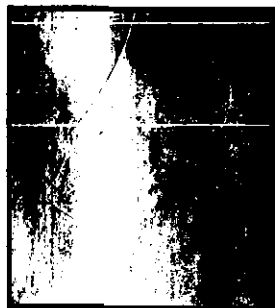


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**BEACH'S BARN, NETHERAVON, WILTSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

Prepared for:

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BEACH'S BARN, NETHERAVON, WILTSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the Ministry of Defence Lands Services (South West) to carry out an archaeological field evaluation at the military training ground at Beach's Barn, Netheravon, Wiltshire (SU 186 510), where the Ministry propose to build new roads and an area of hardstanding. Immediately west of Beach's Barn previous archaeological fieldwork had identified a large enclosed Romano-British settlement.

Eight machine trenches, six along the lines of the proposed roads and two in the area of proposed hardstanding, with a combined length of 1614 m, were excavated. These revealed 67 features, a sample of which were excavated. Two of the features contained pottery of Early Bronze Age date. One, at the south of the site, was composed of at least two adjacent shallow pits, and contained a deliberate deposit of horse and cattle long bones, and produced a sherd of Beaker pottery from its upper fill. The other feature, at the east of the site, was a small pit containing sherds from a number of Beaker and Collared Urn vessels. Most of the dated features, however, were of early Romano-British date and were recorded towards the north-west of the site, and to the north and north-west of the known extent of the Romano-British settlement enclosure. These included ditches, pits and a series of unidentified features of varying size and shape, and yielded substantial quantities of settlement debris, including pottery, animal bone, ceramic and stone building material, and slag. Two ditches and one pit were excavated.

The evaluation has indicated a number of areas of archaeological potential, particularly for early Romano-British activity, but also for early prehistoric activity, although this potential varies by date and location, and the nature and extent of the prehistoric activity remains unclear. It has provided information as to the date, nature and possible extent of the Romano-British settlement, the high density of features suggesting that the enclosure extends beyond the line of the trench and may measure some 300 m in diameter, with ditches extending out from it, both to the north and south.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Powell, Moira Laidlaw and Jed Smith. This report was prepared by Andrew Powell, with comment on the finds by Moira Laidlaw and the animal bone by Rebecca Montague. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by A. P. Fitzpatrick. The illustrations are by Rob Read Graphics.

**BEACH'S BARN, NETHERAVON, WILTSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	
1.1	Project background	1
1.2	Geology, topography and land-use	1
1.3	Archaeological background	1
2	METHODOLOGY	
2.1	Trench layout and machine excavation	2
2.2	Archaeological excavation and recording	2
3	RESULTS	
3.1	Introduction	3
3.2	Prehistoric	3
3.3	Romano-British	4
3.4	Undated	6
4	THE FINDS	
4.1	Summary	6
4.2	Animal bone	6
4.3	Flint	6
4.4	Ceramic building material	7
4.5	Pottery	7
4.6	Slag	8
4.7	Stone	8
4.8	Metal	8
5	DISCUSSION	
5.1	Areas of archaeological potential	9
6	THE ARCHIVE	11
7	REFERENCES	11
	Appendix 1: Evaluation trench summary descriptions	12
	Appendix 2: Finds totals by context and material type	17

BEACH'S BARN, NETHERAVON, WILTSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 The Ministry of Defence have proposed to construct a number of stone roads and an area of hardstanding in the vicinity of Beach's Barn, Netheravon, Wiltshire, on land forming part of the Salisbury Plain Military Training Area. The site, centred on SU 186 510, is located approximately 4 km east-north-east of Netheravon on the north side of the minor road between Netheravon and Everleigh (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The lines of the proposed roads and the hardstanding lie immediately adjacent to an extensive Romano-British settlement, and the Ministry was advised by the Wiltshire County Archaeologist that an Archaeological Field Evaluation was required.
- 1.1.3 A Brief for the archaeological evaluation was provided by the Wiltshire County Council Library and Museum Service (Ref. DC/PAI/94DC206.br, 6th December 1994)(hereafter 'the Brief'). Wessex Archaeology was subsequently commissioned by the Ministry of Defence Lands Service (South West), to undertake the evaluation, and the fieldwork was conducted between 24th April and 2nd May 1995.

1.2 Geology, topography and land-use

- 1.2.1 The geology of the site is Upper Chalk, the natural in this area consisting of soliflucted chalk with frequent periglacial involutions filled with clay-with-flints. The topsoil is a brown clay loam. The site was generally flat, though sloping slightly towards the south over much of the area.
- 1.2.2 The site is located within a Military Training Area, and there are four buildings used for military training on the site of the former Beach's Barn. The area consists of a mixture of established and recent plantation, and unenclosed hay meadow.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The site is located immediately to the north, east and south of an extensive Romano-British settlement, the full extent of which has yet to be determined, but which appears to be comparable to that on Coombe Down c.1 kilometre to the north-east. The remains of a building in the general vicinity of Beach's Barn were first recorded by William Cunnington in 1894.
- 1.3.2 The area was surveyed and investigated by the Department of Archaeology, University of Reading in 1992-93, in the course of which a corn drier, containing fourth century AD pottery, was recorded at SU 1846 5104, with further pottery of

first to fourth century AD date, and ceramic and limestone tiles, being collected from the surface of the field immediately to the west (Entwistle *et al.* 1993).

