



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SALVAGE EXCAVATION AT 34/35 PORTISHEAD DRIVE, TATTENHOE, MILTON KEYNES

Joe Abrams BA AIFA



September 2002

ASC:TAT02/1

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Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: mka@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



**ENVIRONMENT
DIRECTORATE**

- 3 OCT 2002

Action

SITE DATA

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| ASC site code: | TAT02 | Project No: | 415 |
| District: | Milton Keynes | | |
| Village/Town: | Tattenhoe | | |
| Parish: | Tattenhoe (pre modern MK Boundaries) | | |
| NGR: | SP 8276 3380 | | |
| Total extent of site: | c.0.12 ha | | |
| Present land use: | Building site | | |
| Planning proposal: | Housing estate | | |
| Dates of fieldwork: | 15 August to 16 August 2002 | | |
| Client: | Midsummer Housing Association 851 Silbury Boulevard Milton Keynes MK9 3JZ | | |
| Contact name: | John Stephenson | | |
| Telephone: | 01908 609577 | Fax: | 01908 609558 |

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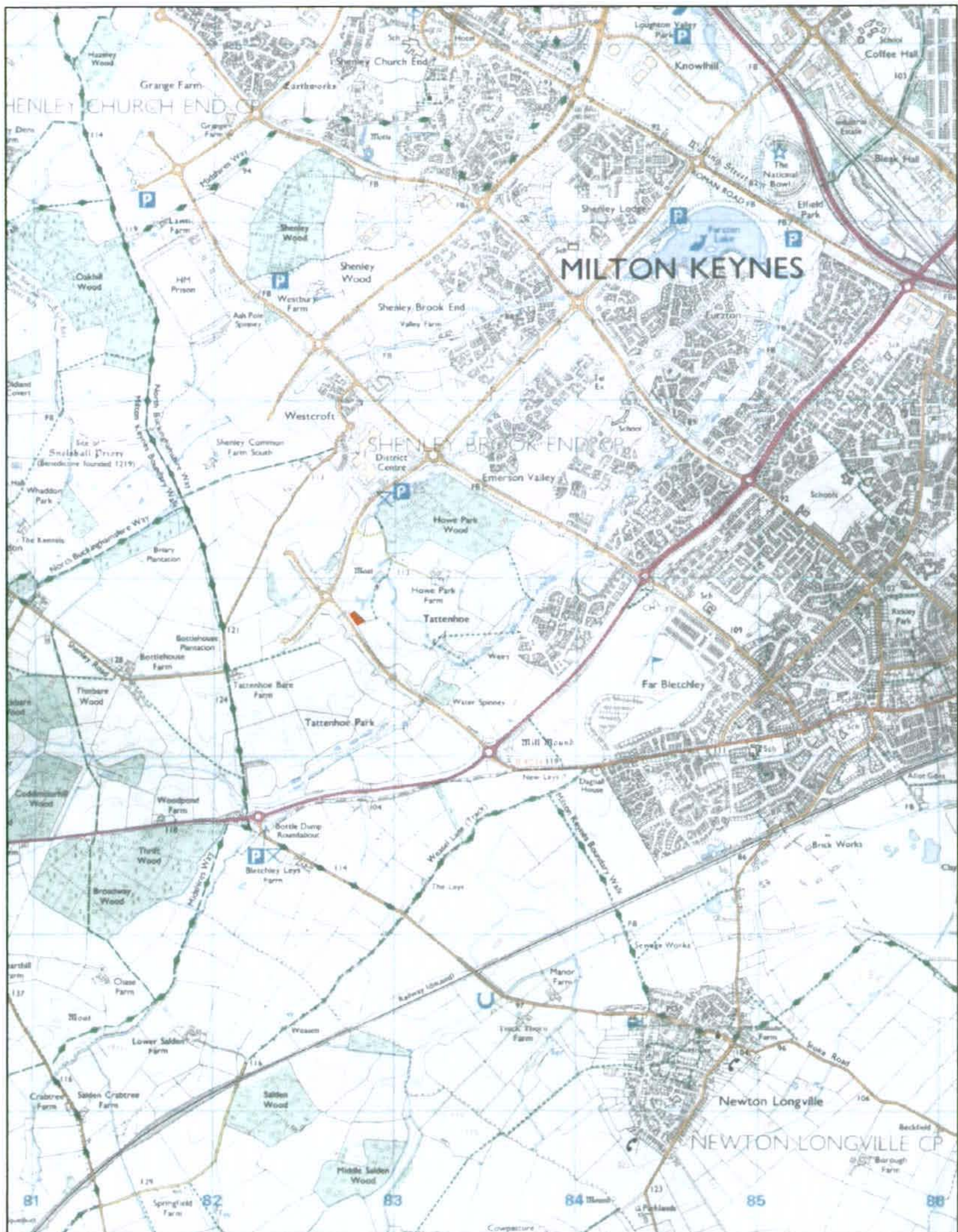
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Based upon the 1998 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During August 2002 a salvage excavation was carried out at 34/35 Portishead Drive, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes. Settlement activity dating to between the late 2nd to mid/late 4th centuries AD was recorded. It is probable that the archaeological remains excavated during this project form part of a larger Romano-British settlement located immediately north of 34/35 Portishead Drive.

Twelve archaeological features were identified and recorded: two ditches, three possible postholes, two pits and one large depression; all bar one pit contained artefactual material dating to the Roman period. Sixteen metal objects were retrieved during the excavation. This included nine coins, one silver plated spoon and several nail fragments dating to the Roman period.

Four Medieval furrows containing residual material dating to the Roman period were also identified.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 During August 2002 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a salvage excavation on a site at 34/35 Portishead Drive, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes (NGR SP 8276 3380: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Midsummer Housing Association, and was carried out according to a brief (13/8/02/PS/537/2/A/C 999) prepared by the Archaeological Officer, Milton Keynes Council.
- 1.2 The archaeological excavation was commissioned in response to a PPG 16 (archaeology and planning) planning condition imposed by the local planning authority, Milton Keynes Council. The condition was imposed following topsoil stripping in the northernmost fifty metres of the site adjacent to Portishead Drive, which revealed two ditches likely to date to the Roman period. Metal detecting activity recovered a silver spoon and a considerable amount of Roman pottery dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. It was expected that these archaeological remains would be severely damaged or destroyed by the groundworks associated with the construction of a housing estate, car parking, access roads and services.

2 Setting

- 2.1 The site is a broadly rectangular shaped plot approximately 0.12ha in size. It is located within the parish of Shenley Brook End.
- 2.2 The elevation of the site ranges from c.115.8m OD in the north, sloping gently down to 115.5m OD in the south. Immediately north of the excavation site the land rises to c.118m OD sloping south to the boundary of the development area at c.105m OD. Thus the site lay close to but not quite on the summit of this slope.
- 2.3 The natural soils of the area are derived from boulder clay (Zeepvat 1993) and the underlying geology is classified as belonging to the Hanslope Association (Soil Survey 1983), being 'slowly permeable calcerous clayey soils' overlying boulder clay.

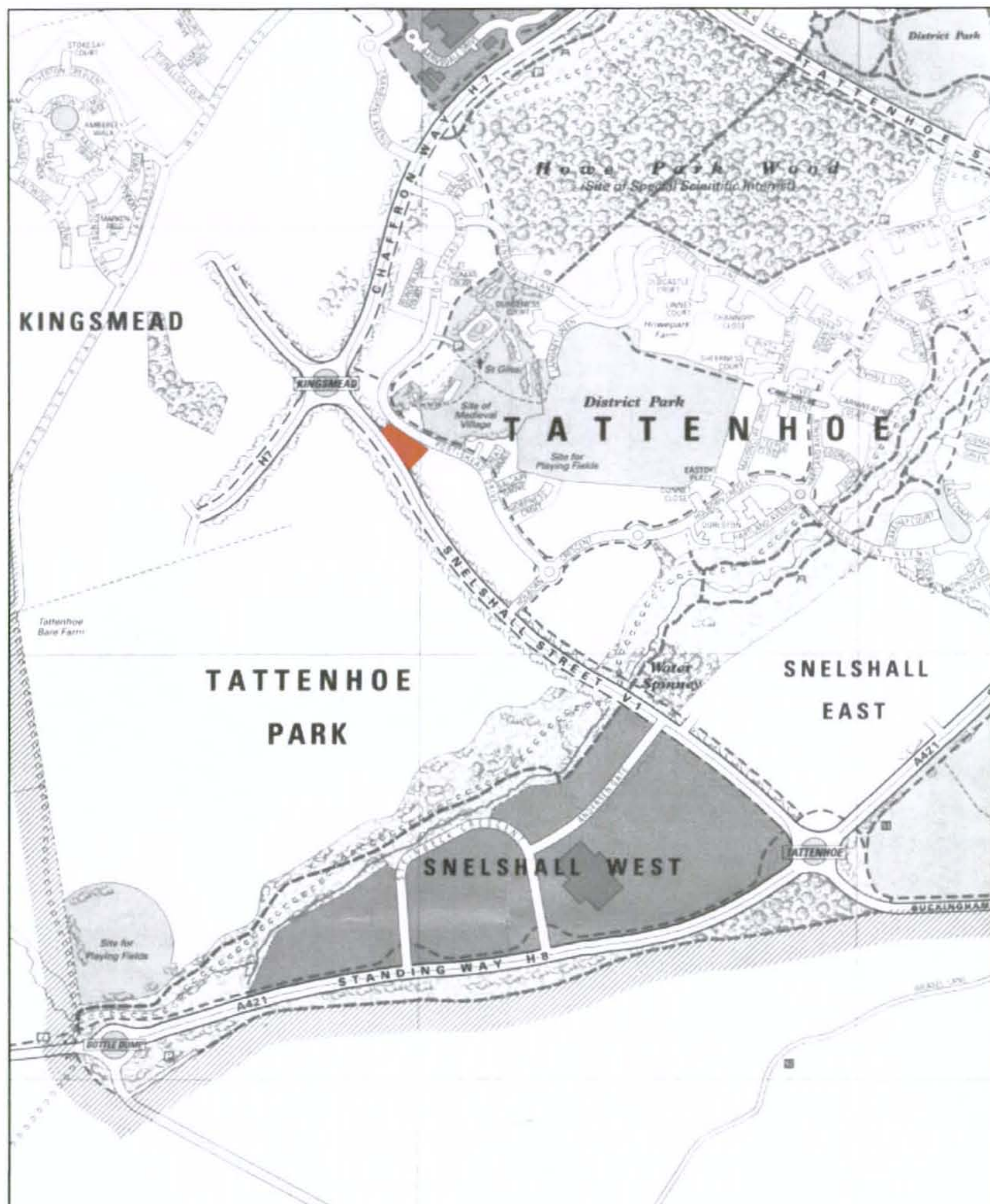


Figure 2: Site location (not to scale)

