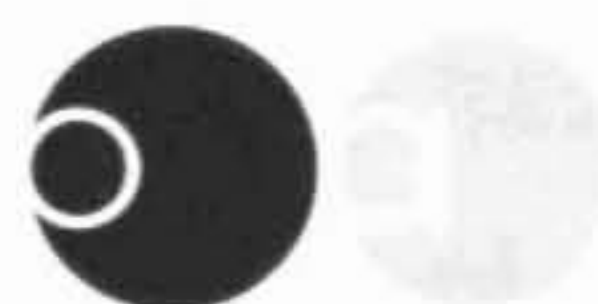


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# Excavations of a Roman Settlement at 121 Tiddington Road Stratford-upon-Avon



## Publication Report



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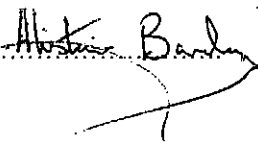
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## Excavations of a Roman settlement at 121 Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon

### *PUBLICATION REPORT*

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## SUMMARY

*An excavation and subsequent watching brief by Oxford Archaeology at 121 Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon revealed 1st and 2nd century gullies and a ditch in the north-eastern part of the Roman 'small town'. These enclosed areas were peripheral to the main focus of settlement. The site witnessed no further activity until the 4th century or later, when a boundary ditch was cut, disturbing earlier features. The ditch appeared to relate to similar evidence uncovered during excavations to the south-west by the Warwickshire Museum Field Service in 1988, and possibly a large ditch observed during 1981 investigations south of Tiddington Road.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology carried out an investigation of a site at 121 Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon on behalf of St Nicholas Developments Ltd ahead of the construction of new homes (Fig. 1). Following an evaluation carried out in April 2001 (OAU 2001), an excavation was undertaken during November 2002 within a total area of c 0.8 ha. This was divided into three smaller areas, labelled Areas A, B and C. The subsequent machining of a soakaway trench to the rear of the proposed properties was monitored for archaeological remains (here labelled Area D). Two 30m by 2m service trenches dug immediately to the south of the main excavation areas in September 2003 exposed no archaeological features, although a layer of modern rubble and ground disturbance connected with house demolition was revealed at the north end of the eastern trench. The site is centred around national grid reference SP 217 557, and is situated on the river gravel of the Second Terrace (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 200).

### 1.2 Acknowledgements

- 1.2.1 The author is grateful to St. Nicholas Developments Ltd for funding the excavation and post-excavation work, and in particular Barry Blackman for his co-operation during all stages. The efforts of the County Planning Archaeologist, Edward Wilson, are also acknowledged. Thanks are due to Nicholas Palmer (Warwickshire Museum Field Service) for supplying information on previous investigations. The author is indebted to Paul Booth (OA) for specialist advice. Finally, the site staff deserve much credit for the fieldwork. The excavation and watching brief were managed by Richard Brown and supervised by Bryan Matthews. Alan Hardy managed the post-excavation project. The report was illustrated by Luke Adams, Amy Tucker and Anne Dunkley, and edited by Jennifer Coolidge. The site archive will be deposited with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in due course (Museum Code: SBT 2001-9).

### 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The site lies within an area of significant archaeological remains revealed in the course of successive examinations of the major Roman settlement and its environs. Limited evidence of pits, ditches and a scatter of pottery suggest that dispersed farmsteads were established during the Iron Age (Palmer 1983, 43). A precursor of the modern Tiddington Road may have formed the spine of the settlement that developed from the later 1st century AD (Burnham and Wachter 1990, 310). Excavations in 1982 on the north side of the road, and some 100 m south-west of the development area, revealed a complex sequence of domestic occupation dating principally to the 1st and 2nd centuries, including enclosure ditches, rubbish pits and structures. Two kilns provided evidence for pottery production. Kiln 1 was producing 'Belgic'-type wares during the 1st century AD, followed by Kiln 2, which was active from the mid 2nd century (Booth 1996b). South of Tiddington Road, structures, pits

and a road were uncovered in 1980-1, corresponding to an expansion of the settlement eastward during the 2nd century (Palmer 1982, 12). Excavations in 1925 and 1937, also south of Tiddington Road, revealed stone buildings accompanied by evidence of light industry (Fieldhouse *et al*, 1931), although the precise character of this part of the settlement is disputed; Webster 1974, 53). May's 'tile kiln' was shown to be a corn-drier on re-examination in the 1980s. The settlement continued to develop south of the road in the late Roman period and, during the 4th century, was apparently enclosed by a large ditch. Only the eastern corner of this feature was discovered, but the limits of which were determined by the natural boundary of the floodplain, the assumption that the Roman road ran centrally through the settlement, and the presence of Roman burials, which by Roman law were located outside urban boundaries (Lewis and Reinhold 1990, 114). The ditch formed the basis of a reconstruction of the 'small town' (Palmer 1982, 16-18). The size of the resulting enclosure is questionable (Booth 1996a, 38), but if this projection is correct, then the line of the ditch enclosing the settlement would have been observed in Area A at 121 Tiddington Road.

- 1.3.2 Some 4th century or later activity was recorded in an area immediately south-west of Area A. Two ditches, set at right angles, yielded Anglo-Saxon pottery, accompanied by early Roman and a small amount of late Roman wares (N Palmer pers. comm.; Booth 1996b). This evidence may represent late 5th-6th century re-cutting of 4th century ditches, or exclusively Anglo-Saxon ditches with residual Roman pottery. This part of the settlement was otherwise devoid of late Roman material.
- 1.3.3 The evaluation of the site during April 2001 revealed ditch cuts in trenches 1 and 2, which were interpreted as the continuation of the 1981 settlement ditch (Fig.1). No late Roman material was recovered, which appeared to confirm that the area had not seen activity since the early Roman period. Features belonging to this period were disturbed by the later ditch, with the result that residual pottery became incorporated into its fills. Trench 3, apparently located outside the settlement boundary, revealed three shallow gullies. These perhaps related to a prehistoric field system (OAU 2001, 9-10). The excavation provided an opportunity to re-examine this evidence across a larger area and to assess the validity of its interpretation in the context of previous discoveries. Evaluation Trench 1 was located within excavation Area A, although poor soil differentiation meant that the outline of the backfilled trench could not be discerned. Trenches 2 and 3 were north of the excavation area, but the features observed within them may have related to those in Areas A and B.



