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EVENT: 2315
SOURCE: 1763

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Tilly's Lane, Staines, Surrey

Interim Assessment Report: Archaeological Investigations

SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Wessex Archaeology



Report ref. 45931.01

September 2000

TILLY'S LANE, STAINES, SURREY
INTERIM ASSESSMENT REPORT
Excavations at Tilly's Lane East and West

Prepared on behalf of
MEPC UK Ltd

Through
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Report No. 45931.01
September 2000

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Summary

Two phases of archaeological excavations were undertaken within the Tilly's Lane development area on the north side of Staines High Street. A single trench was excavated at Tilly's Lane East between April and June 1999, with two trenches at Tilly's Lane West – British Gas and High Street sites – between February and May 2000. All the trenches lay on the gravel island, though Tilly's Lane East and the British Gas site lay within early flood zones.

Limited evidence of Bronze Age activity was observed in the western trenches, including flood defence measures and probable agricultural activity.

The major phase of activity was in the early Romano-British period, where domestic – including an *in situ* tessellated floor surface and associated wall lines indicative of a substantial structure – and small-scale industrial activity was concentrated in the area of the central, 'dry' High Street site. Activity of a more marginal character was occurring to the west, with the disposal of domestic debris and burial of neonatal infants. Flooding was clearly still a problem at this time, with broad ditches forming flood defences and evidence for at least one major alluvial incursion.

The late Romano-British period saw a shift in occupation to either end of the island, presumably concentrated around the crossing points to the east and west. Most of the evidence from this phase is suggestive of agricultural activity, possibly of high value crops on the west side.

Medieval activity of 11-14th century date was concentrated in the east, where ditches on the same alignment as the north-south burgage ditches and backland boundary plots observed in the previous excavations at CTE Staines, suggest a similar land use. Evidence from the west end of the island was for disposal of domestic refuse, whilst there was negligible evidence from the High Street site, again suggesting a shifting emphasis in land use.

Acknowledgements

The archaeological investigations were commissioned by MEPC UK Ltd. through their agents CgMs Consulting. Thanks are due to Hugo Buchannan, Senior Project Manager MEPC UK Ltd. and to Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting for their assistance. The fieldwork was monitored on behalf of Surrey County Council by Dinah Saich and Gary Jackson, Surrey County Council Archaeological Officers.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Jonathan Nowell. The fieldwork was directed by Jacqueline I. McKinley, with the assistance at Tilly's Lane West of supervisor Robert Davis. The report was compiled by Jacqueline I. McKinley. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram and the environmental remains by Michael J. Allen. The illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller.

TILLY'S LANE, STAINES, SURREY

INTERIM ASSESSMENT REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by MEPC UK Ltd., through their archaeological consultants CgMs Consulting Ltd. (CgMs), to undertake a programme of archaeological excavations in advance of redevelopment to the east and west of Tilly's Lane, Staines, Surrey, centred on Ordnance Survey (OS) Grid Reference TQ 035 716 (Fig.1).

1.1.2 The requirement for this mitigation work arose as a result of two evaluations undertaken by WA in May 1997 (WA 1997) and December 1998 (WA 1999a), and a borehole survey undertaken across the proposed development area in September 1999 (WA 1999b). A desk-top assessment of previous archaeological excavation work in and around Staines Town Centre (SCAU 1996) and archaeological investigations on the site of the former Central Trading Estate (WA 1996a and b, 1997, 1998, 1999c) - with which the current development partly overlaps - had also highlighted the high archaeological potential of the area.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological mitigation works was prepared by the archaeological consultant (Chadwick 1999a), presenting detailed proposals for the investigation of Tilly's Lane East and outline proposals for Tilly's Lane West. This was later supplemented by a WSI (Chadwick 1999b) presenting detailed proposals for Tilly's Lane West, points within which were subsequently amended in discussion with the Archaeological Section of the Surrey County Council Planning Department (letter dated 29.11.99 - ref. PRC/KB/1026).

1.1.4 On the basis of these two WSIs, WA submitted and had approved by the Surrey County Council Planning Department, Method Statements for the respective works (WA November 1999, February 2000).

1.2 Scope of Document

1.2.1 The aim of this report is to present a summary of the principal findings from both phases of the excavations, undertaken at Tilly's Lane East in the spring of 1999 and Tilly's Lane West between February and May 2000.

1.2.2 The assessment sets out the stratigraphic, finds and environmental results from the first phase of investigations at Tilly's Lane East. To date only a sample of the finds from Tilly's Lane West have been assessed and environmental processing is on-going, hence only a summary of the results from the second phase has been presented.

- 1.2.3 No attempt has been made at an assessment of potential for further analyses or setting out proposals for final publication. It is intended that the Tilly's Lane and Central Trading Estate (WA 1996a and b, 1997, 1998, 1999c) be published jointly and proposals for this will only be made once all the relevant data has been subject to full assessment.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 Information on the archaeological background has been obtained from a variety of sources which include; a desk-based assessment (Chadwick, 1997), previous archaeological investigations during the Central Trading Estate development (WA 1996a and b, 1997b, 1998, 1999c), and two phases of evaluation (WA 1997a, 1999a) and a borehole survey (WA 1999b) within the proposed Tilly's Lane development area.

2.2 Geo-Topography

- 2.2.1 Staines is located within the floodplain of the Middle Thames Valley (Fig.1). It lies on the north bank of the River Thames at its confluence with the tributary braided channels of the Rivers Colne and Wraysbury. Runnymede lies c. 1.5km to the north-west at the confluence of the Thames and Colne Brook. The drift geology of Staines comprises gravels corresponding to Shepperton Gravel, which in part have been modified by the presence of the Colne, resulting in an admixture of Shepperton and Colney Street Gravels.

- 2.2.2 The gravel surface is gently undulating, forming a series of 'islands' or 'eyots' intercut by braided river/water channels. The channels and those islands with less relief, are overlain by alluvial sequences which have been termed Staines Alluvial Deposits (SAD).

- 2.2.3 The surface relief of Staines is minimal; the town centre is focused on one of the gravel islands which at its highest point is approximately 2m above the surrounding land level. The island is believed to be roughly elliptical, approximately 300m north to south and 200m east to west, with the High Street aligned along it's central 'spine' (Fig. 2).

- 2.2.4 The desk top assessment (Chadwick 1997) divided the area of the Tilly's Lane Development into two distinct geo-topographical zones, to the north and south of Sweeps Ditch. To the north, the low-lying land is intercut with braided river channels and covered by floodplain alluvium, whilst to the south the Shepperton Gravels rise to form an 'island' believed to be centred on Staines High Street (Fig. 3).

2.3 Evaluations and Boreholes

- 2.3.1 The 1997 evaluation trench across Sweeps Ditch (WA 1997a) (Figs.3&4), towards the west-end of the proposed development area, demonstrated that the Ditch itself was post-medieval in origin, however it corresponded with the northern extent of the gravel island. The archaeological levels were confined to the gravel island on the south side of the ditch, where *in situ* Early

Romano-British and medieval deposits appeared to have survived relatively undisturbed below possible layers of ?medieval make-up.

2.3.2 The 1998 evaluation trench (WA 1999a), to the rear of No 46 High Street (Fig. 4), was located on the gravel island. Archaeological features included three, parallel east-west ditches of Early Romano-British date, sections of which had previously been observed during excavations at Norris Road to the east (WA 1999c). The features are believed to represent backland boundary ditches. There was some suggestion that post-medieval truncation may have removed evidence of Late Romano-British and medieval activity in these areas, and that the ground level may have been built up using 'imported' material.

2.3.3 The aim of the borehole survey, undertaken in September 1999 (WA 1999b), was to assess the depths and levels of archaeological and natural deposits (e.g. the island gravel) across the proposed development area. The results reaffirmed the pre-existing model for the levels and extent of the gravel island.

2.4 Archaeology

2.4.1 Type sites such as Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge and Church Lammas Fields to the north all indicate potential within the braided channels of the post-glacial river systems for Late Upper Palaeolithic/Mesolithic activity. Evidence from the later prehistoric period in the area comes from the substantial body of work undertaken on the gravel terraces around Heathrow, to the north and east of Staines. A rich prehistoric landscape, centred on the Neolithic Cursus at Stanwell, has been shown to exist. During the Neolithic period the landscape appears to have been largely ritual in function, with a gradual change during the Bronze Age when evidence is for settlement and agriculture.

2.4.2 Potential also exists for more specialised Bronze Age settlement similar to that found at Runnymede, where evidence for a trading post, with exotic trade items, was found at the confluence of the Colne Brook and Thames, a setting very similar to Staines. Episodes of Bronze Age activity within the vicinity are indicated by the recovery of redeposited worked flint and pottery of prehistoric date within the alluvial deposits recorded at most excavations within the High Street area and by a small number of securely dated Bronze Age and Iron Age features, including a truncated burnt mound deposit at the Prudential site (SCAU 1996, 2).

2.4.3 During the Iron Age the gravel terraces around Heathrow were extensively settled, however there is little evidence for such activity in the vicinity of Staines. This may reflect the rising river levels during the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age, making occupation/settlement of the river margins increasingly difficult.

2.4.4 To the south of Sweeps Ditch, the gravel island formed the focus of Roman settlement. This settlement is considered to have been of strategic and economic importance, being situated at the point where the London to

Silchester Road crosses the Thames. An extensive and varied range of deposits, features and structures of Romano-British date have been recorded at the majority of the High Street sites (SCAU 1996; WA 1998, 1999c). These appear to be principally of 2nd century date and concentrated on the High Street island, with riverside revetments, 'foreshore' features and other riparian activity further afield, from which the extent of the island has been extrapolated.

2.4.5 Saxon settlement on the island is less well attested, the available evidence suggesting that it was less extensive than during the Roman period, and that its focus had shifted further to the south. Within the vicinity of the High Street, sherds of pottery of Saxon date have been recovered across a relatively wide area, often in association with a system of banks and ditches, but with few other clearly associated deposits or features (SCAU 1996).

link it up?
near
church island
to the north-west?

2.4.6 There is widespread evidence of medieval and post-medieval occupation and utilisation of the town centre and riparian areas. Well-dated deposits, features and structures have been recorded at most of the sites investigated under the auspices of the SCAU, including a number of 'foreshores' and riverside revetments. Pit groups, horn core dumps and posthole concentrations at Site 16 (SCAU 1996, 3) have been interpreted as the probable residues of tanning and tentering, both trades traditionally carried out on the fringes of towns close to water supplies. Medieval burgage ditches and plots, some of the latter containing features suggestive of agricultural activity, were recorded in the excavations of Zone 1b of the Central Trading Estate investigations (WA 1997b).

2.4.7 In the post-medieval period occupation of Staines to the south of Sweeps Ditch continued. Activity/settlement, largely of an industrial nature, also appears to have extended further north with the development of water mills for milling flour and for calico printing, though these mills may be of medieval origin. In the late 19th century the production of linoleum dominated much of the area formerly occupied by the Central Trading Estate.

3 MITIGATION STRATEGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The desk-based assessment (Chadwick 1997) divided the Tilly's Lane site into two broad zones of archaeological potential; land to the north of Sweeps Ditch (Zone 2) and land to the south (Zone 1). Zone 2 was considered to carry a low archaeological potential due to its 'off-island' position in an area of deep post-glacial alluviation and no further investigations were proposed within this area. Zone 1, located on the island gravels and extending south to the High Street frontage, was considered of high potential requiring further archaeological investigation.

3.1.2 On the basis of previous findings within the vicinity (see above), Zone 1 was subdivided into Zones 1a and 1b; Zone 1a representing the street frontage area where complex multi-phase deposits were anticipated and Zone 1b the backland area where less intensive patterns of activity may be expected.

3.1.3 Land ownership and access considerations resulted in the WSI dividing the Tilly's Lane project into two elements, with Tilly's Lane East being undertaken before Tilly's Lane West.

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3.1.4 Rather than investigating individual pile-cap positions, which would be unlikely to yield archaeological information in a useful form, it was proposed to excavate open trenches of an area approximately equivalent to that of the combined pile-cap area which were to impact on each Zone.

3.1.5 The overall programme of mitigation works was divided into four separate stages.

3.2 Stage 1: Fieldwork

Figures 2&3

Tilly's Lane East

3.2.1 A rectangular trench of c. 22m x 10m, with an additional trench to the east if appropriate, was to be opened to the rear of the High Street frontage between Tilly's Lane to the west and Norris Road to the east, within Zone 1b.

Tilly's Lane West

3.2.2 Two areas of investigations were proposed within this element of the development, one in the backlands Zone 1b (the *British Gas* site) and the other in the High Street frontage area Zone 1a (*32-42 High Street*).

3.2.3 The British Gas site was to comprise a stepped rectangular trench c. 25m x 10m at the west end and to the rear of the High Street.

3.2.4 A series of three stepped, rectangular trenches was proposed across the High Street frontage. The western trench, c. 22m x 15m, was to be separate from the eastern trenches. The latter two, linked and extended to the north by the proposed contingency areas, were to extend c. 45m x 8m back from the High Street along the west side of Tilly's Lane.

3.3 Stage 2: MAP 2 Post-excavation Assessment

3.3.1 Production of a post-excavation assessment report on completion of the fieldwork.

3.4 Stage 3: Analysis/Final Report Production

3.4.1 Implementation of an agreed programme of post-excavation analysis and reporting in accordance with the approved MAP 2 assessment (English Heritage 1991), leading to full publication in an approved journal/format.

3.5 Stage 4: Archive

3.5.1 Production of a fully indexed and internally cross-referenced archive suitable for deposition at the nominated museum.

4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The programme of archaeological mitigation seeks to gather data to further certain research priorities and others, which may be identified during the course of the work.

4.1.2 The following research objectives were set out within the WSI.

4.2 Landscape

4.2.1 English Heritage (1991) highlighted the opportunities which can arise for multi-period investigations and may be achieved by setting specific linked period objectives within a landscape setting and a broad chronological framework.

4.2.2 Specifically, at Staines, the potential exists to prospect within and examine an alluvium covered landscape and to relate this to prehistoric, Roman and later settlement in an adjacent zone.

