

Prehistoric, Roman and Post-Medieval Settlement at Glyn House, Ewell, Surrey



Archaeological Excavation Report



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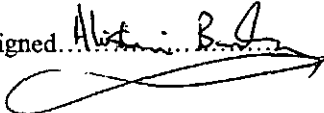
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PREHISTORIC, ROMAN AND POST-MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT AT GLYN HOUSE, EWELL, SURREY

DAN STANSBIE and DAVID SCORE

With contributions by PAUL BOOTH, DANA CHALLINOR, KATE CRAMP, EMILY EDWARDS
and EMMA-JAYNE EVANS

Summary

Work in advance of property development by Oxford Archaeology (OA) on behalf of Try Homes Ltd., at Glyn House, Ewell, Surrey, allowed the excavation of prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval remains. Activity of Mesolithic date was identified by the presence of residual microliths. Two ring-ditches (one of which contained a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead) and a tree-throw hole in the south-eastern corner of the site indicated an area of early Bronze Age or late Neolithic activity. Lying to the north-west of the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity was evidence of Roman settlement, including a dense band of intercutting pits, part of a post-built structure and several deep pits, possibly well shafts. Overlying the Roman settlement was a Post-Medieval structure which may have been the remains of the rectory and a number of garden features.

Location and Geology

The development site comprised an area measuring a maximum of 80 m by 80 m located centrally in the historic settlement of Ewell (NGR TQ 220 627). The development site was bounded by the High Street to the south-west, an area of mature trees and hedges to the north-west, a park to the north-east and a wall and a number of properties to the south and east (Figure 1). The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (sheet 270) indicates that the site is underlain predominantly by Upper Chalk, with a thin band of Thanet beds just to the north of the site. However a recent geo-technical survey (Mike Rowell Associates Ltd. 2002) indicates that the layer of Thanet sands lies further south and underlies the entire site. Immediately to the north of the site is a spring, which flows northward, forming the Hogsmill river. The site lies at roughly 35 m above OD, sloping gradually towards the High Street to the south-west.

Archaeological Background

Archaeological evidence from the environs of Ewell indicates occupation and activity from the Paleolithic to the present day. A Levallois flake, two small hand axes and three other flakes were found in the Ewell area in 1960 (Wymer 1987, 26). Sixteen different sites in the environs of Ewell yielded evidence of Mesolithic activity in the form of worked flint (Wymer 1977, 273-4), including Glyn House itself (Wymer 1977, 273) which is situated close to two natural water sources. Only one site in the vicinity yielded any evidence of Neolithic activity, a late Neolithic discoidal knife (Cotton 1984, 225-6, fig 1.1). Evidence for human activity during the Bronze Age is represented by two sites with Bronze Age flint work (Needham 1987, 129) and a Beaker burial dating to between c. 2300 and 1700BC, which lay 100 m to the south of the development site (Grinsell 1987, 5). During the Iron Age it appears that the

environs of Ewell were relatively well settled, as large quantities of Iron Age pottery (Lowther 1946, 12-15) have been recovered from a number of sites in the area, along with a 3rd-century BC La Tène brooch (Cotton 1982, 169-71). The Roman period saw an expansion of settlement locally and excavations have revealed a range of evidence for the Romano-British settlement of Ewell (Abdy & Bieron 1997), where a roadside settlement (possibly a posting station) may have developed into a small town. These developments can be partly explained by the presence of Stane street, which linked Chichester and London and ran c 70 m to the east of the development area. In addition to the settlement evidence, a Romano-British burial mound (Abdy & Bieron 1997, 135) was discovered (c 20 m) to the east of the site and 10 ritual shafts were found in the area of the former Staneway House (Warne 1860, 309). The presence of an extensive Saxon cemetery (Lowther 1935) in the Grove and Ewell House area indicates an early Medieval (Saxon) settlement somewhere within the locality, however there is no evidence for early Medieval activity within the immediate environs of the development area. Later Medieval remains include the village of Ewell itself (Titford 1973, 27-32), and the deserted Medieval village of Cuddington (Titford 1973, 32-3) which lay c 400 m to the east of the development site. There are a number of sites within Ewell where the remains of later Medieval buildings have been discovered, along with various scatters of Medieval pottery and coins (Barfoot, Temple & Pemberton 1974; Biddle 1961). In addition, the Medieval church of St. Mary the Virgin, lies just to the east of the site (Blair 1991, 137), within the grounds of Glyn House. During the Post-Medieval period Ewell began to expand and by 1618 had developed into a market town (VCH 1911, vol. 3, 278). The Senex map of 1729 shows the settlement fairly well established, with numerous houses, including some in the vicinity of the development site. By 1802 the Ewell enclosure map shows a number of structures fronting onto the High Street, along the south-western edge of the grounds of Glyn House. Two of these lay within the area of the development site. By 1869 the 1st edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of the area shows that the development site formed part of the grounds of the rectory, with a small building to the south and the coach house to the south-west. A pond immediately to the north-west of the site is shown as a fishpond and Rectory farm is shown approximately 50 m to the north-east of the site. The remaining area of the site was fairly well wooded and undeveloped, and remained this way until 1973 with the construction of the buildings that have now been demolished to make way for the present development.

Excavation Methodology

A desk top assessment completed by OA (OA 2002) led to an archaeological evaluation (OA 2003). The development site was divided into two, Area A and Area B. Area A consisted of three 1.8 m wide trenches, two measuring 30 m in length and one of 15 m and Area B consisted of four test pits, and the excavation of a soak-away (Figure 1). Following the evaluation of Area A three open area trenches (Figure 1) were stripped of soil cover using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless bucket and the exposed surface was then hand cleaned. All visible features were planned and recorded and a sample of features was excavated. Plans were drawn at 1:100 and sections at 1:20. All sections were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Environmental samples were taken where deposits were identified as having environmental potential.

Location of the Archive

The Archive will be deposited with Bourne Hall Museum.

Features found during the Evaluation of Area A (Figures 2 & 3)

SUMMARY

A number of features were found during the evaluation of Area A, which contributed artefacts to the finds assemblages discussed below. These included a circular pit of uncertain date (104), situated towards the south-eastern end of Trench 1 and a sub-rectangular pit of probable post-medieval date (113) containing a horse burial. Also situated towards the south-eastern end of Trench 1 were two Iron Age features that also contained residual flintwork; a ditch (320) running across Trench 3 half way along its length and an oval pit (318) cutting ditch (320).

Layers observed during the Watching Brief on Area B (Figure 1)

SUMMARY

During the watching brief carried out on Area B four test pits (500-03) were excavated in the south-eastern corner of the site (Figure 1). These revealed several layers of occupation debris and made-ground dating to the Post-Medieval period. Additionally a 20th-century soakaway (504) was revealed.

Mesolithic or early Neolithic Activity

SUMMARY

Finds of flint from the south-eastern part of the site suggest Mesolithic and early Neolithic activity in this area, which was situated near to two natural water sources and would have made an ideal settlement location. However, the majority of this material was residual and no features of this date have been identified.

Late Neolithic/Bronze Age Activity

SUMMARY

Two curvilinear gullies (690/688 & 676/685) occupied the south-eastern corner of the site, the smaller of the two (690/688) lying inside the larger feature (676/685). Both these features ran beyond the limits of the excavated area at either end and were therefore partially obscured. Neolithic and early Bronze Age worked flint from the fills of both features, including some *in-situ* knapping debris from the larger feature (685/676), strongly suggests that these ditches were of an early Bronze Age date. Lying 2 m from the south-eastern edge of the excavation, between the two ring-ditches was a tree-throw hole (701), also containing worked flint of Bronze Age date.

RING DITCHES

Ring Ditch 690/688 (Figures 4 & 5)

Ring ditch 690/688 was curvilinear in shape, 6.10 m in length and measured 0.52 m in width by 0.19 m in depth, on average. In profile the ditch was saucer-shaped at its southern end, but narrowed to form a U-shape towards its northern end. The ditch fills (689, 691) comprised a friable brown silty-sand, containing occasional inclusions of flint. In total, 21 pieces of worked flint of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date were recovered from the fill.

Ring Ditch 676/685 (Figures 4 & 5)

Ring ditch 676/685 was curvilinear in shape, 8.5 m in length and measured 0.65 m in width by 0.17 m in depth, on average. In profile the ditch was saucer-shaped at its northern end but narrowed to form a V-shape at its southern end. The ditch fill (675, 684) comprised a friable grey silty-sand, containing occasional inclusions of flint and stone. A large collection of 1065 pieces of worked flint of Neolithic or early Bronze Age date came from the fills.

TREE-THROW HOLE

Tree-Throw Hole 701 (Figures 4 & 5)

Tree-throw hole 701 was amorphous in plan and asymmetric in profile, having a steeply sloping western side and a more gradual eastern side with an uneven base. It measured 1.90 m in length by 1.70 m in width and 0.33 m in depth. The tree-throw hole was filled by a friable light brown sandy silt (700) containing occasional fragments of stone. A collection of 19 well preserved pieces of worked flint, of Mesolithic or Neolithic date came from the fill.

Roman Activity

SUMMARY

A single linear gully (1003) ran across the northern part of the site from north-east to south-west. This feature was cut by a posthole, which was probably part of a later post-built structure.

GULLIES

Gully 1003 (Figures 6 & 7)

Gully 1003 was linear in plan, 12 m in length and orientated north-east/south-west. It was 0.39 m in width by 0.11 m in depth on average. In profile it was generally V-shaped but widened towards the northern end to form a U-shape. The gully fill (617, 631, 633) comprised a friable brown/grey sandy-silt. A single sherd of undiagnostic Roman pottery was recovered.

Mid Roman Activity (Second to Third Century AD)

SUMMARY

The prehistoric activity in the south-eastern corner of the site was superseded by a mid Roman settlement which occupied the central part of the excavated area. A dense cluster of inter-cutting pits (pit group 1002) ran across the site from south-west to north-east, close to the south-eastern limit of the site. Immediately to the north of the pit cluster was an alignment of five square postholes running north-west/south-east (posthole alignment 1001), which may have formed part of a post-built structure. To the north of the posthole alignment were two parallel rows of circular postholes running north-east/south-west, representing a second post built structure (structure 1000). The south-western most posthole (616), which may not have been part of the building, cut earlier gully 1003. Scattered to the south-west of the possible buildings were seven randomly spaced pits, perhaps representing domestic rubbish pits.

STRUCTURES

Structure 1000 (Figure 6 & 7)

Structure 1000 comprised eight postholes, (609-610, 612, 614, 618, 651, 653 and 655), in two parallel rows orientated north-east/south-west and about 4 m apart. The postholes were circular in plan, generally flat based with steep sides and averaged 0.58 m in diameter by 0.14 m in depth. The fills comprised friable brown silty-sand containing occasional inclusions of chalk, flint and charcoal flecks. Four sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered from the fills of postholes 618, 651, 653 and 655.

Posthole Alignment 1001 (Figures 6 & 8)

Posthole alignment 1001 comprised a line of five postholes (663, 667, 670, 709 and 800) orientated north-west/south-east. The postholes, square or sub-rectangular in plan, with flat bases and near vertical sides, averaged 0.58 m in length by 0.57 m in width and 0.37 m in depth. They were filled by friable brown sandy-silt containing occasional inclusions of chalk and flint. A small assemblage of four sherds of Roman pottery including a sherd of Central Gaulish samian and two sherds of Alice Holt ware were recovered from postholes 667 and 663, and an intrusive clay pipe stem and a fragment of Post-Medieval glass from posthole 709.

PITS

Pit 640 (Figure 6)

Pit 640 was not fully excavated due to its depth. The pit was sub-rectangular in plan and straight-sided, measuring 1.70 m in length by 1.50 m in width and greater than 1.20 m in depth. The single fill (639) comprised a friable brown/grey sandy-silt containing occasional inclusions of stone. An assemblage of 13 sherds of mid to late Roman pottery and two sherds of late Prehistoric pottery came from the fill.

Pit 638 (Figure 6)

Pit 638 was not fully excavated due to its depth. The pit was sub-rectangular in plan and steep sided, measuring 1.80 m in length by 1.10 m in width and greater than 1.20 m in depth. The single fill (637) comprised a friable dark brown/grey sandy-silt. An assemblage of 14 sherds of mid Roman pottery were recovered.

