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S E R V I C E S

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Enclosure Ditches at Bowling Green Farm Quarry, Chinham
Farm, Faringdon, Oxfordshire
Phase 3 extraction area**

Draft publication report

By Andrew Weale

Site Code: CFF07/01

(SU3140 9495)

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for Hills Mineral and Waste Ltd

by Andrew Weale
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

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with contributions by Steve Ford, Rosalind McKenna and Jane Timby

Report 07/01b

Summary

Excavations in advance of mineral extraction revealed a range of archaeological finds and deposits of prehistoric and Roman date. The earlier periods were represented by Mesolithic flintwork and a few pits of Bronze Age date. In the early Iron Age a probable rectangular ditched enclosure was constructed. Final use of the site took place in mid-Roman times and was represented by a markedly rectangular ditched enclosure with both double and triple elements present.

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out on a parcel of land covering c.1.5ha at Bowling Green Farm Quarry extension, known as Chinham Farm, Faringdon, Oxfordshire (SU3140 9495). Planning permission has been granted by Oxfordshire County Council to extract sand and limestone from this area. The consent is subject to a condition which requires a programme of archaeological investigation prior to extraction. The potential of the site was highlighted by a desk-based assessment (OA 2003), drawing on the results from a previous evaluation on the original quarry site at Bowling Green Farm (OAU 1994). The investigation followed a brief prepared by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Coddington 2006). This phase of work followed the excavation of a parcel of land of c.4ha immediately to the west that contained a small causewayed ring ditch and two ditches of Iron Age and Roman date (Pine 2008). The ring ditch was probably dug at the end of the Early Bronze Age, and was reused in the Middle Bronze Age for a crouched inhumation burial.

The site was excavated between April and June 2010. The project was supervised by Andrew Weale with the assistance of Kyle Beaverstock, Daniel Bray, Aiji Castle, Susan Colyer, Steve Crabb, James Earley, and Jacqui Pitt. The site code is CFF07/01. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course with accession code OXCMS:2008.62.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies between the towns of Faringdon and Stanford-in-the-Vale in south-west Oxfordshire, on the northern side of the A417 (Fig. 1). The site is located on the Corallian Ridge which runs east-west and divides the Oxford Clay basin, and the topography from the ridge at *c.* 103m above Ordnance Datum slopes gently down from south to north over 200m to the Frogmore Brook at 98m AOD. The geology is Jurassic Corallian Beds (clays, sands and limestones) (BGS 1971). During the excavations limestone and sponge gravel were noted on the southern part of the site whilst on the northern slope sand and sandy clay natural geology was noted down to the Frogmore Brook. The current excavation area is to the north-east of the existing quarry (Fig. 2).

Archaeological background

An archaeological survey of the Corallian Ridge was undertaken by Hingley in 1980 with fieldwalking and air photographic survey of the Upper Thames Valley (OA 2003). It was concluded that the Corallian ridge was just as densely occupied as the gravels of the Thames Valley in the Bronze Age and identified over 21 ring ditches and several flint scatters at the eastern end of the ridge. This and other work was summarized in Bradley (1986, maps 5 and 6).

The conclusion of a desk-based assessment of the site was that there were no known sites within the extraction area and it was considered to have relatively low archaeological potential (OA 2003), but field evaluation by trial trenching was recommended. Archaeological investigations immediately to the north of the site in the 1980s and early 1990s (by Oxford Archaeological Unit and Oxford University Archaeological Society) revealed a substantial middle to late Iron Age and Roman settlement (HER ref 9237). Stone buildings, ovens, kilns and wells were found and the site was originally considered as a small market town (Chambers 1988; 1989; 1990), though it seems more likely to have been a villa with a temple: over 1500 coins recovered were mainly of very late Roman date but there was also 2nd-century pottery. The evaluation on Bowling Green Farm Quarry to the west of the new extraction area (HER 15822) revealed further Roman ditches, presumably part of outlying field boundaries associated with the settlement to the north (OAU 1994). Cropmarks representing a double-ditched driveway with adjoining rectangular enclosure were visible on an aerial photograph (HER 12002) to the west of the site.

Excavation before mineral extraction in 2007, immediately to the west of the present site, revealed a small causewayed ring ditch and two ditches of Iron Age and Roman date (Pine 2008). The ring ditch was probably dug at the end of the Early Bronze Age. Middle Bronze Age re-use of the monument took place with a crouched

inhumation. Finds included Early and Middle Bronze Age pottery and a deliberately broken bronze rapier blade. A residual later Mesolithic microlith was also recovered pointing to some earlier use of the landscape.

During the later medieval and post medieval periods the extraction site was agricultural land. The Ordnance Survey map of the 1870s shows a quarry to the south-east of the site.

Description of the excavations

The excavation comprised an area of *c.* 1.6ha (Fig. 3). Topsoil and subsoil, typically 0.5m deep, were stripped from all areas using a 360° machine fitted with a ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision, to expose the archaeologically relevant horizon, limestone to the south on the top of the ridge with sand or sandy clay geology towards the north. On the slope colluvial deposits were removed becoming deeper towards the north. Based on pottery, radiocarbon dates, flint and stratigraphy, six phases of activity have been defined. All excavated features are shown on Figure 3.

Phase 1: Mesolithic

A flint backed blade was the only datable find recovered from pit 200, but is considered as a residual find as cut features of Mesolithic date are exceptionally rare. It presumably reflects casual loss. Other components of the flint collection may also indicate a Mesolithic date but they too were recovered from later (Iron Age or Roman) features.

Phase 2: Early Bronze Age

Ditch 111 produced a very small sherd of oxidized ware with a black core which may date to the Beaker period. The piece is redeposited in a feature that contained Iron Age pottery as well as Roman pottery.

Phase 3: Bronze Age (Fig. 6)

Two pits can be placed within the Bronze Age: 237 and 302. Pit 237 was roughly oval in plan and was filled with mid grey brown clayey sand (454) which contained pottery that properly dates to the Bronze Age.

Pit 302 was circular in plan with slightly undercutting edges and a flat base. It had three fills (478-80) with middle fill 478 containing three very small pieces of pottery that may have an early prehistoric date, and the base fill (480) contained a broken flint flake (Fig.4).

Phase 4: Early Iron Age (Fig. 6)

Iron Age activity on the site comprise a sequence of intercutting pits and a large enclosure ditch.