## 2 STRATIGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION (FIG 2)

### 2.1 Phase 1: Up to mid 1st century AD

#### *Area A*

- 2.1.1 Three gullies were cut into the natural sandy gravel. Westernmost gully 1016, aligned north-south, was 1.3m wide and survived to a depth of 0.2m. The feature was truncated by later major boundary ditches, although part of the gully may survive beyond the northern edge of the latter, suggesting that its course curved toward the north. At 0.29m deep, north-south aligned gully 1027/1029 was shallow, similar to gully 1016. It was approximately 1m wide and irregularly shaped overall, possibly resulting from tree-disturbance, and appeared to be cut by the outside major ditch, although no trace of the gully can be seen directly beyond the northern side of the ditch. A narrow slot was observed along the western edge of the gully. This may represent a cut for a beam slot or perhaps a fence. A third gully (1022), 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep, was located at the eastern edge of the area, and appeared to curve toward the south-west. Inevitably, it had been truncated by the outside ditch. While its course beyond the ditch remains unknown, it is possible that this feature joined gully 1027/1029, although their alignments do not match exactly.
- 2.1.2 Finds were generally sparse, but enough 'Belgic'-type pottery was recovered to date the filling of the gullies to the first half of the 1st century AD. Gully 1016 contained Tiddington Kiln 1 products and may have been filled as late as c AD 80. The features were severely truncated, limiting their overall interpretation. However, it seems likely that they formed part of up to three enclosures.

#### *Area B*

- 2.1.3 Gully terminus 2009, aligned NE-SW, was the earliest identified feature. It was 1.25m wide and 0.41m deep and truncated by a N-S orientated ditch or gully (2003) that continued beyond the limit of excavation. No dating evidence was recovered from either, but gully 2003 was truncated by 1st century pit 2005 and NE-SW gully 2007. The small pit was only partially uncovered, but had a probable diameter of approximately 1m. Gully 2007 terminated approximately 6m from the south-east facing baulk. Another gully (2018), 1.3m wide and 0.26m deep, was revealed within the southern corner of the trench, although it disappeared within an area of considerable modern disturbance. All these features yielded black-surfaced 'Belgic' pottery dating the infilling of the features to the first half of the 1st century AD. A fourth gully (2013) was seen within the north central part of the area. The 0.25m deep feature comprised a narrow, 0.5m wide channel, widening to over 2m as a spread of fill material, which may have resulted from later disturbance. The gully appeared to curve toward the south-east as gully 2033, probably terminating immediately north-west of gully 2007 and with it possibly forming part of a single enclosure. No finds were recovered from these cuts, but the gully almost certainly joined gully 4004 in Area D, from which 'Belgic' pottery was retrieved.

*Area C*

- 2.1.4 A single gully (3004) was assigned to Phase 1 on the basis of the pottery it contained. The feature was orientated NW-SE, terminating at its northern end. Like all the other gullies, 3004 was relatively shallow at 0.18m deep.

*Area D*

- 2.1.5 Gully 4004 was 1.8m wide and 0.18m deep. If its course were projected along its NW-SE orientation, it seems likely that it would have joined gully 2013. Unfortunately, due to the extent of later disturbance, the feature was not observed in evaluation Trench 2 although its possible northern terminus was seen in Trench 3 (304). Additional traces of gullies in this area included gully termini 4008 and 4010 were seen toward its west end. The latter may represent the northern end of the Area A curving gully (1016).

**2.2 Phase 2: later 1st-2nd century AD***Area A*

- 2.2.1 A major ditch was cut during this phase. Ditch 1 measured some 3m wide and 0.6m deep. It was sectioned in three places, although its full profile was only seen in cut 1012 (Fig. 3). Cut 1006 revealed a narrow cut outside the ditch's western edge. This may have been associated with Phase 1 gully 1016, since their alignments are similar, but is more likely to be a ditch 1 re-cut, since both were filled by a single deposit, indicating that they were open at the same time. The corner of the ditch (1020) cut Phase 1 gully 1016, dating the cutting of the ditch to Phase 1 or later. Dating evidence for its infilling was strongest in cut 1012. Grey ware from the lowest fill suggested a late 1st or 2nd century date for deposition. The upper fills contained 'Belgic'-type wares only, as did the remaining segments. Given the evident disturbance, this material was likely redeposited from earlier features.

*Area B*

- 2.2.2 Excavation revealed a group of gullies within the western corner of Area B. Gully 2016/2024, averaging 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep, was aligned NE-SW, terminating 2.5m from the limit of excavation. Cut 2024 contained a fragment of Oxfordshire white ware mortarium, which must have been deposited after the early 2nd century. This feature was cut by gullies 2020/2029 and 2032. Clearly beginning as two separate features, a section made at the point of their merging suggested that 2020/2029, overall 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep, was a later gully that truncated 2032. No pottery was recovered from these features, although human bone was found in the northernmost part of the former, representing a disturbed and re-deposited burial. Subsequent disturbance masked the southern course of the features, but if the course of 2020/2029 were extended, it would join Phase 1 gully 2018, rendering the dating evidence in the latter residual.

*Area C*

- 2.2.3 Gully or ditch 3006 was truncated by later cultivation, and part of the deposit sequence may have been lost. Nevertheless, the remnants suggest an originally substantial feature, surviving to a depth 0.3m and width of 1.9m. Tiddington Kiln 2 grey ware recovered from its extant single fill suggests that the feature filled from the mid 2nd century onward.

*Area D*

- 2.2.4 Gully or ditch 4006 was 0.9m wide and 0.5m deep. No finds were recovered, but, in the absence of clear dating evidence, gully or ditch 4006 was assigned to Phase 2 on the basis of its perceived connection with Area B gully 2020. They roughly share alignments and dimensions, and both were filled with brown sandy loam. It is entirely possible that they formed part of the same feature.