- 1.3.3 A geophysical survey of the same field was undertaken by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, revealing a dense array of features, corresponding in their distribution to the surface collected material, bounded to the south by a wide, possibly circular ditch (Fig. 1). The features, which included a large number of pit-like anomalies, were accompanied by several rectangular and circular ditched enclosures (Entwistle *et al.* 1994).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Trench layout and machine excavation

- 2.1.1 Eight trenches were excavated over an area of 600 m north-south by 650 m east-west (Fig. 1). As the locations of the trenches had not been laid out in advance, the six trenches radiating out from Beach's Barn were laid out in order to follow as closely as possible the lines of the proposed roads as indicated on the plan, on the 1:10,000 OS base, which accompanied the Brief. The remaining two trenches were located, as specified in the Brief, within the proposed area of hardstanding and as indicated on the plan accompanying the Brief.
- 2.1.2 The trenches had a combined total length of 1614 m (more than the 1500 m estimated in the Brief), and were surveyed in from features shown on the map. The trenches were numbered 1-8 in the order excavated, with the result that the numbering differs from that shown on the plan accompanying the Brief.
- 2.1.3 The trenches were excavated to the top of the natural, or to the top of archaeological deposits, by a 360° machine excavator using a 1.5 m wide toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. As the plant, provided by the Ministry of Defence, was a wheeled excavator, the machined surface was not as even as would have been achieved by an equivalent tracked machine, with a resulting negative impact on the upper surfaces of some archaeological deposits, and on the ease with which other such deposits could be recognised.

2.2 Archaeological excavation and recording

- 2.2.1 All archaeological features visible in the trenches were recorded, a small sample being excavated in order to determine their date, nature, extent and condition. The excavated features were selected on the basis of their location and form, and a full written, drawn and photographic record was made of them using Wessex Archaeology's standard recording system. Each trench was allocated its own unique sequence of 3-figure context numbers (i.e. from 100 for Trench 1 etc.).
- 2.2.2 Where appropriate, the surfaces of other archaeological features were cleaned and any artefacts visible were retrieved. Full written records were made of the fills of all unexcavated archaeological features (including some which may be recent in date or natural in origin).

- 2.2.3 All features, including those considered to be natural in origin, or of such recent date as to be not of archaeological significance, were planned at a scale of 1:100 on individual trench plans, and a comprehensive photographic record was made of all trenches.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A total 118 contexts associated with 67 features were recorded (Appendix 1). Not all could be shown certainly to be of archaeological significance, some may be of recent date or natural in origin, but those which were potentially of archaeological significance were assigned context numbers. Those which appeared to be recent or natural are indicated as such in the Appendix 1.

- 3.1.2 Nine features were excavated. Two produced Early Bronze Age pottery (from around 2,000 BC), and five produced early Romano-British pottery (first century AD). One feature did not contain any dating evidence, and one was natural in origin.

- 3.1.3 A series of well-defined features were recorded which, on account of their regular shape and clear edges, had the appearance of being man-made. In order to determine their nature one of these features [206] was excavated, but proved to be natural in origin. A series of chalk filled linear features (e.g. 504) were initially considered to have some archaeological potential and were assigned context numbers, until they were identified by visiting engineers to be recent cable trenches.

3.2 Prehistoric

- 3.2.1 Feature 803, at c. SU 18750 51060 in Trench 8 (128-9 m), was a shallow circular pit, 0.75 m in diameter and 0.15 m deep with shallow side merging into a flat base (Fig. 1). It was filled with a very dark brown clay loam (802) containing occasional fragments of charcoal, and yielded 16 sherds of pottery deriving from up to five different Early Bronze Age Collared Urn and/or Beaker vessels, as well as 19 struck flints.

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- 3.2.2 Feature 116, at c. SU 18595 50875 in Trench 1 (43-50 m), appeared in plan as a 6.5 m wide area of dark yellowish brown clay loam, widening to the south where the ground beyond the trench formed a wide shallow hollow (Fig. 1). A 0.6 m wide section was excavated along the north side of the trench, revealing two shallow pits cut into the natural, [111] to the west and [113] to the east, separated by a low (0.10 m) ridge of chalk, resulting in a segmental appearance. Because of the narrow section excavated, neither pit was fully exposed, but both appeared similar in size and shape, measuring c.1.5 m wide and 0.4 m deep with moderately steep sides and flat bases.

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The primary fill (110), a pale brown silty clay, appeared the same in both pits indicating that the features were contemporary. Within this layer there was a deliberate deposit of four long bones (one cow and three horse) laid parallel to each other against the west side of [111]. The primary fill was overlain by three further fills sloping into the cut from the west, a 0.05 m thick layer of pale brown flinty silty clay loam (109), a 0.15 m thick layer of light brown clay loam (108), and a 0.05 m thick layer of chalk rubble in a pale brown silty clay matrix (115). The upper fill of the feature, reaching its greatest depth of 0.3 m over pit [113], was a dark yellowish clay loam (112).

The upper fill produced a single sherd of decorated Beaker pottery, which because of its location at a high position in the feature cannot provide a secure date for its construction or use. The feature may, therefore, be of an earlier date, or in view of the presence of horse bones of a later date (see Section 4.2.3 below).

- 3.2.3 Although these two quite different features were separated by a distance of some 240 m, they provide evidence of prehistoric activity towards the southern and eastern parts of the site. The nature of this activity, however, is unclear, as the function or purpose of neither feature could be determined. Both Beaker pottery and Collared Urns are frequently associated with burial activity but may be found in other contexts. While the Beaker sherd was not securely associated with the use of the feature in which it was found, both features appear to have involved the deliberate deposition of material in the ground, activities which may have had primarily symbolic, though clearly quite distinct functions.

