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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ALONG THE
COCKEY DOWN TO BISHOPDOWN FARM WATER
MAIN REPLACEMENT, NEAR SALISBURY,
WILTSHIRE**

SU165 317

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ALONG THE COCKEY DOWN TO BISHOPDOWN FARM WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT, NEAR SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE (centred on NGR SU165317)

1. SUMMARY

During January and February 1999, AC archaeology undertook a watching brief and archaeological investigations along the route of the Cockey Down to Bishopdown Farm Water Main Replacement, near Laverstock, Salisbury, Wiltshire. The pipeline route is approximately 1.5km long, and at either end lies within an area of known archaeological potential.

The summit of Cockey Down is the focus of settlement activity dating to the prehistoric and Romano-British periods, with the major recorded element being a large, sub-circular ditched enclosure dating to the Iron Age. Previous archaeological work has provided evidence for intensive settlement remains both within the enclosure and also outside, to the south. The reservoir on Cockey Down lies partially upon the north side of the enclosure ditch circuit, aligned roughly northwest - southeast, with the greater part of it outside the enclosure. The route of the current works meets the reservoir to the northwest, away from the main areas of known archaeological activity.

Work on the Bishopdown Farm section of the pipeline is not expected to commence for some time, and will therefore be the subject of a separate report in the future. Observations and investigations at the Cockey Down end of the route revealed archaeological remains of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age, Romano-British and Medieval dates.

A group of features close to the reservoir was datable to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. These comprised a large, shallow hollow cut by a possible pit or ditch and partially bounded by parallel curvilinear gullies. Four intensely burnt patches of in situ clay-with-flints were sited at the perimeter of the hollow. Nearby to the east, two substantial pits and a possible third marked the apparent eastern limit of this activity, whilst to the south a linear gully may delimit the group of features. Quantities of pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, and undiagnostic worked flint were recovered from these features. Two additional, uninvestigated features sited away from the pipe trench - a large possible spread or hollow and further patches of in situ burning - may suggest that this phase of activity extends southeast into the area of the reservoir compound and main enclosure.

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Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British activity is represented by a generally well-preserved positive lynchet, with pottery of this period recovered from the flint revetment bank, including one sherd of Samian. A second, earthen lynchet was undated.

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A section was recorded through the Medieval deer pale boundary of Clarendon Park, which survives as a well-preserved double bank and ditch. This showed the pale to be of a single constructional episode, with a naturally filled ditch. No evidence was found for a pale fence surmounting either bank, and no finds were recovered.

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The results of these investigations confirm the settlement periods established by previous work, and extend the area of known prehistoric settlement on Cockey Down

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report presents the results of archaeological investigations conducted in conjunction with groundworks along the route of the Cockey Down to Bishopdown Farm Water Main Replacement, near Laverstock, Salisbury, Wiltshire (centred on NGR SU165317).

2.2 The work was commissioned by Wessex Water, acting upon the advice of the County Archaeology Service, Wiltshire County Council. The archaeological fieldwork was conducted during January and February 1999.

2.3 The aim of the work was to record, during groundworks, any evidence for *in situ* archaeological remains, and to establish the date, nature, extent and character of any such remains.

2.4 The pipeline runs for approximately 1.5km from the Cockey Down reservoir to existing works adjacent to Bishopdown Farm, with an easement width of between 10m and 15m. The topography and geology along the site varies from the elevated Upper Chalk downland capped with clay-with-flints at the southeast end of the route, descending via the steep chalk scarp into and across the alluvial flood plain of the River Bourne. The elevation of the site varies between approximately 50m and 150m OD.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site lies within an area rich in archaeological activity, with concentrations of known archaeological remains in the vicinity of both the Cockey Down and Bishopdown Farm ends of the route.

3.2 Cockey Down is the focus of settlement activity dating to the prehistoric and Romano-British periods, and lies just within Clarendon Park, the medieval estate of the Bishops of Salisbury; the park pale boundary survives as an earthwork running along the northwestern shoulder of the down. The area is known to contain an extensive 'Celtic' field system, surviving both as cropmarks and as low earthworks. Aerial photographs have shown the summit of Cockey Down to be occupied by a large, sub-circular ditched enclosure with interior features (Wilts. SMR SU13SE 301).

3.3 Previous archaeological observations in the 1970s in advance of the initial construction of the reservoir and associated pipeline running southeast across Cockey Down recorded the presence of inhumations and late Roman pottery to the southeast of the reservoir (Wilts. SMR SU13SE 302/305). A 1989 excavation to the south of the reservoir (Trott 1991) proved the enclosure to be of Iron Age date, with evidence for settlement activity from the Early Iron Age to the Later Romano-British periods. Further work to the southwest of the 1989 excavation (Lovell et al, 1996) generally confirmed this pattern of settlement, and established the earliest period of known occupation to be of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date.