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 Tattenhoe was a small roughly rectangular parish of some 262 ha. The northern half of the parish was a low spur of land running from west to east. This topographical feature is mirrored in the name Tattenhoe, *i.e.* 'Tata's spur of land' (Gelling 1984), suggesting a Saxon origin. Tattenhoe is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, and it seems likely that it was included with the Shenleys (Ivens *et al* 1995). The earliest records relating to Tattenhoe date to the reign of Henry II, and suggest that the lands were held by Sibyl de Angerville before AD 1167.
- 3.2 Examination of available sources of information reveals little evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. A random scatter of Bronze Age and other flints have been found within the parish, however no settlement sites have been identified.
- 3.3 In contrast to the prehistoric period, several Roman coins and artefacts have been found, mostly by metal detectorists, though no settlement sites have been identified. Significantly a watching brief carried out by ASC Ltd during the construction of Portishead Drive, recovered a number of pottery sherds dating to the Romano-British period. These works were immediately east of the current development (Wilson 2000).
- 3.4 The centuries between the end of the Roman period (*c.*AD 450) and the Norman Conquest are generally poorly represented. A small Saxon cemetery was excavated by Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service in 1992, at Bottle Dump Roundabout about 1.1km to the south-west. The name 'Tattenhoe' suggests that a Saxon settlement was probably sited on the spur in the northern part of the parish. Excavations on the deserted medieval village by the former Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit (MKAU) suggest that the village whose earthworks remain today, was founded in the very late Saxon period or early years of the Saxo-Norman period (Croft & Mynard 1993).
- 3.5 The deserted medieval village of Tattenhoe is located directly to the north of the current development, and is defined by a series of earthworks. From the surviving earthworks it seems that Tattenhoe was mainly built to the south and west of the church, with cultivated fields beyond, now recognisable by the distinct ridge and furrow pattern left by medieval ploughing. The manor house, and its moat (Scheduled Ancient Monument) was located directly to the north of the church. The small church is the only surviving building, and dates to the mid sixteenth century (AD 1540). Tradition records that it was built from the remains of Snelshall Priory after the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. An earlier church, almost certainly on the same site was granted to Snelshall Priory in *c.*1215. The grant by Sibyl de Angerville was confirmed by her grandson Ralph Martel.
- 3.6 The earliest settlement seems to have occupied the higher ground to the east of the church, and probably dates to the later eleventh and twelfth centuries. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the village seems to have migrated southwards. It is likely that this was part of a reorganisation connected with the construction of the moated site, and the fishponds. This southern part of the settlement does not seem to have survived the fifteenth century, and as a village the settlement was already deserted by

the sixteenth century, though several individual farms survived until the present day (Croft and Mynard 1993).

- 3.7 To the south of the development area in the Loughton Brook valley there is a small nineteenth-century covert known as the "Water Spinney" (Scheduled Ancient Monument). This site is bounded on three sides by substantial earthwork banks up to 3m in height. Originally it seems likely that this feature was a medieval fishpond/ water management feature, created by damming the stream, and thus flooding a substantial area within the banks.

4 Aims & Methods

4.1 The aims of the salvage excavation were:

- To consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, which were liable to be threatened by the development.
- To produce an accurate and full record of the archaeology present, such that a permanent record will be made and the results presented in such a way that they may be re-examined and interpreted in the future.

4.2 The work was carried out according to the brief, which required (5) and (6):

4.2.1 An assessment was made of any significant archaeological features and deposits identified as they were exposed. These were then sampled and recorded by hand as appropriate. The following strategy was adopted to ascertain the nature, depth, date and state of preservation of archaeological features as well as stratigraphical relationships:

- At least 50% of the fills of a representative sample of pits, postholes and other discrete archaeological features was normally excavated;
- At least 10% of the exposed length of ditches was excavated, in segments of up to 1 metre in length. The segments were placed to provide adequate coverage of the ditches;

4.2.2 The excavation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits.

4.2.3 Research as is necessary to place into context any significant archaeological deposits encountered.

4.2.4 A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication.

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

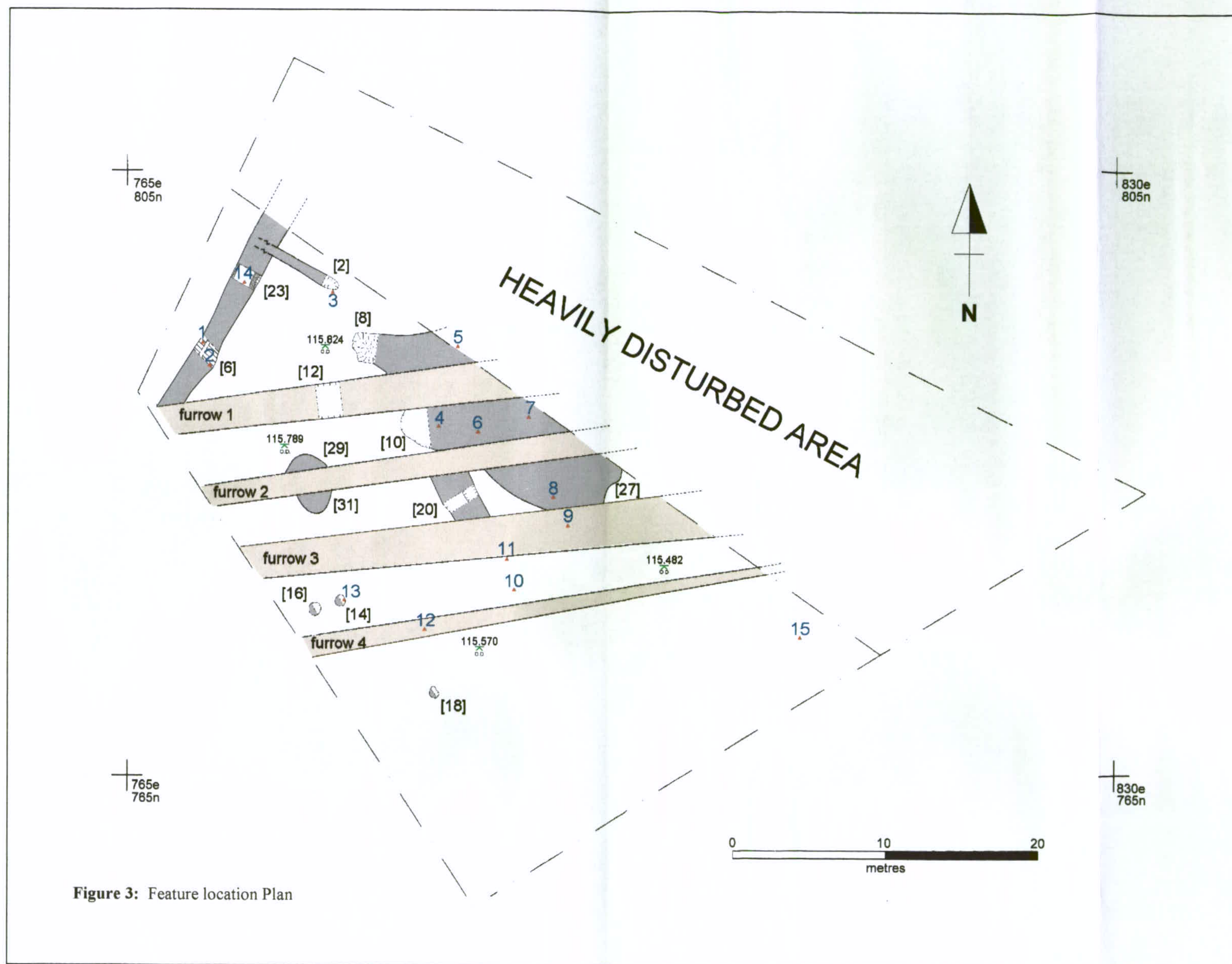


Figure 3: Feature location Plan



Figure 4: Location of Excavation Area in relation to building site (not to scale)

5 Results

The features discussed below have been separated into four distinct phases, based on their stratigraphic relationships and the dates of artefactual material recovered from them:

1. *Late 2nd century AD to early 3rd century AD*
2. *Late 3rd century AD to early 4th century AD*
3. *Mid/Late 4th century AD*
4. *Medieval Furrows*

Full descriptions of the character and morphology of all the archaeological features discussed below and the deposits contained within them are given in Appendix 1.

