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JSCSC Watchfield,  
Shrivenham, Oxon.  
Archaeological Recording Action

## ASSESSMENT REPORT

Interim Statement of Results and Proposals for Analysis,  
Reporting and Publication

Wessex Archaeology

Reference 45355a

January 1999

**JSCSC WATCHFIELD, SHRIVENHAM, OXON.  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ACTION**

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**Interim Statement of Results and Proposals for Analysis,  
Reporting and Publication**

**Ref. 45355a**

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**January 1999**

**JSCSC WATCHFIELD, SHRIVENHAM, OXON.  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ACTION**

**ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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## ASSESSMENT REPORT

### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Laing Partnership Housing to undertake the archaeological excavation and recording of eleven areas totalling 3.8ha at Watchfield, Oxfordshire, in advance of the construction of extended facilities at the Joint Service Command and Staff College. The development site, totalling some 19.7ha centred on SU 257 907, was located on the northern side of Watchfield on the fringes of a Corallian limestone ridge. Archaeological excavations during and subsequent to the construction of the Shrivenham Bypass to the north had revealed a small Middle Iron Age enclosed settlement and an Early Saxon cemetery. Evidence from fieldwalking surveys had indicated earlier prehistoric (Mesolithic-Bronze Age) activity associated with the Corallian ridge, together with extensive Romano-British activity in the Vale of the White Horse. Little evidence of Late Iron Age activity is known, however, although the area formed the tribal boundary between the Atrebates to the south and the Dobunni to the north. A geophysical survey (Bartlett 1997) and subsequent evaluation trial trenching (AOC Archaeology 1997) of the whole development site had previously identified two areas of possible intensive settlement activity of later prehistoric and Romano-British date, together with more extensive activity from earlier prehistoric date onwards across wider areas of the site.

A negative condition attached to the planning consent for the development required the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation work designed to ensure the preservation by record of significant archaeological features and deposits identified by the evaluation. A Project Design for the work was prepared in accordance with a Brief issued by County Archaeological Services, and this was approved by the Deputy County Archaeologist in April 1998. Fieldwork was undertaken over a period of fourteen weeks between June and September 1998.

Eleven areas of specified locations and sizes were stripped of topsoil by machine and hand excavated in accordance with the approved Project Design. Three principal areas of archaeological activity were encountered. These were: the southern edge of an Early / Middle Iron Age enclosure in Area 11, on the crest of the Corallian limestone ridge at the western end of the site; a complex of Late Iron Age / Romano-British enclosure ditches and associated pits in Area 10, at the foot of the Corallian ridge; and a small Romano-British cremation cemetery and further enclosures in Area 7 to the east.

The earliest activity on the site, apart from a single residual flint tool of late Upper Palaeolithic date, is represented by an assemblage of residual flintwork of Mesolithic date. Neolithic and Bronze Age activity is also represented by residual flint assemblages, with the exception of a single possible Bronze Age pit in Area 11.

A complex series of intercutting ditches in Area 11 represent the southern entrance and associated antenna ditches of a Early / Middle Iron Age enclosure, assumed to be

that more fully exposed during excavations to the north of the site in 1989 in an area which is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Associated with this were two graves, one located close to the entrance itself and containing two crouched inhumations, the other, located close to an antenna ditch, containing a crouched adult inhumation with a neonate skeleton.

A series of rectilinear enclosures was found in Area 10, the earliest of which were of Late Iron Age date, with further enclosures and subdivisions constructed during the first and second centuries AD. A large sub-circular pit containing the partially articulated skeletons of several cattle also belonged to the earlier (pre-Conquest) phase. A short-lived phase of quarrying was dated to the later first century, as were several small pits, possibly connected with grain processing. A further major enclosure ditch was constructed in the second century; this was cut by a narrow grave of possible Saxon date, containing a contorted, prone burial. Two neonate burials were only broadly datable to the Romano-British period.

The small cremation cemetery in Area 7 consisted of four possible cremation burials and two possible pyre bases represented by shallow scoops with associated postholes and slots, cut into the limestone bedrock. Cremated human bone was recovered from only one of these possible pyres, but both contained substantial quantities of charcoal and, in one case, a charred fruit stone. These possible funerary features were associated with two rectilinear enclosures, one within the excavated area and the other extending to the north and traceable on the geophysical survey. It is likely that the features in Area 7 also form part of the substantial complex of enclosures of comparable date in Area 10 to the west.

No significant archaeological remains were found in the other eight excavation areas. Further elements of Late Iron Age / Romano-British enclosures and isolated features were found across the site, in areas 11, 5, 4, 3 and 2. A small number of pits in Area 11 and a ditch in Area 9 were dated to the medieval period. Extensive ridge and furrow earthworks were encountered in many areas across the site, and massive modern disturbances, possibly related to the wartime use of parts of the site as a prisoner of war camp and its subsequent clearance, were encountered in areas 10, 8, 5, 4 and 3.

Finds recovered during the excavation cover a relatively wide range of material types, the most common category represented being pottery. The overall date range of the assemblage is also wide, from Palaeolithic to post-medieval, with most chronological periods represented, although the majority of the assemblage falls within the range of Late Iron Age to early Romano-British (1st century BC/1st century AD). Limited functional evidence is provided by the presence of domestic utensils such as loomweights and quernstones, although this is insufficient evidence on which to postulate spatial differentiation in activity areas within the site. Evidence for domestic activity is complemented by burial evidence from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The potential of the human bone, however, to answer detailed questions about the Iron Age and Romano-British population, or about burial ritual, is limited by the poor preservation.

A programme of targeted environmental sampling confirmed the presence of charred remains and animal bones in a number of features, which can assist in the full

interpretation of the function and use of the site and will enable comparison within the region. Due to the relative dearth of similar evidence in the immediate locality, further analysis will provide a reference framework for other work in the future.

The report concludes with proposals for further analysis of the finds assemblages, structural and palaeo-environmental data, which will allow the phasing of the site to be refined and enable parallels to be drawn with other excavated sites of comparable date within the local area and the wider region. The level of analysis proposed is commensurate with the significance of the data recovered, and will contribute information of both local and regional aspect to enable wider comparison with contemporary prehistoric and early Roman landscapes within and on the fringes of the Vale of the White Horse. It is anticipated that the results of the excavation will be published in *Oxoniensia* and the archive will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums.

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**Acknowledgements**

This report has been compiled by Vaughan Birbeck and Chris Moore, with the assistance of Mike Allen and Lorraine Mepham. Information was supplied for incorporation and assistance given by Pippa Smith and Sarah Wyles of Wessex Archaeology. The illustrations were prepared by Liz James. The animal bone assessment was undertaken by Adrienne Powell and Claire Ingrem of the Centre for Human Ecology at the University of Southampton.

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The fieldwork was monitored throughout by Hugh Coddington, Deputy County Archaeologist.



**JSCSC WATCHFIELD, SHRIVENHAM, OXON.  
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**ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**SECTION A - ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS AND POTENTIAL**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Laing Partnership Housing to undertake archaeological excavation and recording in advance of the construction of extended facilities at the Joint Service Command and Staff College (JSCSC) at Watchfield, Oxfordshire. A negative condition attached to the planning consent for the development required the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation work designed to ensure the preservation by record of significant archaeological features and deposits, in accordance with a Project Design.
- 1.1.2 A geophysical survey (Bartlett 1997) had previously identified extensive anomalies of possible archaeological origin over substantial parts of the proposed development area. Subsequent evaluation trial trenching (AOC Archaeology 1997) identified two areas of possible intensive settlement activity of later prehistoric and Romano-British date, together with more extensive activity of a similar date across wider areas of the site.
- 1.1.3 A Brief (County Archaeological Services 1997) issued by the Deputy County Archaeologist ('the curator') required the excavation of 11 areas totalling some 3.8ha, in order to investigate features or areas of archaeological interest identified during the evaluation. A Project Design for the work was prepared in accordance with the Brief and the curator approved this in April 1998. Fieldwork was undertaken over a period of fourteen weeks between 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 25<sup>th</sup> September 1998.
- 1.1.4 This report presents an interim statement of the results of the recording action, and contains proposals for a programme of analysis leading to the publication of the results in the form of an article and the deposition of the archive, for the approval of the curator. The document has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* ('Map 2' English Heritage 1992).

## 1.2 Geology, Topography and Landuse

- 1.2.1 Watchfield lies in the Vale of the White Horse, 32km to the south-west of Oxford and 8km to the north-east of Swindon (**Figure 1**). The proposed development area was located adjacent to the existing JSCSC facility to the north of Watchfield, south of Majors Road (the B4508). The site extended to approximately 19.7ha centred on SU 257 907 and was divided into two parts either side of Faringdon Road, which joins the B4508 and the A420 Shrivenham Bypass to the north of the site; excavation areas 1-8 lay to the east of this and areas 9-11 to the west.
- 1.2.2 The majority of the site, comprising excavation areas 1-8 and 10, lay in arable fields sloping gently from west to east at between 93m and 100m OD. The underlying natural substrata comprised interleaving sands, clays and gravels with frequent outcrops of Corallian Limestone bedrock (BGS 1971). The western part of the site, comprising areas 9 and 11, lay at between 100m and 106m OD on the crest and east-facing slope of a ridge of ferruginous sand overlying Corallian Limestone bedrock.

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The earliest finds from the immediate vicinity of the site comprise an assemblage of worked flint of Late Mesolithic date, recovered from excavations during the construction of the Shrivenham Bypass in 1983 and subsequently in 1989, immediately to the north of Area 11 (Scull 1992) in an area now protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. A large-scale fieldwalking survey in the Vale, to the east of Watchfield (Tingle 1991), also produced evidence of Mesolithic activity, mostly confined to the Corallian formation.
- 1.3.2 Evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the immediate vicinity, represented by residual finds and a small number of features, was recovered from the 1983 and 1989 excavations (Scull 1992). The same excavations also revealed the remains of a small enclosed settlement of Middle Iron Age date, the southern edge of which lay within the present site, and an Early Saxon cemetery.
- 1.3.3 In the Late Iron Age, the Vale of the White Horse formed the tribal boundary between the Atrebates to the south and the Dubunii to the north. Extensive fieldwalking of a north-south transect across the Vale produced no evidence of Late Iron Age activity in the vicinity of Watchfield and, with the exception of the Hillforts to the north and south of the Vale, very little evidence for Iron Age activity within the area of the survey as a whole (Tingle 1991).
- 1.3.4 The Vale of the White Horse lies within the Roman road network and is close to several towns, most notably the *civitas* capital at Cirencester (*Corinium Dobunorum*), and Wanborough (*Durocornovium*) near Swindon. The Upper Thames Valley to the north and the Berkshire Downs to the south were areas of extensive Romano-British activity. The above fieldwalking survey located

possible buildings of various levels of social status in several locations, and indicated that these existed within a cleared, ordered and intensively exploited landscape (Tingle 1991). The existence of a substantial Romano-British building to the south of the site was reported in 1905; however, as the building was “detected though not uncovered” (Peake 1931), its function and status remain uncertain, although a villa is suggested.

- 1.3.5 The Early Saxon inhumation cemetery excavated in 1982 and 1989 provides clear evidence of a Saxon settlement in the vicinity; however, no settlement remains of this period have yet been discovered in the Watchfield area. The earliest documentary reference to Watchfield (*Wæclesfeld*), in a charter of AD 931, states that it was an estate of 20 hides when it was granted to a thegn named Ælfric by King Æthelstan. The name itself appears to be a combination of the personal name *Wæccin* and the Old English *feld* or open land (Gelling 1974, Gelling in Scull 1992).
- 1.3.6 Extensive ridge and furrow earthworks recorded during earlier archaeological work in and around the area of the site (Scull 1992; AOC Archaeology 1997) suggest that this lay within the common fields of the village during the medieval and post-medieval periods; the settlement presumably lying in the vicinity of the present village.
- 1.3.7 Parts of the site are known to have been used as a prisoner of war camp during the 1939-45 conflict. Although the extent of this is uncertain, areas of disturbance visible on the geophysical survey and additional areas encountered during the course of the excavations were assumed to be related to the clearance of the camp.

## 1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The specific aims of the archaeological recording action as set out in the Brief were:

### Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic Periods

- a) to establish the continuity of activity between these two periods;
- b) to establish the nature and character of activity and settlement in these periods;
- c) to examine the character and extent of early Neolithic and Mesolithic features to enable the nature of the activity areas to be identified;
- d) to obtain dating evidence from features that relate to this period.

### Bronze Age

- a) to identify evidence of activity in the Bronze Age and to define its extent and character;

- b) to establish continuity between the late Neolithic period and the early Bronze Age;
- c) to obtain dating evidence within the areas of Bronze Age activity.

#### Iron Age

- a) to establish the nature and character of Iron Age activity;
- b) to investigate the Iron Age ditch systems in areas 11 and 5 and establish the potential of relationships to the settlement in Area 10;
- c) to define the settlement area in Area 10, the possible function areas within it and the various types of settlement activity;
- d) to identify continuity of settlement/activity between the late Iron Age/early Romano-British periods.

#### Romano-British

- a) to examine the character of the Romano-British ditch systems;
- b) to determine their relationship with settlement areas.

#### Medieval Period

- a) to establish the character of the medieval pits and ditches and their relationships.

1.4.2 The objectives of the project within each area for excavation as defined in the Brief were to:

- Date and phase the main features and contexts
- Define the function of areas within the limits of the excavation and obtain evidence on the settlement history (e.g. shifting or static) and the occupational history (e.g. continuous or sporadic).
- Determine the nature of the various periods of occupation.
- Determine the relationship, character and extent between the various features within the excavation area
- Obtain information on the economy and the environment during the various phases of settlement.
- To recover artefactual, environmental and stratigraphic information that may lead to a better understanding of the area.