**2.3 Phase 3: 4th century AD or Anglo-Saxon***Area A*

- 2.3.1 Ditch 2 was a major feature located north of ditch 1 and running parallel with it. The feature averaged 3.1m wide and 0.7m deep. Cut 1008 contained four deposits (Fig. 3). This is not necessarily inconsistent with the single deposit that filled cut 1024, since the lowest three deposits in 1008 appear to represent natural silting or collapse of the sides. The substantial proportion of the ditch appears to have filled as a single event; it contained a diverse artefact assemblage, including half of the total number of animal bone fragments from the site identified to species, tile, remnants from a possible floor surface, and ubiquitous pottery. The ditch truncated at least two, and possibly three, gullies assigned to Phase 1. Clearly the ditch was cut during or after the first half of the 1st century AD. However, Anglo-Saxon pottery recovered from the primary fill of cut 1008 and the sole deposit in cut 1024 suggests that the feature was considerably later, having been filled by the late 5th-6th centuries. The majority of the pottery, spanning the 1st and 2nd centuries, was residual. Notably, no pottery of intervening date was retrieved.
- 2.3.2 No part of the ditch was exposed in the eastern service trench (Fig. 2), although modern rubble and ground disturbance was recorded at the north end of the trench, where the feature might be expected to appear. A feature exposed in evaluation trench 2 (205) was initially interpreted as a corner of a boundary ditch (OAU 2001, 7). As such, it may have been a re-cut of ditch 2, although the dating evidence was exclusively 1st century in nature. However, no traces of the feature were observed either in Area A or B, and its interpretation as a ditch remains uncertain.

### 3 THE FINDS

#### 3.1 The pottery

##### *Introduction*

- 3.1.1 A total of 185 sherds weighing 1515g was recovered from the excavation and watching brief. The pottery dated predominantly to the late Iron Age and early Roman period; the middle to late Iron Age, and the 2nd century were also represented. The condition of the assemblage was generally poor. Rims were only occasionally found among the generally small and abraded body sherds.
- 3.1.2 The pottery was recorded using the standard Warwickshire Museum system for Iron Age and Roman pottery. It was sorted into fabric groups based on surface appearance and major inclusion types. Where possible, reference has been made to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998), where fuller descriptions are given (codes in brackets below). The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight. Vessel types were identified from rims, which were quantified by vessel count and estimated vessel rim-equivalence (RE).

##### *Forms and fabrics*

- E15. 'Belgic'-type orange sandy fabric with occasional clay pellets. Tiddington Kiln 1 product.
  - E16. 'Belgic'-type red brown fabric with irregular grog inclusions. Tiddington Kiln 1 product.
  - E22. 'Belgic'-type brown black fabric with red and black grog inclusions.
  - E23. 'Belgic'-type brown black, sandy fabric with red, black and buff inclusions.
  - E41. 'Belgic'-type black sandy fabric.
  - M23 (OXF WH). Oxfordshire white ware mortarium fabric.
  - O82. Orange buff fabric with grey core, occasional fine sand and iron inclusions.
  - R21. Moderately sandy grey fabric with black iron inclusions. Tiddington Kiln 2 product.
  - R32. Grey brown sandy fabric with white, iron and organic inclusions.
  - R82. Fine sandy grey ware with occasional iron inclusions.
  - C13. Grey black-buff fabric with sparse grog inclusions and calcareous material.
  - G24 (SAV GT). Savernake ware.
  - Z31. Black, sandy handmade fabric with rounded quartz inclusions.
- 3.1.3 The assemblage was dominated by 'Belgic'-type fabrics E23 and E41 (Table 1). Both were of roughly equal importance in terms of quantities, although the amount of E41 was perhaps inflated by the presence of a substantial proportion of a single vessel in ditch 1006. Despite the presence of this vessel, the quantity of E41 remains higher than that recorded at the 1982 and 1988 sites, where E23 dominated during the 1st century AD (Booth 1996b). The results from these sites suggest that the fabrics had a 1st century AD currency (Booth 1996b), and their fabric associations at 121 Tiddington Road were consistent with this dating. Forms included medium-mouthed and high-shouldered jars (Table 2). Grog-tempered pottery (E22) was also present, although it should be noted that grog was an occasional filler in E23. The site also yielded products of Tiddington Kiln 1, active during the 1st century AD.

Together fabrics E15 and E16 assigned to this kiln accounted for 14% of the assemblage by weight. The former produced a single rim sherd belonging to an everted rimmed jar, though a cordoned body sherd hinted at the inclusion of butt-beakers in the repertoire of the local potters. Roman-period wares were dominated by coarse grey ware fabric R32. This was present in just one context, however, with all fragments probably belonging to a single vessel. The remaining fabrics were present in very small amounts, including Fabric R21, which was also made at Tiddington (Kiln 2) and dates to the mid 2nd century. Some pottery arrived from more distant sources. Savernake ware (G24) arrived from Wiltshire during the early Roman period. The Oxfordshire white ware mortarium (M23) was imported some time between the 2nd and 4th centuries. The latest pottery comprised handmade, coarse-tempered sherds of Anglo-Saxon date (Z31). These accompanied residual Roman-period wares in ditch 2.

- 3.1.4 The pottery recovered during the evaluation was consistent with the early Roman emphasis of the excavation assemblage. A total of 35 sherds (414g) were found; all can be placed within a date range of *c* AD 40-70. Trench 1 pottery was predominantly black-surfaced, although occasional kiln 1 products were present. Trench 2 yielded similar pottery, including a jar base fragment that was perforated after firing, possibly part of a strainer (Booth 2001, 8).

