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Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

Archaeological Excavations off the High Street, Meppershall, Bedfordshire

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With Contributions by
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March 2003

ASC/LMB01/3

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REGISTERED IFA ORGANISATION

SITE DATA

ASC site code:	LMB01	Project no:	346
County:	Bedfordshire		
District:	Mid Bedfordshire		
Village/Town:	Meppershall		
Parish:	Meppershall CP		
NGR:	TL 1380 3640		
Total extent of site:	0.6 ha		
Extent of development:	2.6 ha		
Present land use:	Former market garden		
Planning proposal:	Housing development		
Planning application ref/date:	31/99/858		
Client:	CPM Environmental Planning & Design Akeman Barns Coln St Aldwyns Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5AW		
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Internal Quality Check

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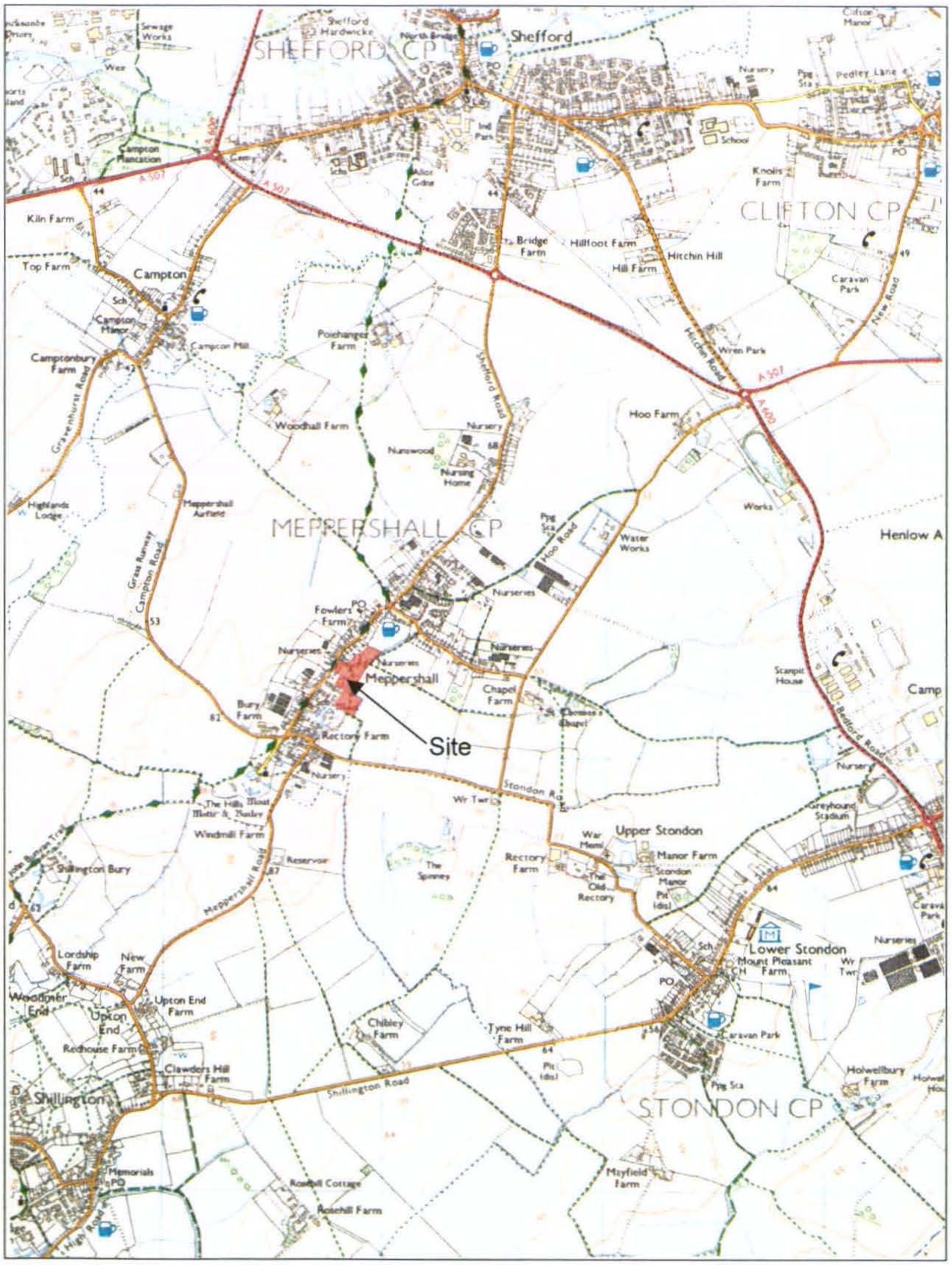

Figure 1: General location (scale1:25,000)

Summary

Between December 2001 and February 2002 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd carried out an excavation on a site at Meppershall, Bedfordshire in advance of a housing development. An evaluation in the late summer of 2001 had identified that Roman features spanning a large portion of the Roman period were concentrated in the central area of the proposed development.

An area of approximately 6000m^2 was designated for excavation and mechanically stripped. Several ditches were exposed along with a number of smaller pit and post-hole like features. Towards the central area of the site there was a freshwater spring, surrounded by a concentration of pits. Environmental samples taken from these pits indicate that they might have been associated with plate making from slices of horse rib. A small amount of hammerscale was also found during the environmental processing, but not enough to say that iron working was taking place on site. Though no buildings were revealed during the excavation, considering the amount of pottery and cut features found it is likely that a fairly affluent farmstead lies in the immediate vicinity of the site, possibly in the field to the east on slightly higher ground away from the waterlogged ground around the spring.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between December 2001 and February 2002 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an excavation on a site at Meppershall, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 1380 3640: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by CPM Environmental Planning & Design acting as Archaeological Consultants to the developers Bovis Homes Plc (Bovis), and was carried out according to a brief ([H1906_3 BS/sb 18/10/01] prepared by CPM and approved by the Bedfordshire County Archaeologist [CAO], and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (Zeepvat 2001).

1.2 An archaeological evaluation by ASC in October 2001 (King 2001) had identified a significant number of Roman features and artefacts on the site. Following the guidelines laid out in *Planning Guidance Note 16* (PPG16) the CAO acting as Archaeological Advisor to Mid Bedfordshire District Council (MBDC) recommended that further archaeological work, namely an excavation should be commissioned before the development was allowed to commence. MBDC accepted the advice from the CAO and included an archaeological condition in the planning consent granted to Bovis.

2 Setting

2.1 Meppershall village is a ribbon development extending for roughly 1.25km along a road known as High Street. The village lies on a low lying ridge in central Bedfordshire about 3km southwest of Shefford between the rivers Hiz and Ivel. The village rises gradually from c.70m OD at its northeast end rising to c.85m OD by the church. The site was located on the south west side of the High Street towards the southern end of the village.

2.2 A small stream flowed from southwest-northeast immediately to the west of the excavation area. A spring and surrounding boggy area was located roughly in the middle of the designated excavation area.

2.3 Before being purchased by Bovis the site had previously been a nursery, and lain derelict for several years since a nursery left the site. Several greenhouses and other temporary structures associated with the nursery survived in various states of disrepair across the site. Overgrown bushes and saplings covered a considerable part of the site.

2.4 The geology of the area is a mixture of Gault clay, boulder clay and decalcified boulder clay, with chalk marl to the south. The Soil Survey states the surface deposits belong to the Evesham 3 Association, described as "Slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non calcareous clayey soils" (Soil Survey 1983, 411c). Whilst most of the soils on the site were clayey as the Soil Survey indicates, there was an area of sand towards the southern limit of the site.

Figure 2: Site location (not to scale)

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Little is known of the early history of the Meppershall area. No Romano-British sites have been identified in the area (Simco 1984, fig 7, Dawson 2000, fig 10.4). A villa site is known at Shefford 3km to the north of Meppershall (Scott 1992, BD26), and a number of sites are known to the south and southwest of Meppershall, but no other sites are indicated in the area between the Hiz and Ivel and their confluences. It has previously been suggested that the majority of Romano-British sites were concentrated on the lighter soils of the river valleys, but evidence of Iron Age and Romano-British activity on the heavier soils is coming to light in Bedfordshire mainly through plough erosion (Clark & Dawson 1995, 62). Before the evaluation the only evidence to suggest that Meppershall had any Iron Age or Roman associations was a number of stray sherds of Iron Age and Roman pottery. A few Roman coins had also been collected from the village. Staff at the Verulamium Museum confirmed the Roman origin of these artefacts (Sandra Reed pers comm). At the time of these discoveries the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record was also informed (HER 16317, 16318).

3.2 By the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 Meppershall seems to have become an established village. Domesday informs us that, "Gilbert son of Solomon holds Meppershall from the King" (Morris 1977). However by about 1100 a royal official known as William de Meppershall was in control of the manor of Meppershall, and had built himself a small motte and bailey castle at the south end of the village by the church. In 1137 the castle survived a siege by Stephens army and the de Meppershalls maintained control of the manor until 1493 (Bigmore 1979, p101). The village church dedicated to St Mary lies immediately to the north-east of the castle and the lower part of its tower dates to the 11th century (Pevsner 1968, 124). During the early 17th century the existing timber framed manor house was built on the site of the castles outer bailey. As the manor house is moated it is likely that the 17th century house replaced an earlier medieval one on the same site. A second moated site, Rectory Farm, lies immediately south of the development area and again is likely to be of medieval origin.

3.3 During much of the post medieval period the western part of the development plot was occupied by a substantial house and garden, fronting onto the High Street. The south eastern boundary of this house plot was defined by the area where the ground becomes boggy around a spring. Most of the site does not seemsto have been developed until the 20th century when the various greenhouses and potting sheds associated with the nursery were erected.

4 Aims & Methods

4.1 The aim of the excavation was to provide detailed archaeological information from the direct observation and excavation of archaeological deposits. This data supplements the known archaeological information as indicated in the evaluation report and provides sufficient detail to confirm the nature, extent and condition of the surviving archaeological remains.

4.2 These aims were achieved through the following specific objectives:

- to establish the date and character of archaeological remains within the area of archaeological interest
- to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and obtain as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of occupation on the site.
- to excavate and record any features within the framework of an excavation strategy proposed by the archaeological contractor following a review of the preliminary results and as approved by Bedfordshire County Council.

4.3 The work was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Excavations*, and the relevant sections of ASC's *Operations Manual*.

4.4 Modern structures, topsoil and non archaeologically significant overburden were mechanically removed to the top of archaeological features or natural deposits, dependent on which was encountered first. The site was then cleaned and a pre-excavation plan prepared. A limited amount of sampling of features was also undertaken at this stage to establish the date and character of the site. This initial stage also included a rapid assessment of artefacts recovered.

4.5 Having completed the initial assessment an on site meeting was held between CAO, CPM and ASC to ascertain the most appropriate mitigation strategy. This two-staged approach was considered appropriate because the field evaluation results did not clarify the full extent of the archaeological deposits, nor their precise function.

4.6 A more detailed excavation strategy was agreed at the site meeting. This detailed excavation strategy required:

- total excavation of significant cut features and up to 50% sampling of ditches and gullies.
- any deposits relating to funerary/ritual or domestic/industrial activity to be subject to 100% excavation.
- a minimum 10% sample of all linear features to be excavated at appropriate intervals and all intersections, overlaps and terminals to be investigated
- a minimum 50% sample of all non linear features to be excavated

4.7 Each excavated context was excavated in such a way that wherever possible one representative cross-section could be drawn.

4.8 A suitable environmental sampling strategy was agreed with the CAO and CPM prior to the start of the excavation.

4.9 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, whether stratified or not were collected and labelled. The topsoil and spoil heaps were screened for metal artefacts using a metal detector.

5 Results

5.1 The plot of land being developed was roughly rectangular in shape (Fig 2) with its longer axis orientated northeast to southwest. The area designated for archaeological excavation was a smaller rectangular area measuring c.100 x 60m.

5.2 About.0.4m of topsoil and overburden covered the archaeology and natural deposits. After the overburden had been cleared a rapid pre-excavation plan was produced showing the identified features and areas of disturbance.

5.3 After the initial strip and rapid clean it was evident that no major stone built structures were present on site. It also appeared unlikely that any less substantial timber buildings and associated occupation levels had been exposed. The principal features exposed were several ditch alignments and a series of small pits around a spring and its associated boggy area.

5.4 The pits surrounding the spring (Fig. 3) were sealed by a 0.2m layer of dark greyish brown, silty clay (189/198). This sealing layer was directly below the topsoil and seems to represent the abandonment of occupation on the site. Most of these pits were roughly circular and ranged in size from 0.9-1.6m in diameter with a typical depth of 0.45m. Spot dating of the pottery from the pit fills indicates a late 3rd-4th century date, and the most likely date for the infilling is some time during the mid 4th century. Many of the pits were inter-cutting suggesting that the area had been in use for a considerable time. Examination of environmental samples from the fills has revealed a high concentration of worked horse ribs, and it has been suggested that the pits may have been associated with plate making (J Rackham, Appendix 4).

5.5 Each excavated cut and fill was allocated a unique context number. Each series of ditches containing one or more segments was given an overall alignment number. These numbers are used in the description of the features, with reference to the individual context numbers as required. Rather than producing repetitive feature commentaries, brief context descriptions are to be found in Appendix 1, and all the section drawings are reproduced at a scale of 1:40 in Appendix 2.

5.6 Many of the ditches investigated during the excavation had clearly been re-cut several times. The most substantial series of ditches, Alignment [8001], was orientated southwest to northeast. Several smaller ditches ran perpendicular to [8001], branching off from its southeast side. It seems likely that this ditch alignment was part of an enclosure boundary probably surrounding a small 3rd-4th century farmstead. The southern extent of this boundary was identified during the excavation. Having seen two sides of the boundary it is clear that the interior of the enclosure was on the eastern side of the site. Other ditches on this alignment included [8004] and [8005] towards the western side of the site and [8039] in the south-eastern corner of the site.

5.7 A second alignment of ditches [8002] and [8003] was orientated northeast-southwest and southeast-northwest. The southern extent of Alignment [8003] was not observed during the excavations as it continued beyond the southern extent of the site, towards

Taylors Close. As these ditches run into the area around the spring it is possible that they were primarily associated with drainage.

5.8 A final series of features orientated north-south and east-west included a number of slots and ditches. It is likely that these features were contemporary with the features grouped with Ditch [8001], for in places their stratigraphic relationship was reversed. Pottery from the fill of several features on this alignment had a wider date range than other features on site, and it is possible that these features were cut earlier and maintained by cleaning and re-cutting. In the case of [8016] the pottery has been dated to the 1st or 2nd century, but more typically this group of features has been dated to the 4th century.

5.9 As stated above Ditch [8001] was a major ditch alignment orientated northeast to southwest, then turning eastwards and running under the eastern edge of the excavation area. Ten segments were excavated across Ditch [8001]. Within each excavated segment it was observed that the ditch had at least one re-cut.

5.10 The northernmost segment of [8001] cut Ditch [8030]. It is possible that Ditch [8030] may either represent the original northern extent of the enclosure, or an internal division. The second segment across [8001] was cut 15m south of the first segment. This segment investigated the relationship with [8023] and [8021] both of which were clearly cut by [8001]. Another segment was cut a further 14m south. In this segment Ditch [8001] consisted of at least three cuts. Ditch [8020] was cut by [8001], though it is likely that these ditches are contemporary. The most complex segment of Alignment [8001] was a further 16m south where ditches [8024-8026] intersect. At least eight different cuts were identified in this segment (Sections 1609, 1610,1612, 1613). Though Ditch [8024] is on the same alignment as Ditch [8030] to the north, it cuts Ditch [8001]. As already discussed it seems likely that Ditch 8001 represents the western extent of an enclosure ditch. Ditches [8024-8025] either represent the final stage of a shrunken enclosure or an internal division within the larger area. Three metres south of the previous complex section another segment was excavated. In this segment a much simpler series of four ditches were identified [290, 348, 351, 352]. Ditch [348] was relatively shallow and terminated 5m south of the segment. The terminal of this ditch was excavated [390]. A further 12m south the sixth segment was excavated across [8001]. A single cut was recorded [121], though it is possible that the step on the southeast side of the cut may represent an earlier cut (section 1531). Segments [119] and [149] was a further 16m south. Two cuts were recognised in this segment with the earlier one [119] being on the eastern side of the cut. Segment [129] was sited to investigate where the ditch changed direction from northeast-southwest to northwest-southeast. A single cut was recorded in this segment. At the surface the ditch was 5.5m wide. Most of this width was accounted for by slippage, especially on the eastern and northern sides of the ditch, the inside of the corner. A central area c.0.8m wide formed the main profile of the ditch. At the base of the ditch about 1.0m below the surface there was a distinct channel. Two further segments were excavated across [8001] along its eastern spur. Within both of these segments two cuts were identified, with the later cut being on the northern side.

5.11 Pottery from the various ditches associated with [8001] indicates that it was filled during the 3rd or 4th century.

5.12 Three segments were excavated across Ditch [8002]. It is possible that Ditch [8043] to the north and Ditch [8007] to the south and east are continuations of Ditch [8002] but no direct relationships existed to confirm this. The northernmost segment [123] was excavated where the ditch merged into the dark soil around the spring. It was clear that the ditch was sealed by layer (189/198), and cut Pits [143] and [191]. Segment [131] was 15.0m south of segment [123] and again showed a simple profile with no re-cuts. Beyond Cut [131], [8002] turned eastwards for 4.0m before being truncated by Ditch [8001]. The final excavated segment of [8002], ditch cut [147] was located on this eastern spur.

5.13 Ditch [8006] seems to have been an earlier southern continuation of [8002]. The southern extent of [8006] was not established during the excavation but towards the southern baulk [8006] splits into two distinct cuts [246] and [248]. Pottery from this ditch has been dated to the 1st or 2nd centuries considerably earlier than most of the ditches excavated during the excavation.

5.14 Ditch [8003] was orientated northeast-southwest. Two segments were excavated across the Ditches [135/151], and [231]. A further view of the ditch base was obtained where Ditch [8004] cut [8003]. The northernmost segment was cut towards the point where the ditch was lost in the amorphous material (189/198) surrounding the spring. At this point the profile clearly showed two separate cuts. Where [8004] cut Ditch [8003] the base of a single north-south cut survived. Immediately south of Ditch [8004], Ditch [8003] butt ended. Ditch [8003] restarted a further 20.0m south and continued under the southern baulk heading in the direction of *Taylors Close*. A single segment [231] was excavated in this the southern end section of the ditch. Within this segment a single cut [231] was visible in section. Pottery from the 3rd-4th centuries was recovered from the fills and it must be concluded that infilling occurred during the 4th century.

5.15 Layer (155) covered a considerable area on the western side of the site, and sealed all the ditches in this area. As with most of the ditches pottery from Layer (155) has been dated to the 3rd or 4th centuries.

5.16 Ditches [8004] and [8005] were orientated southeast-northwest perpendicular to Alignment [8001]. The eastern end of both of these ditches terminated c.31.50m southeast of the western baulk. The rounded terminals of these ditches were slightly in-turned towards each other. The minimum gap between the ends was c.2.0m.

5.17 A series of ditches [8011-8015] emerged from the western edge of the site and ran eastwards towards the spring area where they became indistinguishable from the dark soil (189/198) surrounding the spring. These ditches were associated with at least two phases of activity. Ditches [8011] and [8014] were on roughly the same alignment as Ditches [8002] and [8003] whilst [8012] and [8013] were more on the alignment of several of the slots including [8027]. It is likely that these ditches were all associated with drainage rather than boundary marking, though [8013] was more substantial and may have served a dual role.

5.18 Ditch [8037] was situated towards the north-western end of the site, and was perpendicular to the alignment of Ditches 8012 and 8013. It is therefore likely that 8037 was related to 8012 and 8013. As southern terminals for ditch cuts [262] and [264] were

found in the excavated segment of [8037] it is clear that [8037] is not a direct continuation of any other ditch. No dateable finds were recovered from the fill of either of the cuts, but it is likely that the ditches are Roman in origin, as the fills are of similar colour and texture to other dated fills.

5.19 A palimpsest of small ditches and slots was excavated in the area to the north east of the corner of Ditch [8001]. Though no recognisable timber buildings or occupation levels associated with such buildings were seen during the excavation it is likely that some of the features in this area are the remains of slots for sleeper beams which would have formed the bases of timber buildings. Whilst Ditch 8001 is not necessarily primarily associated with this series of slots it seems to define the western limit of the slots. These slots were orientated either southwest-northeast or southeast northwest. Ditch [8009/ 8022] was on a perpendicular orientation to ditches [8002/ 8003] and cut all the slots and gullies in this area. A terminal at the western end of Ditch [8022] was in-turned to the north.

5.20 Slot [8033] was 18.5m long and was orientated southeast-northeast. Two segments were excavated across the slot [307] and [081]. Segment [081] examined the rounded eastern terminal of the slot. This feature was about 0.25m wide and had almost vertical sides leading to a flat base.

5.21 A second slot [8035], cut [8033], and formed the south eastern corner of a possible timber building. The northern arm extended for c.12.0m whilst the western arm was only 6.6m long. This feature was about 0.35m wide and had steep sides to a flat base. Though only 0.18m in depth it is likely that it has been truncated since originally being cut. At its western end. Slot [8035] was truncated by Ditch [8009]. No dateable finds were recovered from the fill of [8035].

5.22 Another almost vertical sided northeast-southwest slot [8029], cut Slot [8033]. A rounded terminal segment [079] defined the south-western extent of Slot [8029]. The northern extent of Slot [8029] was not seen as this feature disappeared under the eastern baulk of the site about 20.5m north of the southern terminal. A second segment [043] was excavated 8.0m north of [079]. Ditches [8008] and [8036] truncated Slot [8029]. Slot [8028] run parallel to [8029] and also had a rounded south-western terminal.

5.23 Though the direct evidence has been lost by later truncation it seems likely that Ditches [8031, 8032 and 8034] were directly related to [8008], possibly forming the northern wall of a timber building. Pottery from these features and [8008] indicated that all these features were filled during the 4th century.

5.24 Slot [8027] was the southernmost feature on this northeast-southwest alignment. Only about 6.6m of this feature survived including the rounded terminal at its eastern end (Segment 10).

5.25 Two parallel ditches [8016] and [8017] less than 1.0m apart emerged from the eastern baulk and terminated about 35.0m to the southwest. Both ditches had rounded terminals. The terminal of Ditch [8016] had a forked end. As these ditches were on the same general alignment as the slots it seems likely that they are contemporary or at least

relate to the same phase of activity on the site. Pottery from [8016] has been dated to the 1st–2nd century but it is possible that this may be residual.

5.26 Slot [8036] had been largely truncated by Ditch [8008] but the southern 9.2m survived including a pair of southern terminals (segments [013],]015]). The two terminals give an indication that this slot is likely to have been re-cut on a slightly different alignment at least once. Ditch [8008/ 8040] emerged from the eastern baulk heading in a northerly direction for 6.0m before turning north-easterly and continued for another 10.0m before disappearing again under the baulk. Ditch [8008] comprised a sequence of four cuts. Pottery from this ditch has been dated to the 3rd-4th century.

5.27 Ditch [8039] was sited in the south-eastern corner of the site, and is on a similar alignment to [8001]. Three segments were excavated across the ditch [252, 272,276], no re-cuts were seen in any of the sections. Pottery from the fills indicate a date for the filling of sometime between the 3rd – 4th century.

5.28 Ditch [8036] was orientated northeast-southwest, and cut [8039]. Two segments were excavated [240], [274]. Pottery spanning the 2nd–4th centuries was recovered from the ditch fills.

5.29 Straight features [8036] and [8044] seem to be the bases of relatively modern drainage features.

5.30 The only feature possibly post-dating the Roman period is a small pit [157] to the immediate west of the spring. This pit is roughly oval measuring 1.60 x 0.85m with a depth of 0.75m. An environmental sample taken from the basal fill (158) indicates that this was a cesspit. Six sherds of pottery from Fill (158) appear to be early Saxon in date.