Pit 621 (Figures 6 & 7)

Pit 621 was sub-circular in plan and bowl-shaped in profile, having steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 2.65 m in length by 1.90 m in width and 0.95 m in depth. The pit fill (620) comprised a friable brown/grey sandy-silt with occasional inclusions of stone. The fill yielded 68 sherds of late first or early second century AD pottery, along with 84 fragments of animal bone.

Pit 626 (Figures 7&8)

Pit 626 was not fully excavated due to its depth. The pit was sub-circular in plan and steep-sided, measuring 1.45 m in length by 0.84 m in width and greater than 1.30 m in depth. The single fill (625) comprised a friable brown/grey sandy-silt with occasional inclusions of stone. The fill contained 16 sherds of mid Roman pottery, including a single sherd of South Spanish amphora, a single sherd of Central Gaulish samian and 14 sherds of undiagnostic coarse ware along with 11 fragments of animal bone.

Pit 642 (Figures 6 & 7)

Pit 642 was oval in plan and U-shaped in profile, having very straight sides and a concave base. It measured 1.20 m in length by 0.94 m in width and 0.52 m in depth. The single fill (641) comprised a friable brown/grey sandy-silt with occasional inclusions of flint and stone. An assemblage of two sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery was recovered from the fill, along with three pieces of worked flint.

Pit 674 (Figure 6 & 8)

Pit 674 was sub-circular in plan and irregular in profile, having irregular sides and a flat base. It measured 0.52 m in length by 0.30 m in width and 0.42 m in depth. The pit fill (673) consisted of a friable brown/grey sandy-silt with occasional inclusions of chalk. An assemblage of one unidentified animal tibia, four fragments of worked flint and three fragments of undated ceramic building material were recovered from the fill.

Pit 643 (Figure 6 & 9)

Pit 643 was oval in plan and V-shaped in profile, having steeply sloping concave sides and a narrow rounded base. It measured 1.20 m in length by 0.90 m in width and 0.5 m in depth. The pit fill (644) comprised a friable greenish/brown silty-sand with occasional inclusions of chalk flecks and small flints. Three sherds of mid to late Roman pottery and an oyster shell were recovered from the fill.

Pit Group 1002 (Figures 6 & 8)

Pit group 1002 comprised a dense band of intercutting pits running north-east/south-west across the site and continuing beyond the limits of excavation at both ends. It measured approximately 13.5 m in length by 6 m in diameter and was over 1.20 m in depth. A 7.5 m by 2 m machine trench was excavated through this cluster of pits to a depth of 1.20 m, revealing two of the pits (678 and 683) in plan and section. Pit 678 was sub-circular in plan and irregular in profile, having diffuse edges. The primary pit fill (682) comprised a friable brown sandy-silt with occasional inclusions of small stones. A steep-sided recut, cut this fill and was in turn filled by a friable brown sandy-silt (677), with occasional inclusions of flint nodules and fragments of chalk. An assemblage of 142 sherds of mid Roman pottery including 121 sherds of Alice Holt/Farnham ware was recovered from fill 677, along with 49 fragments of animal bone, 43 pieces of worked flint, 17 fragments of ceramic building material and two oyster shells. Pit 683 was unclear in plan and section, but appeared to be a very large sub-circular pit, with steeply sloping concave sides. The pit fill (681) comprised a friable brown sandy-silt, with occasional inclusions of small stones. Three sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered from the fill.

Post-Medieval Activity

SUMMARY

Apart from the presence of several sherds of Medieval pottery, there is no evidence for activity between the end of the third century AD and the Post-Medieval period. However at some point in the Post-Medieval period, a large stone, flint and brick built structure (718) was constructed in the eastern corner of the site, overlying the eastern end of Mid-Roman pit group 1002. Lying to the north of this structure was a large square cut feature (646), which may have been a cellar and to the north and east were a number of garden features including the remains of flower beds and cultivation plots.

STRUCTURES

Structure 718 (Figure 9)

Structure 718 comprised the stone; flint and brick built foundations of a rectangular building occupying the south-eastern corner of the site and orientated north-west/south-east. This structure consisted of a main building, to the north-west and an outhouse building to the south-east, in total measuring 21.80 m in length by 7.5 m in width at its widest. The remains of the building ran beyond the limits of excavation to the east and south-east and were overlain by a layer of demolition debris (721) comprising brick, stone, tile and flint. Two square features lying immediately to the south-west of structure 718 may represent postholes associated with the building.

Structure 646 (Figure 9)

Structure 646 comprised a large square feature of uncertain dimensions and depth, that lay immediately to the north-west of structure 718 and may have been the remains of the cellar of this building. This feature was backfilled by a friable brown sandy-silt containing frequent inclusions of brick, building rubble, chalk and stone.

GARDEN FEATURES

Lying to the north and west of structure 718 were numerous rectangular and linear features which may be interpreted as garden features. These tended to run parallel with, or at right-angles to the building and were probably the remains of flower beds and cultivation plots.

The Finds

PREHISTORIC POTTERY by Emily Edwards

Introduction

Three sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered, including an Ebbsfleet Ware rim (context 322), one middle Bronze Age sherd (context 319) and one Bronze Age/early Iron Age sherd (context 639). The sherds were analysed using a binocular microscope (x 20), following the guidelines provided by the PCRG (1997).

Description

All three sherds were flint-tempered, representing three different fabrics. The flint has the shattered shape of flint that has been broken up after calcination. Flint was easily procured locally. This small assemblage consists of two body sherds and an Ebbsfleet rim.

FA2 Pit 320 (322)

The fabric contains 10 % poorly sorted flint, ranging in size from 6 mm to less than 1 mm, 3-5% sand, less than 1 mm in size. The clay has not been wedged well, as is clear from the poor alignment of inclusions. These factors are common elements of Peterborough Ware fabrics. 1 sherd (8 g). Firing: exterior; red brown, core; red brown - yellow brown, interior; red brown. Surface Treatment: exterior; smoothed, interior; smoothed. Decoration: impressed bird bone on internal face. Thickness: 6 mm. Vessel Type: miscellaneous Ebbsfleet Ware vessel. Rim Type: thickened and slightly convex with internal lip (Figure 10.1).

F2 Pit 318 (319)

The fabric contains 25% poorly sorted flint, ranging in size from 1-6 mm. Wall thickness = 11 mm. The dense but poorly sorted nature of the fabric suggests a middle Bronze Age date.

AF1 Pit 640 (639)

The fabric contains 7% moderately sorted calcined flint, 1-2.5 mm in size and 30 % coarse rounded sand, (the sand may have been deliberately added). The relatively low density and small size of the flint temper, in addition to the amount of sand present, indicates a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date.

Discussion

This small collection of abraded sherds indicates some level of prehistoric activity at Glyn House. Peterborough Ware in the lower Thames valley has been recovered from Runnymede, Berkshire (Kinnes 1991) and from the Staines causewayed enclosure (Middlesex). The latter included eleven predominantly flint-tempered vessels, four of which were decorated with bird-bone impressions. The form and decoration of the Glyn House sherd, is particularly well paralleled by a sherd from Staines (Robertson-Mackay 1987, 89, fig. 52).

Catalogue of Illustrations

1. Fabric FA2 (Peterborough Ware), type Ebbsfleet Ware rim. Neolithic (320)

THE FLINT by Kate Cramp

Introduction

A total of 1248 struck flints, including 965 chips, were recovered from the evaluation and excavation (Table 1). A further 256 fragments (1.275 kg) of burnt unworked flint were produced by 18 contexts (Table 3). The flint assemblage reflects human activity from the early Mesolithic to the Bronze Age period.

TABLE 1 Struck flint.

Category:	Area		Total:
	Evaluation	Excavation	
Flake	75	127	202
Blade-like flake		11	11
Blade	3	10	13
Bladelet		3	3
Core face/edge rejuvenation flake	1	4	5
Axe Thinning flake		1	1
Axe sharpening flake		1	1
Irregular waste	12	8	20
Chip	6	959	965
Single platform flake core	2	2	4
Multi-platform flake core	2	2	4
Levallois flake core		1	1
Core on a flake		1	1
Unclassifiable/fragmentary core	1		1
Tested nodule		1	1
Retouched flake	1	4	5
End and side scraper		1	1
Thumbnail scraper	1		1
Unclassifiable/fragmentary scraper		1	1
Notch	1		1
Microlith		5	5
Barbed and tanged arrowhead		1	1
Total:	105	1143	1248

Methodology

All the struck flints within the assemblage were individually examined and catalogued according to broad debitage or tool type. The general technological appearance both of individual pieces and of the assemblage as a whole was described, particularly where such information contributed to the dating and characterisation of the assemblage. Details of the condition, degree of cortication, type of raw material along with evidence of burning, breakage and utilisation were recorded consistently. Cores/core fragments were classified according to the organisation and types of removals exhibited, and were individually weighed. Burnt flint was described and quantified by piece and by weight. Additional information, such as the degree of calcination, was recorded where relevant. The data was entered directly on to an MS Access database.

Condition

With a very small number of exceptions, the struck flints are in extremely good condition, implying negligible post-depositional disturbance. A total of 1164 pieces were recorded as fresh and a further 60 pieces as minimally damaged; a moderate or heavy degree of damage was noted on 24 flints. Three flints (contexts 212, 321 and 677) are in a heavily worn state, suggesting that they have been repeatedly redeposited. The majority of flints (1197 pieces) are uncorticated.

Raw material

For the most part, the raw material used both for tool production and for burning was a good quality, derived flint. These nodules are characterised by a stained, abraded cortex surrounding a fine-grained interior with few inclusions; the colour varies through light browns and greys. Thermal fractures occur occasionally. Boulder clay and/or local river gravel deposits are likely to have provided the main source of these nodules.

A small proportion of the raw material base seems have been provided by other sources. One flake (context 321) almost certainly derives from a chalk flint source. Two further flakes (context 684) and one end and side scraper (context 639) of a fine-grained, light grey flint may also represent the use of chalk flint sources. Several flakes (e.g. from contexts 322, 689 and 700) possess a thick but slightly stained and abraded cortex, suggesting the exploitation of superficial deposits.

The use of bullhead flint is represented by 19 flints and a few chips. Bullhead flint occurs at the base of the Reading Beds (Dewey & Bromehead 1915; Shepherd 1972, 114) and is distinguished by a dark green-black cortex underlain by an orange or buff-coloured band. These nodules were probably available relatively locally. Context 106 produced a single piece of burnt unworked flint (95 g) that may also represent the use of bullhead flint in burning activities.

Technology and dating

With the exclusion of chips, the majority of the struck assemblage (245 pieces) was recovered from eight features: pits 621 and 678, ditches 320, 676, 685, 688 and 690, and tree-throw hole 701 (Table 2). The remaining flints (38 pieces) are far more thinly spread across the site and generally occur as residual finds within later features. The assemblage will therefore be discussed as follows: the flint from ditch 320, pit 621, ditch segment 676, pit 678, ditch segment 685, ditch segment 688, ditch segment 690 and tree throw hole 701 as distinct from the remaining assemblage.

TABLE 2 Flint by type from features

Category:	Feature	320		621	676	678	685	688	690	701	Total:
	Context	321	322	620	675	677	684	689	691	700	
Flake		9	55	19	21	12	42	3	7	11	179
Blade-like flake				2		1	4		1	1	9
Blade		1	2		3	1		2		1	10
Bladelet							1			2	3
Core face/edge rejuvenation flake							2		1		3
Axe Thinning flake					1						1
Axe sharpening flake								1			1
Irregular waste			8	2		1	4			1	16
Chip			6	47		28	884				965
Single platform flake core			1	1				1			3
Multi-platform flake core			2					1			3
Levallois flake core									1		1
Core on a flake										1	1
Unclassifiable/fragmentary core			1								1
Tested nodule										1	1
Retouched flake			1		3						4
Thumbnail scraper			1								1
Unclassifiable/fragmentary scraper							1				1
Notch			1								1
Microlith				1			3		1		5
Barbed and tanged arrowhead							1				1
Total:		10	78	72	28	43	942	8	11	18	1210
Number of burnt flints:		1	9	8		1	58	1	1	1	80
Number of broken flints:		5	23	29	9	22	63	1	3	2	157

Ditch segment 320

A total of 88 flints in fresh, uncorticated condition were recovered from ditch 320 (Table 2). The upper fill (context 322) produced the largest quantity of struck flint (78 pieces). The flintwork forms a technologically coherent assemblage of probable early Bronze Age date, which is confirmed by the presence of a thumbnail scraper.