## 1.5 Methodology

- 1.5.1 The sizes and locations of the eleven excavation areas were specified in the Brief (**Figure 2**). Excavation areas were numbered from east to west during the excavation. All excavation areas were marked out prior to topsoil stripping using a total station EDM, which was also used to establish area specific site grids and relate them to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 1.5.2 Topsoil and overburden was removed using a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Both topsoil and overburden were removed in a series of level spits to the top of significant archaeological deposits. Spoil was stockpiled away from excavated areas. Where practicable all spoil was scanned for artefacts.
- 1.5.3 All features, of whatever origin, which required clarification were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan at an appropriate scale. All archaeological features were investigated by hand excavation. In general all pits postholes and other discrete features were half sectioned. A sample of at least 15% (20% in areas 3 & 11) of all linear features was excavated by hand. All significant stratigraphic relationships were investigated and recorded. All human and animal burials were fully excavated, as were features containing significant archaeological deposits.
- 1.5.4 All features and deposits were recorded, textually, graphically and photographically, using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. All spot heights and levels were related to Ordnance Datum.
- 1.5.5 In accordance with the Project Design, a programme of environmental sampling was devised by Wessex Archaeology. Bulk samples of 10 litres target size were taken from a representative sample of feature types and periods as determined on site in individual areas.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 On the basis of initial spot dating, recorded stratigraphic relationships and, in a few cases, feature type, the archaeological features and deposits have provisionally been divided into eight phases of occupation and activity. These comprise:

- **Phase 1 Earlier prehistoric (12000-2400 BC)**

This phase encompasses the Late Upper Palaeolithic, represented by a single, residual flint tool, the Mesolithic, represented by residual flintwork in the modern topsoil and subsoil and in tree throws of possible Mesolithic date, and the Neolithic, also represented by residual flintwork.

- **Phase 2 Bronze Age (2400-700 BC)**

This phase is represented by a single small pit in Area 11 and by residual flintwork and pottery.

- **Phase 3 Early and Middle Iron Age (700-100 BC)**

This phase comprises the enclosure ditches, several shallow gullies, several pits and postholes and, on the basis of their proximity to the enclosure entrance, two inhumation burials, all in Area 11.

- **Phase 4 Late Iron Age (100BC-AD43)**

This phase comprises the earliest enclosure ditches, gullies, and pits in Area 10, three pits in Area 11, a ditch in Area 5, a shallow pit in Area 4 and a few isolated features in areas 7 and 2.

- **Phase 5 Earlier Romano-British (AD43-250)**

This phase comprises the small cremation cemetery, possible pyre bases, ditches and pits in Area 7; the later enclosures, gullies pits, posthole and two neonate burials in Area 10; and various ditches and pits in areas 2 and 3.

- **Phase 6 Late Romano-British or Saxon (AD250-1066)**

This phase is represented by unstratified finds of late Romano-British date, recovered from modern disturbance and topsoil. A single prone burial, cut into the upper fills of a Phase 5 enclosure ditch but otherwise undated, is also included in this phase.

- **Phase 7 Medieval (AD1066-1499)**

This phase is represented by a small number of pits in Area 11 and a large ditch in Area 9.

- **Phase 8 Post-Medieval and Modern (AD1500-present)**

This phase is represented by extensive ridge and furrow earthworks, recorded in areas 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11, a number of pits in Area 11. It also includes large areas of modern disturbance in areas 3, 4, 5 and 10, extensive land drain systems in areas 9, 10 and 11, and other clearly modern features. A series of intercutting ditches, possibly parish boundary ditches, in Area 1 are assumed to be of either post-medieval or modern date.

2.1.2 Brief summaries of the results at the various sites are provided below.

## 2.2 Area 1

2.2.1 An area of approximately 30m by 15m (450 square metres), centred on SU 425900 190655, was stripped of topsoil in order to investigate three parallel ditches and a number of small possible features identified by the evaluation.

2.2.2 The only clearly anthropogenic features located comprised three shallow ditches on a roughly north-west to south-east alignment, corresponding with the present parish boundary. These probably represent the re-cutting or maintenance of this parish boundary. The ditches were cut through a sandy clay loam subsoil, possibly a buried topsoil, which was confined to the eastern end of the area. A single, heavily abraded sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the subsoil, but no datable finds were recovered from any of the ditches.

2.2.3 The only other possible archaeological feature encountered in this area was a small, heavily eroded gully, which lay on a similar alignment to the above ditches. No finds were recovered from this feature.

### 2.3 Area 2

2.3.1 An area of approximately 27m by 17m (476 square metres), centred on SU 425850 190725, was stripped of topsoil in order to investigate a large ditch and a small ditch or gully, which were identified by the evaluation. Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the large ditch during the evaluation and a single sherd of Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British pottery was found in the fill of the smaller feature.

2.3.2 Only one of the several features located and excavated in this area contained any datable finds. This was the very shallow east-west gully located during the evaluation, which extended across the entire width of the area. A very small assemblage of Late Iron Age/conquest period pottery was recovered from this feature.

2.3.3 The large east-west ditch located during the evaluation proved to be a broad, shallow ditch with a fairly irregular U-shaped profile, which also extended across the entire area of excavation. No datable finds were recovered from any of the excavated fills.

2.3.4 In addition to natural features such as tree throws, three possible pits, a hearth and a large irregular feature with abundant charcoal inclusions were recorded in this area. No datable finds were recovered from any of these features

### 2.4 Area 3

2.4.1 An area of approximately 40m by 25m (1000 square metres), centred on SU 425765 190715, was stripped of topsoil in order to investigate three possible ditches and a gully located by the evaluation. The northernmost of these ditches and the gully proved to be lenses of redeposited archaeological material within an area of modern disturbance, probably the result of bulldozing. Two substantial ditches and a complex of intercutting pits, probably quarry pits, were located in the southern half of the area.

2.4.2 The earliest features recorded in this area comprised a group of large and very irregular intercutting pits, probably the result of quarrying. The pits were generally sub-circular in plan, up to 3.00m in diameter and 0.90m deep, with irregular sides and flat bases, cut into the limestone bedrock. The sandy clay fills contained only small quantities of limestone rubble, suggesting that the limestone excavated was removed from the site; the sequence of fills suggests that the pits were backfilled soon after they were excavated. A small assemblage of Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fills of these pits.

2.4.3 The pit group was cut on its eastern side by a large curvilinear ditch, which ran northwards from the southern limit of excavation for approximately 15m before turning to the east and continuing beyond the eastern limit of excavation. Geophysical plots suggest that this is the same feature as the large east-west ditch that was encountered in Area 2.

2.4.4 A second, fairly broad, straight ditch lay approximately 10m to the west. This was traced from the southern limit of excavation to its terminal approximately 23.50m to the north. A small assemblage of Romano-British pottery, some more closely datable to the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century, and animal bone was recovered from the fills of this ditch.

## 2.5 Area 4

2.5.1 An area of approximately 50m by 30m (1500 square metres), centred on SU 425575 190745, was stripped of topsoil in order to investigate three possible pits and a ditch located by the evaluation. Upon excavation, the ditch was found to be a remnant of the ridge and furrow earthworks, which were present in many areas. The north-eastern part of the area had suffered drastic disturbance, probably the result of bulldozing, and no archaeological features survived. Four small pits were the only archaeological features located within the excavation area.

2.5.2 One pit contained pottery of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD date, two were datable to the Late Iron Age and one, which was dated to the Romano-British period by the evaluation, contained no finds. Notably one pit contained the fragmentary remains of two near complete Late Iron Age pots, one of which, a heavily spalled jar, was possibly the result of misfiring, suggesting that pottery production may have occurred on or close to the site.

## 2.6 Area 5

2.6.1 An area of approximately 75m by 45m (3,375 square metres), centred on SU 425500 190740, was stripped of topsoil in order to investigate several possible pits, postholes and a ditch recorded during the evaluation. The possible pits proved to be lenses of archaeological material within an area of modern disturbance, or tree throws. The ditch and four postholes were located and excavated.



2.6.2 The rather irregular, east-west ditch extended across the entire excavation area. A large assemblage of Late Iron Age pottery, dateable to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC/AD, fired clay, metalworking slag and animal bone was also recovered from the fills of this ditch.

2.6.3 Four possible postholes were also recorded in this area; a group of three to the north of the western end of the ditch, and a single posthole to the south of the eastern end of the ditch. Although only three of these produced any datable finds, all are assumed to be of Late Iron Age date. The group of three postholes did not appear to form any kind of coherent structure.

## 2.7 Area 6

2.7.1 An area of approximately 35m by 15m (525 square metres), centred on SU 425515 190630, was stripped of topsoil in order to investigate a ditch, a gully and a pit located during the evaluation. Both the ditch and the gully proved to be remnants of the ridge and furrow earthworks, which were present in many areas. The possible pit was found to be a tree throw. No other archaeological features were located in this area.

## 2.8 Area 7

2.8.1 An area, approximately 60m by 40m (2400 square metres), centred on SU 425450 190600, was stripped of topsoil to investigate four ditches, a small pit and a possible posthole identified by the evaluation. Although two of the possible ditches were shown to be remnants of the extensive ridge and furrow earthworks, a large number of archaeological features were exposed. In addition to four ditches, four pits, a hearth, several postholes and an L-shaped gully, a small cremation cemetery and two possible pyre bases were also located.

2.8.2 A large rectilinear ditch extended south from the northern limit of excavation for approximately 3.50m before turning to the east, continuing beyond the eastern limit of excavation. The geophysical survey suggests that this forms the southern side of a large rectangular enclosure, the majority of which lay to the north of the excavation area. Finds recovered from this ditch include small quantities of pottery dateable to the late 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century AD along with larger quantities of earlier Romano-British pottery.

2.8.3 Three north-south ditches appear to form a second enclosure to the south of the rectilinear ditch. At the eastern side of the area, two parallel ditches dateable to the late 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD extended for approximately 30m, terminating within the excavation area. The easternmost of these cut an earlier, sub-rectangular pit. A third ditch at the west of the area, dateable to the later 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, ran northwards from the southern limit of excavation, terminating close to the return of the northern enclosure ditch.

- 2.8.4 This western enclosure ditch cut an earlier pit, tentatively dated to the Iron Age on the basis of a single sherd of pottery, and was partly overlain by a possible pyre base and a substantial dump of limestone rubble and beam slot, possibly associated with pyre activities. A large, shallow pit and a possible posthole, in the same area, may also be associated with the possible pyre base.
- 2.8.5 Two possible pyre bases were excavated. These comprised shallow scoops, between 4.0m and 7.50m long and between 1.5 and 5.0m wide and up to 0.10m deep, cut into the limestone bedrock. Postholes and short, shallow gullies, cut into the bases of these scoops, may represent part of the pyre structures. Large quantities of charcoal and very small quantities of possible cremated bone were noted in the various fills of the pyre bases. These were extensively sampled in order to recover all of the cremated bone fragments, any charred plant remains and charcoal. The natural limestone bedrock around the centre of the large irregular scoops was noticeably reddened, probably due to the effect of intense heat. A relatively large assemblage of Romano-British pottery, some of which was more closely datable to the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, was recovered from the possible pyre bases.
- 2.8.6 Excavation suggested that each feature probably represents two or more successive pyre bases superimposed on one another. Although no cremated human bone was recovered from the southernmost of these features, which casts doubt on the present interpretation, both contained large quantities of charcoal and charred seeds.
- 2.8.7 A small group of four cremation burials was located in an area around the northern pyre base. All appear to have been very heavily truncated, probably by ploughing. Three similar features excavated in the same area contained only very small quantities of burnt bone and are not thought to represent burials, although they may be associated with the pyres.
- 2.8.8 Close to the southern limit of excavation, immediately to the east of the western ditch, was a large, sub-rectangular pit, from which a fairly large assemblage of pottery datable to the later Romano-British period, animal bone, iron nails and possible quernstone fragments was recovered. A small, undated, hearth was also recorded 1m to the east of this pit.
- 2.8.9 A small L-shaped gully lay immediately to the south of the northern pyre base. A fairly large assemblage of Romano-British pottery, datable to the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, animal bone and a copper alloy brooch (sf. 10009) was recovered from its single fill.

## **2.9 Area 8**

- 2.9.1 An area of approximately 20m by 20m (400 square metres), centred on SU 425385 190640, was stripped of topsoil in order to investigate three ditches located during the evaluation (AOC 1997). Excavation showed two of the ditches to be natural gullies or grikes in the limestone pavement bedrock. A third feature, only partly exposed within the excavation area, may represent the third ditch. The only other anthropogenic features located, in the south-east of this area, were of indisputably modern date, containing amongst other material debris thought to derive from the prisoner of war camp which formerly existed in this part of the site.
- 2.9.2 A large amorphous feature was found in the north-western corner of the area, continuing beyond the limits of excavation. It is unclear whether this represents a small part of a large curvilinear ditch, or some other type of feature. It appears to be a continuation of the large feature partly revealed by the evaluation and interpreted as a ditch; however, no corresponding anomalies were located by the geophysical survey. The feature is tentatively dated to the Romano-British period on the basis of a single sherd of pottery recovered from the uppermost of its two fills.