### *Chronology and discussion*

- 3.1.5 The pottery dates the main period of activity to the 1st century AD. The predominant 'Belgic'-type wares are unlikely to date much beyond the middle of the century. Kiln 1, which contributed to the assemblage, may have ceased production by *c* AD 70 (Booth 1996b). Fabrics R32 and R82 typically date to the late 1st and 2nd centuries, but these are unlikely to represent significant 2nd century activity. Notably, excavations during 1988, located closest to the current site, yielded little dating evidence that post-dated the early 2nd century (Booth 1996b). The absence at 121 Tiddington Road of samian wares and amphorae, confined largely to the 2nd century at Tiddington, acted as another useful chronological indicator. At 180 sherds, the small size of the ceramic assemblage may be a factor. However, when the frequency of the wares across the 'small settlement' is considered, one might expect single sherds of samian and amphora amongst an assemblage of this size. Other exclusively 2nd century and later material, such as R21 and mortarium fabric M23, was comparatively scarce, and its appearance would seem to be due more to discrete episodes of peripheral activity rather than occupation at or very close to the site.
- 3.1.6 The poor condition of the pottery, the average sherd weight of 8g, and the lack of identifiable forms suggest that the assemblage was subjected to episodes of disturbance and relocation before final deposition at the site. Most of the pottery was recovered from ditches and gullies, and of this, 80% by weight derived from the two curving boundary ditches in Area A. These truncated early-mid 1st century gullies, and much of the pottery from the ditches was entirely residual.

### 3.2 Other finds

*Ceramic material by Edward Biddulph*

- 3.2.1 A total of 5 tile fragments (354g) were recovered. The fabric was uniformly sandy with occasional limestone inclusions. Phase 1 gully 1016 yielded three unidentified fragments without surfaces. The upper fill of Phase 3 ditch 1008 contained two fragments, including a corner piece belonging to a flat roof tile, or tegula. This was abraded and probably redeposited. A single amorphous, sandy lump of fired clay (8g), probably derived from a brick, was found in modern construction cut 2011 together with a piece of mortar.

*The worked stone by Ruth Shaffrey*

- 3.2.2 Two flat rounded pebbles found in the primary fill of ditch 1008 had a thick deposit of mortar attached to one side. On both pebbles this had a flat upper face, almost parallel with the top of the pebble, suggesting that the pebbles had been laid in a surface. They may have been part of a cobbled floor.

*The flint by Kate Cramp*

- 3.2.3 Technological traits suggest that the majority of the assemblage is Neolithic in date, but a small number of irregular flakes and flakes cores may date from the Bronze Age. The presence of a number of blades and flakes of narrow proportions, along with a leaf-shaped arrowhead (type 3Ai Green 1980, 71; Fig 5), indicates the presence of early Neolithic flintwork, while a discoidal core and levallois style flake suggest that some later Neolithic material is also present. The two side scrapers both exhibited fine, slightly invasive to semi-abrupt edge retouch. A spur was also present on one scraper.

*The animal bone by Julie Hamilton*

- 3.2.4 A total of 271 fragments (717g) of animal bone were recovered from 11 contexts (Table 4). Surfaces showed extensive to moderate damage. The mean weight of identified fragments was 15g, while the mean weight of unidentified fragments was 1g. Overall, 34 fragments were identified to species, a relatively low proportion reflecting poor preservation. Poor preservation is likely to lead to the underestimation of younger and smaller elements, and hence smaller species, as well as obscuring alterations to the bone surface due to pre-burial factors such as pathology, butchery and weathering. No pathology or burning was seen. Butchery was observed on two identified fragments (sheep/goat tibia, cattle scapula) and one unidentified fragment. Dog gnawing was seen on one unidentified and two identified fragments. Rootlet etching was seen on 10 fragments overall.
- 3.2.5 Cattle were dominant, followed by sheep/goat and pig (Table 5). The assemblage is representative of a mixed farming economy. Due to the poor condition and small size of the assemblage, it was impossible to draw any strong conclusions. The limited evidence suggests that all parts of the skeleton of cattle and sheep were represented as well as a wide range of ages. There was a partial sheep mandible from a lamb under one year old and a loose lower third molar from a very old adult. Additionally, there were two loose cattle teeth, one from a young adult and one from an old adult.

The animal remains are likely to derive from animals reared, slaughtered and eaten locally.

*The human bone by Annsofie Witkin*

- 3.2.6 Fragments of a human cranium were discovered in the fill of Phase 2 gully 2020. The remains were that of an adult aged upwards of 18 years. Sex could not be determined. It is unusual to find disarticulated fragments from adult individual burials within Roman-period contexts since the vast majority of adults normally received formal burial. Other sites where disarticulated human bone has been found include Eton College at Dorney, South Buckinghamshire (Allen *et al* 2000, 99) and Claydon Pike, Gloucestershire (Witkin forthcoming). Though the skull at Tiddington may represent an early Roman burial that was disturbed and scattered by later use of the site, it is more likely these fragments represented redeposited bone from the Iron Age, a period more commonly associated with partial burial.

#### 4 DISCUSSION

##### 4.1 Interpretation and significance

- 4.1.1 The results of the excavation, while limited, augment existing knowledge about Roman Tiddington, particularly the part of the settlement north of Tiddington Road. In general terms, the evidence is broadly consistent with that recovered from the 1982 and 1988 excavations, located to the south-west of the present site. All three areas revealed early Roman enclosure gullies or ditches, accompanied by little or no direct evidence for 3rd or 4th century activity (Palmer 1983, 36; Palmer and Palmer 1988, 34). The combined evidence shows convincingly that this part of the settlement was intensely occupied sometime during the first half of the 1st century AD, possibly up to c AD 80. Earlier Iron Age evidence was absent, and the 1981 site south of Tiddington Road remains the only area with strong evidence for occupation of this date.
- 4.1.2 Phase 1 activity at 121 Tiddington Road was characterised by thin and shallow gullies. These were aligned NW-SE or NE-SW, and as such appear to have formed part of an integrated arrangement of enclosures or boundaries. Unfortunately, much of this evidence was obliterated by later features or modern disturbance, making the task of connecting gully segments difficult. However, the system of 1st century enclosures was clearly extensive. No buildings were uncovered during the excavation. A possible beam slot formed part of Phase 1 gully 1027/1029, although this may have related to a fence. The absence of such evidence is in contrast to the 1982 site, and suggests that the site lies on the periphery of domestic activity centred further to the south-west. The roof tile and cobbled floor fragments were undoubtedly the remnants of buildings, but, like the pottery, were worn and may have been subjected to episodes of relocation prior to final deposition.
- 4.1.3 Two major ditches (Area A ditches 1 and 2) dominate the site. Despite their similarities in alignment and form, chronological differences mean that the features cannot be associated in functional terms, although ditch 2 respected the course of the