4.3 Hunter-gatherers: Early Post Glacial (10,000 –4,000BC)

4.3.1 The recovery of organically preserved Late Palaeolithic and Mesolithic occupation sites in Northern Europe has transformed our knowledge for this period. Evidence for this period is known locally (Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge and Church Lammas Field, Staines) and evidence for undisturbed occupation areas with well-preserved biological remains is particularly valuable.

4.3.2 Investigations during the Two Rivers (Central Trading Estate) development found no evidence pertaining to this period, leading to a down-grading of expectations for such deposits at the Tilly's Lane sites. However, if such material were to be located it would, undoubtedly, merit detailed attention.

Communal Monuments into Settlement and Field Landscapes (c. 1300-300BC)

4.3.3 Attention was drawn in the assessment to the wealth of communal monuments in the hinterland of Staines (Chadwick 1995, 12).

4.3.4 The gradual change from this monument dominated landscape of the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age to the settlement dominated landscape of later prehistory remains poorly understood. Opportunities to examine and document these changes, perhaps reflected also in the sedimentary regime of the River Colne, may occur within the site.

4.3.5 In this context, the Middle/Late Bronze-Age bank at the British Gas site, and the pits and ditches at the High Street site assume a particular significance and require further attention to establish the date, character and extent of the activity in the area.

4.4 The Post-Roman Period (c. 350-700 AD)

- 4.4.1 The nature of the Roman decline in Britain is not well understood, neither is the influx and settlement of immigrants from across the North Sea. This is a period which has left frustratingly few and fragile traces, thus the evidence from excavations on Staines High Street takes on a particular significance. Opportunities may exist to clarify the nature and extent of occupation of this period and significantly relate them to the hydrological environment.
- 4.4.2 To date, other than negative evidence, additional data to clarify the site's potential has not been forthcoming. However, given the extent and chronology of Roman settlement on the High Street island, this remains a priority.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The excavations were undertaken in general accordance with the relevant WSIs and those variations detailed in the Method Statements.
- 5.1.2 Prior to excavation, trench locations were 'swept' with a Cable Avoidance Tool to verify the absence of underground services.
- 5.1.3 Mass excavation was undertaken by 360° tracked machine fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the first significant archaeological horizons. All subsequent excavation of archaeological deposits was carried out by hand with limited mechanical excavation of specific large, homogeneous deposits.
- 5.1.4 Where the depth of the trenches exceeded c. 1.2m, trench sides were stepped for safety. Access to each trench was via ramps or steps at one end.
- 5.1.5 Barriers were maintained around the exposed perimeters of the trench, either in the form of site hoarding or 2m high 'Heras' safety-fencing limiting access to the ramped entrance

5.2 Tilly's Lane East (Zone 1b)

Figures 2 and 5

- 5.2.1 The trench was situated towards the margins of the gravel island where alluvial incursions from the flood plain to the north were encountered in earlier excavations along Norris Road (Wessex Archaeology 1998).
- 5.2.2 Measuring c.22m x 11m, the trench was located to the north of the extant buildings of the High Street, between Tilly's Lane to the west and Norris Road to the east. After initial stripping, and following consultation between the County Archaeological Officer (CAO) and the archaeological consultant, two extensions were excavated to clarify the extent and nature of exposed

features, one to the north measuring 3m x 2m and one to the west measuring 6m x 4m.

5.3 Tilly's Lane West; British Gas Site (Zone 1b)

Figures 2 and 6

- 5.3.1 The trench lay towards the northern margins of the gravel island, approximately 20m south of the Sweeps Ditch and the 1997 evaluation trench (WA 1997a).
- 5.3.2 Measuring c. 10m x 25m, the trench was positioned within the former British Gas site to the rear (north) of extant buildings at the west end of the High Street. The extent of the trench was limited to the west by the presence of a 2m high standing wall, between the trench edge and which a 2m safety margin was maintained, and the landownership boundary to the east.

5.4 Tilly's Lane West; High Street Site (Zone 1a)

Figure 2 and 7 -10

- 5.4.1 The site was located along the High Street frontage, on land formerly occupied by nos. 32-42 High Street and no. 4, Tilly's Lane, placing it in an area of high archaeological potential on the gravel island.
- 5.4.2 Before machine excavation began it was agreed with the archaeological consultant that the proposed contingency areas associated with the east trench would be opened during the initial stripping of the site. This was to facilitate machine access.
- 5.4.3 Several minor modifications were made to the proposed trench sizes to avoid live services located running north-south down the centre of the site and across the north end of the west trench. Other obstacles comprised a series of three large concrete stantions in the west trench and deep, east-west concrete foundations at intervals along the length of the east trench. In view of the size and penetration of these obstacles into the natural gravel, they were left *in situ* to avoid further damage to the remaining archaeological deposits by trying to remove them.
- 5.4.4 The site effectively comprised three trenches. The west trench, c. 17m x 10m; the south-east trench c. 25m x 5m; and the north-east trench originally c. 19m x 7m. Following the exposure of the *in situ* Romano-British floor level in the latter, and subsequent to discussion between the archaeological consultant and CAO, the trench was extended c. 9m x 13m to the west - to the line of the known modern services - to ensure all areas of the extant floor and associated structure were incorporated within the trench.
- 5.4.5 To ensure that the floor did not extend further west, beyond the modern service corridor, an additional small trench, 8m x 5m, was excavated. As the floor was not present within this trench the deposits were recorded but were not subject to further investigation

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

6.1 Tilly's Lane East (Zone 1b)

Figure 5

6.1.1 Two main periods of activity were represented, Late Romano-British and medieval (11-14th century). Both periods were characterised by dense series of intercutting linear features and pits indicative of backland boundaries, and domestic refuse and cess pits.

6.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence was generally well defined, with links between most features, other than a small group of pits in the south-east corner. Absolute dating was hampered by the high degree of residuality of Romano-British material within later features, but six basic phases have been established with various internal sub-divisions;

Phase 1 – Pre-Roman

Phase 2 – Early Romano-British, 1-2nd century AD

Phase 3 – Later Romano-British, 3-4th century

Phase 4 – Early medieval, 11-13th century

Phase 5 – Later medieval, 12-14th century

Phase 6 – Post-medieval and recent

Phase 1 - Pre-Roman

6.1.3 The surface level of the underlying 'island' gravel varied between 12.84m aOD in the northern trench extension, to 13.80m aOD in the western extension at the south. The gentle gradient from south to north (c. 1:20) appears to be accompanied by a slight fall from west to east (c. 1:25).

6.1.4 A series of alluvial deposits overlay the gravel island. The two lower levels comprised clean deposits (0.15-0.25m deep) largely devoid of archaeological inclusions other than rare charcoal flecking and struck flint. The upper limits of these deposits ranged between 13.70m – 14.09m aOD.

Phase 2 - Early Romano-British

6.1.5 Up to five discrete episodes of alluviation – each between 0.07-0.25m deep - appear to have occurred across the site in the 1st- 2nd century AD. The upper limits lay at c. 14.25m aOD. All had been cut by later features.

6.1.6 Only two features can tentatively be dated to this phase, a pair of post holes (3119, 3121) which were sealed below two alluvial deposits which were recorded within a confined area in the south-west of the site. The alluvial deposits contained material of 3rd- 4th century date

Phase 3 - Later Romano-British

6.1.7 Two groups of six shallow, sub-rounded pits with similar fills, were cut through the Early Romano-British alluvial layers in the south-east area of the trench. The southern group were stratigraphically isolated from the other features on site, but several of those in the central group were cut by a later north-south linear feature. All the features are likely to have been

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substantially truncated. The form and fills of the pits suggested they were rubbish pits

- 6.1.8 The shallow, rectangular pit 3147 and the southern terminal of a north-south linear feature (3058) have been included in this phase on material and stratigraphic grounds, plus the similarity between their fills and those of the features to the south (see 6.1.7), all of which contrasted with those of the later features.
- 6.1.9 The broad – c. 7.0m wide - east-west channel crossing the northern end of the trench appears to represent a 'canalised' natural channel which was probably utilised as a means of flood alleviation. Although the date at which the modifications occurred is uncertain, evidence suggests that the channel was deliberately backfilled in the 4th century AD. A substantial depth (0.28m) of material had built-up on the northern bank which was particularly rich in Romano-British material including a concentration of decorative metalwork. At its west end, the channel was cut by the heavily truncated remains of a north-south linear medieval feature (3237) which also contained finds of 3rd - 4th century date.
- 6.1.10 Three circular wells (3133, 3160, 3186) were situated in the north-east area of the trench. The latter two both cut through the 4th century backfill of the east-west channel with 3160 cut by a medieval linear. The only stratigraphic relationship for 3133 is that it cut through one of the Early Romano-British alluvial deposits. Finds recovered from the fills of the wells are of Late Romano-British date, and it is possible that they relate to this period of activity.

Phase 4 - Early medieval

- 6.1.11 The relationship between the north-south linear feature (3116) and the east-west channel at the north end of site was obscured by a later east-west ditch (3232), but, there was no evidence for 3116 cutting through the profile of the channel. The U-shaped linear feature, possibly a burgage ditch, ran for c. 11m, terminating c. 3.0m from the south end of the site. The latter represents the earliest in a series of four linear features and three pits believed to be of 11th-13th century date. Two of the three east-west linear features and all of the pits cut across or through ditch 3116.
- 6.1.12 The substantial pit 3029, cutting the southern terminal of ditch 3116 and the small rubbish pit 3074, appears to represent a cess pit. Pit 3091 contained domestic debris. The three east-west linear features, which ran almost parallel across the site, are likely to represent the remains of boundary ditches.

Phase 5 - Late medieval

- 6.1.13 A series of six relatively narrow linear features and one pit were dated to the later medieval period on stratigraphic grounds and the presence of 12-14th century pottery within the fills. All were confined to the western half of the site.
- 6.1.14 Two east-west linear features had terminals to the east (3263, 3261). Cut 3173 represented the southern terminal of a north-south linear feature. In

contrast to the earlier linear features, there were two (3262, 3264) on a NNW-SSE alignment, suggestive of a swing in previous boundary alignments. The large central pit 3265 may have had some industrial purpose.

- 6.1.15 As with the other medieval features, a large quantity of residual Romano-British material was recovered from most of the fills of features within this phase. However, residual Saxon pottery was also recovered from two of the linears in the south-western area of the site.

Phase 6 – post-medieval and recent

- 6.1.16 Inter-face layers *c.* 0.20m deep, presumably representative of old worked-soil horizons, lay between the *in situ* archaeological features and the 19th century worked-soils and make-up levels.

**6.2 Tilly's Lane West
British Gas Site (Zone 1b)**

Figure 6

- 6.2.1 The site is characterised by a series of densely packed groups of intercutting pits (*c.*30 in number) and 20 linear features, providing well defined stratigraphic sequences within the individual groups. Absolute dating within the groups and the ability to define links between them is, as has been commonly observed in Staines, rendered problematic by high level of residual Romano-British material within later features.

- 6.2.2 The main period of activity was Romano-British, predominantly Early, with numerous sub-divisions. There was also limited evidence for Bronze Age and medieval activity. Five main phases were detected;

Phase 1: Bronze Age – Mid-Late

Phase 2: Early Romano-British – late 1st – 2nd century

Phase 3: Late Romano-British – 3rd – 4th century

Phase 4: Medieval – 13-14th century

Phase 5: Post-medieval and recent

Phase 1: Bronze Age

- 6.2.3 The 'island' gravel gently slopes from south to north, with an overall fall of *c.* 0.30m over the 23m length of the trench, from *c.* 13.78m aOD to 13.46m aOD. However, there is some evidence for a drop in the level of the gravel in the central area of the site - particularly on the east side - where it falls to 12.94m aOD, possibly due to the presence of a palaeochannel.

- 6.2.4 In the south-west corner there was evidence for two phases of bank construction directly over the island gravel. The bank, remaining to a height of *c.* 0.47m at 13.95m aOD, was orientated diagonally to the trench, north-west to south-east, with a south-east slope. Burnt flint and flint flakes were recovered from the bank make-up, together with fragments of Bronze Age pottery. Fragments of residual Bronze Age pottery were also recovered from later pits immediately to the east.

6.2.5 The bank was butted and partially covered by a series (minimum three) of 'clean' alluvial deposits which extended across the entire site. The implication is that the bank acted as an early attempt at flood control.

Phase 2 – Early Romano-British

6.2.6 In the Early Romano-British period there was at least one subsequent alluvial incursion. The c. 0.10m depth of material, at around 14.19m aOD, contained substantial quantities of homogeneously distributed pottery, animal bone and other archaeological components. This layer had been cut by all the excavated features excepting the bank (see above).

6.2.7 A small group of three graves was found in the south-east of the trench. Four neonatal skeletons were recovered, one grave containing the remains of two individuals probably resulting from a single burial. One grave (3342) was cut by a later pit (3336), and two (3334, 3375) overlay earlier pits (3379, 3381). Residual Later Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery was recovered from one grave fill, and Early Romano-British pottery from the fill of one underlying pit.

Next to
3375 or
3379 or
3381
show on plan

6.2.8 Part of a shallow north-south linear feature (3329) was excavated against the east baulk at the south end of the trench, the northern extent of which had been removed by the insertion of later pits and ditches. The alignment is however very similar to that of the Late Romano-British ditches (3415, 3416, 3424).

6.2.9 A series of three small parallel east-west linear features with terminals (3307, 3420, 3435) in the central area of the trench and have been attributed an Early Romano-British date on artefactual evidence. A broad, but relatively shallow east-west linear (3359) on the same alignment had its terminal opposite that of 3307; the linear cut through several domestic rubbish pits in a group of c. seven concentrated in this area of the trench, itself being cut by the latest in the stratigraphic sequence. All the linears are likely to have represented backland boundary ditches.

6.2.10 A group of nine, mostly small, sub-rounded pits in the south-east area of the trench had the characteristics of domestic refuse pits. One possible cess pit (3345) in the west baulk at the south end may also be of Early Romano-British date, as may a possibly dual-purpose pit (cess and refuse; 3518) cut by a series of Late Romano-British linears in the north-west of the site.

Phase 3 – Late Romano-British

6.2.11 The eastern edge of the trench was dominated by a north-south ditch which had been re-cut twice (3424, 3415, 3416). The southern end of all three phases terminated in the middle of the trench and were cut by the medieval timber-lined cess pit 3429.