The assemblage is largely composed of unretouched flakes (64 pieces); only three blades were recovered. Most are broad, squat, regularly shaped removals. Where it can be determined from bulb morphology, hard-hammer percussion dominates; very little evidence of platform preparation is present. Three flake cores and a flake core fragment were also recovered, providing an average complete weight of 70.7 g. The

distinctly flake-based character of the assemblage implies a later Prehistoric date for the material (Pitts & Jacobi 1979; Ford 1987).

The retouched component is restricted to three pieces (4 % excluding chips). The thumbnail scraper has been minimally retouched on a disc-like cortical blank of bullhead flint. The retouch, which is confined to the distal edge, is shallow, irregular and slightly invasive in places. The scraper can be dated to the early Bronze Age. Although less chronologically distinctive, the retouched flake may be of a similar date. This piece consists of a small, regularly shaped tertiary flake with a short length of inverse edge retouch to the proximal left-hand side.

The same context produced a narrow, parallel-sided blade with a neat proximal notch retouched on the left-hand edge (Figure 11.1), perhaps representing an unfinished attempt at microlith manufacture using the microburin technique (Inizan *et al.* 1992, 69). A broad Mesolithic date would therefore be appropriate for this piece and, as such, it probably forms a residual element within the deposit.

Despite a low incidence of retouch, the assemblage contains a relatively high number of utilised pieces. A total of 15 flints exhibit macroscopically detectable use-wear, a figure that would undoubtedly increase with microscopic analysis. The degree of burning and breakage within the assemblage also implies that it was deposited following domestic activity.

Several flakes of a related flint type were noted, which suggests that elements of the same reduction sequence were deposited together. Given the low incidence of retouch and high incidence of utilisation, the assemblage may represent expedient flake production designed to supply the tools needed for immediately anticipated tasks. The fresh condition of the flintwork suggests deposition in the ditch soon after the completion of these tasks.

Pit 621

An assemblage of 72 flints (including 47 chips) was recovered through the environmental sampling of context 620 within Roman pit 621 (Table 3). A further 126 pieces (262 g) of heavily calcined burnt unworked flint were also retrieved.

The flintwork is probably residual and appears to be of mixed date; the variable condition of the flints certainly suggests that they have been subject to different post-depositional processes. With the exception of chips, the assemblage is composed mainly of unretouched flakes. The majority can be dated broadly to the Neolithic or Bronze Age on technological grounds, although the presence of a rolled microlith comparable to Jacobi's type 7 a 2 (Figure 11.2) (Pitts & Jacobi 1979, 16) indicates a late Mesolithic element. The presence of so many fresh chips is of interest; it is possible that the Roman pit disturbed an *in situ* scatter of microdebitage.

Ditch segment 676

A total of 28 flints were recovered from context 675 within ditch segment 676 (Table 2). The assemblage is in a very fresh, uncorticated condition. Calcium carbonate concretion is present on several pieces. Technologically and morphologically, the flintwork forms a coherent late Neolithic or early Bronze Age assemblage. Unretouched flakes predominate (21 pieces), most of which exhibit the pronounced

bulbs of percussion that are associated with a hard-hammer reduction strategy. A small number of flakes possess abraded platform edges. The possible axe-thinning flake, distinguished by its thin, curved profile and narrow platform, may represent a residual Mesolithic piece.

Whilst only three tools were recovered (three edge-retouched flakes), a proportion of the unretouched material appears to have been utilised. Similarities in flint type indicate that some of the material derives from the same reduction sequence, although no refits were found. The assemblage probably represents a selection of usable products from several reduction sequences that were compiled as a tool-kit. The unusable waste products of knapping such as cores and large pieces of irregular waste were apparently deposited elsewhere.

Pit 678 (Pit group 1002)

An assemblage of 43 flints, including 28 chips, was recovered from Roman pit 678 (Table 2). The condition of the material is variable, indicating that some redeposition has occurred. Most pieces are uncorticated.

The assemblage is composed entirely of unretouched types, including 12 flakes, one blade-like flake and one blade. The quantity of fresh knapping microdebitage may reflect the disturbed remains of prehistoric knapping activity. The absence of the larger elements of knapping debitage, such as cores, implies that these were removed from the scatter at some point.

Ditch segment 685

A total of 942 struck flints in a fresh, uncorticated condition was recovered from context 684 within ditch segment 685 (Table 2). This figure is misleadingly high on account of the 884 chips retrieved from sieving. A further 120 pieces (198 g) of burnt unworked flint, mostly heavily calcined, were also retrieved from the feature.

Technologically, the industry bears affinities to the flintwork from ditch segment 676 and is probably of the same date. The debitage component, which is dominated by flakes, is certainly consistent with a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age industry: most of the flakes are hard-hammer struck with plain platforms. Platform edge abrasion occurs occasionally but does not appear to have played an important role in the reduction strategy. The barbed and tanged arrowhead (Figure 11.3) almost certainly belongs to the same industry (Green 1984, 19).

The 884 chips recovered from the feature strongly suggest an *in situ* knapping deposit, formed by knapping directly into the ditch. A knapping refit between two flakes supports this interpretation. Additional flakes of a similar flint type were noted which almost certainly derive from the same core but would not refit. The absence of cores implies that the larger elements of waste were deposited elsewhere.

Although the bulk of the flintwork probably belongs to a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age industry, a significant late Mesolithic component can be isolated in the form of three narrow blade microliths. Two of these (one of which is illustrated, see Figure 11.4) can be compared to Jacobi's class 7 a 2; the third is incomplete but probably belongs to class 5 (Figure 11.5). It is possible that several of the blade-like flakes and the broken 'scraper', which resembles a minute bladelet core, are also of this date.

Ditch segment 688

A small assemblage of eight flints was recovered from context 689 within ditch segment 688 (Table 2). The assemblage includes a tranchet axe sharpening flake (Figure 11.6) and two soft-hammer blades, which - although almost certainly residual - form a slight concentration of Mesolithic material. The remaining assemblage includes two flake cores, which probably date to the Neolithic or Bronze Age. The flake material is likely to be of a similar date.

Ditch segment 690

A small assemblage of 11 flints was recovered from context 691 within ditch segment 690 (Table 2). The material is generally in a fresh, uncorticated condition. On technological grounds, most of the flintwork probably dates to the Neolithic or Bronze Age. The Levallois core (Figure 11.7) (63 g) can be more closely dated to the mid or late Neolithic, whilst the presence of a broad blade microlith (Figure 11.8) comparable to Jacobi's type 3 b (Jacobi 1978, 16) indicates a limited early Mesolithic component.

Tree-throw hole 701

A total of 18 flints were recovered from tree-throw hole 701 (Table 2). The flints are uncorticated and in good condition. The assemblage is largely composed of unretouched flakes, which - morphologically and technologically - probably date broadly to the Neolithic or Bronze Age. A small number of blades, bladelets and blade-like pieces are also present, some of which may be redeposited Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic pieces but could belong to a later industry.

The remaining assemblage

The remaining 38 flints recovered from the site are thinly distributed between 18 contexts and are in a much more variable condition. Unretouched flakes, including two platform edge rejuvenation flakes, dominate the assemblage; most are chronologically undiagnostic. Two flake cores (context 319 and 644) were also identified. The retouched component consists of one end and side scraper and one edge retouched flake. With the possible exception of some of the blades and blade-like flakes, most of the material can be dated on technological grounds to the Neolithic or Bronze Age.

Discussion

The flint assemblage (a representative sample of which is illustrated in Figure 11) reflects a long period of human activity. The Mesolithic period is represented by a minimum of five microliths, one axe-thinning flake and one axe-sharpening flake. Four of the microliths can be classified as late Mesolithic types, which suggests that activity was more prolific in the latter half of the period. It is also significant that these Mesolithic artefacts are concentrated in the vicinity of the ring ditches, implying a focus of Mesolithic activity that may have influenced the location of the later monument.

The greater part of the flint assemblage is provided by material of probable Neolithic or Bronze Age date. The Levallois core can be dated to the mid/late Neolithic, whilst the thumbnail scraper and barbed and tanged arrowhead reflect an early Bronze Age

presence. Several fresh assemblages of later Neolithic/early Bronze Age date were also recovered from ditch segments 320, 676 and 685. The large quantity of chips recovered from sieving implies that knapping activity was performed at the site, in some cases (e.g. ditch segment 685) probably directly into the features. The retouched component is somewhat restricted in number and range, but nonetheless indicates that various tool-using activities were taking place.

THE ROMAN POTTERY by Dan Stansbie

Introduction

A total of 354 sherds, weighing some 5.95 kg was recovered from the site. In general the pottery, including regional and continental imports, suggests activity between the middle of the second century and the end of the third century AD. The group was dominated by sherds of Alice Holt or black surfaced reduced wares, although the presence of some earlier types could indicate late first or early second-century activity. Pottery was recovered from a total of 34 contexts. Many of the groups are quite small, 76% of the contexts having 10 sherds or less and only two contexts yielding between 21-50 sherds. With an average sherd weight of 16.3 g, the condition of the pottery was moderate. Sherds were large and fresh and rims were often easily identifiable, increasing the level of confidence given to form and fabric identification. Undiagnostic reduced coarse wares comprised 57% of the assemblage. Some 3.6% (by weight) of the total pottery derived from context groups which could only be assigned a broad "Roman" date range.

Methodology

The pottery was recorded using Oxford Archaeology's standard system (Booth unpublished). The assemblage was sorted macroscopically into fabric groups based on surface appearance and major inclusion types. Where possible, fabrics have been referenced to the national Roman fabric collection (NRFC; Tomber & Dore 1998) where fuller descriptions are given (see Table 3). Vessel forms were classified following the typology set out by Lyne & Jefferies (1979), apart from samian forms which were identified using Webster (1995). The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight. Vessel types were quantified by estimated vessel rim-equivalents (EVE).

Fabrics

The assemblage was sorted into 22 fabric types on the basis of the main inclusions present in the paste, colour, surface treatment and decoration. The majority of these are black surface wares, probably from local sources (R50) and reduced wares coming from the local Alice Holt/Farnham potteries (R39). A number of other miscellaneous sandy (R10) and fine (R20) grey wares are also present, along with a small amount of other local grey ware probably from the Colne valley industries (R40). There are also small amounts of grog-tempered storage jar (R90), shell-tempered fabrics (C10 & E40) and oxidised wares (O), probably local in origin. Two sherds were of later prehistoric date. Regional and continental imports comprise a small but significant proportion of the assemblage. Sandy white wares (W20) are present, along with nine sherds of Verulamium white ware (W21). In addition there are sherds of Highgate

Wood white-slipped grey ware (Q30), white-slipped oxidised ware (Q20) and an unidentified British colour coated ware, with barbotine decoration (F50) (Figure 10.2). Two sherds of mortaria are present – one in an unsourced white fabric (M20) and one in Oxfordshire white ware (M22). Continental imports comprise single sherds of Central Gaulish colour-coated ware (F43), *c ramique   l' ponge* (F49), and Dressel 20 amphora (A11), and samian. The samian ware assemblage, accounting for 3.1% of the assemblage by sherd number, consisted mainly of Central Gaulish fabrics (S30), with a single sherd of East Gaulish ware (S40).