3.3 Romano-British

- 3.3.1 Twenty-two features produced Romano-British pottery, all but two being recorded in Trench 6. One of these was a shallow linear feature [107] at *c.* SU 18515 50860 in Trench 1 (132-3 m), a 0.5 m wide section of which was excavated (Fig. 1). It was a 1.1 m wide ditch running north/south, with a moderately steep eastern side, a 0.3 m wide flat base and a 0.7 m wide flat step on the west side, and filled with a dark yellowish brown silty loam (106), containing three sherds of Romano-British pottery.
- 3.3.2 The other feature was a shallow irregular oval depression [309] at *c.* SU 18135 51220 at the north end of Trench 3 (7-8 m) (Fig. 1). It was 0.6 m x 0.8 m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.07 m, with a brown clay loam fill (305) containing some large flint nodules. On the base of the cut there was part of an articulated sheep/goat skeleton, of which only the spine, parts of ribs and part of the skull survived. A single very small Romano-British sherd, possibly redeposited, was recovered from the fill, and need not necessarily date this feature.
- 3.3.3 Twenty features producing Romano-British pottery were recorded in Trench 6 between 36 m and 380 m from the east end of the trench (Fig. 2). These can be associated with the Romano-British settlement revealed by earlier fieldwork immediately to the south. Three of the features exposed in the trench were excavated.

- 3.3.4 Feature 603 was a 2.4 m wide ditch running approximately north-east/south-west at c. SU 18415 51195 (106-110 m), a 0.8 m wide section being excavated. The ditch was 1.24 m deep, with steep straight sides and a narrow concave base. The lower fill (602), which was up to 0.5 m thick, consisted of a brown clay with frequent coarse chalk and flint pieces. The upper fill (601), was 0.78 m thick, and consisted of very dark grey silty clay containing occasional flints. The feature produced substantial quantities of pottery, animal bone and burnt flint, most of it deriving from the upper fill, which also yielded worked flint and an iron nail.
- 3.3.5 Approximately 4 m west of the ditch there was a large irregular area of dark yellowish brown clay loam, which after excavation was shown to be two intercutting sub-circular features, both being half exposed in the trench and extending beyond its north side. The exposed part of the western feature was half sectioned, showing that it was 0.4 m deep pit [613] with moderately steep sides and an irregular flattish base. The lower fill of the pit (615) consisted of a 0.18 m thick layer of very dark greyish brown clay loam, the upper fill (614) a dark yellowish brown clay loam 0.28 m thick. The pit yielded a large quantity of pottery, as well a non-local sandstone, ceramic building material, animal bone and burnt flint. Neither the full width of the pit, nor its stratigraphical relationship with the similar feature to the east, could be determined as its upper fill (614) was indistinguishable from that of the adjacent feature (620). A posthole, 0.22 m deep and 0.25 m in diameter, was cut into the south side of the pit, also with a fill indistinguishable from that of the pit.
- 3.3.6 A second ditch was excavated, with a 0.8 m wide section, at c. SU 18150 51235, towards the west end of Trench 6 (375-80 m). Feature 636 was a 4.2 m wide ditch running approximately north/south. It had moderately steep sides, which were cut through deeply soliflucted and possibly root-disturbed chalk natural, and perhaps for this reason had a very irregular profile. The ditch was excavated to a depth of 0.85 m (1.2 m below present ground surface), the base not being reached, although on the basis of its profile it would appear to have been at least 1.5 m deep. At a depth of 0.8 m, on the western side, there was a compact layer of chalk rubble 1.3 m wide, with a smooth upper surface (640). Overlying this, and appearing to continue below the limit of excavation on the east side, there was a layer of dark yellowish brown silty clay loam (639) at least 0.65 m thick, containing occasional small chalk and medium to large flint pieces. The upper fill (637) was similar in colour and texture but contained considerably fewer coarse components. Both layers produced pottery, burnt flint and animal bone, with a nail and two other iron objects as well as most of the bone and some pieces of slag being found in the upper fill.
- 3.3.7 Of the other features in Trench 6 producing Romano-British pottery, six were linear features, the remaining being sub-circular or sub-rectangular in shape and varying in size. Other ditches and features had no finds visible on their surfaces but, on the basis of their location and form, most, if not all, may be suggested as being likely to be of a similar date.

3.4 Undated

- 3.4.1 Feature 104, was a ditch running approximately north-west/south-east at *c.* SU 18625 50988 in Trench 1 (17-21 m), a 0.5 m wide section of which was excavated (Fig. 1). The ditch was 0.8 m wide and 0.25 m deep with moderately steep straight sides and a flat base. The primary fill (103) was a dark yellowish brown silty loam with frequent small chalk and flint pieces. The upper fill (102) was a brown silty loam with fewer coarse components, and containing burnt flint and animal bone.

4 THE FINDS

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 All finds collected were retained and cleaned, and were quantified by number and weight according to material type within each context. The data are summarised in Appendix 2. The assemblage was then scanned to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of the artefacts represented. This information is discussed by material type below.
- 4.1.2 The majority of the finds are early Romano-British in date (*c.* 1st - 2nd centuries AD), most being recovered from Trench 6 with smaller quantities being found in Trenches 1 and 7. Feature 803 in Trench 8 was assigned an Early Bronze Age date on the basis of the Beaker/Collared Urn sherds recovered from it, while feature 116 in Trench 1 contained a single Beaker sherd in its upper fill.

4.2 Animal bone

- 4.2.1 In total 651 fragments (4505 g) of animal bone were recovered from Trenches 1, 3 and 6, many of which were small and fragmentary (Appendix 2). The species represented includes cow, horse, pig, sheep/goat, hare/rabbit and dog.
- 4.2.2 The incomplete sheep/goat skeleton from the shallow depression, Feature 309 in Trench 3, consists of only articulated axial elements (vertebrae, ribs, cranium) with the limb bones missing. This may be due to the removal of the meat-bearing joints, as a small number of butchery marks were identified on other bone fragments.
- 4.2.3 The deposit of animal bones in Feature 116 in Trench 1 consisted of one cow tibia, one horse radius/ulna, one horse tibia and one horse humerus. Horse first appears in the British fauna in the late Neolithic, and is present in the Bronze Age although not usually with Beaker associations. However, by the Iron Age, horse was much more common and is found in the archaeological record more frequently as loose bones, formal deposits and burials.