Sections?

6.2.12 Two groups of relatively shallow, 'lozenge-shaped' features were situated on the west side of the trench. All were on the same north-south alignment (parallel to the main ditch) and had similar rich organic fills. The central group of three cut and were cut by pits in the same area. The northern group comprised two overlying phases of eight features, cutting at least one

underlying pit (3518). Similar features, though of medieval date, were encountered during investigations at Zone 1b of the Central Trading Estate Development (Wessex Archaeology 1997), where they were believed to be agricultural features (growing beds). It is possible, given the high level of residuality of Romano-British pottery in later features, that full assessment of the finds may show these to be of medieval date.

- 6.2.13 The remnants of a small linear and its terminal (3446), running east-south-east to west-north-west in the central area of the site was packed with butchery debris and domestic refuse. The contents of the fill may reflect specific activities being undertaken in the vicinity.

Phase 4 - medieval

- 6.2.14 With the exception of the timber-lined cess pit (3429) (see above) the majority of the medieval features within the trench comprise domestic refuse pits, often severely truncated, located in the western and central part of the trench.

Phase 5 - post-medieval

- 6.2.15 With the exception of a few 19th century domestic refuse pits in the south-eastern corner of the trench, an industrial waste pit in the south-western baulk and shallow wall foundations in the north-west baulk, most of the medieval and earlier *in situ* archaeology was sealed by a series of worked soils of 17th-18th century and 19th century date (c. 0.70-0.80m deep), below modern make-up.

High Street Site (Zone 1a)

Figures 3,4 7-10.

- 6.2.16 As a result of modern intrusions in the form of services and deep concrete foundations, the High Street site was excavated as a series of three separate trenches. The trenches proved to be quite different from each other in terms of both the character of the surviving archaeology and its date, consequently, they will be described separately in the following text.
- 6.2.17 Levels on the island gravel showed a very gentle gradient across the site as a whole, falling from 14.93m aOD on the street front to 14.12m aOD at the northern most extent of the excavation area; i.e. a fall of c. 0.80m across 45m, most of the drop being across the northern most trench. There is also a slight fall from west to east of about 0.20m over 20m.
- 6.2.18 Natural brickearth was found to survive in patches overlying the island gravel. Along western margin of the north-east trench (Fig. 9) it survived at a level of between 14.75m-14.45m aOD, whilst in the central segment of the south-east trench (Fig. 8), it survived in natural hollows within the gravel.
- 6.2.19 The northern-most 2m of the north-east trench (Fig. 9) was covered by the pale grey alluvial deposits noted in other areas of the CTE Staines and Tilly's Lane investigations.

6.2.20 Substantial depths, 1.47m-1.85m, of made-up ground overlay the *in situ* archaeology in most of the trenches. Almost all the material recovered from these levels was of 19th century date and they were devoid of any residual earlier material above the interface with the archaeological levels. The depth of the make-up in the north-east trench (Fig. 9) was slightly less, generally between 1.20m-1.40m, but similar observations on content apply.

West Trench

Figure 7

6.2.21 The excavated features comprised mostly pits (16), which appeared both domestic and industrial in character, with three ditches and a series of four postholes in one small area in the south-east of the trench.

6.2.22 The major phases of activity appeared to be Bronze Age and Early Romano-British. Three main phases were identified;

Phase 1: Bronze Age – Mid-Late

Phase 2: Early Romano-British – late 1st-2nd century

Phase 3: Post-medieval - 19-20th century

Phase 1: Bronze Age

6.2.23 Two east-west ditches at the south end of the trench contained only fragments of struck flint and Bronze Age pot, as did the heavily truncated, north-south 'V' shaped ditch (3539) at the north end of the trench. The two at the south end differed in form, 3582 being relatively narrow with a sharp 'v'-shaped profile and 3594 broad with a flat base.

6.2.24 A series of four postholes in the south-east of the trench were all of comparable size and had similar fills from which no artefacts were recovered. There was no obvious pattern in their spatial arrangement.

6.2.25 The only artefacts recovered from two pits (3628, 3613) in south-eastern part of the trench were fragments of struck flint, suggesting they may have been prehistoric in date. It has been noted elsewhere in Staines (Wessex Archaeology 1996, 1997, 1998) that features of Roman and post-Roman date tend to contain at least residual material pertaining to the period, which would support the impression that these two features are pre-Roman.

Phase 2: Early Romano-British

6.2.26 Intercutting pits in the north-east and central-eastern areas of the trench contained substantial quantities of both domestic and industrial waste. There was evidence to suggest that both groups may have been in the vicinity of some form of kiln. A single pit (3617) at the south end of the trench, cutting the east-west ditch 3582, appears to have been a rubbish pit. The nature of the two intercutting pits in the north-east of the trench is uncertain as they were almost devoid of archaeological components.

6.2.27 The possible well (3605) situated in the north end of the trench contained a horse burial towards the base and substantial quantities of 2nd century debris.

Phase 3: Post-medieval

- 6.2.28 There were extensive 19th and 20th century intrusions within the trench including a series of large, modern concrete stantions (??), a deep Victorian brick-lined soakaway and ash pits.

?
why??

South-East Trench

Figure 8

- 6.2.29 The excavated features comprised a number of discrete linears and several groups of intercutting pits, the vast majority of which were post-medieval in date. Two main phases of activity were identified;

Phase 1: Romano-British

Phase 2: Post-medieval

Phase 1: Romano-British

- 6.2.30 The form and fills (which included Early Romano-British pottery) of the sub-rounded pit (3700) in the north end of the trench appeared similar to those of Early Romano-British date in the west trench and may be indicative of some form of industrial activity in the vicinity.

- 6.2.31 The east-west 'v'-shaped ditch (3639) in the southern area of the trench had cut through an earlier pit (3635) and both were subsequently truncated by a post-medieval pit. The former is likely to represent a boundary ditch, whilst the pit 3635 contained elements of domestic debris.

Phase 2: Post-medieval

- 6.2.32 Features included two soakaways/wells at the north end of the trench, two large intercutting domestic refuse pits at the south end and a minimum of three other rubbish pits. Two sets of linear features in the southern and central areas comprised integral slots and postholes, apparently pertaining to some form of timber structure.
- 6.2.33 A group of three similarly sized pits with identical fills situated in the central area of the site contained no dating evidence and had no direct stratigraphic relationship with any of the dated features. They have been placed in this phase mainly due to all the other features in the immediate vicinity being so; they could, however, be earlier.

6.3 North-East Trench

Figures 9-11

- 6.3.1 The predominant period of activity was Early Romano-British, with substantial evidence for a 'high status' Roman building occupying the majority of the trench. Building remains included part of an *in situ* tessellated floor and stone wall foundations. The building overlay a dense concentration of mostly Early Romano-British pits (21) and several linear features (five), the presence of which had contributed to substantial slumping of the floor surface.
- 6.3.2 Six main phases of activity were detected, with several internal sub-phases in the Romano-British phases.

- Phase 1: Prehistoric
- Phase 2: Early Romano-British; level 1
- Phase 3: Romano-British interface
- Phase 4: ?Early Romano-British; level 2
- Phase 5: Later Romano-British
- Phase 6: Medieval
- Phase 7: Post-medieval and modern

Phase 1: Prehistoric

6.3.3 Three of the five linear features sealed by the Roman floor level are likely to be prehistoric on stratigraphic (cut by Early Romano-British features) and artefactual (struck flint being the only finds recovered) grounds. There was no cohesive link between the three, all being orientated in different directions and having terminals at one end.

6.3.4 The only artefacts recovered from pit 4167 were fragments of struck flint, which suggests a pre-Roman date for the feature.

6.3.5 Dominating the north-arm of the trench were two broad east-west linear features cut by modern features, to the north of which lay alluvial deposits. The primary phase (3798) appears to represent a broad channel with an acute central profile, filled with water-lain deposits. The subsequent recut, set slightly to the south, seemed to have been deliberately back-filled. The only finds from the cuts comprise struck flints and sparse animal bone, suggesting they may be pre-Roman, though the latest cut may be modern.

Should this be coloured in on plan

Phase 2: Early Romano-British; level 1

6.3.6 Most of the 21 pits in this phase were domestic rubbish pits although one may have been for storage. The major area of subsidence in the later floor surface was probably coincident with slumping within the two largest pits (4014, 4016).

6.3.7 A circular pit (4088) in the north-west corner of the trench appears to have been a cess pit, as may at least one of the three other pits running into the west baulk. The large, relatively shallow, sub-rectangular pit in the north of the trench (4178) may have had some industrial rather than domestic function.

6.3.8 Two linears (4038, 4053) cut earlier linears on a similar alignment in the south-eastern area of the site. The purpose of these small ditches, both of which have terminals within c. 3m of each other, is unclear.

Phase 3: Romano-British Levelling

6.3.9 The Early Romano-British pits and linears were sealed below various layers of apparently deliberate make-up containing Early Romano-British material, presumably deposited with the aim of providing a level surface for construction of the later building.

6.3.10 The number and thickness of individual deposits varied considerably across the area. In the south-east of the site, there were up to six layers of material,

between 0.15-0.40m in depth, mostly laid horizontal. In the south-east quadrant, over the large pits 4014 and 4016, there were eight layers, 0.07-0.28m deep; in the north-west quadrant, however, to the north of the foundation trench for the later partition wall (3781), there was only a single layer 0.85m deep. There were three layers below the west wall foundations, with between 0.30-0.50m between the base of the footings and the natural brickearth.

- 6.3.11 Partially buried within the make up levels was a length of wall foundation (4025) running north-south with an eastern return at the south end. Constructed from gravel, the 0.68m wide and 0.66m deep foundation was similar to those found in other parts of the trench. However the upper surface of the wall foundation (14.51m aOD) was lower than the base level of both the north wall (3992) at 14.55m aOD and the west wall (3740) at 14.71m aOD
- 6.3.12 The location of foundation (4025) corresponded with a north-south ridge of gravel evident within the later structure and the implication is that these wall foundations pertain to an earlier version of the main building, one for which the ground over the pits was originally levelled.

Phase 4: Early Romano-British; level 2
Figures 10 and 11

- 6.3.13 Substantial evidence was found for a high status building of which wall footings, foundations and areas of plain red ceramic tessellated floor survived.
- 6.3.14 There was evidence for three of the building's main walls, enclosing an area of at least 6.50m x 11.50m (aligned east to west), to the north (3992), west (3740 and 3739) and a ?robbed-out foundation trench on the south side (3879). A corresponding eastern wall presumably lay beyond the trench limits within a modern service corridor. The majority of the intact floor area was contained within these walls.
- 6.3.15 Approximately 35% of the area internal to these walls was disrupted by modern intrusions and a further 20% appeared to represented areas of floor robbed in antiquity (common redeposited tessera and other building debris, with 1st-2nd century pottery).
- 6.3.16 The *in situ* floor survived across c. 41% of the internal area, primarily on the east side, with a further 4% covered by *in situ* concrete base from which the tessera had been deliberately (and carefully) removed.
- 6.3.17 Other small areas of *in situ* floor extended c. 2.25m to the west of the western wall but on line with the outer-face of the north wall; suggesting the building extended to both the west and the north. Over 30,350 ceramic tessera were recovered, totalling 613.82Kg, individual tessera having a consistent weight of c. 20g.

- 6.3.18 Floor construction comprised a base of coarse mortared gravel, overlain by a fine lime-concrete base in which the tessera were set, giving a total thickness c. 0.10m. The floors abutted the walls, including the internal partition wall 3627. It was noted that the tessera to the north and south of the partition wall had been laid in different directions, the former having been laid in east-west lines and the latter in north-south lines. It may be significant that the two small areas of floor to the west of the west wall maintain these diverse directions despite the absence of the partition wall in this area.
- 6.3.19 Two areas of 'wall' remained on the north and west sides; these comprised 'facing' flint nodules set in a coarse mortar, with fragments of ceramic building material and 1st-2nd century pottery incorporated into the rubble fill. The walls were set on gravel foundations, c. 0.60-0.80m wide, the depths of which varied considerably, including within the same length of wall (e.g. the west). The shallow trench along much of the south side suggest the foundation was robbed-out.
- 6.3.20 The c. 0.30m wide, east-west cut (3627), respected by the floors, appears to represent the remains of a partition wall probably constructed of plastered wooden laths (a considerable quantity of painted wall plaster was recovered from the cut). This would have created a corridor c. 1.0m wide along the north side of the structure.
- 6.3.21 The presence of painted wall plaster (generally ox-blood red, with some white lines) from both sides of the north wall suggest it may have been plastered internally and externally.
- 6.3.22 The shallow north-south linear (3747) to the west of the west wall was cut through the earlier make-up layers. Although there was no direct evidence to connect it with the building, it may be significant that there was no evidence of any material connected with the structure to the west of it.

Phase 5: Later Romano-British

- 6.3.23 Subsequent to the major slumping in the floor, there appears to have been an attempt at re-levelling with two (3590, 3601) 0.50m deep, deposits of material similar in appearance to that used as levelling below the floor (fine silty clay - ?alluvium - with Early Romano-British archaeological inclusions).
- 6.3.24 There was no evidence for a 'demolition layer' with the exception of a discrete area of upcast over the central area of floor. There was, however, clear evidence for deliberate reclamation of tessera, some of which had been carefully removed from the concrete base. Isolated patches containing redeposited small stone tessera are indicative that there may have been either an earlier decorated mosaic floor or that a patch of such flooring may have existed within the later structure.
- 6.3.25 The interface between the Romano-British levels and the overlying 'modern' levels was very thin (c. 0.10m) and characterised by the inclusions of common pea-grits.

Phase 6: Medieval

- 6.3.26 A series of small, irregular, intercutting 'pits' lay to the south of and encroaching on the robbed-out southern wall trench. Common inclusions of fired clay suggest some form of industrial activity. The evidence is currently inconclusive but they may be of medieval date.

Phase 7: Post-medieval and modern

- 6.3.27 There were substantial modern intrusions across the trench, affecting c. 20% of the excavated area, mostly within the confines or on the margins of the structure. These included a modern concrete soakaway, five 19th - early 20th century wells/soakaways and a minimum of six 19th century rubbish pits.