3.4 These previous archaeological investigations have defined the focus of settlement to be the sub-circular ditched enclosure, with a further concentration of occupation remains outside the enclosure to the south. South and east of the enclosure are extensive field systems, with further cultivation remains to north and west along the shoulder and upper side of the chalk scarp (Wilts. SMR SU13SE 640). The reservoir on Cockey Down is sited partially upon the northwest circuit of the enclosure ditch, aligned roughly northwest - southeast. The current works enter the reservoir on the northwest side, away from the known concentrations of occupation remains.

3.5 The easement traverses a field at the base of the scarp which was the site of a findspot of early prehistoric date (Wilts. SMR SU13SE 110).

3.6 The western terminal of the current pipeline route lies adjacent to Bishopdown Farm, where recent archaeological work in advance of development has established the presence of widespread archaeological remains, including prehistoric occupation areas and evidence for Romano-British settlement and possible industrial activity (AC archaeology 1991 - 1993). Concentrations of prehistoric worked flint and burnt flint were recovered during fieldwalking on land close to the northern terminal of the current works (AC archaeology 1994).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The archaeological investigations were initially carried out under watching brief conditions, an archaeologist being in attendance during site groundworks. However, due to the high potential for in situ archaeological remains in the area between the reservoir and the edge of the chalk scarp, it was considered appropriate to hand clean and record selected lengths of this part of the easement prior to the excavation of the pipe trench, in order to determine whether significant archaeological deposits were present. Additional archaeological personnel were in attendance during this work.

4.2 For ease of recording, the site has been divided into plots, numbered 1 to 6. These numbers are not sequential along the route, but reflect the stages of groundworks in progress during the course of the monitoring. At the time of writing, Plot 6, at the northern end of the route, has not been excavated, and future archaeological observations will be the subject of a separate report (see Fig. 1 for site and plot locations).

4.3 Recording took place using the AC *archaeology* pro-forma recording system, including photographic and scaled graphic records. This was supplemented as appropriate with observations in narrative text. The archive has been prepared using the site code AC524.

4.4 Where archaeological remains were exposed, but were not in danger of further disturbance (such as within the site access track and within the easement, away from the pipe trench), the archaeological response was restricted to cleaning, recording and

the collection of surface artefacts. Where archaeological remains were under direct threat of disturbance by the trenching, full excavation and recording was undertaken. All spoilheaps formed from topsoil/ploughsoil overburdens were scanned for displaced artefacts.

5. RESULTS (presented by plot, in numerical sequence)

5.1 Plot 1

5.1.1 Plot 1 comprised the length of easement from the base of the chalk scarp of Cockey Down across to Church Road, Laverstock. At the time of the first watching brief attendance, the pipeline within Plot 1 had been cut, laid and backfilled. Due to the ground disturbance, no archaeological observations were possible beyond soil descriptions.

5.1.2 The ploughsoil within Plot 1 is a mid brown silty clay loam (100), containing moderate small chalk and flint fragments, up to 0.3m thick. Artefacts recovered from the spoilheap formed from this soil included post-medieval pottery, clay pipe and post-medieval ceramic tile. In addition, a small group of worked flint pieces was collected, including two scrapers (see section 6 for details).

5.1.3 Below ploughsoil (100) lay a colluvial subsoil (101). This is a pale brown silty clay containing common small chalk fragments, of unknown depth. No finds were recovered from this material.

5.2 Plot 2

5.2.1 Plot 2 comprised the length of easement covering the steep chalk scarp up to the well-preserved bank marking the northern end of Plot 3. A single archaeological feature - a probable lynchet - was recorded. The relatively unweathered condition of the natural chalk bedrock within Plot 2 meant that any potential features would have been clearly defined.

5.2.2 The topsoil within Plot 2 is a very dark brown friable silty loam (200), containing sparse small flint and chalk fragments, up to 0.2m thick. A quantity of worked flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil spoilheap. Topsoil (200) directly overlay the natural bedded chalk, except in an area commencing approximately 70m west of the east end of Plot 2 where a probable lynchet feature F201 was recorded (see section, Fig. 2a).

5.2.3 Feature F201 comprises a low terraced bank of pale brown calcareous silty loam (202), containing sparse small chalk fragments, up to 0.4m thick, and apparently utilising a natural break of slope to create a fairly level terrace. The gradient of slope at this point is such that the feature may have been revetted on the downslope side to prevent erosion, although no evidence was seen for associated features such as postholes. No finds were recovered from deposit (202), which was 10.7m wide. The

gradual downslope tapering of the feature is probably exaggerated by erosional processes. The lynchet follows the contour line beyond the easement to both northeast and southwest.