4.3 Flint

- 4.3.1 Thirty-two fragments of flint (377 g) were recovered, consisting mainly of unretouched flakes. Over half of the flakes were found in Pit 803 in Trench 8 and the remaining were dispersed in small quantities in Trenches 1 and 6. Two blade-

like flakes were retrieved, one with possible utilisation at the distal end from Ditch 603 in Trench 6, and one from Ditch 107 in Trench 1.

- 4.3.2 Unworked flint is intrinsically undatable. However, on the basis of the associated pottery and the fact that there is no blade technology, a broad date range of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age is suggested.

4.4 Ceramic building material

- 4.4.1 A small quantity (39 fragments) of ceramic building material, predominantly tile, was recovered, most of it in Trench 6, but some also in Trench 7. Most of the fragments were large and unabraded in a coarse, oxidised fabric. On the basis of diagnostic forms, surviving dimensions and associated pottery, the collection has been dated as early Romano-British. The presence of ceramic building material and possible stone tiles (see below) provides evidence suggesting that substantial buildings stood in the vicinity of the trench.

4.5 Pottery

- 4.5.1 The ceramic assemblage consisted of 284 sherds (5,560 g) and ranged in date from Early Bronze Age to Romano-British, the bulk of it being early Romano-British period (1st - 2nd centuries AD).

4.5.2 *Early Bronze Age*

A total of 17 sherds (108 g) has been attributed to the Early Bronze Age on the basis of fabric type and decoration. All but one of the sherds were recovered from Pit 803 in Trench 8 and represent up to five Beaker and/or Collared Urn vessels, one with impressed decoration, and four in grog tempered fabrics. The other example of Early Bronze Age pottery was a single decorated but abraded Beaker sherd recovered from the upper fill of Feature 116 in Trench 1.

4.5.3 *Romano-British*

The Romano-British assemblage consists of 267 sherds (5,452 g) including both coarse and fine wares, and was recovered mainly from Trench 6, particularly Ditch 603. Small quantities were also found in Trenches 1 and 3. The bulk of the fabrics and vessel forms are broadly early Romano-British in date. Coarse wares were the predominant fabrics identified, and included a large quantity of grogged wares ranging from soft, buff to coarse reduced grogged fabrics. The sherds, which are mostly large and unabraded, were derived from vessel forms such as large storage jars and globular bead rimmed jars and bowls. A likely source for these fabrics may be the Savernake Kilns in Wiltshire.

Smaller quantities of grey wares were also present. With the exception of a necked jar with a bead rim and a small number of curved rimmed jars, most sherds were non-diagnostic body sherds. A small quantity of oxidised wares ranging from fine to granular compositions were identified in vessel forms consisting of flanged bowls and jars with curved or bead rims. The sources for the oxidised and grey wares are likely to be from the local production areas in North Wiltshire. Also identified were a plain rim dish, one everted rim jar and body sherds of Black Burnished ware, from the Poole Harbour area of Dorset.

Fine wares include two body sherds of imported samian and ten colour-coated ware sherds possibly from the industries of the New Forest and Oxfordshire, although some may also be from North Wiltshire. The colour-coated ware is later in date as the New Forest and Oxfordshire industries were producing similar fine wares in the late 3rd and 4th centuries.

4.6 Slag

Fifteen small fragments (274 g) of metal working residues, representing iron working slag, were recovered from Trench 6. The bulk of which was found within the upper fill of Ditch 636 and suggests that metalworking may have taken place in the vicinity.

4.7 Stone

A total of 24 pieces of stone, all possible tile fragments, was recovered from features within Trench 6, plus one very small fragment of slate from Trench 7. The bulk of the stone fragments were in a moderately coarse sandstone, with a single fragment in a shelly limestone, possibly from the limestone outcrops at Purbeck in Dorset.

4.8 Metal

Five iron objects were recovered from Trench 6, consisting of three possible nails, one unidentified strip fragment and one possible blade fragment. All pieces are heavily corroded. On the basis of associated pottery they have been attributed to the Romano-British period.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Areas of archaeological potential

5.1.1 A number of areas of archaeological potential have been identified during the evaluation. These vary in date, nature and extent, and in the degrees to which their potential can be readily assessed. These areas are discussed below, the area of highest potential being considered first.

5.1.2 The area of highest archaeological potential is that around Trench 6. The extent of the Romano-British enclosure, as indicated by the geophysical survey, would suggest that the enclosure ditch extends close to the trench (Fig. 1). The high density of features containing settlement debris, particularly those located from 90 m to 160 m, is likely to be due to their being situated within the enclosure, if the line of the known enclosure ditch is projected northwards. The 4 m wide ditch recorded at 62-6 m (625) may represent that ditch crossing the trench, as may also Ditch 636, measuring 4.2 m in width, to the west (375 m), giving an approximate size of the settlement, as defined by the enclosure ditch, of over 300 m east to west, and considerably more north to south.

The evidence from all the fieldwork suggests that the settlement, consisting of a large number of circular and rectangular sub-enclosures, with buildings and pits and other structures such as a corn drier and evidence of metal working, may have constituted a large village or small town. The bulk of the dating evidence is for the 1st-2nd centuries AD but there is some later Roman material and material of this date has been recorded during the earlier work by Reading University. Examples of large settlements not incorporated into the main lines of Roman communication but with an irregular arrangement of lanes and streets (Burnham 1978) are to be found in the immediate vicinity on Salisbury Plain, although these are generally unenclosed (Entwistle *et al.* 1993; 1994; *Britannia* 23, 1992, 297-300).