The enclosure ditch

Ditch 111 was 108m long, between 4.15m and 6.10m wide and between 0.78m and 1.25m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Figs 4 and 5). Ditch 111 entered the site near the north-west corner and was aligned roughly NNW to SSE, before turning at roughly 90° heading from WSW to ENE and appearing possibly to be just about to return towards the NNW under the northern limit of excavation. Ditch 111 was excavated in four 3m long, full-width slots (213, 215, 306 and 322), and seven relationships with other features were also investigated (211, 226, 229, 231, 234, 340, 344). It was filled with a sequence of clayey sands, silty clays and sandy clays. Cut 213 fill 385 contained 4 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery, cut 213 fill 388 contained 2 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery, Cut 215 fill 372 contained 8 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery. Cut 322 fill 555 produced one sherd of 2nd to 3rd century Roman pottery and cut 322 fill 558 contained 1 sherd of Beaker pottery. The Roman pottery came from high up in the deposit sequence and may be intrusive whilst the Beaker pottery came from low down in the sequence and must be considered to be residual. A further sherd of Roman pottery came from cut 234 fill 451 at a point where the ditch is cut by Roman gully 115 and may also be intrusive. Ditch 111 cut pits 120, 228, 230 and had an uncertain relationship with pit 225. Roman ditch 106 cuts 111 whereas the relationship with gully 109 is unclear (Fig. 5).

Pits and pit groups

Pit group 123 (334, 345) was roughly oval in plan 2.8m long, 2m wide and 0.89m deep. 334 was filled with several fills 576-82 with the lowest fill (576) containing 14 sherds of Early Iron Age pottery. Pit group 123 cut pits 333 and 335 and was cut by pit group 113.

Pit 333 was roughly circular in plan 1.15m in diameter and 0.42m deep. Pit 333 had three fills (573-5) but produced no datable finds. Pit 333 cut pit 332 and pit group 120.

Pit 332 was sub circular in plan 0.62m in diameter and 0.27m deep. Pit 332 was filled with 572 dark red brown clayey sand.

Pit 335 appeared to be sub circular in plan 0.60m in diameter. Pit 335 was filled with 583 light grey brown clayey sand. No relationship could be established between pit 335 and pit 336 which was also sub circular in plan 1.6m in diameter and filled with 584 that was also light grey brown clayey sand.

Pit 120 (investigated as two slots 341, 343) was irregular in plan 3.5m long by 3.5m wide and 0.82m deep. Pit 120 was filled with a dark greyish brown silty clay (588, 595) beneath which was (589, 596) mid grey brown silty clay, beneath which was (590, 597) light grey silty clay. Pit 120 was cut by pit 333 and ditch 111.

Pit 225 was sub circular in plan 1.3m in diameter and 0.15m deep. Pit 225 was filled with 395 mid brown grey silty clay.

Pit 228 was sub circular in plan 0.80m in diameter. Pit 228 was filled with 392 mid brown grey clayey silt.

Pit 230 was sub circular in plan 0.3m in diameter and 0.10m dep. Pit 230 was filled with 397 mid grey brown clayey sand.

Other features

Although undated by pottery, ditches 112, 114 and 121, gully 122 and pits 223, 224, 240, 248, 249 303, 327, and 320 are likely to be of Iron Age date. These ditches and pits form roughly linear groups to the south (112, 121, 122, 320, 327 and 330) and north (114, 223, 224, 240, 248, 249 and 303) of the large Iron Age enclosure ditch 111 and their layout seems to be dependent on it (or *vice versa*).

Ditches 112, 114 and 121 were between 4.4m and 6.0m in length, 0.80 and 1.31m in width and 0.23 and 0.35m in depth. Ditches 112 (328, 329) and 114 (338, 339) were filled with (567, 568, 586 and 587) mid red brown clayey sand. Ditch 121 was filled with 569 mid red brown clayey sand beneath which was 570 light red brown clayey sand. Ditch 121 was cut by Roman ditch 106 and a short length of gully (122) ran from the eastern end of ditch 121 to pit 320 but no relationship could be seen with ditch 121.

Ditches, 112,12-2 and 319/342 appear to form part of a segment ditch making a boundary that allows access similar to pit alignments (Lambrick et al 2009, 58).

Pits 223, 224, 240, 248, 249, 303, 327 and 320 were all circular or sub circular in plan. Pits 223, 224, 248, 249, 303, and 320 all had a similar single fill (391, 394, 466, 467, 481 and 560) mid brown grey clayey silt. Pit 240 had two fills (457) light grey clayey sand beneath which was (458) dark grey to black sand. Pit 327 was filled with (565) mid red brown silty clay beneath which was (566) mid red yellow silty sand.

Phase 5: Roman (Fig. 6)

The Roman phase consisted of a rectangular enclosure ditch 106 inside which were a series of gullies (108, 109, 110 and 115) which ran parallel to the enclosure ditch roughly 4m away from it. Two further gullies (105, 116) also ran parallel to the enclosure ditch on the outside. Ditch 119, Pit group 113 and Pit 300 are also within this phase.

Ditch 106 (207, 209, 210, 212, 214, 216, 217, 305, 307, 309, 311 and 310) entered the site near the north-western corner aligned NNW to SSE to a roughly 90° return aligned WSW to ENE to a roughly 90° return aligned SSE to NNW where it exited the site (Fig. 4). The ditch varied from 1.05m to 1.30m in width, 0.25–0.45m in depth with steeply sloping sides and a flat based to the east and south with a slightly concave base to the west. 207, 210, 12, 214, 216, 217, 305, 307, 309 and 310 had a single fill (362, 368, 369, 371, 378, 379, 482, 483, 485 and 490) which varied from mid yellow grey to grey brown clayey sand. Fills 368, 371, 378, 482, and 485 contained pottery from the 2nd to 3rd+ centuries AD. Fill 498 in cut 310 contained pottery from the 1st century AD. Cut 209 contained three fills. The top most was (365) light grey brown clayey sand. Beneath (365) was (366) light grey yellow sandy clay. Beneath (366) was (367) light yellow clayey sand that contained pottery dated to the 2nd to 3rd century AD. Ditch 106 cut Iron Age ditches 111 and 121 and in turn was cut by possible Roman ditch 119.