7 FINDS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This is a preliminary statement on the finds recovered from investigations on both Tilly's Lane East and West. All finds from Tilly's Lane East have been processed (washed, marked and catalogued). The processing of finds from Tilly's Lane West is still in progress (between 50% and 66% completed so far i.e. totals in Tables 1 and 2 are not final).
- 7.1.2 All pottery from Tilly's Lane East has been scanned and spot-dated. For Tilly's Lane West, a selection has been made of contexts for the purposes of pottery spot dating; these have been selected with the intention of giving sufficient coverage of all major phases of activity in both trenches excavated and therefore informing the initial phasing of the site. All other finds categories from both sites have been very briefly scanned for the purposes of this preliminary statement. All metalwork from Tilly's Lane East has been X-radiographed, and the plates form part of the project archive; metalwork from Tilly's Lane West will be similarly treated in due course.
- 7.1.3 Basic finds quantifications (count and weight by material type within each context) have been entered onto an Access database. Overall finds totals are presented in Table 1. The finds are briefly discussed below by material type.
- 7.1.4 The overall range of Romano-British material recovered is relatively limited. Pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone were the most commonly occurring finds types. Other material types occurred in much smaller quantities, and there is a perhaps surprisingly low incidence of coins and personal items (metalwork, worked bone). The CBM includes a large number of ceramic *tesserae* recovered from an *in situ* tessellated floor surface (6.3.16). This structural evidence is supplemented by stone building material, wall plaster (including painted fragments), and iron nails and other structural items. Domestic equipment is represented almost entirely by pottery; there is a very small quantity of vessel glass.
- 7.1.5 The date range of the Romano-British assemblage spans the Roman period, although there is an emphasis, particularly on Tilly's Lane West, on the early period (late 1st to 2nd century AD).

7.2 Ceramic Building Material

- 7.2.1 This category was collected in some quantity and includes bricks and roof tiles of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. A large part of the Roman assemblage consists of tesserae from an *in situ* floor from Tilly's lane West. Other identifiable Roman material includes fragments of *tegulae*, *imbrices*, flue tiles and wall/floor bricks. Post-Roman CBM, occurring in small quantities, includes at least one medieval ridge tile.

Fired Clay

- 7.2.2 This category consists entirely of small, irregular and abraded fragments in a variety of soft, poorly fired sandy fabrics. Their date and function is uncertain, although it is likely that most if not all are of Romano-British date, with a probable structural origin.

Glass

- 7.2.3 Very little glass was recovered from Tilly's Lane East; this was all of post-medieval date. Glass came from Tilly's Lane West in slightly larger quantities and consists almost entirely of Roman vessel glass (diagnostic pieces indicate mainly blue/green bottle forms), with one complete post-medieval onion bottle and a few pieces of possible window glass.

Pottery

- 7.2.4 The pottery assemblage examined (3083 sherds scanned from a total of 4968 sherds processed) consists overwhelmingly of Roman material (2935 sherds), with much smaller quantities of later prehistoric (17 sherds), Saxon (6 sherds) medieval (109 sherds) and post-medieval pottery (16 sherds). The condition of the Roman and medieval material is generally good, with large sherds showing crisp fractures and unabraded surfaces; even where Roman pottery occurs residually in later (medieval) contexts there is little appreciable difference in condition between Roman and medieval sherds.

Later prehistoric

- 7.2.5 A small number of sherds (17), all in flint-tempered fabrics, were recovered, largely from residual contexts. Although no diagnostic sherds are present, the fabrics are characteristic of the Middle/Late Bronze Age.

Roman

- 7.2.6 The bulk of the Roman assemblage consists of coarsewares, although a significant proportion of finewares, including imports, is also present. The date range of the material from Tilly's Lane West is almost exclusively within the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, with only six contexts producing material which is possibly or probably of later date. Tilly's Lane East has a similar emphasis on the early Roman period, but with a greater proportion of later material (potentially from 34 contexts). Table 2 presents a breakdown of the Roman assemblage into broad ware groups.

- 7.2.7 The overall picture which has emerged so far from the scanning process tends to support the known pattern of sources of supply for Staines (eg. Crouch and Shanks 1984), in which local sources in Staines and the Colne Valley (which produced both coarse- and finewares) were supplemented in the early Roman period (later 1st and 2nd centuries AD) by the industries of the London area (including Highgate) and the Verulamium region, and by Dorset Black Burnished ware and, from the 3rd century AD, by Oxfordshire finewares and coarsewares from the Alice Holt production centre. The overall quantity of continental imports is low, consisting largely of samian and Dressel 20 amphorae.

Phew!

Imported wares

- 7.2.8 The most common imported wares are Dressel 20 amphorae; these have a wide date range of 1st to 3rd centuries AD, although in this instance they occur almost exclusively in contexts of late 1st/2nd century AD date. The condition of the amphorae is noticeably poorer than other wares since many of the sherds have laminated badly. No examples of deliberately cut-down vessels were noted, nor any stamped handles. Two examples of Pélichet 47 amphorae were also noted (late 1st to 3rd centuries AD), and one possible Dressel 28 form, of French or Spanish origin (early 1st to mid 2nd century AD).
- 7.2.9 Other imports comprise mainly samian, and examples of both Southern and Central Gaulish products were observed (although not at this stage quantified). Forms identified include Dr 15/17 and 18/31 platters, Dr 27 and Dr 33 cups, Dr 35, 36, 42, 38 and 46/Curle 15 bowls. The forms and fabrics indicate a date range from later 1st to late 2nd century. In addition, five sherds from Central Gaulish roughcast beakers were noted, and one sherd from a Cologne colour-coated ware.

British finewares

- 7.2.10 British finewares are again well represented, the most common types being colour-coated wares from the Oxfordshire production centre; also represented are Nene Valley products, although in much smaller quantities. The white-slipped oxidised wares, used primarily for flagon and jar forms, may be local products, as could at least some of the range of mica-dusted wares (bowls/dishes, platters, small jars/beakers), since production of these wares is known from Staines as well as the Colne Valley and lower Thames Valley (Crouch 1984).

Coarsewares

- 7.2.11 Greywares make up the overwhelming bulk of the coarseware assemblage, and amongst these are almost certainly represented a number of different sources, including the local Colne Valley industry and various kilns in north London such as Highgate. The latter source probably supplied fine greywares, largely in jar and beaker forms (including 'poppyhead' forms), with a distinctive silvery burnish. Other forms represented amongst the greywares include cordoned jars, 'Surrey/Atrebat' bowls, flanged bowls, dropped flange bowls and a range of other jar forms, with an overall date range spanning the Roman period. A small quantity of Dorset Black Burnished ware (BB1) has been identified; forms present include 'dog dishes', flanged

and dropped flange bowls, and everted rim jars, with an overall date range of 2nd to 4th century AD.

- 7.2.12 Oxidised wares and coarse whitewares are likely to derive largely from the Verulamium/Brockley Hill region; forms include flagons and mortaria, dating from the 2nd century AD onwards. Fine whiteware mortaria from the Oxfordshire production centre (largely 1st/2nd century AD) are also present in small quantities, as are coarse oxidised wares from the latest phase (4th century AD) of the Alice Holt industry (Overwey/Tilford fabric).
- 7.2.13 Other coarseware types present in smaller quantities include grog-tempered, flint-tempered and calcareous wares. Some of these, particularly the grog-tempered wares, are likely to represent a continuation into the early Roman period of native Iron Age ceramic traditions, while some at least of the calcareous (shelly) wares occur in characteristic late Roman (4th century AD) rilled jar forms (found in small quantities at Tilly's Lane East).

Post-Roman

- 7.2.14 A small number of organic-tempered sherds (6) are probably of early/middle Saxon date, although no diagnostic sherds are present. At this stage these wares have been identified only from Tilly's Lane East, and occurred only as residual material in later contexts.
- 7.2.15 Medieval pottery, with an overall potential date range of 12th to 14th century, is likewise concentrated in Tilly's Lane East, and comprises sandy and sandy/flint-tempered coarsewares (95), and finer glazed wares in the London type (1) and Surrey whiteware traditions (12). There was one possible medieval import (?Aardenburg) from Tilly's Lane East.
- 7.2.16 Post-medieval wares comprise coarse redwares (14), Staffordshire type slipware (1) and later industrial wares (1).

7.3 Stone

- 7.3.1 This comprises both building material and portable objects. The first category includes chalk/limestone *tesserae* (mainly associated with the *in situ* tessellated floor), and possible fragments of building stone (chalk, flint, sarsen), while the portable objects consist mainly of quern fragments (imported lava, greensand, ?limestone), with one whetstone.

7.4 Painted plaster and *opus signinum*

- 7.4.1 A small quantity of painted plaster and *opus signinum* was recovered, mostly from Tilly's Lane West. The painted plaster is mainly monochrome (red or white), with one example with a polychrome 'splattered' design. The latter piece is noticeably thick-walled and could derive from a tank lining rather than from wall covering.

7.5 Metalwork

7.5.1 This category comprises coins (mainly copper alloy, one silver); a small quantity of iron (nails and other structural items, one blade), lead (two unidentified objects) and copper alloy (including two toilet implements and one brooch). The quantity of metalwork recovered is surprisingly small.

*Indicative of
organised
settlement?*

7.6 Worked Bone

7.6.1 Worked bone objects were recovered only from Tilly's Lane West, and only in small quantities – seven pins, one needle and one stylus.

7.7 Other finds

7.7.1 Other finds recovered, all in small quantities, comprise ironworking slag, clay tobacco pipes, and worked and burnt flint. Of these, the worked flint (and also probably the burnt flint) is likely to represent residual prehistoric material; the slag is of either Roman or medieval date (none was associated with *in situ* evidence of industrial activity); and the clay pipes are part of the post-medieval assemblage from upper and unstratified levels.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 The samples taken during the excavation at Tilly's Lane East were processed and assessed in 1999. Processing of the samples from the Tilly's Lane West sites is not yet complete and they have not been included in the current document.

8.1.2 A series of 34 samples were taken from sealed Romano-British and medieval contexts; 18 were taken and processed for charred plant remains and charcoal, eight for the recovery of waterlogged remains of which six have been processed, six were processed for snails and two retained for further description at a later date. The following rapid assessment of the environmental remains provides some cursory and general comments on the nature of the material and general overall potential.

Charred plant remains

8.1.3 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods and the presence of charred remains quantified (Table 3).

8.1.4 Overall, both Roman-British and medieval samples are rich in charred remains, as may be anticipated from urban contexts. The presence of charred grain and peas/beans (edibles) chaff (processing waste) and charred seeds (other non-edible plants), provides the opportunity to examine a number of different issues. These include diet, the condition of the material (i.e. cereal processed for market, for storage or for consumption) and whether any of these processing stages occurred on site, and also possibly the nature of the

soils in the fields (and their location) in which these cereals and other crops were grown.

- 8.1.5 The diversity of food remains seems high, providing good potential to examine diet through time.

Waterlogged contexts

- 8.1.6 A number of contexts were waterlogged, some of which have samples isolated for the recovery of waterlogged remains. Waterlogging is present in most of those samples processed, but at varying degrees. The numbers of uncharred plant remains recorded from the bulk samples also indicates that the presence of waterlogged preservation was probably more widespread across the excavation.

Snails

- 8.1.7 Sequences of snails were taken from two Romano-British ditches or channels. In addition snail shells were present in a number of features of all periods.
- 8.1.8 The land snails present will probably only confirm the strong anthropogenic, urban and garden nature of the local environments and habitats. The fresh water species, however, will aid in determining more useful issue, such as whether the water course/ditch contained water, and whether this was seasonal, permanent, fast flowing clean and well oxygenated or poor and stagnant, weedy or clean. The presence of the species in the other features from Romano-British and medieval phases may help in determining overall whether there were flooding events during occupation and whether the wetter nature represented by these snails was seasonal, intermittent and temporary, or whether it was a much longer standing indicator of the nature of the local environment.
- 8.1.9 The main east-west channel and the east-west ditch 3256 (Table 4) both contained freshwater species that are not amphibious nor species that can survive prolonged periods of drought. These tend to indicate continual moist, if not wet conditions.

9 ARCHIVE

- 9.1.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the site code 45931. The archive for all phases of fieldwork, post-excavation analysis and publication will remain at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, pending consultation and agreement with the appropriate bodies to determine the most suitable storage location.

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 The island and alluviation

- 10.1.1 Two factors which will have had a major impact on the nature and spread of human activity in the vicinity are the form and extent of the main gravel island, and the extent and timing of alluvial inclusions from the wetlands to the north. The recent investigations at Tilly's Lane provide evidence which has aided further detailed definition of both these major influences on human activity on the island.
- 10.1.2 The northern extent of the island was directly observed in the 1997 evaluation trench across Sweep's Ditch to the west (WA 1997) and during the excavations at Victor House to the east (WA 1999c). Using this data, together with a series of levels on the 'island' gravel obtained from boreholes (WA 1999b) the supposed limits of the northern margins of the island were obtained. However, all the trenches included in this latest phase of archaeological investigations lay on the gravel island, pushing its extent further north in the vicinity of Tilly's Lane East than previous evidence had suggested.
- 10.1.3 Whilst the shape of the island generally appears as an elongated oval, with its longitudinal axis along the line of the current High Street and narrowing to the east and west, the northern margins do not form an even sweep but are represented by a series of uneven undulations.
- 10.1.4 Similarly, the profile of the island appears far from uniform. Although the level of the gravel shows an overall drop to the north, east and west from a central high point of c. 14.93m aOD in the south end of the west trench on the High Street site, it appears to do so in a series of small terraces, with slightly steeper drops progressively to the north, especially the north-east. In addition, other variations may be indicative of natural hollows in the gravel or remnants of small palaeochannels.
- 10.1.5 The depth and number of alluvial episodes also varies considerably across the area, incursions obviously continuing into the Early Romano-British period in Zone 1b and even the Late Romano-British period at Tilly's Lane East. What is clear is that in places the flooding covered greater areas of the island than in others. Whilst the contours cannot be taken to reflect the extent of the gravel island, they do reflect the level to which the floods rose; only those areas of the island above 14.0m aOD had escaped any flooding, i.e. most of the High Street site and the 1999 evaluation trench immediately to the east of Tilly's Lane (WA 1999a). The same levels were observed in the trenches excavated along Norris Road (WA 1998a, 1999c), though in this case there was less distance between the extent of the alluviation and the edge of the island.
- 10.1.6 Numerous factors are likely to have affected the form of the gravel island and, correspondingly, the pattern of alluviation. The existence of palaeochannels to the north was demonstrated during the initial geotechnic and sediment surveys undertaken across the Central Trading Estate in 1996 (WA 1996a). A

substantial palaeochannel was observed crossing the trench excavated in Zone 1b of CTE in 1997 (WA 1997b). The form of the island suggests it was probably scoured by substantial forces of water acting on its west and east ends. These differential flows of water may have resulted in areas of shallow water-logging/stagnant water in the central, low-lying parts of the islands northern margin.

