

LAND TO THE NORTH OF MILTON PARK, MILTON,
NEAR DIDCOT, OXFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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SUMMARY

In October 2000 Cotswold Archaeological Trust was commissioned by MEPC Milton Park Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the north of Milton Park, Milton, near Didcot, Oxfordshire.

The site lies adjacent to a Scheduled ancient Monument (SAM: Oxfordshire no. 250), which encloses an area containing a large quantity of cropmarks identified from aerial reconnaissance. From their typology these cropmarks are believed to date from the Iron Age, Romano-British, and Saxon periods. A few cropmarks had also been identified outside the SAM within the current study area.

The archaeological evaluation identified features dating to the Iron Age, Romano-British, and Saxon periods across the study area. Several features that were previously known as cropmarks were confirmed, other cropmarks proved to be unrelated to archaeological features, and several other previously unknown features were also identified.

A trackway was identified in the western part of the site, which appeared to have been in use during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The central part of the site contained a ladder enclosure which probably dates to the Iron Age and a zone of multiperiod occupation activity from the Iron Age to the Saxon period. The eastern part of the site was characterised by a series of parallel Romano-British ditches.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted between the 25th October and the 10th November 2000, on land to the north of Milton Park, Milton, near Didcot, Oxfordshire (centred on NGR SU 4960 9213) (Fig. 1). The evaluation was required to provide sufficient information to assess the archaeological implications of the proposed development, an extension of the existing Milton Park industrial estate to the north.

1.1.2 The evaluation was conducted in compliance with the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (IFA 1997), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP 2) issued by English Heritage, and the brief prepared for the site by Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services. The project design was submitted to, and approved by, Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.2 Geology Topography, and Landuse

1.2.1 The southern part of the site is located on Gault Clay beds and the northern part of the site is located on second terrace river gravels (OAU n.d. and BGS 1971). The position of the boundary between the Gault Clay beds and the second terrace river gravels was investigated during the evaluation and is shown on figure 3. The northern part of the site is generally flat, and lies at a height of 58m AOD. The southern part of the site slopes very gently downwards towards Moor Ditch at the southern boundary of the study area and lies at heights of between 58m and 56m AOD. The study area is bound to the north by a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Oxon. no. 250), to the east and south by extant buildings within Milton Park, and to the west by agricultural land. The study area is under arable cultivation and comprises 6.2 hectares.

1.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

- 1.3.1 Prior to this evaluation an Archaeological Appraisal of the current study area and the Scheduled Ancient Monument to the north was prepared by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU n.d.). It is not intended to repeat this background information in detail as that report is available in its entirety, however, its principal conclusions can be outlined as follows.
- 1.3.2 Analysis of the cropmarks (Oxfordshire SMR Nos. 7743, and 8460-5) within the Scheduled Ancient Monument (Oxfordshire No. 250) was conducted by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU). It was concluded that these cropmarks represented activity dating to the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, and Anglo-Saxon periods.
- 1.3.3 The area to the south which comprised the current study area was noted as having a lower density of cropmarks and as lying on a band of Gault Clay running east to west across the southern edge of the study area. It was concluded that the much lower density of cropmarks was caused either by reduced archaeological activity on the Gault Clay beds or that alluviation on this lower part of the site was masking underlying archaeological features.

1.4 *Methodology*

- 1.4.1 Twenty-seven trenches were excavated in the positions shown (Fig. 2). All of the trenches were 30m in length and 2m in width. The positions of trenches 2 and 4 were altered slightly from the Project Design due to Health & Safety considerations, namely to avoid machine excavation within 5m of a service trench identified during a CAT scanner survey conducted prior to machine excavation. Trench 25 was also relocated to avoid disruption to the footpath in the south-eastern corner of the site.
- 1.4.2 All recording was undertaken in accordance with the CAT Technical Manual 1: *Site Recording Manual*. All archaeological features identified during the evaluation are described fully in Appendix 1. Environmental samples were recovered in accordance with CAT Technical Manual 2: *The Taking of Palaeoenvironmental/Palaeoeconomic Samples from Archaeological Sites*,

the results of which are described in Appendix 2. All artefacts recovered were retained for processing and analysis in accordance with the CAT Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds immediately after Excavation* and are listed in Appendix 3. An assessment of the pottery recovered during the evaluation comprises Appendix 4. The finds will be deposited, with the landowner's consent, with Oxfordshire County Museum Service (Accession number OXCMS 2000.141).

2. EVALUATION RESULTS

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 In trenches 2, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, and 20 the natural substrate of light orange-yellow sandy gravel was encountered at a depth of *c.* 0.4m. These sandy gravels appeared to represent the second terrace river gravels and were generally overlain by an interface layer which comprised mixed ploughsoil and natural gravel and which was *c.* 0.1m thick. The interface layer was overlain by *c.* 0.3m of ploughsoil which comprised dark grey-brown clay silt.
- 2.1.2 In trenches 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 14, 18, 22, and 23-7 the natural substrate comprised light brown-yellow silty clays which were encountered at depths of between 0.4m (trench 2) and 1m (trench 24). These silty clays appeared to represent the Gault Clay beds and were overlain by between 0.1m (trench 2) and 0.7m (trench 24) of alluvial deposits which comprised medium grey-brown clay silts. The alluvial deposits were overlain by 0.3m of ploughsoil.
- 2.1.2 The interface between the second terrace river gravels and the Gault Clay beds was identified in trenches 1 and 21. No alluvial deposits were identified in these trenches and the natural substrates were overlain by an interface layer (0.1m) and ploughsoil (0.3m).
- 2.1.3 The archaeological features were identified cutting into the top of the natural substrates and were sealed by the alluvial clay deposits, interface layers, and/or plough soil.

2.1.4 Unless otherwise stated in the text below, all of the features described below were hand excavated, a small number of features were recorded in plan only. All of the archaeological features identified during the evaluation are depicted in figure 3. Large-scale plans and sections of the archaeological features identified in trenches 2, 9, 17, and 24 are depicted in figures 4, 5, 6, and 7.

2.2 *Description of Archaeological Features*

Trench 1

2.2.1 A small ditch orientated east to west was identified at the centre of the trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

2.2.2 Two large parallel ditches orientated north to south were identified within this trench, ditch [204] was located 8m and ditch [210] was located 17m from the south-western end of the trench. A small pottery sherd dating to either the Iron Age or Saxon periods was recovered from the fill (205) of ditch [204]. Pottery sherds dating to the Romano-British period were recovered from the fill (208) of ditch [210]. A shallow oval pit [214] was also identified immediately to the north-east of ditch [204]. The location and orientation of these ditches suggested that they continued northward into trench 3 where they were identified as ditches [308] and [303-17], paragraph 2.2.3 below.

Trench 3

2.2.3 A large ditch [308] orientated north to south was identified at the south-western end of the trench, this feature was not excavated and was recorded in plan only. Located 2.5m to the north-east and also orientated north to south was a series of intercutting ditches [303], [307], [309], and [317] together with a pit [314]. A pottery sherd dating to either the Iron Age or Saxon period was recovered from the fill (305) of ditch [317]. A large assemblage of pottery dating to the Iron Age was recovered from the fill (312) of ditch [309]. The location and orientation of these ditches suggested that they continued southward into trench 2 where they were identified as ditches [204] and [210], paragraph 2.2.2 above. The linear features identified in trenches 2 and 3 appeared to represent the southward continuation of the north to south orientated trackway located at the western side of the Scheduled Ancient

Monument as identified from cropmarks (Oxfordshire SMR No. 8460) and described in the archaeological appraisal (OAU n.d.).

Trench 4

2.2.4 No archaeological deposits were identified in this trench.

Trench 5

2.2.5 No archaeological deposits were identified in this trench.

Trench 6

2.2.6 A substantial pit [603] was identified at the western end of the trench, the full extent of the feature was not ascertained as most of it lay outside the evaluation trench.

Trench 7

2.2.7 Ditch [703] was located 8m from the eastern end of the trench and was orientated north to south, pottery dating to either the Iron Age or Saxon periods was recovered from the fill (704). The ditch appeared to represent the western arm of the ladder enclosure identified from the cropmark evidence (OAU n.d.). It ran parallel to ditch [909], the eastern arm of the ladder enclosure, which was located in trench 9, paragraph 2.2.9.

Trench 8

2.2.8 A large ditch, which was recorded in plan only, was identified 8m from the western end of trench 8. It was orientated north-east to south-west and appeared to represent the southern continuation of ditch [1017] identified in trench 10, paragraph 2.2.10 below.

Trench 9 (Fig. 5)

2.2.9 Ditch [912] was located 3m from the north-eastern end of the trench and was orientated east to west. It appeared to represent an element of the ladder enclosure identified from the cropmark evidence (OAU n.d.). Also located in the northern end of the trench, ditch [914] intersected ditch [912] and was orientated perpendicular to it. No stratigraphic relationship was established

between these two features. Ditch [909] was located at the centre of the trench and was orientated north to south. It appeared to represent the eastern arm of the ladder enclosure (OAU n.d.) and was thus orientated parallel to ditch [703], the western arm, which was identified in trench 7, paragraph 2.2.7 above. Ditch [904] was also located in the central part of the trench, it intersected ditch [909] and was perpendicular to it. No stratigraphic relationship was established between these two features.