## **2.10 Area 9**

- 2.10.1 An area of approximately 55m by 35m (1925 square metres), centred on SU 425000 190550, was stripped of topsoil in order to investigate a large ditch and several possible pits and postholes identified by the evaluation (AOC 1997). Excavation showed the ditch to be a remnant of the ridge and furrow earthworks noted elsewhere on the site. Several of the possible pits and postholes were investigated; however, all but one of these proved to be either of modern date or of natural origin. A large curvilinear ditch was also investigated.
- 2.10.2 The curvilinear ditch lay at the western end of the area and extended from the western limit of excavation for some 26m, terminating approximately 3.0m north of the southern limit of excavation. A very small assemblage of medieval and earlier pottery was recovered from the fills of this ditch, and large quantities of charcoal were also noted, especially towards the centre of its length within the excavation area. The function of the feature is uncertain.

## **2.11 Area 10**

- 2.11.1 An area of approximately 0.917ha, centred on SU 425220 190620, was stripped of topsoil in order to investigate an area of intensive settlement identified by the evaluation. Much of the eastern part of the excavation area proved to have been heavily disturbed by modern activity, principally bulldozing. However, a complex series of intercutting enclosure ditches and pits, all datable to the Late Iron Age or early Romano-British period, were revealed in the west of the area.

- 2.11.2 A small scatter of possibly Mesolithic flintwork, representing the earliest phase of activity in this area, was investigated in the south-western part of the area. This proved to be residual, however. The second phase of activity within this area (phase 4) comprised a possible sub-rectangular enclosure, apparently confined to the southern part of the site, dated to the Late Iron Age or Roman Conquest period. Two pits, including a large sub-circular pit containing the partly articulated bones of several cattle, were also dated to this period.
- 2.11.3 The third phase of activity (phase 5a), dated to between AD 50 and 100, appeared to comprise a short-lived episode of quarrying towards the centre of the excavation area. This was rapidly followed by the construction of a second sub-rectangular enclosure, to the north of the earliest enclosure. A number of shallow L-shaped gullies sub-divided the enclosure. Several small pits located towards the centre of the area, possibly connected with grain processing, were also dated to this period.
- 2.11.4 The fourth phase of activity within this area (phase 5b) was represented by the construction of a substantial north-south ditch, probably forming the western side of a large enclosure, and a series of smaller ditches, re-aligned at least once during this phase, which appear to sub-divide this enclosure. This phase is datable to the earlier part of the second century AD.
- 2.11.5 A single short length of ditch and two neonate burials can be only broadly dated to the Romano-British period.
- 2.11.6 Close to the northern limit of excavation, the large phase 5b ditch was cut by a narrow grave. This contained a skeleton in a very contorted, prone position. The backfill of the grave contained a substantial charcoal deposit immediately overlying the skeleton and very large quantities of limestone rubble, which could not have been derived from the deposits into which the grave was cut, but would have been available from the close vicinity. Although the single sherd of pottery recovered from the fill of this grave was of Late Iron Age date, the stratigraphic position of the grave indicates that it is probably of later Romano-British or, given the proximity of the site to a known Saxon cemetery (Scull 1992), possibly Saxon date.
- 2.11.7 The Iron Age and Romano-British features were, in part, overlain by remnants of the ridge and furrow earthworks, noted elsewhere, which appear to be of post-medieval date, and by a series of land drains of modern date in addition to the modern disturbances noted above.
- 2.11.8 Although no structures were identified within this area, this could be due to the nature of the underlying geology. If timber beam-slot or post-built structures had been constructed on the limestone outcrops in the centre of the area it is unlikely that these would have penetrated the bedrock to leave any features. Further, small,

ephemeral features such as postholes would be very difficult, if not impossible, to detect in the sandy silt deposits to the west of the area. It was noted during excavation that the density of finds increased towards the north of the area, which could suggest that the main focus of the settlement lay to the north of the area of excavation.

## 2.12 Area 11

- 2.12.1 An area of approximately 1.72ha, centred on SU 424900 190620, was stripped of topsoil in order to investigate a number of features identified by the evaluation. These comprised possible features of Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, possible activity of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, and a Middle Iron Age enclosure ditch and possibly associated linear features. Although no features of Mesolithic or Neolithic date (apart from tree throws) and only one feature of possible Bronze Age date were located, a large number of Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval features were exposed.
- 2.12.2 The earliest phase of activity in this area was represented by a single diagnostic piece of worked flint, datable to the late Upper Palaeolithic, which was recovered from a later (phase 4) pit. Also assigned to phase 1 was a discrete concentration of Mesolithic flintwork (**Figure 2**), recovered from tree throws of possible Mesolithic date and from later features, and diagnostic flintwork of Neolithic date. None of the material representing the phase 1 activities was demonstrably *in situ*.
- 2.12.3 The second phase of activity was represented by pottery recovered from later features and a single small pit (5077, see **Figure 3**). Three complete, though fragmentary, loom weights, datable to the Middle-Late Bronze Age, were recovered from the fill of this pit. It is however possible that these loom weights are of Early Iron Age date. Quantities of charcoal and slag, possibly representing furnace waste, were also recovered from the fills of this feature.
- 2.12.4 The third, and most intense, phase of activity in this area is represented by a complex series of intercutting ditches, comprising the southern entrance and associated antenna ditches of an Early-Middle Iron Age enclosure (phases 3a-d). This had undergone at least three complete alterations in layout (**figure 3**) and evidence for re-cutting or maintenance were noted within most of the sub-phases identified. Two pits, one of which (5003) contained a human skull and a cattle skull, apparently deliberately deposited, and two postholes which could be only broadly dated to the Middle Iron Age, were recorded in the same area.
- 2.12.5 Two graves were also located close to the enclosure entrance. One of these (5001), located very close to the phase 3d entrance, contained the crouched skeletons of an adult and a juvenile. The other grave (5010) was located close to the return of the phase 3c antenna ditch and contained a crouched adult skeleton buried with a neonate skeleton placed in or by the hands, which were tucked under the chin. Although no datable material was recovered from either grave,

both are assumed to be of Middle Iron Age date, on the basis of their location, although a Bronze Age or Late Iron Age date is not inconceivable.

- 2.12.6 A number of shallow gullies, aligned approximately either north-east to south-west or north-west to south-east were also datable to the Middle Iron Age. These probably represent the truncated remains of a field system associated with the enclosed settlement to the north. A single, irregular gully, running down the moderate east-facing slope to the east of the enclosure entrance was also dated to this phase; however, its function is uncertain. This was completely truncated at its eastern end by a large quarry pit, datable only to between the Late Iron Age and the post-medieval period. A shallow pit, containing a complete articulated cattle skeleton is also tentatively included among the phase 3 or 4 features on the basis of the animals size and the location of the pit. No datable material was recovered from its single fill, however, so an earlier or later date is possible.
- 2.12.7 Late Iron Age (phase 4) activity in this area is represented by five pits, two in the immediate vicinity of the phase 3 enclosure entrance and a group of three approximately 40m to the west. In addition to small assemblages of Late Iron Age pottery, animal bone, burnt stone and residual worked flint, one of these pits (5030) also contained a complete rotary quernstone (sf. 10032) and a worked bone object (s.f. 10031).
- 2.12.8 The large curvilinear ditch was traced for approximately 90m in the south-west of this area. Only very small quantities of finds were recovered from this ditch; the only datable finds comprised nine small sherds of abraded pottery of Iron Age and Romano-British date. Although only broadly datable to the Romano-British period or later, it was noted that the remnant ridge and furrow earthworks were aligned approximately north-south to the south and west of this ditch and east-west to the north and east, suggesting that this ditch could represent a much later field boundary.
- 2.12.9 Scattered across the area, with notable concentrations in the north-west and centre of the area, were a number of pits, all datable to the medieval or earlier post-medieval period. One of these, dated to the medieval period or later, contained the complete articulated skeleton of a pig.

## **2.13 Review**

- 2.13.1 The excavations at Watchfield revealed three principal areas of archaeological activity. The southern edge of an Early / Middle Iron Age enclosure with associated burials in Area 11, situated on the crest of the Corallian limestone ridge at the western end of the site, is assumed to be that more fully exposed during the 1989 excavations to the north of Majors Road. The general arrangement of the entrance and antenna ditches of the enclosure was clearly recorded on the geophysical survey. Elsewhere in Area 11, however, the numerous anomalies seen on the geophysics and interpreted during the subsequent evaluation as pits or

ditches were found in many instances to be natural features, possibly tree holes, resulting in staining of the natural subsoil.

- 2.13.2 At the foot of the Corallian ridge in Area 10, the complex of Late Iron Age / Romano-British enclosure ditches and associated pits is clearly part of a more extensive, well-organised agricultural landscape. No structures were found, although the nature of the sandy silt deposits into which features were cut makes it possible that small, ephemeral features such as postholes may not have been detected. However, it seems more likely that the focus of any associated settlement is located to the north of the development area. Palaeo-environmental evidence and the extensive animal bone assemblage from this area may allow some consideration of the use of the site, on-site functions and the role of the site in its wider socio-economic landscape.
- 2.13.3 Features in Area 10 were found to be cut from considerably higher up than indicated by the evaluation, being more clearly discernible in open area excavation. Substantial enclosure ditches not located by the geophysics were found to survive well in the western part of the area, although these were often of considerably larger dimensions than had been recorded in the evaluation trenches here. Conversely, the deposits interpreted as intensive settlement by the evaluation in the east of the area were found to be the result of massive modern disturbance.
- 2.13.4 Further elements of this Late Iron Age / Romano-British agricultural landscape were encountered in a number of areas to the east of Faringdon Road, in particular Area 7. The small Romano-British cremation cemetery here is of interest, as in addition to four possible cremation burials, two possible pyre bases were found. Cremated human bone was recovered from only one of these possible pyres, however, although both contained substantial quantities of charcoal and, in one case, a charred fruit stone; further analysis may allow comment on the burial rites represented here, including selection of fuels. The cemetery may have been much more extensive than the small concentration of features in the excavated area here might suggest. Neither of the possible pyre bases was detected by either the geophysical survey or the evaluation trenches in this part of the site, although a trench was positioned directly over one example.
- 2.13.5 No significant archaeological remains were found in the other eight excavation areas. Further elements of Late Iron Age / Romano-British enclosures and isolated features were found across the site in areas 11, 5, 4, 3 and 2. A small number of pits in Area 11 and a ditch in Area 9 were dated to the medieval period. Extensive ridge and furrow earthworks were encountered in many areas across the site, and massive modern disturbances, possibly related to the wartime use of parts of the site as a prisoner of war camp, were encountered in areas 10, 8, 5, 4 and 3. In many cases the ridge and furrow and deposits within modern disturbances had been interpreted as archaeological features during the evaluation.

### **3. THE FINDS**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

3.1.1 Finds recovered during the excavation cover a relatively wide range of material types, the most common category represented being pottery. The overall date range of the assemblage is also wide, from Palaeolithic to post-medieval, with most chronological periods represented, although the majority of the assemblage falls within the range of Late Iron Age to early Romano-British (1st century BC/1st century AD).

3.1.2 All finds recovered during the excavation have been cleaned (with the exception of metalwork) and quantified by material type within each context. Quantified data have been entered onto a database using the Access program and form the basis of the summary **Table 1**, which presents overall finds totals by material type. Note that finds extracted from environmental samples have not been included in these totals, although these have been retained. Spot dates have been recorded for the pottery on a context by context basis, and all of the finds have been briefly scanned in order to ascertain broad details of their nature, date range, condition and potential significance to the site. The finds are discussed by material type below.

#### **3.2 Ceramic Building Material**

3.2.1 A very small quantity of ceramic building material was recovered, all undiagnostic in terms of form but on fabric grounds identified as Romano-British.

#### **3.3 Fired Clay**

3.3.1 The fired clay assemblage consists mainly of small, featureless fragments. These could be of structural origin; one fragment has a wattle impression, and several other fragments have surviving surfaces. There are no marked concentrations of this material, and on the basis of other dating evidence this material appears to be of Middle/Late Iron Age to Romano-British in date.

3.3.2 In addition, parts of three loomweights were recovered from one feature (pit 5077), all in a poorly fired and friable sandy fabric. All are of similar cylindrical form with central perforation. The cylindrical weight is a characteristic Middle/Late Bronze Age type, but continued in use into the Iron Age. There are no examples here of the more typical Iron Age triangular form.

3.3.3 Part of a possible thin, circular disc, in a coarse, organic-tempered fabric, came from ditch 1266 (phase 5b); this is of uncertain function but could be briquetage.



### 3.4 Worked and Burnt Flint

- 3.4.1 A moderate quantity of worked flint was recovered, from a number of features across the site. The degree of patination ranges from unpatinated to heavily patinated. Condition is variable, but a significant proportion of pieces exhibit edge damage to a varying degree, which would be consistent with a provenance as redeposited material. A number of pieces are burnt.
- 3.4.2 The earliest identifiable piece is a heavily patinated, large 'bruised blade', residual within Iron Age pit 5030. These tools, with their characteristically battered edges, form part of the late Upper Palaeolithic assemblage; Watchfield falls at the western edge of the known distribution of 'bruised blade' industries in southern England.
- 3.4.3 Although much of the flint assemblage comprises flake and core material which is not chronologically distinctive, there is sufficient evidence to postulate the presence of a significant earlier prehistoric (Mesolithic) component. This was found principally in Area 11 within test pits excavated through a number of tree throws. Most pieces are heavily patinated and, while there is some evidence that this group is chronologically mixed, the majority comprises blades and blade cores, and obliquely blunted points and other microliths have also been identified. Whilst this material may not be *in situ*, the spatial concentration may mark a focus of Mesolithic activity in this area. Material from other parts of the site is more chronologically mixed, blades and/or blade cores occurred as a small but persistent element in most of the excavated areas.
- 3.4.4 Also of interest is a blade flake taken off a possible ground axe from Iron Age enclosure ditch 5032.
- 3.4.5 Burnt, unworked flint was also recovered, in small quantities. This material type is intrinsically undatable, although often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity; in this instance most if not all of the burnt flint is likely to be in residual contexts.