5.3 Plot 3

5.3.1 Plot 3 is defined by (and includes) the park pale boundary of the Clarendon estate to the southeast and a well-preserved flint rubble bank to the northwest, and covers an area of moderately sloping ground with low earthworks visible to either side of the easement. The potential for in situ archaeological remains within this area was considered to be high, and the plot was consequently subject to hand cleaning and recording prior to trenching. The cleaning did not identify any further archaeological features, but did define the extent of the loose flint bank and possible ditch at the northern end of the plot. A quantity of worked flint, burnt flint and sherds of pottery datable to the Early Iron Age and Romano-British periods were recovered during the cleaning.

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5.3.2 The topsoil (300) is a dark yellowish-brown friable clay loam containing sparse irregular flint fragments, up to 0.3m thick. This lay above a patchy deposit of orange-brown sandy clay with profuse sub-rounded flint gravels, which filled periglacial features scouring the intermittently exposed surface of the badly degraded natural chalk. A number of the more regularly-shaped of these features were investigated, but all proved to be of natural origin.

5.3.3 At the northwest end of the plot, the topsoil strip had exposed (and partially disturbed) a length of a linear earthwork feature F302. Although evidently petering out where it crosses the easement, F302 is well-preserved to the southwest of the pipeline, with the bank surviving to a height of 1.9m. The exposed area of F302 revealed it to comprise profuse small, medium and large irregular flint nodules, loosely compacted within a matrix of yellowish-brown clay loam containing sparse small chalk fragments. Finds recovered from this matrix included worked flint, burnt flint and pottery of the Late Iron Age/Romano-British period - one of which was a sherd of undecorated, imported Samian ware.

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5.3.4 Bank F302 had been constructed upon a natural, convex break of slope, which maximised the drop on the downslope side whilst presenting a fairly level aspect from the much gentler slope uphill to southeast. The section through the bank material within the easement showed it to survive to a thickness of 0.25m above the natural chalk, and to be sealed by the present topsoil/turf (300). It is probable that the bank material is of greater thickness southwest of the easement.

5.3.5 Immediately northwest of bank F302 was a fairly well-defined linear spread of pale brown calcareous clay loam (303). This deposit contained profuse small sub-angular chalk fragments and irregular flint fragments, and yielded a small quantity of worked flint. Measuring 1.92m wide, (303) was initially thought to represent the upper fill of a large ditch bounding the bank F302. However, hand excavation proved

it to be a colluvial accumulation filling a natural decrease in the angle of slope, 0.35m thick.

5.3.6 Given the lack of an accompanying ditch to the bank, and the fairly level surface created where the bank meets the uphill slope to the southeast, it is probable that F302 represents a positive lynchet feature, possibly, based on the pottery recovered from the soil matrix, of Romano-British date.

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5.3.7 At the southeast end of Plot 3, a section was recorded through the linear earthwork forming the park pale boundary to the historic Clarendon estate. This monument is thought to have been completed cAD1230 (James and Robinson 1988), and is reasonably well preserved, running along the shoulder of the downs for approximately 2.5km.

5.3.8 The section of park pale (feature F304, Fig. 2b) recorded within the easement comprised two gently sloping earthen banks bounding a central ditch. The northwest bank, F305, survived to height of 0.42m, with a width of 4.8m and was composed of two deposits. Layer (307) is continuation of the topsoil/turf horizon (300), up to 0.2m thick. The lower deposit, layer (308), is a redeposited yellowish-brown compact sandy clay containing moderate to common irregular flint nodules, up to 0.22m thick.

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5.3.9 The southeast bank, F306, survived to a height of 0.58m and a width of 5.1m, again with 0.2m of topsoil overlying 0.38m of redeposited sandy clay (310), closely similar to layer (308). Both redeposited bank layers (308) and (310) are composed of displaced spoil upcast during the excavation of the central ditch F312. Ditch F312 has gentle to moderately steep sloping convex sides merging with a gently concave base. It is cut into the underlying natural sandy clay-with-flints, upon both which layers (308) and (310) are redeposited. The ditch is filled with a single homogenous fill (311). This was a dark yellowish-brown compact sandy clay containing moderate small to medium irregular flint nodules, up to 0.95m deep.

5.3.10 There was no evidence for a buried soil horizon beneath either bank, suggesting that the area was cleared of topsoil prior to excavation. No finds were recovered from either the bank deposits or the ditch fill. The total height, from the top of the better-preserved southeast bank F306 to the base of the ditch cut F312 is 2.05m, which, when the height of the probable pale fence is added, would present a considerable obstacle.

5.4 Plot 4

5.4.1 Plot 4 is the far southeastern plot, including the final length of easement from the park pale to the reservoir, and the area bounding the west and south sides of the reservoir which was stripped of ploughsoil to create a temporary vehicle access. Plot 4 lies within an area of high archaeological potential, being immediately to the west of

the circuit of the Iron Age enclosure occupying the summit of Cockey Down. Close monitoring of the machine ploughsoil removal, combined with the clarity of the exposed subsoil/natural deposits, enabled any potential archaeological features to be easily identified. These areas were then hand cleaned and recorded prior to trenching (see plan Fig. 3c).

