, cut into the natural clay, were recorded to the E of 146/3. 146/5 consisted of a subcircular cut, depth 0.12m, average width 0.5m. Fill 146/4 contained five rounded cobbles, of average diameter 0.12m. No dating evidence was recovered. 146/5 may be interpreted as a cobble packed posthole.

Cut 146/7 measured 0.2m in depth and was exposed for a length of 3.3m. The full diameter of the feature could not be gauged, due to its proximity to the N section edge. Fill contained a single sherd of Roman (residual?) pottery. Cut 146/7 may, therefore represent a Roman feature, though without further examination, its exact date and interpretation must remain questionable.

An ESE-WNW aligned wall, 146/14, measuring 0.54m in width and exposed for a length of at least 3.8m, was recorded at the W end of the trench. The northern, outer face of 146/14 consisted of large, 0.4 x 0.4m, well faced limestone blocks. The southern side consisted of medium sized, 0.2 x 0.25m, faced limestone, while the wall core comprised of small, c.0.1 x 0.04m, irregular limestone fragments. The bonding matrix consisted of a compact, light brown, shelly mortar. Four sherds of Medieval pottery were retrieved from the wall matrix. 146/14 may be interpreted as the outer northern wall of a Medievalcroft.

A deposit of irregular sized limestone blocks and well rounded cobbles set within a compact matrix of light brown shelly mortar was recorded at the southern margins of, and butting against, wall 146/14. This deposit was not investigated further, though it may be interpreted as an interior cobbled floor surface.

**Trench 147** (see fig. 21)

Ploughsoil 147/1 to a depth of 0.25m. Overlies a compact orange brown silt clay, 147/2, 0.12m deep, probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

A series of 16 linear, N-S aligned features, all difficult to distinguish from the natural clay background, were noted beneath layer 147/2. Three of the features, 147/6, 147/9 and 147/24, were sample excavated. Each possessed irregular and indistinct edges. Single sherds of 12th/13th century pottery were recovered from the fills of 147/6 and 147/9. The features may therefore represent part of a series of cultivation furrows possibly contemporary with the area of Medieval settlement.

**Trench 148** (see fig. 21 & 22)

This trench was cut to sample a dense surface scatter of stone and to investigate potentially related subsurface features.

Ploughsoil 148/1 to a depth of 0.25m. Two sherds of early 12th century pottery and a single fragment of Medieval tile were recovered from this layer. Overlies a friable mid brown silt clay, 148/2, 0.05-0.2m deep, probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil. A single fragment of Roman pottery and an unidentifiable fragment of animal bone were recovered from this layer.

Layer 148/2 had been disturbed by cut 148/15, a feature visible only within the E facing section of the trench. cut 148/15 contained 20th century rubbish material.

Underlying 148/2, within the S half of the trench, was 148/4, a 0.02 - 0.14m thick deposit of compact yellow brown sandy gravel. A 14.4m stretch of 148/4 was recorded within the E facing section of the trench. A single sherd of 11th/12th century pottery was recovered. 148/4 may possibly represent the remains of a Medieval yard or floor surface.

A disturbed area, 148/27, of roughly faced limestone blocks, measuring c. 0.3 x 0.25m, and compact yellow shelly mortar was noted in the W facing section beneath deposit 148/2. This discrete scatter of masonry, measuring 0.5m in width and 0.3m in height, did not appear to continue into the E facing section edge. It is possible that the feature represents the final course of a robbed or plough damaged wall associated with gravel deposit 148/4.

Underlying 148/4 was a 0.2m thick deposit of dark grey silt clay (148/11). This layer contained three unidentifiable fragments of animal bone, a single sherd of 12th/13th century pottery and a Late Neolithic flint scraper. It probably represents an early Medieval ploughsoil, the scraper being residual.

A series of five features cut into layer 148/11. 148/5, at the S extreme of the trench, consisted of a 1m wide, 0.3m deep cut visible in the E facing section edge. The full extent and nature of 148/5 could not be gauged, due to its proximity to the section edge. Three sherds of late 13th / early 14th century pottery and an iron spur were recovered from the fill (148/6). The feature may possibly be interpreted as a the truncated remains of a Medieval rubbish pit.

148/24 consisted of an apparently linear N-S aligned cut at the extreme W margins of the trench. This feature was not bottomed due to its proximity to the W section. No finds were recovered from the fill (148/8). 148/24 was disturbed at its N margin by 148/20, a linear, E-W aligned cut measuring 0.5m in width and exposed within the trench for a length of 1.85m. No finds were recovered from the fill (148/22).

148/12 a linear, E-W aligned cut measuring 0.9m in width and exposed for a length of 1.9m, contained two sherds of mid 12th century pottery. It may possibly be interpreted as a Medieval drainage ditch. 148/17 consisted of a shallow cut, measuring 1.2m in width and 0.2m deep, visible only in the E facing section of the trench. The full extent and date of this feature is unknown.

Three features were detected beneath layer 148/11, cutting the natural clay. 148/9 consisted of a subcircular cut 1.1m wide and 0.25m deep, visible in the E facing section edge. The full extent and date of this feature is unknown.

148/23, a shallow cut visible in the E facing section edge, measured 0.1m in depth and extended 0.3m into the trench. A single sherd of possible Saxon pottery was recovered from the fill (148/28). 148/29, a linear NE-SW

aligned cut measuring 1.5m in width, expanding to over 5m at the W section edge, measured 0.14m in depth and was exposed for a length of 4m. No finds were recovered from the fill (148/30). Though the full extent and nature of cuts 148/23 and 148/29 remains unknown, it is possible that both relate to potential late Saxon / early Medieval structures.