earlier cut (or its bank or hedge), which must have remained a visible monument after infilling. If extended toward the south-west both ditches align with features uncovered in 1988. The 1988 excavation exposed the corners of a group of gullies in the western part of the exposed area, possibly representing an extensively re-cut enclosure boundary, and a substantial ditch along the northern edge (Fig. 1). Pottery dated the gullies to the 1st-2nd centuries, and the ditch to 4th century or Anglo-Saxon period (Booth 1996b; Palmer and Palmer 1988, 34). On the basis of alignments and phasing, ditch 1 may form part of the gully group. The differences in form between the features need not be anomalous, since some re-cutting was noted in Area A cut 1006. Ditch 2 may connect with the ditch that was either entirely Anglo-Saxon in date or was cut in the 4th century and subsequently re-cut in the 5th or 6th century. If so, then the features formed a substantial enclosure. The 1988 ditch came close to meeting another ditch at right angles, possibly representing the enclosure's western limit. The dating evidence from ditch 2 does not conclusively resolve the enclosure's chronology. Anglo-Saxon material from primary deposits strongly suggests a post-Roman date. However, the absence of 4th century pottery may simply reflect the sparse evidence for late Roman activity in the area.

- 4.1.4 Inevitably, ditch 2 in particular must be compared with the mid 4th century 'settlement ditch' from the 1981 site. Intriguingly, its projected course extends through Area A. This feature and ditch 2 were not identical: the 'settlement ditch' was found to be some 1.5m deep and up to 8m wide. Ditch 2 was thinner and, at barely 1m deep, considerably shallower. However, the dimensions of a substantial hand-cut ditch need not be identical along its entire length. Ditch 2 clearly turns to the south-west, and should this and the 'settlement ditch' be associated, then the feature as a whole, measuring some 225m by 100m, must have enclosed a smaller area than previously supposed, and may also relate to post-Roman occupation. The proportions of such an enclosure would be rather unusual, however, and it is safer to assume that the location of the SW corner of ditch 2 remains to be identified. Nevertheless, if it is accepted that the 'settlement ditch', ditch 2 and the 1988 ditch are part of the same feature, then there are important implications for the understanding for post-Roman settlement in the region. The inference that there was some significant continuity of settlement from the late Roman to the early Saxon period is supported locally in cemetery evidence at Wasperton (Crawford 1983, 25-6; Booth 1996a, 45).



## APPENDIX 1 TABLES

Fabric	Sherds	% Sherds	Weight (g)	% Weight	RE	% RE
E23	50	25	376	25	0.41	67
E41	94	50	366	24	-	-
R32	10	5	303	20	-	-
E15	7	4	150	10	0.2	33
C13	2	1	114	8	-	-
Z31	13	7	96	6	-	-
E16	1	1	47	3	-	-
M23	1	1	22	1	-	-
G24	1	1	18	1	-	-
E22	1	1	9	1	-	-
R82	1	1	7	<1	-	-
R21	3	2	5	<1	-	-
O82	1	1	2	<1	-	-
TOTAL	185	-	1515	-	0.61	-

Table 1 Quantification of fabrics by sherd count, weight and rim equivalence (RE) in order of significance by weight

Fabric	Form	RE	% RE
E41	Medium mouthed jar (CK)	0.21	35
E15	Everted rim jar (CG)	0.2	33
E41	Undesignated jar (C)	0.1	16
E41	High shouldered jar (CD)	0.1	16
TOTAL		0.61	-

Table 2 Vessel form by rim-equivalence (RE)

Category	Feature					Total
	1008	1012	2005	2020	3006	
End scraper	1					1
Burnt unworked flint		1	1	1	1	4
TOTAL	1	1	1	1	1	5

Table 3 Flint by type and by context from the site

Species	Number of identified fragments (NIF)	Fragment weights (g)
Cattle	28	454
Sheep/goat	14	27
Pig	1	16
Unidentified	228	220
TOTAL	271	717

Table 4 Quantification of animal bone

	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig
%NIF	65	33	2
%Weight	91	5	4

Table 5 Species percentages (% of identified bone)