- 10.1.7 Given that only restricted areas of the island appear to have escaped this periodic flooding, one may expect to see evidence of the earliest phases of activity surviving along the dry areas extending c. 40-50m back from the current High Street. However, there are two main factors which may render this an inaccurate assumption; the water table is unlikely to have remained constant over time and the very existence of palaeochannels indicates that it was, at some time in prehistory, lower; secondly, areas which have encouraged high levels of activity may have been subject to a greater degree of truncation.

10.2 Prehistoric activity

- 10.2.1 The limited evidence for prehistoric activity – Middle to Late Bronze Age – was concentrated on the High Street site. Here, various linears and pits, generally severely truncated by later features, provided little supporting evidence to suggest their function. The east-west linears close to the High Street frontage were most probably boundary ditches, as was the north-south linear at the north end of the same trench, but what nature of boundary is unclear.
- 10.2.2 Less ambiguous is the bank in the south-west corner of the British Gas site. Situated towards the north-west margin of the gravel island and sealed by a series of alluvial episodes, this appears to represent an early attempt at flood control. It's position suggests there may have been activity of a form worthy of protection - ?settlement – to the south-west.
- 10.2.3 Previous evidence of earlier prehistoric activity on the main gravel island has been negligible, the focus of Bronze Age activity apparently located on an adjacent island further north (WA 1997a).

10.3 Early Romano-British

- 10.3.1 Early Romano-British activity appears to have been concentrated to the east of Tilly's Lane, though the nature of that activity differed between the 'central island' location (High Street site) and the more marginal area to the west (British Gas site).
- 10.3.2 Settlement activity seems to have focused around the central location, first in the form of dense concentrations of rubbish and cess pits, followed by a substantial structure with mosaic floors and a minimum of three rooms set parallel to, but c. 40m back from the supposed Roman street frontage. The apparent mode of construction – relatively shallow foundations, plinth walls of flint rubble with plastered wooden framework – suggests this was not a

public building, which would be likely to be on a grander scale, but the private domestic dwelling of an aspiring citizen of Pontes.

- 10.3.3 Further towards the street front lay evidence suggestive of some form of industrial activity, possibly tile manufacture. Temporary kilns of this type may have been set up to produce material for private consumption (Brodrigg 1989, 139). The material observed here may have been directly related to the excavated building.
- 10.3.4 To the west, activity, reflecting the location, appears to have been more marginal in character, with burials of neonatal infants, east-west boundary ditches (?agricultural) and occasional rubbish pits.
- 10.3.5 Flooding was clearly still a problem around the margins of the island. The broad east-west channel at the north end of the Tilly's Lane East site was probably canalised in the Early Romano-British period and may have represented a continuation of the major ditches excavated in the Norris Road (WA 1999c) and CTE Zone 1b (WA 1997b) sites to the east, which at various points seem to have acted as both backland boundaries and flood protection barriers. If so, the boundaries, rather than being parallel to the street frontage, curved slightly following the line of the gravel island. The broad ditches observed at the north end of the High Street site and in the evaluation trench on the east side of Tilly's Lane (WA 1999a) are likely to have served similar functions.
- 10.3.6 Flooding - probably a single fairly major episode picking-up substantial quantities of material - affected extensive areas of the island in the Early Romano-British period. On the west side, at least, this incursion appears to have largely predated the Romano-British activity in the affected areas. On the eastern margins of the island, later incursions (Mid-Roman) sealed Early Romano-British activity (WA 1999c) and a few minor features on the west side of the trench at Tilly's Lane East were also covered by a later minor alluvial episode.
- 10.3.7 The early lay-out of the town appears to have comprised a central (dry) area of domestic and, probably temporary, industrial activity; on the western margins activity was also more marginal in character - agricultural and 'waste' deposition. To the east there was a dearth of activity, other than flood control measures, until the very margins of the island where possible workshops, rubbish pits and boundary ditches extended off into the flood plain (WA 1999c). Although there is little negative evidence for this early phase from the Tilly's Lane East site, the presence of the flood control channels suggest there was something there to protect - possibly agricultural activity, animal compounds etc.
- 10.3.8 It is possible that full assessment will show the Tilly's Lane West sites not to be as early as they currently appear to be, but if not, the evidence suggests there was more than one focus for Early Romano-British activity at Pontes, that is towards either end of the island where crossing-points to London and the west would have existed.

10.4 Late Romano-British

- 10.4.1 By the Late Romano-British period the problem of flooding on the island seems to have retreated; the east-west 'flood alleviation' ditches were deliberately backfilled and evidence from the CTE sites to the east (WA 1997b, 1999c) shows expansion beyond the island margins onto the floodplain.
- 10.4.2 Rather than expansion of occupation followed by a shrinking back to the primary focus, the evidence from the Tilly's Lane sites suggests activity shifted entirely to either end of the island. Evidence from the west end was dominated by a series of north-south boundary ditches apparently 'containing' a specific type of agricultural activity using small 'lazy-beds' and requiring a high input of organic material – suggesting a high-value crop. Evidence from the east side also suggests agricultural (?animal husbandry) activity rather than domestic, with a series of wells, pits and possible edges of boundary ditches.
- 10.4.3 The only potential evidence for Late Romano-British activity within the central High Street site comprised deliberate reclamation of building material from the abandoned structure and levelling over the worst areas of subsidence in the floor. The latter suggests that at least a modicum of activity was intended to occur in the area. The observed absence of features begs the question as to whether this really does demonstrate a shift in the occupation pattern and land use, or was later truncation simply greater in this area and was the land use of a nature not to leave any negative evidence?

10.5 Medieval

- 10.5.1 None of the excavated features or deposits were indicative of immediate post-Romano-British activity, though a few fragments of redeposited Anglo-Saxon pot sherds were recovered from Tilly's Lane East. The 'dark ages' remain dark.
- 10.5.2 Activity pertaining to the 11-14th centuries (predominantly 12-13th) was concentrated on the east side of Tilly's Lane. Here, a series of broad north-south linears terminating c. 50m back from the High Street seem to be on the same alignment as medieval burgage ditches excavated in Zone 1b of CTE to east (WA 1997b). A series of smaller east-west ditches were also on the same alignment and in a similar location in relation to the High Street as medieval ditches in Zone 1b (WA 1997b, 1999c). All are indicative of backlands activity.
- 10.5.3 On the west side of the island there appears to have been limited activity generally confined to rubbish and cess pits. Very little pertaining to this date was recovered from the central High Street area, again raising the question as to whether the absence is real or if deposits were too ephemeral to survive and/or have been truncated.

10.6 Post-medieval

- 10.6.1 In all the areas subject to investigation, substantial quantities of made-up ground have had to be removed before *in situ* archaeological deposits were encountered. Much of this material appears to have been deposited in the 19th century, some in the 17th, the former presumably as a precursor to construction of the High Street properties upon the basis of which most of those now still standing were laid. The intensive industrial zone (linoleum factory) which lay to the north of the High Street will also have required level ground for construction.
- 10.6.2 The absence of almost any old soil horizons or make-up may be a genuine reflection of the land use, but it is equally possible that deliberate levelling may have occurred at various times throughout the historic period.
- 10.6.3 The trenches in the marginal areas of the island showed little evidence of post-medieval impact on the earlier underlying archaeology. In contrast, the High Street site was littered with major intrusions which had inflicted substantial damage on the earlier deposits.

10.7 Conclusion

- 10.7.1 Considered together, the combined archaeological evidence from investigations recently undertaken on the north side of Staines High Street reflect a shifting pattern of land use, partly dictated by natural forces, but with other factors influencing the nature and focus of activity. It is these combined factors we will be seeking to ascertain through analysis of the artefactual and environmental evidence.

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Table 1: Finds totals by material type (totals not final)

Material type	Tilly's Lane East		Tilly's Lane West	
	Number	Weight (g)	Number	Weight (g)
Animal Bone	1498	31,615	1796	45,675
Burnt Flint	39	1137	111	1820
CBM	1197	122,542	32,048	218,710
Clay Pipe	5	38	6	29
Fired Clay	205	4214	226	4890
Worked Flint	8	2189	50	400
Glass	3	20	27	1452
Opus Signinum	1	92	25	1528
Pottery	1710	29,550	3258	68,613
Shell	289	3804	198	2499
Slag	24	1263	55	3830
Stone	83	13,721	77	8625
Wall Plaster	6	44	136	5635
Metalwork	37	-	125	-
Silver	1	-	-	-
Copper alloy	14	-	25	-
Lead	2	-	1	-
Iron	32	-	99	-
Worked Bone	-	-	9	-

Table 2: Roman pottery assemblage by ware group (totals not final)

Ware group	Tilly's Lane East No. sherds	Tilly's Lane West No. sherds
Imports:	135	178
<i>samian</i>	62	53
<i>amphorae</i>	68	124
<i>colour coated wares</i>	5	1
British finewares:	86	62
<i>mica dusted</i>	9	34
<i>white-slipped oxidised</i>	28	27
<i>other colour coats</i>	49	1
Coarsewares:	1394	1080
<i>greywares</i>	1167	844
<i>BB1</i>	67	35
<i>oxidised wares</i>	42	71
<i>whitewares</i>	46	40
<i>grog-tempered wares</i>	37	83
<i>calcareous wares</i>	33	7
<i>flint-tempered wares</i>	2	-
TOTAL SCANNED	1615	1320

Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature type/ no	Context	Sample	size litres	Flot							Residue	Charcoal >5.6mm	analysis
				flot ml	size	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other			
Late Romano-British													
Pit 3021	3022	4050	10	80 ¹⁶	A*	C	b	C	A	burnt bone moll-t (A) moll-f (C) smb/f (A) p/beans (C)	-		
Beamslot 3035	3036	4051	2	40 ⁷	A	-	c	C	A	moll-t (A)	-		
Romano-British													
Well 3133	3167	4057	5	15 ¹¹	B	-	c	C	C	moll-t (A) moll-f (A) smb/f (A) p/beans (C)	-		
	3167	4057s	0.2	Subsample for description									
	3165	4058	5	15 ¹³	C	-	c	C	C	moll-t (A) moll-f (A) smb (C)	-		
Well 3186	3192	4061	8	130 ²²	B	C	a	C	C	moll-t (A) moll-f (A) smb (C)	-		
	3192	4061W	1	Processed waterlogged sample									
Ditch 3181	3182	4060	10	120 ³⁶	A	-	c	C	A	smb/f (A) p/beans (C)	-		
	3183	4073	8	120 ⁶⁰	A	C	c	C	-	moll-t (A) moll-f (A) smb/f (C)	-		
	3183	4073W	1	Processed waterlogged sample									
channel 3256	3234	4064	8	130 ²⁵	C	-	a*	C	C	moll-t (A) moll-f (A)	-		
	3234	4064W	1	Processed waterlogged sample									
	3234	4070W	2000g	Processed waterlogged sample									
	3239	4071W	2000g	Processed waterlogged sample									
	3245	4074	2000g	15 ¹⁵	B	-	c	C(h)	-	moll-t (A) moll-f (C)	-		
Deposit	3235	4065	10	150 ³⁰	A*	-	c	C	A	moll-t (C) moll-f (C) smb/f (A)	-		
Early Medieval 12th-13th century													
Cesspit 3029	3011	4052	10	120 ¹²	A*	B	c	C(h)	A	burnt bone moll-t (A) smb/f (B) p/beans (C)	-		
	3062	4053	10	60 ⁵	A*	C	c	C(h)	C	moll-t (A) moll-f (A) smb/f (B)	-		
	3060	4054	10	80 ¹²	A	C	c	C	A	moll-t (A) moll-f (B) smb/f (A)	-		
Ditch 3152	3153	4056	8	120 ¹⁴	A**	A*	c	A*	A	Moll-t (A) Moll-f (C) smb/f (C) p/beans (C)	-		
	3153	4056w/s	1	Unprocessed waterlogged sample & sample (0.2L) for description									
Later medieval 12th-14th century													
Ditch 3178	3190	4062	8	175 ^{20,3}	A*	B	c	C	A*	moll-t (C) smb/f (C) p/beans (C)	-		
	3190	4062W	1	Unprocessed waterlogged sample									
	3194	4063	8	150 ²³	A*	C	c	B	A*	moll-t (A) moll-f (C) p/beans (A)	-		
	3194	4063W	1	Processed waterlogged sample									
Flot											Residue		

Feature type/ no	Context	Sample	size litres	flot ml	size	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm	analysis
?Medieval												
Ditch 3141	3145	4059	10	130 ^{2b}		A*	-	c	A(h) *	A	moll-f (A) moll-t (A) smb/f (A) p/beans (C)	-
Pit 3093	3095	4055	10	175 ^{2b}		A*	A	c	A*	A	moll-t (A) moll-f (C) smb/f (C) p/beans (A)	-