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+ 301

5.4.2 At the southeast end of the pipe trench easement within Plot 4, a group of archaeological features were recorded (see plan Fig. 3c, sections Figs. 3a and 3b). These features comprised a large, shallow hollow; linear and curvilinear gullies, two pits, two possible pits and a number of small intensely burnt patches on the surface of the natural subsoil.

5.4.3 The ploughsoil (400), which was removed by machine, is a moist, pliable yellowish-brown silty clay loam containing moderate small sub-angular flint gravels, up to 0.33m thick, becoming slightly thicker downslope to northwest. Layer (400) sealed all the archaeological features recorded in this area.

5.4.4 Feature F401 is a large, shallow hollow, roughly sub-circular in plan, measuring 10.55m x 7.25m+, and extending beyond the easement to the southwest. A partial section recorded within the pipe trench revealed F401 to have shallow sloping sides merging with a gently concave base. Cut into the natural clay-with-flints, hollow F401 contained two fills. Upper fill (414) is a yellowish-brown compact silty clay containing moderate to common small sub-angular to sub-rounded flint gravels, 0.24m thick. Fill (414) yielded pottery datable to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, worked flint and burnt flint (see section 6). The primary fill of F401 is a stiff greyish-brown clay with iron mottling, (415). Fill (415) is 0.12m thick, with sparse small rounded flint gravels becoming more numerous to the base of the fill, which yielded no finds. Charcoal flecks were distributed evenly throughout.

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5.4.5 Features F402, F403, F405 and F406 are all sub-circular to irregular patches of intensely burnt clay-with-flints with an average dimension of 0.55m, sited in pairs at the eastern and western perimeters of hollow F401. Investigation of these features showed them to be burnt in situ, with no sign of a cut or fill. One feature, F406, yielded a single sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery during surface cleaning. These features may represent fires associated with the use of hollow F401.

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5.4.6 Feature F404 is a possible sub-rectangular pit or ditch terminal measuring 1.7m+ x 0.9m, filled with a compact reddish-brown silty clay containing moderate small sub-rounded flint gravels. Surface collection from this feature recovered Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, worked flint and burnt flint. The feature, which extends beyond the easement to the southwest, was not threatened by the trenching.

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5.4.7 Feature F407 is a linear gully aligned northeast - southwest, sited 3.5m south of hollow F401. Exposed for a length of 9.6m and up to 0.45m wide, F407 was filled with a compact greyish-brown silty clay containing moderate to common small flint gravels. Pottery datable to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, and one sherd

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possibly of Romano-British date were recovered during surface collection, along with a single worked flint flake. Gully F407 was not under threat from the pipe trenching.

5.4.8 Feature F408 is a curvilinear gully partially exposed within the easement, and running along the southeast perimeter of hollow F401. Measuring 5m+ x 0.27m, gully F408 is filled with a compact greyish-brown silty clay containing common small mixed flint gravels. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and worked flint was recovered during surface collection. The gully was not under threat by trenching.

5.4.9 Feature F409 is a curvilinear gully running southeast of, and parallel to, gully F408. Measuring 5.4m+ x 0.36m, gully F409 is filled with a compact yellowish-brown silty clay containing common small mixed flint gravels. Three struck flint flakes were recovered from the surface of the feature, which was not under threat of disturbance.

5.4.10 A large possible pit - F411 - was recorded in plan close to the northeast side of the easement. Sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 2.25m x 1.25m+, F411 contained an uppermost fill of yellowish-brown sandy clay with sparse small sub-rounded flint gravels. No finds were recovered, but moderate charcoal flecks were noted in the exposed fill.

5.4.11 A slight deviation from the proposed pipeline route was necessary towards the reservoir end of the easement (relevant parts of this extension shown on plan Fig. 3c). This revealed sections through two further pits roughly east of possible pit F411. The larger of these, pit F416, had steeply sloping concave sides merging with a concave base, and measured 3.65m wide with a depth of 1.2m. Pit F416 was cut into the natural clay-with-flints and contained two fills. The upper fill (417) is a dark brown homogenous silty clay with sparse small rounded flint gravels and moderate charcoal flecking, 0.52m thick. Pottery from (417) dated to the Early/Middle Iron Age. The primary fill of pit F416 comprises many fine alternating concave lenses of pale brown and dark brown clayey silt, free from coarse components. This fill, (418), yielded no finds, and had a diffuse, uneven interface with the upper fill (417).

5.4.12 A second pit, F419 was recorded to the east of pit F416. This feature had convex, very steep then undercut sides leading abruptly to a concave base, and measured 1.92m wide and 0.71m deep. Cut into the natural clay-with-flints, pit F419 had two fills. The upper fill (420) is very dark brown homogenous silty clay with rare small rounded flint gravels and rare charcoal flecks, 0.35m deep. The primary fill (421) is a mid brown silty clay with sparse small irregular flint gravels and small inclusions of very coarse sand. No finds were recovered, although moderate charcoal flecks were present. As with the fills of pit F416, the primary fill (421) has an irregular interface with the upper fill (420).