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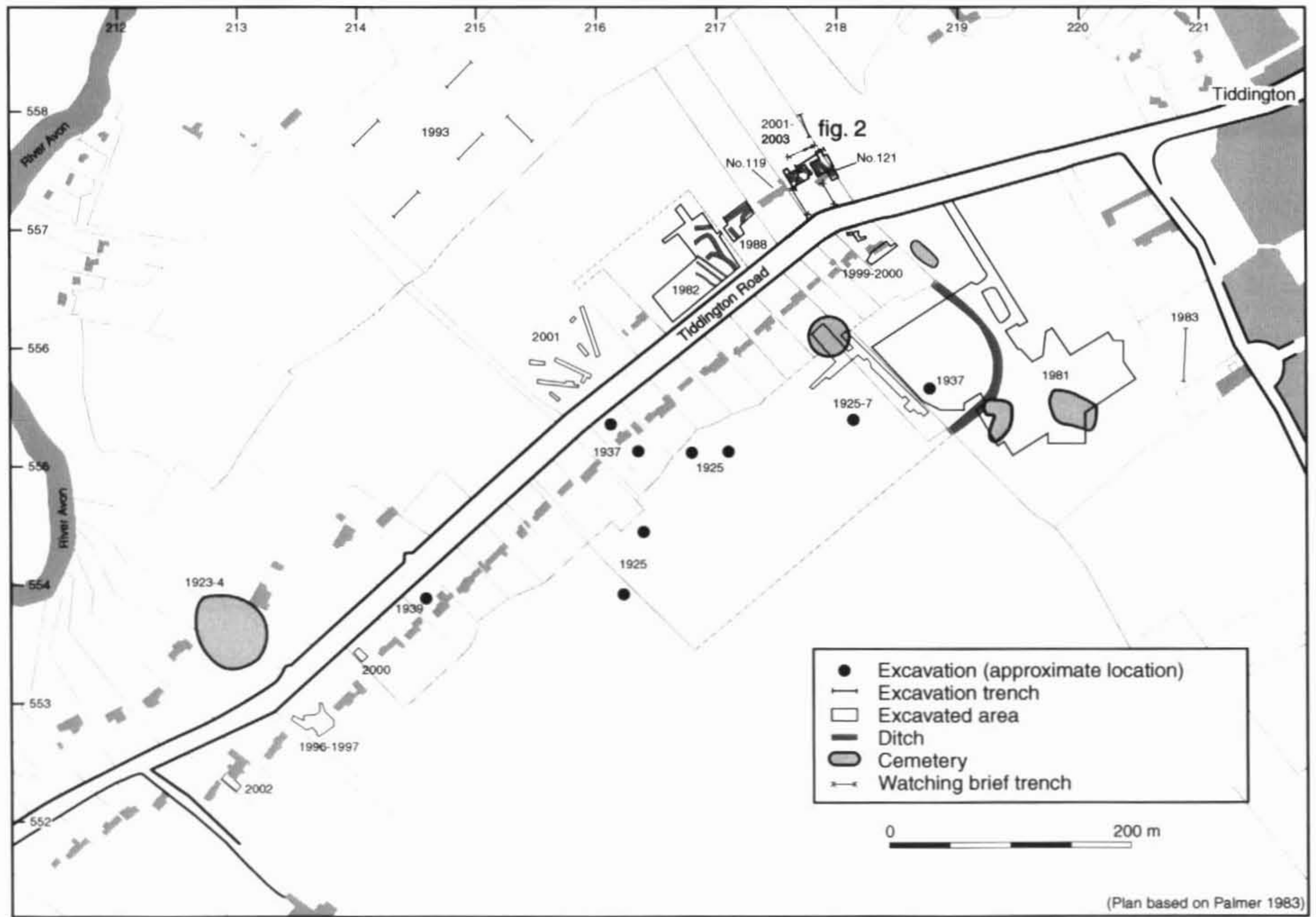