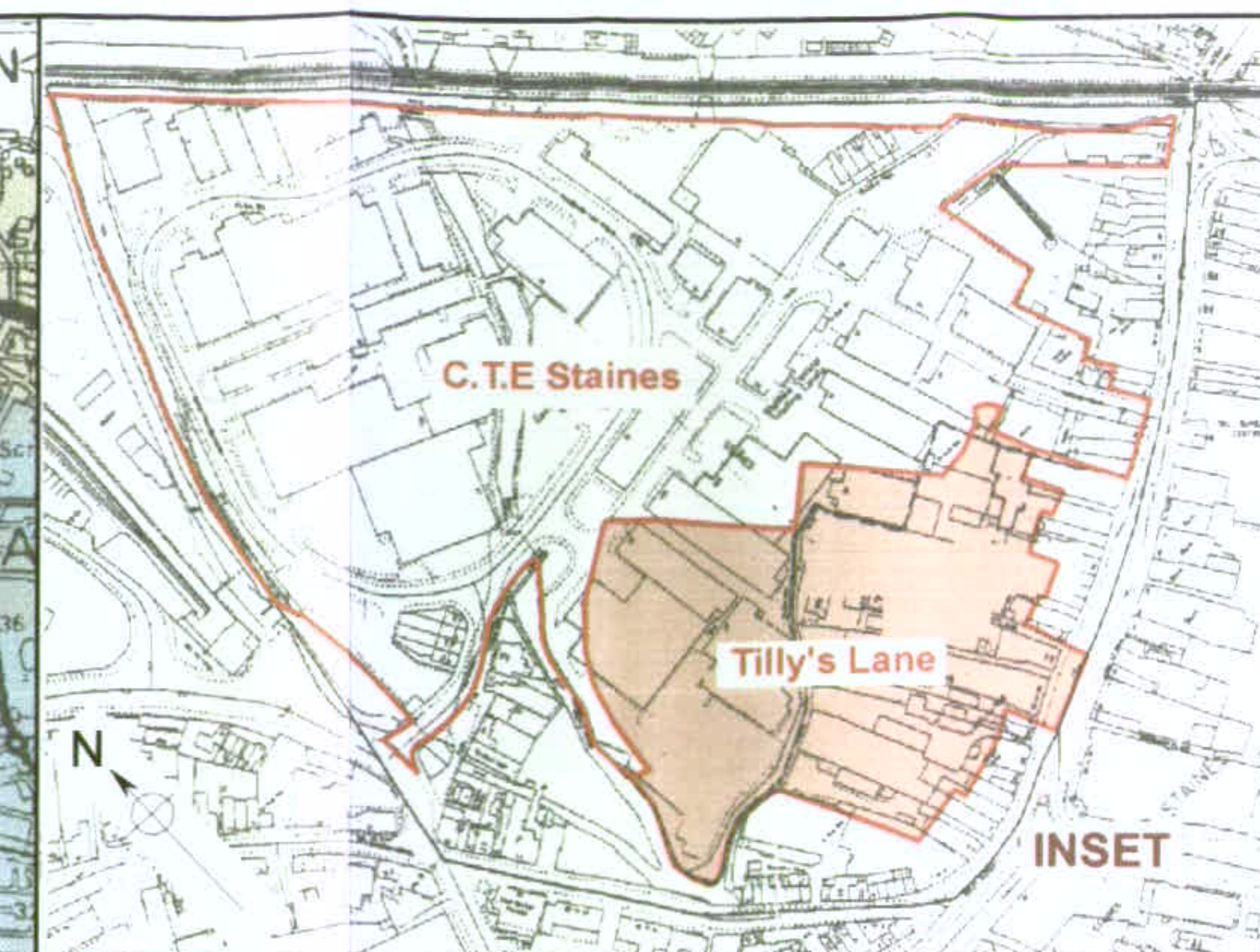
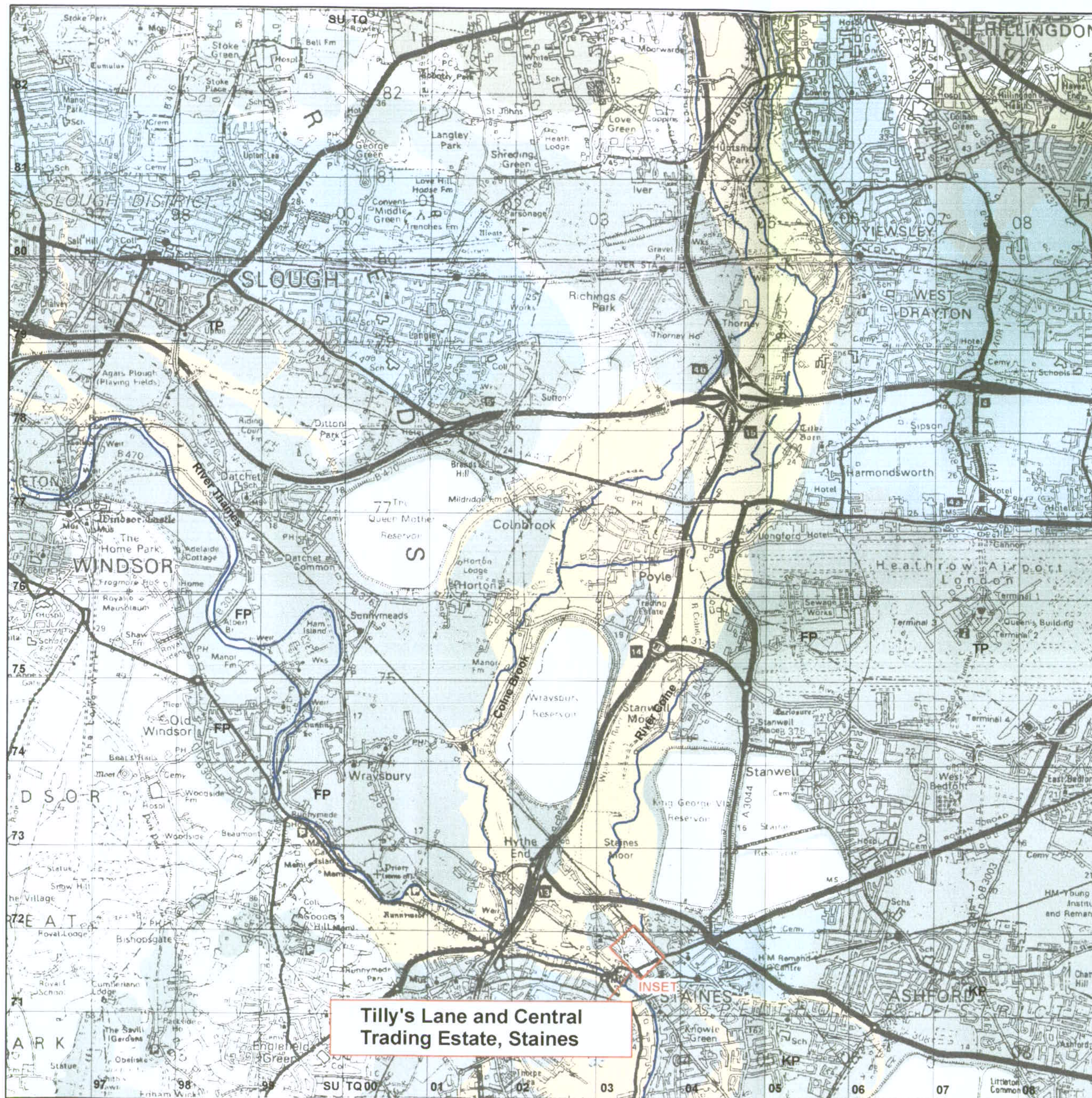
KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items,
(h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones

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

Table 4: Land snail assessment from Roman channels/ditches

Feature	3181	3181	3181	3256	3256	3256
Context	3005	3230	3230	3238	3245	3234
Sample	4068	4067	4066	4069	4074	4064
Depth	0.97	0.92	0.90	0.10	0.10	spot
Wt (g)	1650	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
Open country species						
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	C	C	-	C	C	B
<i>Vertigo</i> spp.	-	-	-	-	C	-
<i>Helicella itala</i>	C	C	C	C	C	C
<i>Vallonia</i> spp.	C	C	B	A	A	A
Catholic species						
<i>Trichia hispida</i>	C	A	A	A	A	A
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	-	-	B	B	-	-
<i>Cepaea</i> spp	-	C	C	B	C	B
<i>Limax</i>	-	-	C	-	-	-
Shade-loving species						
<i>Carychium</i>	-	-	C	C	C	C
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	-	C	-	C	-	C
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Oxychilus</i>	-	-	C	-	-	C
<i>Aegopinella</i>	-	-	C	A	C	C
<i>Vitrea</i>	-	-	-	C	-	-
Fresh and Brackish water species						
Planorbids	A	A	A	A	A	A
<i>Lymnaea/Bithynia</i>	C	A	A	A	A	A
<i>Succinea</i>	C	C	C	C	C	C
<i>Pisidium</i>	-	-	-	A	-	C
<i>Theodoxius</i>	-	-	-	-	-	C
Approx totals	25	100+	100+	100+	90	100+

KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items
B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (+) = present



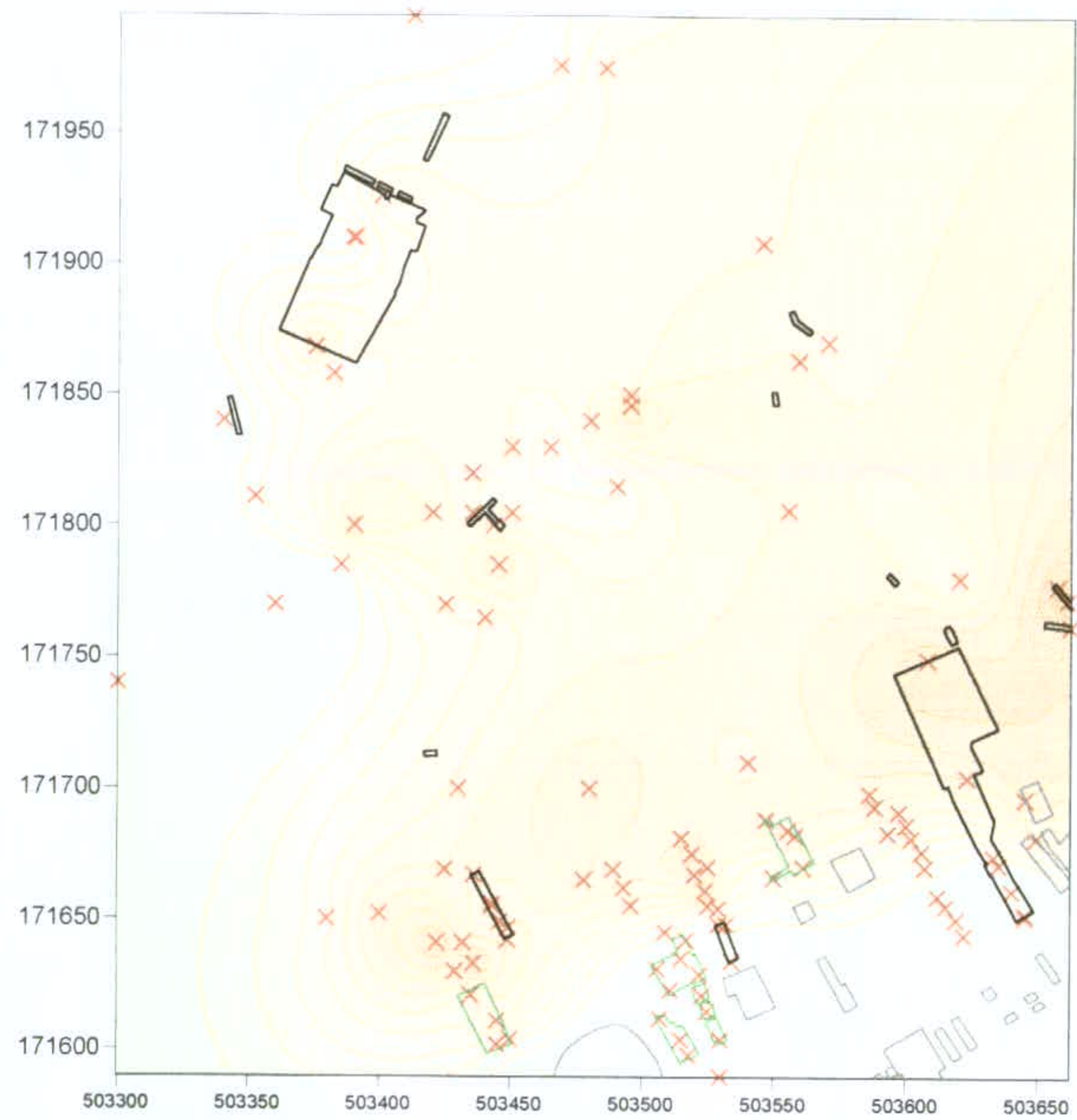
- Key**
- Glacial sand/ gravel & Black Park gravel
 - Boyn Hill gravel
 - Lynch Hill gravel
 - Taplow gravel & Terrace 3 gravel
 - Kempton Park gravel
 - Flood Plain gravel & Terrace 1 gravel
 - River brickearth & Langley silts
 - Alluvium
- Limit of Lynch Hill Terrace where obscured by brickearth

Based upon the Ordnance Survey's 1:50,000 map of 1990 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office c

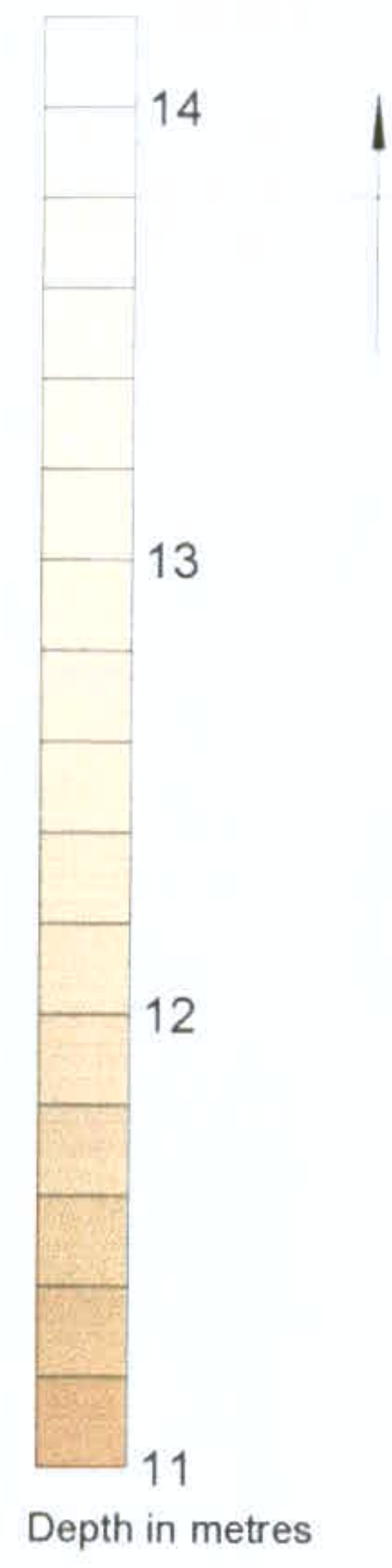
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Site location