Gullies 108 (227, 232, 246, 301 and 316), 109 (321 and 331) and 115 (233, 235 and 236) were dug parallel to the internal side of Ditch 106 and were roughly equally distant to ditch 106 (between 4 and 5m from it). They varied from 17.5m to 45.2m in length, in width from 0.25m to 1.05m and in depth from 0.03m to 0.41m all with a concave base. The majority of the cuts had a single fill of a mid grey brown clayey sand (390, 399, 464, 474, 496, 450, 452 and 453). Gully 109 cut 321 had two fills: an upper (552) of mid grey brown sandy clay and a lower (553) of mid grey brown clayey sand. Pottery from the 2nd to 3rd centuries was recovered from Gully 109 (321 deposit 552) and Gully 115 (233 deposit 450). Gully 115 cut Ditch 111 but no relationship could be seen between gully 109 and Ditch 111.

Gully 110 (219, 220, 221 and 222) may be a similar gully to 108, 109 and 115 possibly parallel to the unseen northern return of Ditch 106 outside the excavation area but more likely an internal division, perhaps the mid-point of the enclosure. Gully 110 was 20m long, between 0.38m and 0.42m wide, 0.07m and 0.08m deep with a concave base. Gully 110 was filled with mid red brown clayey sand (381, 382, 383 and 384) that contained pottery dated to the 2nd century or later.

Gullies 105 (312, 313, 314 and 315) and 116 (239) followed a similar plan to gullies 108, 109 and 115 however there were on the outside of Ditch 106 to the south and east. They varied from 2.8m to 42m in length, in width from 0.38m to 0.66m and in depth from 0.05m to 0.14m all with a concave base. Both gully 105 and 116 were filled with a mid red brown silty sand (456, 492, 493, 494 and 495). Neither gully contained any dateable artefacts.

Pit 300 was filled with (468) mid red brown sandy clay beneath which was (469) dark grey brown sandy clay, beneath which was (470) mid red brown sandy clay, beneath which was (471) dark grey brown sandy clay

which contained pottery dated to the 2nd century AD or later. Beneath (471) was (472) light yellow brown sandy clay.

Undated

Gullies 114, 117 and 118 as well as Pits 204, 240, 304, 318, 319, 326 and 337 together with tree boles 201, 241, 242 and 317 were all undated and could belong to any of the above periods or later.

Finds

The Pottery by Jane Timby

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 357 sherds of pottery weighing *c* 3.2kg dating to the earlier prehistoric, later prehistoric and Roman periods. Pottery was recovered from 24 contexts, including pits, gullies and ditches. The pottery was in fairly poor condition with a number of well fragmented sherds reflected in a low overall average sherd weight of just 9g. There were a few instances of multiple sherds from single vessels. The assemblage was scanned to determine the form and fabrics and the likely date of the pieces. These were quantified by sherd count and weight for each context. The resulting data are summarized in Appendix 2.

Beaker / Bronze Age

Ditch 322 (fill 588) produced a very small sherd of oxidized ware with a black core which may be Beaker. The piece is redeposited in a Roman feature.

Pit 237 produced two sherds (broken into six pieces) from a handmade, thick-walled (21mm thick) vessel, probably an urn. The brown fabric with a black core has a moderate frequency of fine, calcined flint, temper. The vessel probably dates to the Bronze Age.

Pit 302 (479) contained three extremely small pot crumbs in a brown fabric with sparse voids which also suggest an earlier prehistoric date.

Iron Age

Only Ditch 111 and pit 123 can be dated to the Iron Age by artefactual evidence however several more can be placed within this phase due to stratigraphy.

Some 30 sherds were designated Iron Age on the basis of fabric. These include sparse fossil shell-tempered wares, sandy wares and sherds with an iron-rich fabric which are likely to date to the early Iron Age. None of the pieces are featured but one sherd from pit 334, in a micaceous sandy ware, has a red haematite-slipped finish.

Fourteen of the Iron Age sherds came from ditch 111, specifically slots 213 and 215 unaccompanied by other later material, although Roman sherds have come from another slot along this ditch. A further 14 sherds came from pit 345 and single sherds came from ditches 310 and 334. Ditch 310 also produced Roman sherds but pit 334 produced no other datable ceramic material.

Roman

The bulk of the assemblage, 88.8% by sherd count, dates to the Roman period. Most of the wares derive from local industries, in particular there are sherds recognizable as coming from the Oxfordshire industry (grey, white and oxidized sandy wares and whiteware *mortaria*). Continental imports include five sherds of samian whilst the only regional import is a small sherd of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware. The samian is unusual in that it appears to include one, possibly two sherds from the base of a South Gaulish *crater* from ditch 310 which suggests a possible Claudian or Claudio-Neronian date. The same feature also contained a dish of Dragendorff type 18. One broken samian fragment from gully 321 may be East Gaulish, as is possibly one extremely small fragment from ditch 210.

The local wares include very few featured pieces to allow close dating. Most of the sherds from gully 115 terminus 233, which appears to be a large group of 223 sherds and thus 62.5% of the assemblage, actually come from a single large grey-ware jar with an expanded, slightly pendant rim. With the exception of ditch 310 which appears to date to the early Roman period most of the other features would suggest a later 2nd or 3rd century phase of activity. There are no colour-coated wares or other typical later Roman products present suggesting that there is no occupation dating after the middle of the 3rd century.

Apart from gully 115, the greatest concentrations of Roman pottery came from ditches 106 and 111. Ditch 106 produced 64 sherds amongst which is a body and base-herd of gritted Oxfordshire white-ware *mortarium* and nine sherds from a single Oxfordshire white-ware flanged bowl copying a *mortarium* form but with no grits (cf. Young 1977, form W62, dated to the 3rd century), as well as the early South Gaulish samian. Ditch 111 produced 17 sherds of which 14 are Iron Age suggesting either an unrecognized cut or a high proportion of redeposited material.

Summary

The assemblage appears to indicate activity in the earlier prehistoric, early Iron Age and early and mid Roman periods. The group is very small with few featured pieces. The range of wares is very similar to those previously recovered from the Faringdon area (cf. Timby 2004) both in terms of composition and chronology.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A small collection comprising 21 struck flints was recovered from the site. These comprised 14 flakes, 4 narrow flakes, a spall, a core fragment and a finely retouched blade (Appendix 3). All were recovered from excavated features, though probably as residual finds. Several of the pieces are fresh whereas the majority are patinated and at least one fairly weathered and edge damaged. The flint is presumably derived from the chalklands to the south of the site.