### 3.5 Pottery

- 3.5.1 The pottery assemblage is largely of Late Iron Age to early Romano-British date, with smaller quantities of earlier (Late Bronze Age and Early/Middle Iron Age) and later material (later Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval). No detailed fabric analysis has been undertaken at this stage, and the pottery has been broadly divided into fabric groups on the basis of dominant inclusion type and/or known ware type/source. Within fabric groups, pottery has been quantified by sherd count (see **Table 2**).

### Late Bronze Age

- 3.5.2 A very small quantity of pottery (two sherds) was identified as Late Bronze Age on the basis of a coarse flint-tempered fabric; no diagnostic sherds are present. Both sherds occurred redeposited in later contexts, and detailed analysis may reveal further sherds from such contexts.

### Iron Age

- 3.5.3 The remaining prehistoric wares have been grouped and quantified by dominant inclusion type. Some groups (sandy, shelly and other calcareous, flint-tempered) appear to span the Early/Middle to Late Iron Age and, in the absence of diagnostic vessel forms no attempt has been made at this stage to date them more closely. Some broad trends have been noted, however, such as the increase in the use of flint-tempered and non-shelly calcareous fabrics through time, and the introduction of grog-tempered fabrics in the Late Iron Age.
- 3.5.4 The earliest material is represented by a handful of diagnostic long-necked, shouldered vessels comparable to Cunliffe's Early Iron Age Long Wittenham-Allen's Pit or All Cannings Cross-Meon Hill style zones (Cunliffe 1991, figs. A:6; A:10), although other characteristic Early Iron Age traits such as expanded rims or furrowed bowls appear to be absent. Most of the diagnostic forms seem rather to fall later within the Iron Age – fairly crudely made, shouldered jars/bowls closer to the Stanton Harcourt-Cassington style (*ibid.*, fig. A:22), although the absence of a finer decorated component, which may have a chronological implication, may be noted. The Early/Middle Iron Age assemblage is concentrated in Area 11.
- 3.5.5 The Late Iron Age assemblage is more distinctive. Typical forms such as bead rimmed and necked, cordoned jars occur in flint-tempered, calcareous and grog-tempered fabrics, and are concentrated in Area 10. These could continue in use into the Romano-British period and indeed the production of native-inspired grog-tempered wares at least into the later 1st century AD is demonstrated by the Savernake industry and other kilns in north Wiltshire, examples of which are common on this site (see below). Of particular interest here is the occurrence of at least one badly spalled bead-rimmed jar from pit 402 in Area 4; such spalling could have resulted from a misfiring during on-site pottery production, although no other supporting evidence was found. Also of interest here is the occurrence of two amphora sherds, one certainly and the second probably of Dressel 1b type of 1st century BC date. The first is a stamped rim sherd.

### Romano-British

- 3.5.6 More 'Romanised' wares might be expected to appear soon after the conquest; these include wheelthrown greywares, oxidised wares and whitewares, both fine and coarse, in jar, beaker and bowl forms. These almost certainly derive from a number of sources, potentially including north Wiltshire and Oxfordshire. Black

Burnished ware (BB1) from the Poole Harbour area of Dorset, was recognised in small quantities and detailed analysis may identify further sherds amongst the coarse greywares. Grog-tempered wares of Savernake/north Wiltshire type are also present in some quantity, mostly in medium to large jar forms; these are generally dated from later 1st century to at least the early 2nd century AD. There is a moderate quantity of samian, including both South and Central Gaulish types, but other imports are confined to a single sherd of Rhenish ware, and the complete absence of amphorae (other than the Dressel 1b sherds mentioned above) may be noted.

- 3.5.7 There is little here that can definitely be dated later than the early/mid 2nd century AD, although the presence of Black Burnished ware in flanged and dropped-flange bowl forms from two features in Area 7 indicate at least a low level of later activity here.

#### Post-Roman

- 3.5.8 Post-Roman material includes a moderate quantity of medieval coarsewares, including identifiable north Wiltshire types (eg. Minety type wares) and examples of flint-/limestone-tempered 'Kennet Valley wares'. These all occur as small, heavily abraded sherds with the characteristic appearance of a ploughzone assemblage, almost exclusively within Area 11; none are closely datable within the medieval period, but most if not all are likely to fall within the range of 12th to early 14th century. Post-medieval wares (coarse redwares, stonewares and industrial wares) were likewise found mainly within Area 11.

### **3.6 Worked Stone**

- 3.6.1 Only a small quantity of worked or utilised stone was recovered. Portable objects are represented by one complete rotary quern, a possible fragment of saddle quern, two whetstones and two other possible whetstones or rubbers. Two flat fragments of limestone could represent building material, in the form of roof tiles. Other possibly utilised stone includes fragments of burnt limestone, samples of which were collected various features in areas 10 and 11. Other fragments are less certainly utilised.

### **3.7 Metalwork**

- 3.7.1 The metalwork comprises 68 iron and 13 copper alloy objects.
- 3.7.2 The copper alloy includes two coins (one found unstratified, both 3rd/4th century AD issues), seven brooches and the catchplate from an eighth, and a strap end, all of Romano-British date, and a post-medieval buckle.
- 3.7.3 The iron consists mainly of nails and hobnails. Also identified were a stylus, a brooch, a spatulate object and several cleats.

### **3.8 Metalworking evidence**

- 3.8.1 Small quantities of metalworking slag were recovered from a few other features of later date. A high proportion of this consists of fragments of a light-coloured, very vesicular material, possibly fuel ash slag from iron smithing. This material occurred in features of Late Iron Age to early Romano-British date.

### **3.9 Worked bone**

- 3.9.1 Three worked bone objects were recovered. These comprise a perforated sheep metacarpal (Iron Age ditch/gully 1440); a small cylindrical object, polished from use, made from a short length (20mm) of long bone hollowed out and with a double incised line around one end (Iron Age pit 5030); and a horse metapodial, possibly utilised as a point or awl (Iron Age enclosure ditch 5214).

### **3.10 Human bone**

- 3.10.1 Human remains, both cremated and unburnt, were recovered from 17 contexts in three areas of the site. The cremated remains were all recovered from Romano-British features in Area 7, including four burials. Romano-British features in Area 10 included three inhumation burials, with redeposited bone being recovered from one other context. Contexts in Area 11 included three Middle Iron Age inhumation burials, a skull from a pit and various fragments of redeposited bone. The bone was generally in good condition, but all was from heavily truncated features and consequently is badly fragmented.
- 3.10.2 Of the four Romano-British cremation burials in Area 7 (total bone weight 1081g), three appear to represent the remains of adults, one burial being that of an infant. A small amount (5g) of cremated human bone was also recovered from context 859, believed to represent the remains of a pyre site. Bone from a similar feature proved to be all animal, mostly unburnt and the context type is questionable.
- 3.10.3 Fragments of redeposited neonatal bone were recovered from a ditch fill in Area 10. Also in Area 10, the prone inhumation burial (undated but probably late Romano-British or Saxon) represents the remains of a adult male; some minor pathological lesions were noted in the assessment scan (dental disease, *cribra orbitalia*). The bone from two early Romano-British neonatal burials is in very variable condition, the bone from the coffined burial being very degraded and little of the bone surviving.
- 3.10.4 The bone from the Early / Middle Iron Age dual inhumation burial in grave 5001 in Area 11 is particularly heavily fragmented and only about half of each skeleton survives. The remains represent those of an adult and a juvenile. The Early / Middle Iron Age grave (5010) contained a crouched adult inhumation, buried with

a neonate placed by/in their hands, which appear to have been tucked under the chin. Most of an adult male skull was recovered from a pit (5003). A fragment of adult femur was redeposited in an enclosure ditch fill.

#### **4. PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

##### **4.1 Aims**

4.1.1 The aims of the palaeo-environmental sampling programme were to provide information about the nature of the activities and farming processes occurring on the site, in order to provide a basis for understanding the role of the site and its community within the wider sphere of River Cole tributaries. Previous excavations at Watchfield (Scull 1990, 1992) have either not undertaken a large palaeo-environmental programme with which to provide a comparison, or cover periods not represented here. Although large landscape surveys have been undertaken in this area e.g. Vale of the White Horse Survey (Tingle 1991), no environmental work was involved.

##### **4.2 Samples taken and palaeo-environmental evidence**

4.2.1 A suite of 65 bulk samples of generally 10 litres but varying between 0.3 and 10 litres was taken from a range of feature types within each phase as defined on site, for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

4.2.2 Although some of the larger land snails were seen to be preserved in deposits on the site during the excavation, shell numbers were not sufficient to allow more specific environmental questions, such as the distinction of arable from pasture rather than open country versus woodland, to be addressed. Consequently, no samples were taken specifically for land snails, although snails were found to be present in some of the other samples.

4.2.3 Categories of palaeo-environmental evidence:

- Charred plant remains
- Charcoal
- Animal Bone

##### **4.3 Methods: Charred Plant Remains and Charcoals:**

4.3.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.

4.3.2 The flots were scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope and presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 3**), in order to present data to

record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains and assess their potential to address the project and subsidiary aims.

- 4.3.3 The flots were generally small (average flot size for a 10 litre sample is 60 millilitres) with up to 80% rooty material and low numbers of uncharred weed seeds which can be indicative of stratigraphic movement.

#### **4.4 Charred plant remains**

##### Mesolithic

- 4.4.1 The single Mesolithic sample contained no charred plant remains.

##### Early to Late Iron Age - Phases 3A-3D

- 4.4.2 The 13 samples from ditch contexts contained a few charred grain fragments in nine samples, a small number of charred weed seeds in two samples and rare charred chaff pieces in a single sample. Molluscs and small mammal bones were present in a number of these samples.

- 4.4.3 Charred grain was observed in five of the eight pit samples, in high numbers in two cases. A few charred weed seeds were recorded in five of these samples and charred chaff fragments in two samples. Small mammal bones were present in four samples.

##### Late Iron Age – Early Roman

- 4.4.4 All 13 ditch samples contained charred grain, in large quantities in six of them. A small amount of charred chaff fragments was observed in a single sample. Charred weed seeds were recorded in low numbers in nine samples and in high numbers in one sample. A few charred peas and beans were present in four samples. Molluscs and small mammal bones were observed.

- 4.4.5 Three of the pit samples produced large quantities of charred grain fragments and two of them contained low numbers of charred weed seeds. A very high number of charred chaff fragments was retrieved from a single sample. Molluscs and small mammal bones were present.

- 4.4.6 The four samples from pot fills and grave fills contained low numbers of charred grain fragments. A few charred weed seeds were observed in two samples and small quantities of charred chaff and charred peas and beans were recorded in single samples. Molluscs and small mammal bones were present.

## Romano-British

- 4.4.7 The samples from cremations and associated features produced charred grain fragments in 15 samples, in high numbers in eight of these. Charred chaff fragments were observed in 13 samples, in large quantities in five of them. A few charred weed seeds were recorded in 11 samples, charred peas and beans in nine samples and charred fruit stones in two samples. Molluscs and small mammal bones were present.
- 4.4.8 The two samples from gullies contained a small quantity of charred grain fragments. Low numbers of charred chaff, charred weed seeds and charred peas and beans were observed in single samples. Molluscs and small mammal bones were present.
- 4.4.9 The single sample from a possible Romano-British pit in Area 3 contained a few charred grain fragments and molluscs.

## 4.5 Charcoal

- 4.5.1 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 3**. Large charcoal fragments were retrieved in high numbers from the Mesolithic sample; in small quantities from 12 of the Iron Age samples; in high numbers from one of the Late Iron Age- Early Roman samples and in low numbers from seven of these; and in small amounts from seven of the Romano-British samples. The charcoal pieces were mainly large wood fragments.

## 4.6 Animal bone assessment

### Methods

- 4.6.1 The assemblage was assessed at Wessex Archaeology. Several complete or partial skeletons were identified by the excavators and are considered below separately from the disarticulated bone remains. All of the material was recovered by hand retrieval.
- 4.6.2 Excluding the partial and complete skeletons, there is a total of 6055 fragments in this assemblage. **Table 4** shows the temporal and spatial distribution of the material and the proportion identifiable to species. A few of the areas, 1, 6 and 8, did not produce any animal bone at all and among the rest only areas 10 and 11 produced substantial amounts of bone. Area 11, although not producing the largest assemblage, did produce the greatest temporal range: with the exception of a small group of medieval bones from Area 9, only this area produced Pre-Iron Age or Post-Roman material. Overall these groups make a minimal contribution to the assemblage, less than 3% of the phased material.

- 4.6.3 The frequency of identifiable bone fragments is variable between the areas, although this is likely to be the result of the small size of the samples from most of the areas. The moderate level of identifiability in the Iron Age and Romano-British groups from areas 10 and 11 is characteristic of these periods.
- 4.6.4 Since sample sizes in six of the eight bone yielding areas are quite small, subsequent discussion does not separate the areas.
- 4.6.5 The condition of bone in an assemblage affects the confidence with which it can be identified and its suitability for further analysis. Therefore the bone in this assemblage was rated for each group of fragments (context or bag) on a scale of one to five, where condition one describes bone in excellent or very good preservation, with little or no post-depositional damage and features such as butchery, gnawmarks and pathology are highly visible, through to condition five which describes bone which is so altered that it can only be identified as 'bone'. As was the case with the proportion of identifiable fragments, the condition of the bone is variable in the smaller phase groups. In the Iron Age and Romano-British groups at least 60% of the contexts in all phases contain bone in average to good (2-3) condition. However, very little is in excellent (1) condition; at least 25% of the contexts contain bone in poor to very poor condition and this proportion appears to increase in Romano-British groups. In general the surface condition of the bone is good, but the high degree of fragmentation has frequently led to a lower rating.