5.1 Phase 1 – Late 2nd century AD to early 3rd century AD

One large irregular depression [8]/[10]/[27], three small pits/postholes [14], [16] and [18], and two large pits [29]/[31] and [20] were recorded. Artefactual material was recovered from all these features except pit [29]/[31]. This material included pottery sherds, metal objects, faunal remains and ceramic building material. Environmental samples were taken from burnt deposits within pits/postholes [14], [16] and [18].

Large Depression/Spread [8]/[10]/[27] (Figs. 3 and 7)

A large irregular depression existed on the northeastern edge of the excavation area. This was c.20.0m long x >5.0m wide x 0.20m deep. Three furrows truncated this relatively large feature dividing it into 3 distinct parts. Two segments, [8] and [10], were excavated in two parts of this depression.

Segment [8] contained one deposit 7 from which 715g of pottery sherds dating to the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD, animal bone fragments, pieces of ceramic building material (Appendices 2 and 4) and a coin (Object 7, Appendix 3) were recovered.

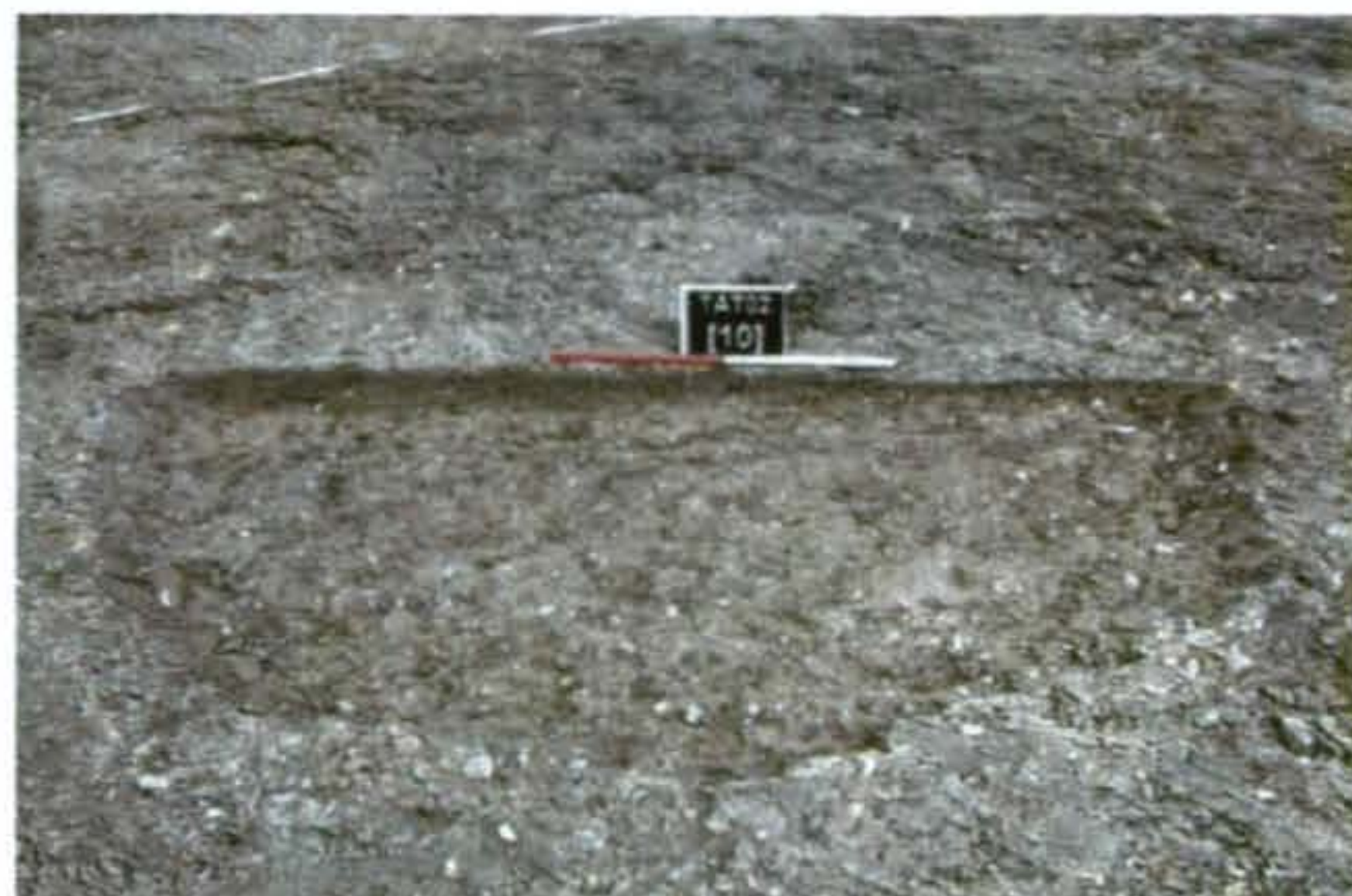


Plate 1: Depression/Spread [10] facing east.
Furrows truncate [10] to the north and south.

Segment [10] also contained one deposit 9 from which 1015g of pottery sherds dating to the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD, animal bone fragments, a coin, a metal hinge

and part of a nail (Objects 4, 6 and 7, Appendix 3) were recovered. Pieces of ceramic building material were also recovered from this deposit.

Deposit 26 within [27] was not excavated. However, a single sherd of pottery dating to the Romano-British period was recovered from the surface of this part of the depression. This sherd was unusual as it had been repaired in antiquity using a lead rivet.

While the deposits within this large irregular feature contain significant quantities of artefactual material from the Romano-British period, the function of the depression itself is considered to have been peripheral to any settlement. The artefactual material tells us more about the activities and date range of the suspected settlement activity than about the purpose of the depression [8]/[10]/[27]. It is suggested that this depression may in fact be natural in origin, and that it became backfilled with artefactual and other material associated with a nearby settlement.

Postholes/Small Pits (Figs. 3 and 8)

Three postholes/small pits [14], [16] and [18] were located in the southwestern part of the excavation area.

Posthole/pit [14] contained deposit 13 from which 80g of pottery sherds dating to the Late 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD, a nail and pieces of ceramic building material were recovered (Object 13, Appendices 2 and 3).

Posthole/pit [16] contained deposit 15 from which 15g of pottery sherds dating to the Late 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD and animal bone fragments were recovered (Appendices 2 and 3).



Plate 2: Pit/Postholes [14] and [16]

Posthole/pit [18] contained deposit 17 from which came 10g of pottery sherds dating to the Late 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD, 165g of animal bone fragments and pieces of ceramic building material (Appendices 2 and 3).

Due to the marked similarities in dimensions, morphology and character which [14], [16], and [18] shared, it was initially suspected that these may have been associated structural postholes, perhaps even indicating the presence of a structure within the excavation area. However, excavation revealed that these were shallow circular features (Plate 5) unsuitable for holding structural timbers, and in fact may not have been postholes at all. It is possible that later ploughing and other activities have truncated the upper parts of these features and that we have only recorded the base of each. Environmental samples were taken from deposits 13, 15 and 17 due to the presence of charred material. These have not been processed at the present time: the results of this analysis will be appended at a later date. It is hoped that this will provide information on the function of these features.

Large pits (Figs. 3 and 7)

Two large relatively shallow pits [20] and [29]/[31] were recorded in the centre of the excavation area. A segment was excavated through the centre of Pit [20], as furrows had truncated the northern and southern ends of this feature. Pits [20] and [29]/[31] are placed in this phase on the basis of the clear similarities in character and morphology they share with large depression [8]/[10]/[27].

Pit [20] contained deposit 19 from which 15g of pottery sherds dating to the Romano-British period and 165g of animal bone fragments were recovered. Pit [29]/[31] remained unexcavated and no finds were recovered from the surface of this pit.

The function of these pits is also unknown. Morphologically they would not have served any useful purpose as storage pits for grain, or working hollows for the mixing of potters clay or daub. It is possible that the upper levels of these pits have been plough truncated, in which case the salvage excavations only sampled and recorded the base of features which were once significantly deeper. As with depression [8]/[10]/[27] the contents of pit [20] are more useful in revealing the date range and artefact types present on the suspected settlement, than they are in explaining the function of the pits.

5.2 Phase 2 - Late 3rd century AD to early 4th century AD

One ditch [6]/[23] was recorded. Artefactual material including pottery sherds, metal objects, faunal remains and ceramic building material was recovered.

Ditch [6]/[23] (Figs. 3 and 6)

Two segments [6] and [23] were excavated through a northeast to southwest aligned ditch in the northernmost part of the site. Both segments (Fig. 6) contained two deposits a primary fill 5 and 22, and a secondary fill 4 and 21 respectively. Primary deposit 5 within segment [6] contained 15g of pottery dating to the Romano-British period and 165g of animal bone fragments (Appendices 2 and 4). Deposit 22 within

[23] was identical in character to 5 and is considered to be equivalent to it. A larger quantity of artefactual material was recovered from deposit 22, which contained 475g of pottery dating to the late 3rd to early 4th centuries AD, animal bone fragments and pieces of ceramic building material were recovered. Three lengths of curved iron rod were recovered from this deposit (Object 14, Appendix 3, Plate 2).



Plate 3: Ditch [6] facing northeast



Plate 4: Ditch [23] facing southwest, small find 14 (iron rods) visible.