TABLE 3 Quantified Summary of Roman Pottery

Fabric	NRFC	No	Weight g
A11 South Spanish amphora (Dressel 20)	BAT AM	4	342
C10 Roman shell-tempered fabrics	ROB SH	2	29
E40 Early Roman shell-tempered fabrics	ROB SH	4	15
E80 Grog-tempered fabrics	SOB GT	2	187
F43 Central Gaulish colour-coated ware	CNG BS	1	1
F49 Céramique à l' éponge	EPO MA	1	3
F50 Colour coated fabrics (major British general)		8	70
M20 Mortarium fabrics (White fabrics general)		1	17
M22 Oxfordshire White Ware mortarium	OXF WH	1	64
O Oxidised "coarse" ware fabrics (Romanised)		3	17
Q20 White-slipped oxidised fabrics		2	12
Q30 White-slipped grey ware (HighgateWood)	HGW RE C		2 1
R10 Fine reduced grey wares		15	84
R20 Sandy reduced grey wares		28	302
R39 Alice Holt/Farnham reduced wares	ALH RE	234	4130
R40 Miscellaneous Reduced fabrics		1	18
R50 Black surfaced fabrics (probably mainly Alice Holt)		19	255
R90 Coarse tempered fabrics (storage jar fabrics)		2	93
S30 Central Gaulish samian ware		10	109
S40 East Gaulish ware		1	10
W20 Sandy white fabrics		1	53
W21 Verulamium region white ware	VER WH	10	125
Later Prehistoric Fabrics		2	12
TOTAL		354	5949

Forms

The majority of the sherds are wheel made reduced sandy wares, largely products of the local Alice Holt/Farnham industry (Lyne & Jefferies 1979). Most of the vessels comprise jars, dishes and bowls. The jars include early second-century forms such as class 1 cordoned jars, as well as later forms such as class 3A flat rimmed jars, class 3B everted rimmed jars and class 4 bead rimmed jars. Dishes are broadly similar to

classes 6, 6A and 6B, although none of the rims were definable as a specific type. Bowls however, mostly consisted of post mid second-century forms, including class 5A flat and triangular-rimmed bowls, and class 5B beaded and flanged bowls. A single rim sherd of a class 5D deep decorated bowl was also recovered. Single rim sherds of a flagon, a platter and a beaker, all in black surfaced reduced wares were noted and are probably of local origin. There are also several jars and a lid in sandy grey wares. A body sherd of South Spanish amphora was probably from a Dressel 20 olive oil vessel. Of the fine wares only the samian showed any identifiable vessel forms. There were three cups (Dragendorff forms 27, 33a and 35), two platters (Dragendorff form 18), a bowl (Dragendorff form 31) in Central Gaulish samian and a platter (Dragendorff form 31/31r) in East Gaulish samian.

Discussion

This was a wide ranging group of wares for a relatively small assemblage, including regional and continental imports, and fine table wares suggestive of a site with some status and fairly good communications. The typological range suggests a fairly long-lived occupation, with activity beginning in the late first or early second centuries AD. The main period of occupation spanned the mid to late second and third centuries AD, but activity does not appear to go into the fourth century.

This group of material is broadly comparable with pottery recovered from excavations at Charterhouse school, Godalming, which includes a small cremation cemetery (Holmes 1949) and Roman settlement (Harrison 1961; Hall 1999). The pottery from these excavations appears to comprise mainly Alice Holt products (Timby 1999), but unlike the assemblage under discussion it included few if any fine wares. Much of the Ewell material can also be paralleled with that from the Roman temple at Wanborough (O'Connell & Bird 1994), although that site has a wider range of fabrics and forms. Other recently published sites from Surrey have produced little stratified evidence for a similar complement of wares (Timby 1999).

Catalogue of Illustrations

2. Fabric F50 (British Colour Coat), barbotine decoration. Mid Roman (677)
3. Fabric Q30 (H), type white slipped poppy-head beaker. Mid Roman (664)
4. Fabric Q30 (H), type beaker with barbotine decoration. Mid Roman (666)
5. Fabric R39 (ALH RE), type flanged dish. Mid Roman (677)
6. Fabric R39 (ALH RE), type jar. Mid Roman (637)
7. Fabric R39 (ALHRE), type flagon. Mid Roman (620)
8. Fabric R39 (ALHRE), type lid. Mid Roman (631)
9. Fabric R39 (ALHRE), type bead-rimmed jar. Mid Roman (620)
10. Fabric F50 (British Colour Coat), type dish. Mid Roman (677)

THE UNSTRATIFIED ROMAN COIN by Paul Booth

732, SF600. AE3 (16.5-17 mm). AD 330-335.
Obverse, FLIVLCONSTANTIVSNOBC, Constantius II
Reverse, GLORIA EXERCITVS, 2 standards
Mint, SLG (Lyons)
Reference, as LRBC1, 183

THE ANIMAL BONE by Emma-Jayne Evans

Introduction

A total of 1004 (12.27 kg) fragments of bone and teeth were recovered, of which many broken fragments were re-fitted, reducing the total number to 382. In addition, 85 fragments were recovered through sieving.

Methodology

Identification of the bone was undertaken at Oxford Archaeology with access to a reference collection and published guides. All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element, side and zone (Serjeantson 1996). Fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were also noted. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified, or were from an identifiable articulated skeleton. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as small (small mammal size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size). The separation of sheep and goat bones was undertaken using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Prummel & Frisch (1986); in addition to the use of the reference material housed at OA. Where distinctions could not be made, the bone was recorded as sheep/goat (s/g). The condition of the bone was graded from 0 (best preserved) to 5 (bone surface unrecognisable) using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996). The total number of fragments of bone and teeth identifiable to each species was quantified. In addition the minimum number of individuals (MNI) was calculated using the zoning method (Serjeantson 1996). The elements used for working out MNI do not include ribs, vertebra, loose teeth, tarsals and carpals. One of the problems in using the zoning method to work out minimum number is that it relies on the bones having been sided. Unsided bones cannot be used as the MNI is reliant on counting duplicate body parts. If bones cannot be sided it is difficult to say whether they could be from the same animal or not, as the presence of one left and one right femur could be from one animal, whereas two left femurs must come from two animals. Tooth eruption and wear stages were measured using a combination of Halstead (1985) and Grant (1982), and fusion data was analysed according to Silver (1969). Measurements of adult bones were taken according to the methods of von den Driesch (1976), with asterisked (*) measurements indicating bones that were reconstructed or had slight abrasion of the surface. Withers heights were calculated using Fock (1966), Kieserwalter (Boessneck & von den Driesch 1974), and Matolcsi (1970).

Results

The animal bone has survived in good condition, with the majority of the bone scoring 1 or 2 according to Lyman's grading (see Table 4).

TABLE 4. Condition of the animal remains

Date	Condition				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Mid roman	9.5%	69.5%	16.8%	4.2%	100.0%
Roman	19.5%	47.4%	33.1%	-	100.0%
Post medieval	92.2%	5.8%	2.0%	-	100.0%
Unphased	15.4%	76.9%	7.7%	-	100.0%
Total	49.3%	34.5%	15.4%	0.9%	100.0%

Although the bone survived in good condition, the assemblage was very fragmented. Of the 467 fragments of bone and teeth, only 287 (61.4 %) could be identified to species. A list of all the species identified is shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5. Total number of bones and teeth identified to species and date

	Pig	Cattle	S/g	Horse	Dog	Chicken	Bird	Unid	Total
Mid roman	3	18	18	2	1	-	-	53	95
Roman	2	29	17	-	1	-	1	104	154
Post medieval	175*	3	4	8**	-	1	-	14	205
Unphased		2	2	-	-	-	-	9	13
Total	180	52	41	10	2	1	1	180	467

*174 fragments from a single pig burial

**7 fragments from single horse burial

The good condition in which the bones have survived has allowed for butchery, gnawing marks and pathologies to be noted. These were present on many of the bones from both Roman and Post-Medieval contexts.

Roman Period

The majority of the animal remains from this site date to the Roman period, with almost all the bone deposited in pits. Table 6 gives the total fragment count for all species present from the Roman period, with the minimum number of individuals shown in Table 7.

TABLE 6 Quantity and distribution of animal bones from the Roman period

	Cattle	S/g	Pig	Horse	Dog	Bird	Unid	Total
Ditch	3	5	2	-	-	-	7	17
Pit	44	30	3	2	2	1	149	231
Post hole	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total	47	35	5	2	2	1	157	249

TABLE 7 Minimum number of individuals

	Cattle	S/g	Pig	Horse	Dog	Bird
MNI	3	4	2	1	1	1

As the minimum number of individuals represents the absolute minimum number of each species present, it may not be a true reflection of the proportions of the animal species present, particularly in such a small assemblage of animal bone. Cattle may

have been the most common animal consumed on the site, however, there were several unsided cattle bones and they may therefore be slightly over represented. From the total fragment count and MNI calculations it may therefore be fair to say that cattle and sheep/goat were present in roughly equal numbers, with possibly slightly more cattle, pig, present in lower numbers, and horse, dog and bird present in small quantities.

The age at death from tooth eruption and wear stages for cattle could be ascertained for five mandibles, as shown in Table 8.

TABLE 8 Age at death using tooth eruption and wear stages for cattle

	8 - 18 months	30 - 36 months	Adult	Senile
Number	1	1	2	1

Age at death using fusion data suggests the majority of the bones came from cattle surviving to adulthood, with only two unfused distal femurs giving an age at death of less than 3.5 - 4 years. Pathologies were only noted on two cattle mandibles. One mandible had abnormal wear of the 3rd molar with the third cusp worn down to the root socket, resulting in the receding of the alveolar bone surrounding the part of the tooth affected. Another mandible had calculus around the teeth. A type 1 non-pathological lesion was also noted on a 1st phalanx (Baker & Brothwell 1980).

Measurements were taken on many cattle bones and withers heights could be estimated for three elements, as shown in Table 9.

TABLE 9 Withers heights of cattle

Element	Greatest length	Withers height
Metacarpal	188.5mm	1.15m
Tibia	348.5mm	1.20m
Metatarsal	201.5mm	1.10m

Age at death from tooth eruption and wear stages for sheep/goat was established for 6 mandibles, as shown in Table 10.

TABLE 10 Tooth eruption and wear stages of sheep/goat

	3 - 10 months	10 - 20 months	3 - 5 years	5 - 8 years
Number	1	2	1	2

Fusion data suggests that only three bones were from juveniles and that the majority of animals survived into adulthood. An unfused metatarsal, one unfused tibia, and another tibia just beginning to fuse suggests that these animals died before reaching 1.5 - 2 years of age. Cut marks were noted on several bones, including cuts that suggest the filleting of at least one animal (Binford 1981). Also, several long bones had been chopped through the shaft, probably for marrow utilisation. No pathologies were noted on any of the bones and although a number of measurements were taken, no complete long bones that would allow for withers heights estimations were present. Only five pig bones were present from the Roman period, giving a minimum number of two. Ageing of the teeth was only possible by analysing eruption stages of the maxillary teeth of two left maxillae, suggesting ages of 7 - 13 months and 16 - 22

months. Fusion data based on one unfused proximal ulna suggests an age at death for one animal of less than 3 - 3.5 years. One mandible was chopped and a type 3 non-pathological lesion was noted on one ulna (Baker & Brothwell 1980). Only two horse bones were identified, an articulating radius and an ulna. The radius was fully fused, suggesting an age at death of over 3.5 years. Cut marks were noted on the distal aspect of the radius. Both bones were measurable, with the radius giving a withers height of 1.33m (13.1 hands). Two dog bones were identified, one of these (a lumbar vertebra) was unfused, suggesting an age at death of 1.5 - 2 years. An unidentifiable bird ulna was also recovered.

Post Medieval Period

Although the Post-Medieval period yielded almost as many bones as the Roman period, the majority came from the burials of a pig and a horse (Table 11).

TABLE 11. Distribution of Post-Medieval Animal Bone

	Pig	Horse	Cattle	S/g	Chicken	Unid	Total
Demolition layer 721	174*	1		1		1	177
Gully/ditch			1				1
Pit	1	7**			1	4	13
Garden feature			2	3		9	14
Total	175	8	3	4	1	14	205

*single pig burial

**fragments from a single horse burial

The pig burial found in demolition layer 721 was aged using tooth eruption, wear stages and fusion data, giving an age at death of approximately 2 years. No butchery marks or gnawing were noted on any of the bones. Type 2 non-pathological lesions were observed on all the 1st and 2nd phalanges present (Baker & Brothwell 1980). The 7th lumbar vertebra had fused to the sacrum, and a slight twisting along the sagittal plane was seen on two caudal vertebra, with depressions in their articular surfaces. Several horse bones were excavated from pit 113. No butchery or gnawing marks were noted on any of the bones, but several of them were measurable. A withers height of 1.25m (12.3 hands) was estimated using the greatest length of a metacarpal. All the bones present were fused, suggesting an age at death of over 1.5 years. The remaining disarticulated bones that could be identified to species were from cattle, sheep/goat, pig and chicken. Cut marks were only noted on one cattle bone, with no gnawing marks or pathologies evident. One sheep/goat metacarpal appeared to have been from a neonatal/infant, and the pig mandible was aged less than 6 - 12 months.