### Results

- 4.6.6 The relative proportions of the main domestic mammals present are shown in **Table 5**. In all phases cattle and sheep/goat bones together make up the majority of the domestic mammal material.

#### *Iron Age and Romano-British*

- 4.6.7 In these groups (phases 3-5) cattle bones predominate over those of sheep/goat, except in the small sample from 3/4. There seems to be a slightly higher frequency of cattle bones in the Late Iron Age, but otherwise the relative contributions of cattle and sheep/goat appear constant between the Iron Age and Romano-British phases. Both pig and horse make only minor contributions to this assemblage, with the exception of the rather high frequency of horse bones in phase 3. This includes measurable and ageable bones and teeth.
- 4.6.8 Few other species are present and of these, dog is the most commonly occurring, particularly in phases 4 and 5. In phase 3 there occurs a well preserved skull of a mustelid. Its size suggests pine marten (*Martes martes*), which occasionally occurs in assemblages of this date in southern Britain (eg. Harcourt 1979, Maltby 1989). Phase 3/4 produced an isolated carnivore tooth, possibly badger and phase 4 produced two pieces of red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) antler, a partial skeleton from



an immature raven and one amphibian bone. No bird bones occur in this assemblage apart from the raven.

- 4.6.9 Ageing data and measurable bones are present. Few butchery marks were observed during the assessment but several contexts contained burnt bone. This group includes a small number of pathological bones.

#### *Other Phases*

- 4.6.10 Cattle is the most frequently occurring of the main domestic mammals in most of the remaining phased groups. However, given the small size of the identifiable fractions, the relative proportions of the species are not very meaningful.
- 4.6.11 Only two bones from other species occur in these groups: a possible fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) bone from phase 5/6 and an aurochs (*Bos primigenius*), a fused proximal radius, from a tree throw. Although the latter feature is undated, the bone itself is unlikely to be more recent than the Early Bronze Age, since that is the latest reliable date for aurochs in Britain (Clutton-Brock 1991).
- 4.6.12 There is very little ageing or metrical data in these phases. Most of what is present occurs in the Post-Medieval or undated material. No evidence of butchery was observed and only one context, from phase 8, contained burnt bone.

#### The skeletons

##### *Area 10 - Pit with articulated bones*

- 4.6.13 The associated groups of fragmented bones contained within this pit represent an unknown number of cattle partial skeletons. The groups consist primarily of articulated vertebrae and ribs dispersed over 10 contexts. Few other elements are present, either from the trunk or the skull and long bones. Although more than one individual is represented the exact number is uncertain at this stage since some of the groups may come from the same skeleton. Although the bones are fragmented the surface condition is quite good and butchery marks should be preserved: cut marks were observed on the astragalus from an articulated limb bone group.
- 4.6.14 Three contexts within this pit contained a few isolated sheep, pig and dog bones.

##### *Area 11 - Pit with cattle skeleton*

- 4.6.15 This feature contained, lying on its left side, an apparently complete cattle skeleton including extremities. Although the bones have fragmented, their surface condition is relatively good and butchery marks may be preserved. It will be possible to take some measurements. This feature is essentially undated and has been phased to the Iron Age (3/4) by association with nearby features. The size of the bones does support this insofar as they are too small to be from a Post-Medieval animal.

*Area 11 - Pit with pig skeleton*

- 4.6.16 This feature contained the complete skeleton of a juvenile (2nd molar unworn), female pig lying on its right side. An iron ring was found close to its nose and spot-dating suggests a medieval date although it may be later. The skull and mandible portion seen at assessment, although fragmentary, did not appear to be unduly large and hence post-medieval. However, this may be resolved by metrical examination of the teeth and early-fusing limb bones.

## **5. STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL**

### **5.1 Summary Statement of Potential**

- 5.1.1 The excavations at Watchfield have broadly achieved the period-specific aims and the general objectives of each excavation area as defined in the Brief and Project Design. Three principal areas of archaeological activity were revealed: the southern edge of an Early / Middle Iron Age enclosure in Area 11; a complex of Late Iron Age / Romano-British enclosure ditches and associated pits in Area 10; and a small Romano-British cremation cemetery and further enclosures in Area 7. In each of these areas, the results of the excavations add to the limited number of contemporary sites, particularly of Late Iron Age / Roman Conquest date, which have been subjected to full and recent excavation in the Vale of the White Horse.
- 5.1.2 Although the potential for full interpretation is limited by a number of factors, such as the absence of structures and the poor preservation of the human bone, the deposits excavated cover extensive and transitional date ranges and useful finds and palaeo-environmental assemblages were recovered. The excavations can therefore contribute information, of both local and regional aspect, to enable wider comparison with contemporary prehistoric and early Roman landscapes within and on the fringes of the Vale.
- 5.1.3 The evolution and use of the intensive complex of enclosures and associated features of Late Iron Age / Romano-British date in Area 10 is of interest here, given the paucity of evidence from this period in the area. A more detailed analysis of the stratigraphic relationships between the enclosure ditches, their various re-cuts and the pit complexes, along with the finds recovered from them, may allow a more comprehensive phasing. This would possibly elucidate the development of the enclosures and the various activities which were undertaken within and outside them. The small Romano-British cremation cemetery in Area 7 is also of interest, given the extent of the associated landscape and the uncertain location of the probable Roman villa within the College grounds. The presence of possible pyre bases here is also not common. On a regional level, the evolution of an open, farmed landscape in later prehistory and the settlement patterns associated with this, in an area surrounded by uplands with typical hillforts, is also interesting.

5.1.4 The results of the excavations therefore have the potential to provide further information on the nature, development and wider role of this multi-period site. Primarily, this can be achieved through both further palaeo-environmental and material analysis.

5.1.5 In particular, this information will contribute to:

- the understanding of the nature of agricultural practices conducted within the site within all periods;
- the development and function of the Late Iron Age / Romano-British enclosure complex.
- comparison with contemporary sites of each period in the Vale of the White Horse and surrounding upland areas

5.1.6 The assessment has identified the following classes of material which offer potential for further analysis to contribute to the initial aims of the project and/or wider research issues.

## **5.2 Finds Potential**

5.2.1 Excavation at Watchfield has produced an artefactual assemblage of moderate size, which will shed light on various aspects of settlement and activity in the area from the Late Bronze Age to the post-Roman period. Of particular interest is the fact that the majority of the assemblage dates from the transitional period around the Roman conquest, which should help to inform our understanding of the impact of Romanisation on native Iron Age material culture in the area. The identification of a Mesolithic component amongst the flint assemblage is also significant, and will prove a welcome addition to our knowledge of earlier prehistoric activity in the area.

5.2.2 The highest potential here lies in the pottery assemblage, which provides the primary chronological evidence for the site, and has already informed the preliminary phasing of the site. Other dating evidence is limited to a small quantity of datable metalwork, mainly brooches, which derive from a restricted chronological span. The pottery assemblage spans a much wider period, and includes an invaluable sequence from Late Bronze Age to Romano-British and beyond, although the emphasis is on the Middle/Late Iron Age to early Romano-British period. Demonstrable changes in the use of raw materials (tempering agents) in various chronological periods will shed light on the processes of pottery production and distribution in this area, supported by an examination of the affinities of the assemblage within a wider regional context. In this respect the peripheral position of the site in relation to the various Iron Age ceramic 'style zones' proposed by Cunliffe for central southern England is of interest, and the Watchfield assemblage might therefore be expected to share stylistic traits with more than one ceramic tradition.

- 5.2.3 Limited functional evidence is provided by the presence of domestic utensils such as loomweights and quernstones, although this is insufficient evidence on which to postulate spatial differentiation in activity areas within the site.
- 5.2.4 Evidence for domestic activity is complemented by burial evidence from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, including an interesting prone inhumation from the later Romano-British or Saxon period. The proximity of the excavated Saxon cemetery at Watchfield may be noted in this context (Scull 1992). The potential of the human bone, however, to answer detailed questions about the Iron Age and Romano-British population, or about burial ritual, is limited by the poor preservation.

### **5.3 Palaeo-environmental potential**

#### Introduction

- 5.3.1 The presence of charred remains and animal bones in a number of features can assist in the full interpretation of the function and use of the site enable comparison within the region. Due to the relative dearth of similar evidence in the immediate locality, further analysis will provide a reference framework for other work in the future.
- 5.3.2 Further analysis of the palaeo-environmental assemblages may allow the relative importance of the agricultural versus animal husbandry components of the site economy and the role and status of the site within a wider social and economic landscape – in particular whether this was a production, processing or consumer site – to be examined. This may also contribute to understanding of the agricultural expansion and development of the open landscape seen in the South Midlands in the final Bronze Age and early Iron Age onwards (c. 900 BC), and the onset of agriculture and trade in the Belgic and Romano-British periods, 80 BC – AD 410 (Robinson and Wilson 1987).

#### Charred plant remains

- 5.3.3 Charred grain was present in 83% of the samples, and charred plant remains are generally common across all phases of the site except the Mesolithic, but are sparse in Early to Late Iron Age features. However, chaff and weed seeds are pits of this date and are present throughout the Romano-British phases. Peas/beans are relatively common in a number of features from the Late Iron Age onwards. Although this is not unknown on sites of this period, this crop here appears to form a significant component of the Late Iron Age and Romano-British agriculture. The presence of a charred ?fruit stone in Romano-British, possibly funerary, contexts, is rarer.
- 5.3.4 The nature of the agricultural economy is therefore mixed, with both cereal and peas\beans present, the latter probably well suited to the soils of the area, and also the rare occurrence of fruit stones. There is potential to examine the nature of the

local arable economy and the role of this site in producing, processing, storing, marketing or consuming the products of agriculture.

- 5.3.5 The recorded remains (**Table 3**) may enable the examination of spatial distribution and use of the site, via the assessment results alone. Most of the more diverse and richer assemblages are concentrated in the centre of Area 10, where the majority of the phase 4 and 5 enclosure ditches converge and a number of pits were also clustered.
- 5.3.6 Two features in particular indicate the possibility of determining function of the pits, and of activities on site. A well-dated (AD 100-150) pit in Area 10 contained exceptionally high quantities of chaff accompanied with grain but no charcoal, suggesting crop processing waste. A nearby clay lined pit contained very high numbers of clean grain, some pea/beans, but no chaff nor charcoal and few weed seeds, suggesting a storage function.
- 5.3.7 The ditches and pits can therefore provide detailed information of the types of activity, the crop harvested and the use of the site, and their distribution enables some spatial understanding of the function of the site. Comparison with the fewer remains in the earlier (Iron Age) phases enables some indication of any changes or development through time.
- 5.3.8 The Romano-British cremation-related samples contain relatively common grain; these, like the ditches, can provide a general background of the activities on site, as well as some indication of any pyre or burial related custom; it is interesting that charred fruit stones were only noted in funerary or associated contexts.

#### Charcoal

- 5.3.9 Charcoal is present in moderate, but never high numbers throughout the site. The charcoal has the potential to allow the nature of the local woodland in the Mesolithic and later periods, and the exploitation of the local woodland resources in the Iron Age to Romano-British periods, to be examined from general remains in ditches. This evidence is presumed to originate from hearths and general waste and should provide a good representation of the local woodland, albeit biased towards some selection of woods for building and artefacts. In addition, several pits (Iron Age phases 3A-3D) contain charcoal, and one in particular also produced slag; the comparison of assemblages from these features therefore has the potential to provide information about other activities on site.

#### *Roman cemetery*

- 5.3.10 Information from the ditches in particular here can be contrasted with the species identified from the funerary-related features. This may enable the selection of specific species to be identified and aid in understanding pyre technology, ritual and burial practices during the Romano-British period.

### *Grave fill*

- 5.3.11 One unusual grave in Area 10, which contained an unusual prone inhumation, was backfilled with limestone and a mass of charcoal. The species in this deliberate dump of charcoal can be contrasted with that from the rest of the site, and other funerary material in particular, to help characterise and understand the unusual nature of this burial.

### Animal Bone

- 5.3.12 The animal bones from Watchfield cover a wide chronological period but only the Iron Age and Romano-British contexts yielded sufficient bone to merit further study.
- 5.3.13 There are no known assemblages from these periods in the area and as such, this collection is unique. The assemblage is in reasonable condition with enough ageable and measurable bones to be able to answer questions about the economy of the site. In other areas there is evidence of both major change in the species composition between the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, and of continuity. There is sufficient data from Watchfield for the impact of the Roman invasion on the local economy to be addressed.
- 5.3.14 Study of the age at death of the animal populations, the parts of the skeleton present on site and the butchery techniques observed will help to clarify the economic focus of the site. Further study of the condition of the bone and the degree of carnivore damage will also help to clarify the deposition of the assemblage (i.e. were the bones rapidly deposited or were the bones on the ground surface for some time before deposition).
- 5.3.15 The associated groups seen during excavation are of interest as the study of 'placed deposits' or structured deposition can inform about the social or ritual life of the site's inhabitants.
- 5.3.16 Only those bones which can be securely dated to either the Iron Age or the Romano-British periods should be included in the further study.

## **SECTION B – PROPOSALS FOR POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

### **6. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 It is proposed to conduct further analyses on a wide range of finds and palaeo-environmental material. Further detailed proposals for each class of material are listed in section 7 below.

6.1.2 The results of these analyses will be correlated with the stratigraphic and structural data recovered during the excavation and updated matrices produced for the principal areas of activity to allow a review of the preliminary phasing presented in section 2 above. Only limited further analysis of stratigraphic/structural evidence is proposed (see 5.1.3 above), descriptions having already been prepared during the assessment phase (Data Level 3). These descriptions will, with the texts produced by analysis of the finds and environmental evidence, form the basis of the publication text.