Trench 10

2.2.10 A sub-circular pit [1015] was identified at the north-western end of the trench. This feature had been truncated by a large ditch [1017] which was orientated north-east to south-west and yielded pottery dating to the Saxon period. This ditch appeared to represent a north-eastern continuation of ditch [804] (trench 8), paragraph 2.2.8 above. A smaller ditch [1013] was located 9m from the north-western end of the trench. This feature was orientated north to south and appeared to represent a northern continuation of ditch [1103] (trench 11), paragraph 2.2.11 below. Ditch [1007] was located 12m to the south east of ditch [1013], was parallel to it, and was of similar character. A small pit [1009] and a posthole were identified between ditches [1013] and [1007]. Located 2.5m from the south-eastern end of the trench was a curvilinear feature [1003], the terminus of which [1005] was orientated north-west to south-east.

Trench 11

2.2.11 A small ditch [1103] was located 10m from the south-western end of the trench and was orientated north to south, this feature appeared to represent a southern continuation of ditch [1013] (trench 10), paragraph 2.2.10 above.

Trench 12

2.2.12 Three deep circular postholes [1203], [1205], and [1209] were identified in the central part of the trench, together with a shallow pit [1207]. Excavation of the fill (1206) of posthole [1205] produced a pottery sherd dating to the Romano-British period. A larger assemblage of pottery sherds dating to the Saxon period was recovered from the fill (1208) of posthole [1207].

Trench 13

2.2.13 No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

Trench 14

2.2.14 No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

Trench 15

2.2.15 Three circular postholes [1504-8] were identified between the south-western end and the centre of the trench.

Trench 16

2.2.16 A shallow circular pit [1603] was identified 10m from the eastern end of the trench.

Trench 17 (Fig. 6)

2.2.17 A group of intercutting features was identified 4m from the eastern end of the trench. Gully terminus [1715] was orientated north-east to south-west and was found to intersect a probable short gully [1721] which was located immediately to the west and was orientated east to west. The fills of these features were of the same character and the stratigraphic relationship between them was not established. Gully [1721] was subsequently truncated by the excavation of a small circular pit [1718] immediately to the north. The probable terminus [1726] of a ditch orientated north to south was identified 1m to the east. Located 2m to the east was a further small ditch [1713] which was orientated north-east to south-west and which was subsequently truncated by the excavation of a probable curvilinear feature [1724] located immediately to the south. Unfortunately only the northern edge of the latter feature was located within the evaluation trench. Three pits were identified in the eastern half of the trench. A large circular pit [1709] was located 1.5m from the eastern end of the trench. A large assemblage of pottery dating to the Saxon period was recovered from fill (1712) and one sherd of Saxon pottery was recovered from fill (1711). Less substantial irregular pits [1704] and [1706] were located 6m and 12m respectively to the west. A pottery

sherd probably dating to the Iron Age was recovered from the fill (1708) of the latter.

Trench 18

2.2.18 No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

Trench 19

2.2.19 A large circular pit [1904] was identified at the south-eastern end of the trench which yielded an assemblage of pottery dating to the Saxon period. To the north-west three shallow circular postholes [1909-13] were identified. A shallow ditch [1915] was located 4m from the north-west end of the trench and was orientated north to south. It appeared to represent a southern continuation of the curvilinear feature identified from the cropmark evidence.

Trench 20

2.2.20 No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

Trench 21

2.2.21 No archaeological deposits were identified in this trench.

Trench 22

2.2.22 No archaeological deposits were identified in this trench.

Trench 23

2.2.23 A large ditch [2304] was located 3m from the north-western end of the trench, it was orientated north to south, and a sherd of pottery dating to the Romano-British period was recovered from the fill (2305). It appeared to represent a southern continuation of ditch [2404] which was identified in trench 24, paragraph 2.2.24 below. A smaller gully [2306] was located 10m from the south-eastern end of the trench, this feature was also orientated north to south.

Trench 24 (Fig. 7)

2.2.24 Two intercutting ditches and a pit were identified at the western end of trench 24. The large ditch [2412] was located to the west and was orientated north

to south. Immediately to the east was ditch [2410] which less substantial than [2412] and was parallel to it. Truncating the eastern edge of ditch [2412] was a small circular pit [2408]. Located 0.6m to the east of ditch [2410] was ditch [2406] this feature was recorded in plan only and it was also orientated north to south. A further large ditch [2404] was located to 3m to the east of ditch [2406], it was also orientated north to south, and a sherd of pottery dating to the Romano-British period was recovered from the fill (2405). This ditch appeared to represent a northern continuation of ditch [2304] (trench 23), paragraph 2.2.23, above.

Trench 25

2.2.25 No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

Trench 26

2.2.26 A small gully [2604] was located 4m from the western end of the trench this feature was orientated north-west to south-east and a sherd of pottery dating to the Romano-British period was recovered from the fill (2605).

Trench 27

2.2.27 A ditch [2704], which was orientated north to south was located at the western edge of the evaluation trench. A sub-circular pit [2706] was located 8m from the southern end of the trench immediately to the east of ditch [2704]. No stratigraphic relationship was established between the features. An environmental sample <1> was recovered from the fill of the pit (2707).

3. ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 *Date and Interpretation of Archaeological Deposits*

General

3.1.1 Archaeological features were found across the study area, some of which related to features previously identified from cropmarks while other features were previously unknown. The archaeological features appear in three broadly defined areas.

The Western Area (Trenches 1-6)

3.1.2 The principle feature noted in this area was the double ditched feature identified in trenches 2 and 3 which appeared to represent the southern continuation of the trackway (SMR No. 8460) which was located at the western edge of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (Oxfordshire No. 250). The identification of several episodes of re-cutting in trench 3 might suggest a prolonged period of use. The absence of cropmarks reflecting the southern part of this major feature was surprising especially in the vicinity of trench 3 where the natural substrate comprised second terrace gravel and where the features were not sealed by any alluvial deposits. The identification of the trackway in trench 2 demonstrated that the position of the southern terminus of the feature was not dictated by the change in geology and the trackway may therefore have continued for some distance to the south. The results of the analysis of the pottery recovered from the fills of the ditches were slightly ambiguous due to the difficulty of differentiation between very small sherds of pottery dating to the Iron Age and Saxon periods. However, it appears that the trackway was in use from the middle Iron Age period to the early part of the Romano-British period. The curvilinear cropmark feature located to the east was not identified. In addition, a gully in trench 1 and two pits in trenches 2 and 6 were identified.

The Central Area (Trenches 7-19)

3.1.3 The presence of the ladder enclosure, as evinced from the cropmarks, was confirmed through excavation. Both the western arm (trench 7) and the eastern arm (trench 9) of the feature were identified together with the northern east to west orientated element. All of these ditches were steeply sided, deep, and clearly defined which probably contribute to the clarity of the cropmark. The dating evidence recovered during the excavation of this feature was limited to one small sherd of pottery, from the western arm, this sherd was found to date to either the Iron Age or the Saxon period. The typology of the feature supports the earlier date. To the east of the ladder enclosure three smaller parallel ditches were identified and a ditch orientated east to west was also encountered. The parallel cropmark, to the west and at the centre of trench 7, was not identified.

3.1.4 To the south-east of the ladder enclosure a substantial linear feature orientated north-east to south-west was identified. Again this ditch did not respect the boundary between the second terrace river gravels and the Gault Clay beds and may therefore continue to the south. The difference in orientation between this feature and the ladder enclosure suggested that they were of different dates. This hypothesis is supported by the presumed Iron Age date of the ladder enclosure and the discovery of Saxon pottery in the fill of the ditch. This ditch appeared to represent the western boundary of the identified occupation activity identified immediately to the east and which is described below.

3.1.5 The area to the east of the ditch was characterised by the presence of postholes, pits and small gullies signifying occupation activity. The smaller pits and postholes were identified in trenches 10, 12, 15-7, and 19, most of these were undated, however, posthole [1205] was dated to the Romano-British period, pit [1207] was dated to either the Iron Age or the Saxon period, and pit [1706] was dated to the Iron Age. Much larger pits dating to the Saxon period were located at the south-eastern end of trench 19 and the eastern end of trench 17. A curvilinear gully was identified at the eastern end of trench 10 and a larger ditch was also identified in trench 19. This ditch appeared to represent a southern continuation of a curvilinear feature evinced by an intermittent cropmark. The activity described above was located on the second terrace gravels only and did not appear to extend southwards onto the Gault Clay beds. The curvilinear cropmark located in trenches 19-21 was not identified in this area or within the eastern area.

The Eastern Area (Trenches 20-27)

3.1.6 Activity in this area was characterised by a series of large and small ditches orientated north to south in trenches 23-4 and 27. In addition a small ditch orientated north-west to south-east (trench 26) and two pits (trenches 24 and 27) were identified. Three of these ditches were found to contain pottery dating to the Romano-British period. None of these features were evinced by cropmarks, probably due to overlying alluvial deposits. They appeared to represent a southern continuation of the intense zone of activity identified at

the eastern edge of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (Oxfordshire No. 250). All of these features were located on the Gault Clay beds.