5.4.13 Within the area stripped of topsoil for vehicle access, two areas of possible archaeological activity were identified. F412 is a group of five amorphous patches of intense in situ burning of the natural clay-with-flints. These were similar in character to those recorded about the perimeter of F401, although very poorly defined by

comparison, with no discernible regular edges. No finds were retrieved during inspection of these features, which may relate to archaeological activity, or may equally be of natural origin. Of more interest is large spread of dark greyish-brown clay containing profuse flint gravels and burnt flint to the east of F412. Measuring approximately 28m x 7m+, this feature - F413 - is partially obscured by redeposited material associated with the landscaping of the adjacent reservoir. It is possible that F413 represents occupation activity similar to F401. Neither F412 nor F413 are threatened with disturbance by the current works, and therefore were not further investigated.

5.5 Plot 5

5.5.1 Plot 5 comprised the length of easement from St. Thomas' bridge over the river Bourne across to the Andover - Salisbury railway embankment. No archaeological remains were observed within this section of the pipeline, which traverses the flood plain of the Bourne. The nature of the ground here meant that the stripped area quickly became waterlogged, leaving little opportunity for archaeological observations. The area was apparently subject to extensive spoil dumping in the recent past. No finds were retrieved from a walkover of the topsoil spoilheap.

6. FINDS

6.1 The Pottery

Table 1: All Pottery quantified by number of sherds / weight in grams

	Context	LBA/EIA	LI/RB	RB	PMed / Modern	Total
Topsoil and Cleaning	100	-	-	-	3 / 22g	3 / 22g
	301	2 / 32g	-	3 / 20g	-	5 / 52g
Lynchet Bank	302	-	4 / 20g	1 / 2g	-	5 / 22g
Occupation Hollow and Assoc. Features	414	22 / 56g	-	-	-	22 / 56g
	404	4 / 10g	-	-	-	4 / 10g
	406	1 / 8g	-	-	-	1 / 8g
	407	1 / 2g	-	1 / 4g	-	2 / 6g
	408	7 / 20g	-	-	-	7 / 20g
	417	5 / 26g	-	-	-	5 / 26g
	Total	42 / 154g	4/20g	5 / 26g	3 / 22g	54 / 222g

The pottery has been quantified (see Table 1) and scanned to assess its composition and diagnostic elements. No formal fabric analysis has been carried out, but for the purposes of assessment the material has been assigned to broadly-defined groups. Although the material nearly all derives from one comparatively short length of the pipeline easement through Plots 3 and 4, chronological variation is evident in the finds collected from different context groups. In summary:

(a) pottery of late Bronze Age or earlier Iron Age date is associated with the occupation spread context (414) and related features, with only one later (Romano-British) sherd included in that group

(b) pottery of late Iron Age or early Romano-British date from the matrix of the positive lynchet context (302)

(c) modern (18th-century and later) pottery recovered from scanning of spoilheaps derived from the machine-stripping of the easement in the area of Plot 1

Sherds of late prehistoric and Romano-British pottery were also recovered from general cleaning of exposed surfaces; however, only very small quantities of unstratified pottery were noted.

The late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery largely comprises sherds tempered with moderate to abundant, ill-sorted, fine or medium crushed flint and burnt flint. Finer, sandy fabrics were also represented: a single sherd from context (301), and two sherds from context (414) (these with a very oxidised exterior surface but with no signs of haematite coating). The group of five sherds from context (417) showed some signs of external wiping, but otherwise the vessels were poorly finished. Given the presence of only undiagnostic body sherds and an average sherd weight of under 4g, it is not possible to suggest a more accurate date for the assemblage.

Later Iron Age or Roman pottery was present in small quantities in unstratified contexts (topsoil or superficial cleaning layers); as a small, single sherd on the surface of gully context (407), and within the matrix of the positive lynchet context (302). The group from the lynchet comprised four micaceous, fine sandy reduced sherds (possibly the same vessel) and a small fragment of Samian Ware.

Pottery of 18th-century and later date only was recovered from the spoilheaps, comprising single sherds of white salt-glazed stoneware, transfer printed pottery, and an unglazed lead earthenware.

6.2 The Flint

The flint assemblage is notable for the absence of tools and retouched flakes, and the general lack of diagnostic pieces. Only a handful of flints can be related to stratified deposits, with the majority of the flint being recovered from spoilheap scanning or surface cleaning contexts.