6.1.3 A report on the results of the post-excavation analysis work will be produced. It is proposed that the report should take the form of an article. The preferred forum of publication is *Oxoniensia*. An alternative place of publication will be pursued if the article has not been published within a reasonable timescale.

#### **6.2 Aims & Objectives**

6.2.1 On the basis of the archaeological potential set out in section 5 above, the aims of the analysis phase can be updated as follows:

- to confirm the date and sequence of activity on the site (all areas)
- to establish the function of the site in different periods (areas 10 and 11)
- to establish the nature of the activities which took place (areas 7, 10 and 11)
- to clarify the character, status and economy of the site (areas 10 and 11)
- to establish the environmental setting of the site (all areas)
- to understand the site in a wider context (all areas)

6.2.2 The aims for the publication phase are as follows:

- to produce an integrated and synthesised report on the findings, and an interpretation and discussion of them, for dissemination as an academic publication commensurate with the significance of the data recovered.

- to ensure the long-term curation of the data recovered and its dissemination in a form appropriate to its significance and academic value.

6.2.3 Within the report, description and discussion will centre on:

- describing in as succinct and cost-effective a manner as possible the archaeological features and deposits recorded and the artefactual and palaeo-environmental materials.
- correlating the stratigraphic, artefactual and palaeo-environmental data in order to address and interpret the overall development and chronological sequence of past activity on the site.
- assessing the range of activities taking place on the site in the various periods represented and their importance within the local and regional archaeological landscape.

## 7. ANALYSIS AND REPORTING PROPOSALS

### 7.1 Report Structure

7.1.1 It is proposed that the report will present an expanded and fully integrated account of the excavation results. The results will be discussed in their wider local and regional contexts and draw comparisons with other sites of similar date, form and topographic location in the region.

7.1.2 The following proposed structure outline gives an indicative number of words for each section/sub-section, together with illustrations. Expansion of the sub-sections will be considered as necessary to include a suitable depth of description and synthesis. The descriptive section will include structural data and artefact and environmental data as appropriate.

#### a) *Introduction*

<i>Project Background</i>	Estimated length: 250 words
<i>Geology, Topography and Land-Use</i>	Estimated length: 250 words
<i>Archaeological Background</i>	Estimated length: 1000 words

#### b) *Methodology*

<i>Excavation Methodology</i>	Estimated length: 300 words
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#### c) *Results*

<i>The archaeological features and deposits</i>	Estimated length: 9000 words
<i>The finds</i>	Estimated length: 5000 words
<i>The palaeo-environmental evidence</i>	Estimated length: 5000 words



d) *Discussion*

Estimated length: 3500 words

e) *Illustrations*

The following list describes the provisional illustrations for the publication report; the order of figures may be revised. Line illustrations may be supplemented by photographs as appropriate.

- Site location
- Phased all-features area plans as appropriate
- Individual feature plans and sections as appropriate
- Structures - plan(s) of possible pyre structures
- Finds Illustrations

## 7.2 The Finds Proposals

7.2.1 Throughout this section, reference is made to the relevant *Wessex Archaeology Data Level* to be employed in the proposed finds analysis, as set out in *Data Levels Guidelines* (Wessex Archaeology Guideline No. 2, 1994). A summary of the *Data Levels Guidelines* is included in this report as **Appendix 2**; further details are available on request.

### Fired Clay

7.2.2 Portable objects (loomweights) will be described and discussed in terms of functional and economic significance to the site; one weight will be illustrated. Less diagnostic fragments of fired clay will be attributed to object types if possible, but otherwise briefly discussed in terms of overall quantities and spatial distribution (Data Level 3/4).

### Worked and Burnt Flint

7.2.3 The worked flint will be sorted into basic types (eg. flakes, blades, cores, etc) combined with a sufficient detail of attribute recording to characterise the level of core preparation and other aspects of the technology employed. Given the largely residual provenance of the flint, no detailed metrical analysis is proposed, but emphasis will be placed on the identifiable Mesolithic assemblage, particularly within Area 11. The significance of the Upper Paleolithic 'bruised blade' will be discussed (Data Level 3/4).

7.2.4 Burnt, unworked flint does not warrant further analysis.

### Glass

7.2.5 The three fragments of Romano-British vessel glass will be briefly described and discussed (Data Level 4).

### Pottery

- 7.2.6 All pottery (except for the small quantity of post-Roman sherds) will be subjected to full fabric and form analysis, using the standard Wessex Archaeology recording system for pottery (Morris 1992), and following nationally recommended guidelines (PCRG 1997). Type series will be created for both fabrics and forms. The assemblage will be described and discussed within its local and regional context, with reference to the ceramic sequence represented on the site, any functional implications of the range of vessel forms represented, and any information the assemblage can add to our current knowledge of ceramic change during the Late Iron Age/Romano-British transition period. A selection of vessels will be illustrated as a representative sample of the range of vessel forms (Data Level 4).

### Stone

- 7.2.7 The quernstone(s), whetstones and other potentially utilised pieces will be briefly described and discussed in terms of their potential source, date range, and functional implications for the site, citing relevant parallels (Data Level 4).

### Metalwork

- 7.2.8 Following the cleaning and stabilisation of selected objects (see Conservation, above), the coins will be identified and all other metal objects other than nails/hobnails will be described and discussed within functional groups (eg. personal items, structural items, etc), with reference to their potential date range and functional/economic implications for the site. A selection of objects will be illustrated (Data Level 4). Quantities and distribution of nails/hobnails will be briefly discussed (Data Level 3).

### Metalworking evidence

- 7.2.9 The small quantity of metalworking slag does not warrant further detailed analysis.

### Worked Bone

- 7.2.10 The three bone objects will be briefly described and discussed in terms of their potential date range, and functional implications for the site, citing relevant parallels (Data Level 4). These objects may be illustrated.

### Human Bone

- 7.2.11 The bone from each context will be examined to confirm the number of individuals in each context, their age and sex. A standard series of measurements will be taken where possible, and used to calculate various indices. The very heavy fragmentation to much of the bone is likely to severely limit this area of

investigation, however. It is unlikely that it will be possible to calculate either the cranial index or give an estimate of stature in any instance. The amount of reconstruction attempted will, therefore, be kept to a minimum. A full description of all pathological lesions will be presented in the archive report and diagnosis suggested where appropriate. Morphological variations will also be noted.

#### *Cremated remains*

- 7.2.12 An assessment of pyre technology, cremation rites and rituals will be made, although comment is likely to be limited in view of the level of truncation sustained by the burials and probable loss of bone in consequence.
- 7.2.13 The data recovered will be subject to inter-period comparative discussion, and comparison with other contemporaneous funerary deposits within the area. The small size of the assemblage within each period will place constraints on the level of discussion (Data Level 4).

### **7.3 Palaeo-environmental Proposals**

#### Charred plant remains

- 7.3.1 A selection of 12 samples covering all periods except the Mesolithic, and a range of feature types across the site, will help characterise the agronomy and the nature of specific activities on the site. The selected samples are indicated on **Table 3**.

#### Charcoal

- 7.3.2 Charcoals from each phase have been selected to determine the nature of the local woodland, from the Mesolithic wildwood to the presumably more managed woodland of the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The selection of species specifically for pyres or ?furnaces (charcoal in pit 5077, Area 11) will be investigated and compared with the more local resources. A selection of 11 samples covering a representative array from each phase and feature type is proposed and indicated on **Table 3**. The larger (5.6mm) charcoal pieces from the grave fill (1036), which were recovered from around the prone inhumation in Area 10, are included and can be subsampled by the specialist if necessary.

#### Animal Bone

- 7.3.3 The Iron Age and Romano-British parts of the assemblage (phases 3,4 and 5) will be analysed fully. It is unlikely that the dating of the phase 3/4 and 4/5 material can be refined to place the material in the more closely dated phases; these components of the assemblage will not therefore be analysed. Further analysis of the cattle complete and partial skeletons will be undertaken with measurements taken where possible and the skeletons scrutinised for butchery marks.

- 7.3.4 No further analysis is proposed in respect of phases 1 and 5/6 through to 9. No further analysis of the pig skeleton will be undertaken.

## **8. STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **8.1 Museum**

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation is deposited with:

Oxfordshire Museums  
Witney Road  
Standlake  
Oxfordshire OX8 7DG

- 8.1.2 The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, which will be deposited under the Accession Number OXCMS:1998.113. Deposition of the finds will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### **8.2 Conservation**

- 8.2.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects, which are in a generally poor and corroded condition.

- 8.2.2 Metal objects have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment phase, as a basic record and also to aid identification. On the basis of the X-rays, the range of objects present and their provenance on the site, 11 objects have been selected for conservation treatment, involving investigative cleaning and stabilisation. These objects are listed in **Appendix 3**.

### **8.3 Storage**

- 8.3.1 The finds are currently stored in perforated polythene bags in 38 cardboard or airtight plastic boxes, ordered by material type, following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990).

### **8.4 Discard Policy**

- 8.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, categories which might be targeted for eventual discard

might include burnt, unworked flint/stone. The discarding of any artefacts will be carried out only with the complete agreement of the recipient museum.

## **8.5 Archive**

8.5.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared in accordance with the recipient Museum's required procedures (1994; note that the project was initiated prior to the issue of the revised procedures, 1998), and following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995).

## **8.6 Copyright**

8.6.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by the Trust for Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking.

## **8.7 Security copy**

8.7.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological record (RCHME), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

## **9.0 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING**

### **9.1 Named project team**

9.1.1 The team consists primarily of internal Wessex Archaeology staff, with a limited input by a small number of external consultants: Wessex Archaeology reserves the right to replace any member of the named team at its discretion. The project will be managed by Chris Moore BA AIFA, who will be responsible to Sue Davies, Deputy Director of Wessex Archaeology.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position in Organisation</b>	<b>Role/task in team</b>
Michael J Allen	Environmental Manager	Environmental co-ordinator
Vaughan Birbeck	Project Officer	Report synthesis
Rowena Gale	External Consultant	Charcoal analysis
Julie Gardiner	Reports Manager	Editor
Rachel Griffin	Computer Co-ordinator	Computer support
Phil Harding	Project Officer	Flint specialist

Pat Hinton	External Consultant	Charred plant remains analysis
Liz James	Project Illustrator	Illustrator
Moira Laidlaw	Project Officer	Pottery analysis
Emma Loader	Project Supervisor	Other finds analysis
Jackie McKinley	Project Officer	Human bone specialist
Lorraine Mepham	Finds Manager	Finds co-ordinator
Chris Moore	Project Manager	Project manager
Sheila Hamilton-Dyer	External Consultant	Animal bone specialist
Pippa Smith	Community Officer	Animal bone specialist
Elaine Wakefield	Project Photographer	Publication photographs
Sarah F Wyles	Environmental Technician	Charcoal extraction & assessment

## 9.2 Management Structure

9.2.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team is headed by the Project Manager, in this case Chris Moore, who assumes ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the Project Specification, and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary, or scheduled.

9.2.2 The Project Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Project Manager will have a major input into the writing of the publication report. He will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

## 9.3 Performance Monitoring and Quality Standards

9.3.1 The Project Manager is assisted by the Reports Manager, who will help to ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines. The overall progress will be monitored internally by the Deputy Director.

9.3.2 Communication between all team members is essential, and will be facilitated by project meetings at key points during the project.

9.3.3 In addition to the internal team structure monitoring and checking, quality standards will be maintained by external academic advisers where appropriate. They will appraise the academic quality of the report prior to the submission of a draft publication text to Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services for approval on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

## 9.4 Timetable

9.4.1 The Gantt chart at 9.5 below shows the projected programme from commencement to delivery of a publication text. Archive deposition will take place at a later date; provision has been made in the costing for the necessary deposition grant in respect of the Wessex Archaeology archive.