3.2 *Survival and Extent of Archaeological Deposits*

- 3.2.1 The survival of the archaeological features identified appears to be good with many well preserved deep features across the study area. However, the clarity of the cropmarks identified over the current study area and over the Scheduled Ancient Monument to the north suggested that truncation of the archaeological features through ploughing has occurred in the past. This hypothesis is supported by observation during the evaluation where it was noted that patches of the natural gravel and clay substrates had been brought to the surface of the ploughsoil during recent ploughing.
- 3.2.2 No evidence indicating the presence of significant charred deposits in non-waterlogged deposits was identified during the evaluation. Many of the features were found to be waterlogged during excavation due to the prevailing weather conditions and time of year, but it is unlikely that any of these features would have been continuously waterlogged. However, the presence of deeper, permanently waterlogged features elsewhere on the site cannot be precluded.
- 3.2.3 Archaeological features were identified across the study area. Despite the identification of several trenches with no archaeological features, these trenches did not define a particular area and it is therefore difficult to define any areas which were wholly devoid of archaeological activity. The results of the evaluation suggested that the most intensive zone of archaeological activity reflected the location of the underlying second terrace river gravel. However, several major linear features (including a trackway) were found to extend across the Gault Clay beds to the south. These features were overlain, to some extent, by alluvial clay deposits and therefore were not identified as cropmarks.

3.2.3 The archaeological evaluation has achieved the aims set out in the project design, the extent and character of archaeological deposits has been assessed and this information will allow the impact of the proposed development to be gauged and appropriate measures to be taken.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cotswold Archaeological Trust would like to thank John Bateman of MEPC Milton Park Limited and Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services for their assistance during the course of this project.

The project was managed for CAT by Martin Watts. The fieldwork was carried out by Laurent Coleman, Kevin Colls, Hope Cooper, Jon Hart, and Martin Lightfoot. This report has been compiled by Laurent Coleman (with the exception of Appendix 1 which was compiled by Kevin Colls) and the illustrations prepared by Pete Moore.

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Figure 1 Location plan

Figure 2 Plan showing study area and Scheduled Ancient Monument (Oxon. No. 250)

Figure 3 Trench location plan, showing all archaeological features

Figure 4 Trench 2, plan and sections

Figure 5 Trench 9, plan and sections

Figure 6 Trench 17, plan and sections

Figure 7 Trench 24, plan and sections

APPENDIX 1

Context Descriptions

Note: Stratigraphic descriptions are given in numerical order. Cut features are designated by square brackets thus; [000]. All other deposits/layers are in round brackets thus; (000). All stated depths are given from the present ground level.

Trench 1

- (101) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, *c.*0.21m thick.
- (102) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at depths between 0.18-0.21m. Cut by [104].
- (103) Natural clay, light yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at depths between 0.18-0.21m. Overlain by (101).
- [104] Ditch cut, orientated E to W with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. 0.60m in width and 0.23m in depth. Filled by (105).
- (105) Fill of [104], mid yellow-brown sandy clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (101).

Trench 2

- (201) Ploughsoil deposit, mid grey clay silt, *c.*0.40m thick.
- (202) Alluvial layer, mid beige-brown silty clay, *c.* 0.34m thick. Overlain by (201).
- (203) Natural clay, yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at depths between 0.63-0.74m. Cut by archaeological features.
- [204] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. 1.8m in width, and 0.50m in depth. Filled by (206).
- (205) Secondary fill of [204]. Mid brown silty clay with pebble inclusions. Overlain by (202).
- (206) Primary fill of [204]. Dark grey-brown silty clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (205).
- (207) Tertiary fill of [210]. Grey-orange re-deposited natural. Overlain by (202).
- (208) Secondary fill of [210]. Mid green-grey silty clay with pebble inclusions. Overlain by (207).
- (209) Primary fill of [210]. Mid green-grey silty clay with gravel. Overlain by (208).
- [210] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE, with steeply to vertical sloping sides and a flat base. 8.0m in width and 0.34m in depth. Filled by (209). Cuts (211).
- (211) Natural palaeo-channel. Mid grey-brown silty clay deposit cut by [210]. 2.60m in width. And 0.35m in depth.
- [212] Field drain cut. Cuts [210]. Filled by (213).
- (213) Fill of [212]. Field drain with pipe.
- [214] Pit cut, circular although shallow. Concave base. 0.84m in width and 0.09m in depth. Filled by (215).

(215) Fill of [214]. Mid yellow-brown silty clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (202).

Trench 3

- (301) Ploughsoil deposit, mid-grey clay silt, c.0.20m in depth.
- (302) Interface layer, mid beige-brown silty clay, c. 0.20m thick. Overlain by (301).
- [303] Ditch cut, orientated NW-SE with moderately to steeply sloping sides and a concave base, 1.20m in width and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (304).
- (304) Primary fill of [303]. Brown-orange gravel with pebble inclusions. Overlain by (306).
- (305) Fill of [317]. Grey-brown silty clay. Overlain by (302).
- (306) Secondary fill of [303]. Grey-brown silty clay. Cut by [307].
- [307] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE. Gently sloping sides leading to a flat base. 2.40m in width and 0.47m in depth. Filled by (310).
- [308] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE. See [210] for details of this feature. Excavated in trench 2. Filled by (318).
- [309] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE. Moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Width 2.40m and depth 0.55m. Filled by (312).
- (310) Primary fill of [307]. Grey-brown gravely clay. Overlain by (311).
- (311) Secondary fill of [307]. Grey clay. Cut by [317].
- (312) Primary fill of [309]. Grey-brown clay-gravel. Overlain by (313).
- (313) Secondary fill of [309]. Brown-grey clay. Cut by [307].
- [314] Possible pit cut. Circular with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Filled by (315).
- (315) Fill of [314]. Orange-brown clay-gravel. Does not appear in section. Covered by (313).
- (316) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at depths between 0.36- 0.40m. Cut by archaeological features.
- [317] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE. Moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Width 0.95m and depth 0.2m. Filled by (305).
- (318) Fill of [308], not excavated. Covered by (302).

Trench 4

- (401) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, c.0.31m in depth.
- (402) Natural clay, yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at depths between 0.21-0.31m. Overlain by (401).

Trench 5

- (501) Ploughsoil, mid-grey clay silt, c.0.31m in depth.
- (502) Natural clay, yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at depths between 0.21-0.31m. Overlain by (503).
- (503) Alluvial layer. Yellow-grey clay. 0.25m in depth. Overlain by (501).

Trench 6

- (601) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, c.0.20m in depth.
- (602) Natural clay, yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at depths between 0.17-0.20m. Cut by [603].
- [603] Pit cut. Circular with irregular sides with a flat base. Unknown width, depth 0.25m. Filled by (605).
- (604) Secondary fill of [603]. Grey-brown silty clay with pebble inclusions. Overlain by (606).
- (605) Primary fill of [603]. Brown-yellow clay. Unclear horizon with this deposit and (604) could represent redeposited natural. Overlain by (604).
- (606) Alluvial layer. Yellow-grey clay 0.2m in depth. Overlain by (601).

Trench 7

- (701) Ploughsoil, mid-grey clay silt, c.0.40m in depth.
- (702) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at depths between 0.35-0.40m. Cut by [703].
- [703] Ditch cut, orientated NNW to SSE. Steeply sided with a concave base. It had a width of 1.16m and a depth of 0.86m. Filled by (704).
- (704) Primary fill of [703]. Yellow sandy gravel with 10% brown-grey silty clay within its matrix. Overlain by (705).
- (705) Secondary fill of [703]. Dark brown-grey silty clay with charcoal flexes. Overlain by (701).

Trench 8

- (801) Ploughsoil, mid-grey clay silt, c.0.30m in depth.
- (802) Natural clay, yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at depths between 0.35-0.40m. Cut by [803].
- [803] Ditch cut. Unexcavated in this trench due to an earlier intervention in trench 10 [1017]. Width 4.97m. Filled by (804).
- (804) Fill of [803], see (1018) for details, covered by (805).
- (805) Alluvial layer. Yellow-grey clay 0.1m in depth. Overlain by (801).

Trench 9

- (901) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, c.0.38m in depth.
- (902) Interface layer, mid beige-brown silty clay, c. 0.16m thick. Overlain by (901).
- (903) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at depths between 0.46-0.54m. Cut by archaeological features.
- [904] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE with steep to vertical sides (unknown base). Width of 0.70m. The ditch was not bottomed due to difficult excavation conditions. Filled by (906).
- (905) Secondary fill of [904]. Mid grey clay. Overlain by (907).
- (906) Primary fill of [904]. Yellow-brown clay. Possibly redeposited natural. Overlain by (905).
- (907) Tertiary fill of [904]. Light brown silty clay. Overlain by layer (908).
- (908) Layer, brown silty clay which seals the upper fill of [904]. Overlain by (902).
- [909] Ditch cut, orientated NW to SE with vertical sides (unknown base). Width 0.75m, unknown depth due to difficult excavation conditions. Filled by (910).
- (910) Primary fill of [909]. Grey clay. Overlain by (911).
- (911) Secondary fill of [909]. Brown silty clay. Overlain by (902).
- [912] Ditch cut, orientated E to W with moderately to steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a width of 2.20m and a depth of 0.76m. Filled by (913).
- (913) Fill of [912]. Red-brown-grey clay with gravel inclusions. ?Cut by [914].
- [914] Ditch cut, orientated N to S with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Filled by (915).
- (915) Fill of [914]. Red-brown silty clay. Overlain by (902).