#### **Trench 149** (see fig. 23)

This trench was cut to partially sample a dense surface scatter of stone and to investigate potentially related subsurface features.

Ploughsoil 149/1 to a depth of 0.4m. Overlies a friable dark brown silt clay, 149/17, 0.1m deep, probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

The remains of three burnt out tree stumps, 149/6, 149/9 and 149/15, were recorded from the trench. The burnt fill of 149/9 contained fragments of iron and a modern gun cartridge.

A series of three features cut into layer 149/17. 149/19, visible in the W and E facing section edges, consisted of a 0.5m wide, 0.3m deep, ESE-WNW aligned linear cut. Finds recorded were of 19th century date. 149/19 may therefore be interpreted as a Post Medieval drainage ditch. Feature 149/20, visible in the W facing section edge, consisted of a cut measuring 0.3m in depth and in excess of 1m in width. It was disturbed along its S edge by 149/3, a linear ENE-WSW aligned cut, measuring 0.3m in depth, 1m in width and exposed for a length of 1.9m. Fill 149/2 contained three fragments of unidentifiable animal bone and two sherds of late 12th / early 13th century pottery. It is possible that cut 149/3 represents the remains of a Medieval drainage ditch.

Underlying 149/17 was layer 149/16, a friable mid brown silt clay, 0.2m deep, probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

149/16 was cut by 149/5, a linear NW-SE aligned cut measuring 1.3m in width, 0.3m in depth and exposed for a length of 2.2m. Two sherds of late 12th / early 13th century pottery were recovered from the fill (149/4). The feature may be interpreted as a Medieval boundary/drainage ditch.

Feature 149/10 was recorded beneath layer 149/16 at the S end of the trench. 149/10 consisted of a linear WNW-ESE aligned reasonably straight sided, flat bottomed cut measuring 1.5m in width, 0.32m in depth and exposed for a length of 1.9m. A single sherd of 13th/14th century pottery and a copper alloy stud were recovered from the upper fill (149/11). Five large, fragments of poorly faced limestone rubble were recovered from fill 149/13. Feature 149/10 may therefore be interpreted as the robbed out course of a Medieval wall.

An E-W aligned double course wall, 149/7, measuring 0.49m in width and exposed for a length of at least 1.9m, was recorded at the S end of the trench. The S face consisted of large, c. 0.2 x 0.3m, roughly faced limestone blocks, while the core comprised of medium sized, 0.1 x 0.1m, irregular limestone fragments. The N face had unfortunately been destroyed by ploughing. No bonding matrix was apparent. 149/7 had been further disturbed by 149/6, the burnt remains of a tree stump. The wall may be interpreted as the foundation course of a Medievalcroft. It is possible that all floor levels have here been removed by later ploughing.

#### **Trench 150** (see fig. 24)

This trench was cut in order to investigate an area of high magnetic activity, suggesting the presence of a series of faint linear disturbances, recorded during the geophysical survey (OAU 1992; gaz. no. 052)

Ploughsoil 150/1 to a depth of 0.36m. Three sherds of late 12th / early 13th century pottery were recovered from this layer.

A series of nine amorphous features, all difficult to distinguish from the natural clay background, were noted beneath 150/1. Three of the features, 150/4, 150/6 and 150/3, were sample excavated. Each possessed irregular and indistinct edges. A single sherd of late 13th century pottery and a fragment of Post Medieval brick were retrieved from fill 150/2 of feature 150/3. The feature sequence may represent part of a series of cultivation furrows, possibly related to the area of Medieval settlement.

### Trench 151

Ploughsoil 151/1 to a depth of 0.23m. Overlies a friable dark brown silt clay, 151/2, 0.1m deep, probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil. A single sherd of (Saxon) pottery was recovered from the base of this layer (151/4).

A series of 12 amorphous linear NE-SW aligned features, all difficult to distinguish from the natural clay background, were noted beneath 151/1. As with trenches 147 and 151, these irregular features may represent part of a series of cultivation furrows, possibly related to the area of Medieval settlement.

### Trench 156

This trench was cut to sample the area of Prehistoric and Roman/Medieval finds and to sample any, potentially related, subsurface features.

Ploughsoil 156/1 to a depth of 0.35m. Overlies a compact red brown clay, 156/2, up to 0.28m deep. Probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil. Two distinct areas of tree root disturbance were noted within the trench. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

### Trench 157

Ploughsoil 157/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies a compact red brown clay, 157/2, up to 0.15m deep. Probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil. Two modern land drains were noted at the NW end of the trench. Two distinct areas of tree root disturbance were also noted. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

### Trench 158

(see fig. 28)

This trench was cut to sample and date the low mound and associated headland area.

Ploughsoil 158/1 to a depth of 0.3m. Overlies a mid brown sandy loam, 158/2, to a depth of 0.75m, possibly representing the remains of a plough depleted mound. A single sherd of probable prehistoric pottery and a single sherd of Roman pottery were recovered from this layer.

A modern land drain was within the SW end of the trench.

A 0.2m thick, 2m wide, loose deposit of ash and charcoal, 158/3, exposed for a length of 1.8m, was observed beneath 158/2 lying directly over the natural clay, at the extreme SW end of the trench. No datable finds were recovered from this layer.