Despite being such a small collection, it is notable that there is a high narrow flake/blade component, with the latter pieces being well made and not a fortuitous by-product of any flint knapping. They indicate a Mesolithic component to the collection, with the undiagnostic pieces perhaps being of similar date. One notable piece is a backed blade 53mm long, made on a slightly cherty blank though it is not known if its grey colour is a product of patination. Both dorsal sides of the blade have been retouched with a (broken) point at the distal end.

The association of Mesolithic flintwork with the sand outcrops of the Corallian ridge through Oxfordshire is a repeat occurrence (Holgate 1988), with several larger occupation sites recorded such as at Tubney (Bradley and Hey 1993). Other sites are recorded where modest numbers of flints were found, with for example, one at the nearby excavation at Coxwell Road, Faringdon (Weaver and Ford 2005) and a microlith found during excavation of the ring ditch in just to the south west of this phase of extraction (Pine 2008).

Charred Seeds and Charcoal by Rosalind McKenna

A programme of soil sampling was implemented during the excavation, which included the collection of soil samples from sealed contexts, ranging from 5L to 20L in size. Following selection, subsamples of raw sediment from the selected samples were processed. The subsamples were processed by wet sieving using a 0.25mm mesh. The heavy residue (the material which does not float) was not examined, and therefore the results presented here are based entirely on the material from the flot. The flot was sieved into convenient fractions (4, 2, 1 and 0.3mm) for sorting and identification of charcoal fragments. Identifiable material was only present within the 4 and 2mm fractions. Where samples did not contain 100 identifiable fragments (all the samples in this case), all fragments were studied and recorded.

Results

Eighteen samples are the basis of this investigation. The dated samples range in date from the Bronze Age to the Roman period. Full details are in archive; Appendix 4 presents the identifiable material only.

Charred plant macrofossils were present in just three samples. The charred remains were very poorly preserved, and were lacking in most identifying morphological characteristics. The most commonly recorded

charred macrofossil (just 3 items) was indeterminate cereal which was present in two of the samples. Wheat and barley were represented as single occurrences.

Charcoal fragments were present in all of the samples, none containing as many as 10 fragments. The charcoal was too poorly preserved or too small to enable identification and so no interpretable data can be gained.

Conclusion

The Mesolithic component of the site is similar to others that occur on the sand outcrops of the Corallian ridge throughout Oxfordshire (Holgate 1988), where modest numbers of flints have been found, such as at the nearby excavation at Coxwell Road, Faringdon (Weaver and Ford 2005) and the microlith found during excavation of the ring ditch just to the west of this phase of extraction (Pine 2008). The majority of the Mesolithic flint component of the site came from ditches that are dated to the Iron Age or Roman periods. The retouched blade came from a pit without any other dating evidence and could be of a Mesolithic date as could the broken blade from a tree bole. There is no evidence of clustering of the Mesolithic flint across the site and therefore little or no evidence of settlement on the site. As the majority of the flint came from later features the flint would appear to be residual and is thought to indicate casual loss in the landscape.

The Bronze Age component is limited to two pits that contained pottery and were at opposing ends of the site. The first of these, pit 237 contained large sherds from a handmade, thick-walled vessel, probably urn, whilst the other pit, 302 contained only three extremely small pot crumbs of an earlier prehistoric date. It is difficult to interpret these limited data, as they could represent occupation in the Bronze Age with the loss of all other traces due to ploughing, or simply represent an, isolated deposit of unknown function well away from an occupied area. Yet the presence nearby of a ring ditch of Early Bronze Age date re-used in the middle Bronze Age with associated burials (Pine 2008) which was just over 100m to the west, would have had some importance in shaping the use of the landscape beyond. It is possible that some of the undated pits across the site may be of a similar date to the two with Bronze Age pottery but with the lack of any artefactual evidence from them this can only be a possibility. The presence of other earlier prehistoric features has been suggested by cropmark and survey evidence (OAU 2003). The recovery of a piece of Beaker pottery on the site must be viewed in this context as it was residual in a later Iron Age ditch and may have been transported down hill.

The Iron Age occupation consisted of a series of pits and short lengths of ditches roughly aligned south-west to north-east across the lower (northern) part of the site, which were later cut by a large enclosure ditch which appeared to be roughly rectangular. The southern edge of the enclosure ditch was on a similar alignment

to the pits and short lengths of ditch and may have replaced the latter as a boundary feature across the site. The majority of the enclosure lies down slope of the site and beyond the current limit of the quarry works. It is possible that some of the pits within the enclosure are associated with it, but no evidence apart from position was recovered to expand on this possibility. No other internal features indicating settlement were seen although these may have existed further down slope, or may have been eroded away in the mobile sandy soils. The vast majority of the pottery, dated to the early Iron Age came from the large enclosure ditch which indicates that the land division dates from this period. A further Iron Age ditch is known to the south-west at the top of the slope on the limestone (Pine 2008) as well as a substantial middle-late Iron Age and Roman settlement (SMR 9237) to the north of the site. A cropmark of a double ditched driveway with adjoining rectangular enclosure is visible on an aerial photograph (SMR 12002) to the west of the current quarry workings which may also be of Iron Age origins, giving a landscape context to the large enclosure on the site. Two sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered from the enclosure ditch which may suggest that it had not completely silted up for several hundred years and still survived as a landscape feature. The Roman pottery could of course be intrusive (both sherds came from points on the ditch where it was cut by a Roman feature), but as the later Roman ditch and gullies follow a similar orientation to the Iron Age enclosure it would be a remarkable coincidence that some remains of this land division was not visible as a shallow cut.