Trench 10

- (1001) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, c.0.35m in depth.
- (1002) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at depths between 0.30-0.35m. Cut by archaeological features.
- [1003] Curvilinear gully cut, orientated from a N/S alignment to NW/SE. Gently sloping sides and a flat base. 0.90m in width, 0.12m in depth. [1005] represents this gully's termination. Filled by (1004).
- (1004) Fill of [1003]. Brown-grey silty clay with gravel and charcoal inclusions. Overlain by (1001).
- [1005] Terminus of curvilinear gully [1003]. Width 0.52m, depth 0.12m. Filled by (1006)
- (1006) Fill of [1005]. Brown-grey silty clay with gravel and charcoal inclusions. Overlain by (1001)
- [1007] Ditch cut, orientated N to S with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. This has a width of 1.10m and a depth of 0.08m. Filled by (1008).
- (1008) Fill of [1007]. Yellow-brown sandy clay with gravel. Overlain by (1001).

- [1009] Pit cut, sub-circular with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.38m in length, 0.29m in width with a depth of 0.07m. Filled by (1010).
- (1010) Fill of [1009]. Yellow-brown sandy clay with gravel. Overlain by (1001).
- [1011] Probable posthole cut. Circular with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. 0.37m in diameter with a depth of 0.08m. Filled by (1012).
- (1012) Fill of [1011]. Yellow-brown sandy clay with gravel. Overlain by (1001).
- [1013] Ditch cut, orientated N to S with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It had a width of 1.10m and a depth of 0.09m. Filled by (1014).
- (1014) Fill of [1013]. Mid yellow-brown sandy clay with gravel. Overlain by (1001).
- [1015] Pit cut, sub-circular with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. This feature was discovered cut into natural under ditch [1017]. Width 0.50m with a depth of 0.14m. Filled by (1016).
- (1016) Fill of [1015]. Mid grey silty clay. Cut by ditch [1017].
- [1017] Ditch cut, orientated N to S with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It has a width of 4.61m and a depth of 0.57m. Filled by (1018).
- (1018) Fill of [1017]. Mid brown-grey silty clay with charcoal inclusions. Overlain by (1001).

Trench 11

- (1101) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, c.0.39m in depth.
- (1102) Natural clay, yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at depths between 0.35-0.39m. Cut by [1103].
- [1103] Ditch cut, orientated N to S with moderately to steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a width of 1.25m and a depth of 0.29m. Filled by (1104).
- (1104) Fill of [1103]. Yellow-grey clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (1105).
- (1105) Alluvial layer, medium yellow-grey silty clay. Covered by (1101)

Trench 12

- (1201) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, c.0.50m in depth.
- (1202) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at depths between 0.45-0.50m. Cut by archaeological features.
- [1203] Posthole cut. Circular with steeply sloping to vertical sides. Diameter of 0.41m and depth of 0.46m. Filled by (1204).
- (1204) Fill of [1203]. Grey-brown sandy clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (1201).
- [1205] Posthole cut. Circular with steeply sloping to vertical sides and a concave base. It had a diameter of 0.33m and a depth of 0.37m. Filled by (1206).
- (1206) Fill of [1205]. Grey-brown sandy clay with gravel and charcoal inclusions. Overlain by (1201).
- [1207] Probable pit cut. Sub-circular with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a length of 1.09m and a width of 1.11m with a depth of 0.21m. Filled by (1208).

- (1208) Fill of [1207]. Grey-brown sandy clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (1201).
- [1209] Probable posthole cut. Sub-circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It had a length of 0.38m and a width of 0.40m with a depth of 0.16m. Filled by (1210).
- (1210) Fill of [1209]. Red-brown sandy clay with gravel. Overlain by (1201).

Trench 13

- (1301) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, c.0.31m in depth.
- (1302) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at a depth of 0.31m. Overlain by (1301).

Trench 14

- (1401) Ploughsoil, mid-grey clay silt, c.0.27m in depth.
- (1402) Natural clay, yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at a depth of 0.27m. Overlain by (1403).
- (1403) Alluvial layer, medium yellow-grey silty clay. Covered by (1401)

Trench 15

- (1501) Ploughsoil, mid-grey clay silt, c. 0.3m in depth.
- (1502) Interface layer, mid beige-brown silty clay, c. 0.1m in depth. Overlain by (1501).
- (1503) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at a depth of c. 0.4m. Cut by archaeological deposits.
- [1504] Probable posthole cut. Circular with steeply sloping sides and a pointed base. It had a width of 0.30m and a depth of 0.20m. Filled by (1505).
- (1505) Fill of [1504]. Grey-brown sand with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (1502).
- [1506] Probable posthole cut. Circular with steeply sloping sides and a pointed base. It has a width of 0.55m and a depth of 0.26m. Filled by (1507).
- (1507) Fill of [1506]. Grey-brown sand with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (1502).
- [1508] Probable posthole cut. Circular with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It had a width of 0.40m and a depth of 0.15m. Filled by (1509).
- (1509) Fill of [1508]. Dark grey gravel clay. Overlain by (1502).

Trench 16

- (1601) Ploughsoil, mid-grey clay silt, c.0.40m in depth.
- (1602) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at a depth of 0.40m. Cut by [1603].

[1603] Pit cut. Circular with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a length of 0.84m and a depth of 0.81m with a depth of 0.20m. Filled by (1604).

(1604) Fill of [1603]. Mid grey-brown silty, sandy clay. Overlain by (1601).

Trench 17

(1701) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, c.0.31m in depth.

(1702) Interface layer, mid beige-brown silty clay, 0.17m in thickness. Overlain by (1701).

(1703) Natural gravel, yellow-grey with clay inclusions. Located at a depth of 0.48m. Cut by archaeological features.

[1704] Pit cut. Circular with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It had a diameter of 0.73m and a depth of 0.14m. Filled by (1705).

(1705) Fill of [1704]. Dark brown-grey silty clay with gravel and charcoal inclusions. Overlain by (1702).

[1706] Pit cut. Irregular in shape with moderately to steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a length of 1.10m and a diameter of 1.25m with a depth of 0.40m. Filled by (1707).

(1707) Primary fill of [1706]. Mid yellow-brown clay similar to (1703) but with a slight silt content. Overlain by (1708).

(1708) Secondary fill of [1706]. Mid grey-brown silty clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (1702).

[1709] Probable pit cut. Large and oval in shape with steep to vertical sides and a flat base. It had a width of 2.05m and a depth of at least 0.95m. Filled by (1710).

(1710) Primary fill of [1709]. Light green-brown-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions present. Overlain by (1711).

(1711) Secondary fill of [1709]. Light green-grey silty clay with orange sand and charcoal inclusions. Overlain by (1712).

(1712) Tertiary fill of [1709]. Light grey-brown silty clay with gravel and charcoal inclusions. Overlain by (1702).

[1713] Gully cut, orientated NE to SW with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a width of 0.69m and a depth of 0.29m. Filled by (1714).

(1714) Fill of [1713]. Yellow-brown silty clay with gravel. Cut by [1724].

[1715] Gully terminus, orientated NE to SW with steeply sides and a concave base. It had a width of 0.34m and a depth of 0.11m. Filled by (1716).

(1716) Primary fill of [1715]. Mid orange-brown silty clay. Overlain by (1717).

(1717) Secondary fill of [1715]. Mid grey-brown silty clay. Overlain by (1702).

[1718] Probable pit cut. Circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It had a width of 0.69m and a depth of 0.22m. Filled by (1719).

(1719) Primary fill of [1718]. Mid orange-brown silty clay. Overlain by (1720).

(1720) Secondary fill of [1718]. Dark brown-grey silty clay. Overlain by (1702).