Discussion

From the small assemblage of bones dating to the Roman period, it may be concluded that all domestic species were represented, with cattle and sheep/goat possibly present in roughly equal numbers, and pig, horse and dog present in fewer numbers. The presence of mainly adult bones may be a true reflection of the ages of animals consumed on site, however this may equally reflect the better preservation of adult bones relative to juvenile bones. The measurable cattle bones from this site suggest that the cattle may fall into the size category expected for the Roman period, however it must be remembered that this is based on a very small number of bones. Horse and dog are commonly found on Roman sites, but often in low numbers (Ayres & Clark 2000). The withers height calculated on the one measurable horse bone from the

Roman period gave a height of 13.1 hands, which falls within the height range often found in the Roman period, but it cannot be assumed that this height is representative of the horse population. The presence of dog would account for the carnivore gnawing noted on several bones.

The pig and horse burials from the Post-Medieval period are likely to have resulted from natural deaths. The withers height of the horse (12.3 hands) suggests that the burial was that of a pony. Of the remaining pig, cattle, sheep/goat and chicken bones, no conclusions can be made as to the relative importance of each species, but it is likely that they represent household butchery waste.

THE CHARRED PLANT REMAINS by Dana Challinor

Introduction and Methodology

Three samples were taken from Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ditch 685, and Romano-British pits 621 and 678 for the recovery of charred plant remains. They were processed by flotation in a modified Siraf-type machine, with sample sizes of 40 litres. The quantities of charred remains were moderate and limited analysis was carried out.

The flots were sorted to extract identifiable charred material. Random fragments (up to 20) of wood charcoal were fractured and examined anatomically. Identifications of seeds were made under a binocular microscope at x10 to x20 magnification and were based upon morphological characteristics. Cereal grains were counted on the basis of embryo ends. The plant parts recorded in Table 12 are seeds unless otherwise stated. Classification and nomenclature for the weed seeds follow Stace (1997).

Results

Wood charcoal was well preserved and all three flots produced assemblages dominated by *Quercus* sp. (oak), with lesser quantities of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) and Maloideae (hawthorn etc.). While a fuller examination of the charcoal would probably have increased the species list, it was not thought worthwhile.

The results of the charred plant analysis are given in Table 12. The preservation was generally poor and in many cases it was not possible to make identifications to species level. The late Neolithic/early Bronze Age sample (context 684) was dominated by cereal grains; both *Triticum* (wheat) and *Hordeum* (barley). The grains identified as *Triticum* cf. *aestivum/durum* (bread/durum wheat) were short and round, but the absence of diagnostic chaff makes this identification tentative (see Hillman *et al.* 1996, 206). Indeed, short grained spelt/emmer has been recorded at other sites (e.g. Pelling 2000, 327) but usually with a quantity of glume bases. Moreover, it would be unusual to have a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age assemblage with this quantity of free-threshing wheat, which suggests that this sample may have been contaminated with intrusive material.

Discussion

The assemblages from Glyn House are likely to represent either the waste from cooking fires or crops spoiled during processing. The number of glume bases in the Roman samples roughly equates to the quantity of grain - there is little additional

chaff to indicate crop processing waste as such. Moreover the presence of other food remains such as hazelnuts and pulses supports the interpretation of waste from domestic cooking fires. The assemblages from the Roman pits are appropriate for the period but the Bronze Age sample may have intrusive material. There was too little material recovered from the site to warrant a more detailed discussion of the samples.

TABLE 12 Results of the charred plant analysis

	Context no.	684	677	620
	Sample no.	600	601	602
	Volume of earth (l)	40	40	40
Cereal grain				
<i>Triticum spelta</i>	Spelt wheat		3	
<i>Triticum spelta/dicoccum</i>	Spelt/Emmer wheat			11
<i>Triticum cf. aestivum/durum</i>	cf.Bread/durum wheat	30		
<i>Triticum sp.</i>	Wheat	11	12	6
<i>Avena sp.</i>	Oat	3	2	
<i>Hordeum sp.</i>	Barley, hulled	6	3	
<i>Hordeum sp.</i>	Barley	19	5	9
Cerealia indet.	Indeterminate grain	16	8	12
Cereal chaff				
<i>Triticum spelta</i>	Spelt wheat glume base		22	18
<i>Triticum spelta/dicoccum</i>	Spelt/emmer wheat glume base		28	16
<i>Triticum sp.</i>	Wheat spikelet base	2		
<i>Triticum sp.</i>	Wheat rachis			1
<i>Avena sp.</i>	Oat, awn		3	
Cerealia indet	detached embryos	3		
Cerealia indet	coleoptile		1	
Weeds				
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazelnut shell	9	9	4
<i>Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia</i>	Redshank/ Pale persicaria		1	
<i>Rumex sp.</i>	Dock		5	5
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	Vetches/Peas	9	4	
cf. <i>Trifolium sp.</i>	Clover		4	
Leguminosae	Small legumes	1		
cf. <i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	1		
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Stinking Chamomile		3	1
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed		1	3
<i>Bromus cf. secalinus</i>	Rye Brome		5	10
Poaceae	Grass, small seeded	1	6	3
Indet.	tuber	1		
Indet.	Indeterminate weeds	5	2	
TOTAL REMAINS		117	127	99

Discussion

MESOLITHIC ACTIVITY

Small quantities of Mesolithic flint work were recovered from the site, much of which was in fresh condition suggesting that its original context of deposition had been close to where it was found. The distribution of the flint was localised; all of it, with the exception of the pieces from Roman pit 621 came from the south-eastern corner of the

site. One of these pieces (a broad blade microlith; Figure 11.8) indicates that there was early Mesolithic activity in the area. The remaining flint suggests that the area was possibly used as a temporary camp for a late Mesolithic hunting group, perhaps taking advantage of the proximity to a source of fresh water and the relative abundance of fauna on the Thanet gravels. Indeed the Thanet gravels are particularly well endowed with Mesolithic sites, especially around the area of Ewell (Ellaby 1987, 57). Mesolithic settlement in Surrey appears to be based primarily on the free draining sands and gravels (*ibid.* 55) and it may be that the Mesolithic material at Glyn House relates to more substantial occupation in the vicinity of Ewell.

NEOLITHIC ACTIVITY

A single Levallois core of mid/late Neolithic date from the fill of ring-ditch 690 and a single rim sherd of Ebbsfleet ware from the fill of ditch 320, attests to Neolithic activity occurring in a similar area to the Mesolithic activity.

LATE NEOLITHIC/EARLY BRONZE AGE ACTIVITY

The distribution of features suggests a focus of activity in the same area as the Mesolithic and Neolithic activity. Activity is represented by two ring-ditches (690/688 and 676/685) and a tree-throw hole (701). Ring-ditch 676/685 was approximately 14.5 m in diameter and ring-ditch 690/688 was probably about nine or 10 metres in diameter. The two ring-ditches and the tree-throw hole cannot have been contemporary, as ring-ditch 690/688 lay within ring-ditch 676/685 and tree-throw hole 701 lay between them. However, they all contained material of a broadly late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date and the sequence is best interpreted as representing two phases of ring-ditch, with the tree-throw hole either pre-dating or post-dating the ring-ditches. It is possible that these ring-ditches represent the eaves-drip gullies of roofed buildings, however, there are no coherent patterns of internal post-holes and the diameter of the ring-ditches was rather too large for such buildings. Additionally the date of these features, suggested by the worked flint from their fills, is too early for buildings of this type. If the interpretation of these ring-ditches as the remains of buildings is to be rejected, then it may be suggested that they represent the badly truncated remains of a double-ditched or multi-phased round-barrow. The find of a barbed and tanged arrow head from the fill of ring-ditch 676/685, may be seen to back this interpretation up. However, the scale of the features also works against this interpretation, as whilst they are too large for eaves-drip gullies, they are too small for round barrow ditches, with an average width of only 0.5 m. Ultimately it may be that neither interpretation fits and these features may simply represent enclosures, or parts of enclosures. If ring-ditches 676/685 and 690/688 do represent the remains of round barrows then their situation is not unusual. Round barrows in Surrey tend to be dispersed rather than grouped in cemeteries (Needham 1987, 106) and the Thanet sands would have been ideal for agriculture and therefore settlement.

ROMAN ACTIVITY

Settlement Structure

The distribution of features suggests that settlement was organised in relation to the line of a road running north-east/south-west to the south-east of the site; this may have

been Stane Street itself. A band of deep intercutting pits ran across the site from south-west to north-east, lying close to the south-eastern boundary of the site and apparently defining a settlement area to their north-west. The main focus of activity, to the north-west of the band of pits, contained more pits, a linear gully and the remains of at least one post-built structure. The gully (1003) was cut by one of the postholes belonging to structure 1002 and clearly predated the building, however, all the other Roman features were broadly contemporary. The eight postholes that made up structure 1002 probably represented the remains of an aisled building and the single line of five postholes to the south of this, may have been all that survived of a similar structure. Alternatively they may have formed part of a simple fence line dividing plots of land. Three sub-rectangular pits to the south of structure 1002 were particularly deep (over 1.2 m) and may represent the remains of wells.

Settlement Character and Chronology

The structural and artefactual evidence suggest that these remains represent part of a roadside settlement, with fairly modest buildings fronting onto a yard or open space which was defined by a dense band of rubbish pits, themselves probably fronting onto a road. The yard contained a number of pits and possible wells. The pottery assemblage confirms the sites' status as a road-side settlement, providing evidence of regional and continental contacts in the form of imports. Amongst these imports were Verulamium white wares, Oxfordshire white ware mortaria, Continental and British colour-coated wares, samian and Dressel 20 olive oil amphora. Additionally there was a large quantity of Alice Holt/Farnham grey ware. On a rural site such an assemblage might be seen as a sign of status, however in this context it is more likely to reflect the proximity of the site to a major communications route. The pottery assemblage suggests that occupation in this phase was fairly long-lived, starting in the late first century and continuing through to the end of the third century. However, a coin of Constantius II hints that activity may have continued for a little longer, possibly into the early fourth century. The animal bone assemblage shows that all the major domestic species were present on site, possibly with a slight preponderance of cattle and sheep/goat, however this pattern may reflect a taphonomic difference between these species and others. Evidence from environmental samples supports the interpretation of a domestic site, with quantities of wood charcoal, glume bases, hazelnuts and pulses representing waste from domestic fires and a lack of chaff suggesting that little crop processing was going on.

Settlement Context

Clearly the Roman occupation at Glyn House was part of the roadside settlement of Ewell, which has been well documented elsewhere (Bird 1987, 169-71; Pemberton 1973). The status of Ewell has been a matter of debate, with Pemberton (1973) maintaining that Ewell was a *mutatio* or posting station on the basis of several stretches of apparently defensive ditch and Bird (1987, 171) arguing that the *mutatio* is more likely to have been in the Merton area. The evidence from Glyn House does not contribute greatly to this debate, however, it may be seen to add fuel to Bird's argument, given the lack of evidence for military activity and the overall impression of a domestic roadside settlement.

POST-MEDIEVAL ACTIVITY

The post-medieval features, which comprised the foundations of a domestic structure, a large cut which may have been the remains of an infilled cellar, and a number of rectangular garden features indicate that the site was occupied by a high status domestic structure during this period. It is likely that these features are the remains of the rectory. Features observed to the south of these during the watching brief on Area B, including several layers and a soakaway, indicate domestic occupation in this area from the 17th - 20th centuries.