A small circular cut, 158/9, of diameter 0.37m and depth 0.04m was recorded to the immediate NE of 158/3. Fill 158/8 contained 30% burnt clay inclusions. No datable finds were recovered from this feature. 158/9 may tentatively be interpreted as a posthole.

A 0.2m thick deposit of mid brown silt clay, 158/5, was observed beneath 158/2 within the NE half of the trench. No finds were recovered from this layer. It possibly represents an early ploughsoil.

Underlying 158/5 were a series of four features cut into the natural clay. 158/7 consisted of a linear N-S aligned cut, measuring 0.6m in width and 0.15m in depth. It was truncated at its S edge by cut 158/11. No finds were recovered from fill 158/6 and the feature may be interpreted as either a cultivation furrow or a plough denuded ditch. The irregular form of and nature of fills within cuts 158/11, 158/12 and 158/13 suggest that they may best be interpreted as tree hollows.

### Trench 159

Ploughsoil 159/1 to a depth of 0.26m. Overlies a compact red brown silt clay, 159/2, up to 0.3m deep. Probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil. Two distinct areas of tree root disturbance were noted within the trench. No archaeological finds or features were observed.



**Trench 160**

(see fig. 25)

This trench was cut to investigate the recorded area of headland on the SW slope facing Cutteslowe Park.

Ploughsoil 160/1 to a depth of 0.22m. Overlies a thin layer of compact red brown silt clay, 160/2, 0.05m deep. Probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

A series of four linear, NE-SW aligned features, 160/5, 160/9, 160/11 and 160/13, all difficult to distinguish from the natural clay background, and two tree root hollows, 160/7 and 160/14, were noted beneath layer 160/2. Features 160/5, 160/9, 160/11 and 160/13 all possessed irregular and indistinct edges. Two fragments of Medieval pottery (12th century and 13th/14th century) were recovered from the fill of 160/5 (160/4). A single sherd of Roman and a sherd of Medieval (13th/14th century) pottery were recovered from the fill of 160/11 (160/10). All four features may represent part of a series of early cultivation furrows. All have been partially truncated by later ploughing.

**Trench 161**

(see fig. 26)

This trench was cut to investigate the recorded area of headland on the NE slope facing the river Cherwell.

Ploughsoil 161/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies a compact red brown silt clay, 161/2, to a depth of 0.2m. Probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

A series of three modern field drains, aligned NE-SW, were recorded at 8.5m intervals across the trench.

Two features were recorded beneath 161/2, cutting the natural clay. The area of feature 161/4 exposed within the trench consisted of a roughly circular cut, c. 0.8m in diameter and 0.14m deep. Fill contained 2% charcoal flecking, 0.5% burnt clay flecking and 1% burnt pebbles of c. 0.05m diameter. No datable finds were recovered. The feature may be interpreted as either a small pit or the butt end of a plough truncated ditch. Feature 161/7 consisted of a linear E-W aligned cut, measuring 0.8m in width, 0.36m in depth and exposed for a length of 1.9m. No finds were recovered from the fills (161/5 and 161/6). 161/7 may be interpreted as either a field boundary or drainage ditch.

**Trench 162**

Ploughsoil 162/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies a compact red brown silt clay, 162/2, up to a depth of 0.26m. Probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

A single feature, 162/5, was noted beneath topsoil layer 162/2, cutting into deposit 162/2. 162/5 consisted of a linear N-S aligned cut measuring 0.65m in width and 0.3m deep. No finds were recovered from the fill (162/4). The feature may be tentatively interpreted as representing part of a relatively modern drainage ditch.

**Trench 163**

(see fig. 26)

Ploughsoil 163/1 to a depth of 0.25m. Overlies a compact red brown silt clay, 163/2, to a depth of 0.15m, probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil. Two sherds of 12th-14th century pottery and a single fragment of unidentifiable animal bone were recovered from this layer.

A single modern land drain was recorded from the extreme NE of the trench.

Two NW-SE aligned linear features were noted beneath 163/2. 163/4 measured 1.5m in width and was 0.18m deep. 163/5 measured 0.8m in width and was 0.15m deep. No finds were recovered from either cut. Both features possessed irregular and indistinct edges. Both may be interpreted as cultivation furrows.

**Trench 164**

Ploughsoil 164/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies a yellow brown silt clay, 164/2, up to 0.1m deep. Probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed from this trench.

**Trench 165**

Ploughsoil 165/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies a compact red brown silt clay, 165/2, up to 0.1m deep. Probably the remains of an earlier ploughsoil. A modern land drain was noted at the extreme S end of the trench. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

#### **Trench 166**

Ploughsoil 166/1 to a maximum depth of 0.23m. Overlies a friable light brown sandy silt, 166/2, to a depth of 0.19m, and a friable red brown sandy silt, 166/3, to a depth of 0.26m. Both 166/2 and 166/3 probably represent the remains of earlier plough soils. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from 166/3.

A linear, NE-SW aligned cut, 166/5, measuring 0.8m in width, 0.5m in depth and exposed for a length of 1.67m, was observed at the NW end of the trench. No finds were recovered from the fill. The feature may be interpreted as a boundary/drainage ditch.

#### **Trench 167**

Ploughsoil 167/1 to a depth of 0.18m. Overlies a friable light brown sandy silt, 167/2, to a depth of 0.19m, and a friable red brown sandy silt, 167/3, to a depth of 0.10m. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from 167/3. Both 167/2 and 167/3 probably represent the remains of earlier plough soils. No archaeological features were observed from this trench.

#### **Trench 168**

This trench was cut within the area of a recorded scatter of prehistoric worked flints (OAU 1993; gaz. no. 057) in the hope of recovering subsurface archaeological features.

Ploughsoil 168/1 to a maximum depth of 0.22m. Overlies a friable grey brown sandy silt, 168/2, to a depth of 0.18m, and a friable light brown sandy silt, 168/3, to a depth of 0.17m. Both 168/2 and 168/3 probably represent the remains of earlier plough soils.

Two features, 168/5 and 168/7, apparently cutting the natural clay, were recorded beneath layer 168/3. The amorphous, disturbed nature of fills and indistinct feature edges suggest that both 168/5 and 168/7 may be interpreted as tree hollows. No archaeological finds were recovered.

#### **Trench 169**

(see fig. 27)

This trench was cut to sample an area of high magnetic activity, suggesting the possible presence of a series of well defined pits, recorded during the geophysical survey (OAU 1992; gaz. no. 058).

Ploughsoil 169/1 to a depth of 0.19m. A single sherd of 14th century pottery was recovered from this layer. Overlies a friable mid brown sandy loam, 169/2, to a depth of 0.12m, and a compact light brown sandy silt, 169/3, to a maximum depth of 0.2m, minimum depth of 0.12m. Both 169/2 and 169/3 probably represent the remains of earlier plough soils. The variable thickness of deposit 169/3 suggests a possible survival of Medieval ridge and furrow.

A modern land drain was recorded at the NW end of the trench.

Underlying 169/2 and cutting deposit 169/3, was a linear NNE-SSW aligned feature, 169/5, measuring 1.2m in width, 0.3m in depth and exposed for a length of 1.5m. Primary fill 169/6 contained a single sherd of 13th/14th century pottery and a fragment of unidentifiable animal bone. 169/5 may possibly be interpreted as a Medieval boundary / drainage ditch.

Underlying 169/3 were two features cutting the natural clay. 169/8 consisted of a linear NNE-SSW aligned cut measuring approximately 1.3m in width and 0.2m deep. It was exposed for a length of 1.5m. 169/9 consisted of an irregular sided, NNE-SSW aligned linear cut measuring, on average, 1.56m in width, 0.26m in depth and exposed for a length of 1.5m. No archaeological finds were recovered from either feature. The irregular nature of feature edges and the amorphous nature of fill suggests that both 169/8 and 169/9 may possibly be interpreted as a Medieval cultivation furrows.

#### **Trench 170**

(see fig. 27)

Ploughsoil 170/1 to a maximum depth of 0.19m. A single sherd of 13th/14th century pottery was recovered from this layer. Overlies a friable grey sandy silt, 170/2, to a maximum depth of 0.18m, and a compact light brown clay silt, 170/3, to a depth of 0.33m. A single sherd of 13th/14th century pottery was recovered from deposit 170/3. Both 170/2 and 170/3 probably represent the remains of earlier plough soils. The variable thickness of

deposit 170/3 suggests a possible survival of a N-S aligned system of Medieval ridge and furrow.

Two features, 170/5 and 170/11, and one distinct area of root disturbance, 170/9, were observed beneath layer 170/3. 170/5 measured 0.22m in depth and was exposed for a length of 0.62m. The full dimensions of this feature could not be gauged due to its proximity to the S section. No finds were recovered from the fills, 170/7 and 170/8. 170/5 may be interpreted as a possible pit.

170/11 measured 1.52m in width, was 0.51m deep and was exposed for a length of 4.1m. No finds were recovered from fill 170/12. The amorphous fill and the indistinct nature of the feature edges suggests that 170/11 may be interpreted as either a natural solution hollow or as an area of tree root disturbance.

#### **Trench 186**

Topsail 186/1 to a maximum depth of 0.32m. Overlies a compact mid brown clay silt, 186/2, to a depth of 0.18m. A single sherd of 13th / 14th century pottery was recovered from this layer. 186/2 probably represents the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

No archaeological finds or features were observed beneath deposit 186/2.

#### **Trench 300**

(see fig. 29)

This trench was cut to sample a dense surface scatter of stone and to investigate potentially related subsurface features.

Ploughsoil 300/1 to a depth of 0.25m. Overlies, at the NW end of the trench, a friable grey brown silt loam, 300/2, with much root disturbance, to a depth of 0.18m. 300/2 may represent part of the bulldozed remains of Water Eaton copse.

Underlying 300/1 and 300/2 were a series of masonry features. 300/3 consisted of a single course segment of corner wall, measuring 0.8m in width and exposed for a maximum length of 1.4m. The main segment of recorded masonry was aligned NNW-SSE. The outer edges of 300/3 consisted of medium sized blocks, 0.2 x 0.2m, of well faced limestone. The wall core comprised of small, 0.1 x 0.05m, irregular fragments of limestone rubble. No bonding matrix was evident. The discontinuous nature of 300/3 suggests that it represents the final, plough disturbed / robbed course of a Medieval foundation wall.

300/3 appeared to disturb, at its E edge, part of a NE-SW aligned wall, 300/9. 300/9 survived to a maximum of 0.3m in width and was exposed for a length of 0.7m. It appeared to have originally been set within a foundation trench, 300/10, measuring 0.75m in width exposed for a length of 1.6m, just under half of which survived beneath later wall 300/3. Three well faced, medium sized blocks of limestone, measuring c. 0.2 x 0.15m, were observed at the N edge of the wall. The bonding matrix consisted of an orange yellow sand with small, 0.01-0.02m, pebble inclusions. It should be noted that wall 300/9, though apparently overlain by masonry 300/3, was constructed on a similar alignment and may therefore represent an earlier phase of the same building.

A NNE-SSW aligned wall, 300/4, measuring 0.8m in width and exposed for a length of 1.5m, was recorded from the approximate centre of the trench. The outer edges of 300/4 consisted of medium sized, 0.2 x 0.22m, externally faced limestone blocks. The wall core comprised of irregular limestone rubble fragments averaging 0.1 x 0.05m. No bonding matrix was evident. The discontinuous nature of 300/4 suggests that it represents the final, plough disturbed / robbed course of a Medieval foundation wall.

300/4 appeared to disturb, at its E edge, part of an earlier NE-SW aligned feature, 300/15, measuring 1.1m in width and exposed for a length of 1.2m. Fill contained 40% sand gravel inclusions. 300/4 was not investigated further, though it may be interpreted as the remains of a robbed out masonry foundation trench.

A yellow brown deposit of sandy clay, 300/7, was observed between walls 300/3 and 300/4. Layer 300/7 produced 31 sherds (21 probably from one vessel of 11th/12th to 13/14th century pottery and a fragment of unidentifiable animal bone were recovered. 300/7 may represent the remains of an internal Medieval floor surface. Two features, 300/12 and 300/14, were cut into the SE extreme of deposit 300/7. Neither feature was investigated further.

A 0.25m thick deposit, 300/5, of irregular sized limestone blocks, averaging 0.2m, and quartzite pebbles, averaging 0.15m, was noted butting up against the W facing edge of wall 300/4. No finds were recovered from this deposit. 300/5 may be interpreted as a rubble layer possibly related to the demolition / levelling of wall 300/4. It overlay 300/16, a deposit of small, rounded quartzite pebbles set within a compact matrix of light brown sandy silt. This deposit was exposed for a length of 5.7m, but was not investigated further. It may be interpreted as cobbled floor surface, perhaps belonging to an exterior yard.

Masonry spread 300/6 at the NW end of the trench may represent a non structural rubble deposit.

A possible linear NE-SW aligned feature, 300/8, measuring 3m in width and exposed for a length of 1.5m, was recorded at the SW end of the trench. Fill contained 40% fine red sand inclusions and a single sherd of 11/12th century date. The feature was not investigated further.

#### Trench 301 (see fig. 29)

This trench was cut in order to examine a plough denuded linear E-W aligned clay bank, partially sample a dense surface scatter of stone and to investigate any potentially related subsurface features.

Ploughsoil 301/1 to a depth of 0.28m. Overlies a friable deposit of blue grey sandy silt, 301/2, to a depth of 0.22m. 301/2 contains 20% irregular limestone rubble inclusions and small traces (c. 1%) of corroded iron. This deposit probably represents a soil accumulation from the bulldozing of Water Eaton copse (Mr M. Brown 1993 pers comm). Underlying 301/2 was a compact deposit of mottled orange grey silt, 301/3, to a depth of 0.11m. This probably represents the remains of an earlier ploughsoil.

Layer 301/4, beneath 301/3, consisted of a tenacious deposit of light brown clay silt. 301/4 formed a low ridge, of maximum height 0.21m at the approximate centre of, and running at right angles to, trench 301, petering out 0.4m from the S end and 0.4m from the N end. No finds were recovered from this layer. It presumably represents part of the linear clay band recorded from the by the OAU during the 1992 surface collection survey. The exact purpose of the clay bank is difficult to determine, though it may represent part of a Medieval property / animal enclosure boundary.

An ENE-WNW aligned wall, 301/7, was recorded from the N end of the trench. The feature survived to a maximum width of 0.28m, the N wall face having been removed by ploughing / deliberate stone robbing, and was exposed for a length of 1.52m. The existing S facing edge consisted of small, 0.1 x 0.08m, poorly faced limestone. No bonding matrix was evident. 301/7 may be interpreted as a lesser external wall for a badly disturbed Medieval building.

Masonry spread 301/8, to the immediate N of 301/7, may represent a non structural deposit of rubble.

#### Trench 302 (see fig. 30)

This trench was cut to sample a dense surface scatter of stone and to investigate potentially related subsurface features.

Ploughsoil 302/1 to a depth of 0.25m. Overlies, in the NW half of the trench, a tenacious sandy silt, 302/3, to a depth of 0.08m. Probably represents either an earlier ploughsoil or a plough disturbed demolition layer. A single sherd of 11th/12th century pottery was recovered from this deposit. In the SE half of the trench 302/1 directly overlay a friable deposit of mottled grey silt, 302/6, to a depth of 0.1m. No finds were recovered from this layer. It may possibly be interpreted as an earlier ploughsoil.

Underlying 302/6, at the SE end of the trench, was a thin lens of red brown sandy silt, 0.06m deep. 302/6 contained 5% burnt clay flecking. This deposit could not be adequately interpreted within the confines of the trench.

Directly beneath 302/3 lay 302/2, a four course segment of corner wall, aligned NNW-SSE and WSW-ENE. 302/2 measured 0.81m in width and was exposed for a maximum length of 5.5m. Outer edges consisted of medium sized, c. 0.35 x 0.28m blocks of well coursed, externally faced, limestone. The wall core comprised of irregular shaped fragments of limestone rubble. No bonding matrix was evident. The SSE section of wall displayed extensive evidence of plough damage. Seven sherds of pottery was recovered from the wall core which indicate a 12th century date. 302/2 may be interpreted as the outer wall of a fairly substantial Medieval building.

Layer 302/9, the limits of which were defined along the NE and SE by wall 302/2, consisted of a compact deposit of red brown sandy silt. A sondage cut at the N corner of 302/9 revealed that it consisted of a 0.19m thick deposit, butting against wall 300/3 and directly overlying the natural clay. Seven sherds of pottery indicate 12th century date. 302/9 may be interpreted as a sand clay floor dumped for a mortared / cobbled floor surface, now removed.

A deposit of compact, green brown sandy silt, 302/4, with 40% rubble inclusions (rounded quartzite cobbles, c. 0.1 x 0.2m, and irregular shaped limestone fragments, c. 0.15 x 0.1m), was observed to the immediate SE of wall 302/2. Layer 302/4 produced 30 sherds of 11th/12th to 14th? century pottery. 302/4 was not investigated further, though it may be interpreted as an area of plough disturbance.

A second deposit of compact, green brown sandy silt with rubble inclusions, 302/5, was recorded at the SE end of the trench. Layer 302/5 produced 14 sherds in the range of 11th/12th to 13th/14th century. 302/5 was not examined further, though it may be interpreted as a possible area of plough disturbed masonry. Underlying 302/5 was a tenacious deposit of grey green silt clay, 302/8. Pottery from 302/8 ranged from 10th century to 13th/14th century. 302/8 measured 0.18m in thickness and directly overlay the natural clay. It may represent an early ploughsoil or occupation layer.

### Trench 303

(see fig. 31)

This trench was cut to the immediate NE of trench 148, to examine the surface scatter of stone, and to ascertain whether subsurface Medieval masonry remains survived to the immediate W of the hollow way.

Ploughsoil 303/1 to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies, at the N half of the trench, a tenacious sandy silt, 303/14, to a depth of 0.05m. Probably represents either an earlier ploughsoil or a plough disturbed demolition layer.

Directly beneath 303/14 lay 303/3, a four course segment of roughly N-S aligned wall. 303/3 measured 0.79m in width and was exposed for a length of 8m. Outer edges consisted of roughly faced, medium sized, c. 0.3 x 0.4m limestone blocks. The wall core comprised of irregular shaped fragments of limestone rubble. The bonding matrix consisted of a, highly decayed, yellow sand mortar. The slight change in orientation evident between the N and S halves of 303/3 may be explained either as a deliberate constructional feature or as the result of subsequent masonry collapse into the area of the hollow way to the immediate E. 303/3 was constructed directly upon 303/4, a 1.1m wide three course deep masonry foundation of large, c. 0.6 x 0.4m, unfaced limestone blocks. 303/3 and 303/4 may be interpreted as the outer E facing wall of a Medieval building originally fronting the hollow way.

303/3 and 303/4 were cut by 303/5, a linear NW-SE aligned cut measuring 1m in width and 0.6m deep. Fill 303/6 contained 0.05% charcoal flecking and 14 sherds ranged from 11th/12th century to 13th/14th century. The feature may be interpreted as a late Medieval drainage ditch.

A deposit of irregular sized limestone blocks, 303/2, recorded from the W margins of wall 303/3 may represent a non structural rubble spread resulting from plough disturbance.

Deposit 303/13, butting against the W edge of wall 303/3 and overlying foundation course 303/4, consisted of a 0.36m thick layer of compact grey brown clay silt containing 10% charcoal fleck inclusions. No finds were recorded from this deposit. 303/13 may be interpreted as a possible clay floor.

Cut 303/16, to the NE of, and apparently predating, wall 303/3, measured a maximum 0.4m in depth and was exposed for a length of 13m along the E edge of the trench. The full dimensions of this feature could not, unfortunately, be gauged. No finds were recovered from the fill 303/12. It is possible that 303/16 represents the W margin of the main N-S aligned hollow way.

A linear, band of masonry, 303/7, lay to the S of 303/3 and 303/13. This consisted of an irregular E-W aligned spread of small, c. 0.1 x 0.14m, limestone blocks and rounded quartzite cobbles. As exposed 303/7 measured over 1.2m in length and was 0.45m wide. The spread was not investigated further. It is possible that it represents a slight external, or internal partition wall.

Deposit 303/8, a compact layer of yellow brown sandy gravel abutting the S edge of masonry spread 303/7, may possibly represent the remains of a Medieval yard or floor surface. 303/8 was similar to, and is likely to be a continuation of, layer 4 recorded within trench 148, 8m to the W.

The S edge of 303/8 was apparently disturbed by 303/15, a linear E-W aligned cut measuring 0.6m in width. 303/15 altered course, 0.3m from the W section edge, continuing N for an additional 1.2m. The feature was not bottomed. The N and S edges of 303/15 were defined by medium sized, c 02 x 02, irregular, unfaced blocks of limestone. Fill consisted of a loose grey brown silt. No finds were recovered. 303/15 may be interpreted as part of a stone lined water course or sewer. The relationship between 303/15 and the Medieval structural remains recovered from the remainder of trench 303 is unclear. Masonry deposit 303/11 to the immediate S of 303/15 is probably a non structural rubble spread resulting from plough disturbance, or the upper fill of a large and, as yet undefined, cut or pit.

## 10. POTTERY REPORT

A total of 254 sherds weighing a total of 2.26 kg was recovered from all contexts at Cutteslowe (trenches 135-151, 300-303). All the material has been examined and divided into fabric groups by comparison with the Oxford fabric reference series (Haldon and Mellor 1977) and counted and weighed by context. All descriptions and dating are described by trench number and feature code.