- [1721] Gully terminus, orientated E to W with moderately to steeply sides and a concave base. It had a width of 0.34m and a depth of 0.08m. Filled by (1722).
- (1722) Primary fill of [1721]. Mid orange-brown silty clay. Overlain by (1723).
- (1723) Secondary fill of [1721]. Mid grey-brown silty clay. Cut by [1718].
- [1724] Possible ditch or pit cut orientated E to W with moderately to steeply sides. 3.61m in length with a depth of at least 0.30m. Filled by (1725).
- (1725) Fill of [1724]. Yellow-brown clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (1702).
- [1726] Ditch terminus cut, orientated NE to SW with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a width of 0.90m and a depth of 0.15m. Filled by (1727).
- (1727) Fill of [1726]. Mid to light grey-brown silty clay with pebble inclusions. Overlain by (1702)

Trench 18

- (1801) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, c.0.28m in depth.
- (1802) Natural clay, yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at a depth of 0.28m. Overlain by (1803).
- (1803) Alluvial layer, medium yellow-grey silty clay. Covered by (1801)

Trench 19

- (1901) Plough deposit, mid grey clay silt, c, 0.3m in depth.
- (1902) Interface layer deposit, mid beige-brown silty clay, c. 0.1m in depth. Overlain by (1901).
- (1903) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at a depth of c. 0.4m. Cut by archaeological features.
- [1904] Pit cut, probably circular with steeply sloping to vertical sides and a rounded base. 1.80m in diameter and 0.70m in depth. Filled by (1905).
- (1905) Primary fill of [1904]. Dark grey sandy gravel. Overlain by (1906).
- (1906) Secondary fill of [1904]. Grey-brown sandy gravel. Overlain by (1907).
- (1907) Tertiary fill of [1904]. Dark grey silty clay with charcoal/burnt bone inclusions. Overlain by (1908).
- (1908) Quarternary fill of [1904]. Grey silty clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (1902).
- [1909] Probable posthole cut. Circular with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. 0.32m in diameter and 0.10m in depth. Filled by (1910).
- (1910) Fill of [1909]. Red-brown clay. Overlain by (1902).
- [1911] Probable posthole cut. Circular with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. 0.30m in diameter and 0.09m in depth. Filled by (1912).
- (1912) Fill of [1911]. Red-brown clay. Overlain by (1902).

- [1913] Probable posthole cut. Circular with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. 0.28m in diameter and 0.10m in depth. Filled by (1914).
- (1914) Fill of [1913]. Grey-brown sandy gravel. Overlain by (1902).
- [1915] Probable ditch cut, orientated N to S with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. 1.10m in width and 0.09m in depth. Filled by (1916).
- (1916) Fill of [1915]. Grey-brown sandy gravel. Overlain by (1902).

Trench 20

- (2001) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, 0.35m in depth.
- (2002) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at a depth of 0.35m. Overlain by (2001).

Trench 21

- (2101) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, 0.35m in depth.
- (2102) Interface layer, mid beige-brown silty clay, 0.10m in thickness. Overlain by (2101).
- (2103) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at depth of 0.40m. Overlain by (2002).
- (2104) Natural clay, yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at a depth of 0.40m. Overlain by (2103).

Trench 22

- (2201) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, 0.30m in depth.
- (2202) Interface layer, mid beige-brown silty clay, 0.10m in thickness. Overlain by (2201).
- (2203) Alluvial clay layer. Brown-grey clay. 0.20m in thickness. Overlain by (2202).
- (2204) Natural clay, yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at a depth of 0.40-0.60m. Overlain by (2203).

Trench 23

- (2301) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, 0.39m in depth.
- (2302) Alluvial clay layer. Brown-grey clay. 0.21m in thickness. Overlain by (2301). Only appears in the southern half of the trench.
- (2303) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at depth of 0.60m. Cut by archaeological features.
- [2304] Ditch cut, orientated ENE to WSW with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It had a width of 2.60m and a depth of 0.35m. Filled by (2305).
- (2305) Fill of [2304]. Brown-grey silty clay with gravel and charcoal inclusions. Overlain by (2301).

[2306] Gully cut, orientated NE to SW with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a width of 0.53m and a depth of 0.29m. Filled by (2307).

(2307) Fill of [2306]. Mid grey-brown silty clay. Overlain by (2302).

Trench 24

(2401) Ploughsoil, mid grey clay silt, 0.30m in depth.

(2402) Alluvial clay layer. Brown-grey clay. 0.21m in thickness. Overlain by (2401).

(2403) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at depth of 0.60m. Cut by archaeological features.

[2404] Ditch cut, orientated N to S with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a width of 2.05m and a depth of 0.45m. Filled by (2405).

(2405) Fill of [2404]. Mid brown-grey silty clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (2402).

[2406] Probable ditch cut, orientated N to S and not excavated fully due to poor conditions. It had a width of 4.65m. Filled by (2407).

(2407) Fill of [2406]. Mid brown-grey silty clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (2402).

[2408] Pit cut. Circular with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It had a diameter of 0.70m and a depth of 0.24m (unknown length). Filled by (2409).

(2409) Fill of [2408]. Dark brown-grey silty clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (2402).

[2410] Ditch cut, orientated N to S with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a width of 1.15m and a depth of 0.4m. Filled by (2411).

(2411) Fill of [2410]. Mid brown-grey silty clay with gravel inclusions. Cut by [2408].

[2412] Ditch cut, orientated N to S with moderately to steeply sloping sides (unknown base). It had a width of 2.55m and a depth of at least 0.75m. Filled by (2413).

(2413) Fill of [2412]. Dark brown-grey silty clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (2402).

Trench 25

(2501) Ploughsoil, mid-grey clay silt, 0.30m in depth.

(2502) Alluvial clay layer. Brown-grey clay. 0.21m in thickness. Overlain by (2501).

(2503) Natural clay, yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at a depth of 0.40-0.51m. Overlain by (2502).

Trench 26

(2601) Ploughsoil, mid-grey clay silt, 0.30m in depth.

(2602) Alluvial clay layer. Brown-grey clay. 0.21m in thickness. Overlain by (2601).

(2603) Natural clay, yellow-grey with gravel inclusions. Located at a depth of 0.40-0.51m. Cut by [2604].

[2604] Gully cut, orientated NW to SE with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It had a width of 0.43m and a depth of 0.22m. Filled by (2605).

(2605) Fill of [2604]. Mid grey-brown silty clay. Overlain by (2602).

Trench 27

(2701) Ploughsoil deposit, mid-grey clay silt, depth of 0.3m.

(2702) Alluvial layer, mid beige-brown silty, depth of 0.2m. Overlain by (2701).

(2703) Natural gravel, yellow-brown flint based gravel in a matrix of fine yellow sand. Located at an unknown depth. Cut by archaeological features.

[2704] Ditch cut, orientated N to S with gently sloping sides (unknown base). Unknown dimensions, although it is at least 0.50m wide. Filled by (2705).

(2705) Fill of [2704]. Grey-brown clay with gravel inclusions. Overlain by (2702).

[2706] Pit cut. Circular with moderately sloping sides and an undulating base. It had a diameter of 1.80m and a depth of 0.40m. Filled by (2707).

(2707) Fill of [2706]. Grey-brown clay with gravel. Overlain by (2702).

Various Trenches

(2708) Field-drains

APPENDIX 2

The palaeo-environmental evidence by Alan Thomas

Introduction

A single bulk sample was taken from fill (2707) of pit [2706] in order to determine how and if biological remains were preserved in this feature.

Methodology

The sample was taken according to the guidelines outlined by Wilkinson (1994). It was of a standard 10L size, taken in a sealable 10L volume plastic tub, and transported to the CAT offices for processing.

The sample was processed using the flotation technique using meshes of 250µm and 500µm for the flot and residue respectively. Both the residue and flot were air dried prior to sorting. The dried flot was scanned under a low power binocular microscope for charred plant and molluscan material.

Results

The sample contained a small quantity of wood charcoal, six molluscs and a few small teeth fragments. No carbonised grain or weed seeds were found.

Discussion

The lack of carbonised plant material and molluscan remains means that the sample has no potential for use in the reconstruction of the past economies or environment of the site.

APPENDIX 3

Finds Catalogue

Context	Spot Date	Pottery		Bone		Flint		Other
205	IA/Saxon?	1	1	5	8			
208	Roman	4	54	16	364			
305	IA/Saxon?	1	2	1	2			1 fired clay (158g)
310				14	66			
312	E-MIA	20	96	26	146			
704	IA/Saxon?	1	4					
705				5	94			
1004						SF1: 1	3	
1018	e-m Saxon	2	17	36	1112			
1206	Roman	1	3					
1208	e-m Saxon	16	293	8	152			1 ?worked burnt sandstone (221g)
1708	IA?	1	3	2	160			
1711	e-m Saxon	1	3	3	7			2 shell (0g)
1712	e-m Saxon	27	912	15	154			
1714						SF2: 1	9	
1714						SF3: 1	3	
1725						SF4: 1	2	
1905	e-m Saxon	16	596					
1907	e-m Saxon	1	5	72	1521			
Tr 22						1	4	
2305	Roman	1	5					1 Fe nail
2405	Roman	1	15					
2605	Roman	1	2					

APPENDIX 4

Pottery Assessment by Jane Timby

Introduction

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 95 sherds of pottery (2011 g) dating to the later Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods.

Pottery was recovered from some 16 individual contexts distributed across 10 trenches.

The pottery was moderately well preserved, particularly the Saxon sherds which showed several joins. The Prehistoric material was in more fragmentary condition.

For the purposes of this assessment the group was sorted into wares based on macroscopic observation and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. The data is summarized in Table 1.

No further work has been carried out at the assessment stage to seek for comparable material from the locality.

Later Prehistoric

At least twenty one sherds of later Prehistoric date were present, twenty of which came from a single context (312). The remaining sherd came from (1708). A further three very tiny sherds from (205),(305) and (704) could be of similar date but could equally be Saxon.

The Later Prehistoric assemblage is typical of the later early Iron Age-middle Iron Age period. It comprises ten fine calcined flint-tempered sherds, nine sherds of glauconitic sandy ware and a sandy sherd possibly from a carinated bowl. Although the latter is typologically typical of the early Iron Age sandy wares tend to increase towards the Middle Iron Age, in particular the use of glauconitic clays.