5.1.3 The eastern end of Trench 1 also has archaeological potential. Ditches 107, and possibly also Ditch 104, may indicate the extension towards the south-east of features associated with the Romano-British enclosure, the southern limit of which, to the north-west, approaches within 90 m of the trench. In addition, the presence, towards the east end of the trench, of a substantial feature, possibly segmental in form and incorporating a series of adjacent pits, indicates significant if undefined prehistoric activity in that area.

5.1.4 The small feature containing the Beaker/Collared Urn sherds at the east end of Trench 8 indicates the potential for Early Bronze Age archaeology in that area also. However, the absence of other certainly archaeological features in this trench, and the uncertain character of the feature, raise the possibility of it being a deposit of purely symbolic significance which might be isolated from any immediate settlement activity.

5.1.5 The shallow feature at the north end of Trench 3, containing the truncated sheep/goat skeleton and the single, possibly residual, sherd of Romano-British pottery, provides little basis for assessing the archaeological potential of this part of the site. The area of the proposed hardstanding around both Trenches 3 and 4 has

been considerably disturbed by post-medieval construction and demolition at Beach's Barn, by heavy traffic associated with the military exercises, and by digging in recent times of large pits for the dumping of rubbish.

- 5.1.6 Other parts of the site have unknown potential. Trenches 2 and 5 at the north-east of the area would appear to have a low potential. However, a range of features were recorded in all the trenches, some of which may be of archaeological significance, although it is likely that a substantial number are recent in date or natural in origin. Given the narrow corridor which the trenches cut through the routes of the proposed new roads, no part of the site has been demonstrated not to contain any archaeological sites, features or deposits.

APPENDIX 1:

EVALUATION TRENCH SUMMARIES

The excavated contexts, which are shown in **bold**, are fully described in the text of this report.

Abbreviation: RB = Romano-British

TRENCH 1		Length: 390 m	Context locations measured from east end at SU 18645 50880
<i>Context</i>	<i>Location (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>
100	-	topsoil	0.12
101	-	subsoil	0.25
102	-	silty loam upper fill of [104]	0.15
103	-	silty loam primary fill of [104]	0.15
104	17-21	0.8 m wide ditch running north-west/south-east	0.25
105	-	natural chalk	-
106	-	silty loam fill of [107], containing R-B pottery	0.17
107	132-133	1.1 m wide ditch running north/south	0.24
108	-	clay loam fill of [116]	0.15
109	-	silty clay loam fill of [116]	0.10
110	-	primary fill of [116] - [111] and [113]	0.25
111	47-49	pit containing deliberate deposit of animal long bones - in (110) -, part of [116]	0.40
112	-	upper fill of [116]	-
113	46-48	pit adjacent to [111], part of [116]	0.30
114	-	weathered natural	-
115	-	fill of [116]	0.05
116	43-50	wide feature, possibly with segmented base, incorporating [111] and [113]	0.40

TRENCH 2		Length: 107 m	Context locations measured from west end at SU 18765 51180
<i>Context</i>	<i>Location (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>
200	-	topsoil	0.15
201	-	subsoil	0.15
202	-	weathered natural	0.10
203	-	natural chalk	-
204	-	upper fill of [206]	0.17
205	-	lower fill of [206]	0.11
206	34-36	natural feature (excavated to determine nature of a series of similar features recorded in all trenches)	0.27
207	29-31	clay loam fill of 2 m wide irregular feature	-
208	54-57	chalky rubble fill of 2.2 m wide irregular feature, possibly recent, cutting (209)	-
209	56-58	chalk fill of 0.5m wide linear feature, probably recent, running north-east/south-west	-
210	10	clay loam fill of 0.25 m diameter posthole	-

6 THE ARCHIVE

- 6.1 The archive is presently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury but will be deposited with Devizes Museum in due course.

7 REFERENCES

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TRENCH 3		Length: 78 m	Context locations measured from north end at SU 18635 51225
<i>Context</i>	<i>Location (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>
300	-	topsoil	0.15
301	-	subsoil	0.20
302	-	weathered natural	-
303	-	natural chalk	-
304	3-4	mixed chalk and soil fill 0.8 m wide sub-rectangular feature, possibly recent	-
305	-	fill of [309] containing articulated animal bone, and fragment of R-B pottery	0.07
306	29-30	clay loam fill, with occasional large flint nodules, of 1.1 m wide irregular feature	-
307	54-55	clay loam fill of 0.9 m wide linear feature running east/west	-
308	56-63	mixed chalk and soil fill of linear feature, possibly recent, running approximately north/south for at least 7.8 m	-
309	7-8	shallow oval scoop, 0.6 x 0.8 m	0.07

TRENCH 4		Length: 53 m	Context locations measured from north end at SU 18585 51220
<i>Context</i>	<i>Location (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>
400	-	topsoil - rubble and very disturbed ground	0.20
401	12-27	brick floor/foundation, probably associated with buildings of Beach's Barn	-
402	16-22	areas of recently dumped rubble	-
403	-	natural chalk	-
404	6-8	clay loam fill of 1.5 m wide subrectangular feature, investigated and shown to be a very shallow, probably natural hollow	0.05
405	30	fill of 0.25 m diameter posthole, possibly recent	-
406	35-36	silty clay-with-flint fill of 1 m wide oval feature	-
407	35-40	flinty clay loam fill of 5.4 m wide sub-circular feature	-
408	43-45	flinty clay loam fill of 1.8 m wide irregular feature	-