Secondary deposit 4 within segment [6] contained 80g of pottery, animal bone fragments, pieces of ceramic building material and two nails were also recovered from this deposit (Objects 1 and 2, Appendix 3). Deposit 21 within [23] is considered equivalent to deposit 4, with which it shared similarities in character. This deposit contained significantly higher quantities of artefactual material. Pottery sherds recovered from this deposit weighed 1325g, animal bone fragments and pieces of ceramic building material were also recovered from this deposit.

There was a distinct increase in the quantity of artefactual material recovered from deposits within [23] when compared to deposits within [6] only 5m to the south (Fig. 3). While it is true that increased quantities of artefactual material are often seen as indicators of the relative proximity of a settlement, it is suggested that the confines of this site are too limited to draw any such conclusions. A much longer stretch of this ditch would need to be sampled in order to understand whether there was a consistent increase in the quantity of artefactual material present in deposits to the north of segment [6].

The quantities of pottery, animal bone fragments, ceramic building material and metal objects such as nails and iron rods are all clear indicators of significant settlement activity within close proximity of ditch [6]/[23]. It is possible that this ditch was a property boundary associated with that settlement. However, further excavation particularly to the northwest and northeast of the site would be necessary in order to fully understand the relationship which the ditch had with any settlement.

5.3 Phase 3 - Mid/Late 4th century AD

One ditch [2] was recorded. Artefactual material including pottery sherds, a coin and two fragments of animal bone was recovered.

Ditch [2] (Figs. 3 and 8)

The terminal of ditch [2] was excavated. This contained deposit 1, from which 90g of pottery sherds dating to the mid/late 4th century AD, animal bone fragments and a coin (Object 3, Appendix 1) were recovered. It is possible that this ditch is the base of a robbed out footing trench or possibly a beam slot related to a building. Certainly the quantities of material recovered from deposit 1 are indicative of settlement activity within the immediate vicinity of this feature. However, the confines of the excavation area and the existence of deep wheel ruts immediately northeast of ditch [2] (Fig. 3) prohibited the identification of any associated postholes or beam slots which *may* have existed.

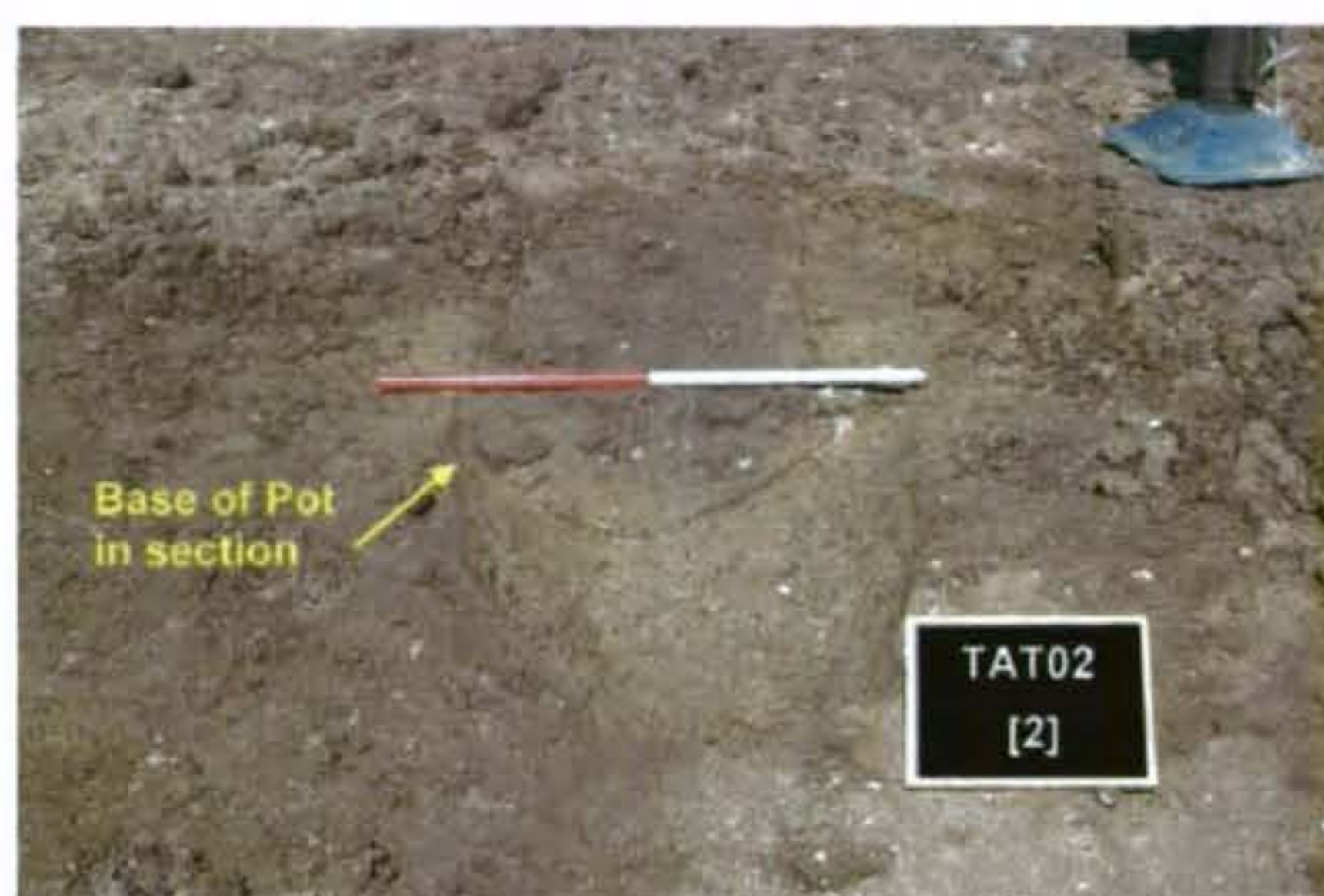


Plate 5: Ditch [2]

It is suggested that [2] represents a later phase of settlement to that associated with ditch/property boundary [6]/[23].

5.4 Phase 4 - Medieval Furrows (Figs. 3 and 7)

Four furrows were identified within the excavation area these were all aligned broadly east-west and shared deposits identical in character.

A length of lead rod and two coins were recovered from two of these furrows (Objects 9, 11 and 12, Appendix 3). Despite the existence of artefacts dateable to the Romano-British period within these deposits the furrows are considered to be medieval in date. The fact that they clearly truncate earlier deposits suggests that any artefacts found within them are residual. The medieval ridge and furrow systems have been comprehensively mapped for the Milton Keynes area (Croft and Mynard 1993). The ridge and furrow map for the Tattenhoe area (Fig. 5) clearly shows a ridge and furrow field system aligned broadly east west on land in which the site is located. This evidence was very useful in confirming the date of these furrows.

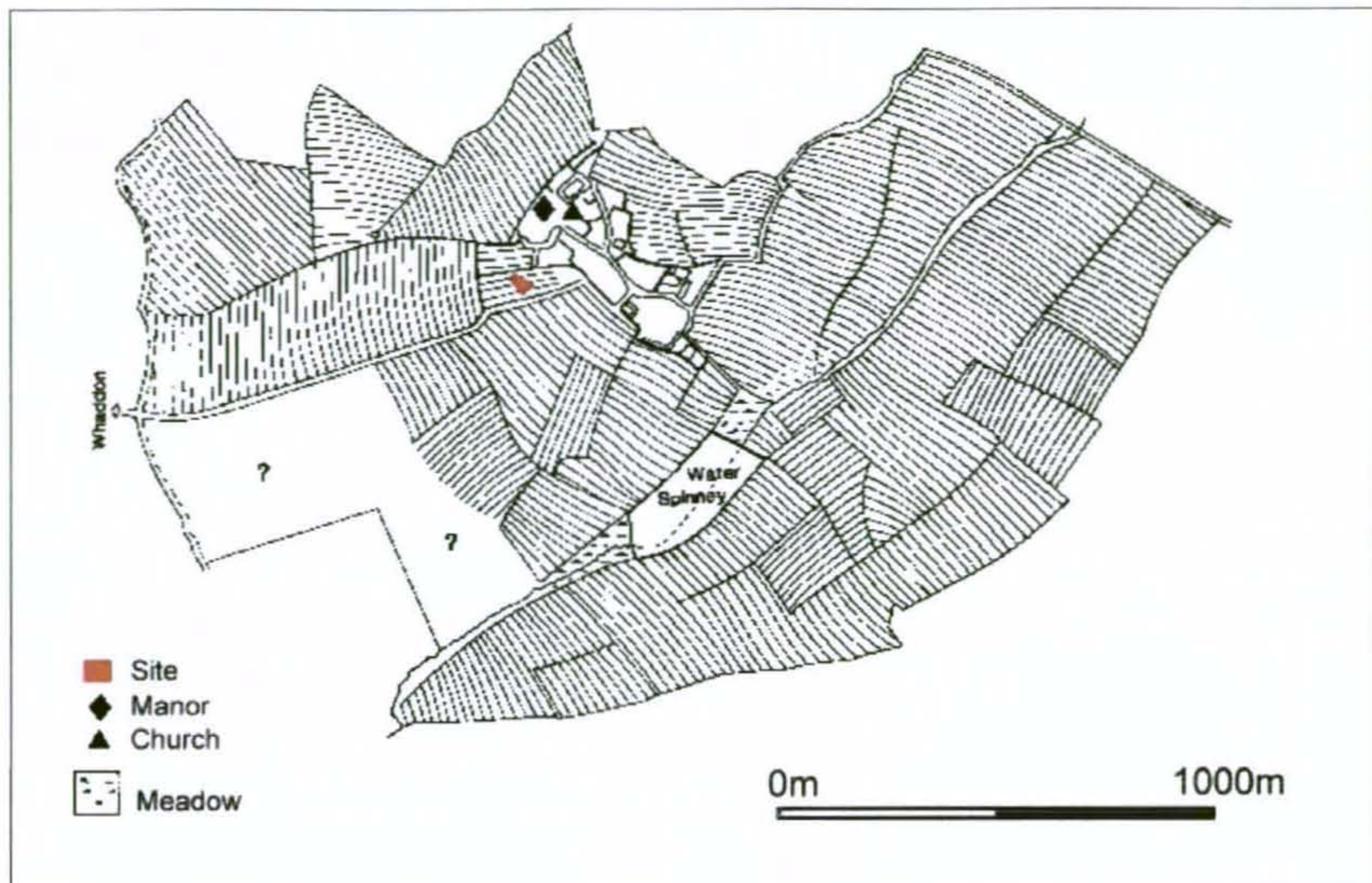


Figure 5: Tattenhoe - Medieval Field system

5.5 *What type of settlement/s are suggested by artefactual analysis*

Appendices 2, 3 and 4 contain descriptions of the number, weight, fabric, type and date ranges of all the artefactual material recovered from the site. The following discussion attempts to draw that information together in order to discuss the relevance of these finds to the date range and types of activity likely to have taken place on the site.

A brief assessment of the pottery assemblage recovered from the site suggests that the settlement was occupied between the late 2nd to mid/late 4th century AD. A sherd count for phase 1, late 2nd century AD to early 3rd century AD, gave a ratio of 1:7 for cheap practical table ware to fine kitchen wares, suggesting a period of relative prosperity and good trade contacts. These included eastern Gaul from which Samian ware was imported. A similar analysis of the material from phase 2, late 3rd century AD to early 4th century AD, gave a ratio of 5:6 for cheap practical table ware to fine kitchen wares. This indicates a significant increase in the prosperity of the settlement, and it is during this period that the settlement appears to have been at its peak. Pottery recovered from the Phase 3 deposits, mid/late 4th century AD, gives an entirely different picture, suggesting a sharp decline in the spending power and possibly the trading contacts of the settlement. The ratio of table ware to fine ware during this period was 1:50.

Analysis of the metalwork objects has also contributed to our understanding of the date range of the site. The majority of coins were dated to the 3rd – 4th centuries AD, which ties in with the range suggested by the pottery sherds described above.

The ceramic building material recovered during the excavations included *tegula*, *imbrex*, brick and hypocaust tile. These included a range of fabrics typical of those normally encountered on Roman sites in Milton Keynes.

The presence of pottery sherds, faunal remains, iron nails, coins, ceramic building tile and various other miscellaneous metal objects are unremarkable in terms of the Roman archaeology of Milton Keynes. However, the recovery of such items is proof for the existence of a previously unknown settlement in this part of Tattenhoe during the Romano-British period.

Results from the examination of the three environmental samples taken from the charred deposits within pit/postholes [14], [16] and [18] are not yet available. These results will be appended at a later date.

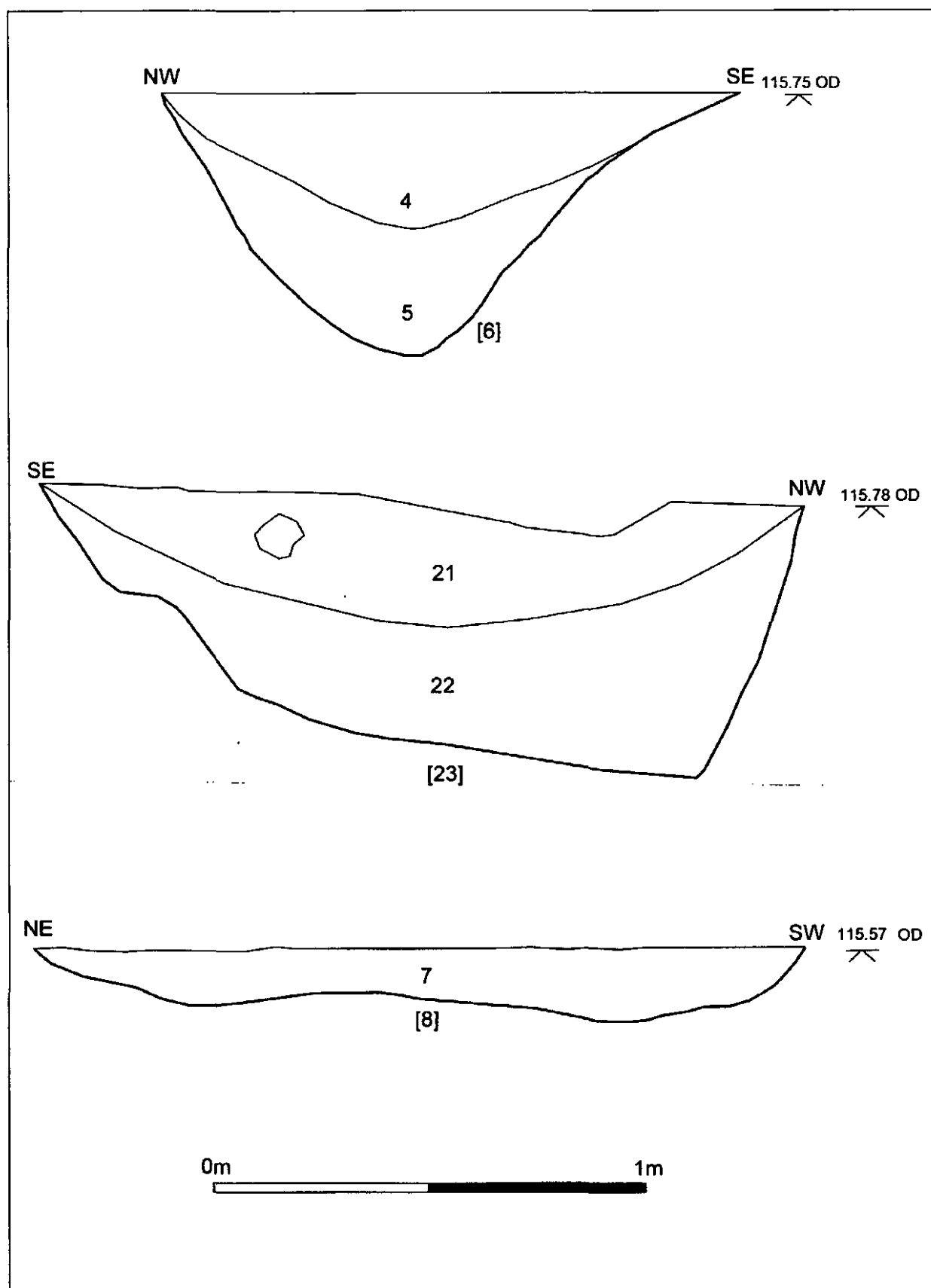


Figure 6: Sections Drawings [6], [23] and [8]