The material from all except the Plot 4 contexts is characterised by heavily patinated, crudely struck, broad, squat flakes, a high proportion of which are cortical. The material for all these pieces is derived from locally sourced chalk nodule flint. The flints recovered from the positive lynchet bank (302) differ only in that they are iron stained due to water percolation through the loose flint rubble comprising the bank.

Table 2: All worked flint quantified by number of items

Plot	Context	Cores	Flakes			Tools	Comments	Totals
			Complete	Broken	Retouched			
1	100		10	1	3	2	1 broad end scraper, irregular retouch, 1 cortical flake with irregular retouch on side and end	16
2	200		26	1				27
3	301	1	46	2	2		Possible retouched pieces - unclear due to patination	51
	302		37	3				40
	303		2					2
4	414		5	1				6
	407		1					1
	409		3					3
Totals		1	130	8	5	2		146

The two tools - a broad end scraper with irregular retouch and a side and end scraper made from a cortical flake - were recovered from the ploughsoil spoilheap in Plot 1.

The flakes from the stratified contexts within Plot 4 show little sign of patination, although all have degrees of iron staining. The raw material for these pieces is a mixture of chalk and clay-with-flints sourced nodules. The average size of these undiagnostic pieces is significantly smaller than the bulk of the assemblage.

Although the lack of diagnostic pieces makes it difficult to date the assemblage with confidence, the absence of prepared platforms or structured cores, the size and crudity of most of the pieces, and the high proportion of cortical flakes all suggest a date in the later Bronze Age or Early Iron Age.

7. COMMENT

7.1 The archaeological features recorded on the length of pipeline easement near the summit of Cockey Down can be considered to be an extension of the late prehistoric settlement activity centred on the enclosure now largely beneath the existing reservoir. Although previous excavations have suggested an early to middle Iron Age origin for the enclosure, there is evidence for activity in that area from the late Bronze Age onwards (Trott 1991). The limited extent of topsoil stripping undertaken for the present scheme makes it difficult to assess the scale and extent of the "extra-mural" settlement west of the enclosure; although observations have revealed the presence of (a very few) pits and other settlement features, only small quantities of finds were recovered. None of the finds made are indicative of any industrial processes.

7.2 Within Plot 3, the generally well-preserved lynchet bank (302) can be tentatively dated to the Late Iron Age / Romano-British period on the basis of the pottery recovered from the bank matrix. This is consistent with other evidence (see section 3,

above) suggesting occupation and cultivation of the land around Cockey Down at this time.

7.3 The opportunity to record a section through the Clarendon park pale revealed a generally well-preserved earthwork, but produced no dating evidence.