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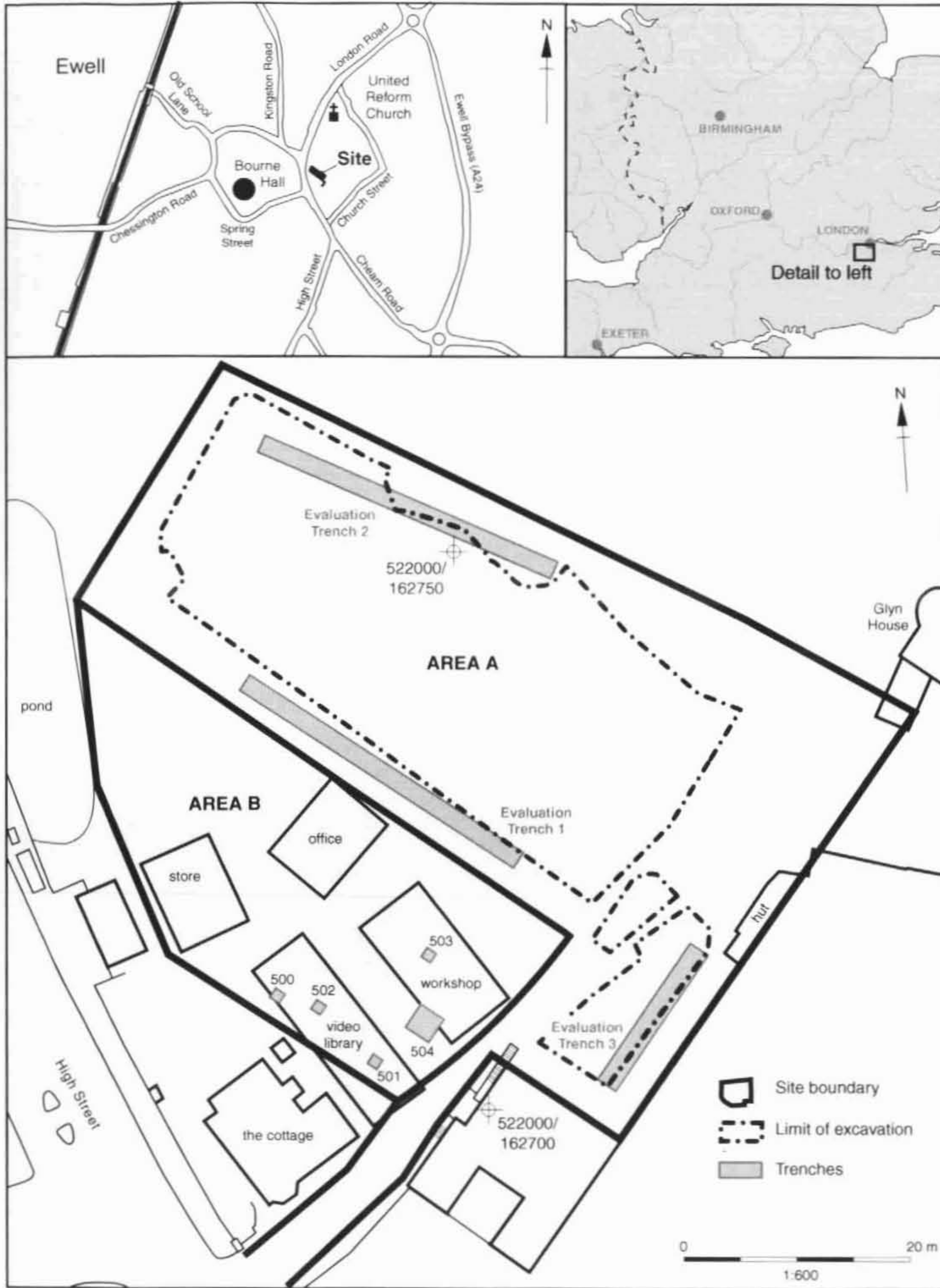
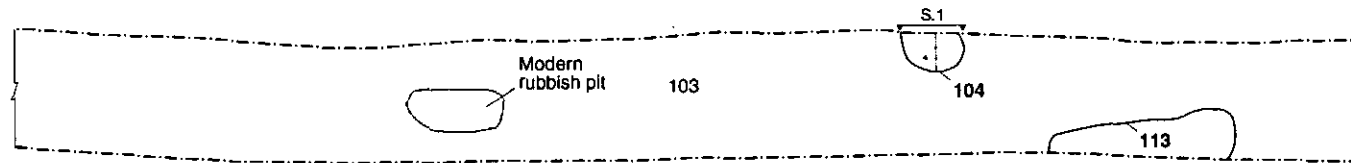
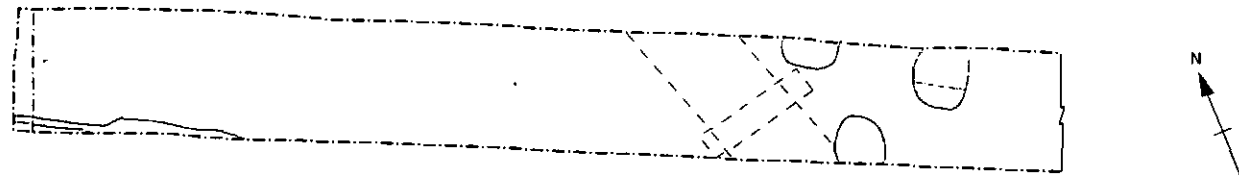


Figure 1: Site location

Evaluation Trench 1



Evaluation Trench 3

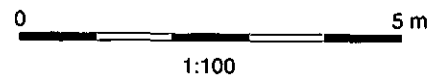
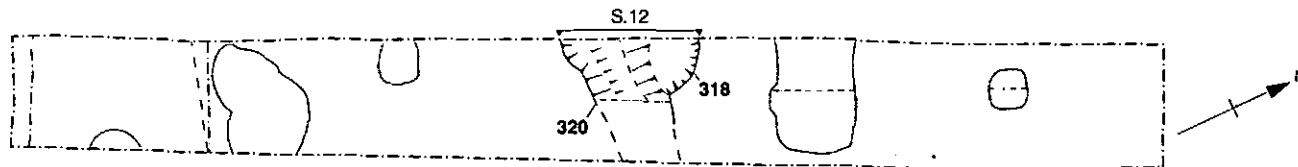
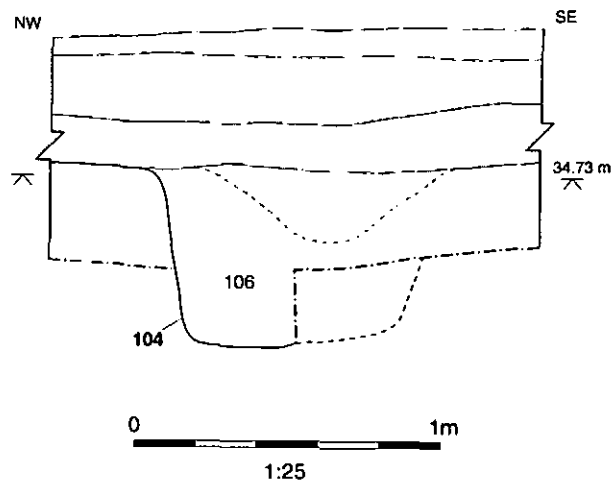