Roman use of the site was characterized by an enclosure ditch with internal and external gullies on the same alignment as well as one pit. All the Roman activity is broadly dated to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. The enclosure ditch and gullies is an unusual monument (Miles 1982) with few sites with even approximately similar forms, reported locally. A double-ditched markedly rectilinear farmstead is recorded at Tewesbury in the Severn Valley (Holbrook, 2006, fig. 6) and a triple-ditched shrine enclosure recorded at Charlbury, Oxfordshire (Henig and Booth 2000, fig. 5.13). Perhaps a closer comparison can be made with a later Roman triple-ditched enclosure at Waylands Nursery, Wraysbury, Berkshire (Pine 2003). The enclosure and gullies resemble field boundaries rather than the type of ditch generally used for stock or settlement enclosures, the southern end of Gully 109 and the eastern end of Gully 105 did not terminate and their true dimensions cannot be known due to the loss of these parts by erosion or lack of depth. The other gullies may also have originally been of greater length. Gully 110 may be an indication that the northern edge of the enclosure was just outside the excavation area or could represent an internal division within the enclosure. The ditch and gullies ran parallel and appeared to maintain the same orientation and spacing. It is possible that they were dug successively to define a boundary whose position was approximately known, but where the precise location of the original ditch was lost. However, at Chinham Farm it seems unlikely that this redefinition of the original boundary on two further occasions could occur, and maintain the same spacing and orientation. The pottery from the enclosure ditch and

gullies does not indicate any depth of time for the filling of the ditch and gullies apart from a little 1st century pottery from a corner of the enclosure ditch (310) which may be residual. On balance the ditch and gullies should be considered as contemporary.

The function of triple boundary enclosed sites in the Iron Age and Roman periods has been considered in Pine (2003 133–5), and at Chinham Farm, whilst it is not possible to rule out settlement use it would appear that the enclosure was used primarily for handling livestock, on the periphery of the extensive settlement to the north. The quantity of finds is quite low, suggesting no settlement in this area itself.

One thing of note is the total absence across the site of any bone including teeth and there was also an absence of metalwork finds, in stark contrast to the excavations to the north-west and the previous phase of work to the west. This may be a further indication of the use of the enclosure for stock, instead of settlement, and seems to be backed up by the small amount of charred seeds recovered from the samples. However it may also be due to the acidity of the sandy soils that have removed bone and metalwork from the record unless well-protected in deep feature fills, the features here often being quite shallow. If this area has also been more heavily ploughed than surrounding land, then the enclosure could still represent a settlement enclosure with any postholes or sill beam slots not surviving to sufficient depth.

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APPENDIX 1: Feature list

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Phasing Evidence</i>
	594		disturbance	Undated	None
200	350		Pit	?Mesolithic	Flint blade
201	351		<i>Treebole</i>	<i>Undated</i>	<i>None</i>
202	352	117	Gully terminus	Undated	None
203	353	118	Gully terminus	Undated	None
204	354-6		Pit	Undated	None
205	357-9		Pit	?Preh	Flint
206	360-1		<i>Treebole</i>	<i>?Preh</i>	<i>Flint</i>
207	362	106	Ditch	C1-C3	Stratigraphy
208	363-4	119	Ditch Terminus	C3+	Stratigraphy
209	365-7	106	Ditch	C1-C3	Pottery
210	368	106	Ditch	C2+	Pottery
211	369	111	Ditch	EIA	Stratigraphy
212	370	106	Ditch	C1-C3	Stratigraphy
213	385-9	111	Ditch	EIA	Pottery
214	371	106	Ditch	C2+	Pottery
215	372-7	111	Ditch	EIA	Pottery
216	378	106	Ditch	C2-C3	Pottery
217	379	106	Ditch	C1-C3	Stratigraphy
218	380	107	<i>Erosion gully</i>	<i>Post Roman</i>	<i>Stratigraphy</i>
219	381	110	Gully terminus	C2+	Stratigraphy
220	382	110	Gully	C2+	Stratigraphy
221	383	110	Gully	C2+	Pottery
222	384	110	Gully terminus	C2+	Stratigraphy
223	391		Pit	?Preh	Flint
224	394		Pit	Undated	None
225	395		Pit	EIA?	Stratigraphy
226	396	111	Ditch	EIA	Stratigraphy
227	390	108	Gully terminus	C2-C3	Landscape
228	392		Pit	EIA	Stratigraphy
229	393	111	Ditch	EIA	Stratigraphy
230	397		Pit	EIA	Stratigraphy
231	398	111	Ditch	EIA	Stratigraphy
232	399	108	Gully	C2-C3	Landscape
233	450	115	Gully terminus	C2-C3	Pottery
234	451	111	Ditch	Roman	Pottery
235	452	115	Gully	C2-C3	Stratigraphy
236	453	115	Gully	C2-C3	Stratigraphy
237	454		Pit	?Bronze Age	Pottery
238	455		Pit	Undated	Pottery
239	456	116	Gully terminus	C2-C3	Landscape
240	457-8		Pit	Undated	None
241	459		<i>treebole</i>	<i>Undated</i>	<i>None</i>
242	460		<i>treebole</i>	<i>Undated</i>	<i>None</i>
243	461	107	<i>Erosion gully</i>	<i>Post Roman</i>	<i>Stratigraphy</i>
244	462	107	<i>Erosion gully</i>	<i>Post Roman</i>	<i>Stratigraphy</i>
245	463	107	<i>Erosion gully</i>	<i>Post Roman</i>	<i>Stratigraphy</i>
246	464	108	Gully	C2-C3	Landscape
247	465	119	Gully terminus	C3+	Stratigraphy
248	466		Pit	Undated	None
249	467		Pit	Undated	None
300	468-73		Pit	C2+	Pottery
301	474	108	Gully	C2-C3	Landscape
302	478-80		Pit	?Early Preh	Pottery
303	481		Pit	Undated	None
304	475-7		Pit	Undated	None
305	482	106	Ditch	C3	Pottery
306	486-9	111	Ditch	EIA	Stratigraphy
307	483	106	Ditch	C1-C3	Stratigraphy
308	484	121	Ditch	EIA	Landscape, Stratigraphy
309	485	106	Ditch	C2-C3	Pottery
310	490	106	Ditch	C1	Pottery
311	491	106	Ditch	C1-C3	Stratigraphy
312	492	105	Gully	C1-C3	Landscape
313	493	105	Gully	C1-C3	Landscape
314	494	105	Gully	C1-C3	Landscape
315	495	105	Gully terminus	C1-C3	Landscape
316	496	108	Gully terminus	C2-C3	Landscape
317	497		<i>treebole</i>	<i>Undated</i>	<i>None</i>