8. REFERENCES

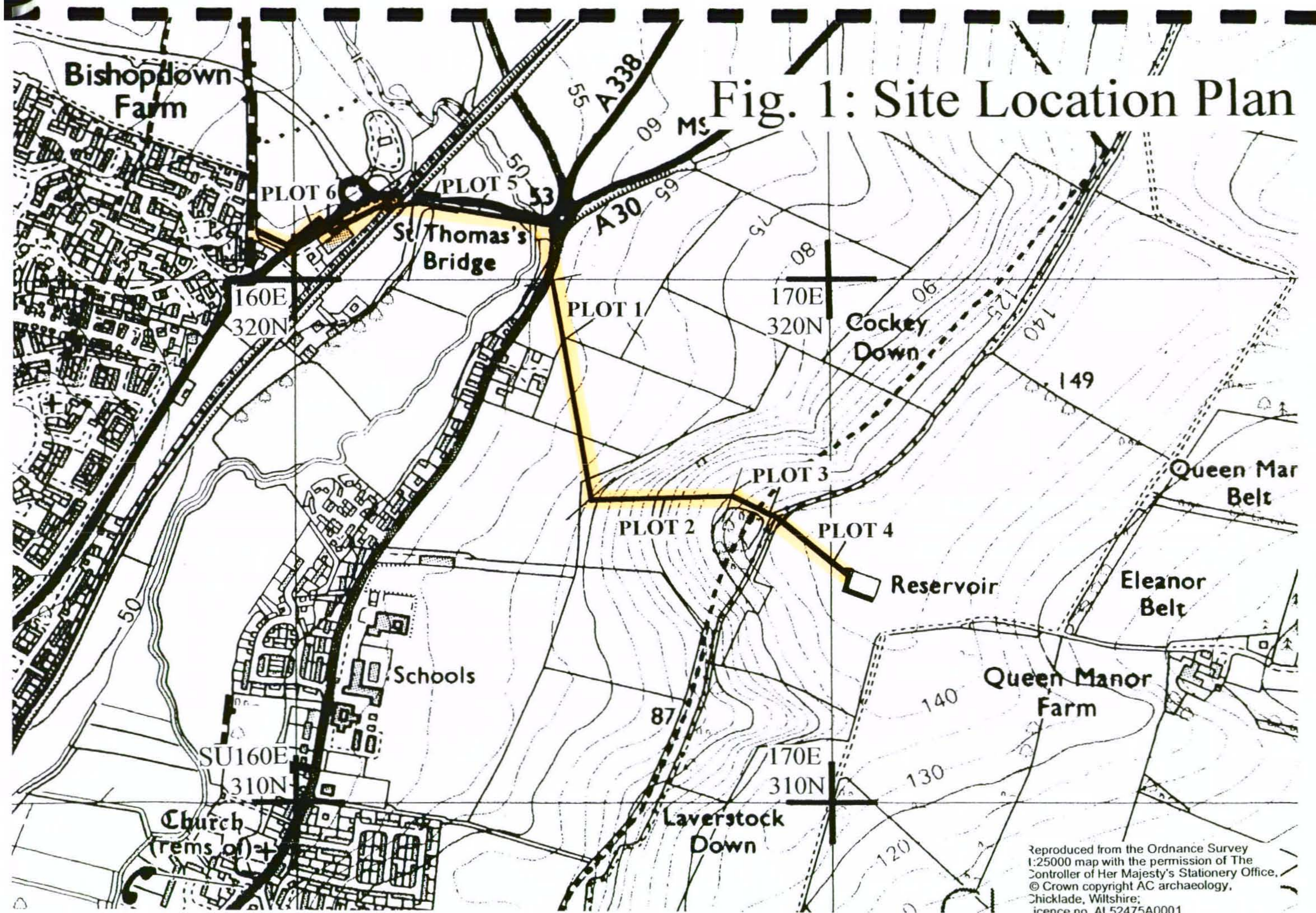
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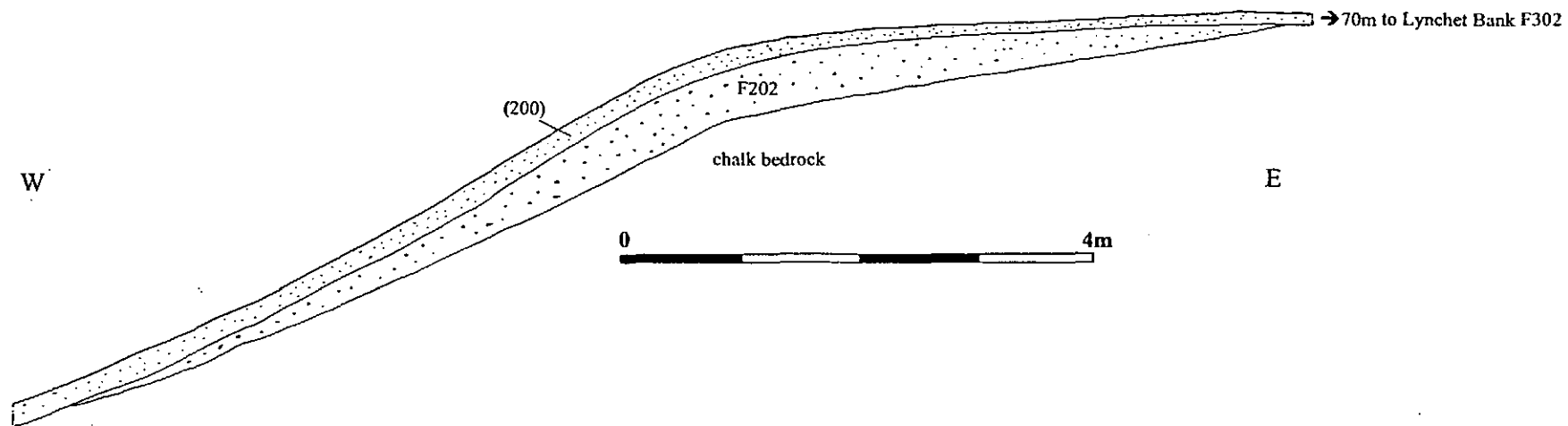
Fig. 1: Site Location Plan



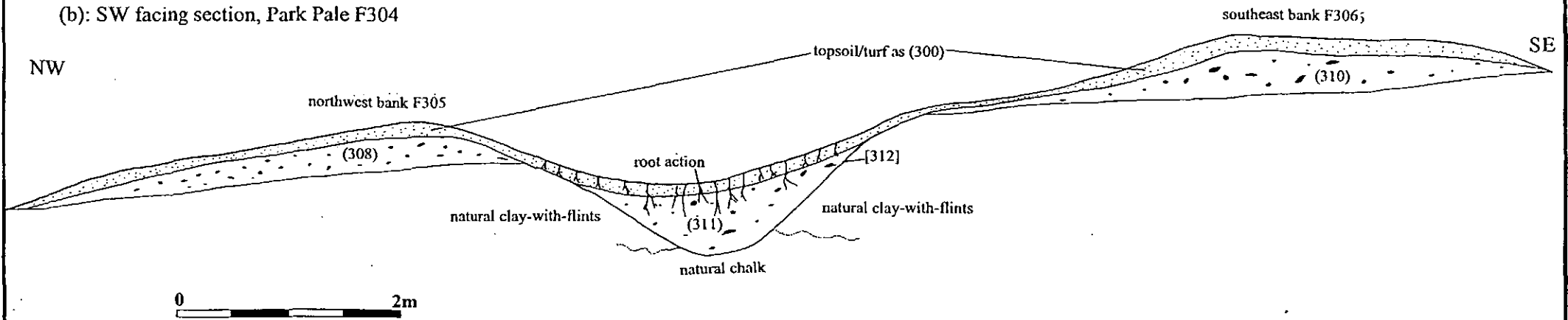
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Fig. 2: Selected sections (a), (b)