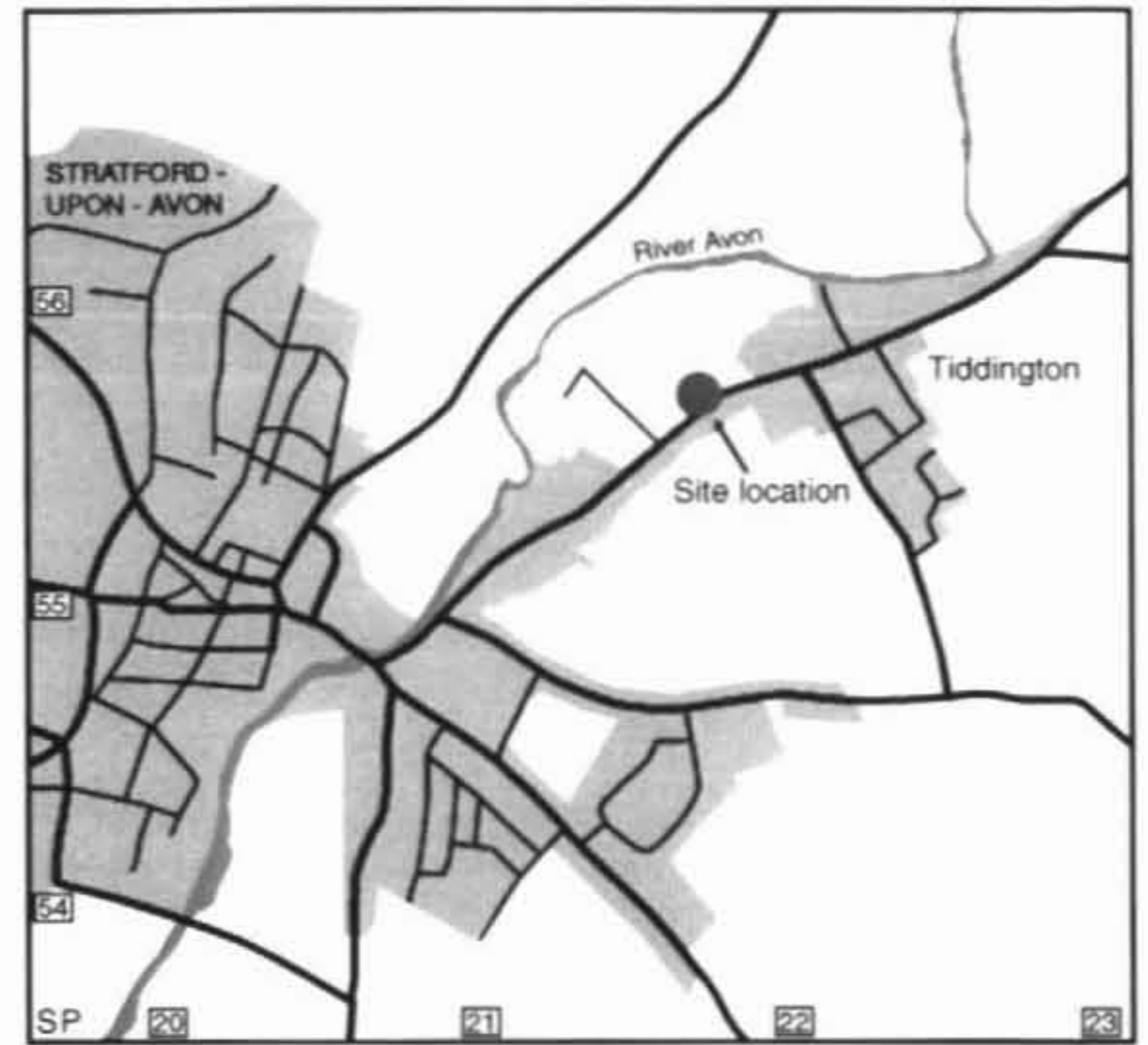
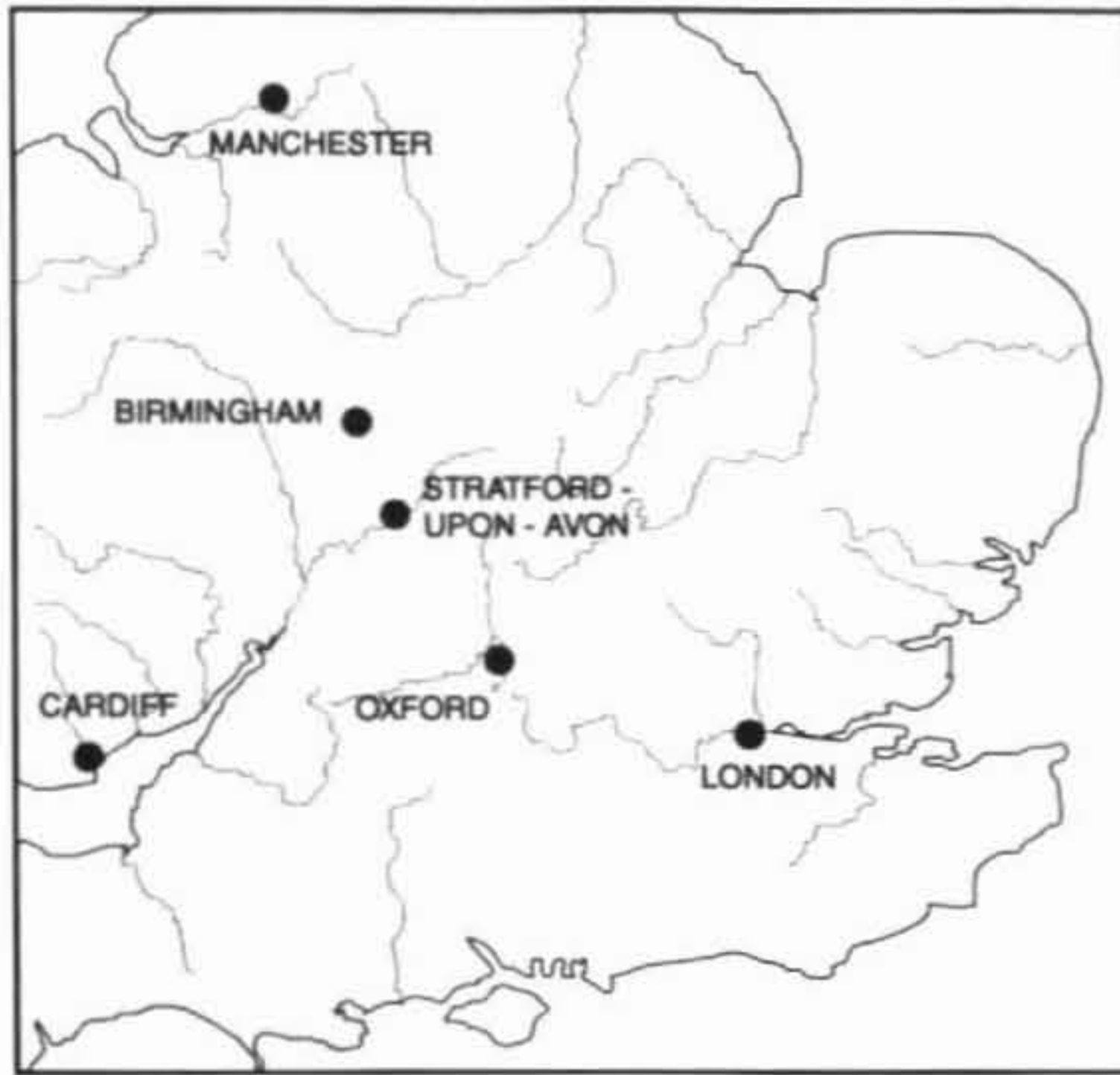