TRENCH 5		Length: 53 m	Context locations measured from west end at SU 18655 51245
<i>Context</i>	<i>Location (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>
500	-	topsoil	0.10
501	-	subsoil	0.15
502	-	chalk natural	-
503	30-37	silty clay-with-flints fill of 6 m wide irregular feature, possibly natural	-
504	30-37	chalk fill of modern cable trench	-

TRENCH 6		Length: 410 m	Context locations measured from east end at SU 18525 51195
<i>Context</i>	<i>Location (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>
600	-	topsoil	0.30
601	-	upper fill of [603]	0.77
602	-	lower fill of [603]	0.80
603	106-110	2.4 m wide V-shaped R-B ditch running approximately north-east/south-west	1.24
604	-	natural chalk	-
605	159-162	clay loam fill of 2.4 m wide sub-circular feature, containing R-B pottery	-
606	196-197	clay loam fill of 1.4 m wide linear feature running approximately north/south, containing R-B pottery	-
607	154-155	irregular 1.4 m wide patch of clay loam containing high proportion of burnt soil/clay and R-B pottery	-
608	198-199	clay loam fill of oval 0.6 m wide oval feature (or sub-circular terminal of linear extending approximately north-west), containing R-B pottery	-
609	157-159	clay loam fill of 1.8 m wide linear feature running approximately north-east/south-west, containing R-B pottery	-
610	190-193	clay loam fill of 2.1 m sub-circular feature, containing R-B pottery	-
611	2	clay loam fill of 0.45 m wide linear feature running north-west/south-east (possibly a tank track rut)	-
612	36-38	clay loam (with large flint nodules) fill of 2.4 m wide irregular feature, containing R-B pottery	-
613	116-119	circular R-B pit, at least 2.1 m wide, with posthole [616] cut into west side. Pit overlaps with similar feature to east, but both had similar fills and no stratigraphical relationship visible in plan	0.41
614	-	upper fill of [613], indistinguishable from (617)	0.28
615	-	lower fill of [613]	0.18
616	118	0.25 m diameter cutting south side of pit [613]. Fill of pit and posthole were indistinguishable, therefore no stratigraphic relationship could be determined	0.22
617	-	fill of [616], indistinguishable from (614)	-
618	99-101	clay loam fill of 1.5 m wide sub-rectangular feature, containing R-B pottery. Immediately adjacent to feature containing (619), but stratigraphic relationship unclear in plan	-
619	101-102	clay loam with large flints, fill of 1.1 m wide sub-circular feature. Immediately adjacent to feature containing (618), but stratigraphic relationship unclear in plan	-
620	114-119	clay loam fill, with some burnt clay, fill of sub-circular feature which overlaps with [614] to west. The fills were indistinguishable in plan, therefore no stratigraphic relationship between the two features could be determined	-
621	119-123	clay loam fill, with some burnt clay, of 1.1 m linear feature running approximately north-east/south-west, containing R-B pottery. North-west edge of feature indistinct, with a possible 0.7 m wide are running to north-west	-
622	124-125	clay loam fill of 1.2 m wide sub-circular feature, containing R-B pottery	-

(continued over)

Trench 6 (continued)			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Location (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>
623	126-130	clay loam fill, with high proportion of chalk and flint, of 4.4 m wide possibly subrectangular feature, with indistinct edges, containing R-B pottery	-
624	46-47	clay loam fill, with occasional large flints, of 0.8 m wide sub-circular feature	-
625	62-66	clay loam fill of 4 m wide linear feature running north/south, with frequent large flints at south-west, containing R-B pottery. Parallel to, and 2.6 m east of (626)	-
626	69-72	clay loam fill of 3.4 m wide linear feature running north/south, with frequent large flints at west, and containing R-B pottery. Parallel to, and 2.6 m west of (625)	-
627	93-95	clay loam fill, with occasional charcoal, of 1.8 m wide sub-rectangular feature, containing R-B pottery	-
628	96-97	clay loam fill, with occasional charcoal, of 0.9 m wide feature, possibly the rounded terminal of a linear running to the south-west, containing R-B pottery	-
629	236-240	clay loam fill of 2.7 m wide linear feature running approximately north/south. The feature appear to cut (630), the fill of another linear joining it from the west	-
630	238-292	variable clay loam fill of linear feature running to west in a meandering line approximately along the line of the trench. At the east (at 238 m) it joins, but appears to be cut by, the linear feature filled with (629), and at the west it leaves the line of the trench to the south-west (at 292 m). The feature widens, and possibly crosses a further linear feature at 276-281 m.	-
631	385-389	layer of pea-grit, possibly an upper fill of linear above (630)	-
632	267-268	spread of burnt flint and charcoal, 1.4 x 0.7 m, lying above (630)	-
633	260-262	spread of burnt flint and charcoal, 1.1 x 0.5 m, lying above (630)	-
634	327-329	clay loam fill of possible 2 m wide linear feature running approximately north/south (may represent area under-excavated and therefore not be a feature)	-
635	331-335	clay loam fill of 3 m wide linear feature running approximately north/south, containing R-B pottery	-
636	375-380	4.2 m wide ditch, probably R-B, running approximately north/south, excavated to a depth of 0.85 m but base not reached	0.9+
637	-	upper fill of [636], containing R-B pottery	0.4
638	137	clay loam fill of 0.6 m diameter sub-circular feature	-
639	-	fill of [636], containing R-B pottery	0.6+
640	-	chalky fill/surface in [636]	-