(a): S facing section, Lynchet F202



(b): SW facing section, Park Pale F304



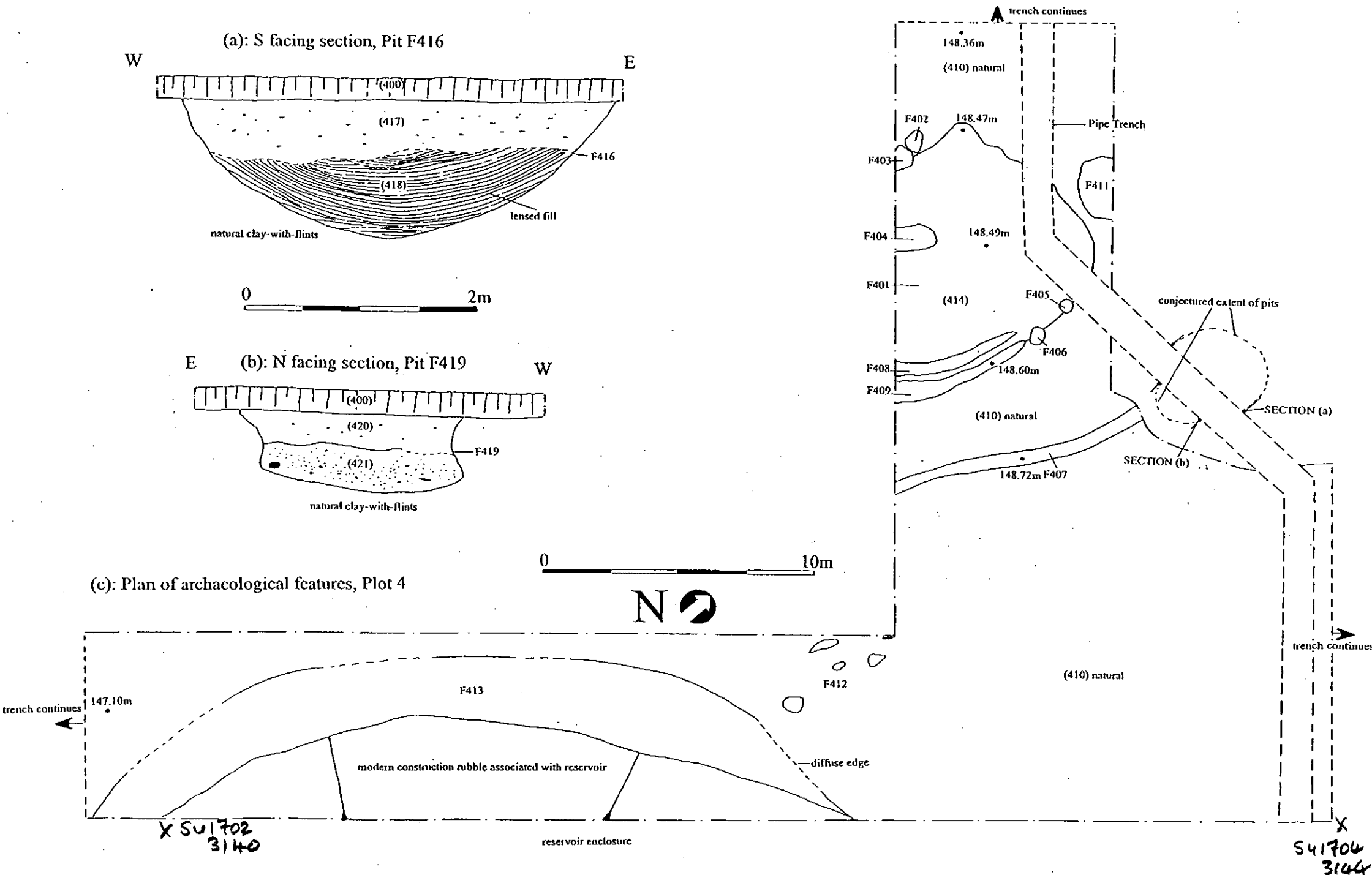


Fig. 3 (a) to (c): Plan and selected sections. features within Plot 4