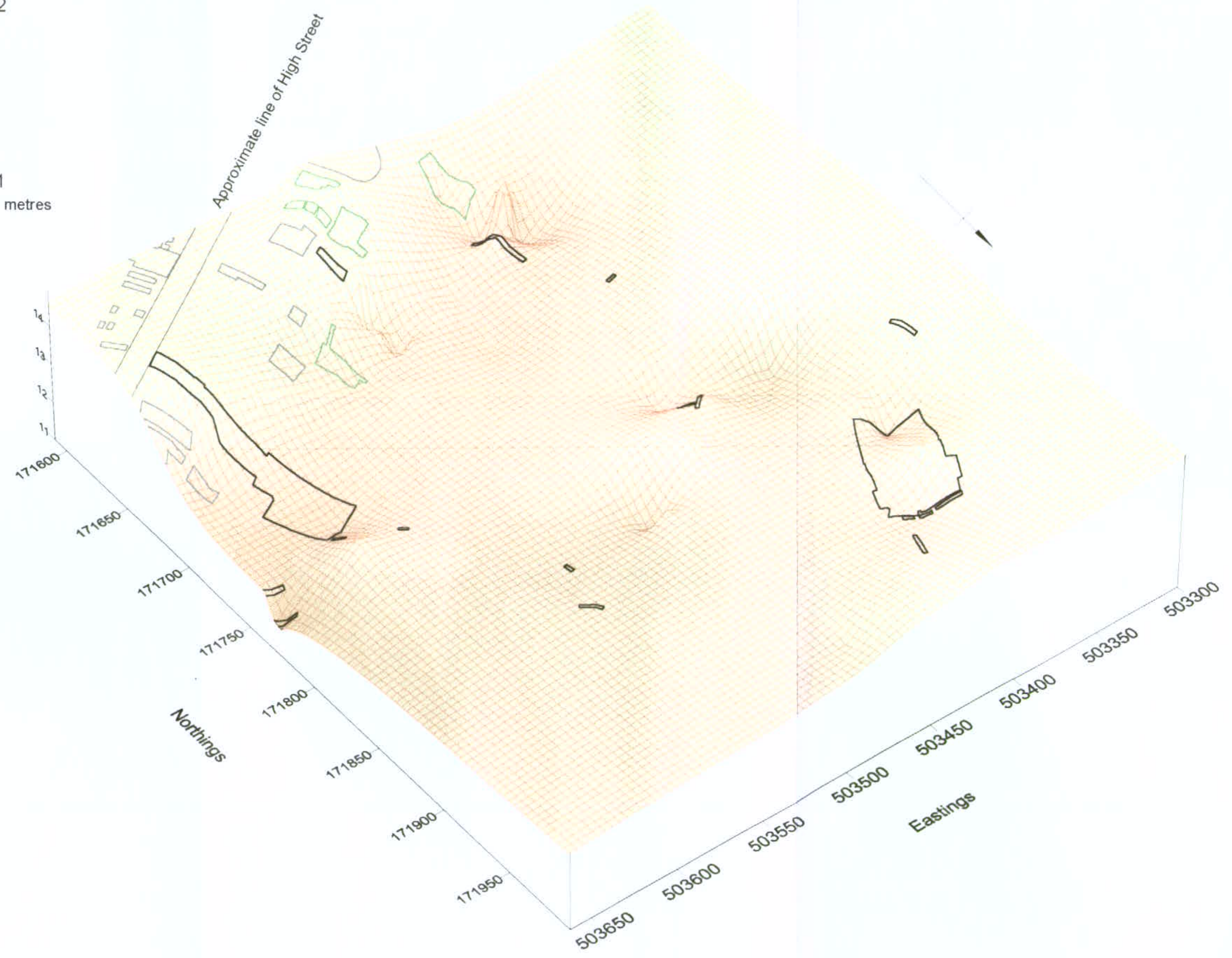
Figure 1



Contour map showing location of data points used to generate the figure



- Key:
- Excavations for this report by Wessex Archaeology
 - Previous excavations by Wessex Archaeology
 - Previous excavations by other archaeological units
 - x Sample points



3-d gravel contour map generated from sample data

Figure 2



Wessex Archaeology 08/08/00 RG ref:48931/1

Tilly's Lane east and west excavation trenches.

Figure 4

Key:

- Wessex Archaeology trench
- S.C.A.U excavation

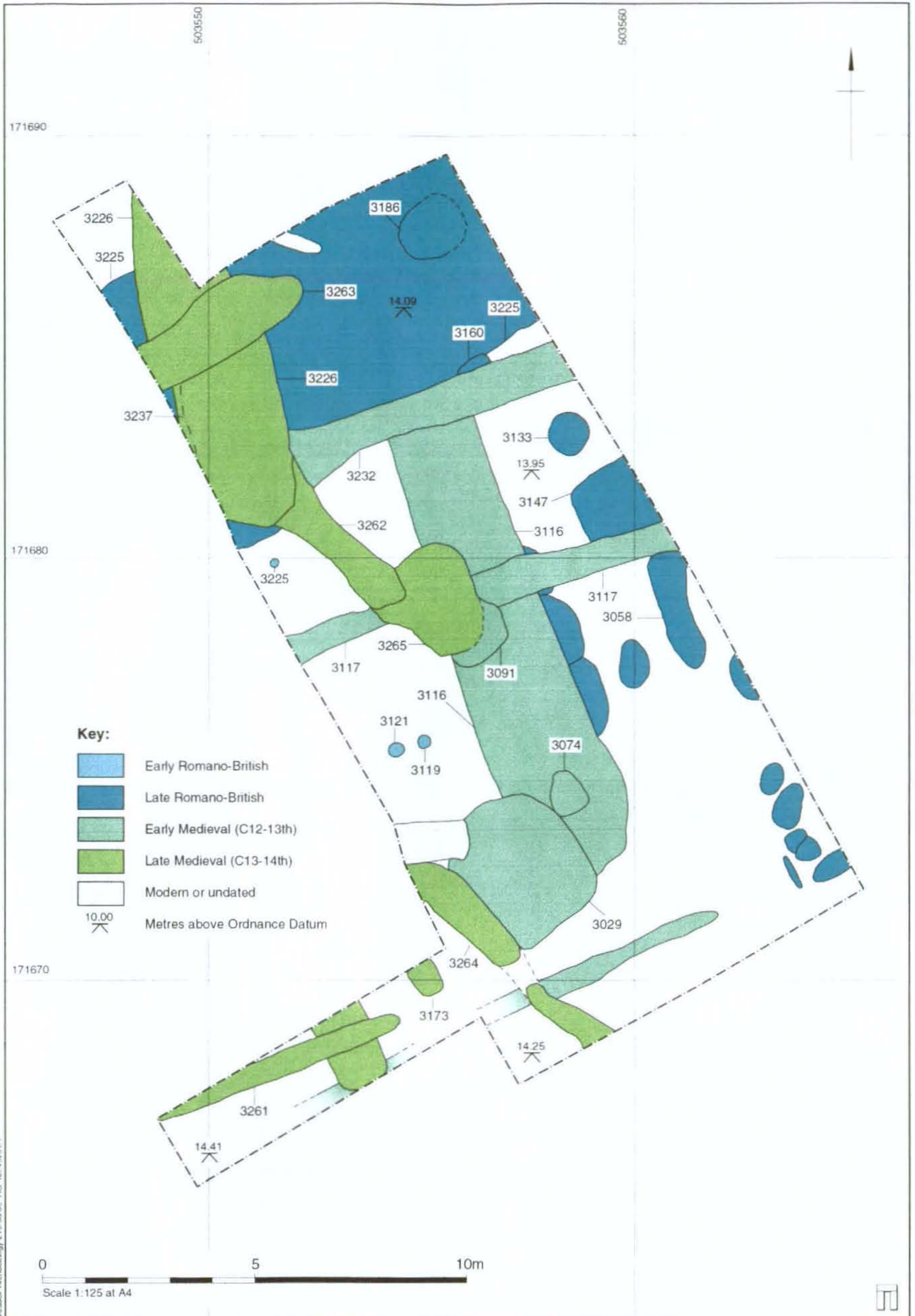
Phases

- Prehistoric
- Roman
- Medieval
- Post-medieval - modern

Scale of A3 1:500

0 20m

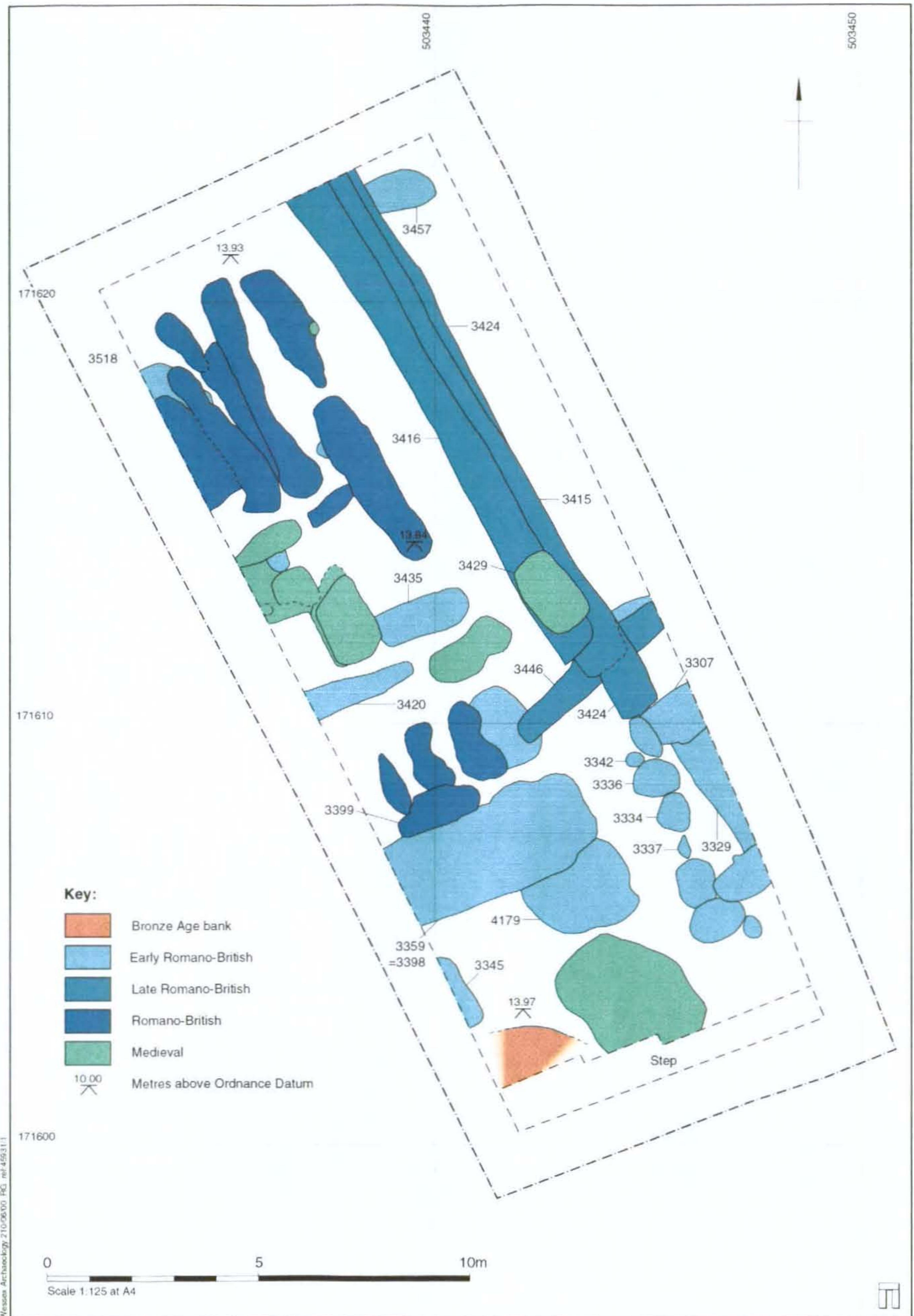




Tilly's Lane East, phase plan.