Roman

Eight Roman sherds were present from four separate contexts.

Unfortunately none of the sherds are closely datable although the general impression is that they date to the second-third centuries rather than being late Roman sherds curated in a Saxon context. Amongst the sherds are three joining pieces from a grog-tempered storage jar from (208) of a type found across Oxfordshire in the 2nd to 3rd centuries.

Saxon

The bulk of the assemblage, some 63 sherds, are typical of the Saxon period.

Saxon material was associated with at least six contexts spread across trenches 10, 12, 17, and 19.

Most of the fabrics are organic-tempered, a practice used between the 6th-late 8th/early 9th centuries. A smaller number of sandy sherds are also present which can be equally long-lived.

The vessels include jars, one with a vertical pierced lug. Several have a burnished finish. Two sherds from (1905) are decorated with vertically scored lines.

Table 1 Pottery Assessment

Context	Preh	Roman	Saxon	IA/SX	Tot no	Tot wt	Date
205	0	0	0	1	1	1	IA/SX?
208	0	4	0	0	4	54	Roman
305	0	0	0	1	1	2	IA/SX?
312	20	0	0	0	20	96	E-MIA
704	0	0	0	1	1	4	IA/SX?
1018	0	0	2	0	2	17	e-m Saxon
1206	0	1	0	0	1	3	Roman
1208	0	0	16	0	16	293	e-m Saxon
1708	1	0	0	0	1	3	IA?
1711	0	0	1	0	1	3	e-m Saxon
1712	0	0	27	0	27	912	e-m Saxon
1905	0	0	16	0	16	596	e-m Saxon
1907	0	0	1	0	1	5	e-m Saxon
2305	0	1	0	0	1	5	Roman
2405	0	1	0	0	1	15	Roman
2605	0	1	0	0	1	2	Roman
TOTAL	21	8	63	3	95	2011	