Figure 2

Trench 1: section 1



Trench 3: section 12

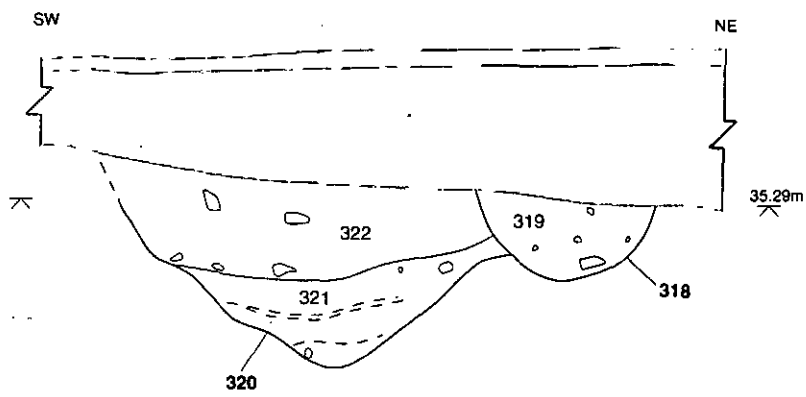


Figure 3

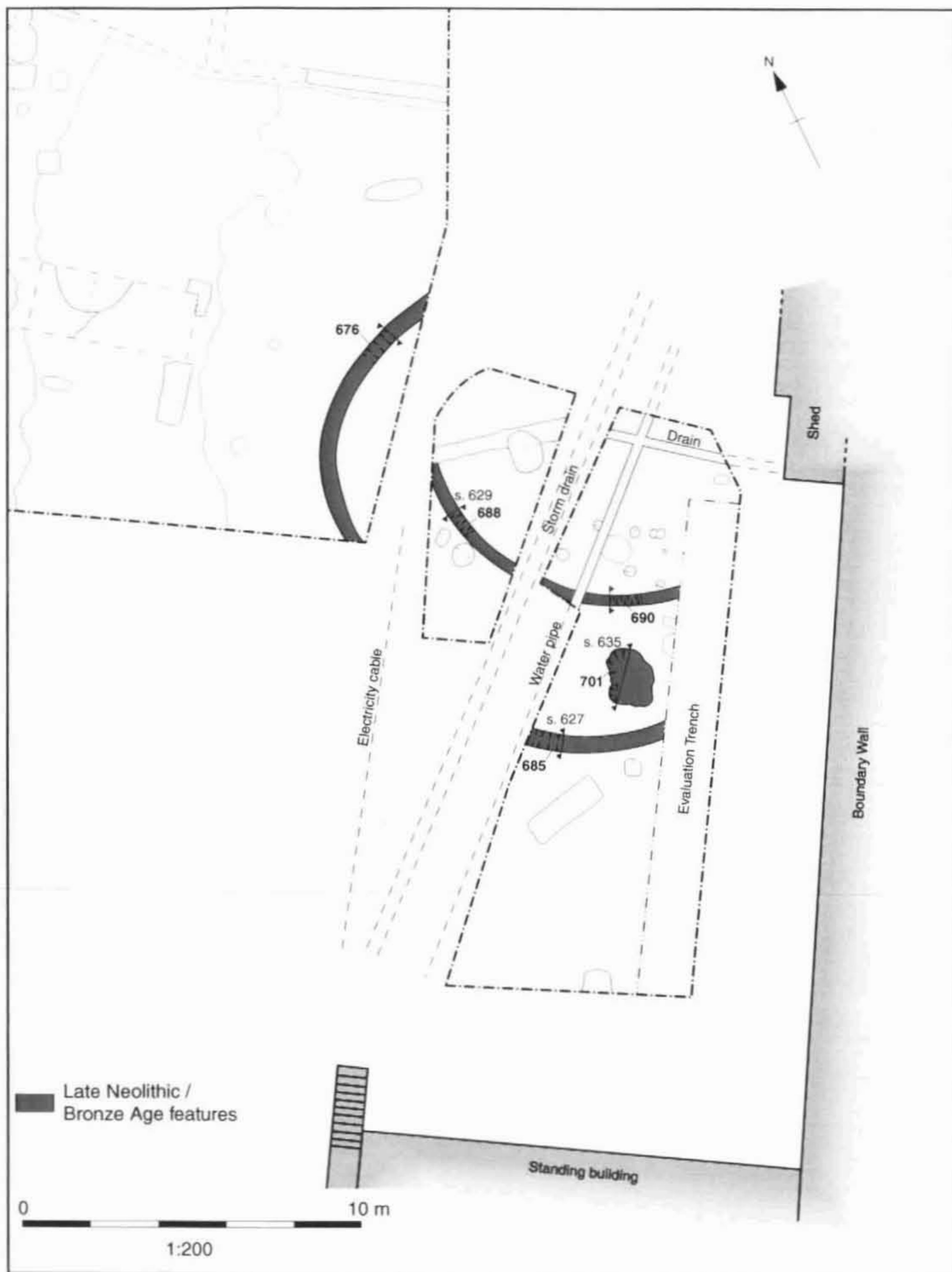


Figure 4: Late Neolithic / Bronze Age Activity

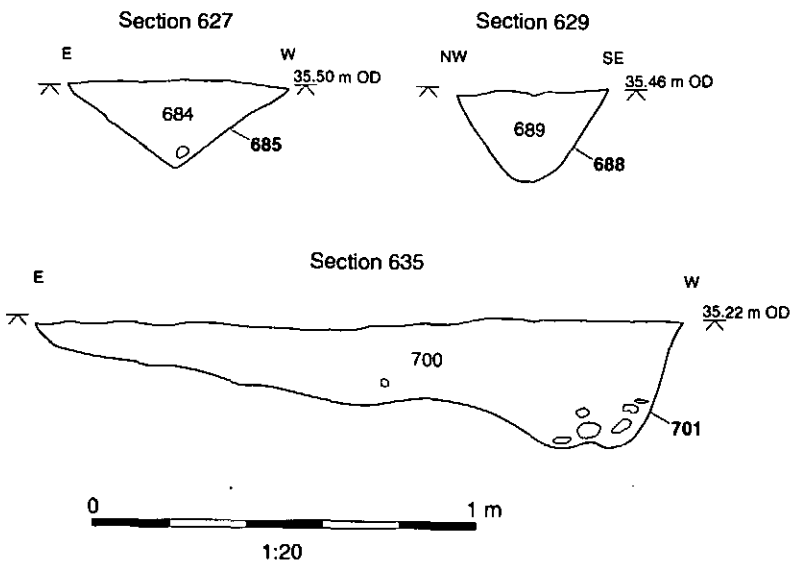


Figure 5: Late Neolithic / Bronze Age Sections

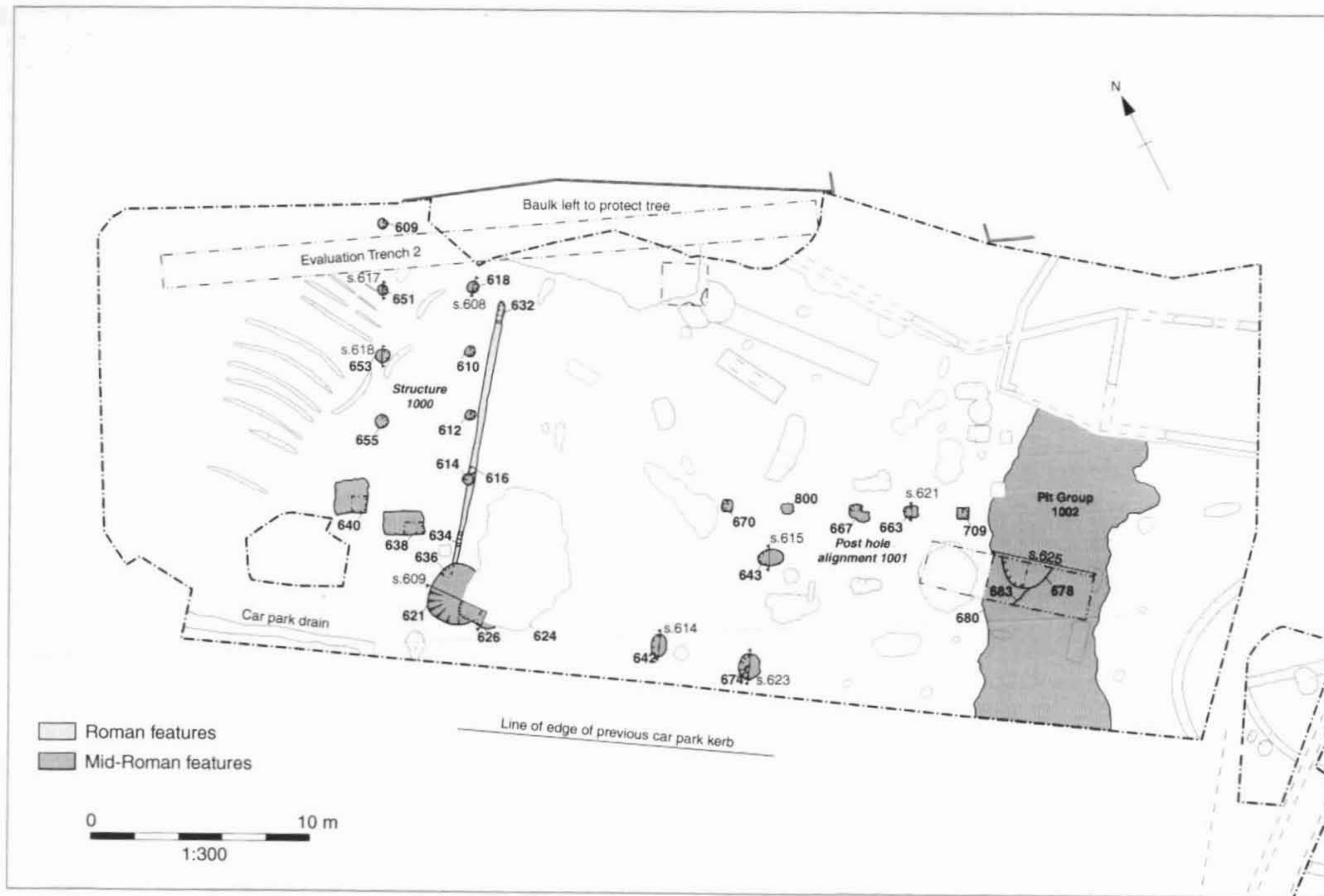


Figure 6: Roman Activity

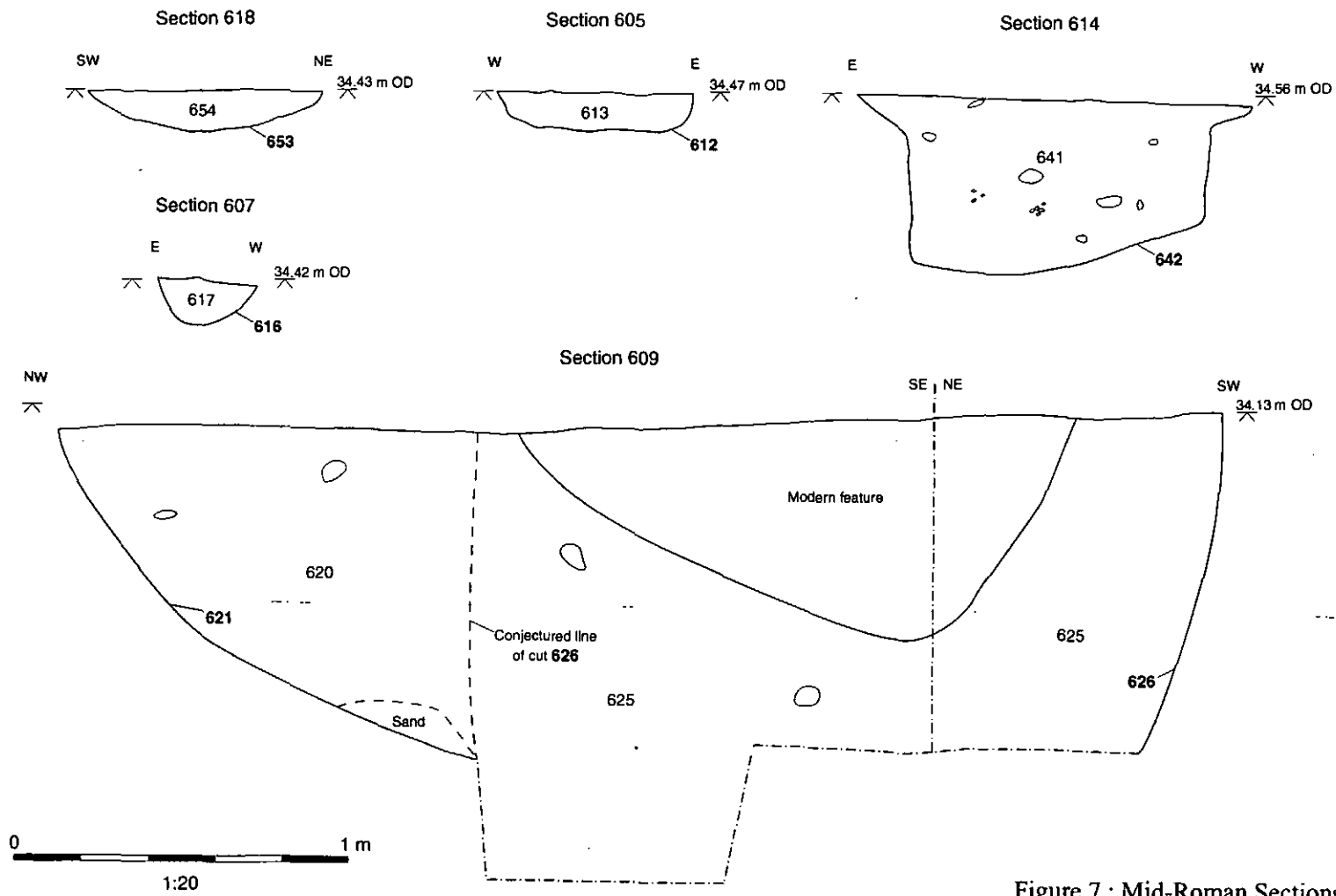