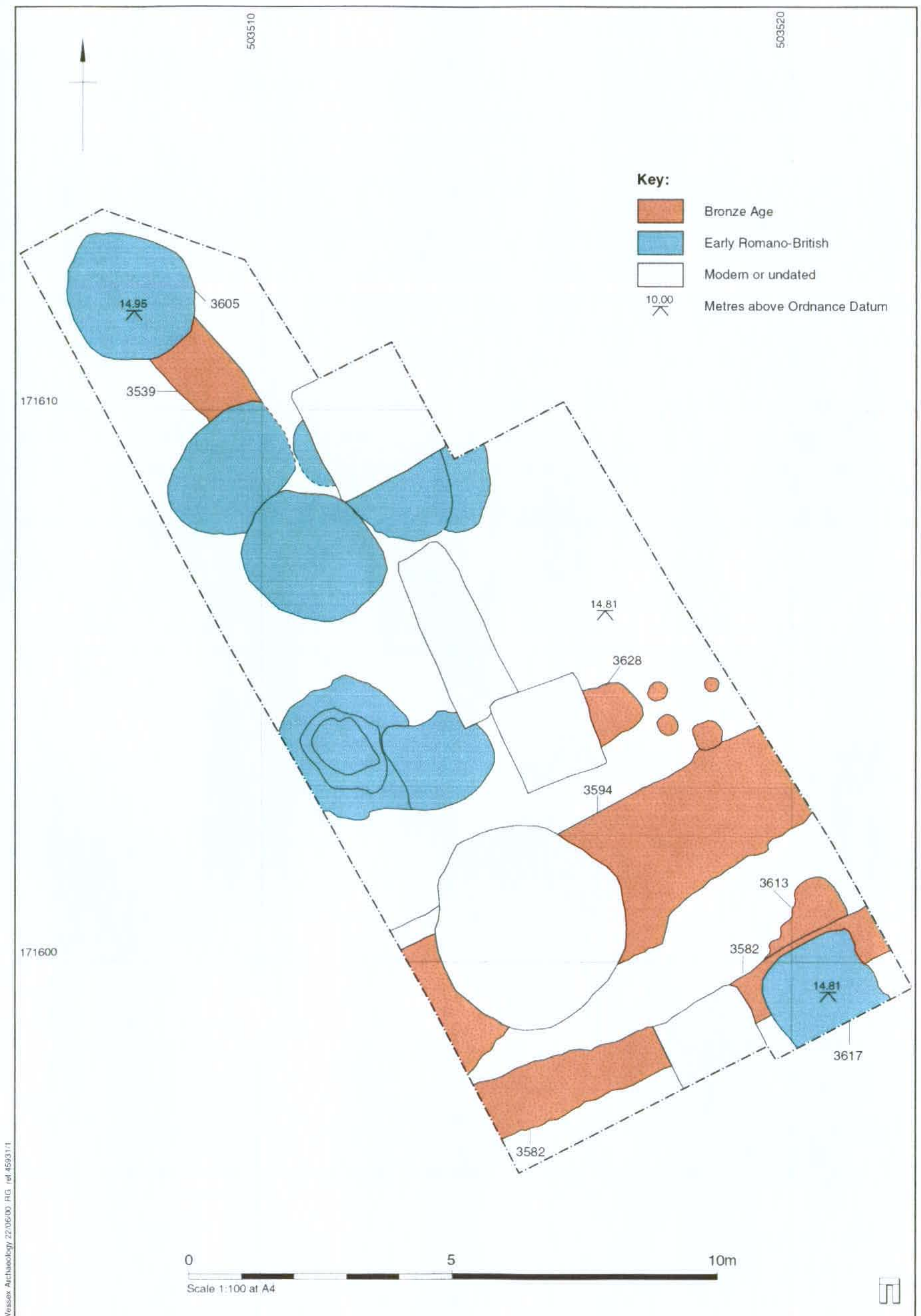
Figure 5

Wessex Archaeology 21006/00 RG ref 459311



Tilly's Lane West, British Gas site, phase plan.

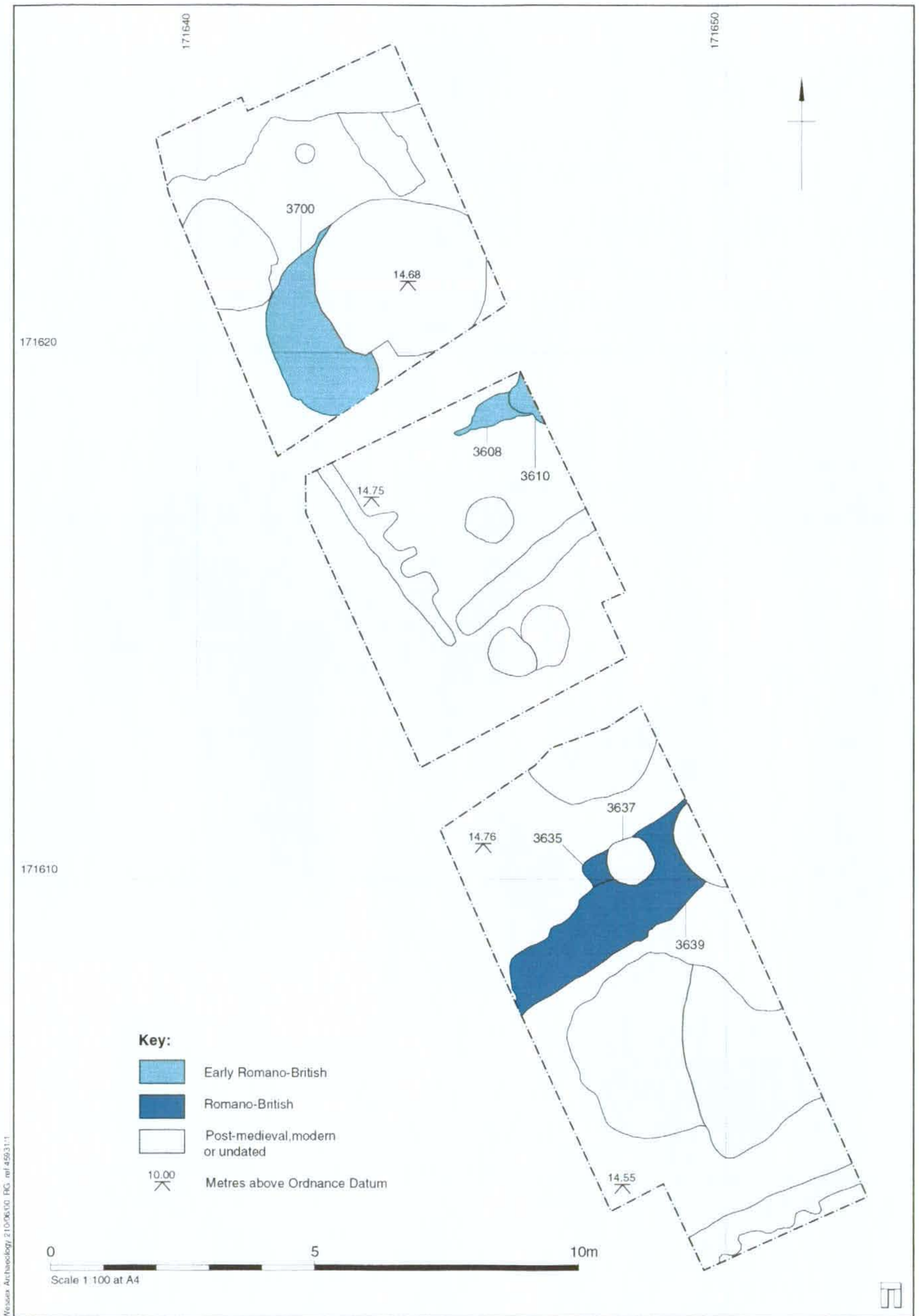
Figure 6



Wessex Archaeology 22/06/00 FIG ref 45931/1

Tillys Lane West, High St., west trench, phase plan.

Figure 7



Wessex Archaeology, 21006/00 PG. ref 4593111

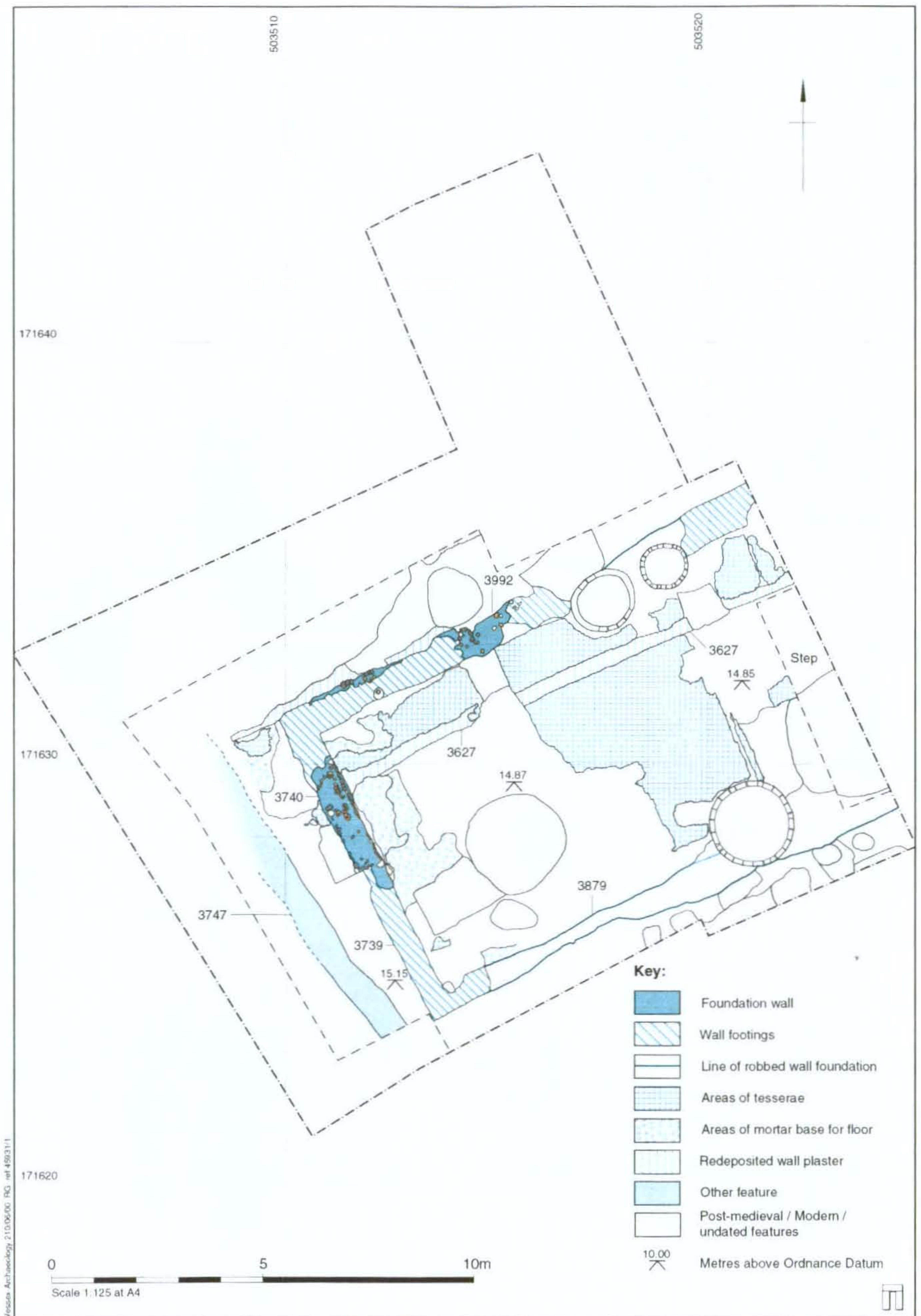
Tilly's Lane West, High St., south-east trench, phase plan.

Figure 8



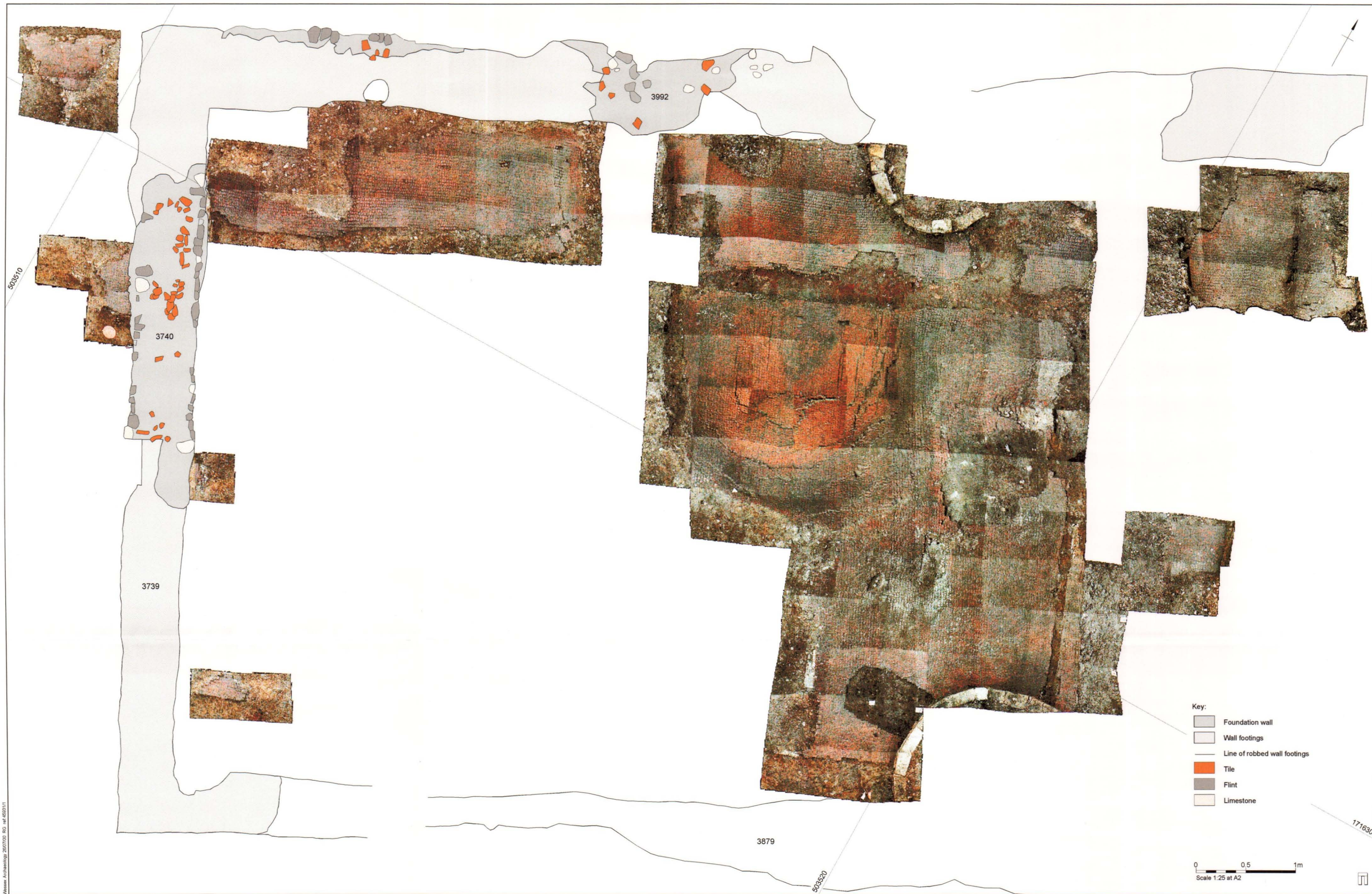
Tilly's Lane West, High St., north-east trench, level 1.

Figure 9



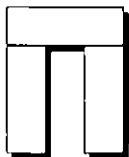
Tilly's Lane West, High St., north-east trench level 2. Roman building.

Figure 10



Tilly's Lane West, High St., north-east trench, photo-mosaic of tessellated floor in relation to main walls

Figure 11



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