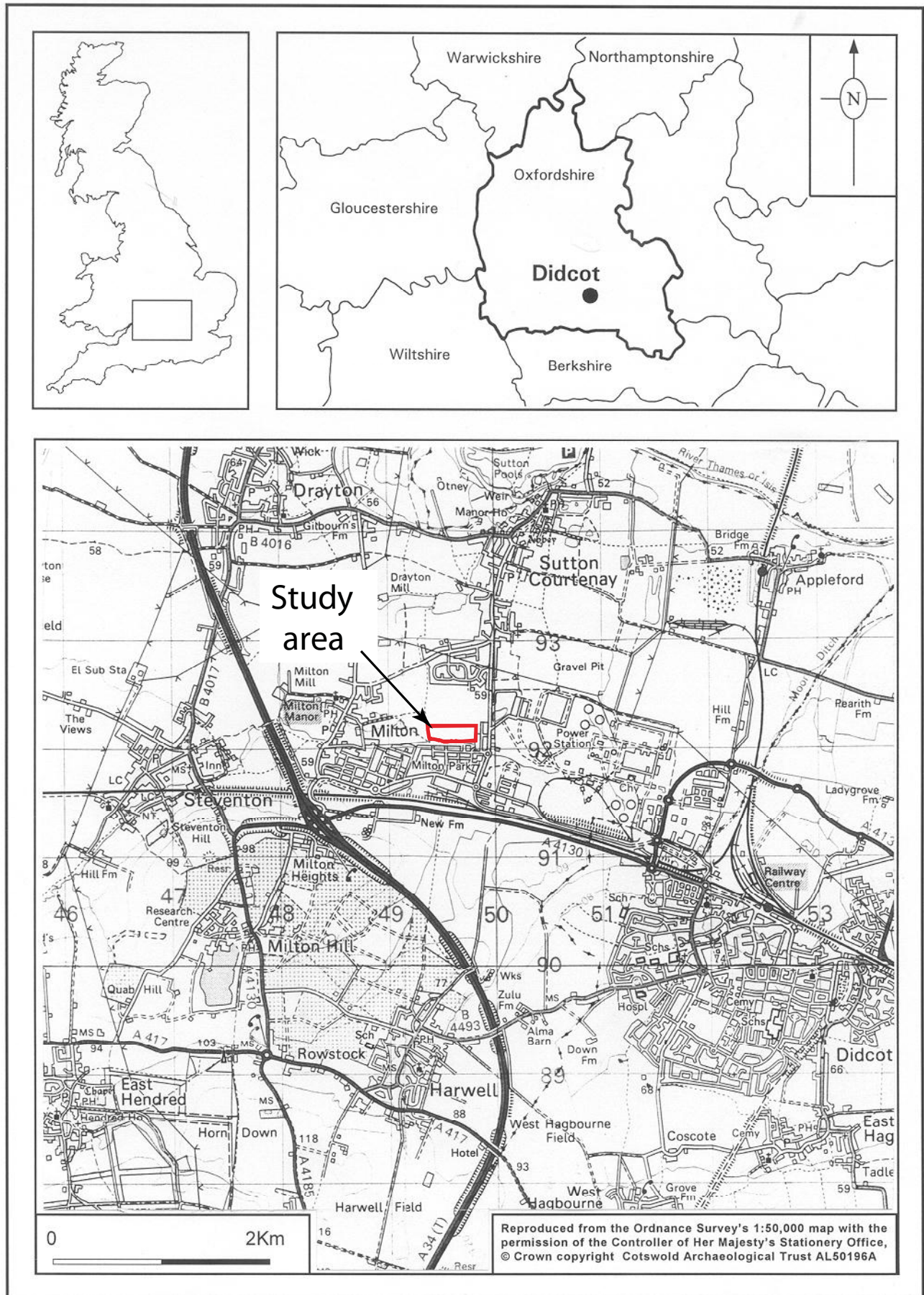


Fig. 1 Location plan

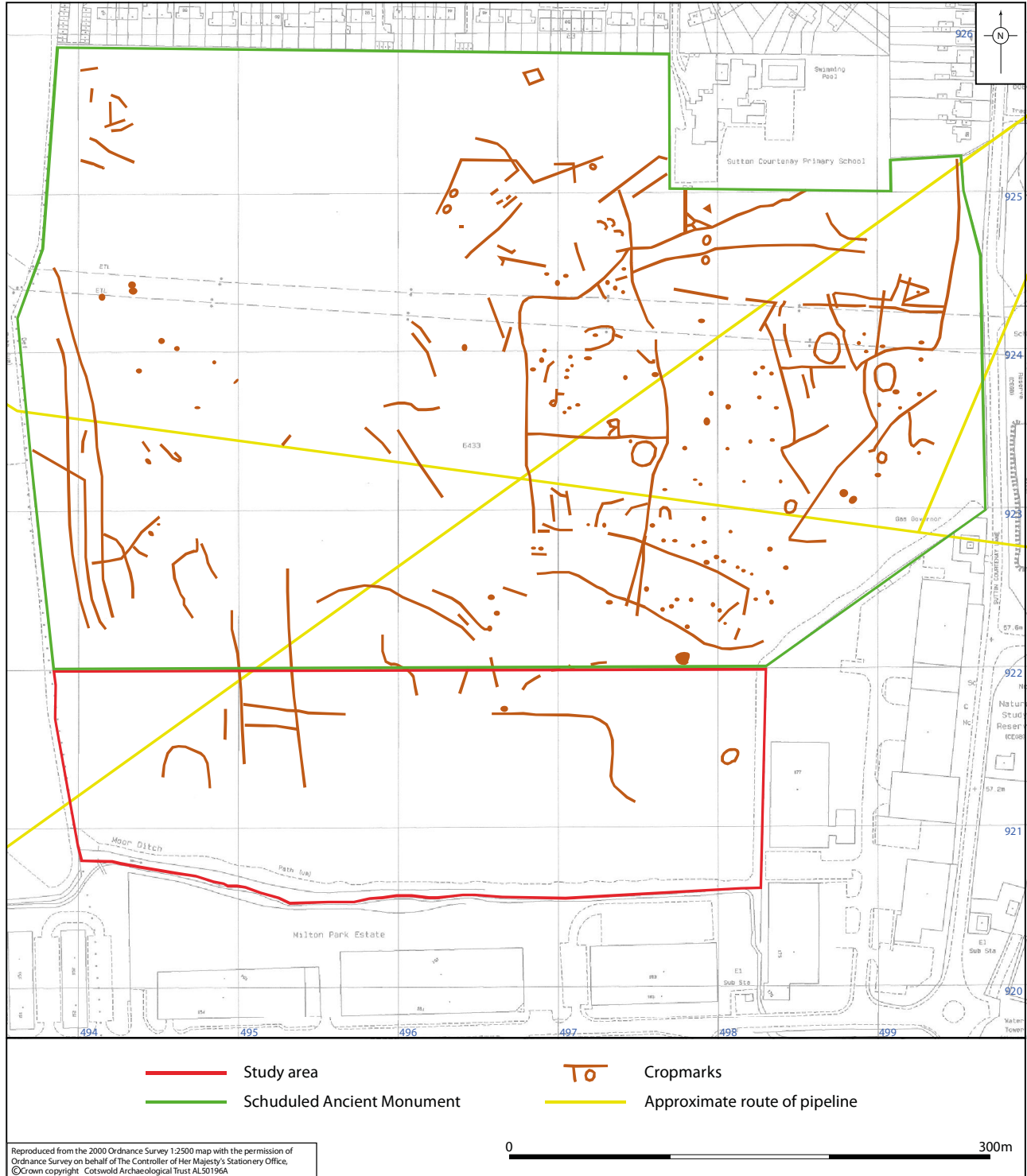
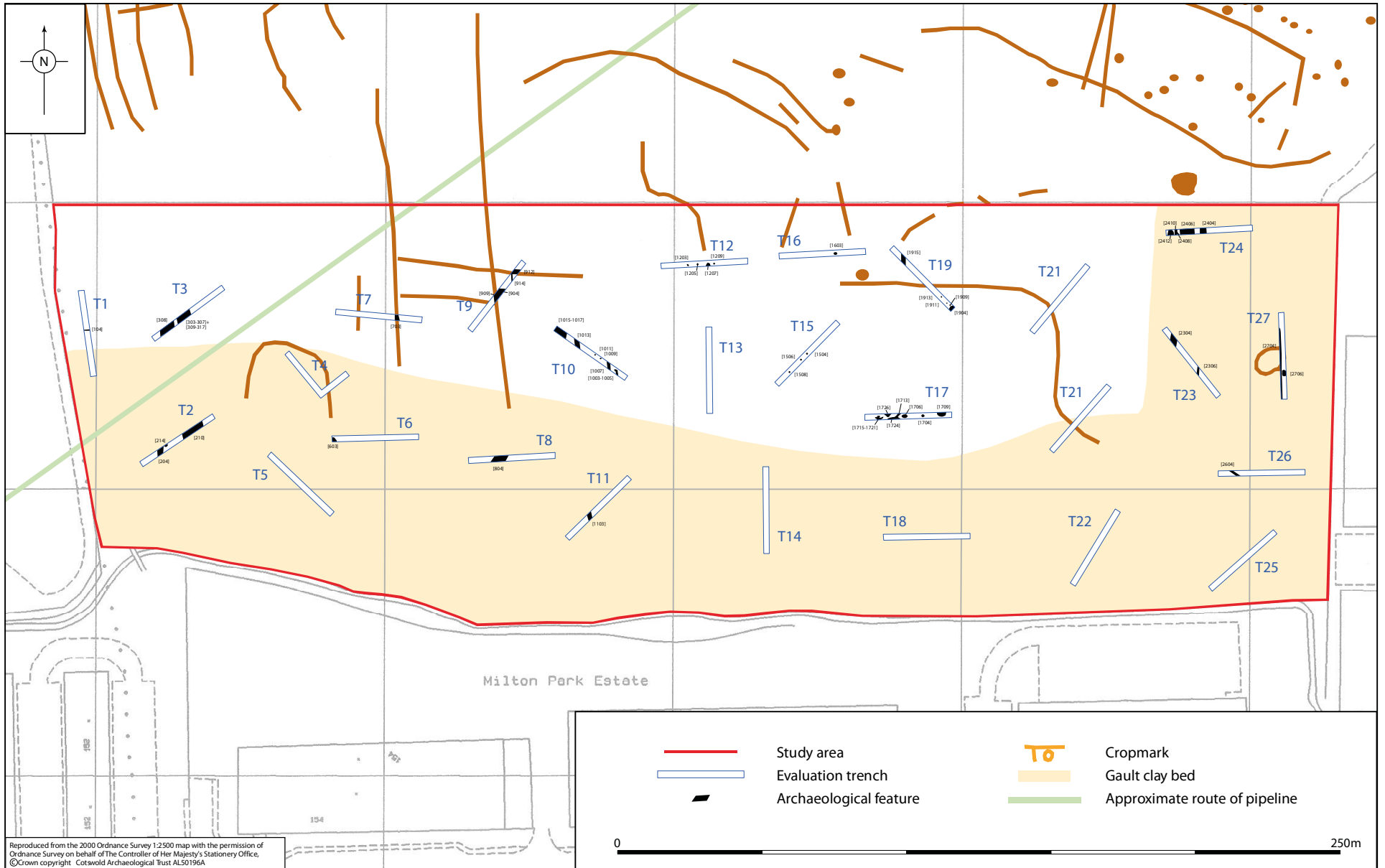
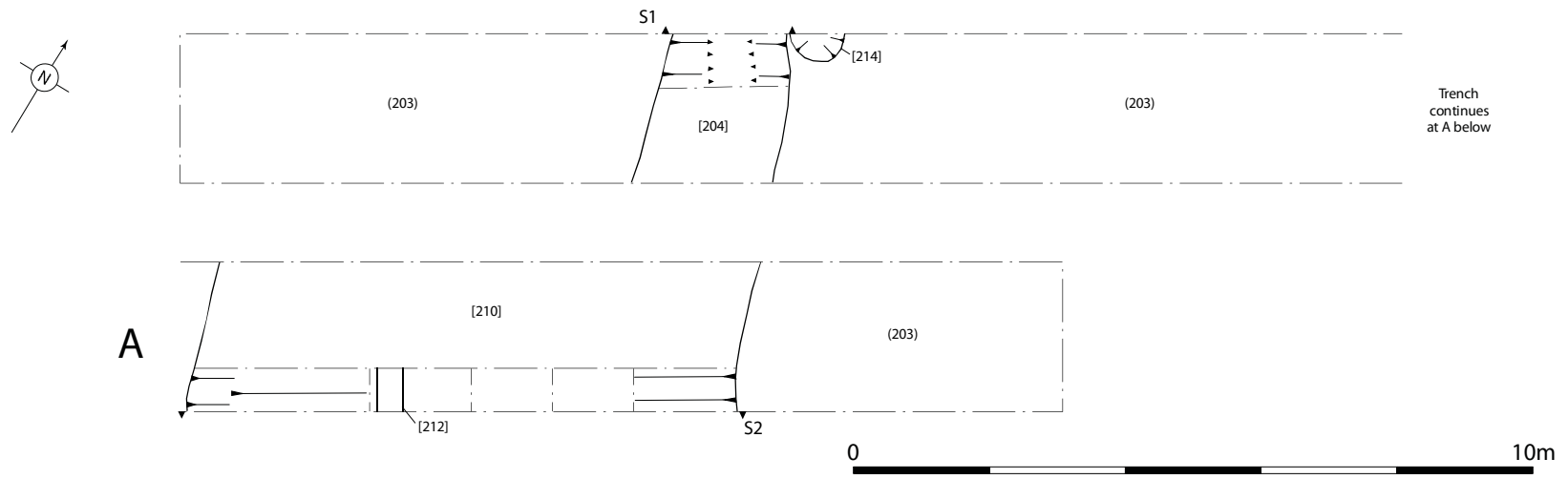


Fig.2 Plan showing study area and Scheduled Ancient Monument (Oxon. No. 250)

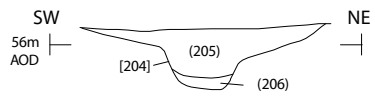


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Fig. 3 Trench location plan showing archaeological features



Section 1



Section 2

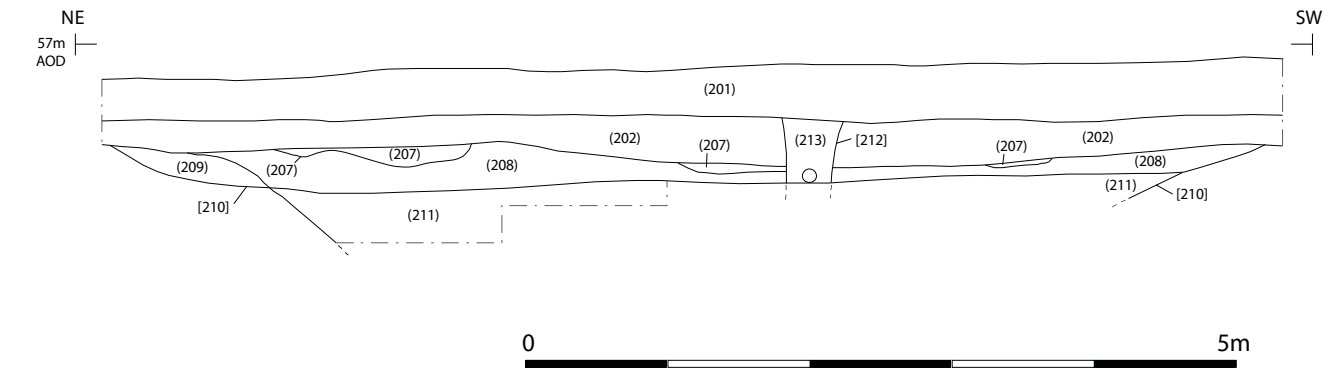
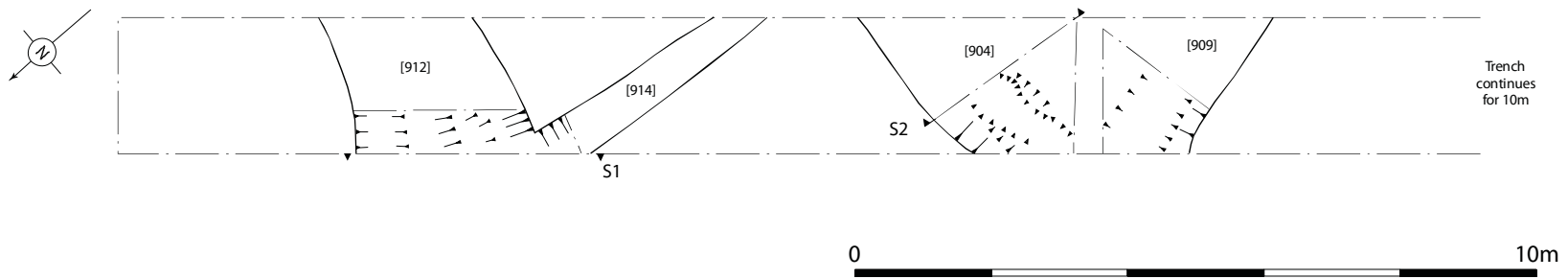
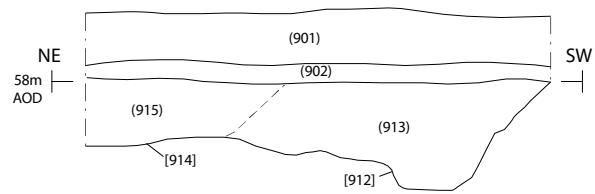