Figure 7 : Mid-Roman Sections

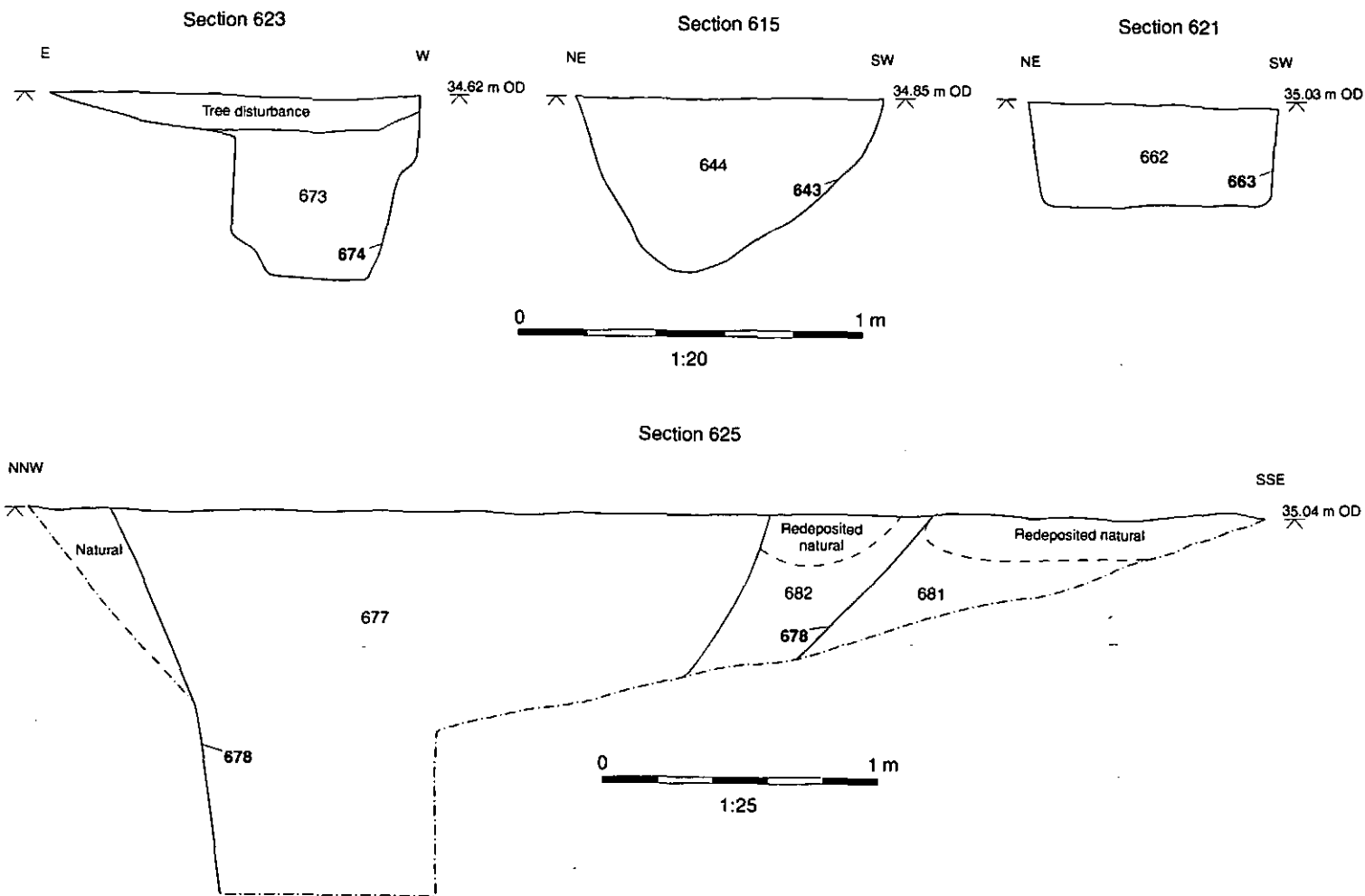


Figure 8: Mid-Roman Sections

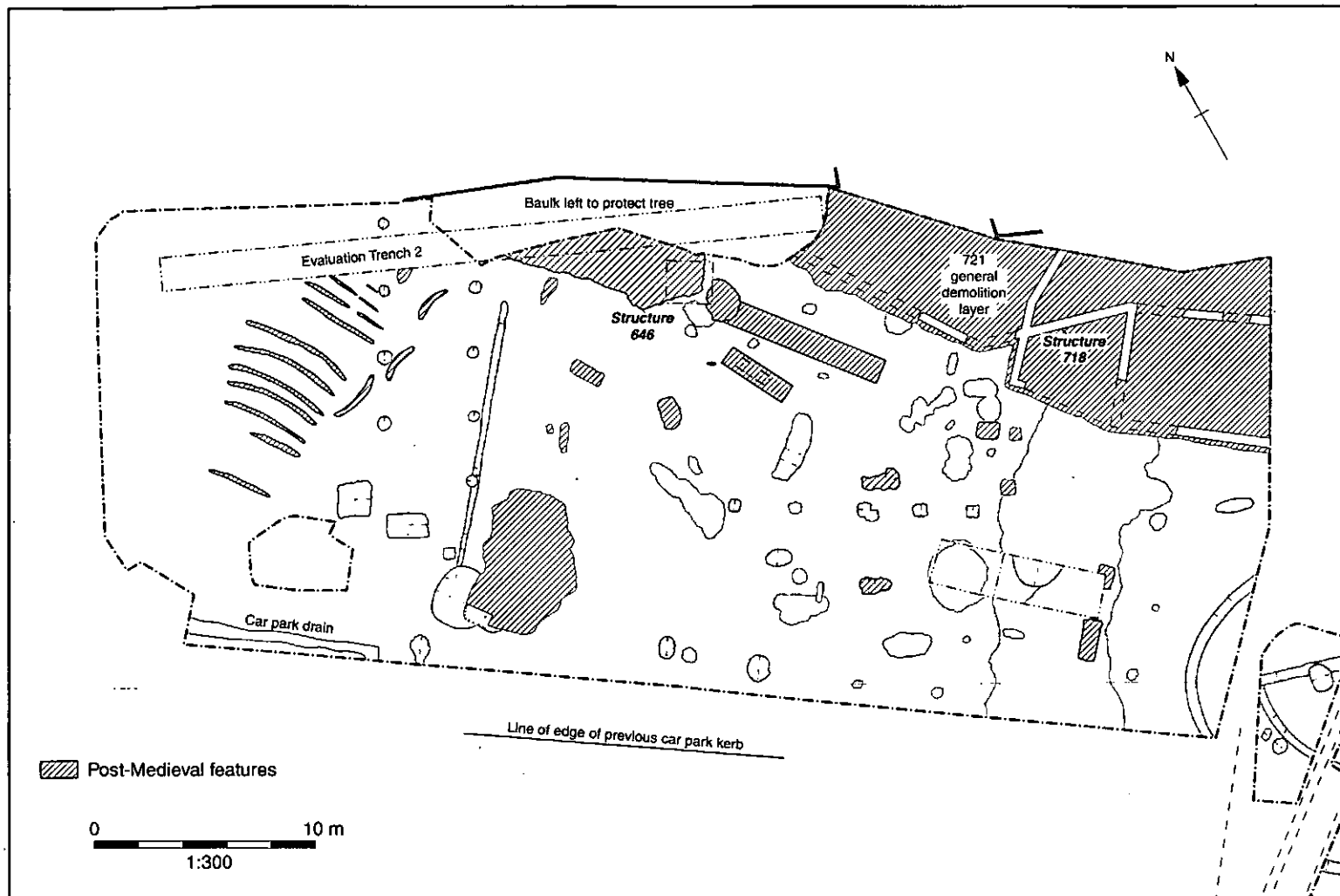


Figure 9: Post-Medieval Activity

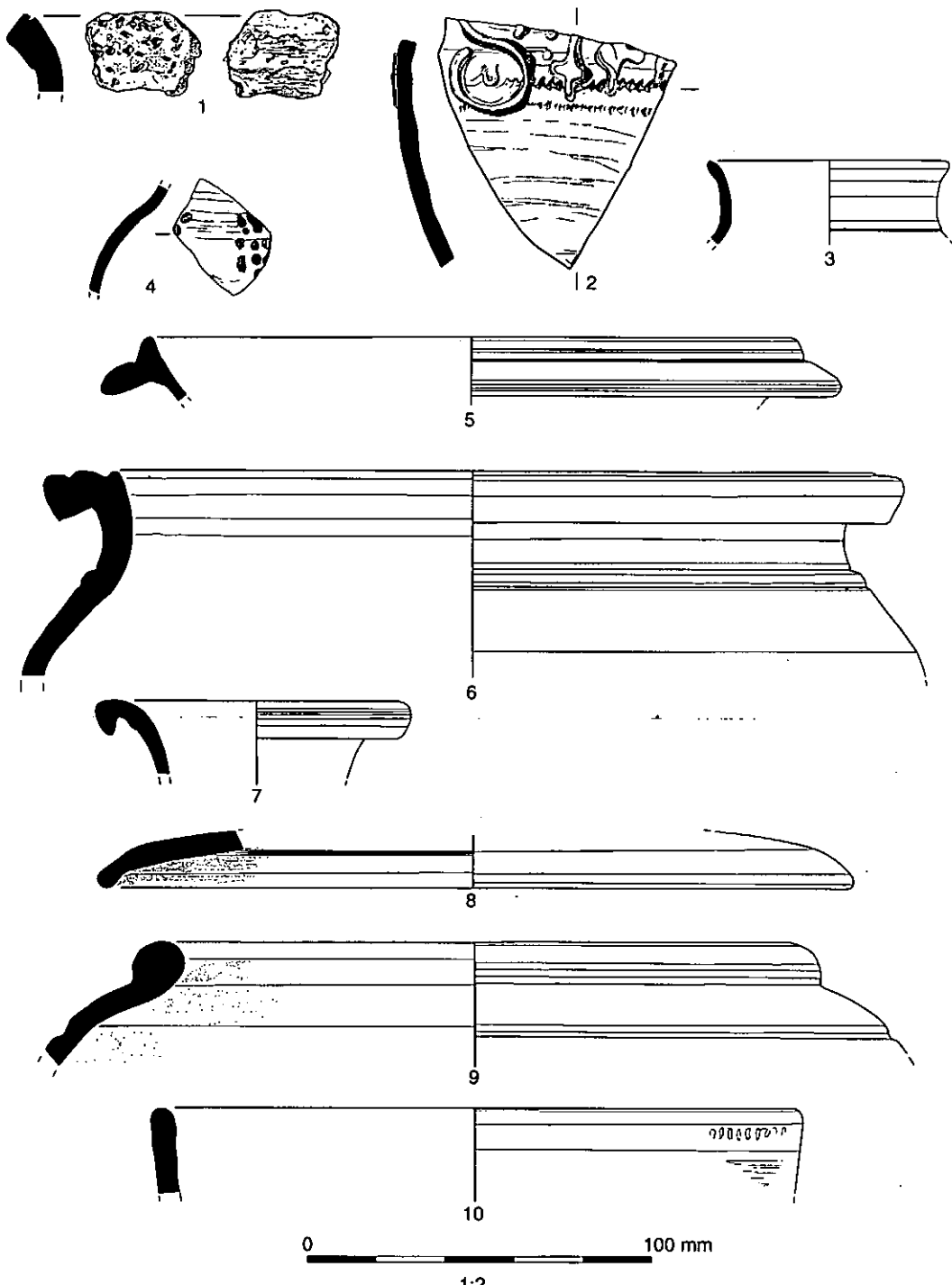


Figure 10: Pottery

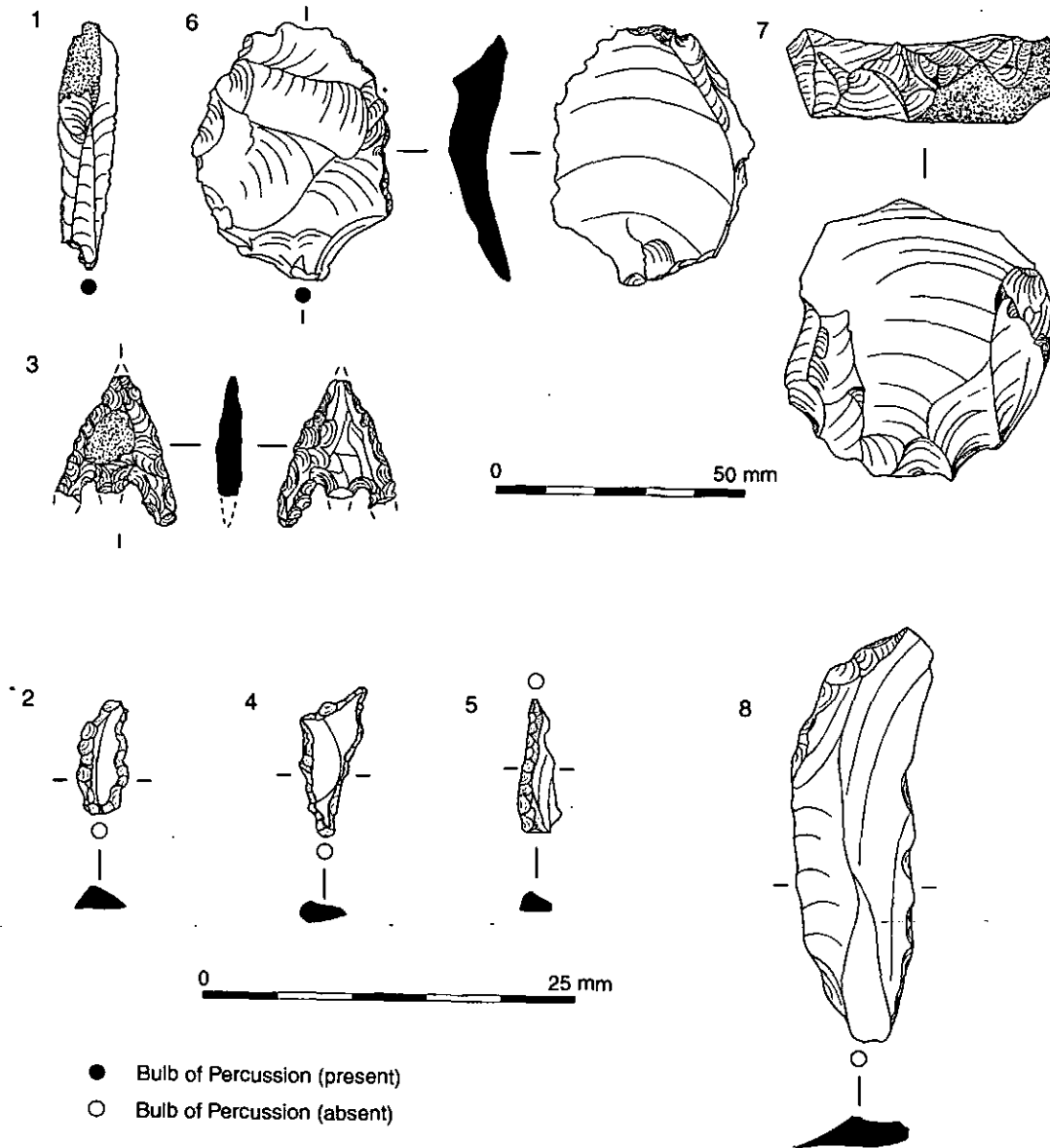


Figure 11: Worked Flint



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