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Phasing Evidence</i>
318	498-9		Pit	Undated	None
319	550-1	113	Pit	Roman	Stratigraphy
320	560		Pit	EIA	Landscape Stratigraphy
321	552-3	109	Gully	LC2-C3	Pottery
322	554-9	111	Ditch	Beaker/EIA/C2-C3	Stratigraphy/Pottery
323	561	121	Ditch Terminus	EIA	Landscape
324	562	122	Gully	EIA	Landscape
325	563	122	Gully	EIA	Landscape
326	564		Pit	Undated	None
327	565-6		Pit	Undated	None
328	567	112	Ditch Terminus	EIA	Landscape
329	568	112	Ditch Terminus	EIA	Landscape
330	569-70	121	Ditch Terminus	EIA	Landscape
331	571	109	Gully terminus	C2-C3	Landscape
332	572-5		Pit	EIA	Stratigraphy
334	576-82	123	Pit	EIA	Pottery
335	583		Pit	EIA	Stratigraphy
336	584		Pit	EIA?	Stratigraphy
337	585		Pit	Undated	None
338	586	114	Gully terminus	Undated	None
339	587	114	Gully terminus	Undated	None
340	651-3	111	Ditch	EIA	Stratigraphy
341	595-7	120	Ditch	EIA	Stratigraphy
342	598-9, 650	111	Ditch	EIA	Stratigraphy
343	588-90	120	Ditch	Roman	Stratigraphy
344	592-3	113	Ditch	EIA	Stratigraphy
345	591	123	Pit	EIA	Pottery

APPENDIX 2: Pottery summary by context

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>E Preh</i>	<i>IA</i>	<i>samian</i>	<i>mort</i>	<i>Rcw</i>	<i>undated</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>wt (g)</i>	<i>Date</i>
209	367	106	ditch	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	58	C2-C3
210	368	106	ditch	-	-	1	-	8	-	9	16.25	C2+
214	371	106	ditch	-	-	-	-	22	-	22	109	C2+
216	378	106	ditch	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	7	C2-C3
305	482	106	ditch	-	-	-	9	13	-	22	400	C3
309	485	106	ditch	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	41	C2-C3
310	498	106	ditch	-	1	3	-	4	-	8	25	C1
321	552	109	gully	-	-	1	-	8	-	9	29	1C2-C3
221	383	110	gully	-	-	-	-	17	-	17	79	C2+
213	385	111	ditch	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	7	EIA
213	388	111	ditch	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	15	EIA
215	372	111	ditch	-	8	-	-	-	-	8	19	EIA
234	451	111	ditch	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	7	Roman
322	555	111	ditch	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	9	C2-C3
322	558	111	ditch	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	Beaker
319	551	113	pit	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	Roman
233	450	115	gully	-	-	-	-	223	-	223	2206	C2-C3
334	579	123	pit	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	11	EIA
334	582	123	pit	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.25	undated
345	591	123	pit	-	14	-	-	-	-	14	56	EIA
237	454		pit	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	107	?Bronze Age
238	455		pit	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	0.5	undated
300	471		pit	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	C2+
302	479		pit	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	?early Preh
			TOTAL	6	30	5	11	301	4	357	3211	

Mort: mortarium

Rcw: Roman coarsewares

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of struck flint

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Feature type</i>	<i>Intact Flake</i>	<i>Intact Blade</i>	<i>Broken Flake</i>	<i>Broken Blade</i>	<i>Spall</i>	<i>Other</i>
200	350	Pit						retouched blade
205	358	Pit	1					
206	360	Treebole				1		
215	372	Ditch	1				1	
213	385	Ditch	1	1	2			core fragment
213	388	Ditch				1		
223	391	Pit			2			
302	480	Pit			1			
305	482	Ditch	1					
306	486	Ditch	1					
319	551	Ditch Terminus			1			
322	555	Ditch	1					
322	558	Ditch	1					
334	581	Pit	1				1	

APPENDIX 4: Charred Seeds and Charcoal

<i>Group</i>	111		111	
<i>Cut</i>	508	511	512	
<i>Deposit</i>	368	390	384	
<i>Sample</i>	210	227	222	
Taxon				COMMON NAME
<i>Hordeum</i> spp.		1		Barley
<i>Triticum</i> spp.	1			Wheat
Indeterminate cereal	2		2	Indeterminate Cereal

Taxonomy and Nomenclature follow Stace (1997).