Fig. 4 Trench 2; plan and sections



Section 1



Section 2

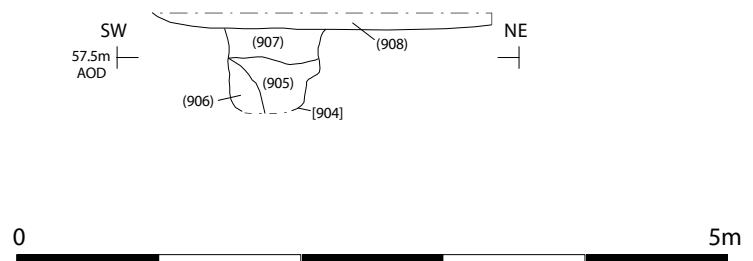


Fig. 5 Trench 9; plan and sections

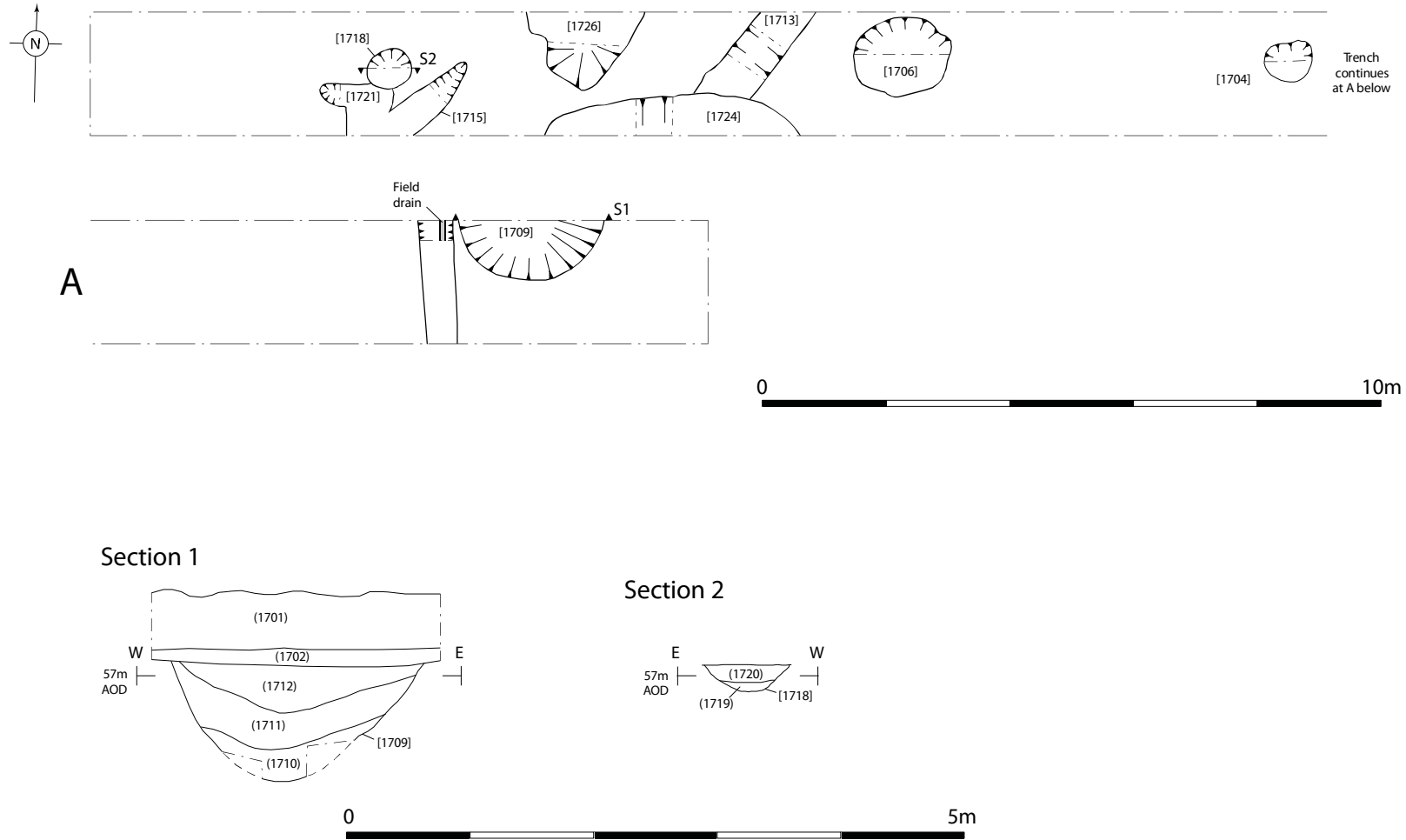
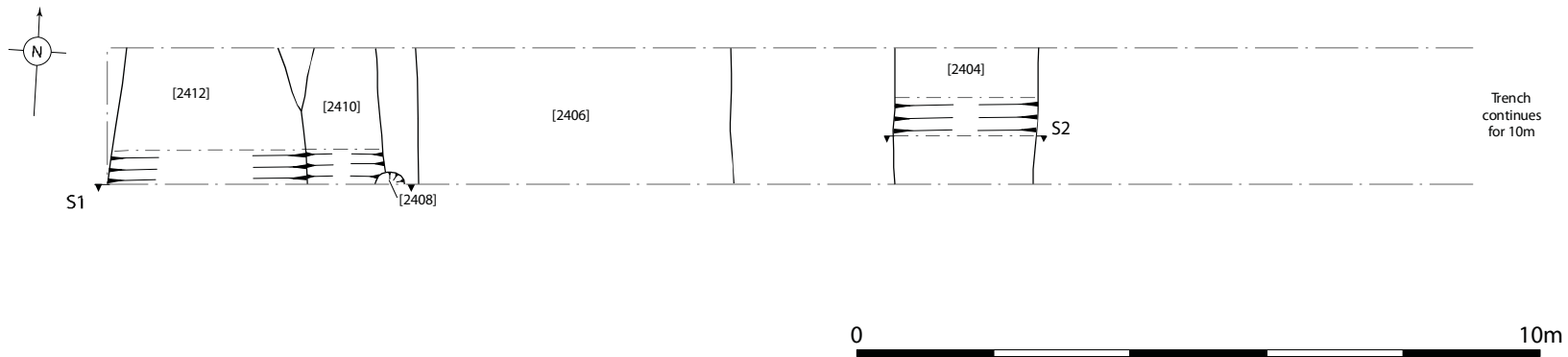
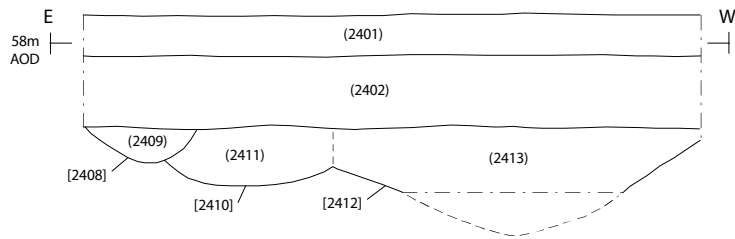


Fig. 6 Trench 17; plan and sections



Section 1



Section 2

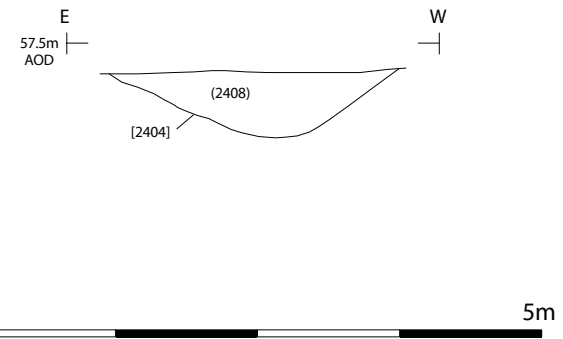


Fig. 7 Trench 24; plan and sections