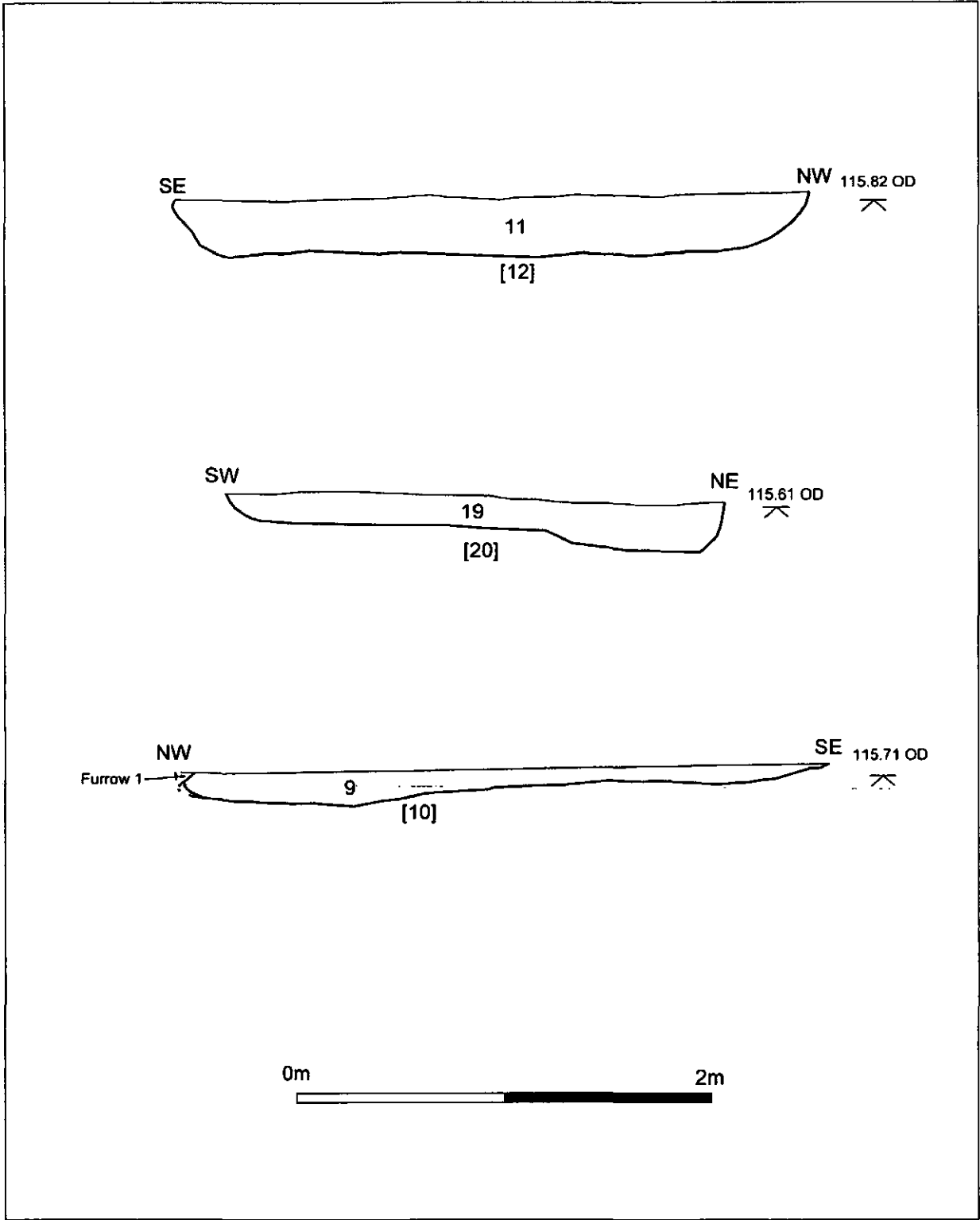


Figure 7: Section Drawings [12], [20] and [10]

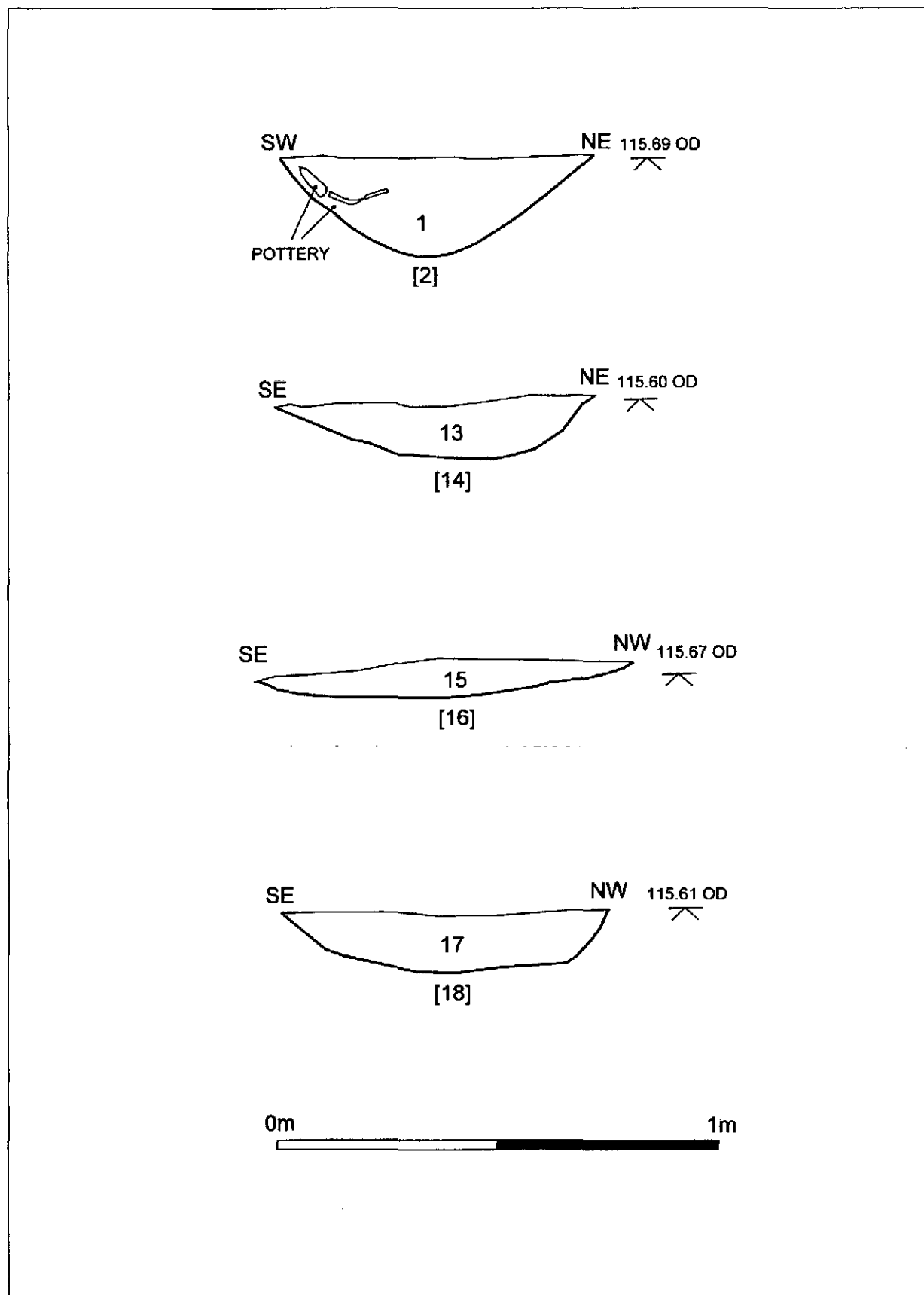


Figure 8: Section drawings [2], [14], [16] and [18]

6 Conclusions

It is likely that the features recorded during this excavation form part of the southern edge of a Romano-British settlement dated to between the late 2nd to mid/late 4th centuries AD. This is based on a combination of evidence generated by earlier fieldwork in the vicinity as well during the salvage excavation which is the subject of this report.

An earlier watching brief undertaken by ASC during the construction of Portishead Drive recorded that Roman pottery sherds were recovered towards the top of the hill, in the area adjacent to 34/35 Portishead Drive (Nigel Wilson *pers comm*). No Roman features were observed during this programme of work, but the presence of pottery indicates that a Roman site might be found in the locality (Wilson 2000). That no features were recorded in the area stripped to the south of 34/35 Portishead Drive during the current works or the earlier watching brief, which covered the area immediately east and southeast of the excavation area, suggests that the settlement must extend to the northwest and/or northeast.

During the salvage excavation at 34/35 Portishead Drive an absence of features was noted in the southern part of the excavation area. Of the eight archaeological features dated to the Romano-British period, seven were located within 30m of the northern edge of the excavation area. Secondly, no archaeological features were observed south of the excavation area despite the entire area having been stripped of topsoil for c.200m.

The topography of the immediate area was also a useful indicator of the likely location of any ancient settlement activity within the vicinity. Beyond the site, the development area rises from c.105m OD in the extreme south to c.118m OD to the north of the site. The excavation site lies at 115m OD, and is therefore relatively close to the crest but does not occupy the highest ground. Many settlement sites are located on high ground for a variety of reasons. If this were the case with this site, then the focus of any settlement would be located north of the excavation area, which may explain why relatively peripheral features were recorded at 34/35 Portishead Drive.

7 Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to John Stephenson of Midsummer Housing Association for commissioning ASC to undertake the salvage excavation. Thanks are also extended to Brian Giggins, Archaeological Officer who visited and monitored the site on behalf of Milton Keynes Council. Specialist reports on the artefactual remains recovered from the site, were supplied by Bob Zeepvat (metalwork and ceramic building material) of ASC Ltd, and Charmian Woodfield (pottery).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Joe Abrams, John Bolderson and Geoff Marshall. John Bolderson assisted in the preparation of illustrations for this report, which was compiled by Joe Abrams of ASC Ltd. Bob Zeepvat also edited the report.

8 Bibliography

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9. Archive

9.1 The project archive comprises:

- 4 Illustration sheets (plans and sections)
- 29 Context sheets
- 3 Sample sheets
- 1 Context registers
- 1 Plan register
- 1 Section register
- Photographic registers
- 1 Sample register
- Photographs
- Copy of the report
- Brief
- CDROM