Figure 1: Site Location plan



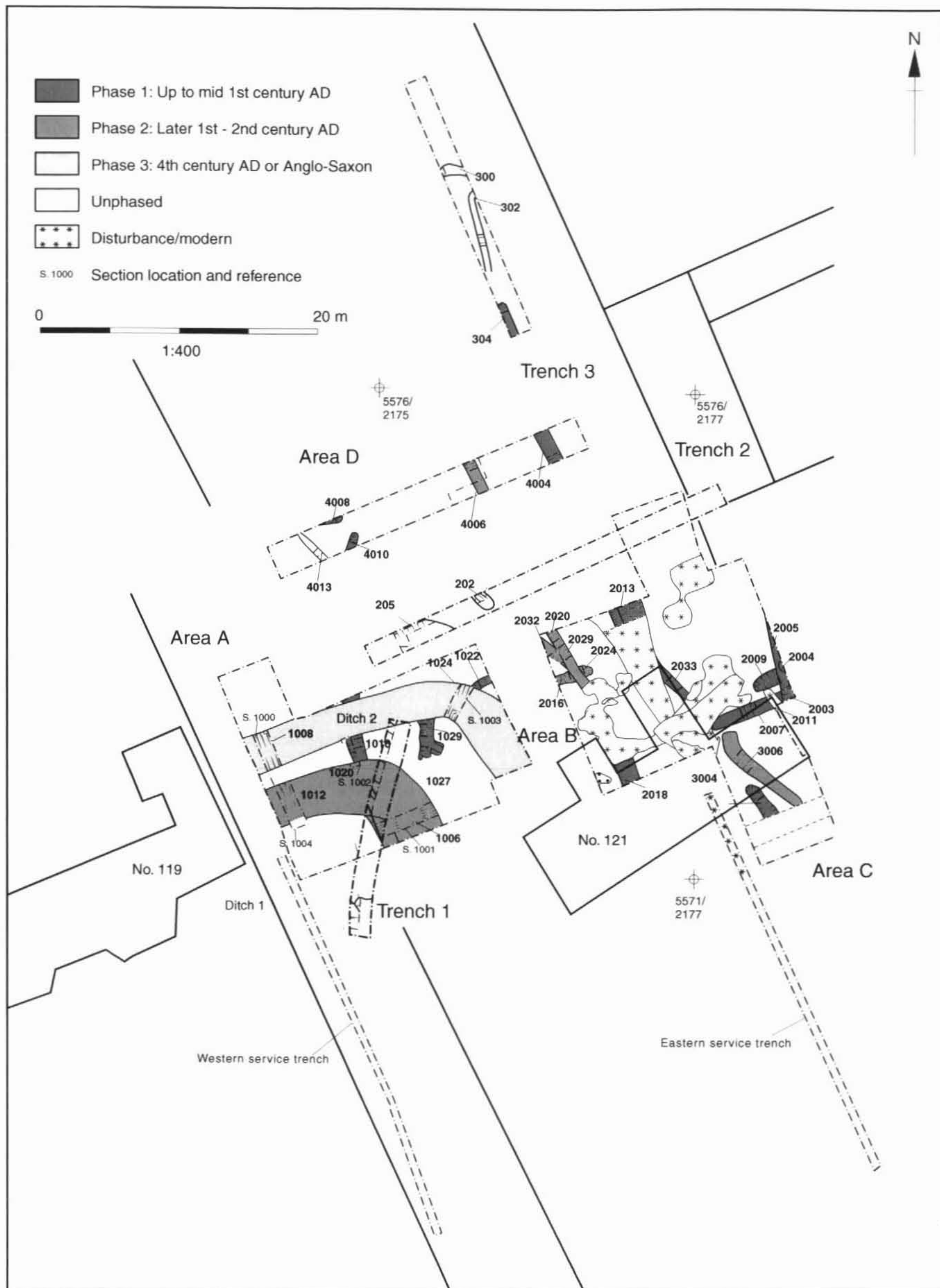


Figure 2: Excavation and Phase Plan

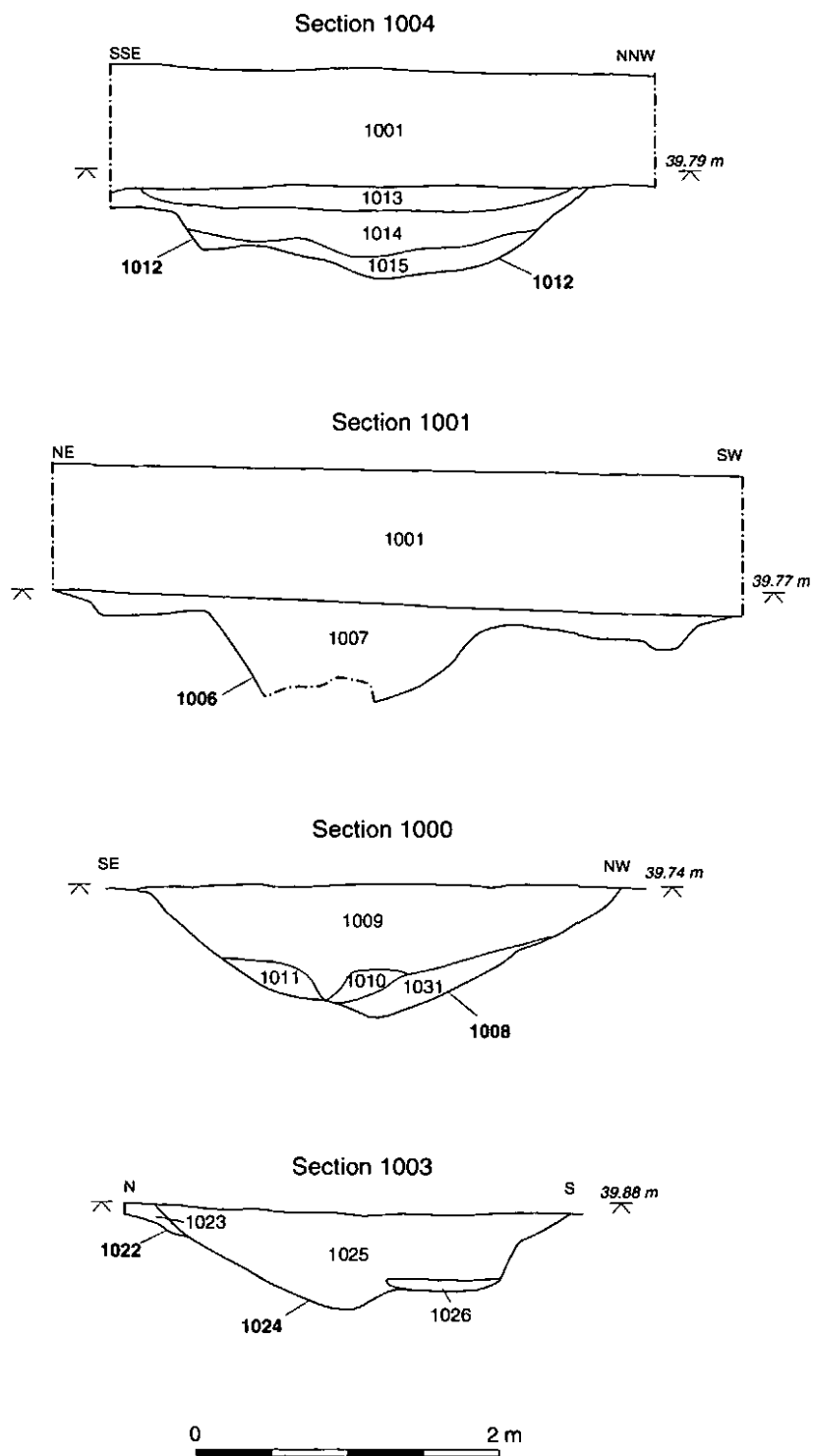


Figure 3 Ditch 1: sections 1004 and 1001; ditch 2: sections 1000 and 1003



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