TRENCH 7		Length: 245 m	Context locations measured from south end at SU 18650 50890
<i>Context</i>	<i>Location (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>
700	0-7	made ground for road	0.15
701	0-7	chalk rubble - made ground	0.20
702	-	topsoil	0.20
703	-	subsoil	0.12
704	-	chalk natural	-
705	10	clay loam fill of posthole, 0.2 x 0.25 m, possibly modern	-
706	48	clay loam fill of 0.25 m wide linear feature (possible terminal) running west	-
707	59-60	chalk and loam mix, possibly recent, fill of 0.6 x 1.0 m sub-rectangular feature	-
708	77-78	clay loam fill of 0.5m square posthole (?), cut into fill of natural feature	-
709	81-86	clay loam, with patches of chalk rubble, fill of 0.9 m wide linear feature running approximately north-west/south-east	-
710	151-157	flinty silty clay fill of 3.4 m wide linear (?) feature running north-west/south-east. Its fill is similar to two large irregular features immediately to the south, both interpreted as natural on basis of form and clay-with flint fills. Parallel sides suggests that this feature may be man-made.	-
711	218-219	clay loam, with a patch of chalk rubble, fill of 1 m wide sub-circular feature	-
712	237-241	clay loam fill of 3.5 m wide sub-rectangular feature, possibly modern disturbance	-
713	240-241	clay loam fill of 1.5 m wide irregular feature, possibly modern	-
714		clay loam fill of 2.4 m wide irregular feature, possibly modern	-

TRENCH 8		Length: 139 m	Context locations measured from west end at SU 18635 51005
<i>Context</i>	<i>Location (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>
800	-	topsoil	0.20
801	-	subsoil	0.30
802	-	fill of [802] containing Collared Urn/Beaker sherds	0.15
803	128-129	0.75 m diameter shallow pit	0.15
804	-	natural	-
805	11-33	recent brick building rubble	0.50
806	21-25	<i>in situ</i> cemented brickwork, one course only, visible on south side of trench, under (805)	0.15
807	63-64	loose mix of loam and chalk rubble, probably recent, fill of 0.6 m wide linear feature running north/south	-
808	91-97	flinty silty clay fill of 0.35 m wide linear feature running approximately east/west along trench for 6m, possibly related to (809). Its fill was similar to that in natural features, but its straight linear shape suggests it may be man-made	-
809	100-102	flinty silty clay fill of 0.7 m wide linear feature running approximately north-east/south-west, possibly related to (808). Its fill was similar to that in natural features, but its shape suggests it may be man-made	-

APPENDIX 2:

FINDS TOTALS BY CONTEXT AND MATERIAL TYPE

NB. Quantities are presented by **number**/weight in grammes.

CBM=ceramic building material; u/s = unstratified

Prehistoric pottery in *italics*, all other pottery Romano-British

Con.	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	CBM	Flint	Pottery	Slag	Stone	Metal
u/s	3 78	1 31	6 232		17 148		1 112	
102	38 11	37 198						
106		14 104		4 26	3 9			
110	7 937	1 2						
112				1 6	<i>1 15</i>			
305	280 557				1 2			
601	80 876	9 579		4 72	117 2802			1 2
602	22 164	2 22			8 366			
605					7 82			
606	3 109				2 16			
607	1 1			1 2	1 4			
608		2 12		2 14	3 4			
609	2 5	1 6			5 403			
610			4 993		3 18		8 1424	
611			1 11					
612		1 18			1 12			
613	15 50	3 53	10 249		33 600		1 222	
618		1 82	7 120		17 614			
621					2 13			
622	3 106				6 24			
623					2 40	1 12		
625	3 14				2 68		11 112	
626	7 438	1 31			1 18		1 662	
627	2 5		5 148		2 14		2 172	
628	3 22				10 46			
629	16 26	2 130		1 14				
630	8 102		2 4					
635		1 46			4 45			
637	152 976	7 140			14 80	14 262		3 16
639	6 28	1 4			6 24			
705			4 4				1 1	
802				19 243	16 93			
Total	651 4505	84 1458	39 1761	32 377	17 108 267 5452	15 274	25 2705	5 20