Appendix 1: Context Summary

| Context | Type | Description and Interpretation | Length | Width/ Diameter | Depth |
|---------|---------|---|--------|--------------------|-------|
| 1 | Deposit | Fill of [2], firm mid/dark grey silty clay. Contained <i>object 3</i> . | | 0.70m | 0.25m |
| [2] | Cut | Ditch shape in plan, aligned northwest to southeast, steep concave sides, flat base, contained deposit 1. | | 0.70m | 0.25m |
| 3 | Layer | Topsoil layer, firm mid brown silty clay, occasional rounded medium flint pebbles. | | | 0.30m |
| 4 | Fill | Fill of [6], firm/plastic dark blackish grey silty clay, occasional fine pebbles. Contained <i>object 1 and 2</i> . | | 1.35m | 0.32m |
| 5 | Fill | Fill of [6], firm/plastic light brownish grey silty clay, occasional fine pebbles, occasional coarse pebbles. | | 1.35m | 0.30m |
| [6] | Cut | Ditch shape in plan, aligned northeast to southwest, steep slightly convex sides in north, slightly concave sides in south, slightly concave base, contained deposits 4 and 5. | | 1.35m | 0.62m |
| 7 | Fill | Fill of [8], hard purple-ish dark grey clay, moderate chalk flecks, moderate medium rounded chalk pebbles. Contained <i>object 5</i> . | | 1.80m | 0.20m |
| [8] | Cut | Irregular pit/spread shape in plan, gradual concave sides, flat irregular base, contained deposit 7. | | 1.80m | 0.20m |
| 9 | Fill | Fill of [10], hard purple-ish dark grey clay, occasional fine pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks. Contained <i>objects 4, 6 and 7</i> . | | 3.20m | 0.18m |
| [10] | Cut | Irregular pit/spread shape in plan, gradual slightly concave sides, slightly concave base, contained deposit 9. | | 3.20m | 0.18m |
| 11 | Fill | Fill of [12], firm orange-ish mid brown clay, moderate medium rounded chalk and flint pebbles. | | 3.10m | 0.30m |
| [12] | Cut | Ditch shape in plan, aligned broadly east-west, steep concave sides, flat base, contained deposit 11. | | 3.10m | 0.30m |
| 13 | Fill | Fill of [14], firm/plastic dark blackish grey clay, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional fine pebbles, occasional pieces of oyster shell. <i>Sample 1</i> taken. Contained <i>object 13</i> . | | 0.75m | 0.12m |
| [14] | Cut | Sub-circular posthole shape in plan, slightly concave sloping sides, concave base, contained deposit 13. | | 0.75m | 0.12m |
| 15 | Fill | Fill of [16], firm/plastic dark blackish grey silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional fine pebbles. <i>Sample 2</i> taken. | | 0.85m | 0.08m |
| [16] | Cut | Sub-circular posthole shape in plan, slightly concave sides, flat base, contained deposit 15. | | 0.85m | 0.08m |
| 17 | Fill | Fill of [18], firm/plastic mid brownish grey silty clay, occasional fine pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks. <i>Sample 3</i> taken. | | 0.75m | 0.14m |
| [18] | Cut | Irregular sub circular posthole shape in plan, gradual concave sides, flat base, contained deposit 17. | | 0.75m | 0.14m |
| 19 | Fill | Fill of [20], firm mid brown clay, occasional medium rounded chalk pebbles. | | 2.40m | 0.25m |
| [20] | Cut | Sub rectangular pit shape in plan, steep flat sides, undulating flat base, contained deposit 19. | | 2.40m | 0.25m |
| 21 | Fill | Fill of [23], firm/plastic dark blackish grey silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional fine sub rounded pebbles. | | 1.75m | 0.35m |
| 22 | Fill | Fill of [23], firm/plastic mid brownish grey silty clay, occasional flint boulders (<0.3m). Contained <i>object 14</i> . | | 1.30m | 0.30m |
| [23] | Cut | Ditch shape in plan, steep flat side in north, steep flat side in south break of slope mid way in section, flat base, contained deposits 21 and 22. | | 1.75m | 0.64m |

| Context | Type | Description and Interpretation | Length | Width/ Diameter | Depth |
|---------|------|--|--------|--------------------|-------|
| 24 | Fill | Cancelled | | | |
| 25 | Cut | Cancelled | | | |
| 26 | Fill | Fill of [27], hard purple-ish dark grey clay, occasional fine pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks. Contained <i>object 8</i> . | 8m | 3m | |
| [27] | Cut | Irregular pit shape in plan – not excavated | 8m | 3m | |
| 28 | Fill | Fill of [29], hard dark grey clay, occasional fine pebbles. | 2.3m | 1m | |
| [29] | Cut | Semi-circular pit shape in plan – not excavated | 2.3m | 1m | |
| 30 | Fill | Fill of [31], hard dark grey clay, occasional fine pebbles. | 2m | 1m | |
| [31] | Cut | Semi-circular pit shape in plan – not excavated | 2m | 1m | |

Appendix 2: Finds Quantification

| Context No. | Type | Pottery wt (g) | Number of pottery Sherds | Bone wt (g) | Building material wt (g) | Metal objects |
|-------------|------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1 | | 900 | 70 | 5 | - | 1 Ae coin |
| 4 | | 80 | 4 | 175 | 5 | 2 Fe nail |
| 5 | | 15 | 2 | 165 | - | 6 nail frags |
| 7 | | 715 | 35 | 15 | 580 | Ae coin |
| 9 | | 1015 | 40 | 40 | 715 | Ae coin/ crude buckle |
| 13 | | 80 | 7 | - | 5 | Fe nail |
| 15 | | 15 | 1 | - | - | |
| 17 | | 10 | 1 | 5 | - | |
| 19 | | 15 | 3 | 165 | 235 | |
| 21 | | 1325 | 61 | 1390 | 75 | |
| 22 | | 475 | 10 | 1535 | 285 | 3 lengths of curved Fe rod |
| - | u/s | 410 | 16 | - | 1305 | Ae spoon silver plated/ 5 Ae coins/ 2 nails/ sickle frags/ 2 strip frags/ lead rod frag/ crude lead rivet repair on pottery sherd |

Appendix 3: Metalwork & Ceramic Tile Assessment

A Brief Assessment – Bob Zeepvat, MIFA

Metalwork

| SF no. | Context | Description |
|--------|---------|---|
| - | 5 | 6 misc frags (probably from nails) |
| 1 | 4 | Fe nail, broken, length 45mm. |
| 2 | 4 | Fe nail, tip missing, length 47mm. Round head. |
| 3 | 1 | Ae coin, dia. 14mm. Probably late 3 rd century barb. radiate |
| 4 | 9 | a. Lead seal? Dia 12mm, undecorated. b. Fe nail head, dia. 25mm. |
| 5 | 7 | Ae coin, illegible. Probably 3 rd /4 th century |
| 6 | 9 | Crude buckle plate or hinge, fashioned from Ae sheet. 23 × 34mm. 2 rivet holes. |
| 7 | 9 | Ae coin, dia. 14mm. Rev: two soldiers, 1 standard. Gloria Exercitus type, AD330-346 |
| 8 | u/s | Fragment of pottery vessel, soft pink grogged ware, with large crude lead rivet repair. |
| 9 | u/s | Fragment of lead rod, length 27mm, dia. 4mm. |
| 10 | u/s | Ae coin, dia 16mm. Rev: standing fig. Probably 3 rd /4 th century |
| 11 | u/s | Ae coin, dia. 21mm. Illegible. Probably 3 rd /4 th century |
| 12 | u/s | Ae coin, dia. 17mm. Illegible. Probably 3 rd /4 th century |
| 13 | 13 | Fe nail, shaft only, length 54mm. |
| 14 | 22 | 3 lengths of curved Fe rod, approx. dia 250mm. 2 corroded together. Two roughly oval section, one appears to have a flattened terminal. Function unknown. |
| 15 | u/s | Ae coin, dia. 19mm. Illegible. Probably 3 rd /4 th century |
| 16 | u/s | Ae spoon, silver plated. Bowl and handle separate. Handle round section, undecorated, tapered, length 102mm. Pear-shaped bowl, width 25mm approx. Spoons of this type are generally dated to the first half of the 2 nd century or later (Crummy 1983, 69) |
| - | md | Ae coin or button (half), dia. 17mm. Undated |
| - | md | Ae coin, dia. 14mm. Obv. Helena. Rev: Pax publica type, AD337-340 |
| - | md | Various iron objects, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fragment of knife or sickle • Staple • 2 nails • 2 strip frags • lump |

TILE

All types of tile represented (tegula, imbrex, hypocaust tile, brick). A range of fabrics, typical of those normally present on Roman sites in MK.

References:

Crummy, N., 1983 *The Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester, 1971-9*. Colchester Archaeol. Rep. 2 (Colchester).

Appendix 4 – Pottery Assessment

A Brief Assessment – Charmian Woodfield, F.S.A

Full version of pottery assessment forms part of the paper archive for this project, stored with Charmian Woodfields previous report on un-stratified pottery sherds recovered prior to the salvage excavation.

There is no evidence for occupation on the site before the later 2nd century, nor convincingly in the last quarter of the 4th century. The dating suggests three phases;

- Late 2nd century to earlier 3rd centuries AD, pits [8], [10], [14]. This may include contexts [16] and [18] but there is little dating evidence for these. The pottery suggests that this is the second most prosperous period.
- Late 3rd to early 4th centuries AD, ditch slots [6] and [23]. The pottery suggests that this is the most prosperous period.
- Later 4th century, but not last quarter? Material related to gully [2] leading into the north ditch. The pottery suggests a very sharp decline in spending power.

There is an absence of late 4th century large straight sided Harrold bowls, curvilinear decoration on BBI vessels, and in the late Nene Valley and Oxford forms.

The pottery trade contacts are with Eastern Gaul 1 sherd, Lower Nene Valley 1, and Upper Nene Valley 1, all the tail end of earlier 2nd century trading, previously on a large scale and in the finer wares. There are no imported amphorae or Rhineland vessels.

For the later periods the trading figures are Dorset Black Burnished ware 7 sherds, all cheap practical vessels, Oxford 24 sherds (a mix of practical vessels like mortaria, and table wares) and Harrold, Beds. 65 cooking pot sherds, largely later 4th century. This is equalled in number by Soft Pink Grog emanating at least in part from Stow, Bucks, all kitchen storage jars, some of phenomenal size, i.e. a rim diameter of 36 cms, late 2nd – early 3rd centuries AD.

Catalogue of sherds - Late 2nd century to earlier 3rd centuries AD

Deposit 7, [8] - Late 2nd century to earlier 3rd centuries AD:

Samian - 1 sherd of an east gaulish samian bowl, significantly the only samian from the site. This will not be later than mid third century, when imports ceased, and is more likely late 2nd early 3rd.

Fine wares - there is a very worn sherd of a soft buff ware dish, with traces of rouletting at the base and possibly a colour coat.