## 9.5 Summary Gantt chart for master programme

Task	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6 on
<i>Begin project</i>						
Project set-up & pre-analysis tasks						
<i>End of phase 1</i>						
<b>Finds Analysis</b>						
<b>Palaeo-environmental Analysis</b>						
<i>End of phase 2</i>						
<b>Prepare synthesis</b>						
<i>End of phase 3</i>						
Prepare draft publication text						
<i>Submit draft report for approval</i>						
Finalise publication text						
Arrange publication, archive finalisation and deposition						
<i>End of project</i>						

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## Appendix 1: Tables

Table 1: Finds totals by material type

Material type	No. pieces	Weight (g)
Burnt Flint	69	407
Ceramic Building Material	6	189
Fired Clay	150	4330
Worked Flint	801	3405
Glass	4	18
<i>Pottery</i>	6734	58880
Slag	174	831
Stone	27	16511
Metalwork	81	-
Iron	68	-
Copper alloy	13	-
Human Bone	7 inhumed + 4 cremated individuals; + redeposited fragments	-

Table 2: Pottery totals by major ware group (number of sherds)

Fabric Group	Sherd count
<i>LATE BRONZE AGE</i>	
Flint-tempered fabrics	2
<b>IRON AGE</b>	
Shelly fabrics	635
Other calcareous fabrics	856
Flint-tempered fabrics	207
Sandy fabrics	532
Grog-tempered fabrics	1333
Amphorae (Dr. 1b)	2
<i>sub-total Iron Age</i>	<b>3565</b>
<i>ROMANO-BRITISH</i>	
RB greywares	1680
RB grog-tempered	716
RB oxidised wares	102
RB whitewares	105
RB calcareous	13
BB1	134
Oxfordshire finewares	8
Samian	91
Other imports	1
<i>sub-total Romano-British</i>	<b>2850</b>
<i>MEDIEVAL</i>	105
POST-MEDIEVAL	39
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>6561</b>

**Table 3. Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Feature type/ no	Context	Sample	size litres	Flot							Residue		analysis
				flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm			
<b>MESOLITHIC</b>													
Tree throw													
5398	5399	20088	3	150 <sup>1.5</sup>	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	C	
EARLY / MIDDLE IRON AGE													
Phase 3A													
ditch													
5334	5210	20085	10	40 <sup>4</sup>	C	-	c	-	-	mollusc (C)	-	P C	
5216	5153	20089	10	5 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	c	-	-	mollusc (C)	-	P C	
	5211	20090	10	30 <sup>10</sup>	C	-	c	-	-	smb(C)	-		
Phase 3B													
ditch													
5333	5206	20086	9	25 <sup>5</sup>	C	-	c	-	C	mollusc (C)	-		
Phase 3C													
ditch													
5214	5342	20081	10	7 <sup>1</sup>	C	-	c	C	C	mollusc (C) smb(C)	-	P C	
	5048	20094	8	50 <sup>2.5</sup>	-	-	c	-	C	smb(C)	-		
5107	5114	20083	10	15 <sup>5</sup>	C	-	c	-	C	mollusc (C) smb(C)	-	P C	
	5115	20084	8	30 <sup>10</sup>	C	-	c	-	C	-	-		
	5201	20091	10	5 <sup>1.25</sup>	-	-	c	-	-	-	-		
Phase 3D													
ditch													
5213	5346	20082	10	5 <sup>0.75</sup>	C	-	b	-	C	-	-		
5276	5127	20087	10	30 <sup>1.5</sup>	-	-	c	-	-	mollusc (C) smb(C)	-	P C	
	5225	20092	10	3 <sup>0.75</sup>	C	C	c	C	-	smb(C)	-		
5032	5036	20093	10	8 <sup>1.5</sup>	C	-	c	-	C	smb(C)	-		
<b>IRON AGE PHASES 3A TO 3D</b>													
pit													
5029	5042	20057	10	10 <sup>2</sup>	C	-	c	-	-	smb(C)	-		
5030	5031	20058	10	25 <sup>3.75</sup>	-	-	c	-	-	smb(C)	-	P C	
	5034	20059	10	30 <sup>3</sup>	A	C	c	C	B	smb(C)	-		
5053	5054	20073	10	25 <sup>5</sup>	C	-	a	C	C	-	-	P C	
	5080	20074	10	15 <sup>1.5</sup>	B	B	b	C	C	smb(C)	-		
5077	5078	20075	10	60 <sup>3</sup>	-	-	c	C	B	slag	-	C	
5181	5183	20079	10	5 <sup>0.75</sup>	C	-	c	C	C	-	-		
5321	5320	20080	10	10 <sup>2.5</sup>	-	-	b	-	-	-	-		

KEY: A\*\* = exceptional, A\* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones

NOTE: <sup>1</sup>flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material. <sup>2</sup>Unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains

**Table 3. Continued**

LATE IRON AGE TO EARLY ROMAN												
<b>ditch</b>												
1402	1403	20060	10	25 <sup>5</sup>	A	-	c	C	C	smb(A) mollusc (B) p/beans (C)	-	
1315	1316	20063	10	5 <sup>3</sup>	B	C	c	C	-	smb(C) mollusc (C) p/beans (C)	- P	
1301	1389	20065	10	15 <sup>3</sup>	C	-	b	C	-	smb (C) mollusc (C)	-	
1167	1168	20066	10	10 <sup>3</sup>	A	-	c	A	C	smb(B) mollusc (B)	-	
	1169	20067	10	25 <sup>5</sup>	B	-	c	-	-	mollusc (B)	-	
1281	1282	20068	10	10 <sup>7</sup>	C	-	c	C	-	mollusc (C)	-	
1026	1068	20069	10	10 <sup>7.5</sup>	B	-	c	C	C	p/beans (C)	- P C	
1016	1017	20070	10	10 <sup>4</sup>	C	-	c	C	-	p/beans (C)	-	
1404/1405	1128	20071	0.3	3	C	-	-	C	-	-	-	
1424	1431	20072	10	10 <sup>6</sup>	C	-	c	-	C	-	-	
501	502	20025	10	10 <sup>4</sup>	B	-	c	C	C	mollusc (A) smb(C)	-	
1390	1391	20076	10	8 <sup>6.4</sup>	C	-	c	C	C	-	-	
1391	1436	20077	10	30 <sup>3</sup>	C	-	c	-	A	-	- C	
<b>pit</b>												
1355	1356	20055	5	5 <sup>0.5</sup>	A	A*	c	C	-	mollusc (A)	- P	
	1387	20062	10	10 <sup>1</sup>	C	-	c	-	-	smb (C) mollusc (C)	-	
1412	1410	20061	10	50 <sup>7.5</sup>	A**	-	c	C	-	smb (B) mollusc (B)	- P	
1339	1341	20064	10	5 <sup>2</sup>	A	-	c	-	-	smb (B) mollusc (C)	-	
<b>fill of pot</b>												
1022	1015	20026	10	40 <sup>2</sup>	B	C	-	-	C	smb(A*)	-	
1022	1023	20027	8	8 <sup>4.2</sup>	C	-	c	C	-	smb(B)	-	
	1101	20095	0.5	5 <sup>1</sup>	C	-	c	C	-	mollusc (A) smb(C)	-	
<b>grave</b>												
1336	1338	20046	10	10 <sup>2</sup>	C	-	c	-	-	mollusc (C) p/beans (C) bone(A)	-	
?Late Roman – Early Saxon Grave Fill (Artefact Sample)												
1036	1140	20035	9	not assessed							15	C

KEY: A\*\* = exceptional, A\* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones

NOTE: <sup>1</sup>flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material. <sup>2</sup>Unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains

Table 3. Continued

ROMANO-BRITISH												
cremation pyre												
gr 718	757	20007	10	30 <sup>12</sup>	A*	A	c	B	-	mollusc (C) p/beans (C) smb(C) ?fruit stone(C)	-	P
	757	20009	10	35 <sup>10.5</sup>	A*	A	b	C	-	mollusc (C) smb(C)	-	
	757	20013	2.5	10 <sup>3</sup>	A	A	c	-	-	mollusc (C) smb(C)	-	
	757	20014	10	50 <sup>17.5</sup>	A*	A	c	C	-	mollusc (B) smb(C) p/beans (C)	-	P
715	716	20011	10	15 <sup>7.5</sup>	C	C	b	-	-	mollusc (C)	-	
733	762	20010	10	15 <sup>3.75</sup>	C	-	c	C	C	mollusc (C) smb(C)	2	C
	778	20016	10	5 <sup>1.5</sup>	B	C	c	C	C	mollusc (C) smb(C) p/beans (C)	-	
	762	20017	10	10 <sup>4</sup>	B	-	c	C	C	mollusc (C) smb(C) p/beans (C)	-	
pit near pyre												
371	732	20001	10	25 <sup>6</sup>	A	A	c	C	C	mollusc (C) smb(B) p/beans (C)	-	P C
	737	20002	5	25 <sup>18.75</sup>	-	C	c	-	-	mollusc (C)	-	
	741	20003	6	5 <sup>0.5</sup>	C	C	c	-	-	mollusc (C) smb(C)	-	
cremation												
754	748	20005	2.5	5 <sup>2</sup>	-	-	c	-	-	mollusc (C) smb(C)	-	
735	753	20006	4	25 <sup>8.75</sup>	C	-	b	-	-	mollusc (C)	-	
755	756	20008	1.5	2 <sup>0.8</sup>	-	-	c	-	-	mollusc (C)	-	
767	768	20015	10	20 <sup>2</sup>	-	-	b	-	-	mollusc (C)	-	
posthole near pyre												
788	789	20018	10	25 <sup>7.5</sup>	A	B	b	C	-	mollusc (C) smb(A) p/beans (C)	-	
852	792	20019	10	35 <sup>3.5</sup>	A	C	c	B	C	mollusc (C) smb(A) p/beans (C)	-	
791	792	20020	10	15 <sup>3</sup>	A	C	c	C	C	mollusc (C) smb(C) p/beans (C)	-	
	793	20021	10	20 <sup>5</sup>	B	C	c	B	C	mollusc (B) smb(A) p/beans (C) f-stone (C)	-	P C
gully												
851	794	20022	6	10 <sup>2</sup>	C	C	c	-	-	mollusc (C) p/beans (C)	-	
735	771	20012	5	10 <sup>2</sup>	C	-	c	C	-	mollusc (B) bone(C)	-	
pit												
325	340	20023	10	15 <sup>9</sup>	C	-	c	-	-	mollusc (C)	-	

KEY: A\*\* = exceptional, A\* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones

NOTE: <sup>1</sup>flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material. <sup>2</sup>Unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains

**Table 4: Summary of animal bone from Watchfield, excluding skeletons.**

Phase	Area																Total		
	2		3		4		5		7		9		10		11		n	ID	% ID
	n	% ID	n	% ID	n	% ID	n	% ID	n	% ID	n	% ID	n	% ID					
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	17	6	1	17
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	769	36	769	273	36
3/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	139	12	90	14	229	29	13
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	815	28	272	20	1087	285	26
4/5	-	-	-	-	6	17	273	32	-	-	-	-	280	24	-	-	559	157	28
5	-	-	8	-	8	25	-	-	240	19	-	-	2493	18	-	-	2749	501	18
5/6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	57	-	-	1	100	-	-	29	17	59
7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	9	-	-	-	-	64	6	9
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	113	40	113	44	40
Unphased	3	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	64	-	-	26	19	388	9	450	61	14
Total	3	67	8	-	14	21	273	32	301	27	64	9	3754	21	1638	26	6055	1374	23

**Table 5: The proportions of the main domestic mammals.**

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Species</i>				<i>n</i>
	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	
1	100	0	0	0	1
3	47	28	8	17	271
3/4	46	50	4	0	28
4	61	28	7	4	258
4/5	50	38	4	8	154
5	55	33	6	7	491
5/6	13	69	0	19	16
7	100	0	0	0	6
8	135	141	13	13	44
Unphased	20	40	2	38	60

## Appendix 2: Summary of *Data Levels Guidelines*

The creation of the *Data Levels Guidelines* formalises the kinds of processing and analysis which Wessex Archaeology has been conducting for the past fifteen years. It provides a structure for finds work. It is to be used as part of the finds assessment and report preparation procedures.

### *Data Level 1*

*Record presence; do not collect.* This level can be used in field scanning only if experienced personnel are participating. It is a level of recording which could be used to enhance information about an area which has been well-documented archaeologically. Data Level 1 could comprise, for example, part of a rapid field scan to identify areas of potential for more detailed survey in an environmental assessment or evaluation. Information could be sketch-plotted and recorded on field or hectare sheets. In excavation or evaluation by excavation it is unlikely to be used except, for example, in the excavation of dumps of ceramic building materials from building demolition, or for modern finds in topsoil. Such occurrences must be noted on context records.

### *Data Level 2*

This is the basic finds records: for bulk finds, this is the *Context Finds Record*; for objects, this includes the mandatory fields of the *Object Record*. This level is the minimum requirement in order to provide quantified data about each material type by context or by collection unit. For excavated artefacts, preparation of the *Finds Index by Category*, which lists and quantifies each material type by context and summarises the information, is necessary. This can be done by entering all the *Context Finds* and *Object Records* onto a computer database, or can be calculated manually. Include all material recovered from samples selected for artefact analysis, and artefacts recovered from environmental samples if required.

### *Data Level 3*

This is the assessment level. The artefactual evidence collected during fieldwalking, or any stage of evaluation and excavation, is scanned, and the potential and suggested methodology for further analysis assessed. The assessment stage can be implemented at two levels. The general dating and quantification information from Data Level 3 can be used to assist in the preparation of client reports, and provide information for SMR work. Spot-date for general chronological range of the material and scan to assess the nature and quality of the material, using the *Spot-Dating and Scanning* form, or those specifically targeted for particular materials such as the *Ceramic Building Material and Stone Scanning* form. The scan may include an assessment as to whether the material is representative of primary deposition or mainly redeposited material, activity areas, or evidence for a building. Give the reasons for date range, such as specific types of pottery or metalwork. At this stage, no further analysis is proposed.

Data Level 3 may also be used in the preparation of detailed research designs for post-excavation work, a process which is formalised as the 'assessment of potential for analysis' in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991). In addition to the scanning procedure outlined above, the assessment should also include a statement of the archaeological potential of the material, and an outline of



the proposed analysis. Determine whether a selection of the material type is necessary or if the full collection is to be analysed. Prepare a series of questions to be asked of the material type, and the analytical methods to be implemented. An indication of the range and quantity of material to be illustrated should also be given.

#### *Data Level 4*

This is the first analytical stage, and is the level of analysis employed for standard assemblages where no specialised research is to be undertaken (eg, for pottery, this is basic fabric and form analysis; for ceramic building materials, recording of the general diagnostic pieces; for lithic material, the recording of metrical and technological data). For selected material types and certain deposits, this stage of work is enough to provide a great deal of information from a limited amount of work. This is the level of analysis traditionally achieved in most excavation reports.

#### *Data Level 5*

This is the second analytical stage, and includes the more detailed research which may be undertaken on selected material types if the nature of the assemblage (and the project budget) allows it. It is generally only undertaken on large assemblages, ie, those where the return of information justifies a more labour-intensive approach than *Data Level 4*. It might include, for example, the detailed recording of an assemblage of decorated floor tiles, in order to investigate production groups; or an in-depth spatial analysis of pottery sherds individually recorded within an occupation deposit.