Plate 1: North-western terminal of Ditch 8010 (view to south-east)

Plate 2: Slot 8027 (view to east)

Plate 3: South-east corner of Slot 8035 (view to east)

Plate 4: Ditch 8009, Segment 004 (view to south-east)

Plate 5: Ditches 8036 & 8008 cutting Slot 8029 (view to north-west)

Plate 6: Ditch 8010 Segment 063 (view to south-east)

Plate 7: Junction of Ditches 8040 & 8010
(view to south-west)

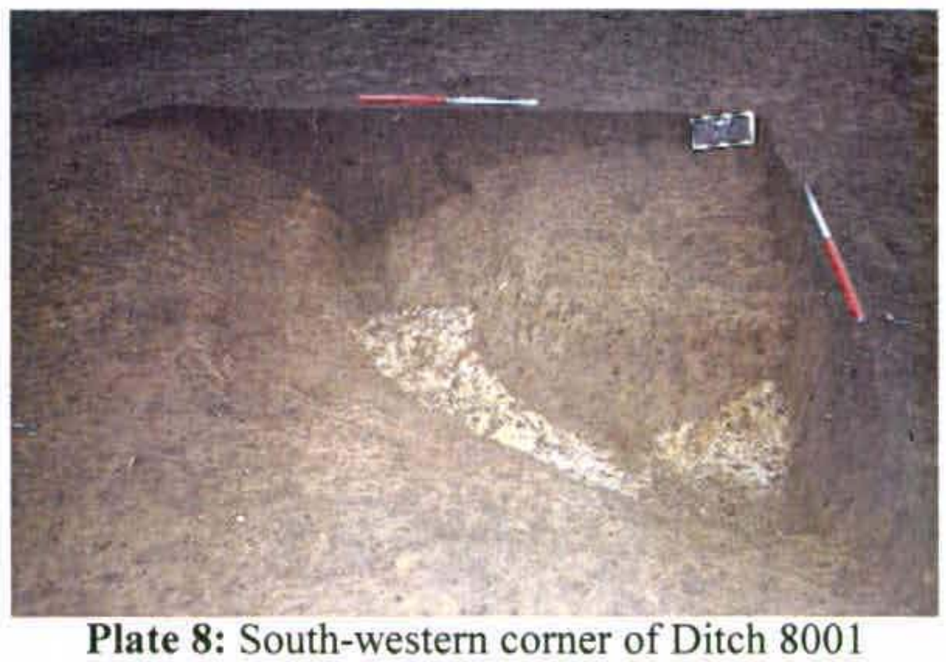

Plate 8: South-western corner of Ditch 8001
(view to north-east)

Plate 9: General view of the spring and surrounding boggy area
(view to north-west)

Plate 10: Pits sealed by Layer 189/198

Plate 11: Junction of Ditch 8001 & Ditches 8024-25
(view to south)

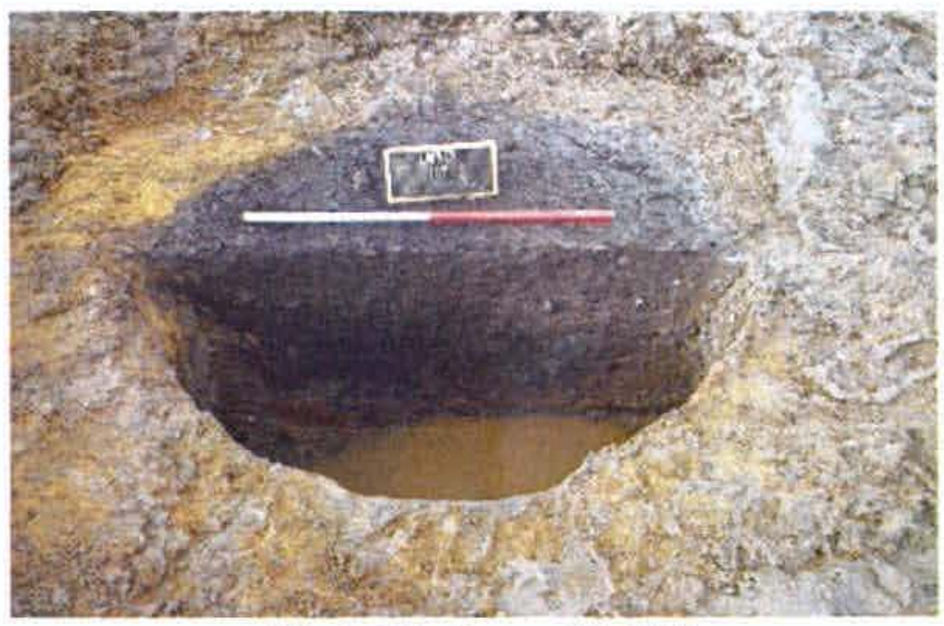

Plate 12: Saxon Pit 157

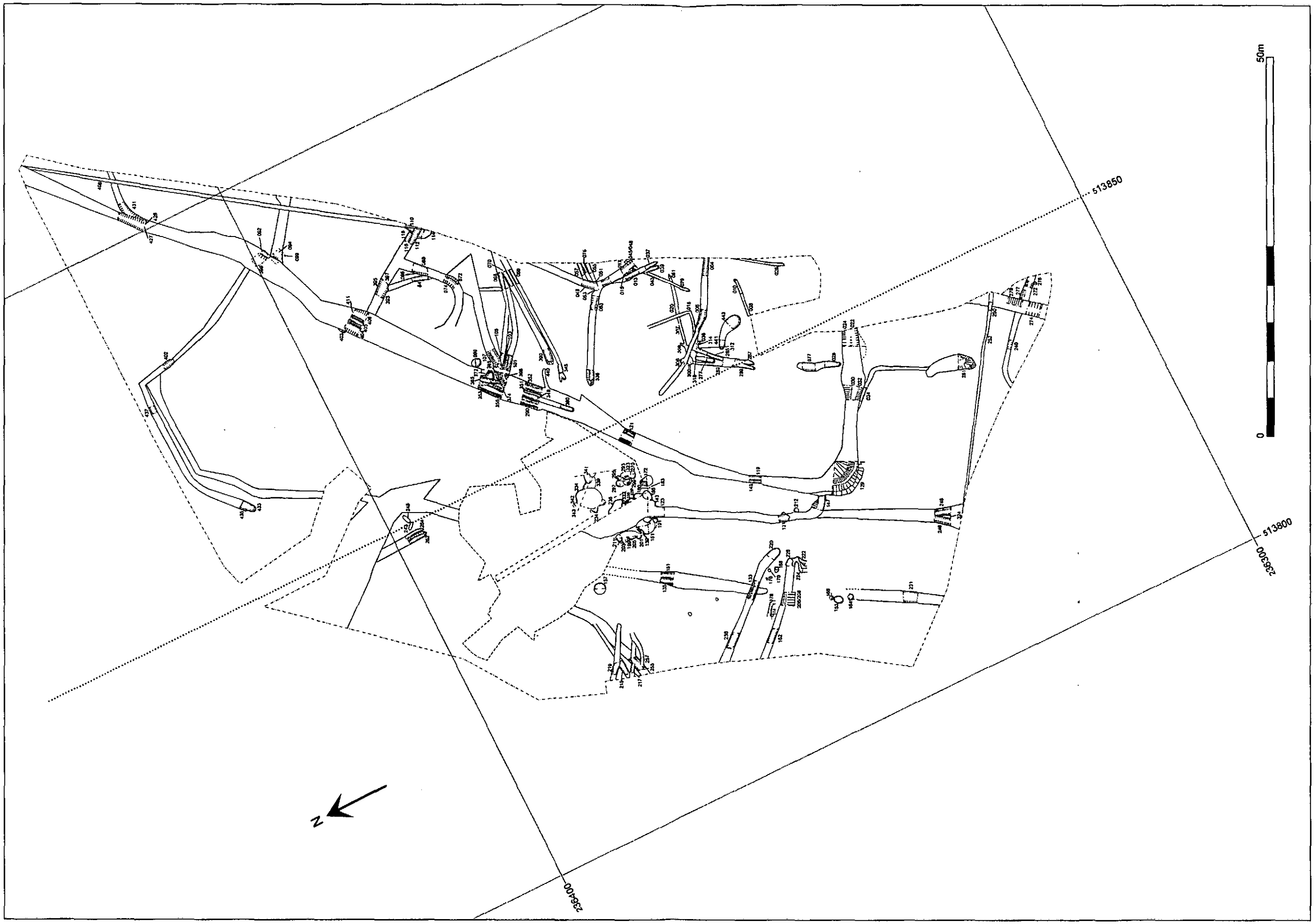

Figure 3: Cut numbers

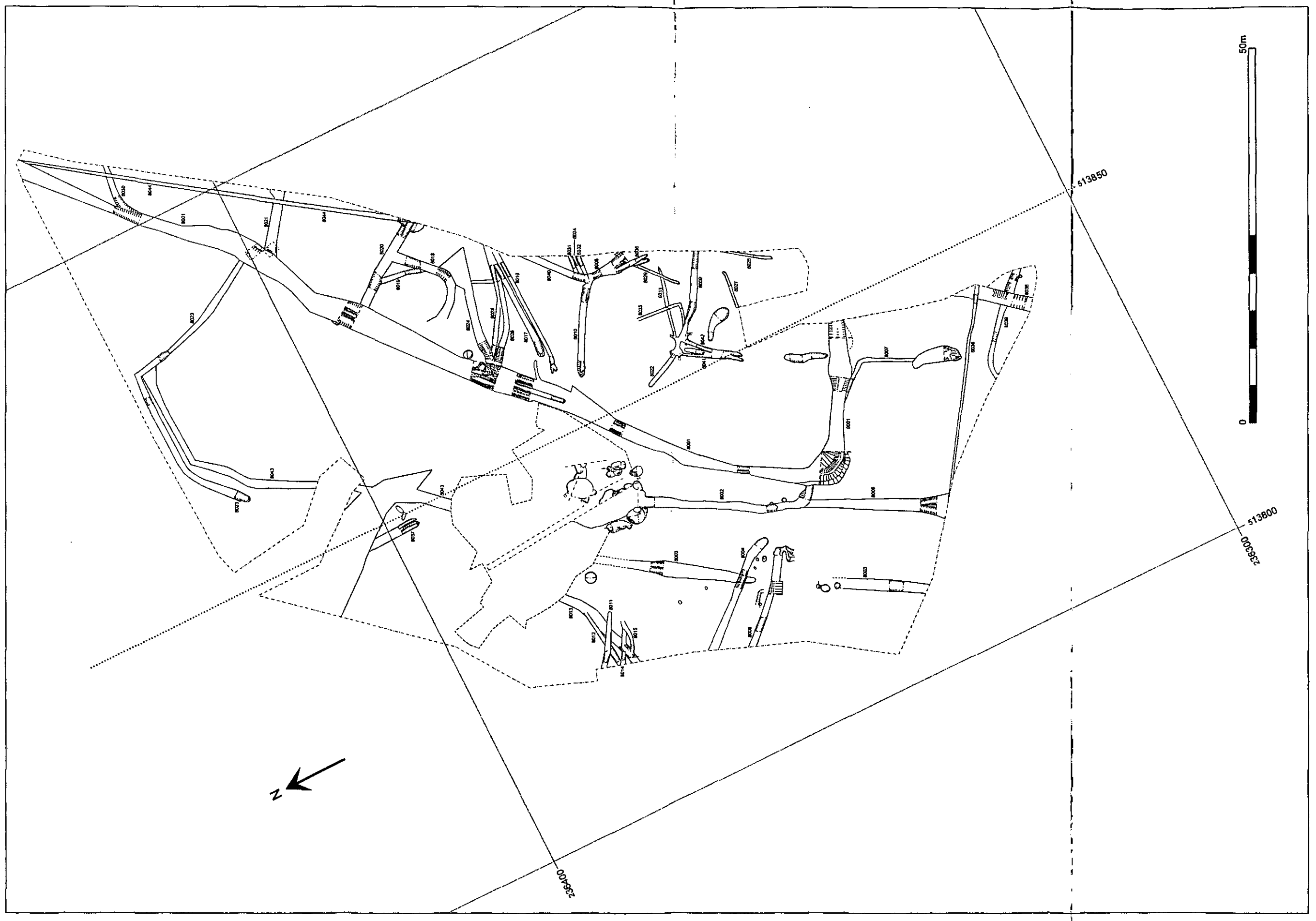

Figure 4: Overall alignment numbers

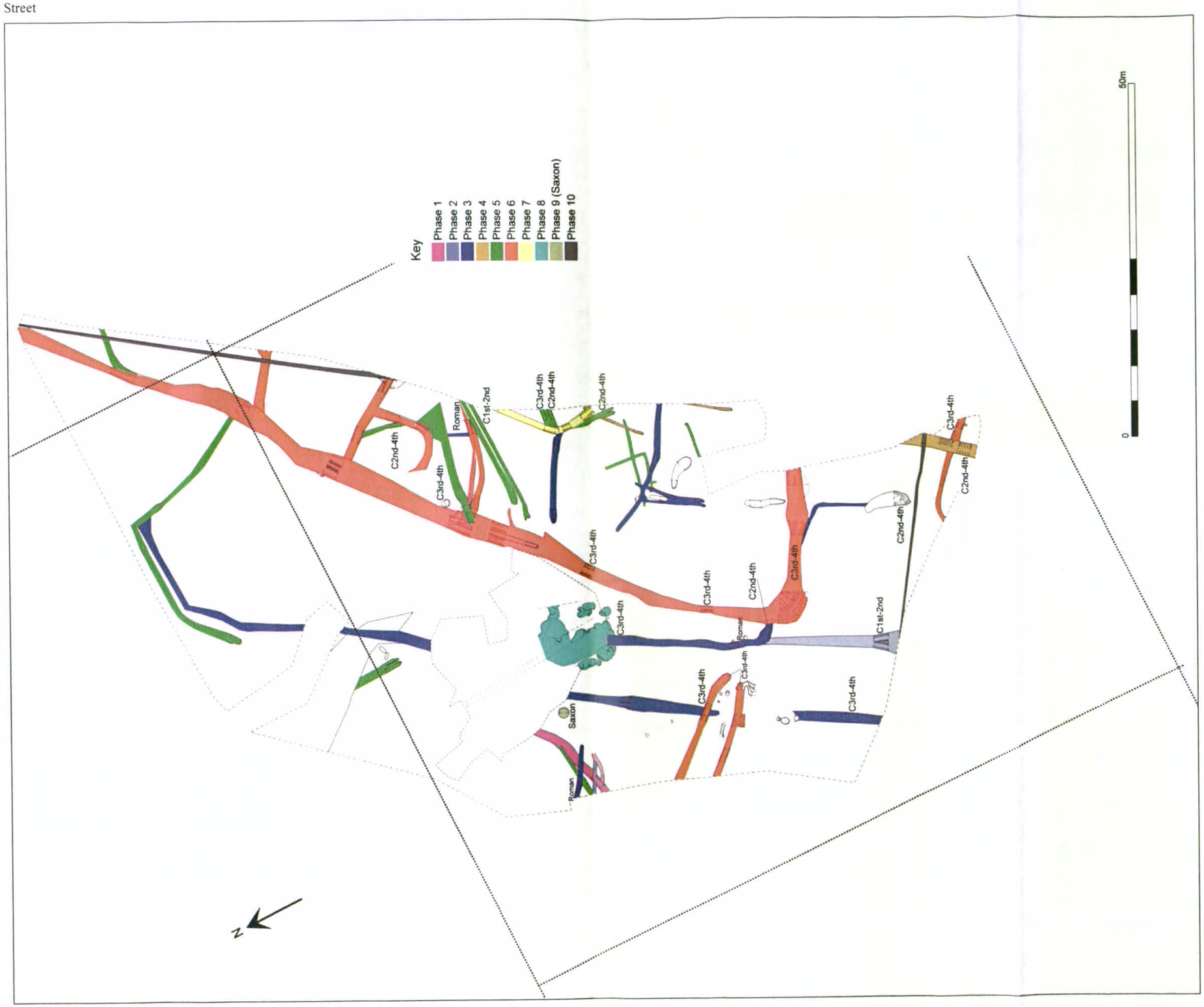

Figure 5: Phase Plan

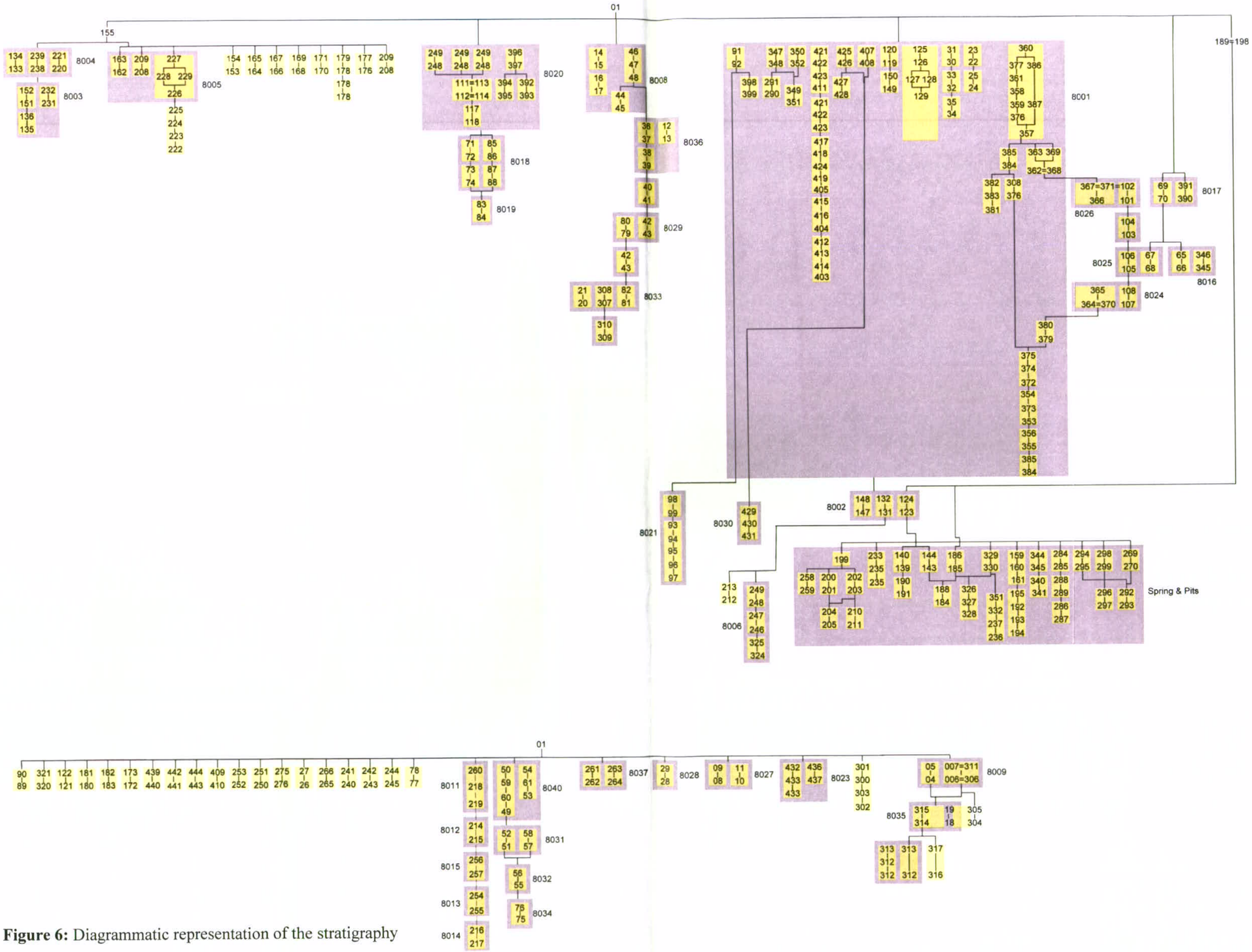

Figure 6: Diagrammatic representation of the stratigraphy

6 Conclusions

6.1 Using the methods agreed with the CAO and CPM the excavation at Meppershall has been able to successfully address all the key points laid out in section 1.4 of the project design. It should however be noted that as the ditches were excavated as a series of segments it has not been possible to follow individual cuts from segment to segment. To achieve such a comprehensive understanding of a ditches development would have required total excavation of the ditches. The majority of the pottery has been dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries. A limited amount of 1st and 2nd century pottery was also recovered from the site suggesting, that there was a Roman influence in the area by that time. With the concentration of pottery from a relatively short time period the ceramic evidence has been of little use in determining the chronology of the site. Instead phasing the site has relied upon stratigraphical relationships and features on similar alignments. It is however possible that a more detailed examination of the pottery may be able to distinguish some variations between individual features.

6.2 From the assessment analysis of the excavated evidence it seems likely that there was a small settlement, probably comprising no more than a single farmstead located in the immediate vicinity of the site. The shape and size of several of the small linear features suggest that they might have been sleeper beam slots, but as no occupation surfaces or other structural evidence were identified in the vicinity this theory can't be proven. The settlement seems to have been surrounded by a large enclosure ditch, with possible sub divisions branching off from its eastern side. During the period this ditch was in use it seems to have been maintained. Several phases of ditch clearing were recorded during the excavation. Sometime during the 4th century the maintenance of the ditches ceased, and they were allowed to silt up. With the reduced drainage the area around the spring seems to have rapidly become boggy and has remained so.

6.3 The pottery shows that the settlement at Meppershall had trading links with other regions. Coarse wares were being imported from the surrounding areas including the production centres at Harrold to the north and Hadham in Hertfordshire. As one would expect the geographical sources of the fine wares was much wider and examples from the Nene Valley, Oxfordshire and Hampshire areas have been identified. As on most Roman sites Samian ware from Gaul was also present in the assemblage.

6.4 Examination of the environmental samples taken from the pits around the spring, has identified a bone plate making industry using horse ribs as the raw material. Plate production is generally an industry associated with urban contexts. It is also unusual to use narrow horse ribs for plate making, rather than the much broader ribs of cattle. No examples of the finished product or evidence to indicate what the bone platelets were being used for was found during the excavation.

6.5 It is anticipated that a substantial amount of dietary information can be extracted from the residues of the environmental samples and butchered animal bones.

6.6 The environmental material also demonstrates that the area around the spring was not as boggy as it is now until late into the Roman period (mid 4th century). The fact that the land was drier during the Roman period suggests that some form of efficient water

management was been maintained. The ditches around the spring, kept open until the mid to late 4th century, would almost certainly have accounted for the better drainage of the area. As the ditches started to silt up the water level around the spring would have risen, and the area would rapidly have become boggy. Since the Roman drainage ditches silted up the land around the spring has remained poorly drained.

6.7 The finding of a single Saxon cesspit does not significantly affect the interpretation of the site, but it might be an indication of continuity of occupation in the area, which would be significant .

7 Acknowledgements

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9. Archive

9.1 The project archive is currently held at ASC's office in Milton Keynes, but will be deposited with Luton Museum when they are in a position to accept archives.

9.2 No museum accession number has yet been allocated to the archive.

9.3 The project archive comprises:

- Context sheets, registers and other forms (7 A4 ring binders)
- Photographs, B&W prints, colour slides, and digital images on CD
- Bulk Finds, pottery (39kg), bone (41kg), tile (2kg) etc
- Project Design
- Report including Specialist Assessment Reports (pot), (bone), (environmental), (other finds), (tile)

Appendix 1: Summary Tables

Context Register

Context	Type	Description	Section
001	Topsoil	Topsoil	
002	Not issued		
003	Not issued		
004	Ditch	Cut of east-west ditch	
005	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown sand clay silt. Primary fill of Ditch 004	
006	Ditch	Cut of east-west ditch	1574
007	Ditch Fill	Yellowish brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Ditch 006	1574
008	Slot	Cut of east-west slot. (sleeper beam trench?)	1505
009	Slot Fill	Yellowish brown silty clay. Fill of Slot 008	1505
010	Slot	Cut of east-west slot (sleeper beam trench?)	1504
011	Slot Fill	Yellowish brown silty clay. Fill of Slot 009	1504
012	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 013	1502
013	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch	1502
014	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 015	1502
015	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch	1502
016	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 017	1502
017	Ditch	Cut of north east-south west ditch	1502
018	Slot	Cut of slot which turns from east-west to north south	1503, 1574
019	Slot Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. Fill of Slot 018	1503, 1574
020	Slot	Cut of east-west slot	
021	Slot Fill	Dark yellowish brown silty clay. Fill of Slot 020	
022	Ditch	Cut of east-west ditch	
023	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. Primary fill of Ditch 022	
024	Ditch	Cut of east-west ditch	
025	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. Primary fill of Ditch 024	
026	Slot	Cut of north-south slot	
027	Slot Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Fill of Slot 026	
028	Slot	Cut of north-south slot	1506
029	Slot Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. Fill of Slot 028	1506
030	Ditch	Cut of curvi linear ditch	1509, 1511
031	Ditch Fill	Brown silty sand. Primary fill of Ditch 030	1509, 1511
032	Ditch	Cut of curvi linear ditch	1509, 1511
033	Ditch Fill	Light brown sand. Primary fill of Ditch 032	1509, 1511
034	Gully	Cut of gully	1509, 1511
035	Gully Fill	Mixed brown/ orange sand. Primary fill of Gully 034	1509, 1511
036	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 037. Same as 012	1500, 1501
037	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch. Same as 013	1500, 1501
038	Ditch Fill	Mid orange brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Ditch 39. Same as 014	1500, 1501
039	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch. Same as 015	1500, 1501
040	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 0441	1500, 1501
041	Ditch	Cut of Ditch	1500, 1501
042	Ditch Fill	Mid orange brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 043	1500
043	Ditch	Cut of north east-south west ditch	1500
044	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 045	1500
045	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch	1500
046	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Upper fill of Ditch 048	1501, 1501
047	Ditch Fill	Mid orange brown sandy clay silt. Primary fill of Ditch 048	1500, 1501
048	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch	1500, 1501
049	Ditch	Cut of north south ditch	1508
050	Ditch Fill	Dark grey sandy clay silt. Upper fill of Ditch 049	1508
051	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch	1508
052	Ditch Fill	Yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Primary fill of Ditch 051	1508
053	Ditch	Cut of south east-north west ditch	1508
054	Ditch Fill	Yellowish brown silty clay. Upper fill of Ditch 053	1508
055	Ditch	Cut of east-west ditch	1512
056	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown sandy loam. Primary fill of Ditch 055	1512
057	Ditch	Cut of east-west ditch	1512
058	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown sandy loam. Primary fill of Ditch 57	1512
059	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown silty clay. Upper fill of Ditch 049	1508
060	Ditch Fill	Yellowish brown clay. Primary fill of Ditch 060	1508
061	Ditch Fill	Yellowish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 053	1508
062	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown sandy loam. Upper fill of Ditch 063	1507

063	Ditch	Cut of ditch	1507
064	Ditch Fill	Orange brown sandy loam. Primary fill of Ditch 063	1507
065	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 066	1510
066	Ditch	Cut of east-west ditch	1510
067	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 068	1510
068	Ditch	Cut of north west-south east ditch	1510
069	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 077	1510
070	Ditch	Cut of north west-south east ditch	1510
071	Ditch Fill	Grey brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 072	1511
072	Ditch	Cut of east-west curvi linear ditch	1511
073	Ditch Fill	Dark brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Ditch 074	1511
074	Ditch	Cut of curvi linear ditch	1511
075	Ditch	Cut of ditch	1512
076	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown sandy loam. Primary fill of Ditch 075	1512
077	Slot	Cut of north-south slot	
078	Slot Fill	Yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Fill of Slot 077	
079	Slot	Cut of north-east-south west slot	
080	Slot Fill	Yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Fill of Slot 079	
081	Slot	Cut of east-west slot	
082	Slot Fill	Yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Fill of Slot 081	
083	Ditch Fill	Brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 084	1513
084	Ditch	Cut of curvi linear ditch	1513
085	Ditch Fill	Dark brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Ditch 086	1513, 1514
086	Ditch	Cut of curvi linear ditch	1513, 1514
087	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Ditch 088	1513, 1514
088	Ditch	Cut of curvi linear ditch	1513, 1514
089	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1523
090	Pit Fill	Grey silty clay. Fill of Pit 089	1523
091	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 092. Might be part of a general layer sealing a series of ditches	1515, 1608
092	Ditch	Cut of north east-south west ditch	1515, 1603, 1608
093	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 094	1515
094	Ditch	Cut of ditch. Aligned north-south then turns eastwards	1515
095	Ditch Fill	Light greyish brown silty clay. Upper fill of Ditch 097	1515
096	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish orange silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 097	1515, 1608
097	Ditch	Cut of Ditch. Alignment unclear due to truncation	1515, 1608
098	Ditch Fill	Light greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 099	1515
099	Ditch	Cut of ditch runs north westwards then turns south eastwards	1515
100	Not issued		
101	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	1516, 1517
102	Ditch Fill	Light greyish brown clayey loam. Primary fill of Ditch 101	1516, 1517
103	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	1516, 1517
104	Ditch Fill	Light greyish brown clayey loam. Primary fill of Ditch 103	1516, 1517
105	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	1516, 1518
106	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown clayey loam. Primary fill of Ditch 105	1516, 1518
107	Ditch	Segment of north east-south west ditch	1516, 1519
108	Ditch Fill	Light greyish brown clayey loam. Primary fill of Ditch 107	1516, 1519
109	Ditch Fill	Dark grey silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 110	1522
110	Ditch	Segment of north north east-south south west ditch	1522
111	Ditch Fill	Grey silty clay. Primary fill of ditch 112	1521, 1522
112	Ditch	Segment of north west-south east ditch	1521, 1522
113	Pit Fill	Greyish brown silty clay. Fill of Pit 114	1522
114	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1522
115	Pit Fill	Dark brown silty clay. Fill of Pit 116	1521
116	Pit	Cut of circular Pit	1521
117	Fill	Brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 118	1521
118	Ditch	Segment of ditch	1521
119	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1529
120	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown clay, with orange sandy patches. Primary fill of Ditch 119	1529
121	Ditch	Segment of north east-south west ditch	1531
122	Ditch Fill	Grey/ blue brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 121	1531
123	Ditch	Segment of ditch	1538
124	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Ditch 123	1535, 1538
125	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Upper fill of Ditch 129	
126	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Secondary fill of Ditch 129	
127	Ditch Fill	Mid orange brown silty sand. Slumping on the sides of Ditch 129	
128	Ditch Fill	Mid orange brown silty sand. Slumping on the sides of Ditch 129	
129	Ditch	Corner segment of ditch. Aligned east-west then turns north-south	1524, 1525
130	Not issued		
131	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1528

132	Ditch Fill	Grey orange/ brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Ditch 131	1528
133	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	1532
134	Ditch Fill	Grey blue clayey silt. Primary fill of Ditch 133	1532
135	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1530
136	Ditch Fill	Blue/greyish brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Ditch 135	1530
137	Not issued		
138	Not issued		
139	Pit	Cut of sub square pit	1538
140	Pit Fill	Mid yellowish grey sandy clay. Fill of Pit 139	1538
141	Pit	Cut of pit, same as 199	
142	Not issued		
143	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1538
144	Pit Fill	Mid yellowish grey sandy clay silt. Fill of Pit 143	1538
145	Pit	Cut of pit, same as 172	
146	Not issued		
147	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	1526, 1527
148	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 147	1526, 1527
149	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1529
150	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown sand clay. Primary fill of Ditch 149	1529
151	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1530
152	Ditch Fill	Grey/ blue brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Ditch 151	1530
153	Pit	Cut of sub-circular pit	1550
154	Pit Fill	Greyish brown sandy clay silt. Fill of Pit 153	1550
155	Layer	Layer sealing Pit 153	1550
156	Not issued		
157	Pit	Cut of sub-circular pit	1541
158	Pit Fill	Green/ greyish brown clayey sand. Fill of Pit 157	1541
159	Pit Fill	Mid greyish yellow sandy clay. Upper fill of Pit 161	1534, 1540
160	Pit Fill	Light yellowish brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Pit 161	1534
161	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1534, 1540
162	Ditch	Segment of ditch	
163	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 163	
164	Pit	Cut of oval shaped pit	1544
165	Pit Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt. Fill of Pit 164	1544
166	Post-hole	Cut of sub-circular post-hole	1543
167	Post-hole Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Fill of Post-hole 166	1543
168	Post-hole	Cut of oval shaped post-hole	1548
169	Post-hole Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt. Fill of Post-hole 168	1548
170	Post-hole	Cut of oval shaped post-hole	1547
171	Post-hole Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt. Fill of Post-hole 170	1547
172	Pit	Cut of Sub-circular post-hole	1533
173	Pit Fill	Grey/ blue brown silty clay. Fill of Pit 172	1533
174	Post-hole	Cut of sub-circular post hole	1542
175	Post-hole Fill	Greyish brown silty clay. Fill of Post-hole 174	1542
176	Post-hole	Cut of sub-circular post-hole	1546
177	Post-hole Fill	Brownish grey silty sand. Fill of Post-hole 176	1546
178	Slot	Cut of slot	1545
179	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay silt. Fill of Slot 178	1545
180	Post-hole	Cut of circular post-hole	1536
181	Post-hole Fill	Grey/ olive brown silty clay. Fill of Post-hole 180	1536
182	Post-hole Fill	Grey/ olive brown silty clay. Fill of Post-hole 183	1537
183	Post-hole	Cut of circular post-hole	1537
184	Pit	Cut of sub-circular pit	1538
185	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1538
186	Pit Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy clay. Fill of Pit 185	1538
187	Not issued		1538
188	Pit Fill	Light yellowish grey sandy clay. Fill of Pit 184	1538
189	Layer	Layer of dark greyish brown silty clay	1534, 1538-40
190	Pit Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Fill of Pit 191	1539
191	Pit	Cut of irregular shaped pit	1539
192	Pit Fill	Light greyish yellow sandy clay. Intermediate fill of Pit 194	
193	Pit Fill	Light greyish yellow sandy clay silt. Primary fill of Pit 194	1534, 1540
194	Pit	Cut of sub-circular pit	1534, 1540
195	Pit Fill	Mid greyish yellow silty sand. Upper fill of Pit 194	1534
196	Pit Fill	Dark grey/ brown/ blue silty clay. Intermediate fill of Pit 157	1541
197	Pit Fill	Black/ greyish brown clay. Upper fill of Pit 157	1541
198	Layer	Layer of mid greyish brown sandy clay	1551
199	Pit	Cut of Circular pit	1551
200	Pit Fill	Mid yellowish grey sandy clay. Fill of Pit 201	1551

201	Pit	Cut of sub-circular pit	1551
202	Pit Fill	Light greyish brown silty sandy clay. Fill of Pit 203	1551
203	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1551
204	Pit Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy clay silt. Fill of Pit 205	1551
205	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1551
206	Slot	Segment of east-west ditch	1549
207	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Fill of Ditch 206	1549
208	Slot	Segment of east-west ditch	1549
209	Ditch Fill	Dark brownish black silty clay. Fill of Ditch 208	1549
210	Pit Fill	Light yellowish grey sandy clay silt. Fill of Pit 211	1549, 1551
211	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1551, 1557
212	Pit	Cut of sub-circular pit	1554
213	Pit Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy clay silt. Fill of Pit 212	1554
214	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown silt clay. Primary fill of Ditch 215	1561
215	Ditch	Segment of north west-south east	1561
216	Ditch Fill	Grey clay. Primary fill of Ditch 217	1563
217	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1563
218	Ditch Fill	Mid grey silty clay. Primary fill of 215	1561
219	Ditch	Segment of north east-south west ditch	1561
220	Ditch	Western terminal segment of east-west ditch	1556
221	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Primary fill of Ditch 220	1556
222	Ditch	Segment of ditch	1552
223	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown silty sand. Primary fill of Ditch 222	1552
224	Ditch	Segment of ditch	1553
225	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown silty sand. Primary fill of Ditch 224	1553
226	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	1555
227	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt. Primary fill of ditch 226	1555
228	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy silt. Upper fill of Ditch 226	1555
229	Ditch Fill	Yellowish brown sandy silt. Slumping towards the top of Ditch 226	1555
230	Not issued		
231	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1557
232	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Primary fill of Ditch 231	1557
233	Pit Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Upper fill of Pit 234	
234	Pit	Cut of sub-circular pit.	
235	Pit Fill	Light orange/ grey sandy clay. Primary fill of Pit 234.	
236	Pit	Cut of oval shaped pit	1598
237	Pit Fill	Mid orange grey sandy clay silt. Primary fill of Pit 237	1598
238	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	
239	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Primary fill of Ditch 238	
240	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1558
241	Ditch Fill	Mid brown silty sand. Primary fill of Ditch 240	1558
242	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Pit 243	
243	Pit	Cut of sub-rectangular pit	
244	Pit Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Pit 245	
245	Pit	Cut of sub-rectangular pit	
246	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1596, 1597
247	Ditch Fill	Yellowish brown sand. Primary fill of Ditch 248	1596,1597,1604
248	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1596, 1597, 1604
249	Fill	Pale yellowish brown sand. Primary fill of Ditch 248	1596, 1597
250	Land Drain	Segment of east-west land drain	1559
251	Fill	Brownish grey sandy clay silt. Fill of Land Drain 250	1559
252	Land Drain	Segment of east-west land drain	1560
253	Fill	Brownish grey sandy clay silt. Fill of Land Drain 252	1560
254	Ditch Fill	Dark grey clay. Primary fill of Ditch 255	1562, 1565
255	Ditch	Segment of ditch	1562, 1565
256	Ditch Fill	Grey clay.	1562,1564
257	Ditch	Segment of north east-south west ditch	1562, 1564
258	Pit Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy clay silt. Primary fill of Pit 259	
259	Pit	Cut of pit. Only a small section of this feature excavated	
260	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish orange silty clay. Upper fill of Pit 218	1561
261	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Ditch 262	1566
262	Not issued		
263	Not issued		
264	Not issued		
265	Land Drain	Segment of east-west land drain	
266	Fill	Greyish brown sandy silt. Fill of Land Drain 265	
267	Not issued		
268	Not issued		
269	Pit Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy clay. Fill of Pit 270	1575

270	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1575
271	Gully Fill	Greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Gully 272	1567, 1568
272	Gully	Segment of north-south gully	1567, 1568
273	Ditch Fill	Brownish grey silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 274	1567
274	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1567
275	Post-hole Fill	Brown silty clay	1568
276	Post-hole	Cut of circular post-hole	1568
277	Ditch	Segment of ditch	1569
278	Ditch Fill	Mid grey silty sand. Primary fill of Ditch 277	1569
279	Ditch	Segment of north west-south east ditch	1569
280	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown silty sand. Primary fill of Ditch 279	1569
281	Pit	Cut of crescent shaped pit	1570
282	Pit Fill	Orange brown silty sand. Fill of Pit 281	1570
283	Pit Fill	Greyish brown silty sand. Fill of Tree bowl 281	1570
284	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown sandy clay silt. Primary fill of Ditch 285	1571, 1573
285	Gully	Segment of east-west gully	1571, 1573
286	Ditch Fill	Silty clay. Primary fill of Gully 287	1572
287	Ditch	Cut of east-west gully	1572
288	Gully Fill	Grey brown silty clay. Primary fill of Gully 289 (same as 303, 305)	1571, 1572
289	Gully	Cut of east-west gully	1571, 1572
290	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch	1604
291	Ditch Fill	Dark grey silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 290	1604
292	Pit Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Fill of Pit 293	1575
293	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1575
294	Pit Fill	Mid greyish yellow silty clay. Fill of Pit 295	1575, 1576
295	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1575, 1576
296	Pit Fill	Light greyish brown sandy clay. Fill of Pit 297	1576
297	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1576
298	Pit Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Fill of Pit 299	1577
299	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1577
300	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1578, 1601
301	Ditch Fill	Dark orange brown silty sand. Primary fill of Ditch 300	1578, 1601
302	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	1579, 1601
303	Ditch Fill	Same as 288	1579, 1601
304	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	1600
305	Fill	Same as 288	1600
306	Ditch	Segment of north east-south west ditch	1580, 1600
307	Ditch	Segment of north west-south east ditch	1581, 1583
308	Ditch Fill	Mid orange brown silty sand. Primary fill of Ditch 307	1581, 1583
309	Ditch	Segment of north west-south east ditch	1581, 1582
310	Not issued		
311	Ditch Fill	Same as 007	1580, 1600
312	Ditch	Segment of north west-south east ditch	1585
313	Not issued		
314	Ditch	Segment of north west-south east ditch	1585
315	Not issued	Segment of east-west ditch	1584, 1585
316	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	1584, 1585
317	Ditch Fill	Mid orange brown silty sand	1584
318	Ditch	Terminal segment of north west-south east ditch	1586
319	Not issued		
320	Gully	Terminal segment of north west-south east gully	1586
321	Not issued		
322	Pit Fill	Mid yellowish grey sandy clay. Primary fill of Pit 323	1575
323	Pit	Cut of heavily truncated pit	1575
324	Pit	Cut of oval shaped pit	1597
325	Pit Fill	Yellowish brown sand. Fill of Pit 324	1597
326	Pit Fill	Mid orange brown sandy clay. Upper fill of Pit 328	1598
327	Pit Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Pit 328	1598
328	Pit	Cut of sub circular pit	1598
329	Pit Fill	Mid yellowish grey sandy clay. Fill of Pit 330	1598
330	Pit	Cut of sub circular pit	1598
331	Pit Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Fill of Pit 332	1598
332	Pit	Cut of irregular shaped pit	1598
333	Pit Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Fill of Pit 334	1599
334	Pit	Cut of circular pit	1603
335	Not issued		
336	Ditch Fill	Segment of west-east ditch	1599
337	Ditch Fill	Mid brownish grey sandy silt. Primary fill of Ditch 336	1599
338	Pit Fill	Yellowish brown sand. Primary fill of Pit 339	1603

339	Pit	Cut of sub oval shaped pit	1603
340	Pit Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of pit 341	1603
341	Pit	Cut of oval shaped pit	1603
342	Pit	Cut of irregular shaped pit.	1603
343	Pit Fill	Fill of Pit 342	1603
344	Fill	Dark greyish brown. Not excavated	1603
345	Gully	Segment of east-west gully	1602
346	Gully Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Primary fill of Gully 345	1602
347	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown silty clay. Fill of Ditch 348	1604
348	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch.	1604
349	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 351	1604.
350	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 352	1604
351	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1604
352	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch.	1604
353	Ditch	Segment of north south ditch	1609, 1610, 1613
354	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 373	1609-10, 1612, 1613
355	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1609, 1610, 1613
356	Ditch Fill	Yellowish brown sandy clay silt	1609, 1610, 1613
357	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1609, 1610
358	Ditch Fill	Yellowish brown silty clay. Fill of Ditch 357	1609, 1610
359	Ditch Fill	Merges with 358	1609, 1610
360	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown silty clay. Upper fill of Ditch 357	1609-10, 1612-13
361	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Secondary fill of Ditch 357	1609, 1610
362	Ditch	Corner segment of ditch. Turns from north-south to east-west	1609,1610, 1613
363	Ditch Fill	Dark brown silty clay. Secondary fill of Ditch 357, very similar to 361	1609, 1610
364	Ditch	Segment of small ditch, only seen in section	
365	Ditch	Corner segment of ditch. Turns from north-south to east-west	
366	Ditch	Same as 362	1609,1610, 1613
367	Ditch Fill	Same as 371. Fill of Ditch 366	1613
368	Ditch	Same as 362	1609,1610, 1613
369	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Slumpage on north side of Ditch 362	1609, 1613
370	Ditch	Same as 365	1613
371	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Primary fill of Ditch 370	1613
372	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown silty clay. Upper fill of Ditch 353	1609-10, 1612-13
373	Ditch Fill	Blue grey clay. Primary fill of Ditch 353	1609-10, 1612-13
374	Ditch	Segment of north south ditch	1609, 1610
375	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 374	1609, 1610
376	Ditch Fill	Grey clay. Primary fill of Ditch 357	1609, 1610, 1612
377	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown silty clay. Secondary fill of 357	1609, 1610, 1612
378	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Slumpage down the sides of Ditch 357	1609
379	Ditch	Segment of north-south ditch	1613
380	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 379	1613
381	Ditch	Northernmost segment of ditch (see 374)	1612
382	Ditch Fill	Dark yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Upper fill of Ditch 383	1612
383	Ditch Fill	See 356	1612
384	Ditch	Southern terminal segment of north south ditch.	1612
385	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown clay. Primary fill of Ditch 384	1612
386	Ditch Fill	Greyish brown silty clay. Secondary fill of Ditch 357	1612
387	Ditch Fill	Yellowish brown sandy clay silt. Slumpage on the north-east side of Ditch 357	1612
388	Ditch Fill	Grey silty clay	1603
389	Not issued		
390	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	1605
391	Ditch Fill	Light greyish brown sand silt fill. Only fill of Ditch 390	1605
392	Ditch Fill	Brownish grey silty clay. Only fill of Ditch 393	1607
393	Ditch	Segment of northwest-southeast ditch	1607
394	Ditch Fill	Grey brown orange silty clay. Only fill of Ditch 395	1606
395	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	1606
396	Ditch Fill	Brown silty clay. Only fill of Ditch 397	1607
397	Ditch	Segment of east-west ditch	1607
398	Ditch Fill	Brown silty clay. Only fill of Ditch 399	1608
399	Ditch	Segment of southwest-northeast ditch	1608
400	Ditch Fill	Dark brown silty clay. Secondary fill of Ditch 402	1611
401	Ditch Fill	Grey clay. Primary fill of Ditch 402	1611
402	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch	1611
403	Pit	Cut of sub-circular pit	1614
404	Ditch	Cut of east-west ditch	1614
405	Ditch	Cut of east-west ditch	1614
406	Ditch	Cut of east west ditch	1614
407	Ditch Fill	Light greyish brown silty sand. Primary fill of Ditch 408	1616

408	Ditch Fill	Cut of north-south ditch	1616
409	Ditch Fill	Light greyish brown silty sand. Primary fill of Ditch 410	1615
410	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch	1615
411	Ditch	Cut of east-west ditch	1614
412	Pit Fill	Mid greenish brown silty clay. Upper fill of Pit 403	1614
413	Pit Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Secondary fill of Pit 403	1614
414	Pit Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Pit 403	1614
415	Ditch Fill	Mid greenish brown silty clay. Secondary fill of Ditch 404	1614
416	Ditch Fill	Light grey silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 404	1614
417	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Upper fill of Ditch 405	1614
418	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Intermediate fill of Ditch 405	1614
419	Ditch Fill	Dark grey silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 405	1614
420	Ditch Fill	Dark greenish brown silty clay. Secondary fill of Ditch 406	1614
421	Ditch Fill	Dark grey silty clay. Upper fill of Ditch 411	1614
422	Ditch Fill	Sand silt. Secondary fill of Ditch 411	1614
423	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 411	1614
424	Ditch Fill	Mid greenish brown silty clay. Secondary fill of Ditch 405	1614
425	Ditch Fill	Brown sandy clay. Primary fill of Ditch 426	1617
426	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch	1617
427	Ditch Fill	Grey clay. Primary fill of Ditch 428	1617
428	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch	1617
429	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown clay. Secondary fill of Ditch 431	1618
430	Ditch Fill	Brownish grey humic clay. Primary fill of Ditch 431	1618
431	Ditch	Cut of east-west ditch	1618
432	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown sand clay silt. Primary fill of Ditch 433	1619
433	Ditch	Cut of ditch	1619
434	Pit Fill	Light greyish brown silty clay. Primary fill of Pit 435	1619
435	Pit	Cut of small pit	1619
436	Ditch Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay, Primary fill of Ditch 437	1620
437	Ditch	Cut of Ditch	1620
438	Ditch Fill	Pale grey silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 406	1614
439	Ditch Fill	Mixed dark brown/ black/ grey silty clay. Primary fill of Ditch 440	1618, 1621
440	Ditch	Cut of north-south ditch	1618, 1621
441	Gully	Cut of small north-south gully	1622
442	Gully Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy silt. Primary fill of Gully 441	1622
443	Gully	Cut of small north south gully	1623
444	Gully Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy silt. Primary fill of Gully 443	1623
Group	Type	Contexts (Cut nos. in bold)	
8001	Ditch	(23 **22**) (25 **24**) (31 **30**) (33 **32**) (125 127 128 **129**) (120 **119**) (150 **149**) (122 **121**) (291**290**) (349 **351**) (347 **348**) (367 **366**) (375 **374**) (356 **355**) (358 376 378 386 387 **357**) (385 **384**) (388 **372**) (365 **364**) (425 **426**) (398 **399**) (91 **92**) (415 416 **404**) (417 418 419 **405**) (420 438 **406**)	
8002	Ditch	(124 **123**) (132 **131**) (148 **147**)	
8003	Ditch	(136 **135**) (152 **151**) (232 **231**)	
8004	Ditch	(134 **133**) (221 **220**)	
8005	Ditch	(207 **206**) (227 **226**)	
8006	Ditch	(249 **248**) (247 **246**) (325 **324**)	
8007	Ditch	(35 **34**)	
8008	Ditch	(16 **17**)	
8009	Ditch	(05 **04**) (07 **06**)	
8010	Ditch	(327 **336**) (62 64 **63**)	
8011	Ditch	(218 **219**)	
8012	Ditch	(214 **215**)	
8013	Ditch	(254 **255**)	
8014	Ditch	(216 **217**)	
8015	Ditch	(256 **257**)	
8016	Ditch	(65 **66**) (346 **345**)	
8017	Ditch	(391 **390**) (69 **70**)	
8018	Ditch	(71 **72**) (73 **74**) (87 **88**)	
8019	Ditch	(85 **86**)	
8020	Ditch	(111 **112**) (117 **118**)	
8021	Ditch	(93 **94**) (98 **99**)	
8022	Ditch	(311 **306**)	
8023	Ditch	(429 430 **431**) (432 **433**) (434 **435**)	
8024	Ditch	(107 **108**)	
8025	Ditch	(106 **105**)	
8026	Ditch	(102 **101**)	
8027	Ditch	(11 **10**) (09 **08**)	
8028	Ditch	(29 **28**)	
8029	Ditch	(42 **43**) (80 79)	

8030	Ditch	(429, 430, **431**)
8031	Ditch	(58 **57**)
8032	Ditch	(56 **55**)
8033	Ditch	(82 **81**) (308 **307**)
8034	Ditch	(76 **75**
8035	Ditch	(19 **18**)
8036	Ditch	(12 **13**) (14 **15**)
8037	Ditch	(261 **262**) (263 **264**)
8038	Ditch	(273 **274**) (241 **240**)
8039	Ditch	(253 **252**) (271 **272**) (278 **277**)
8040	Ditch	(50 59 60 **49**) (52 **51**) (54 56 **53**)
8041	Ditch	(288 **289**)
8042	Ditch	(284 **285**) (286 **287**)
8043	Ditch	

Bulk Finds Register

Context	Pottery		Bone		CBM		Flint)		Fe (slag)		Shell	
	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt(g)	No.	Wt(g)	No.	Wt(g)	No.	Wt(g)
u/s	74	1235					2	25				
005	11	141	3	48	1	<5	2	5				
006	2	32	2	15	1	<5						
007	34	438	8	186	4	15	1	5				
011	4	53	11	87	1	10						
012	7	100	1	40	1	<5						
014	4	29										
016	5	145										
018	3	26	8	312								
019	14	466	7	107								
021	2	23	3	477								
023	8	226	6	211								
031	4	63					1	<5				
033	5	91	10	312								
036	8	268										
040	7	26	1	17								
046	8	46	6	152								
054	2	33	2	5								
056	9	106	3	17								
058	10	214	5	112								
059	11	121	5	411	1	<5						
062	10	164	22	1292								
065	35	1168	6	60								
067	4	97										
069	4	63										
071	2	14	5	17								
073	34	482	12	152	3	35						
076	1	25	3	194								
083	4	33	1	6			1	<5				
085	21	562	3	253	1	40						
087	5	66	6	40								
090	33	947	6	485	1	<5						
102	26	574	7	40								
104	4	157										
106	11	151	3	55								
108	40	446	10	103	2	45						
111	14	250	6	462								
115	3	73										
120	2	19										
122	6	110	9	447								
124	1	15			4	160						
125	20	355	43	1956								
128			13	1432								
134	131	4202	28	330	1	15						
136	7	169										
138	3	92	2	8								
140	32	383	4	10								
144	5	295	1	4					2	260		
148	2	29	2	108								
154	52	697	2	17	1	30						
155	368	6201	171	3999	9	985			1	35	2	140
156	21	253	14	403	1	65						
158	6	209	2	112							1	10
162	26	801	3	95								
163	48	770	19	611	1	140						
171	5	22										
173	4	103	2	10								
179	7	52	3	356	1	<5						
187	37	816	7	152								
198	60	1117	60	1706	2	345	1	5				
210	3	92	70	864								
213	1	5										
214	6	184	16	518	1	<5						
218	2	16	5	239								
221	128	2722	18	207	1	80						

222	60	1970										
223	1	24										
224	1	35										
225	1	14										
227	10	95	6	212								
230	17	1212										
232	26	372	3	35								
237	7	138	26	719								
239	3	27			2	35						
241	3	165	40	378								
244	2	39	188	1059								
247	2	21	24	449								
251	2	11										
266	1	11										
269	2	52										
271	10	23	12	73			1	<5				
278	3	32										
280	1	49										
282	1	3										
283	6	34	1	1								
284	3	13										
291	16	150	52	1426								
292			1	44								
294	2	15										
296	4	35										
305	2	35										
307	1	5										
310	1	13										
333	6	166										
337	19	243	23	1507								
342			1	110								
346	2	35										
349	4	45	37	1267								
354	16	664	46	2822								
358	3	64	2	27								
359	3	63										
360	21	316	7	87								
361	6	65	3	57								
367	4	55										
369	37	231	33	887								
373	17	391	13	485								
376	5	138										
391	205	2880	2	5								
394			4	101								
396	12	336	6	210								
401	10	42										
413	1	8	11	491								
415	13	305	35	1520								
416	4	156	7	741								
417			4	443								
420	10	207	15	259					4	260		
423	3	18										
425	6	48	9	640								
429	2	29										
439	2	15	1	13								
442	7	300	1	64								
609	3	107										

Plan Register

Drawing No	Scale	Details
1000	CAD	Pre excavation plan
1001	1:20	Post excavation
1002	1:20	Post excavation
1003	1:20	Post excavation
1004	1:20	Post excavation
1005	1:20	Post excavation
1006	1:20	Post excavation

1007	1:20	Post excavation
1008	1:20	Post excavation
1009	1:20	Post excavation
1010	1:20	Post excavation
1011	1:20	Post excavation
1012	1:20	Post excavation
1013	1:20	Post excavation
1014	1:20	Post excavation
1015	1:20	Post excavation
1016	1:20	Post excavation
1017	1:20	Post excavation
1018	1:20	Post excavation
1019	1:20	Post excavation
1020	1:20	Post excavation
1021	1:20	Post excavation
1022	1:20	Post excavation

Section Register

Drawing No	Scale	Contexts
1500		39, 41, 43, 45, 48
1501	1:10	39, 41, 48
1502	1:10	13, 15, 17
1503	1:10	18
1504	1:10	10
1505	1:10	08
1506	1:10	28
1507	1:10	63
1508	1:10	49, 51, 53
1509	1:10	30, 32, 34
1510	1:10	66, 68, 70
1511	1:10	72, 74
1512	1:10	
1513	1:10	84, 86, 88
1514	1:10	86, 88
1515	1:10	92, 94, 97, 99
1516	1:10	101, 103, 105, 107
1517	1:10	101, 103
1518	1:10	105
1519	1:10	107
1520	1:10	114
1521	1:10	112, 116, 118
1522	1:10	110, 113, 114
1523	1:10	89
1524	1:10	129
1525	1:10	129
1526	1:10	147
1527	1:10	147
1528	1:10	131
1529	1:10	119, 149
1530	1:10	135, 151
1531	1:10	121
1532	1:10	133
1533	1:10	172
1534	1:10	161, 194
1535	1:10	123
1536	1:10	180
1537	1:10	183
1538	1:10	123, 139, 143, 184, 185
1539	1:10	139, 191
1540	1:10	161, 194
1541	1:10	1557
1542	1:10	174
1543	1:10	166
1544	1:10	164
1545	1:10	178
1546	1:10	176

1547	1:10	170
1548	1:10	168
1549	1:10	
1550	1:10	
1551	1:10	199, 201, 203, 205, 211
1552	1:10	222
1553	1:10	224
1554	1:10	212
1555	1:10	226
1556	1:10	220
1557	1:10	231
1558	1:10	240
1559	1:10	250
1560	1:10	252
1561	1:10	211, 215
1562	1:10	255, 257
1563	1:10	217
1564	1:10	257
1565	1:10	255
1566	1:10	262
1567	1:10	264
1568	1:10	272, 274
1569	1:10	272, 274
1570	1:10	277, 279
1571	1:10	281
1572	1:10	285, 289
1573	1:10	287, 289
1574	1:10	285
1575	1:10	
1576	1:10	
1577	1:10	
1578	1:10	300
1579	1:10	302
1580	1:10	306
1581	1:10	307, 309
1582	1:10	309
1583	1:10	307
1584	1:10	314, 316
1585	1:10	312, 314
1586	1:10	318
1587	1:10	320
1588	Not used	
1589	Not used	
1590	Not used	
1591	Not used	
1592	Not used	
1593	Not used	
1594	Not used	
1595	Not used	
1596	1:10	246, 248
1597	1:10	246, 288, 324
1598	1:10	328, 330, 332
1599	1:10	336
1600	1:10	304, 306
1601	1:10	300, 302
1602	1:10	345
1603	1:10	334, 339, 341, 342
1604	1:10	290, 348, 351, 352
1605	1:10	390
1606	1:10	395, 397
1607	1:10	395, 397, 393
1608	1:10	92, 399
1609	1:10	353, 355, 357, 362, 368, 374
1610	1:10	353, 355, 357, 362, 374
1611	1:10	402
1612	1:10	353, 357, 388, 381, 384
1613	1:10	353, 355, 368, 370, 379,
1614	1:10	403, 404, 405, 406, 411

1615	1:10	410
1616	1:10	408
1617	1:10	426, 427
1618	1:10	434
1619	1:10	433, 435
1620	1:10	437
1621	1:10	440
1622	1:10	441, 442
1623	1:10	443 444

Registered finds

Registered Find No.	Context No.	Material	Description
3500	u/s	Pb	Object
3501	u/s	Fe	Nail
3502	u/s	Fe	Nail
3503	u/s	Fe	Nail
3504	u/s	Fe	Nail
3505	u/s	Fe	Nail
3506	u/s	Fe	Nail
3507	u/s	Fe	Nail
3508	u/s	Fe	Nail
3509	u/s	Fe	Nail
3510	u/s	Fe	Nail
3512	u/s	Fe	Nail
3513	u/s	Copper alloy	Coin
3514	073		
3515	u/s	Pudding stone	Quern
3516	115	Cu alloy	Coin
3517	369	Ceramic	Spindle whorl
3518	291	Pudding stone	Quern
3519	291	Cu alloy	Brooch (fragment)
3520	u/s	Cu alloy	Coin
3521	221	Cu alloy	Bracelet

Sample Register

Sample No	Context No.	Sample Type	Size
2000	016	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2001	158	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2002	160	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2003	163	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2004	173	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2005	204	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2006	210	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2007	221	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2008	258	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2009	198	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2010	254	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2011	267	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2012	269	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2013	327	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2014	329	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2015	432	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2016	354	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2017	369	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2018	425	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2019	430	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2020	337	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2021	439	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2022	126	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2023	005	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2024	060	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2025	014	Bulk flotation	30 litres
2026	016	Bulk flotation	30 litres

Appendix 2: Section Drawings

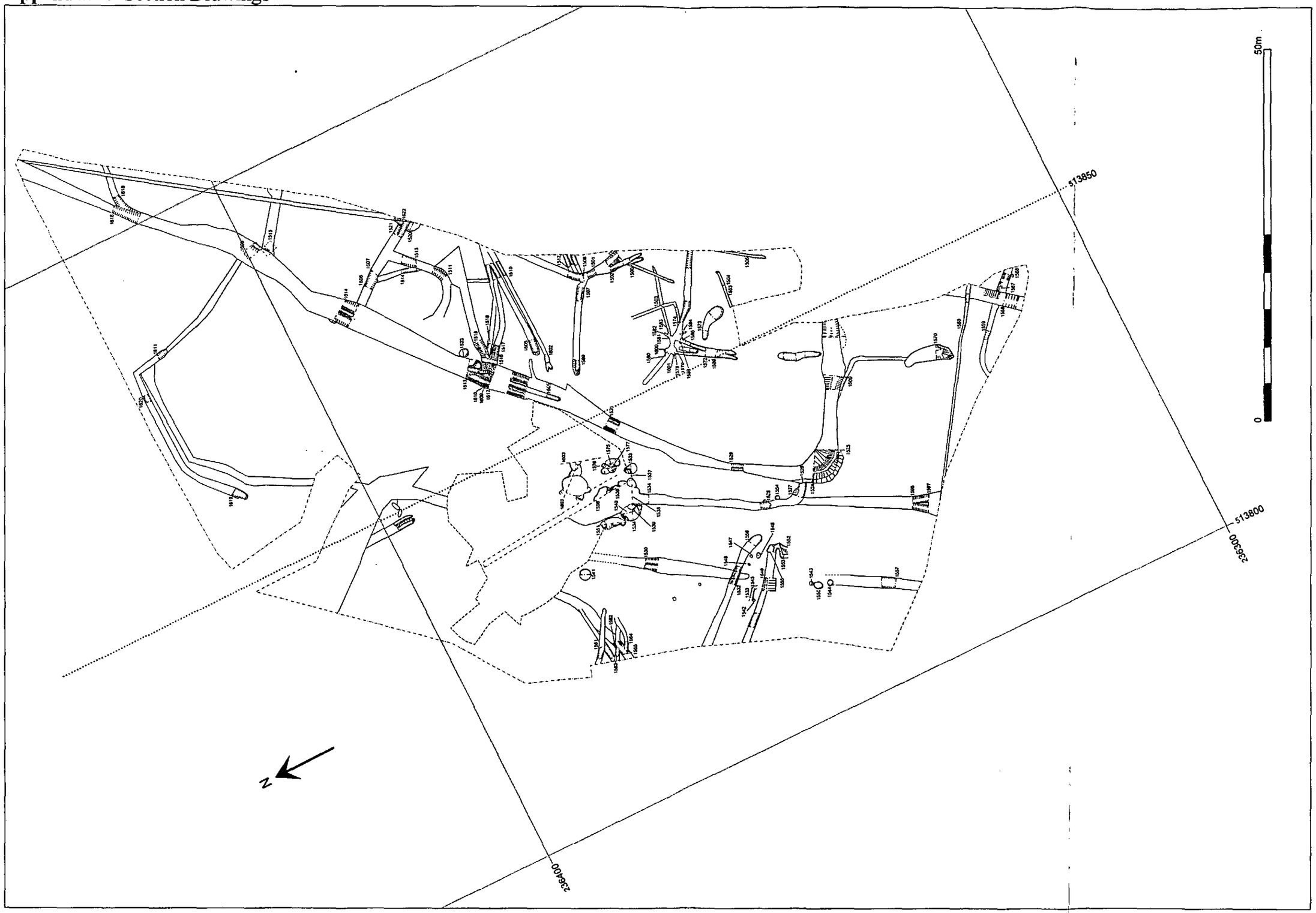
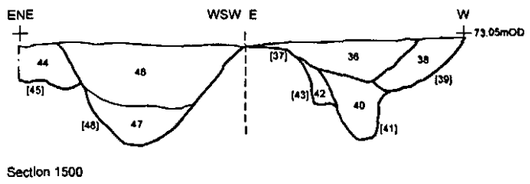
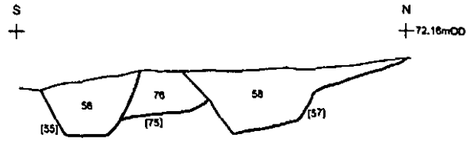


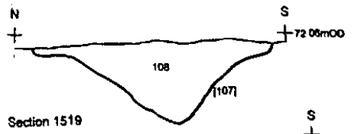
Figure 7: Key to Sections



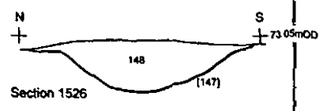
Section 1500



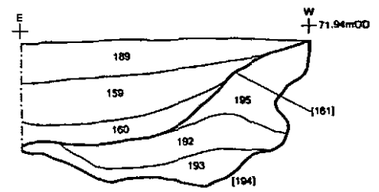
Section 1512



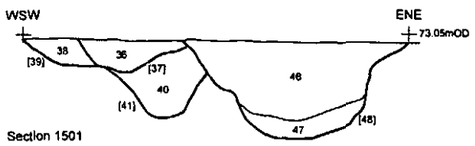
Section 1519



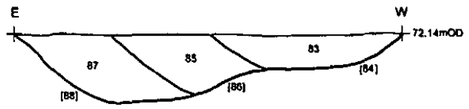
Section 1526



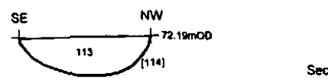
Section 1534



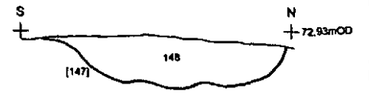
Section 1501



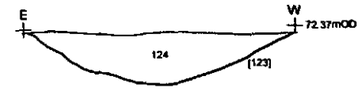
Section 1513



Section 1520



Section 1527



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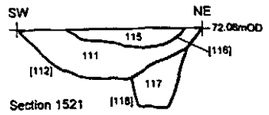

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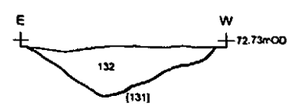

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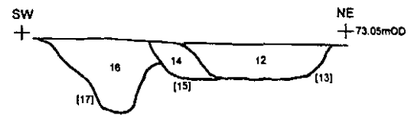

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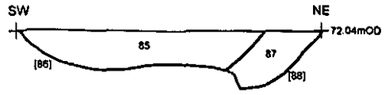

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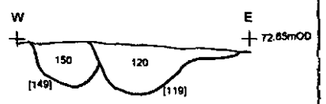

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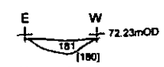

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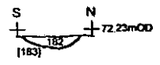

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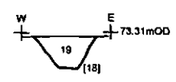

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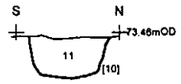

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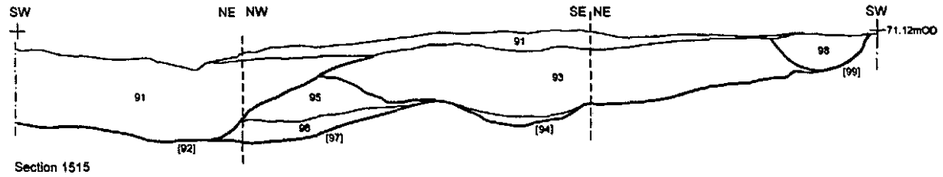

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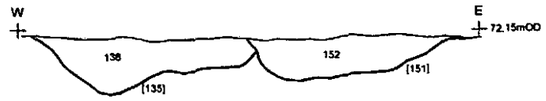

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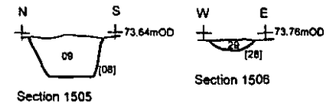

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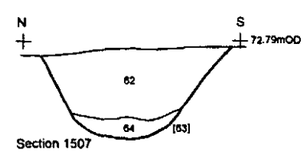
Section 1506



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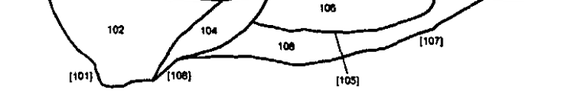

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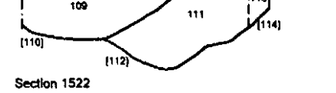

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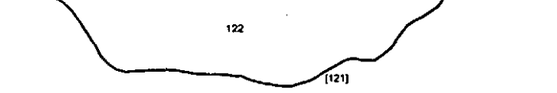

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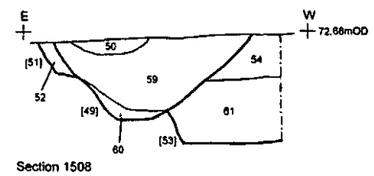

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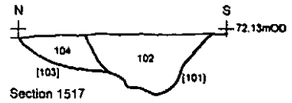

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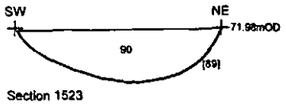

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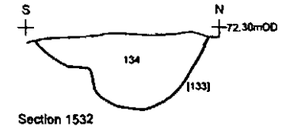

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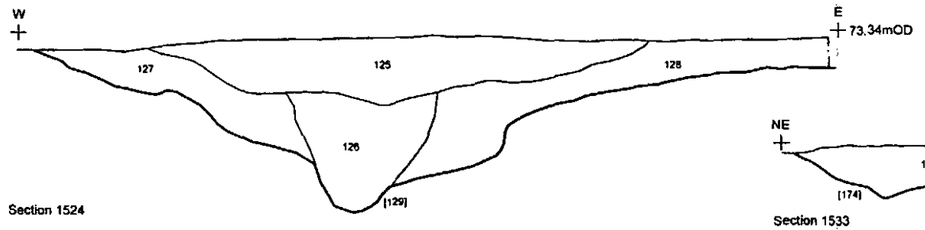

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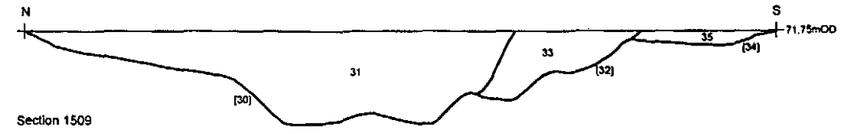

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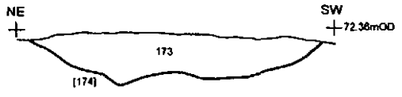

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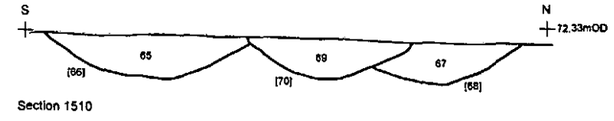

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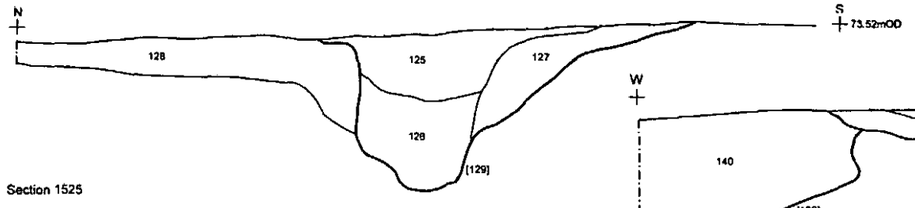

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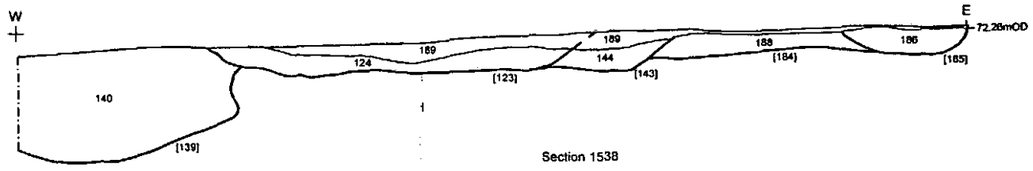

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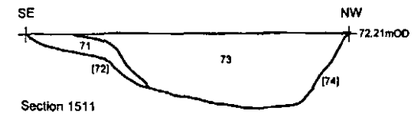

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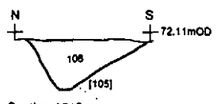
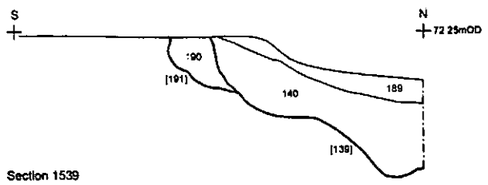


Section 1518

Figure 8: Section drawings 1500-1538 (scale 1:40)



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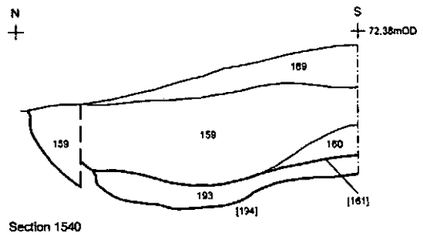

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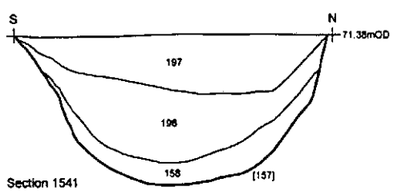

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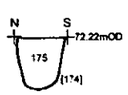

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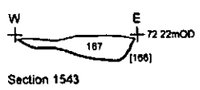

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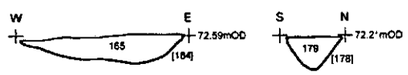
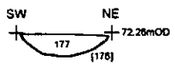


Section 1544

Section 1545



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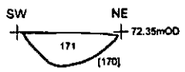

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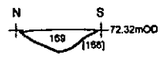

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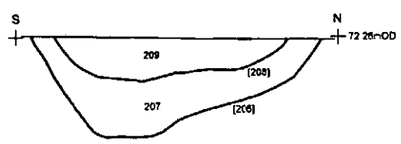

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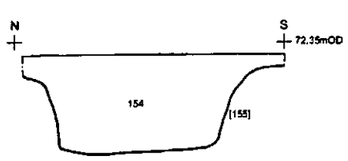
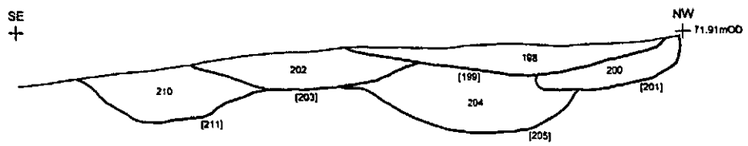


Section 1550



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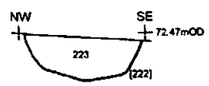
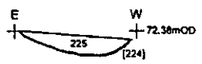


Section 1552



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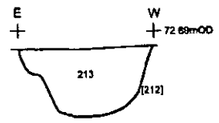

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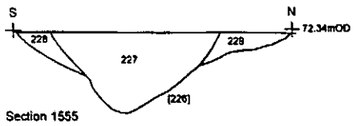

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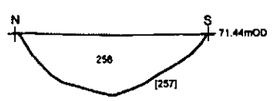

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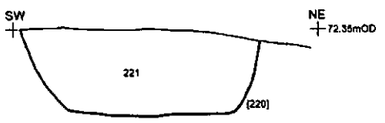

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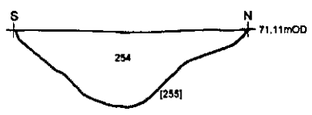

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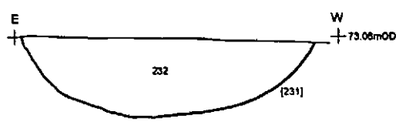

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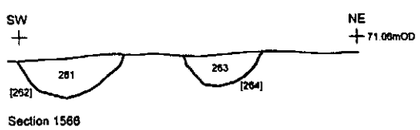

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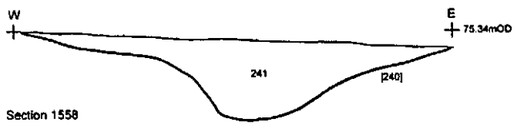

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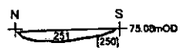

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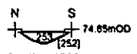

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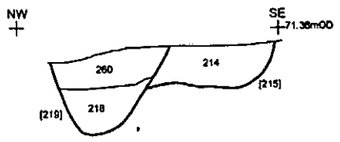
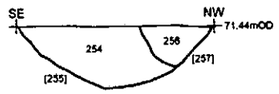
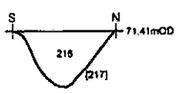


Section 1561



Section 1562



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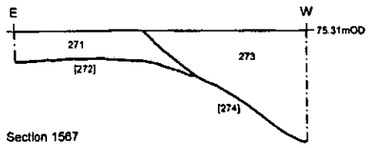
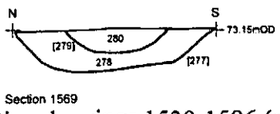


Section 1567

Section 1568



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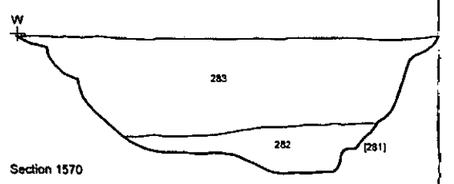

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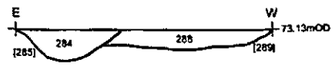

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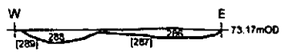

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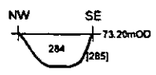

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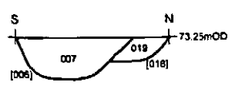

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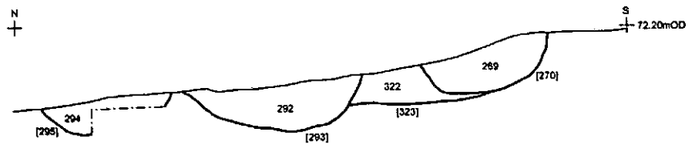

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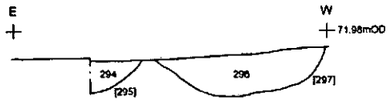

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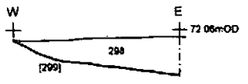

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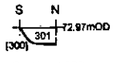


Section 1578

Section 1579

Section 1580

Section 1581

Section 1582
Section 1583

Section 1584

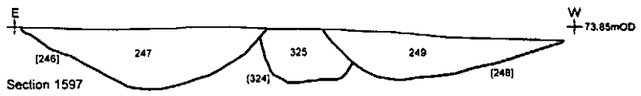
Section 1585

Section 1586

Section 1587

Section 1596

Figure 9: Section drawings 1539-1596 (scale 1:40)



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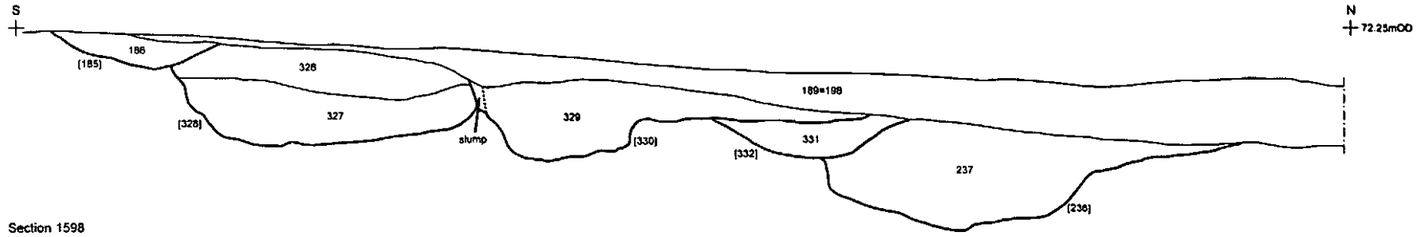

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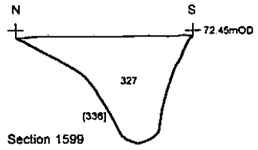

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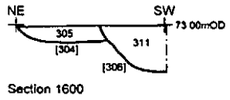

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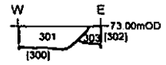

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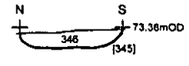

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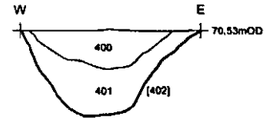

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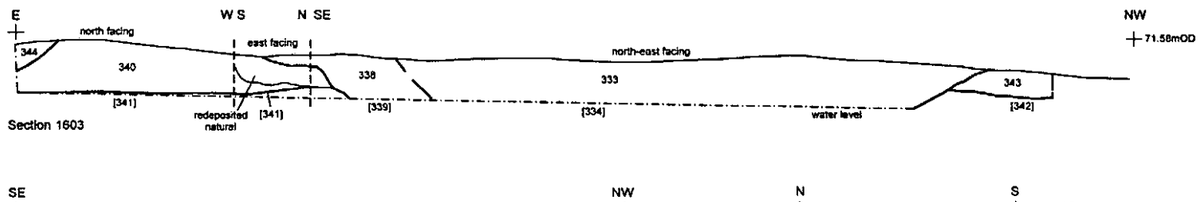

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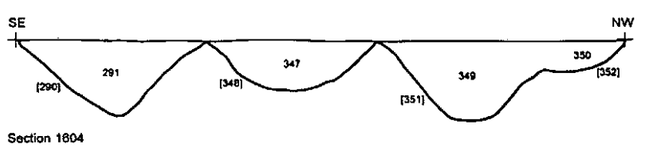

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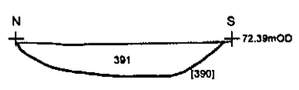

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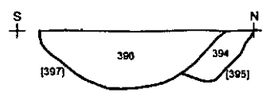

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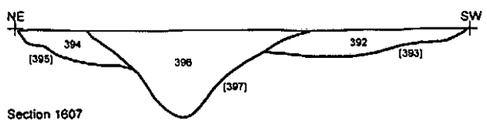

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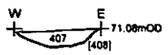

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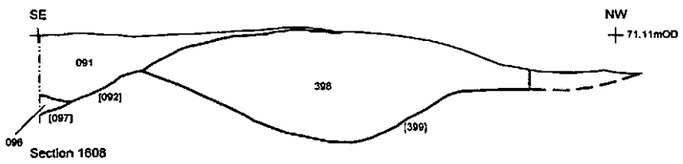

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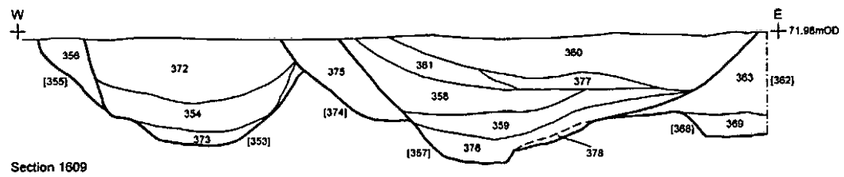

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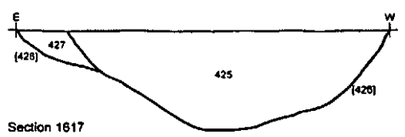

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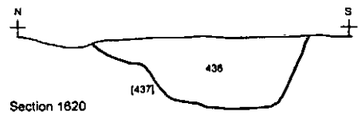

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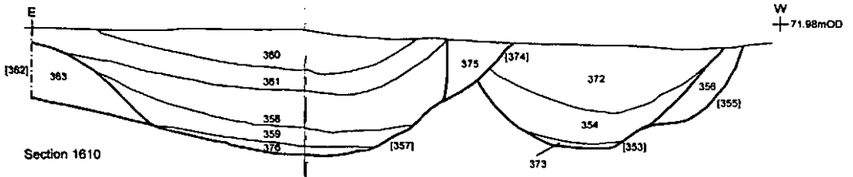
Section 1623



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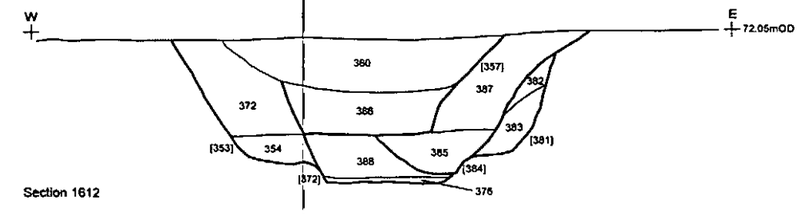

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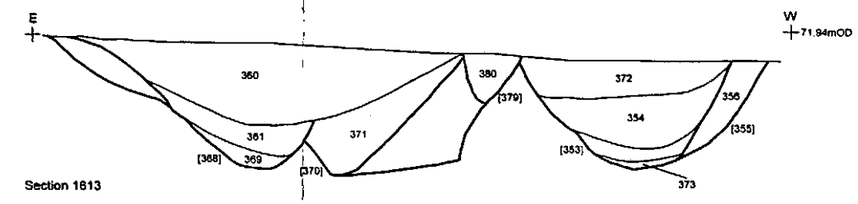

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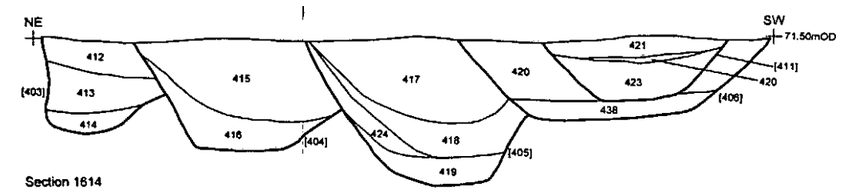

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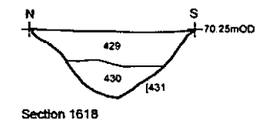

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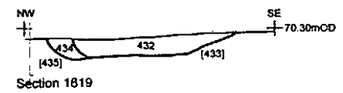

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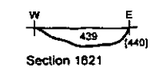

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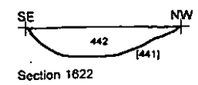

Section 1622

Figure 10: Section drawings 1597-1622 (scale 1:40)

Appendix 3
The Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery (A Provisional Dating Report)
A. R. Fawcett BA, MA

Introduction

This report provides dating evidence for each context and feature that contained pottery from the Land at Meppershall, Bedfordfordshire. Dating is based (where possible) upon both the identification of form and fabric. The report also contains a brief summary of the results of analysis.

Methodology

Quantification is by sherd count and weight per fabric. A synopsis of the results are presented below. The assemblage from each context was given a brief macroscopic examination. No detailed fabric description of any of the material and no detailed comparison with other material of a similar nature has been attempted. The spot date for each context is based upon the most recent sherd. However, where applicable a range is given and comments directed toward the condition of the majority of pottery. Fabric and form keys are provided below to ease reference. The fabric key uses two sets of codes, those which relate to the national system (Tomber & Dore 1998) and those in brackets, which represent the Bedfordshire type series (Slowikowski unpub).

Fabric Key

MON SA (R01B)	Montans samian ware
LMV SA (R01A)	Les Martres-de-Veyre samian ware
LEZ SA 2 (R01A)	Lezoux samian ware category 2
ARG SA (R01C)	Argonne samian ware
CHF SA (R01C)	Chemery-Faulquemont samian ware
RHZ SA (R01C)	Rheinzabern samian ware
TRI SA (R01C)	Trier samian ware
COL CC (R04E)	Colchester colour coated ware
LNV CC (R12B)	Lower Nene Valley colour coated ware
OXF RS (R11G)	Oxford red/brown slipped ware
OXF RS (R11F)	Oxford red/brown slipped ware (mortaria)
UNS CC (R38)	Unsourced colour coats
LNV WH (R12A)	Lower Nene Valley white ware (mortaria)
OXF WH (R11E)	Oxford white ware
VER WH (R03A)	Verulamium white ware
UNS WH (R03B)	Unsourced sandy white ware
HAD WS (-)	Hadham white slipped ware
HAD OX (R22A)	Hadham oxidised ware
UNS OX (R05A)	Unsourced sandy orange wares
UNS FO (R05B)	Unsourced fine orange wares
UNS BU (R10A)	Unsourced sandy buff wares
ALH RE (-)	Alice Holt reduced ware
DOR BB 1 (R07A)	Dorset black burnished ware category 1
UNS BB (R07C)	Unsourced black burnished ware (local copy)
BSW (R07B & E)	Black surfaced wares
BSW F (-)	Fine black surfaced wares
GRS (R06B)	Unsourced sandy grey wares
GRS (R06E)	Unsourced calcareous grey wares

GRF (R06C)	Unsourced fine grey wares
HAD RE 1 (R22B)	Hadham reduced ware category 1
HAD RE 2 (R22C)	Hadham reduced ware category 2 (burnished)
LON FR (R37)	London fine reduced ware
VER RE (-)	Verulamium reduced ware
HAR SH (R13)	Harrold shell tempered ware
UNS SH (R13)	Unsourced shell tempered ware
PNK GT (R09B)	Pink grog tempered ware
SOB GT (F06B)	Southern British grog tempered ware (medium)
UNS GS (F33)	Unsourced grog and shell tempered ware
GAL AM (R19)	Gaulish amphorae fabrics

(fabrics with St attached indicates storage jar fabric: italics denote unsure identification or date)

Form Key

B = Dish, C = Bowl, D = Mortaria, G = Jar, H = Beaker, J = Flagon, T = cup

Ceramic Catalogue

Context	Ceramic Listing	Date Ramge	Comments
U/S	2 x [R01a] LEZ SA 2 - Drg30 AD120-later 2nd C AD - (59g) 15 x [R11g] OXF RS - C hemispherical AD240-4th C AD - (143g) 1 x [R38] UNS CC - (73g) 1 x [R12a] LNV WH m - 2nd-4th C AD - (63g) 1 x [R10a] UNS BU - G lid seat - (41g) 5 x [R22a] HAD OX - (26g) 4 x [R05a] UNS OX - G, G lid seat - (59g) 5 x [R07a] DOR BB 1 - B plain 3rd C AD, C flat rim 2nd C AD - (235g) 10 x [R07c] UNS BB - B plain rim, G lid seat - (198g) 4 x [R07b] BSW - (37g) 1 x [-] BSWf - (39g) 8 x [R06c] GRF - (87g) 12 x [R06b] GRS - C flanged, flat rim, G, G - (297g) 3 x [R06b] GRS St - (66g) 7 x [R13] HAR SH - (116g) 3 x [R13] HAR SH St - (154g) 1 x [R13] UNS SH - G lid seat - (12g) 2 x [F06b] SOB GT - (33g)	2nd to 4th C AD (see coments)	85 at 1738g. The overall condition of the unstratified pottery is good. Of note is a quarter complete BB1 plain rimmed dish and Oxford hemispherical flanged bowl. There is nothing dated to before the 2nd century AD, however the majority sits well within the 4th century AD.
Trial Trench			
3004	1 x [R06b] GRS - (13g)	Roman	1 at 13g.
6004	1 x [R22b] - HAD RE 1 - (12g)	2nd to 4th C AD	1 at 12g. Later fabric.
8005	1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (6g) 1 x [-] BSWf - (5g) 1 x [R06c] GRF - (2g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (5g) 1 x [R22c] HAD RE 2 - (10g) 1 x [R13] UNS SH - G late 2nd - 4th C AD - (27g)	Late 2nd to 4th C AD	6 at 55g. The pottery displays slight abrasion.
8007	13 x [R07b] BSW - (116g) 1 x [-] VER RE - late 1st to 2nd C AD - (55g) 1 x [F33] UNS GS - (21g)	Late 1st to 2nd C AD	15 at 192g. All of the BSW sherds belong to the same vessel. The sherds are slightly abraded.
8009	1 x [R38] UNS CC - (3g) 2 x [R03a] VER WH -mid/late 1st to mid/late 2nd C AD - (17g) 2 x [R22a] HAD OX - G 3rd to 4th C AD	Late 1st to 4th C AD see comments	19 at 205g. All of the pottery has some abrasion. Mostly it is dated up to the mid 2nd century. The later Roman date is derived from a Hadham neckless lid

	- (32g) 2 x [R05a] UNS OX - C late 1st to mid 2nd C AD - (22g) 4 x [R07c] UNS BB - (47g) 1 x [R07b] BSW - (9g) 2 x [R06b] GRS - G - (16g) 1 x [R06e] GRS - C - late 1st to early/mid 2nd C AD - (27g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (12g) 3 x [R13] HAR SH - (20g)		seated jar.
8017	1 x [R22a] HAD OX - late fabric - (6g) 4 x [R07a] DOR BB 1 - (22g) 2 x [R07c] UNS BB - G - (15g) 1 x [R06c] GRF - (13g) 2 x [R06b] GRS - (25g) 1 x [R06d] GRS - (4g) 1 x [R22c] HAD RE 2 - C flanged - (12g) 4 x [R13] HAR SH C late 3rd to mid 4th C AD - (67g)	Mid 3rd to 4th C AD	16 at 164g. The condition is variable.
Excavation			
005	3 x [R03a] VER WH C reed rim early to mid 2nd C AD, C reed rim early to late 2nd C AD - (72g) 3 x [R07b] BSW - G late 1st to late 2nd C AD - (15g) 3 x [R06b] GRS - (39g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - (15g)	Early to late 2nd C AD	11 at 141g. Two Verulamium reed rim bowls are noted Ver 2444 & 2448. The condition is variable.
006	2 x [R06b] GRS - G - (32g)	2nd to 4th C AD	2 at 32g.
007	1 x [R01a] LMV SA - Drg37 AD100-135 - (10g) 3 x [R12b] LNV CC - AD150 to 4th C AD - (9g) 1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (3g) 3 x [R10a] UNS BU - (45g) 6 x [R07c] UNS BB - B flanged 4th C AD - (64g) 8 x [R07b] BSW - G - (114g) 1 x [R07f] BSWf - barbotine decoration poppy head beaker sherd - (35g) 5 x [R06b] GRS - B mid 2nd to early 3rd C AD, G lid seat - (47g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (8g) 3 x [R13] HAR SH - (14g) 2 x [F06b] SOB GT St - G early to late 2nd C AD - (89g)	2nd C AD	34 at 438g. The samian sherd and the latest flanged dish sherd are abraded. The best surviving pieces are all dated within the 2nd century AD.
011	1 x [R22a] HAD OX - late fabric - (8g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (19g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH St - (26g)	*3rd to 4th C AD*	4 at 53g.
012	1 x [R07c] UNS BB - G - (11g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (4g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (23g)	2nd to 4th C AD	3 at 38g. All of the sherds are abraded and non-diagnostic.
MD12	1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (5g) 1 x [R07b] BSW - (7g) 1 x [R06c] GRF - (7g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (43g)	2nd to 4th C AD	4 at 62g. No diagnostic sherds are present.
014	3 x [R06b] GRS - (12g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (17g)	Roman	4 at 29g.
016	1 x [R05a] UNS OX - H 2nd C AD - (3g) 4 x [R07b] BSW - 2nd C AD decoration - (142g)	2nd C AD+	5 at 145g. The oxidised beaker is very abraded.
018	1 x [R07b] BSW - (15g) 1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (3g) 1 x [R06b]GRS - (8g)	2nd to 4th C AD	3 at 26g. No diagnostic sherds are present.
019	1 x [R03b] UNS WH - (1g) 1 x [R07a] DOR BB 1 - (19g) 3 x [R07c] UNS BB - (70g) 2 x [R07b] BSW - G - (13g) 2 x [R06b] GRS - (29g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH G Brown 178 late 3rd to 4th C AD - (36g) 4 x [R13] HAR SH St - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (298g)	Late 3rd to 4th C AD	14 at 466g. Only slight abrasion is noted on most sherds.

021	1 x [R07b] BSW - G 2nd to 4th C AD - (15g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (8g)	2nd to 4th C AD	2 at 23g.
023	2 x [R12b] LNV CC - C 4th C AD - (40g) 1 x [R07a] DOR BB 1 - (62g) 1 x [R07b] BSW - G 2nd - 4th C AD - (32g) 1 x [R06c] GRF - (3g) 2 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (83g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (6g)	4th C AD	8 at 226g. An unsual bowl form is noted in LNV CC similar to 269 (Perrin 1999) with barbotine decoration. Also in the same fabric is a late metallic colour coat. The BSW fabric is almost vitrified.
031	1 x [R38] UNS CC - ?B - (3g) 3 x [R06b] GRS B flanged - (60g)	Mid 3rd to mid 4th C AD	4 at 63g.
033	1 x [R22a] HAD OX - ?G - (5g) 2 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (35g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - (51g)	3rd to 4th C AD	5 at 91g. All the Hadham fabrics are in the late style, more likely to be 4th C AD.
036	1 x [R07A] DOR BB 1 - B - (22g) 2 x [R07c] UNS BB - (26g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (27g) 2 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (5g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - B - (188g)	Late 3rd to 4th C AD	8 at 268g. All of the pottery is abraded.
040	1 x [R03a] VER WH - (3g) 4 x [R06b] GRS - G - (14g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (4g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (5g)	Late 1st to late 2nd C AD	7 at 26g. The pottery is very abraded.
046	1 x [R03a] VER WH - (3g) 1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (7g) 1 x [R07c] UNS BB - G 2nd to 4th C AD - (12g) 2 x [R07b] BSW - (13g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (3g) 1 x [R06d] GRS - H late 1st to 2nd C AD - (4g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (4g)	Late 1st to late 2nd C AD	8 at 46g. All of the sherds are abraded.
054	1 x [R05a] UNS OX St - (25g) 1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (8g)	2nd to 4th C AD	2 at 33g. Both sherds are very abraded.
056	3 x [R05a] UNS OX - (20g) 3 x [R07c] UNS BB - (42g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (8g) 1 x [R06e] GRS - (5g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH St - (31g)	2nd to 4th C AD	9 at 106g. All of the sherds are abraded.
058	1 x [R12b] LNV CC - AD150 to 4th C AD - (2g) 1 x [R11g] OXF RS - AD240 to 4th C AD - (79g) 2 x [R22a] HAD OX - C mid 3rd to 4th C AD - (38g) 1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (6g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (17g) 2 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 (9g) 1 x [22c] HAD RE 2 - C flanged late 3rd to 4th C AD - (43g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (20g)	Late 3rd to 4th C AD.	10 at 214g. The Hadham flanged bowl has a parallel at Verulamium 2473. The assembalge is more likely to be dated within the 4th century AD.
059	1 x [R01c] CHF SA - early to mid 2nd C AD - (1g) 2 x [R22a] HAD OX - late fabric - (23g) 1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (23g) 2 x [R06b] GRS - (13g) 5 x [R13] HAR SH - late fabric - (61g)	Late 3rd to 4th C AD	11 at 121g. The samian sherd is extremely abraded. The Harrold sherds display rilling.
062	1 x *[R11g] OXF RS* - AD240 to 4th C AD - (15g) 1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (5g) 2 x [R07c] UNS BB - (10g) 3 x [R06b] GRS - G mid 3rd to 4th C AD - (122g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (6g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - (36g)	Mid 3rd to 4th C AD	10 at 194g. The greyware jar is similar to 342 at Chells. The condition of the pottery is variable.
065	3 x [R03a] VER WH mid/late 1st to late 2nd C AD - (160g) 1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (6g) 14 x [R07b] BSW - B late 1st to early 2nd C AD, G ledge rim late 1st to mid 2nd C AD, G x 2 late 1st to late 2nd C AD - (288g) 5 x [R06b] GRS - (71g)	Late 1st to mid 2nd C AD	35 at 1168g. The assemblage is in good condition with many joining sherds. Two types of ledge rim jar are noted.

	6 x [R06e] GRS - G late 1st to late 2nd C AD - (185g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - G ledge rim late 1st to late 2nd C AD - (72g) 4 x [R06c] SOB GT St - (386g)		
067	1 x [R07c] UNS BB - B early to mid 2nd C AD - (42g) 3 x [R06b] GRS - (55g)	Early to late 2nd C AD	4 at 97g. The dish is poorly made and is close to Verulamium 2546.
069	3 x [R07b] BSW - (34g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (29g)	Roman	4 at 63g. The sherds are more likely no later than the 2nd C AD.
071	1 x [F03] UNS GS - (11g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (3g)	Mid 1st to early 2nd C AD	2 at 14g. Both sherds are abraded. The Harrold fabric is an early one.
073	1 x [R01] UNS SA - Drg18 1st to early 2nd C AD - (3g) 2 x [R12b] LNV CC - AD150 to 4th C AD - (15g) 1 x [R12a] LNV WH - AD100 to 410 - (21g) 1 x [R11e] OXF WH - early 3rd to 4th C AD - (57g) 2 x [R03a] VER WH - mid/late 1st to late 2nd C AD - (9g) 1 x [R03b] UNS WH - (36g) 2 x [R22a] HAD OX - (14g) 6 x [R07b] BSW - (135g) 13 x [R06b] GRS - G lid seat, G - (115g) 5 x [R13] HAR SH - G 4th C AD - (77g)	4th C AD	34 at 482g. All of the pottery suffers from abrasion. However the Harrold jar (Baldock 752), dated to the 4th C AD, is in a considerably better state. Nonetheless there is a significant 2nd to 3rd century element to the assemblage. Also of note is an unusual samian fabric which appears misfired. Further analysis may indicate an Italian source, the sherd is abraded.
076	1 x [R06b] GRS - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (25g)	3rd to 4th C AD	1 at 25g.
083	1 x [R07b] BSW - (15g) 1 x [R06b] - GRS - (9g) 2 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (9g)	Late 1st to 4th C AD	4 at 33g. All the sherds are abraded.
085	1 x [R01c] UNS SA (6g) 1 x [-] UNS WS - (6g) 3 x [R06b] - GRS - G - (21g) 16 x [R13] HAR SH - (529g)	2nd to 4th C AD	21 at 562g. The Harrold sherds all join to form the lower half of a jar, in good condition. The remaining sherds are abraded.
087	1 x [R01a] LEZ SA 2 - AD120 to late 2nd C AD - (<1g) 2 x [R06b] - GRS - ?B - (51g) 1 x [R13] UNS SH - (3g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - G - 3rd to 4th C AD - (11g)	3rd to 4th C AD	5 at 66g. The samian sherd is a small sliver.
090	1 x *[R03a] VER WH* - late 1st to late 2nd C AD - (2g) 2 x [R05a] UNS OX - ?G - (34g) 5 x [R07b] BSW - (42g) 9 x [R06b] GRS - G narrow neck - (65g) 12 x [R06e] GRS - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (671g) 4 x [R13] HAR SH - (133g)	3rd to 4th C AD	33 at 947g. The calcareous sherds all join and are in good condition. The jar form is matched at Baldock No 681 dated to the 3rd century. Undoubtedly it has a longer life.
102	1 x [R12b] LNV CC - AD150 to 410 - (6g) 1 x [R03a] VER WH - late 1st to late 2nd C AD - (5g) 1 x [R22a] HAD OX - G late fabric - (12g) 1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (9g) 2 x [R07b] BSW - (10g) 13 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - C flanged late 3rd to mid 4th C AD - (298g) 7 x [R13] HAR SH - (234g)	Late 3rd to mid 4th C AD	26 at 574g. The Hadham and Harrold sherds are in the best condition with many joins. The flanged bowl is matched at Verrulamium, No 2474. The remaining fabrics are abraded and small.
104	1 x [R01b] LGF SA - mid 1st to AD120 - (2g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (3g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - G ledge rim late 1st to mid 2nd C AD - (152g)	Late 1st to mid 2nd C AD	4 at 157g. The ledge rim jar sherd is large and in good condition.
106	1 x [R12b] LNV CC - AD150 to 410 - (4g) 1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (4g) 4 x [R07b] BSW - (69g) 4 x [R06b] GRS - B AD120+ - (57g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (17g)	AD150 to 4th C AD	11 at 151g. The condition is variable.
108	2 x [R01b] LGF SA - mid 1st to AD120 - (9g) 4 x [R03a] VER WH - late 1st to late 2nd C AD - (32g) 1 x [-] HAD WS - late 1st to 2nd C AD - (7g)	*c* 2nd C AD	40 at 446g. The pottery is in a variable state with no clear division between coarse ware forms. The samian sherds are

	4 x [R07c] UNS BB - G lid seat - (34g) 10 x [R07b] BSW - (113g) 17 x [R06b] - G, G lid seat - (109g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH St - G 2nd to 3rd C AD - (142g)		particularly abraded.
111	1 x [R12b] LNV CC - AD150 to 410 - (10g) 1 x [R03a] VER WH - C reed rim *c* mid 2nd C AD - (13g) 5 x [R07b] BSW - (35g) 4 x GRS [R06b] - B late 2nd to early 3rd - (84g) 3 x [R13] HAR SH - G ledge rim - (108g)	Mid to late 2nd C AD	14 at 250g. All of the pottery is slightly abraded. The GRS dish has a match at Verulamium 2558. The ledge rim jar style appears to pre-date the 2nd century.
115	1 x [R11g] OXF RS - C AD280 to 4th C AD - (58g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - (15g)	AD280 to 4th C AD	3 at 73g. The Oxford bowl is a Young C48.3.
120	1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (16g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (3g)	3rd to 4th C AD	2 at 19g.
122	1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (5g) 2 x [R06b] GRS - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (44g) 3 x [R07b] BSW - (61g)	3rd to 4th C AD	6 at 110g. The sherds are slighty abraded.
124	1 x [R07b] BSW - G *3rd to 4th C AD* - (15g)	*3rd to 4th C AD*	1 at 15g.
125	2 x [R12b] LNV CC - B 3rd to 4th C AD, ?C - (46g) 1 x [R11g] OXF RS - AD240 to 410 - (9g) 2 x [R22a] HAD OX - G late 3rd to 4th C AD - (38g) 4 x [R07c] UNS BB - (66g) 2 x [R07b] BSW - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (50g) 5 x [R06b] GRS - (81g) 4 x [R13] HAR SH - G 4th C AD - (65g)	Late 3rd to 4th C AD	20 at 355g. One of the Nene Valley forms is an unusual bowl type. The pottery is variable in condition.
134	3 x [R01a] LEZ SA 2 - AD120 to late 2nd C AD - (25g) 3 x [R12b] LNV CC - C flanged late 3rd to 4th C AD - (512g) 1 x [R11g] OXF RS - AD240 to 410 - (5g) 2 x [R38] UNS CC - (12g) 2 x [R11a] OXF WH - (269g) 1 x [-] HAD WS - E lid seat late 3rd to 4th C AD - (34g) 16 x [-] *HAD WS* - D 3rd to 4th C AD - (974g) 5 x [R22a] HAD OX - C flanged mid 3rd to 4th C AD - (41g) 3 x [R05a] UNS OX - (12g) 5 x [R07a] DOR BB 1 - (86g) 5 x [R07c] UNS BB - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (49g) 8 x [R07b] BSW - (28g) 2 x [R06c] GRF - (14g) 21 x [R06b] GRS - B late 3rd to 4th C AD, G x 2 - (279g) 4 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (76g) 45 x [R13] HAR SH - G x 2 4th C AD - (1511g) 5 x [R13] HAR SH St - (275g)	Late 3rd to 4th C AD	131 at 4202g. The condition of the pottery in this context is very good. An average of 32g per sherd reflects this. However the samian is very abraded. The flanged bowl is in the Perrin category 258-261 (1999), it is virtually whole. The Hadham mortaria is also almost complete. However this is not a secure identification. The form is not typical of Hadham or infact Oxford which is often confused with Hadham products. Within the Harrold category are two jar types one almost complete. A more detailed analysis of form will undoubtedly refine this late group to a date in the 4th century AD.
136	1 x [R03a] VER WH C reed rim early to mid 2nd C AD - (12g) 1 [R07b] BSW - G late 1st to late 2nd C AD - (3g) 5 x [F06c] SOB GT St - (154g)	Early to mid 2nd C AD	7 at 169g. The Verulamium reed rim bowl is a match for 2448 at the city.
138	1 x [R11e] OXF WH - D 3rd to 4th C AD - (77g) 2 x [R06b] GRS - (15g)	3rd to 4th C AD	3 at 92g.
140	1 x *[R01b] MON SA* B 15/17 1st C AD - (3g) 1 x [R01c] RHZ SA - AD138 to early 3rd C AD - (26g) 1 x [R03a] VER WH - AD150-200 - (27g) 1 x [R07b] BSW - (5g) 8 x [R06b] GRS - G 2nd C AD - (107g) 21 x [R13] HAR SH - (215g)	Mid to later 2nd C AD	32 at 383g. With the exception of the Montans sherd all of the pottery is in a fair condition. The Verulamium jar is similar to 2258 in the corpus.
144	1 x [R12b] LNV CC - late fabric - (25g) 3 x [R07b] BSW - G - (266g)	3rd to 4th C AD	5 at 295g. All of the sherds are abraded.

	1 x [R13] HAR SH - late fabric - (4g)		
148	2 x [R06b] GRS - G narrow neck - (29g)	2nd to 4th C AD	2 at 29g.
154	1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (19g) 1 x [-] LON FR - C early to mid 2nd C AD (9g) 1 x [R07b] BSW - (8g) 2 x [R06b] GRS - (17g) 42 x [R06b] GRS - G late 1st to early/mid 2nd C AD - (600g) 3 x [R13] HAR SH - G ledge rim late 1st to mid/late 2nd C AD - (10g) 2 x [F33] UNS GS - (34g)	Late 1st to mid 2nd C AD	52 at 697g The GRS jar is almost complete, displaying cordons, grooves and a double lattice pattern. Similar types are recorded at Verulamium (2203) and Chells (172: Waugh 1999). It is a Romanised Belgic form. The London fine reduced ware bowl has a rare beaker type rim. A similar vessel is noted at Baldock No 484 (Stead 1986).
155	9 x [R01a] LEZ SA 2 - Drg 33 x2 mid to later 2nd C AD (46g) 1 x [R01c] RHZ SA - AD138 to mid 3rd C AD - (31g) 2 x [R01c] TRI SA - Drg31 mid 2nd to early 3rd C AD - (14g) 6 x [R01c] EGA SA - early 2nd to early 3rd C AD - (64g) 4 x [R12b] LNV CC - AD150 to 410 - (40g) 5 x [R11g] OXF RS - C AD240 to 410 - (88g) 2 x [R12a] LNV WH mo - AD100 to 410 - (32g) 2 x [R11c] OXF WH - AD100 to 410 - (61g) 9 x [R03a] VER WH late 1st to late 2nd C AD - (111g) 1 x [R03c] UNS WH - (4g) 1 x [-] HAD WS - late 1st to 2nd C AD -(46g) 15 x [R22a] HAD OX - G x 2 mid 3rd to 4th C AD - (120g) 14 x [R05a] UNS OX - G 2nd to 4th C AD - (174g) 1 x [R05b] UNS FO - (4g) 1 x [-] ALH RE - 3rd to 4th C AD - (16g) 8 x [R07a] DOR BB 1 - B 3rd to 4th C AD - (177g) 32 x [R07c] UNS BB - B x4 2nd to 4th C AD, G x2 3rd C AD - (547g) 39 x [R07b] BSW - C 3rd to 4th C AD, G x3 narrow-neck 3rd C AD - (447g) 79 x [R06b] GRS - B x5 2nd to 4th C AD, B AD200-50, G x7 2nd to 4th C AD - (1419g) 8 x [R06b] GRS St - (338g) 15 x [R06e] - B 2nd to 4th C AD, G x2 - (240g) 15 x [R06c] GRF - (201g) 23 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - B 4th C AD, B incipient flange AD200 to 250, G 2 x 3rd to 4th C AD - (258g) 3 x [R22c] HAD RE 2 - 3rd to 4th C AD - (90g) 45 x [R13] HAR SH - G late 2nd to 3rd C AD, G late 2nd to 4th C AD - (670g) 23 x HAR SH St - G 2nd C AD - (963g)	3rd to 4th C AD (see comments)	368 at 6201g. The vast majority of pottery in this context is in good condition. However, all of the samian, Hadham oxidised ware, Nene Valley colour coats and most of the Oxford ware is considerably abraded in comparison to the rest of the assemblage. Secondly there is a complete absence of clear later coarseware forms, for instance flanged dishes. There are many forms with a long 'shelf life' and more detailed examination of these will be needed to determine their true date. In general the assemblage is 3rd to 4th century in nature, although clearly a 2nd century element is present. Of interest is a possible Alice Holt reduced flask form. The sherd in this context joins with 221. Secondly a reduced mortaria sherd is a possible east Anglian import. A number of forms are not common in the grey ware categories including a number of seconds.
156	1 x [R01a] LEZ SA 2 - (3g) 1 x [R12b] LNV CC - H - (2g) 1 x [R11g] OXF RS - AD240 to 410 - (7g) 1 x [-] HAD MD - C 2nd C AD - (20g) 1 x [R11a] OXF WH - D 3rd to 4th C AD - (44g) 1 x [R03a] VER WH - unknown form - (36g) 7 x [R22a] HAD OX - G lid seat, G bifid rim - (75g) 3 x [R05a] UNS OX - C, J - (23g) 2 x [R07b] - BSW - (13g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (13g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 -?G - (10g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (7g)	2nd to 4th C AD	21 at 253g. All of the sherds in this context are abraded. The preponderance is 3rd to 4th century AD.
158	1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (3g) 1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (8g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (113g) 3 x [A05] Shell, organics and quartz hand-	Early Saxon	6 at 209g. The hand-made fabrics are in good condition. The Roman material appears to be all late.

	made - (85g)		
162	2 x [R01a] LEZ SA 2 - C Drg31R AD160 to late 2nd C AD - (30g) 4 x [R22a] HAD OX - G late 3rd to 4th C AD - (123g) 1 x [R07a] DOR BB 1 - C flanged 4th C AD - (177g) 7 x [R07c] UNS BB - B, C, G 3rd to 4th C AD - (240g) 1 x [R07b] BSW - (5g) 6 x [R06b] GRS - G lid seat, G late 3rd to 4th C AD - (146g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (11g) 1 x [R22c] HAD RE 2 - (22g) 3 x [R13] HAR SH - Gx2 2nd to 4th C AD - (47g)	4th C AD	26 at 801g. The samian sherds join but both are abraded. The remainder is in good condition. Many sherds join with those in 163. The Dorset black burnished bowl has a match at Verualmium 2495.
163	1 x [R38] UNS CC - (6g) 5 x [R22a] HAD OX - G late 3rd to 4th C AD - (29g) 2 x [R07a] DOR BB 1 Bx2 3rd to 4th C AD - (47g) 9 x [R07c] UNS BB - B, C, G 3rd to 4th C AD - (134g) 12 x [R06b] GRS - C flanged, G - 3rd to 4th C AD - (155g) 3 x [R06e] GRS - B, G - (21g) 4 x [R06c] GRF - (15g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 -(10g) 11 x [R13] HAR SH G 3rd to 4th C AD - (353g)	3rd to 4th CAD	48 at 770g. The sherds demonstrate variable abrasion. There are a number of joins to 162.
171	1 x [R38] UNS CC - (2g) 1 x [R22a] HAD OX -late fabric - (4g) 2 x [R06b] GRS - (14g) 1 x [R22c] HAD RE 2 - (2g)	3rd to 4th C AD	5 at 22g. All the sherds are abraded.
173	1 x [R12b] LNV CC - B plain late 3rd to 4th C AD - (10g) 2 x [R11f] OXF RS - D 4th C AD - (57g) 1 x [R05a] UNS OX - C hemis 4th C AD - (36g)	4th C AD	4 at 103g. The sherds are all abraded.
179	2 x [R07b] BSW - (13g) 4 x [R06b] GRS - G - (30g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (9g)	3rd to 4th C AD	7 at 52g. All seven sherds are abraded.
187	4 x [R01a] LEZ SA 2 - Drg31 AD150 to late 2nd C AD - (60g) 1 x [R01c] ARG SA - Drg18/31 or 31 - AD120 to 260 - (7g) 1 x [R01c] CHF SA - Drg37 AD117 to 150 - (17g) 2 x [R03a] VER WH - C reed rim early/mid to late 2nd C AD - (49g) 1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (38g) 3 x [R07c] UNS BB - (74g) 7 x [R07b] BSW - B AD138 to 192 - (199g) 7 x [R06b] - G late 1st 2nd C AD - (172g) 11 x [R13] HAR SH - G late 2nd to 4th C AD - (200g)	AD150 to late 2nd C AD	37 at 816g. The majority of sherds are in good condition. In particular the reed rim bowl and plain rimmed dish.
198	1 x [R01a] LEZ SA 2 - AD120 to late 2nd C AD - (6g) 1 x [R01c] RHZ SA - AD138 to early 3rd C AD - (7g) 4 x [R11g] OXF RS - AD240 to 410 - (34g) 1 x [R11f] OXF RS - D 4th C AD - (67g) 14 x [12b] LNV CC - J x2, G 4th C AD - (230g) 2 x [R22a] HAD OX - (139g) 8 x [R05a] UNS OX - G, J - (82g) 1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (7g) 5 x [R07b] BSW - (77g) 6 x [R06b] GRS - G - (53g) 1 x [R06e] GRS - (21g) 4 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 (47g) 12 x [R13] HAR SH - G x3 late 3rd to 4th C AD - (347g)	4th C AD	60 at 1117g. Both samian fabrics are very abraded. The remainder of the assemblage displays variable abrasion. Both of the Nene Valley flagons are unusual.

210	1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (9g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - (83g)	Roman	3 at 92g.
213	1 x [R05a] UNS OX - ?B - (5g)	Roman	1 at 5g.
214	1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (23g) 3 x [R06b] GRS - B 3rd to 4th C AD - (62g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (26g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH St - G 4th C AD - (73g)	4th C AD	6 at 184g. Abrasion is variable.
218	1 x [R06b] - GRS - (5g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (11g)	Roman	2 at 16g.
221	3 x [R01a] LEZ SA 2 - Drg31 AD150 to late 2nd C AD - (113g) 2 x [R12b] LNV CC - B late 3rd to 4th C AD - (25g) 1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (3g) 3 x [R05a] UNS OX - G - (24g) 2 x [R07a] DOR BB 1 - B 3rd to 4th C AD - (27g) 4 x [-] *ALH RE* - Flask ?4th C AD - (123g) 5 x [R07c] UNS BB - B - (68g) 7 x [R07b] BSW - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (115g) 9 x [R06b] GRS - C flanged 3rd to 4th C AD - (99g) 1 x [R06c] GRF - (5g) 1 x [R06e] GRS - (11g) 2 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (20g) 80 x [R13] HAR SH - C flanged, G x2 late 3rd to 4th C AD - (1698g) 7 x [R13] HAR SH St - G 4th C AD - (292g) 1 x [R19] GAL AM - mid 1st to AD260 - (99g)	4th C AD	128 at 2722g. The samian is abraded in contrast to the Harrold ware. Two virtually complete jars and flanged bowl are present. A possible, almost complete, Alice Holt flask is also noted. Sherds from this vessel join with 155 as well as a number of other fabric forms.
223	1 x [R06e] GRS St - (24g)	Roman	1 at 24g.
225	1 x [R13] HAR SH - (14g)	Late 2nd to 4th C AD	1 at 14g.
227	1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (5g) 2 x [R07c] UNS BB - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (46g) 3 x [R06b] GRS - (15g) 1 x [R06e] GRS - (3g) 3 x[R13] HAR SH - (26g)	3rd to 4th C AD	10 at 95g. All of the sherds are considerably abraded.
230	6 x [R07b] BSW -G late 1st to 2nd C AD?+ - (387g) 7 x [R13] HAR SH - (374g) 4 x [F33] UNS GS - (451g)	Late 1st to 2nd C AD	17 at 1212g. The sherds in this context are in very good condition. However the only diagnostic element is a long lived necked jar form with an everted rim. Two other jars are present. The combination of fabric types suggest a date no later than the 2nd C AD.
232	1 x [R05b] UNS FO - (12g) 2 x [R07c] UNS BB - (25g) 8 x [R07b] BSW - (74g) 4 x [R06b] GRS - (54g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (26g) 2 x [R22c] HAD RE 2 - (19g) 7 x [R13] HAR SH - G 2nd to 4th C AD - (114g) 1 x [F33] UNS GS - (48g)	?3rd to 4th C AD	26 at 372g. The condition of the sherds is variable.
237	2 x [R12b] LNV CC - AD150 to 410 - (24g) 3 x [R07b] BSW - (26g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (65g) 1 x [R19] UNS AM - (23g)	AD150 to 410	7 at 138g. All of the sherds are abraded.
239	1 x [R04e] COL CC - AD120 to early 3rd C AD - (4g) 1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (14g) 1 x Modern redware - (9g)	AD120 to early 3rd C AD	3 x 27g. The sherds are very abraded.
241	1 x [R06b] GRS - (18g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - G - (147g)	2nd to 4th C AD	3 at 165g. All of the sherds are abraded.
244	1 x [R03b] UNS WH - (6g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (33g)	Roman	2 at 39g. The sherds are very abraded.
247	1 x [R07b] BSW - (8g) 1 x [F33] UNS GS - G mid 1st to early 2nd C AD - (13g)	Mid 1st to early 2nd C AD	2 at 21g. Both sherds are very abraded.
251	2 x [R06b] GRS - (11g)	Roman	2 at 11g.

			Sherds join.
266	1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (11g)	AD120 to 410	1 at 11g.
269	1 x [R38] UNS CC - C hemis 3rd to 4th C AD - (26g) 1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (26g)	3rd to 4th C AD	2 at 52g. Both sherds are abraded.
271	5 x [R22a] HAD OX - (10g) 2 x [R7c] UNS BB - (4g) 1 x [R07b] BSW - (7g) 2 x [R06b] GRS - (2g)	*3rd to 4th C AD*	10 at 23g. The sherds are all very fragmented.
278	1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (7g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (11g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (14g)	*3rd to 4th C AD*	3 at 32g. All the sherds are abraded.
280	1 x [R12b] LNV CC - C hemis late 3rd to 4th C AD - (49g)	Late 3rd to 4th C AD	1 at 49g. The sherd is very abraded.
282	1 x [R13] HAR SH - (3g)	2nd to 4th C AD	1 at 3g.
283	1 x [R01a] LEZ SA 2 - AD120 to late 2nd C AD - (2g) 2 x [R12b] LNV CC - B flanged 4th C AD - (20g) 1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (<1g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - G - (9g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (2g)	4th C AD	6 at 34g. All of the sherds are very abraded.
284	1 x [R04e] COL CC - AD120 to early 3rd C AD - (2g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - B 2nd to 4th C AD - (11g)	AD120 to early 3rd C AD	3 at 13g.
291	1 x TRI SA - AD138 to mid 3rd C AD - (10g) 1 x [R12b] LNV CC - AD150 to 410 - (9g) 1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (2g) 1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (5g) 5 x [R07c] UNS BB - B early 2nd to 4th C AD - (72g) 4 x [R06b] GRS - G x2 - (35g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (2g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - G late 2nd to 4th C AD - (15g)	AD150 to 4th C AD	16 at 150g. All of the sherds are very abraded.
294	2 x [R06b] GRS - (15g)	Roman	2 at 15g. Both sherds are abraded.
296	2 x [R12b] LNV CC - B x2 plain late 3rd to 4th C AD - (16g) 1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (13g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (6g)	Late 3rd to 4th C AD	4 at 35g. All of the sherds are abraded.
305	2 x [R06b] GRS - (35g)	Roman	2 at 35g.
307	1 x [R07b] BSW - G late 1st to 2nd C AD - (5g)	Late 1st to 2nd C AD	1 at 5g.
310	1 x [R11g] OXF RS - C AD280 to 410 - (13g)	AD280 to 410	1 at 13g. The sherd is very abraded.
333	1 x [R01a] LEZ SA 2 - AD120 to late 2nd C AD - (3g) 2 x [R05a] UNS OX - (4g) 2 x [R07b] BSW - B plain early 2nd to 4th C AD - (15g) 1 x [R06e] GRS - (144g)	AD120 to late 2nd C AD	6 at 166g. All of the sherds are very abraded.
337	2 x [R07c] UNS BB - (37g) 7 x [R07b] BSW - G - (24g) 8 x [R06b] GRS - G late 1st to 2nd C AD - (142g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - G - (40g)	Early to late 2nd C AD	19 at 243g. All of the sherds suffer from abrasion.
346	1 [R10a] UNS BU - (7g) 1 x [R07b] BSW - (28g)	Roman	2 at 35g.
349	1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (3g) 2 x [R07b] BSW - G - (9g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (33g)	3rd to 4th C AD	4 at 45g.
354	1 x [R01a] LMV SA - AD100 to 135 - (17g) 1 x [R01c] RHZ SA - C Drg31 AD150 to early 3rd C AD - (11g) 2 x [R10a] UNS BU - (91g) 2 x [R22a] HAD OX - (5g) 3 x [R07c] UNS BB - B AD120+ - (33g) 2 x [R07b] BSW - B mid 2nd + - (73g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (12g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - (67g)	Mid 2nd to early 3rd C AD	16 at 644g. All of the sherds display some abrasion. The mortaria is unusual in the pink grog tempered fabric.

	1 x [F33] UNS GS - (32g) 1 x [R09b] PNK GT - D 2nd C AD - (303g)		
358	4 x [R07b] BSW - G 2nd to 4th C AD - (102g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - G late 1st to 2nd C AD - (7g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - G lid seat 2nd to 4th C AD - (20g) 1 x [F33] UNS GS - (103g)	2nd to 4th C AD	3 at 64g.
359	1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (9g) 1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (21g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (33g)	2nd to 4th C AD	3 at 63g.
360	1 x [R01a] *LEZ SA 2* - AD120 to late 2nd C AD - (14g) 2 x [R12b] LNV CC - G late 3rd to 4th C AD - (64g) 1 x [R07c] UNS BB - 3rd to 4th C AD - (55g) 1 x [R07b] BSW - (12g) 4 x [R06b] GRS - G lid seat 3rd to 4th C AD - (25g) 12 x [R13] HAR SH - G x2 3rd to 4th C AD - (146g)	4th C AD	21 at 316g. All of the sherds display abrasion.
361	1 x [R01b] MON SA - 2nd C AD - (6g) 1 x [R07c] UNS BB - (8g) 1 x [R07b] BSW - (4g) 2 x [R06b] GRS - (12g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH - (41g)	2nd to 4th C AD	6 at 65g. The samian sherd is extremely abraded.
367	1 x [R06b] GRS - (4g) 3 x [R13] HAR SH - (51g)	2nd to 4th C AD	4 at 55g.
369	1 x [R11g] OXF RS - (5g) 3 x [R03a] VER WH - C reed rim mid to later 2nd C AD - (16g) 25 x [R07b] BSW - barbotine dots - (93g) 4 x [R06b] GRS - (27g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (13g) 3 x [R13] HAR SH - (77g)	Early/mid to late 2nd C AD	37 at 231g. All the sherds are abraded.
373	1 x [R01c] *TRI SA* - AD138 to early 3rd C AD - (2g) 1 x [R38] UNS CC - D - (23g) 1 x [R03a] VER WH - (6g) 3 x [R07b] BSW - (53g) 3 x [[R06b] GRS - B 2nd to 4th C AD - (53g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - (6g) 7 x [A19] Quartz, organics and calcite - domestic urn - (248g)	Early Saxon	17 at 391g. All of the Roman sherds are abraded. The Saxon vessel is hand-made and is very similar to the fabric noted in a previous context (158). However, at this stage an Iron Age date for the vessel cannot be ruled out completely. A check against the county fabric series will be needed to verify this fabric.
376	1 x [R03a] VER WH - C reed rim late 1st to mid 2nd C AD - (39g) 2 x [R07b] BSW - (10g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 (6g) 1 x[R13] HAR SH St - (83g)	Late 1st to mid 2nd C AD	5 at 138g.
391	8 x [R03a] VER WH - J mid/late 1st to 2nd C AD - (237g) 6 x [R05a] UNS OX - (40g) 164 x [R07b] BSW - G channel rim x 3 mid 1st to early 2nd C AD, G mid to late 1st C AD, G misc x5 - (2075g) 21 x [R06b] GRS - G mid 1st to late 2nd C AD, G - (330g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - (14g) 4 x [F33] UNS GS St - G 1st to early 2nd C AD - (184g)	Mid to late 1st/early 2nd C AD	205 at 2880g. The BSW category contains a number of reconstructable vessels. Many of the forms can be matched to the Baldock assemblage. The forms include a number of jars displaying cordons in the 'Belgic' style. The number of GRS sherds in comparison to BSW is a fair indicator for an early Roman date.
396	2 x [R05a] UNS OX - (14g) 1 x [R07b] BSW - B 2nd C AD+ - (25g) 3 x [R06b] GRS - G late 1st to 2nd C AD - (82g) 6 x [R13] HAR SH St - (215g)	2nd C AD	12 at 336g.
401	2 x [R01a] LEZ SA 2 - ?Drg 18/31 or 31 AD120 to late 2nd C AD - (17g) 1 x [R03e] UNS WH - (2g) 2 x [R05a] UNS OX - (3g) 5 x [R06b] GRS - C reed rim late 1st to 2nd C AD - (20g)	AD120 to late 2nd C AD	10 at 42g. All of the sherds are extremely abraded. The samian sherd displays an illegible stamp.

413	1 x [R13] HAR SH - (8g)	2nd to 4th C AD	1 at 8g.
415	1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (9g) 2 x [R05a] UNS OX - (34g) 4 x [R06b] GRS - (21g) 1 x [R06e] GRS - (38g) 2 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (62g) 3 x [R13] HAR SH St - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (141g)	3rd to 4th C AD	13 at 305g.
416	1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (81g) 1 x [R03b] UNS WH - (7g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (9g) 1 x [R13] HAR SH St - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (59g)	3rd to 4th C AD	4 at 156g. All of the sherds are extremely abraded.
420	1 x [R03a] VER WH - (5g) 3 x [R05a] HAD OX - (14g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (7g) 5 x [R13] HAR SH St - G 2nd to 4th C AD - (181g)	2nd to 4th C AD	10 at 207g.
423	1 x [R12b] LNV CC - AD150 to 410 - (7g) 1 x [R22a] HAD OX - (7g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (4g)	3rd to 4th C AD	3 at 18g. All of the sherds are very abraded.
425	2 x [R01c] UNS EG - (4g) 1 x [R05a] UNS OX - C hemis - (11g) 3 x [R06b] GRS - (33g)	2nd to 4th C AD	6 at 48g. All of the sherds are extremely abraded.
429	1 x [R07b] GRS - G late 1st 2nd C AD - (21g) 1 x [R22b] HAD RE 1 (8g)	Late 1st to 2nd C AD	2 at 29g.
439	1 x [R05a] UNS OX - (6g) 1 x [R06b] GRS - (9g)	Roman	2 at 15g.
442	1 x [R10a] UNS BU St - (49g) 4 x [R06b] GRS - B 3rd to 4th C AD - (177g) 2 x [R13] HAR SH - G 3rd to 4th C AD - (74g)	3rd to 4th C AD	7 at 300g.
609	3 x [R05a] UNS OX - G late 1st to 2nd C AD - (107g)	Late 1st to 2nd C AD	3 at 107g.

Results and Discussion

A total of 2084 sherds weighing 39552g were recovered from the excavations at Meppershall. Overall the condition of the pottery may be described as good with many cohesive groups.

Mid to late 1st/early 2nd century AD

This phase of activity is only clearly represented by a single context (391). However, the context contains over 200 sherds and is well dated. It is dominated by locally produced fabrics, the exception being a small number of non diagnostic flagon sherds from Verulamium.

2nd century AD

The 2nd century sees the first major phase of activity on the site and contexts, 007, 065, 140, 154 and 187 are representative of the period. The samian content however is fairly low, Lezoux in central Gaul dominates and thereafter, a small number of sherds from the eastern Gaul production centres such as Trier and Rheinzabern. The form range however is limited to mainly dishes, such as the Drg18/31 and 31 types. No other imports from the continent are present.
Only a small number of sherds from the Nene Valley and Colchester account for Romano-British finewares in this phase.
The coarseware assemblage consists of mostly locally produced wares in fabrics like BSW and GRS. Those which can be immediately sourced arrive from Verulamium and Hadham with even smaller numbers from the Nene Valley and Dorset, appearing after the middle part of the century. The other major provider at this stage are the kilns at Harrold in Bedfordshire.
The form range is dominated by jars and dishes with a depleted number of beakers, bowls, flagons and mortaria. This restricted range and lack of both continental and Romano-British finewares, is indicative of low status rural activity during this period. However the ceramics indicate a fairly intense use of the land.

3rd to 4th century AD

This phase, and in particular the 4th century AD, accounts for the preponderance of activity. Some of the best assemblages are found in 155, 162, 163 and 221, however there are many other examples dating to this period.
Apart from one or two possible third century samian fabrics most fineware examples are drawn from either the Nene Valley or Oxfordshire. These two rural nucleated industries dominate the later Roman period, although as noted in the 2nd century AD at Meppershall, fineware numbers are low. The identifiable forms consist mostly of dishes, bowls, mortaria with an occasional beaker and flagon.
The dominant sourced coarseware fabric, as might be expected due to the geographical location of the site, is Harrold shell tempered ware. The kilns supply a full range of jars including virtually all of the published large storage examples. Amongst the assemblage are many reconstructable vessels. Also in evidence are a small number of dishes. The second largest contribution arrives from Hadham providing a series of jars, bowl-jars, dishes and bowls in all three of its main fabric types. Nonetheless the quantities of these fabrics are surprisingly low given the close proximity of the kilns. Dorset BB1 is also present in limited numbers alongside the local copy of the fabric. However, other sources for the local copy

cannot be ruled out, detailed analysis at the publication stage will identify the presence of these. Finally a small number of sherds (forming a flask), possibly from Alice Holt on the Hampshire border, are present in 155 and 221.
The unsourced fabrics form the largest part of the later ceramic evidence (GRS, BSW and UNS BB). Most of these again are probably locally produced or from the immediate regional area. The form assemblage follows a similar pattern to that which has already been observed, jars and dishes. In particular the plain rimmed dish is very prevalent within these fabrics. Only a small number of other form types are noted, flagons, beakers and bowls. Of particular interest are two examples of reduced mortaria. These are fairly rare in the area, a number of kilns operating in east Anglia are the sole known producers of this style.

Saxon

Two contexts contain sherds which appear to be early Anglo Saxon. The fabrics are handmade and consist of quartz, organics (especially prevelant on the surfaces) and calcite. One crude upright rim fragment is recorded and both of the vessels appear to be basic domestic forms. Confirmation of these fabrics will need to be ascertained by comparison with the county fabric record.

Conclusions

The geographical area in which the excavation took place is one of intrinsic interest as throughout the Roman period it is caught between two complex ceramic industries (Hadham and Harrold). Both are only understood to a limited point and the interaction of these production centres alone is of interest.
Another value of the assemblage lies in the forms and fabrics that provide the 'stop gap' between the output of Hadham and Harrold which undoubtedly fluctuated over time.
Although initial examination of the assemblage indicates a fairly low status and an inward looking economy, the lack of finewares should not be considered a hindrance. The coarseware pottery is mostly in good condition and there are plenty of nearby quality assemblages from which refined dates can be gleaned (Baldock, Chells, Dunstable, Hadham, Harrold and Letchworth), as well as sites further south such as Verulamium. Assemblages examined by the author in the recent past at Letchworth, Baldock and Dunstable have all revealed some interesting data, in terms of vessel and fabric range. The economy of this area is complex, and the various levels of status at each site provides more statistical information to add to the emerging trade picture. It is excpected that many of the contexts assigned a 3rd to 4th century date, are likely upon detailed examination, to be dated to the second half of the 4th century itself.

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Appendix 4
Environmental Archaeology Assessment
James Rackham

Introduction
An excavation conducted by Archaeological Services and Consultancy Limited investigated a Romano-British site of 2nd- 4th century AD. The excavations uncovered a range of ditches, enclosures, pits, etc. A series of 27 soil samples were collected from a variety of the features for environmental analysis. These were submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment (Table 1). In addition to these a collection of 1540 fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during the excavations and also submitted for assessment.

Table 1: Meppershall. Samples taken for environmental analysis

sample no.	context no.	samp. vol. (l)	feature
2000	16	28	Ditch fill
2001	158	30	Pit fill
2002	160	28	Pit fill
2003	163	30	Ditch fill
2004	173	30	Pit fill
2005	204	25	Deep pit fill
2006	210	22	Pit fill
2007	221	28	Ditch fill
2008	250	23	Pit fill
2009	198	18	Layer
2010	254	27	Ditch fill
2011	267	27	Deep pit fill
2012	269	27	Pit fill
2013	327	27	Pit fill
2014	329	30	Pit fill
2015	432	25	Ditch fill
2016	354	27	Ditch fill
2017	369	23	Ditch fill
2018	425	28	Ditch fill
2019	430	30	Ditch fill
2020	337	25	Ditch fill
2021	439	27	Ditch fill
2022	126	30	Ditch fill
2023	005	29	Ditch fill
2024	060	27	Ditch fill
2025	014	21	Ditch fill
2026	016	25	Ditch fill

Methods
The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and flot were dried (for all but two of the samples which were quite clearly waterlogged), and the residues subsequently refloated, to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The flots from the two waterlogged samples were kept wet. The dry volume of the remaining flots was measured and the volume and weight of the residue recorded. A total of 717 litres of soil was processed in this way.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill and a count made of the number of flakes or spheroids of hammerscale collected. The flot of each sample was studied using x10 magnifications and the presence of environmental finds (i.e. snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. These, along with the finds from the sorted residue, constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2 and 3.

Results

Uncharred seeds, mainly *Sambucus* sp. (elder) and *Rubus* sp. (blackberry/raspberry) were abundant in most of the samples, and a few produced shells of the the blind burrowing snail, *Cecilioides acicula.* This material may not be contemporary with the deposits except in the case of the waterlogged deposits and it is probably intrusive. A very large number of small rootlets were present in many of the samples a further testament to the disturbance of the archaeological deposits by recent plants. A fragment of rabbit skull in context 16 is also intrusive as is presumably the coal in context 198.

Archaeological finds were present in all the samples with pottery particularly abundant (Table 2) and occasional finds of flint, brick or tile, fired earth, glass, and iron and bone finds. Hammerscale was present in several samples indicating that iron smithing was undertaken on the site, although it does not occur in sufficient abundance to indicate smithing within the excavated area. There is a concentration in those samples around the southern edge of the spring, on the uphill side, perhaps suggesting that it may have occurred closer to this area.

Domestic animal bone occurred in all the samples and a small group of contexts contained considerable evidence for bone working. Three of these contexts, 158, 204 and 210 are located on the south-western edge of the spring, and the fourth, 163, 20 metres further south. The evidence is concentrated in pit fills 204 and 210 and appears to have made use of only horse ribs. These have been split and shaved, apparently to make small plates of bone, but there is no surviving evidence for the nature of the final objects being manufactured. The use of horse ribs, rather than cattle ribs, is extremely unusual since the ribs of horses are much narrower than those of cattle and would make much smaller plates.

The larger vertebrates identified in the samples are similar to those collected by hand (see Table 4) except for the addition of two bones of fox in context 369 (sample 2017). Other possible food species in the samples include several vertebrae of eel, almost certainly eaten, and a few other small fish vertebrae and scales, possibly deriving from eaten fishes. Finds of fragments of mussel shell and oyster in two of the samples suggest that even this site, a considerable distance from the coast, was receiving trade from coastal areas.

Most of the samples contain charred grain, cereal chaff and weed seeds. The consistent presence of chaff, occasionally more abundant than the grain, suggests that the deposits are receiving the waste from crop processing activities. A superabundance of grain and chaff in contexts 267 and 269 (samples 2011 and 2012) would suggest a focus in the centre of the site at the southern edge of the spring for the discard of this waste. Other slightly less abundant

concentrations occur in ditch fills 60 and 430, one in the north of the excavated area and the other in the east. Almost all these samples show a consistent mixture of charred grain, chaff and weeds which suggests that much of the debris might derive from crop processing

Table 2: Meppershall - LMB01. Finds from the processed samples

sample no.	cont. no.	samp. vol. (l)	feature	residue vol. (l)	pot #/g	flint #/g	slag #/g	mag. (g)	ham' scale #	Brick /tile (g)	fired earth (g)*	glass #/g	Fe metal #/g	worked bone #	bone (g)	
2000	16	28	Ditch fill	2.7	6/32	1/<1		2	2						4	
2001	158	30	Pit fill	2.6	48/83			24	9		26			1	51	Bone plate
2002	160	28	Pit fill	3.5	42/310		1/8	12	10	229	+	1/<1	1/6		780	
2003	163	30	Ditch fill	1.6	23/64			33	11				5/9	1	29	Bone pin, mortar/plaster? – 107g
2004	173	30	Pit fill	3.5	11/29	32/17		22	6		2		2/8		19	
2005	204	25	Deep pit fill	4.2	25/82		2/10	60	14		2		1/1	8	1480	Lots bone working waste
2006	210	22	Pit fill	2.6	22/136			17	2			1/<1	1/1	17	662	Lots bone working waste
2007	221	28	Ditch fill	1.8	35/48			22	12		27		2/34		40	Mortar/plaster? 23g; fired earth-poss CBM
2008	250	23	Pit fill	5.4	20/324	2/8		1	-		53	1/<1			347	Possible building stone; large pebble (702g) with smoothed surface
2009	198	18	Layer	1	12/137			2	4				1/11		12	Coal-1g; cinder; gritstone?x3; poss. building stone
2010	254	27	Ditch fill	1.4	9/12	3/2		3	5						15	Possible utilised stone?
2011	267	27	Deep pit fill	2	6/76			5	2						53	
2012	269	27	Pit fill	1.7	11/12			33	12		144		6/11		41	
2013	327	27	Pit fill	2.3	6/79			6	6		2	1/<1			65	Plaster?-3g
2014	329	30	Pit fill	4	4/9	2/<1		4	-						39	Cu plate x1
2015	432	25	Ditch fill	3.5	80/1024	1/<1		19	-	46	53		18/56		118	
2016	354	27	Ditch fill	2	18/32			9	-				1/<1		197	
2017	369	23	Ditch fill	2.2	7/50			2	-						460	
2018	425	28	Ditch fill	3.5	3/1			1	-						106	
2019	430	30	Ditch fill	1.3	7/35			1	-						37	
2020	337	25	Ditch fill	4.1	4/23			2	-						192	
2021	439	27	Ditch fill	3	10/12			41	-	194	589				455	
2022	126	30	Ditch fill	1	2/18	3/9		2	1						18	
2023	005	29	Ditch fill	3.5	16/117			3	2						4	
2024	060	27	Ditch fill	2	5/11			3	2						294	
2025	014	21	Ditch fill	2.5	12/53			4	1	1					<1	
2026	016	25	Ditch fill	1.5	5/10	2/<1		4	5				1/1		21	Bead –glass?

#/g = number/weight in grams; + present but not weighed

* sorted from >7mm residue only

Table 3: Meppershall - LMB01. Environmental finds from the processed samples

Sample no.	cont. no.	samp. vol. (l)	feature	flot vol. (ml)	char coal */<2*	charr'd grain *	chaff *	charr'd seed *	egg-shell wt. (g.)	water-logged seeds */#	beetles	snails *	comment
2000	16	28	Ditch fill	40	2/3	2	2	2				1	Wheat, barley, pulse, legume, field vole, frog/toad, *Hydrobia ventrosa*
2001	158	30	Pit fill	55	4/4	2	2	2	<1			1	Wheat, barley, oat?, grape, pulse, cattle, sheep, pig, house mouse, field vole, water vole, shrew, frog/toad, small fish
2002	160	28	Pit fill	50	4/4	2	1	2					Wheat, barley, cattle, mouse, frog/toad, small bird
2003	163	30	Ditch fill	50	4/3	2	2	2	<1			1	Wheat, barley, pulse, cattle, sheep, eel, shrew, field vole, newt, frog/toad, *Cecilioides acicula, Retinella* sp.
2004	173	30	Pit fill	45	3/3	2	1	2				1	Wheat, barley, hazelnut, pulse, sheep, rodent, *Discus rotundatus*
2005	204	25	Deep pit fill	115	5/4	2	1	3					Wheat, barley, hazelnut, pulse?, horse, small fish, frog/toad
2006	210	22	Pit fill	165	5/4	2	1	2					Barley, oat?, hazelnut, pulse?, horse, cattle, pig, mouse, frog/toad
2007	221	28	Ditch fill	60	3/3	2	1	3					Wheat, barley, oat, pulse?, cattle, sheep, rodent, frog/toad, small fish
2008	250	23	Pit fill	1500	4/5	1		2		5/4	4/3		Wheat, hazelnut, cattle, sheep, frog/toad
2009	198	18	Layer	500	3/3	1				5/4	4/3		Sheep, pig, field vole, frog/toad
2010	254	27	Ditch fill	300	3/3					4/2			Pulse, sheep, mouse, field vole, frog/toad
2011	267	27	Deep pit fill	40	3/4	5	5	4					Wheat, barley, oat, cattle
2012	269	27	Pit fill	150	5/4	5	4	5					Wheat, barley, oat, cattle, common shrew, small bird
2013	327	27	Pit fill	70	4/3	1	1	2					Horse, sheep
2014	329	30	Pit fill	70	4/3	2		2					Wheat, barley, hazelnut, pulse, sheep, newt, eel
2015	432	25	Ditch fill	20	3/3	1		1	1			3	Oyster, cattle, sheep, mouse, bank vole, small carnivore, frog/toad, eel, *Vallonia costata, V. excentrica, Pupilla muscorum, Vertigo pygmaea, Planorbis leucostoma, Carychium, Trichia hispida, C. acicula, Helicella, Oxychilus, Lymnaea truncatula*
2016	354	27	Ditch fill	6	3/3	1	2	1				1	Cattle, horse, mouse, vole, frog/toad, eel, *Carychium, Vertigo*
2017	369	23	Ditch fill	9	3/3	2	2	2					Pulse?, cattle, horse, pig, fox, field vole, frog/toad
2018	425	28	Ditch fill	35	3/3	2	3	2		5/3	2/2	1	Wheat, barley, oat, pulse?, cattle, dog, field vole, frog/toad, *Cochlicopa*
2019	430	30	Ditch fill	65	3/3	3	5	2		4/2	2/2	1	Wheat, barley, oat, cattle, frog/toad, *Discus rotundatus, V. costata*
2020	337	25	Ditch fill	25	3/2	2	1	1					Wheat, oat, horse, wood mouse, frog/toad
2021	439	27	Ditch fill	200	2/2	2	1	2				1	Wheat, barley, oat?, hazelnut, pulse, mussel, cattle, sheep, field vole
2022	126	30	Ditch fill	20	2/3	2	1	1		4/2		2	Wheat, barley, pulse, rodent, newt, frog/toad, small fish, *V.costata, C.acicula, T.hispida*
2023	005	29	Ditch fill	30	2/2	1	1	1				1	Legume, bank vole, house mouse, field vole, shrew, lizards, small bird, *Oxychilus, Retinella, Cochlicopa*
2024	060	27	Ditch fill	20	2/2	3	4	2				1	Wheat, barley, oat, cattle, sheep, eel, rodent, frog/toad, *D.rotundatus*
2025	014	21	Ditch fill	55	3/3	2	2	2				1	Wheat, barley, oat?, hazelnut, legume, cattle, eel, rodent, shrew, frog/toad, *Retinella*
2026	016	25	Ditch fill	50	3/3	2	2	2				1	Rabbit, rodent, frog/toad, *Oxychilus*

* = abundance: 1=1-10, 2=11-50, 3=51-150, 4=151-250, 5=250+

/<2 = abundance >2mm/abundance < 2mm

*/# abundance (as above)/ diversity 1= 1-3; 2= 4-10; 3=11-25; 4=25-50

activities rather than the domestic preparation of the grain. Several charred pulses might indicate other crops being grown by the settlement. Pit fill 158, produced uncharred grape pips which might indicate that this pit was used as a cess pit. Fragments of hazelnut occur in several samples indicating the regular collection of nuts for food.

The smaller vertebrate species are indicative of the local environment. The house mouse is commensal and presumably occurred as a pest in the houses, the other species are wild and include wood mouse, field vole, bank vole, water vole, shrew, lizard, newt and frog or toad. Their presence in the sampled features serves to indicate that a range of habitats were available locally. Some slight indications of these habitats are also afforded by the terrestrial snails in the samples. These are relatively rare, possibly a factor of the pH of the soils but one ditch fill, 432, has a number of shells which include taxa primarily of grassland habitats (Table 3).

Although uncharred seeds of elder and bramble/raspberry, and some other taxa, are common throughout the samples, five samples show such a superabundance of uncharred weed seeds, with accompanying insect fragments that it is clear that there has been some waterlogged preservation. The preservation is particularly good in contexts 250 and 198, pit fills in the area of the spring, and these plant and insect assemblages can be expected to yield a reasonable amount of data on the local environment and the character of the rubbish being disposed of into these features. The remaining three samples with what might be contemporary waterlogged assemblages come from two ditch fills in the north of the site, 425 and 430, and one in the south, 126.

Hand collected Animal Bone assessment

Ninety one contexts produced a total of 1540 fragments of animal bone, weighing over 41 kilogrammes. This indicates a relatively low level of fragmentation of the bones. The bones from each context have been weighed and counted, the number of fragments from which standard measurements (Von den Driesch, 1976) could be taken and the presence of individual species and their bone types has been recorded. Jaws of cattle, sheep and pig with teeth that would permit the age at death of the animal were counted and noted for each context. These data are presented in the attached archive assessment catalogue. The records have been coded following the system used by the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy and a key is attached.

Cattle bones dominated the assemblage, occuring in almost twice as many contexts as any other species (Table 4). Sheep followed, then horse, pig, dog and chicken.

Table 4. Frequency of contexts in which each taxa was identified

Species	No. contexts
Horse	18
Cattle	65
Sheep/goat	37
Pig	13
Dog	4
Chicken	4

Two partial skeletons of juvenile pigs were recovered from contexts 242 and 244, but it needs to be established whether these have been buried more recently than the Roman period.

Ninety-eight bones have been noted as being sufficiently intact to take measurements. Few jaws are present to permit the age at death to be determined, a total of only 16 cattle and 6 sheep jaws, but many of the post-cranial elements show fused or unfused epiphyses which should permit some estimate of age. Bones from calves were noted in one or two contexts during the assessment.

Apart from the contexts with the pig skeletons few of the deposits have produced much bone. Context 155 has produced the most and clearly the bulk of the assemblage has been recovered from the contexts and pits around the centre of the site in the area of the spring.

Discussion

The samples have produced evidence for two craft or industrial activities on the site, iron smithing and bone working. The evidence for both is focussed around the spring, although the concentrations of hammerscale are not sufficient to suggest that the smithy lay within the excavated area. In contrast it seems likely that the bone working was undertaken on the site. The possible use of the pit with fill 158 as a cess pit suggests that some of the domestic buildings of the site may lie within the excavated area also.

The oyster and mussel shells, and possibly the grape pips, suggest that the site received trade goods over some considerable distance. The samples have produced a rich assemblage of charred plant remains, many of which may indicate the presence of crop processing activities on the site. This material will need to be specifically identified and quantified before this preliminary interpretation can be confirmed. The crops grown include wheat and barley, and probably oats and pulses, and hazelnuts were collected. Abundant elder and bramble/raspberry seeds in the waterlogged samples indicates that these species were also available for collection and consumption. Whether the grapes were grown locally or imported we cannot establish. Other food species are cattle, sheep, pig, eel and possibly other small fish species.

Not all the features sealed beneath the boggy deposits of the spring yielded waterlogged material. Furthermore a number of the features in this area have rich deposits clearly indicating disposal of domestic and bone working waste. It is difficult to reconcile these results with an assumption that the spring covered or effected as big an area in the past as it does today. The waterlogged deposits in samples 2008 and 2009 do nevertheless indicate that the deposits have been wet since the Roman period. It therefore seems likely that the spring was present but was more controlled in the Romano-British period and some of the activities reflected in the rubbish in the features around it were probably present because of the availability of water nearby.

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTANCY

Key to codes used in the cataloguing of animal bones and marine shells

SPECIES:

SPECIES CODE			SPECIES CODE	
MAN	human		DOVE	Dove species
EQU	Horse		FER	Feral dove
EQSZ	Horse size		PART	Partridge
BOS	Cattle		SWAN?	Swan?
BOSL	Cattle-large		WOOD	Woodcock
CSZ	cattle size		CURL	Curlew
SUS	Pig		WADE	wader
OVCA	sheep or goat		CROK	Crow or rook
OVI	Sheep		CORV	Crow or rook
CRA	Goat		JACK	Jackdaw
SSZ	sheep size		OWL	Owl indet.
FEL	Cat		BUZZ	Buzzard
CAN	Dog		GULL	Gull sp.
AUR	Aurochs			
AUR?	Aurochs?		TURD	Turdidae
CER	red deer		BIRD	Identifiable but not id'd
DAM	Fallow deer		PASS	Passerine
CLS	roe deer		LBIRD	Large bird
LEP	Hare		UNIB	Bird indet
ORC	Rabbit			
LAG	Lagomorph		FROG	Frog
CARN	Carnivore		FRTO	Frog or toad
FOX	Fox			
POLE	Polecat/ferret			
WEA	weasel		GAD	Gadid, cod family
BADG	Badger		LING	Ling
SEAL	seal		HADD	Haddock
SQU?	Squirrel?		RAY	ray
BEAV	Beaver		FISH	Fish
ROD	Rodent		UNIF	Fish indet
RAT	Rat			
AGR	Field vole		OYS	oyster
ARV	Water vole		COK	Cockle
MUS	House mouse		MUSS	Common Mussel
SORA	Common shrew		WHELK	Common whelk
MOLE	Mole		HEL	Helix aspersa
SMA	Small mammal		HELIX	Helix sp.
UNI	Unknown		HELN	Helix nemoralis
			SNAIL	snail
CHIK	Chicken			
CHKZ	Chicken size		FOSS	Fossil bone
GOOS	Goose, dom			
GOOS?	Goose, dom.?			
GSSZ	Goose size			
GSSP	Goose species			
GOSZ	Goose, poss. Wild			
DUCK	Duck, domestic sp.			
DUCK?	Duck?			
DKSP	Duck species			
DSP	Duck species indet			
MALL	Duck, dom.			
TURK	Turkey			

BONE ELEMENT:

BONE CODE		BONE CODE	
SKEL	skeleton	SCP	scapula
SKL	skull	HUM	humerus
ANT	antler	RAD	radius
ANT?	antler?	ULN	ulna
ATT	antler tine	RUL	radius and ulna
HC	horn core	C/T	carpus/tarsus
TEMP	temporal	C23	carpus 2+3
FRNT	frontal	CAR	carpus
PET	petrous	CPA	accessory carpal
PAR	parietal	CPI	intermediate carpal
OCIP	occipital	CPR	radial carpal
ZYG	zygomatic	CPU	ulnal carpal
NAS	nasal	MTC	metacarpus
PMX	premaxilla	MC1-5	metacarpus 1-5
MAN	mandible	MTP	metapodial
MNT	mandibular tooth	MPL	lateral metapodial
DLI	deciduous lower incisor	INN	innominate
DLPM1-4	deciduous lower premolar 1-4	ILM	ilium
LI	lower incisor (and 1-3)	PUB	pubis
LC	lower canine	ISH	ischium
LPM1-LPM4	lower premolar 1-4	FEM	femur
LM1-LM3	lower molar 1 - molar 3	PAT	patella
MAX	maxilla	TIB	tibia
DUI	deciduous upper incisor	FIB	fibula
UI	upper incisor (1-3)	LML	lateral malleolus
UC	upper canine	AST	astragalus
DUPM	deciduous upper premolar	CAL	calcaneum
DUPM1-4	deciduous upper premolar 1-4	CQ	centroquartal
UPM1-UPM4	upper premolar 1-4	TAR3	tarsus 3
UM1-UM3	upper molar 1 - molar 3	T4	tarsus 4
MXT	maxillary tooth	TAR	tarsus
TTH	indeterminate tooth	MTT	metatarsus
INC	incisor	MT1-5	metatarsus 1-5
HYD	hyoid	MTL	lateral metatarsus
ATL	atlas	SES	sesamoid
AXI	axis	PH1	1st phalanx
CEV	cervical vertebra (and 3-7)	PH2	2nd phalanx
TRV	thoracic vertebra (and 1-13)	PH3	3rd phalanx
LMV	lumbar vertebra	PHL	lateral phalanx
SAC	sacrum	LBF	long bone
CDV	caudal vertebra	UNI	unidentified
VER	vertebra		
STN	sternum	CLV	clavicle
CC	costal cartilage	COR	coracoid
RIB1	first rib (2 etc)	CMP	carpo-metacarpus
RIB	rib	CMC	carpo-metacarpus
		WPH1-3	wing phalanges 1-3
URO	urostyle	WPH	wing phalanx
		LSA	lumbosacrale
DENT	dentary		
CLEI	cleithrum		
RAY	fin ray		
SHELL	shell		
UV	upper valve		
VAL	valve		

Archive Assesment Catalogue of the hand collected animal bone from Meppershall – LMB01

context	weight	frag nos	cond-ition	measur ability	cattle	bos tooth row	bos bones	sheep	ov tooth row	ov bones	pig	sus tooth row	sus bones	others	bird	fish	comments
005	48	3	4	0	Y	0	SCP		0			0					
006	15	2	4	0		0			0			0					
007	186	8	4	2	Y	0	FEM	Y	0	SCP		0					
011	87	11	4	0	Y	0	HUM	Y	0	LM		0					
012	40	1	4	0	Y	0	HUM		0			0					
018	312	8	4	1	Y	0	SCP,MAN		0			0					
019	107	7	4	0	Y	0	LM	Y	0	TIB		0					
021	477	3	4	1	Y	1	MAN	Y	0	MTC		0					
023	211	6	4	0	Y	0	HUM,MTT		0			0					
033	312	10	4	1	Y	0	HC,ATL		0			0					
040	17	1	4	0		0			0			0					
046	152	6	4	1	Y	0	MTC,LM,PMX		0			0					
054	5	2	4	4		0			0			0					
056	17	3	4	0		0			0		Y	0	CAN				
058	112	5	4	1	Y	0	PH1,SCP	Y	0	MTT		0					
059	411	5	4	1	Y	0	MAN		0			0		EQU-TIB			
062	1292	22	4	4	Y	1	MAN,MTC,MTT,PH1,PM,FEM	Y	0	TIB		0					
065	60	6	4	0		0		Y	1	MAN		0					
071	17	5	4	0		0		Y	0	UM,TIB		0					
073	152	12	4	0	Y	0	SKL	Y	0	UM	Y	0	MTT				
076	194	3	4	0	Y	1	MAN,LMV		0			0					
083	6	1	4	0		0			0			0					
085	253	3	4	0	Y	0	SKL/HC		0			0		EQU-MTT			EQU-PATH
087	40	6	4	0		0			0			0					
090	485	6	4	1	Y	0	SCP,MTT,LM		0		Y	0	TTH				
102	40	7	4	0	Y	0	TRV		0			0					
106	55	3	4	1		0		Y	0	PH1		0		EQU-TIB			
108	103	10	4	1		0		Y	0	RAD,INN	Y	0	MAN	CAN-INN			
111	462	6	4	0	Y	0	CEV	Y	0	HC		0					
122	447	9	4	0	Y	0	MAN,SCP		0			0					
125	1959	43	4	4	Y	4	MAN,MTC,CQ,PM,UM	Y	0	MAN		0					
128	1432	13	4	3	Y	0	HC,MAN,TRV,SCP,RAD,HUM		0			0		EQU-TIB			
134	330	28	4	3	Y	0	INN,PH3	Y	0	SCP,PH,		0			CHIK-		JUV

										LM,RAD					TBT		CHICKEN
138	8	2	4	0		0		Y	0	MAN		0					
140	1962	10	4	4	Y	0	AST,MTT,TIB,SCP	Y	1	MAN		0		EQU-TIB			
144	4	1	3	0		0			0			0					
148	108	2	4	0	Y	0	AXI		0			0					
154	17	2	4	0		0			0			0					
155	3999	171	4	13	Y	2	AST,PH1,CQ,CAL,MTC,SCP,MAN,RAD,TIB,UM,LM,MAX,LI,INN,SKL,ULN,HYD,FEM	Y	0	MTT,SCP,RAD,UM,MTC,MAN,TIB,CAL		0		EQU-RAD,FEM,TIB,MAN; CAN-MAN			CALF
156	403	14	4	0	Y	0	MAX,MAN,INN		0			0					
158	112	2	4	0	Y	0	MTT		0			0					
162	95	3	4	0	Y	0	MTC	Y	0	TIB		0					
163	611	19	4	2	Y	1	MAN,MTT	Y	0	UM		0		EQU-PH1	CHIK-TMT,TBT		COCK
173	10	2	4	0		0		Y	0	FEM		0					
179	356	3	4	2		0			0			0		EQU-MTP,PH1			
187	152	7	4	0		0		Y	1	MAN, SCP		0			CHIK-HUM		
198	1706	60	4	6	Y	0	MAN,MTT,CAL,SCP,HUM	Y	0	TIB, HUM	Y	0	TIB				
210	864	70	4	0	Y	0	SAC,LM		0			0		EQU-RIB			MOSTLY HORSE RIBS
214	518	16	4	3	Y	0	TIB,SCP,MTC		0			0					
216	112	2	4	0		0			0			0					
218	239	5	4	0	Y	1	MAX		0			0					
221	207	18	4	3	Y	0	CAL	Y	1	MAN,UM,MTC,LM		0		CAN-MTC	UNIB-RAD		
227	212	6	4	0	Y	0	RAD		0			0					
232	35	3	4	0	Y	0	LM	Y	0	TIB		0					
237	719	26	4	2	Y	0	SCP,MAN	Y	0	MTT		0		EQU-UM,RIB,FEM			
241	378	40	3	0	Y	0	UM,PM		0			0					
242	1088	183	4	0		0			0		Y	0	SKEL				JUV PIG
244	1059	188	4	0		0			0		Y	0	SKEL				JUV PIG

247	449	24	4	0	Y	0	MTT		0			0		EQU-FEM			
271	73	12	4	1	Y	0	RAD	Y	0	LM		0					
283	1	1	4	0		0		Y	0	PH1		0					
291	1426	52	4	1	Y	0	TIB,FEM		0		Y	0	CAN	EQU-PH1			MAINLY RIBS & VERT
292	44	1	4	0		0			0			0					
337	1507	23	4	3	Y	1	SCP,MAN,TIB,CQ,FEM	Y	0	RAD,HC,LM,TIB		0		EQU-MAN			CALF
342	110	1	4	0	Y	0	RUL		0			0					
349	1267	37	4	4	Y	0	MAN,MTC,UM,PM,SCP	Y	0	LM	Y	0	MAX				
354	2822	46	4	9	Y	0	MTC,HC,TIB,UM,PH1,MAN,RAD,SKL,FEM,HUM	Y	0	TIB,FEM		0		EQU-SCP,MTT			
358	27	2	4	0		0			0			0					
360	87	7	4	0		0		Y	1	MAN		0					
361	57	3	4	1	Y	0	CQ	Y	0	UM		0					
369	887	33	4	1	Y	1	MAN,PM,RUL,ULN,HUM,MTP	Y	0	MTT,LM		0		EQU-TTH			
373	485	13	4	1	Y	0	CAL,SCP,FEM,INN	Y	1	MAN,HUM,SCP	Y	0	MAN		CHIK-FEM		
394	101	4	4	0	Y	0	MAN,LM		0			0					
396	210	6	4	0	Y	0	MTC		0			0					
400	541	12	4	0	Y	0	HC,SKL,HUM		0			0					
401	39	6	4	0		0			0			0					
413	491	11	4	0	Y	1	MAX,SKL,HUM		0			0					
415	1520	35	4	5	Y	0	RAD,MTT,UM,MAN,MTC,INN		0			0		CAN-MAN			
416	741	7	4	0	Y	1	MAN,HC,INN		0			0					
417	443	4	4	1	Y	0	RAD,INN		0			0					
420	259	15	4	0	Y	0	MTC,SCP,SKL,RAD	Y	0	MAN		0		EQU-LM			
425	640	9	4	2	Y	0	MAN,TIB,FEM		0			0		EQU-MTT			
439	13	1	4	0		0			0			0					
442	64	1	4	0	Y	0	MAN		0			0					
8005	27	2	4	0	Y	0	RAD		0			0					
8007	70	3	4	1	Y	0	PH3,SCP,L		0			0					

							M										
8009	130	7	4	0	Y	0	RAD		0		Y	0	MAN,LI				
8017	132	9	4	2		0		Y	0	RAD,FEM,SKL		0					
TR3DTCHSEG	159	3	4	0	Y	0	RAD		0			0					
U/S	1510	21	4	2	Y	1	MAN	Y	0	UM	Y	0	RAD,ULN,LMV,TIB	EQU-RAD,MTT			
U/S	179	10	4	0	Y	0	LM		0		Y	0	SCP				

Appendix 5: Other Finds

Bob Zeepvat

Excavations at Meppershall produced a small quantity of finds. These are listed in summary elsewhere (Appendix #), and are described below. The following list also includes a number of finds recovered by metal detecting during topsoil stripping.

Objects highlighted in bold are those recommended for inclusion in the publication report.

Stone

Context	**Description of find**
090	7 fragments of lava, probably from quern.
155	3 misc lumps of stone
291	Fragment of rotary quern lower stone, Millstone grit. Th. 48mm, dia. unknown
SF3515	Upper stone of rotary beehive quern, Hertfordshire puddingstone. Dia. 270mm, height 90mm, tapered central hole 70-45mm. Possibly 1st century AD.

The presence of querns on a rural occupation site is not unexpected. All types present are typically found on sites of Roman date. A note on the quern evidence (2 illustrations) is proposed in the publication report.

Flint

Context	**Description of find**
005	2 flakes
007	2 flakes
031	Flake
083	Flake
198	Fragment
227	Flake
271	Flake
420	Fragment

This assemblage, comprising only a few flakes and ?natural fragments, does not represent any significant flint manufacturing or related activity. No further action is proposed.

Ceramic

Context	**Description of find**
369, SF3517	Spindle whorl, dia. 55mm, wt 45gm, black, gritty, slightly micaceous fabric

An intrinsically interesting object. It may be possible to obtain a date through closer examination of the fabric. An illustrated note in the publication report is proposed.

Copper Alloy

Context	**Description of find**
001, SF3500	Frag. Of cast bronze.
291, SF3519	Brooch, Colchester type, pin missing. L. 43mm. Mid 1st century AD.
221, SF3521	Bracelet fragment, cable type, two circular-sectioned strands. Th. 3mm. Part of ?hooked terminal remains.

The brooch and bracelet are of intrinsic interest. The brooch may be of significance for dating. An illustrated note on both objects is proposed in the final report.

Coins

Context	**Description of find**
u/s, SF3513	3 coins corroded together. Two have dia 18mm, the other 16mm. One of the larger coins is a late 3rd-century radiate.
073, SF3514	Dia 16mm, possibly late 3rd-century radiate.
115, SF3516	3 frags of badly corroded coin. Illegible.
SF3520	Nuremburg jetton, dia. 25mm. Hans Krauwinckel, late 16th – early 17th cent

Coins are useful as dating evidence, though some, if not all of the above are metal detector finds, and therefore provide only a broad indication of periods of activity on the site. A brief note in the publication report is proposed.

Iron

Context	**Description of find**
058	Bar fragment, L. 55mm, dia. 16mm
108	2 nails, lengths 50 and 61mm, dia. 5mm
134	3 misc frags
155	Chain link, L. 36mm
	Bracket, L. 201mm
	2 nails, L. 110mm
	2 dogs, L. 112mm and 122mm
	Misc frag.
156	Bar frag, L. 149mm
187	Possible nail, L. 37mm
198	Heavily corroded object, possibly spike and loop. L. 246mm
373	Nail, L. 56mm
SF3501	Nail, L. 43mm
SF3502	Nail, L. 42mm
SF3503	Nail, L. 52mm
SF3504	Nail, L. 50mm
SF3505	2 nails, L. 72mm and 29mm
SF3506	Nail, L. 31mm
SF3507	Nail, L. 56mm
SF3508	Nail frag, L. 11mm
SF3509	Nail, L. 66mm
SF3510	Nail, L. 56mm
SF3512	Nail, L. 57mm

Ironwork from the site consists almost entirely of nails and scrap, all of which is in a poor state of preservation. None of the above appears to be of intrinsic interest, or to be of use in interpreting the site. A brief note is proposed for the final report.

Daub

Context	**Description of find**
005	Frag
007	5 frags
011	Frag
059	Frag
090	Frag
108	2 frags
154	Frag
155	Frag
163	Frag
179	Frag
214	Frag

All the above are small fragments, with no evidence for tempering, wattle impressions or other significant evidence. No further work is proposed.

Shell

Context	**Description of find**
155	2 frags oyster shell
158	2 frags oyster shell

For a site occupied in the Roman period, excavations at Meppershall produced an unusually small quantity of oyster shell. This will be noted in the publication report.

Appendix 6: Tile

Bob Zeepvat

A small assemblage of tile, amounting to c.2.0kg, was recovered from excavations at Meppershall. This is quantified in Appendix 1. The assemblage was scanned visually to determine the range of tile types and fabrics present, and any other features such as glazing and nail holes. Much of the assemblage consisted of small, undiagnostic fragments, in a range of fabrics typical of Roman tile (shelly, grogged, sandy). Peg tile of post-medieval or later date was present in three contexts.

Context	**Description of find**
006	1 tiny frag
012	1 tiny frag
073	2 small frags, shelly fabric
085	1 small frag
125	4 frags, mainly grogged fabrics
134	1 frag, possibly tegula
155	10 frags, inc. tegula and brick fragments in shelly, grogged and sandy fabrics
156	1 frag possible tegula, sandy fabric
198	1 frag possible tegula, 1 frag peg tile
239	1 frag peg tile, 1 frag modern stock brick
373	All peg tile fragments

Appendix 7: Watching Brief

For a Watching Brief to work successfully it is essential that the building contractors keep the archaeologists informed of their schedule. In this instance despite being repeatedly reminded of the Watching Brief condition Bovis failed to inform ASC or CPM of their timetable, hence only a limited number of visits took place.

During the excavation phase of the project a series of mechanically excavated geotechnical test pits were observed across the site. No archaeology was observed in any of these pits.

After the completion of the excavation, the brief required that a Watching Brief should be maintained on the site during significant groundworks. As ASC was not informed of the developer's timetable only two visits were made to the site during this phase of the archaeological works. Both of these visits were occasioned when concerned villagers informed the CAO that they thought they had seen significant archaeology. A visit on the 25th April 2002 to investigate an area close to the High Street was able to identify the truncated remains of several pits and a small ditch or gully (Fig 11). These features were seen as a large pit had been excavated to remove an area of contaminated soil where a bus garage had been sited. The only finds from these features were a few small fragments of bone.

Context	Type	Description	Section
600	Pit fill	Dark grey silty clay. Fill of 601	Sketch on context sheet 601
601	Pit	Base of small pit or post-hole	Sketch on context sheet 601
602	Pit fill	Mid orange grey silty clay. Fill of 603	Sketch on context sheet 603
603	Pit	Base of small pit or post-hole	Sketch on context sheet 603
604	Pit fill	Dark brownish grey silty clay. Fill of 605	Sketch on context sheet 605
605	Pit	Base of small pit or post-hole	Sketch on context sheet 605
606	Pit fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Fill of 607	Sketch on context sheet 607
607	Pit	Base of small pit or post-hole	Sketch on context sheet 607
608	Ditch	Small ditch or slot aligned roughly NE-SW	Sketch on context sheet 609
609	Ditch fill	Grey/ blue grey clay. Fill of 608	Sketch on context sheet 609

The second visit took place on the 6th June. A semi circular feature was observed with an internal diameter of c.7.1m. The ditch was 0.6m wide. As this feature was seen at the base of a service trench it was not excavated, but the upper fill was a dark grey silty clay. No dateable artefacts associated with this feature were found.

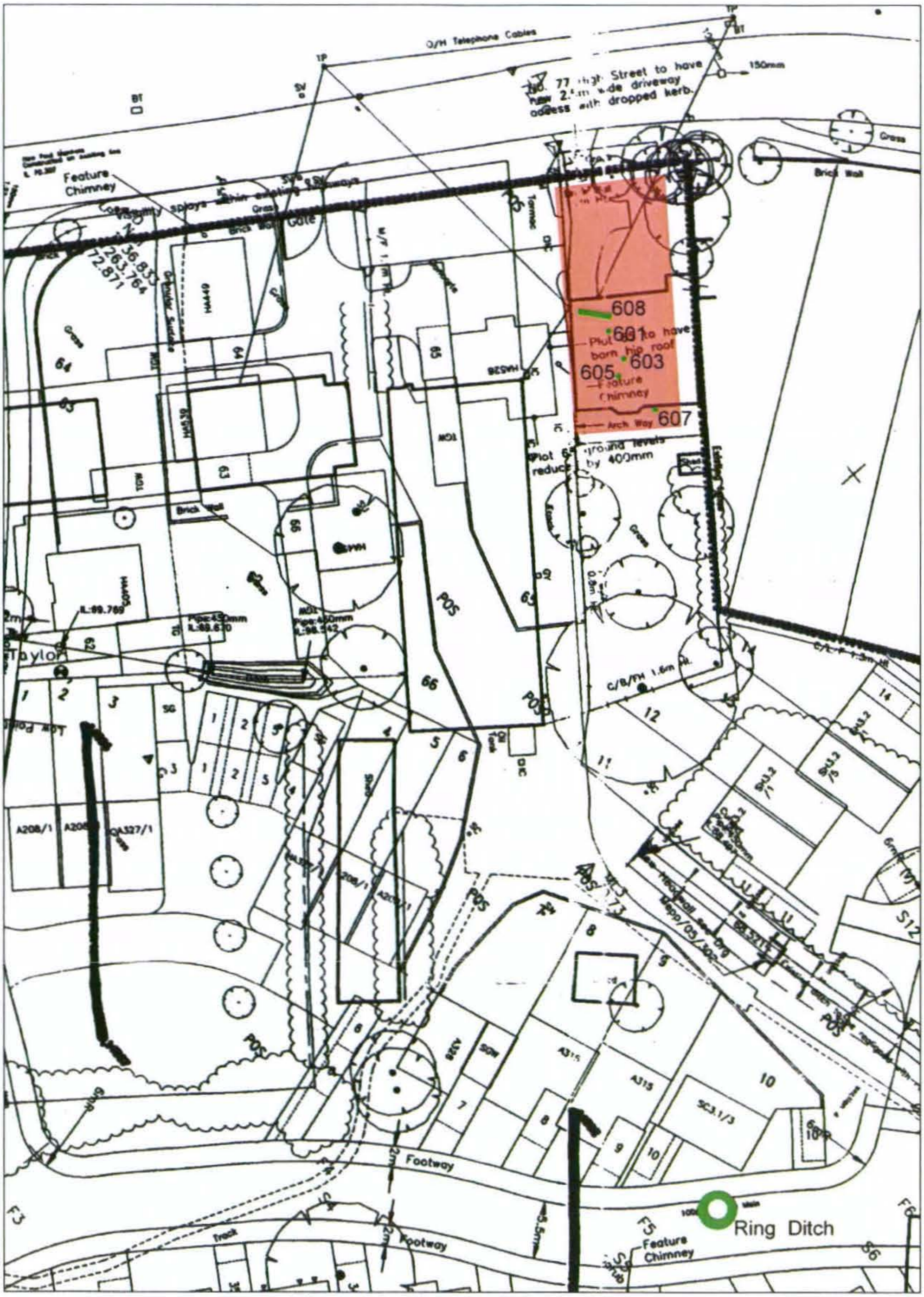

Figure 11: Watching brief features

EBD 682

HER 16317
Ref. No. 3

BCAS Project Summary: 62, High Street, Meppershall

Printed on: 17-Oct-97

County: Bedfordshire **Parish:** Meppershall

Project Officer:

D Shotliff

M Dawson

Project Number: 416 **Project Code:** M416

Owner digging soakaway in garden discovered post-medieval small square brick-built structure, and contacted unit. Site visited and recorded by BCAS. House itself is historic but unlisted, with fine timbers - county hall aware. Owner said that she would not destroy the feature and would relocate the soakaway. The structure would have been within the grounds of the old house, probably the kitchen, and it was possibly an ice pit, cheese pit or some other type of food storage area. Contained post-medieval pottery within it, also an iron cleat and nail, slate and charcoal. The bricks were hand made in moulds and of 16th-18th century in type, but probably 17th century in date to go with the fireplace made of similar bricks. Brick dimensions: 5.5 cm deep x 21 cm long x 11 cm wide. In the vegetable patch circa 50m to the north-west, there were 2 sherds (including one rim sherd) of medieval pot just on the surface. Mrs. Reid also said that her children find flint arrowheads on and around her property. The soakaway was given HER number 16164, and the finds from the vegetable patch are part of HER number 16319. CWA

Mrs. Reid also made two visits to the unit in September and December 1996. The pottery quantified is part of HER number 16319.

Following a 'phone call from Mrs. Reid, a subsequent visit was made on 18.9.97 by CWA and JW, to see pot found on land west of No.62, and SE by the southernmost nursery east of the High Street. East of the road - predominantly Roman pot in 2 places with coins, tile and some med and post med tile. Indicates new Roman site. This may need a separate project entry if area developed (as Mrs. Reid thinks it will be) and an excavation comes of it. West of No.62 - finds of EIA to post-med but hardly any C13th-14th pottery. Also Roman coins. See plan for finds spots.
Further Roman pottery and coins came from land on the SE side of Hoo Road, north of the village centre.
These finds spots were given HER numbers 16316 - 16320, and some finds were incorporated in HER no. 595. All these HER numbers are marked on plans in the Watching Brief file.

Periods:

Summary Of Archive:

Major Finds:

Pottery: 116 sherds, representing 94 vessels (total weight 1149g). Pottery from soakaway mainly post-medieval in date, including glazed red earthenware (P01), german stoneware (P27), transfer printed ware (P45), Staffs. slipware (P30) and sherds of ?Metropolitan slipware, originating in Essex.

BCAS Project Summary: 62, High Street, Meppershall

Printed on: 17-Oct-97

County: Bedfordshire **Parish:** Meppershall

Vegetable patch produced a quantity of medieval/late medieval pottery, including Brill-Boarstall type (C11), medieval shelly (B07), late med reduced and oxidised wares, (types E01 & E02 respectively), and various medieval sand tempered types. Also two very abraded and worn late Iron Age/Roman sherds. JW. This pottery is all part of HER no. 16319.

Visit on 18.9.97
Ceramics: small assemblage c. 200 sherds of pottery ranging in date from early Iron Age to post-medieval.
Iron Age: EIA flint tempered and 'Belgic' grog tempered (c.10 sherds)
Roman: Samian, greywares, sand tempered blackwares, ?poss Harrold shell tempered
Saxo-Norman: St Neots-types (c.7 sherds)
Medieval: Herts greywares, EM sandy types (C01, C03, C05 etc), developed St N, Lyveden, Brill
(not much 'high' med)
Late Med: LM reduced and oxidised types
Post-med: glazed earthernwares, stoneswares (all the usual suspects)
~ Mainly coarsewares, with few glazed/fineware types. Roman pottery fairly abraded and battered, but the med is in good condition. Few diagnostic forms: those noted are mainly medieval and comprise jars, a couple of bowls and jugs.
CBM: one definite Roman teg or brick fragment: the majority of flat roof tile of late med/post-med date.
This pottery is from HER nos. 16316 - 16320. One possible Roman sherd comes from HER no. 595.

Non-ceramics: a near complete stone mortar. A number of mainly Roman coins, also medieval and later coins and other metal artefacts. These are detailed in the paper record. The metalwork is in very good condition.

Major Structures:

HER Codes: These Codes cross reference to entries on the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record, for further details contact Mr. S. Coleman on (01234) 228072.

16164

16316

16317

16318

16319

16320

595