Grey and black wares - 1 very coarse black ware sherd from a high necked jar.

Soft pink grogged ware - This is a large local industry (Stow), producing almost entirely storage jars. 18 sherds including large jars, 2 with diameters of over 26cms, one with a necked out turned rim, the other with a sharply turned over rounded rim, not date diagnostic.

Harrold - (Bedfordshire) Shelly ware cooking vessels 6 sherds including base of 8cms radius and 1 out turned rim.

Mixed tempering (shell, grit, grog) 3 sherds Later 2nd century.

Deposit 9, [10] - Late 2nd century to earlier 3rd centuries AD:

Oxford - 1 red ware mortaria sherd, originally colour coated. 3rd/4th century AD

Oxidised wares - A curious omphalos base in local oxidised ware trimmed to make a disc 9cms diameter 2cms thick. Sandy cream coloured exterior red interior. Fabric had occasional conspicuous red inclusions. Could this have been used as a quoit in some game? Unusual.

Red and Buff table wares - 2 sherds and 1 necked out turned rim, late 2nd/early 3rd centuries. 1 sherd of a small vessel with a three ribbed handle red exterior, grey interior. Unusual.

Grey wares - 1 fine blue-grey ware jar rim - probably Upper Nene, late 2nd/early 3rd centuries AD.. 6 coarse sandy grey ware sherds apparently local Caldecote kiln 2, 1 from a cordoned jar all probably late 2nd century.

Shelly ware – 1 sherd only

Mixed tempering – 3 sherds

Soft pink grogged – 23 sherds from large storage vessels and smaller jars.

Deposit 13, [14] - Late 2nd century to earlier 3rd centuries AD:

Oxford ware - Mortarium undiagnostic

Grey and black ware – black burnished ware, from Dorset

Local coarse grey ware - plain dish

Grey ware - jar sherd

Soft pink grogged – 2 small rim and base sherds

Deposit 15, [16] - Late 2nd century to earlier 3rd centuries AD:

1 soft pink grogged rim only. Diameter 12 cms

Deposit 17, [18] - Late 2nd century to earlier 3rd centuries AD:

Soft pink grogged ware – 1 body sherd

Catalogue of sherds - Late 3rd century AD to early 4th century AD

Deposit 22, [23]

sandy grey ware – 6 sherds in a local coarse.

BB1 ware – 3 sherds of a flanged bowl

Dog dish – 1 sherd of dog dish

Black ware – 1 sherd, off-white slip.

Deposit 21, [23]

Sherd of an indented **Castor Ware** beaker, late 3rd – 4th century. Sherd from an Oxford red colour coated vessel, 3rd/4th century. A dozen Oxford sherds representing red and white wares apparently from a small and well made vessels. The increase in material from the Oxford area confirms a 4th century date, and in numbers fine wares represented perhaps the greater prosperity, with a higher proportion of table wares to cooking wares than elsewhere.

Oxford mortaria – 1 Oxford M.17 mortarium, 2nd half 3rd century.

Grey and black wares – 2 sherds

Local sandy red ware – 5 sherds of a small round bowl. Late 2nd – early 3rd century.

Soft pink grogged – 5 rim sherds

Harrold (beds) - 5 sherds

Deposit 5, [6]

Grey ware – sherd of jar rim

Harrold – 1 sherd

Deposit 4, [6]

Grey wares – 3 coarse late grey ware sherds, one flanged bowl with a small bead.

Catalogue of sherds – Mid/late 4th century AD

Deposit 1, [2]

Black shelly wares – unusual type.

Oxford ware – 6 sherds of a round bodied white ware Oxford flagon, 1 sherd with faint traces of red paint/colour coat.

Harrold – 53 sherds with only 1 rilled sherd.

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Giggins, Brian

From: Oasis@minerva.york.ac.uk
Sent: 31 January 2003 12:49
To: brian.giggins@milton-keynes.gov.uk
Subject: Oasis Form Entry: Tattenhoe, 34-35 Portishead Drive

The IP is /195.93.34.12 at cache-loh-ac06.proxy.aol.com

Oasis Form ID: joe@archaeological-services.co.uk57864

Project Location 1|England
Project Bibliography 1|An unpublished document or manuscript
Form completed by: 1|Joe Abrams
Form completed by: 1|joe@archaeological-services.co.uk
Title 1|AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SALVAGE EXCAVATION, AT 34/35 PORTISHEAD DRIVE,
TATTENHOE,
Author(s)/Editor(s) 1|Joe Abrams
Date 1|2002
Issuer or publisher 1|ASC Ltd
Place of issue or publication 1|Milton Keynes
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Physical Archive Contents|Animal Bones, Ceramics, Metal
Physical Archive notes|Entire archive kept at:
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Start Date 1|15/8/02
End Date 1|16/8/02
Name of Organisation 1|Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd
Project brief originator 1|Brian Giggins
Project design originator 1|n/a
Director/Supervisor 1|Joe Abrams
Project manager 1|Bob Zeepvat
Sponsor or funding body 1|Developer
County 1|BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
District or Unitary Authority 1|MILTON KEYNES
Site address 1|34-35 Portishead Drive
Tattenhoe
Milton Keynes
Study area 1|0.12
Study area 1|hectares
National Grid reference 1|SP
National Grid reference 1|8276
National Grid reference 1|3380
Height OD 1|115.8m OD
Project Title 1|Tattenhoe, 34-35 Portishead Drive
Short description of Project 1|During August 2002 a salvage excavation
was carried out at 34/35 Portishead Drive, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes.
Settlement activity dating to between the late 2nd to mid/late 4th
centuries AD was recorded. It is probable that the archaeological

remains excavated during this project form part of a larger Romano-British settlement located immediately north of 34/35 Portishead Drive.

Twelve archaeological features were identified and recorded: two ditches, three possible postholes, two pits and one large depression; all bar one pit contained artefactual material dating to the Roman period. Sixteen metal objects were retrieved during the excavation. This included nine coins, one silver plated spoon and several nail fragments dating to the Roman period.

Four Medieval furrows containing residual material dating to the Roman period were also identified.

Previous/future work 1|no
Previous/future work 1|no
Type of Project 1|Recording project
Monument type 1|ditches/postholes
Monument type 1|RO
Significant finds 1|pottery/animal bone/metalwork
Significant finds 1|RO
Investigation type 1|Salvage Excavation
Prompt 1|Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
EOF

NOTES
DO NOT SCALE

DRAINAGE NOTES

1. ADOPTABLE SEWERS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SEWERS FOR ADOPTION MANUAL, 5TH EDITION
2. PRIVATE DRAINAGE TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BS 8301:1985 "BUILDING DRAINAGE" AND SECTION "H" OF THE BUILDING REGULATIONS 1985.
3. THE DEVELOPER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCATING ANY EXISTING SERVICES, MAKING PROVISION FOR ACCESS TO LAY SERVICES TO SERVE ADJACENT SITES AND PROTECTING ANY SERVICES TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE RELEVANT UTILITY COMPANIES.
4. THE DEVELOPER IS TO OBTAIN ALL NECESSARY LICENCES/ PERMISSIONS BEFORE MAKING CONNECTIONS TO EXISTING SEWERS
100 TO HAVE CLASS 'S' BEAD & SURROUND UNLESS NOTED HERWISE
6. THIS DRAWING TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH DRAWINGS 72317-05 TO 72317-08 AND 72317-16 TO 72317-22

DRAINAGE KEY

- PROPOSED ADOPTABLE STORM DRAINAGE
- PROPOSED ADOPTABLE FOUL DRAINAGE
- PROPOSED PRIVATE STORM DRAINAGE
- PROPOSED PRIVATE FOUL DRAINAGE
- MANHOLE REFERENCE NUMBER
COVER LEVELS
INVERT LEVELS
PROPOSED GULLY WITH 150mm CONNECTION
PIPE DIAMETER 100mm UNLESS SHOWN
- EXISTING STORM DRAINAGE
- EXISTING FOUL DRAINAGE

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|------|------|-----|----------|
| F | Architects corrected xref added 15th July | AT | | | 15/07/02 |
| E | Private drive gullies added | AT | | | 15/07/02 |
| D | F2 invert amended Minor connection revisions | CAP | | | 04/07/02 |
| | Minor connection revisions on main sewer runs Private sewer runs re-designed New x-ref added | CAP | | | 07/07/02 |
| B | New xref added | AT | | | 29/05/02 |
| A | Connections to F13 rationalised | CAP | | | 09/04/02 |
| Rev | Description of revision | Auth | Chkd | App | Date |

Client

Project
Tattenhoe 34/ 35
Milton Keynes

Drainage layout
Sheet 4 of 4

Designed CAP Checked

Drawn AT CAD filename:

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ecco
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Building
Development
Infrastructure
Midland Bank Chambers
2nd Floor
College Street
RUSHDEN
Northants NN10 0QQ
Tel: 01933 410215 Fax: 01933 410255
e-mail : ecco33@lineone.net

Scale A1 1:200 Date 23/01/02

Status

Drawing No. 72317/08 Revision F

EXC AREA
= WITH
FEATURES.

BADLY
DAMAGED
AREA

1 2 3 4

1 OCT 2002,

BRAN,

THIS IS A SPARE - SOMETIMES ITS HANDY
TO SEE THINGS IN AI RATHER THAN
A/AS. I HOPE YOU CAN LOCATE IT
NOW.

REGARDS

SGE ABRAMS.

**ENVIRONMENT
DIRECTORATE**

- 3 OCT 2002

Action