#### *Data Level 6*

This consists of *scientific and other detailed research*, as well as *regional analyses* with support sought from outside bodies such as the period societies, universities, English Heritage and the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, the British Museum, the Oxford Research Laboratory for the History of Art and Archaeology, the British Academy (Research Grants and Fund for Applied Science in Archaeology), and the Science and Engineering Research Council.

**Appendix 3: Objects selected for conservation treatment**

<b>Material type</b>	<b>Object type</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Obj. No.</b>	<b>X-Ray plate no.</b>
copper alloy	coin	1190	10025*	8057
"	"	1000	10027*	"
"	brooch	703	10006*	"
"	"	704	10007*	"
"	"	726	10009*	"
"	"	1010	10015*	"
"	"	1011	10016*	"
"	"	1000	10026*	"
"	"	1403	10039*	"
"	strap-end	901	10047*	"
iron	brooch	502	10014*	8056
"	?stylus	705	10049*	"
"	spatulate object	763	10012*	"

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"	"	1000	10026*	"
"	"	1403	10039*	"
"	strap-end	901	10047*	"
iron	brooch	502	10014*	8056
"	?stylus	705	10049*	"
"	spatulate object	763	10012*	"

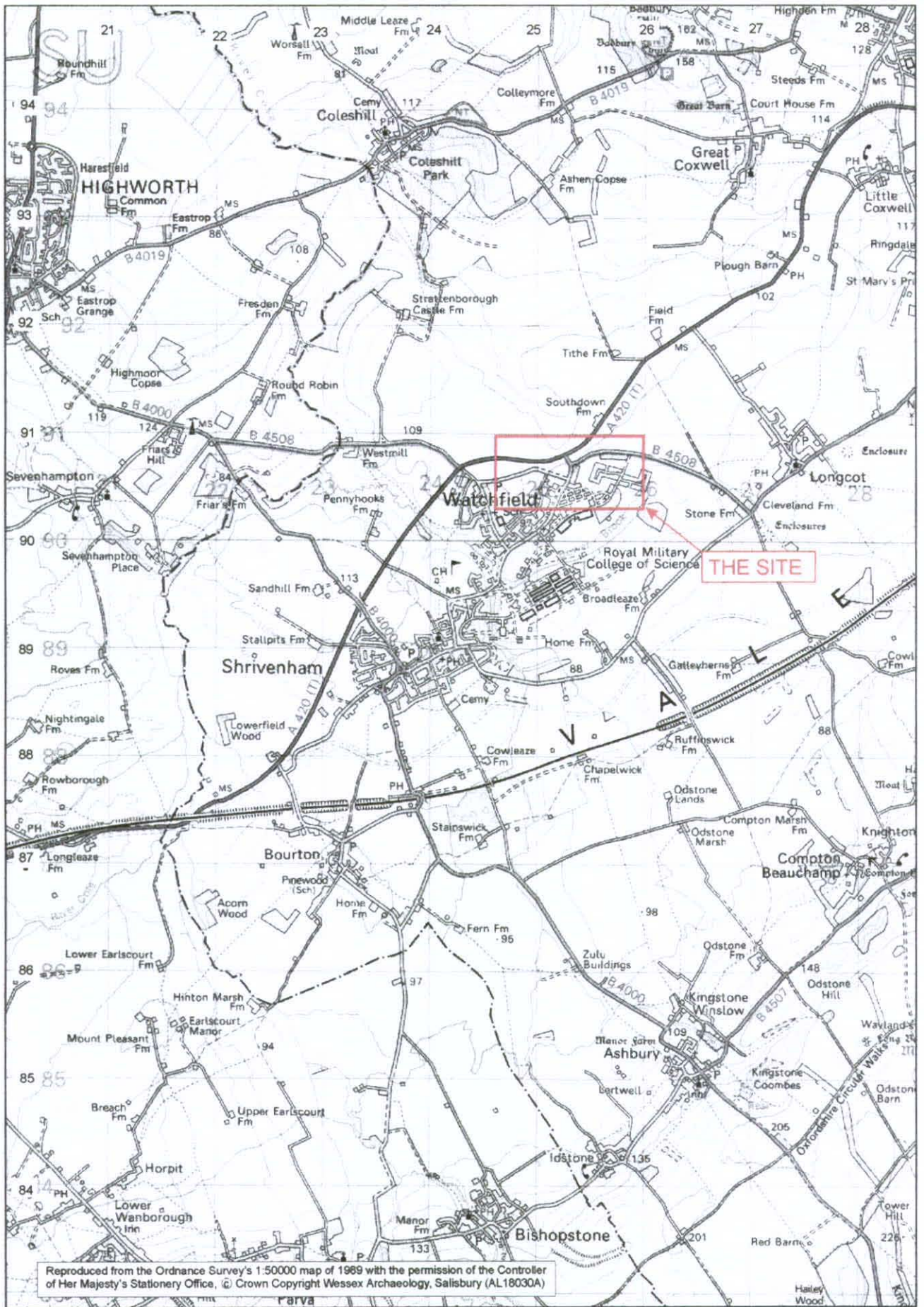


Figure 1

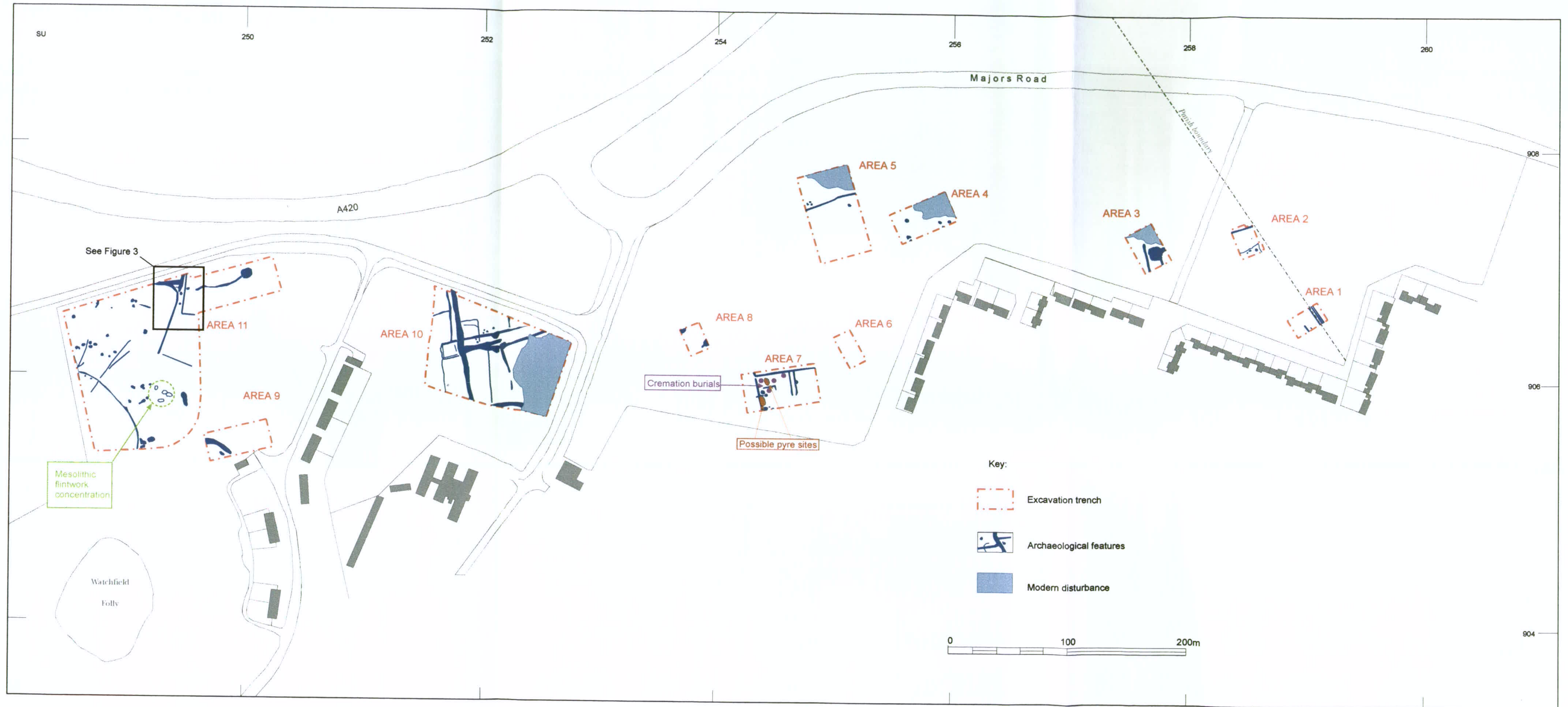


Figure 2

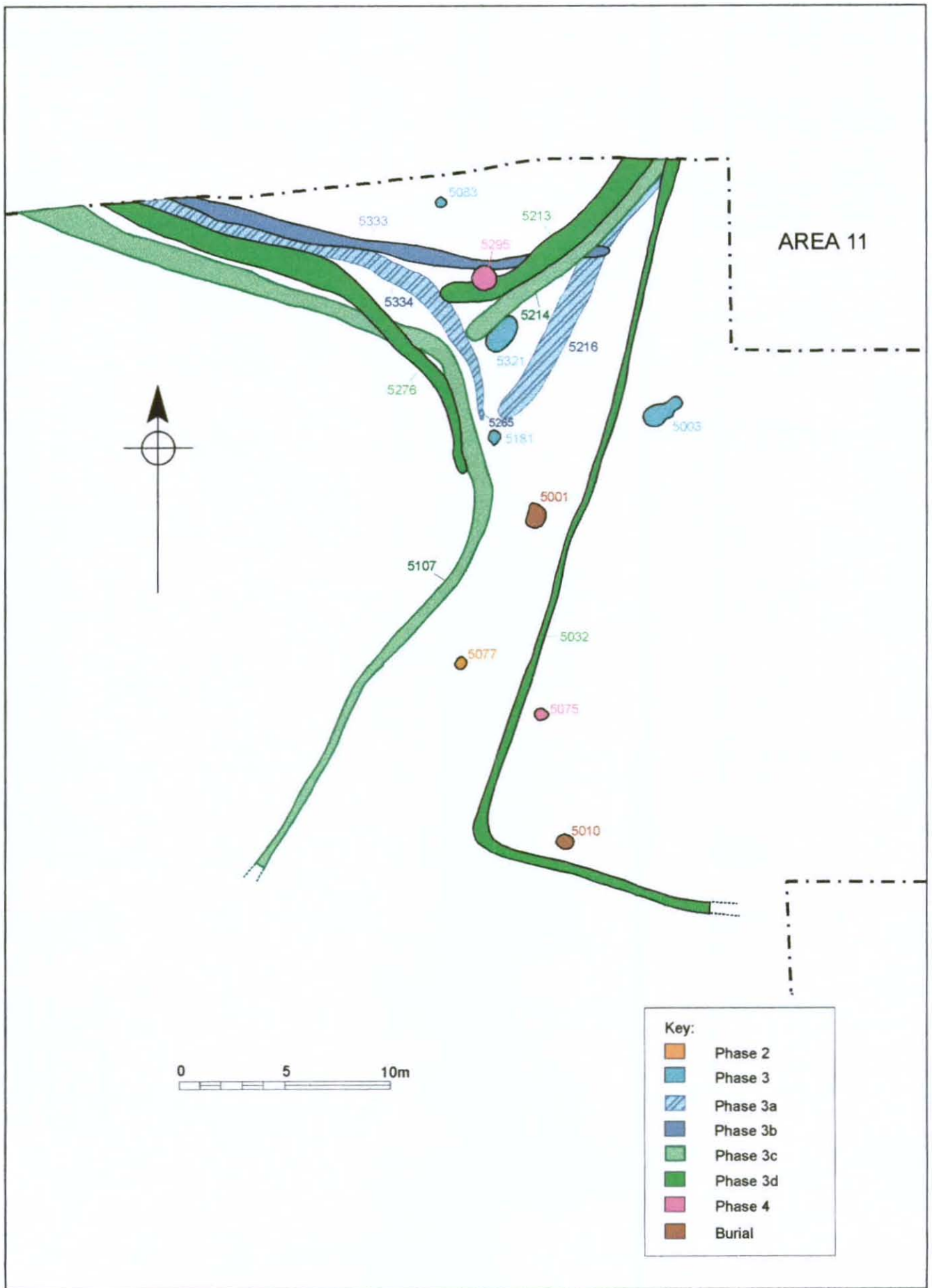
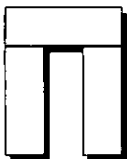
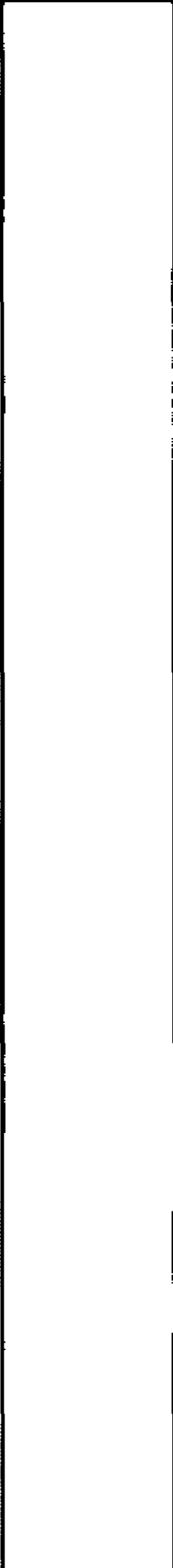


Figure 3



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