### Trench 135

Only two sherds were recovered from this trench. One sherd of seventeenth century Brill/Boarstall ware (OXDN) was present in 135/2, and an incised line decorated and glazed jug sherd (OXAM) dated to the thirteenth-fourteenth century was from 135/4.

### Trench 136

One Roman greyware sherd was recovered from 136/1.

### Trench 140

A total of 11 sherds was recorded from this trench. All the material is Oxford Medieval Ware (OXY) dated to the twelfth century to thirteenth century.

### Trench 141

A total of 55 sherds weighing 0.4 kg was present in this trench. The majority of the pottery consists of Oxford Early Medieval Ware (OXAC) dated from the tenth to the twelfth century in Oxford. Cooking bowl rim types in 141/3 and 141/7 indicate a mid-late twelfth century date range for these contexts (Haldon and Mellor fig 19, no 18). Thickened everted cooking pot rims in 141/9, 11 and 12 can be dated to the late eleventh-twelfth century (Haldon and Mellor 1977, fig 18, nos 25 and 28).

### Trench 142

All of the material came from 141/2 and comprised a Roman oxidised bowl rim and Roman grey ware jar sherd and two sherds of Oxford Early Medieval ware (OXAC).

### Trench 146

The small assemblage from this trench was notably disturbed with Roman, late Saxon and Medieval pottery present. A Roman finely burnished sherd was noted in 146/6. Two sherds of a Late Saxon Ware (OXB), the late Saxon shelly type were present in 146/8 together with Oxford Medieval Ware (OXY) and the flint and limestone tempered ware (OXAQ) dated from the twelfth century.

### Trench 147

A very small amount of pottery was recovered. As in trench 6 the main fabric type was Oxford Early Medieval ware, with one sherd of flint gritted (OXBF) ware dated to the eleventh-twelfth century in 147/13.

### Trench 148

The assemblage from this trench consisted of Oxford Medieval Ware (OXY) late twelfth to thirteenth century thumbbed cooking pot rims in 148/6. An everted mid twelfth century cooking pot rim was present in 148/13 in fabric OXAC. Roman residual material was noted in 148/2. Post-Medieval Brill/Boarstall ware was limited to context 148/28. Flint

tempered OXBF sagging base cooking pot sherds dated to the eleventh-twelfth centuries and Gloucester type limestone tempered ware OXBB were recovered from 148/11.

#### Trench 149

Pottery was recovered from 149/2, 4, 6 and 149/11. These comprised one slip decorated and glazed jug sherd in fabric OXAG dated to the twelfth-thirteenth century and a very small sherd of a fine limestone and quartz tempered fabric which is Oxford St Neots type ware dated to the tenth-eleventh century and a yellow glazed Winchester type jug fabric bodysherd from 149/6, a thirteenth-fourteenth century filled neck jug sherd (OXAM) from 149/11 and Saxo-Norman fabric type OXAC with early Medieval Seacourt type fabric (OXBK) in 149/4. Three sherds of Oxford Medieval Ware (OXY) and one sherd of Oxford Early Medieval Ware were from 149/2.

#### Trench 150

All the pottery from this trench is from 150/1 and dates to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

#### Trench 151

Only one sherd of a coarse grog and limestone tempered sherd was recovered from 151/4. This is possibly prehistoric.

#### Trench 300

A total of 50 sherds weighing 0.329 kg was recovered from five contexts and ranged in date from the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries. The majority of the pottery was from 300/7, which had large quantities of flint tempered eleventh to twelfth century cooking pot fragments (OXBF) which were probably from one vessel. Smaller amounts of tripod pitcher ware (OXAG) and Oxford Medieval ware (OXY) and Oxford Late Medieval ware (OXAM) were also noted from the same context. Fourteenth century Late Medieval ware (OXAW) was present in 300/1.

#### Trench 302

Trench 302 contained one sherd of prehistoric coarse limestone tempered fabric in 302/4 and two in 302/9, one Roman grey ware sherd in 302/9 and one sherd of Oxford Late Saxon shelly ware (OXB) in 302/8. The assemblage consisted mainly of eleventh-twelfth century Early Medieval ware (OXAC) and twelfth century limestone tempered ware (OXBR). A thirteenth century thumbled rim on Oxford Medieval ware (OXY) was noted in 302/8 and fourteenth century incised decorated jug frags were recovered from 302/4.

#### Trench 303

Only four sherds were recovered from trench 303. These were all late medieval in date and consisted of Brill/Boarstall Oxford Late Medieval types OXAM and OXAW and one sherd of a limestone tempered Olney Hyde type dated to the fourteenth century.



## 11. A40 NORTH OXFORD BYPASS: CUTTESLOWE DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE

### REPORT ON RESISTIVITY SURVEY, 1993

This survey was commissioned by the Oxford Archaeological Unit to form part of the archaeological evaluation being carried out on the route of the proposed A40 North Oxford Bypass on behalf of Rendel Palmer and Tritton and the Department of Transport.

Trial trenching by OAU at the site of the Cutteslowe DMV has shown evidence for medieval masonry structures. These are associated with surface stone scatters, soil marks and traces of earthworks, including a hollow way. A 20m wide magnetometer transect following the proposed road centre line was surveyed through the site by the present writers in 1992 as part of an earlier geophysical investigation of the route. This showed a number of magnetic anomalies of potential archaeological interest, but failed to provide any clear plan of the site. This is because the magnetometer does not usually respond to masonry. A resistivity survey should provide a more reliable indication of subsurface features at a site where structural remains are present.

The survey covered two areas, as indicated by shading on Fig 32, where the survey has been superimposed on a site plan prepared by OAU. The site was marked out with a grid based on 30m squares, as shown by the crosses on Figs 33 and 36, but with adjustments to enclose the irregularly shaped area for which survey coverage was requested. The survey was located to include a number of stone scatters and trenches (which were backfilled at the time of the survey), as seen on Fig 32. Area 2 lies some way to the N of area 1, and is a simple rectangle of 40 x 110m. It also encloses stone scatters and soil marks. The site grid for each area was tied in with measurements to the road, field boundaries, and electricity pylons. Details of the measurements needed to re-establish the grid on the ground can be supplied on request. Fieldwork for the survey was carried out at the end of May, 1993.

#### Survey Procedure

The survey followed a standard procedure for coverage of a large area of this kind. A Geoscan RM4 meter was used with probes in the twin electrode configuration (with one pair of current and potential probes mounted on a moveable frame, and the other pair fixed outside the survey area). This method provides ground penetration to a depth rather greater than the probe separation (0.5m in this case). Readings were logged at 1m intervals, and later plotted to give the results as shown on plans 2 and 3.

The site is on a clay soil which gave low readings, but with sufficient variation for areas of anomalous response to be identifiable. (Mean of readings from area 1 = 6.7 ohms, standard deviation = 1.6; mean from area 2 = 10.3, s.d. = 1.5). The plans show the results after treatment to equalize variations in the background levels of the different sections of the survey, and smoothing (done by taking a weighted mean of each reading with its neighbours) to reduce noise levels in the data. The half tone plots show the results at an enlarged scale after additional treatment with a high-pass filter. This helps resolve detail within areas of anomalous response. High readings are shown as black on these plots.

#### Results

It is probable, given the generally low readings from the site, that most of the detected features are likely to represent masonry, or deposits of paving or rubble, and that the response from earthworks or ditches is very incomplete. Comparisons with the excavation findings support this view.

The plots as reproduced on Fig 33 show some areas of relatively uniform low readings, especially towards the NE of the survey on the E side of the hollow way (which crosses the length of the survey, and is visible in part as low readings at G). There are considerable disturbances elsewhere in the plots, many of which can be related either to surface stone scatters, or features seen in the trenches, and appear likely to be archaeologically significant.

Trench 144 (Fig 32) sectioned a dense surface stone scatter, which appears to extend between the resistivity anomalies labelled A and B (on plot 33). Part of a stone building was seen at the E end of the trench, perhaps representing a wall of a medievalcroft. This was small in scale, and could relate to the anomaly at B. There may be a number of other features in this area, including anomalies seen along the N boundary of the survey, but activity here is in general less concentrated than in a number of other parts of the site.

The most strong and distinct anomalies seen in the survey are those grouped in a rectangular pattern around the point labelled C. These lie close to trench 146, where pits and hollows were found, some with rubble in the fill, and there was a substantial limestone wall at the W end of the trench. The survey suggests that such features extend across an area perhaps of some 10 x 30m alongside the trench.

The strong linear anomalies arrowed at D are caused by the foundations of the modern concrete road which crosses the survey at this point. The anomalies centred at E (plot 33), and which extend across most of this 30m square, correspond to a substantial stone scatter which was sectioned by trenches 148 and 303. The findings from trench 148 include scattered masonry and indications of rubbish pits, which could be detected by the survey if they have a stony or well-drained fill. Trench 303 identified a building fronting on to the hollow way, which may be represented by the anomalies to either side of F in the survey. The area to the E of the hollow way here appears to be undisturbed in the plots.

The group of anomalies at H again corresponds to a stone scatter, and is likely to relate to the features seen in trench 149. This found ditches, rubble and a robbed wall, as well as floors damaged by ploughing. There appears to be an additional area of activity on the E side of the hollow way towards the S of the survey. The strongest anomalies are at I, which lies at the centre of a stone scatter, but there are other smaller anomalies to the S and E of this feature.

#### Area 2

There is a soil mark of uncertain significance which forms a rectangular plan, and can be recognised in the survey. Bands of low readings, perhaps caused by the clay soil noted at the surface, are arrowed on plot 34 at J and K. The anomalies elsewhere in this section of the survey are weaker and less distinct than in area 1, but there are some areas of high readings, which are noticeable particularly at L and M. Trench 140 located ditches and traces of a timber building, but features of this kind are not likely to be clearly recognisable in the survey.

#### Summary

The survey has located distinct subsurface features corresponding to each of the surface stone scatters in area 1. Buildings are not easy to identify clearly in a survey where any solid masonry is likely to be surrounded by areas of rubble or paving which obscure their plan. It is likely, however, given the very limited response from earthwork features in the wet clay soil, that most of the areas of high readings seen in area 1 represent structural remains of some kind. They appear to be concentrated to the W of the hollow way in the N half of the survey, but to extend to the E of the hollow way in the S half.

In area 2, which is on lower ground, the anomalies are less distinct than in area 1, and there is not such a clear correspondence to the stone scatters. These less positive findings would be consistent with the presence of timber buildings, as noted in trench 140, which are less likely to be detected by the survey than stone structures. There are, however, some areas of high readings, which could be significant, and the survey plots show an overall rectilinear pattern which follows closely the plan of the soil marks.

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