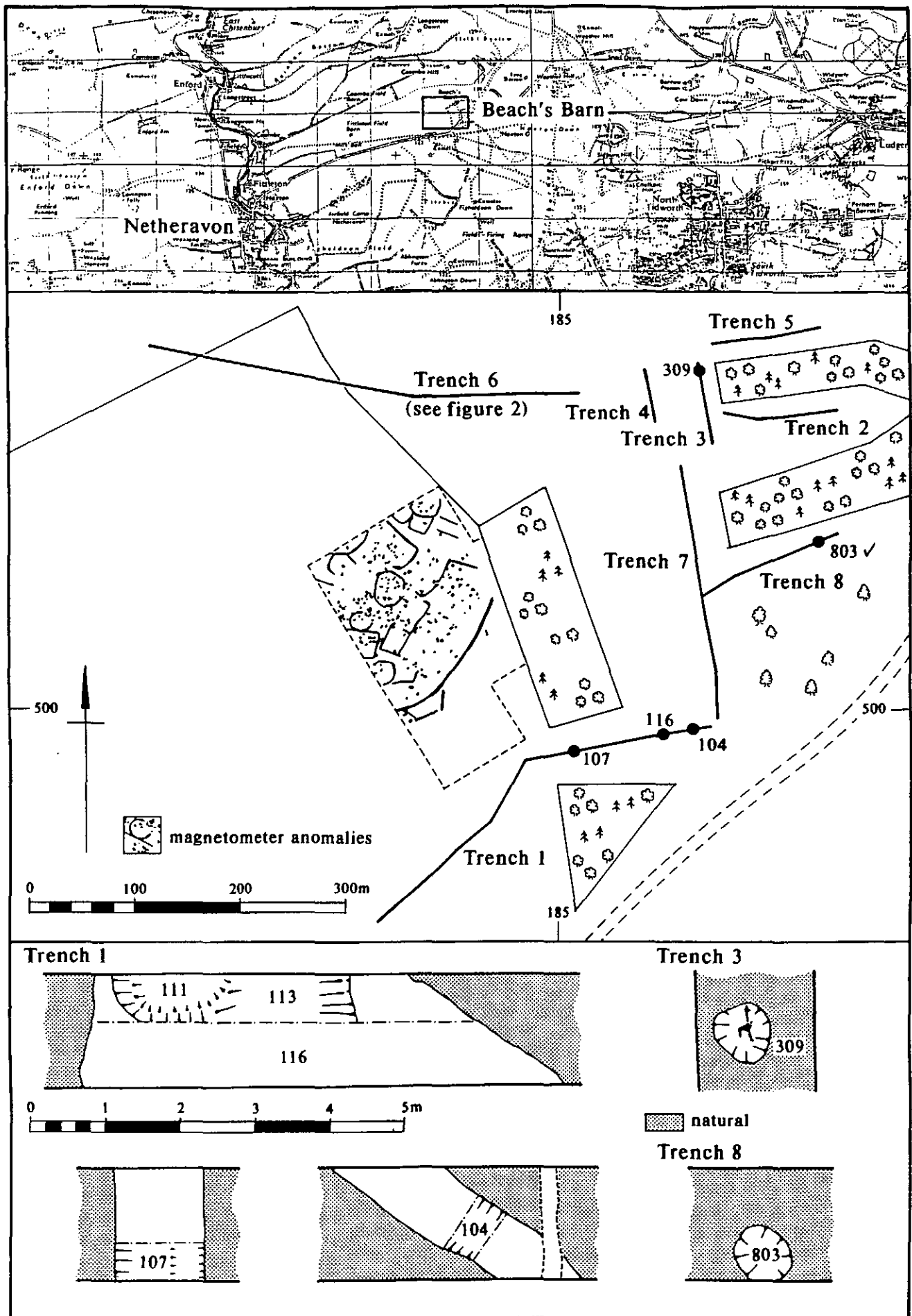


Figure 1

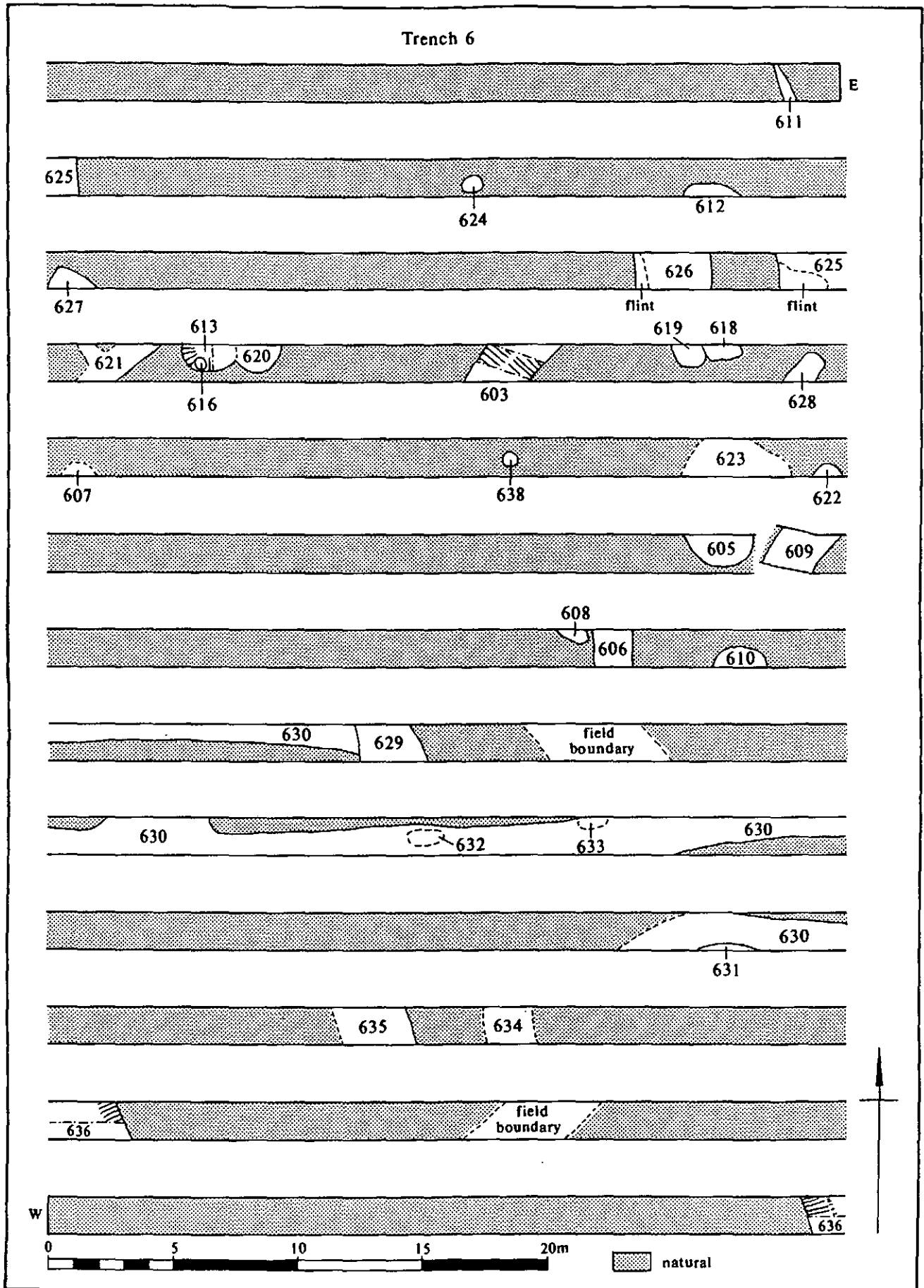


Figure 2



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