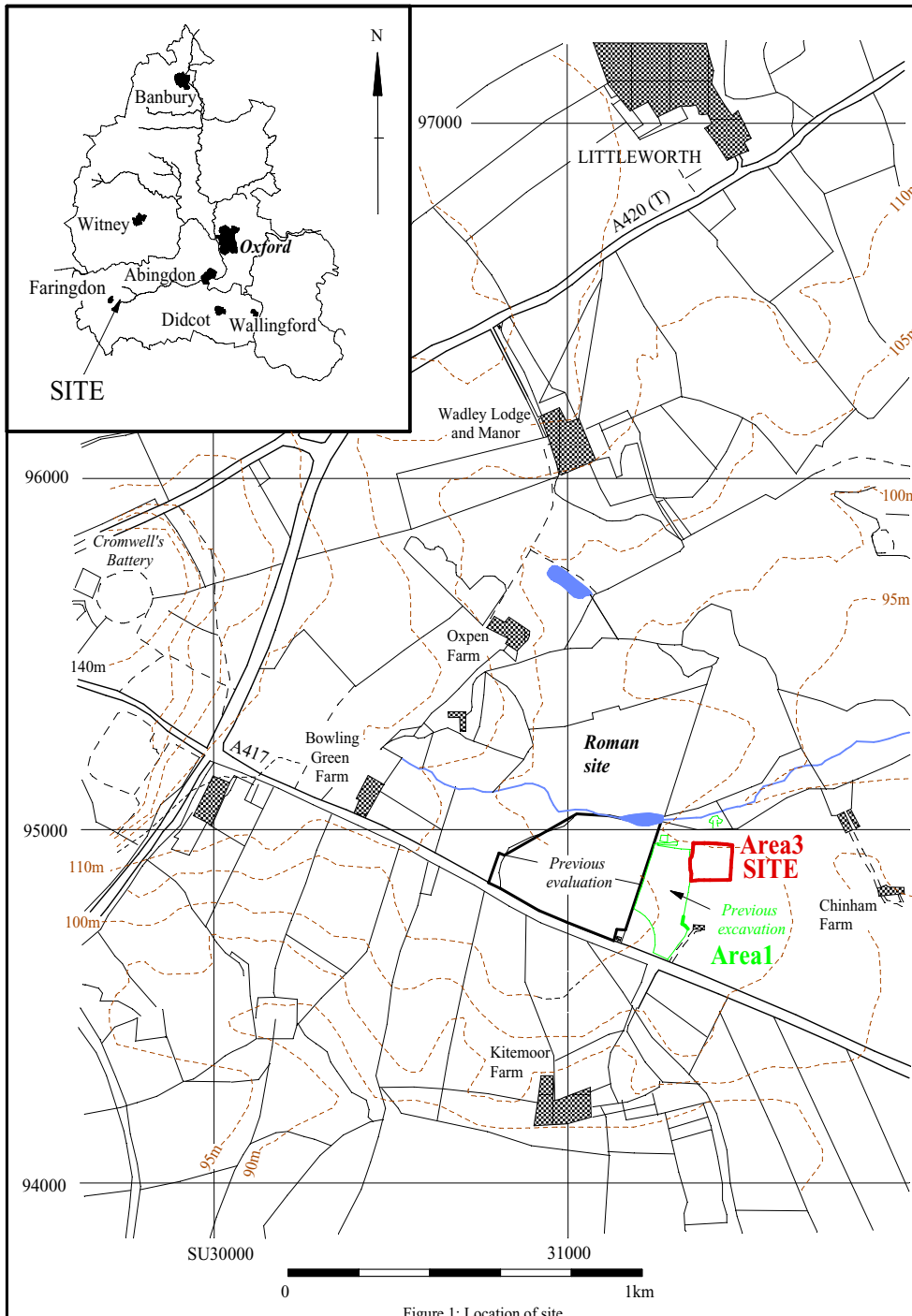


Figure 1: Location of site

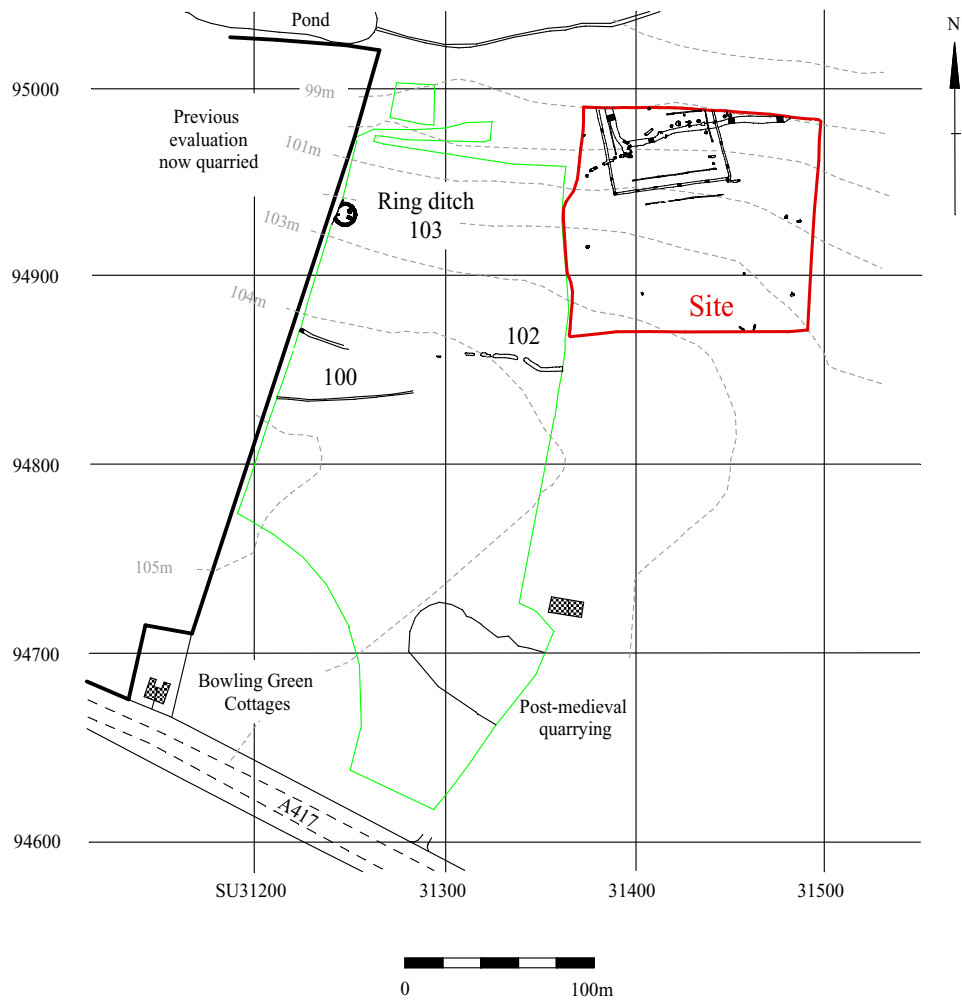


Figure 2. Detailed location of site

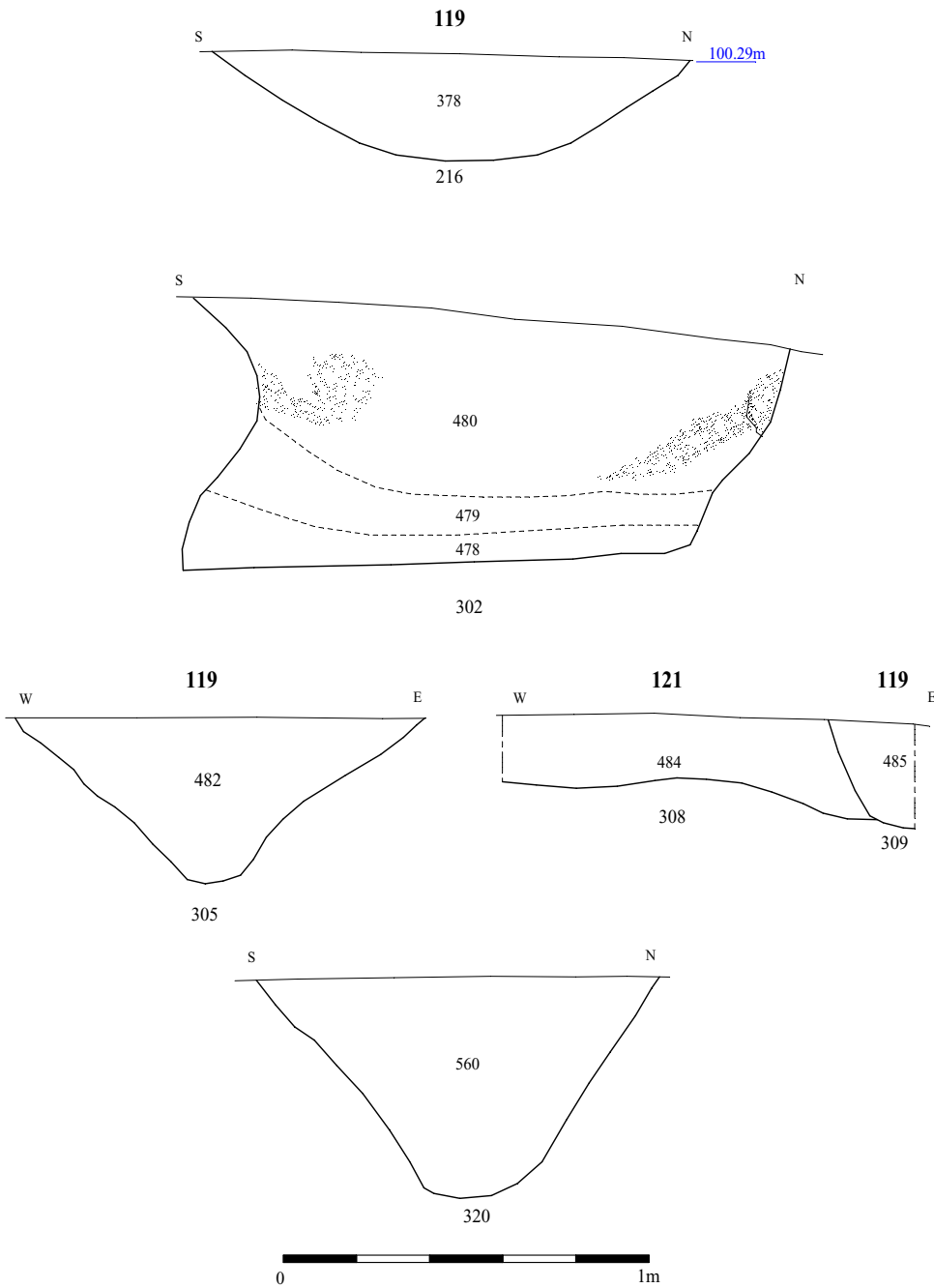


Figure 4 sections

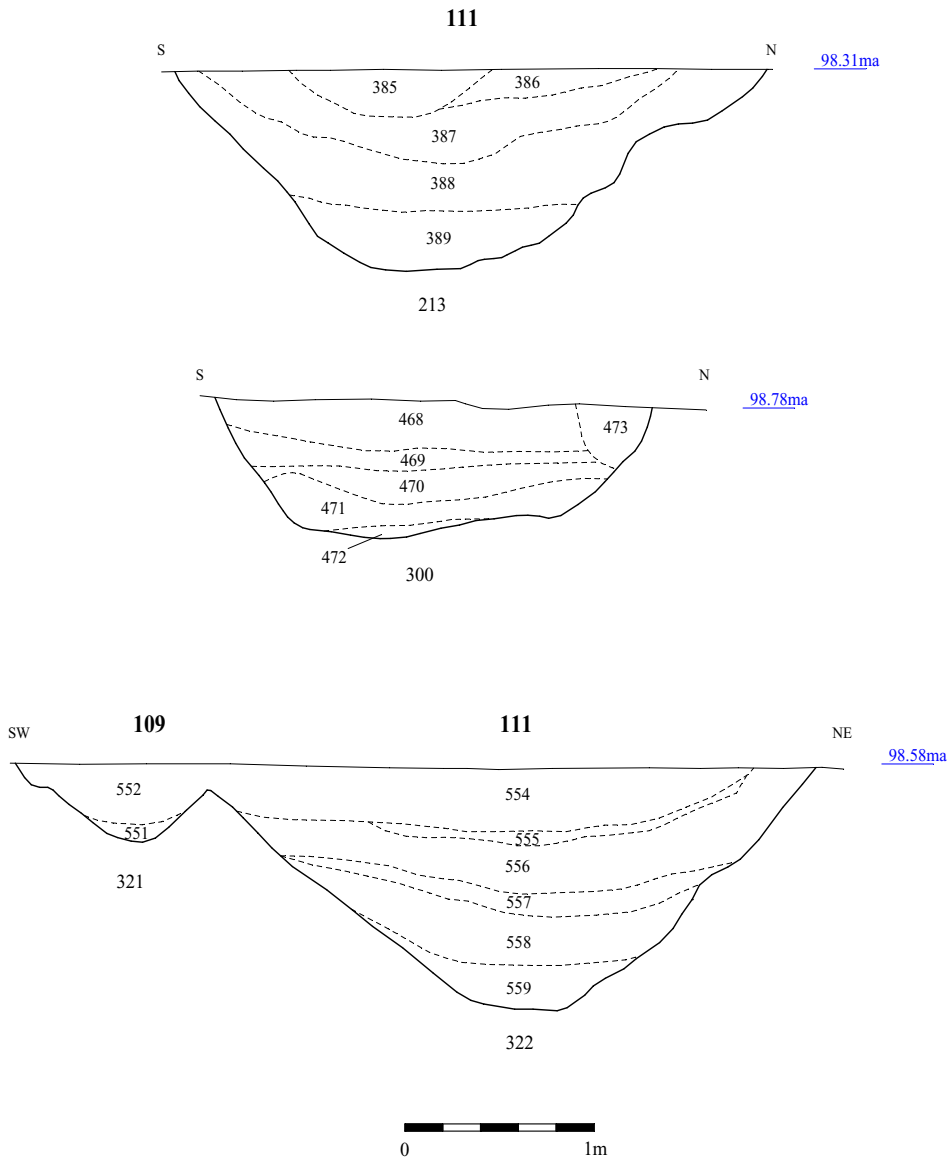


Figure 5. sections



Plate 1. Working shot over stripped area, looking west



Plate 2. Roman gully 109 (321) and Iron Age enclosure ditch 111 (322) looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.

CFF 07/01b

**Bowling Green Farm Quarry, Chinham Farm, Faringdon,
Oxfordshire, 2011
Phase 3 extraction area**

Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES