

Wessex
Archaeology



1996.055

EVENT 604

**THE PROPOSED BURIAL OF 11 KV POWER CABLES AT AVEBURY,
WILTSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation of the Silbury Hill section

PART TWO

SU 16NW 300
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Report No. 41687.02

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October 1996

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SUMMARY

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Southern Electric plc to carry out an archaeological evaluation along part of the proposed route of an 11 Kv power cable trench. The evaluation area comprised two pasture fields (Plots A and B) directly to the east of the later Neolithic monumental mound known as Silbury Hill, near Avebury in Wiltshire (SU 1001 6853). The evaluation consisted of the hand-excavation of five 1m x 1m test pits spaced 100 m apart along the proposed route of the trench, interspersed at 25m intervals by auger holes which were bored to a maximum depth of 1.5m below current ground level.

The evaluation revealed a clearly defined stratigraphic sequence, including well-sealed and closely dated archaeological deposits across the whole of Plot A and at either end of Plot B.

The presence of waterlain silt deposits down to at least 1.5m below current ground level in certain areas indicated that in both pre-Roman and post-Roman periods this area experienced very wet conditions, probably with seasonal flooding from the River Winterbourne to the east. The discovery of charcoal in the lowest of these investigated silt deposits, however, suggests that there may have been some form of human activity here despite any problems the flooding may have caused.

In the early Roman period, a road from *Cunetio* (Mildenhall) to *Aquae Sulis* (Bath) was constructed along the southern boundary of Plot A. The probable northern flanking ditch of this road was located in one of the test pits, along with a post hole. This latter feature could have been the result of a fence adjacent to the road, although it is possible that the remains of roadside structures may also have survived.

Sandwiched between the waterlain silts was a layer containing artefacts of 3rd or 4th century AD Roman date. This was present across all of Plot A and part of Plot B. This has been interpreted as material derived from nearby settlement adjacent to the proposed route of the cable trench. A settlement of this date has previously been identified on the lower slope of Waden Hill, immediately east of the River Winterbourne.

Following the deposition of this layer, there was a return to the wet conditions experienced in the prehistoric period, and this appears to have continued almost up to the present day.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was commissioned and financed entirely by Southern Electric plc. Wessex Archaeology would particularly like to thank Calvin Eales, Wayleave Officer, Southern Electric plc for his help, particularly in the setting out of the route for the evaluation and for the provision of plans and maps.

Wessex Archaeology also gratefully acknowledges The National Trust for allowing access to their land and for providing useful help and advice. Access was arranged via John Mayhew of Savilles. The collaborative role of Duncan Coe, Assistant Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council is also acknowledged.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Mick Rawlings. The field work was carried out by John Martin and Karen Nichols under the direction of Neil Adam. This report was compiled by Neil Adam and Mick Rawlings, while the illustrations were prepared by Karen Nichols.

THE PROPOSED BURIAL OF 11 KV POWER CABLES AT AVEBURY, WILTSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation of the Silbury Hill section

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Southern Electric plc to undertake an archaeological evaluation along part of the proposed route of a buried 11 Kv power cable. This cable would replace part of the current overhead supply system within the Avebury area.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of placing the cable underground (as part of an ongoing programme of repairs) is to reduce the visual intrusion of essential modern services into the landscape.
- 1.1.3 The proposed route work lies entirely within the area designated as a World Heritage Site.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The section of the cable route which was evaluated for archaeological purposes crosses two fields of permanent pasture (Plots A and B) which are situated immediately to the east of the later Neolithic monumental mound known as Silbury Hill (Fig. 1), and to the north of the A4 trunk road (from SU 1025 6838 to SU 1008 6883).
- 1.2.2 The basal geology of the Avebury area is primarily Cretaceous Chalk, with bands of Lower Chalk and Middle Chalk to the south of Avebury itself. The River Winterbourne flows southwards, passing between Waden Hill on the east and Silbury Hill on the west. The river forms the eastern boundaries of both Plots A and B, and it is actually the seasonal and most northerly part of the River Kennet. Drift geological deposits within the evaluation area comprise recent alluvium overlying river gravels. The current landscape is largely used for arable and pasture (Powell *et al.* 1996).
- 1.2.3 Following discussion with Duncan Coe (Assistant Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council), the proposed route of the power cable trench was located to the east of the line of the current overhead cables, which are within 40 m of Silbury Hill. The proposed route is designed to avoid an area of slightly higher ground immediately to the east of the ditch which surrounds Silbury Hill, and is mainly in the level ground which represents the floodplain of the River Winterbourne.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The Avebury area has been designated a World Heritage Site in recognition of the many closely associated prehistoric monuments of international, national, regional and local significance which are found within its environs. The internationally renowned monuments include Avebury Circle and the associated West Kennett and Beckhampton Avenues, The Sanctuary at Overton Hill, West Kennett Long Barrow, Silbury Hill and Windmill Hill. There are also at least 345 known monuments of various dates noted within the World Heritage Site.
- 1.3.2 In July 1996 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Southern Electric plc to undertake a desk-based assessment of a corridor 100m wide and centred on the entire proposed route of work in the Avebury area. The detailed results of this study were presented as a report (WA Doc. Ref. 41687.01) and will not be repeated here. The study indicated that archaeological sites and findspots dating from the Mesolithic to the post-medieval period have been recorded along the corridor. These included two deep Romano-British pits or wells which were found in Plot A in the late 19th century and which contained large amounts of pottery and stone building material. Settlement and burial evidence from the same era was found in 1994 on the eastern side of the Winterbourne, at the edge of Waden Hill, during the excavation of a trench for a foul sewer (Powell *et al* 1996).

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 A preferred route across this part of the floodplain was agreed in advance by a representative of Southern Electric plc and Duncan Coe (Assistant Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council). A total distance of *c.* 500m of this route was to be evaluated.
- 2.2 The aim of the evaluation in Plots A and B was to identify the depth, extent and possible date of any subsurface deposits within this part of the floodplain of the upper Kennett valley which would be affected by the proposed cable trench.
- 2.3 A short method statement was drawn up by Wessex Archaeology, prior to the commencement of fieldwork, and was approved by all parties concerned.
- 2.4 Intrusive investigation was carried out along the proposed route at 25m intervals. At 100m intervals a 1m² test pit was hand-excavated. This included deturfing and the stratigraphic excavation of topsoil and subsoil layers to a maximum depth of 1m below current ground level. All artefacts were retained except those of obviously modern manufacture.

- 2.5 Bulk soil samples were taken only from well-sealed deposits which could be dated either by artefact content or by association. Subsequent to excavation and recording, these test pits were backfilled with spoil arising. The test pits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standard *pro forma* system of context records, and a summary of each test pit sheet is presented as Appendix 1 of this report.
- 2.6 At all other 25m interval points a single borehole was hand-augered through the subsurface deposits to a maximum depth of 1.5m below current ground level. This was carried out using a standard Dutch auger with a 200mm head. The sequence recovered from the auger holes was recorded on site but no samples were retained. The auger boreholes were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standard *pro forma* auger log sheets, summaries of which are presented as Appendix 2 of this report.
- 2.7 The programme of evaluation required a total of five hand-dug test pits and sixteen auger holes. The locations of these were plotted on the ground by measuring from existing field boundaries, and absolute heights aOD were calculated using a Dumpy level. The benchmark used for this exercise is located at Silbury Cottages, adjacent to the footpath leading to West Kennett long barrow, and is established at 151.3m aOD.

3 RESULTS

A detailed summary of the results obtained from the test pits and auger holes, giving brief soil descriptions and dimensions of features can be found in Appendices 1 and 2. More comprehensive descriptions are available in the project archive. Test pit and auger hole locations are illustrated in Figure 1. The work revealed a sequence of natural layers and archaeological deposits, and extrapolating between boreholes and test pits resulted in the identification of a series of deposits or Units. This stratigraphic sequence is presented in visual form in Figure 2. The Unit numbers given at the end of each heading relate directly to the numbers on this figure.

3.1 Soil overburden (Unit 1)

- 3.1.1 Both Plots A and B were covered in a dark greyish-brown, slightly silty, loam topsoil. Generally between 0.3m and 0.4m thick, this soil was dry and highly compact, and had developed a 'blocky' texture. No archaeological material was recovered from this deposit.

3.2 Tertiary silt deposit (Unit 2)

- 3.2.1 Test pit 1 located a 0.23m thick layer of light brownish-grey silt directly below the topsoil. This was not found in any of the other test pits, although it was located in patches across Plot A (in auger holes 100, 102 - 104 and 107). The deposit varied in thickness from 0.1m to 0.4m, with the exception of auger hole 104 where it was found to be 1.14m thick, which may indicate the

presence here of an infilled former river channel or drainage ditch. No datable material was recovered from this deposit, although inclusions of charcoal were noted along with small fragments of chalk and snail shell.

3.3 'Roman deposit' (Unit 3)

- 3.3.1 An almost continuous deposit of dark greyish-brown silty loam was found across Plot A and along the southern edge of Plot B. It was sealed in some places by the patchy tertiary silt (Unit 2), but was also recorded directly below the topsoil (Unit 1). This deposit varied in thickness from between 0.2m to 0.5m. It contained chalk rubble along with sherds of Romano-British pottery, ceramic and stone building materials, and items of ironwork. The pottery assemblage, a third of which was made up of finewares, can be dated to the later Roman period (3rd - 4th centuries AD).

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301

3.4 Soil and chalk mixture (Unit 4)

- 3.4.1 Test pits 1, 2 and 3, along with auger hole 102, located a thin layer of mixed soil and chalk directly below the 'Roman deposit' (Unit 3). This varied in thickness from 0.03 to 0.06m. No archaeological material was found within this layer, which lay directly on top of the degraded chalk natural (see 3.8 below) in test pits 2, 3 and auger hole 102.

- 3.4.2 In test pit 1, however, this layer was found to seal the secondary silt deposit (see 3.5 below), along with two archaeological features; a partially exposed linear (106), and a discrete circular feature (108). Although these features were not excavated, a small bulk soil sample was taken from the upper fill (105) of the linear feature.

3.5 Secondary silt deposit (Unit 5)

- 3.5.1 Test pit 1 and auger holes 100, 107-8 located a deposit of pale brown silt at both the southern and northern ends of Plot A. This deposit was then found to be continuously present across Plot B. Within Plot A, it was generally sealed below the 'Roman deposit' (Unit 3) In test pit 1, however, it was directly below the thin soil and chalk layer (Unit 4) which underlay Unit 3. This pale brown silt contained rare inclusions of chalk and snail shell, and no archaeological material. Generally the full depth of the deposit was not established and it varied in known thickness from 0.08m to 0.5m.

3.6 Silt and soil mix (Unit 6)

- 3.6.1 In Plot B the tertiary silt deposit (Unit 2) is not present, and it is replaced in the stratigraphic sequence by a deposit which seems to be made up of a roughly equal mixture of loam and silt. This deposit is also encountered at the far northern end of Plot A (auger hole 108), where it seals the 'Roman deposit' (Unit 3). No datable material was recovered from this deposit, and it is interpreted as a former ploughsoil.

3.7 Primary silt deposit (Unit 7)

- 3.7.1 Auger holes 112 and 114-5 located a further silt deposit, sealed by the secondary silt (Unit 5), at the northern end of Plot B. This was a slightly lighter, pale brown and contained fragments of chalk and charcoal. No datable material was recovered from it.

3.8 Natural geology (Unit 8)

- 3.8.1 Both Plots A and B were found to be underlain by a deposit of very pale brown, degraded chalk. This was found at between 0.6 and 0.8m below current ground level across most of Plot A, with the exception of the southern end, where it was not found at all. In auger hole 105, roughly in the centre of Plot A, this degraded chalk was found only 0.03m below the current ground level. This may indicate some kind of localised variation in the subsurface topography, although the possible presence of some form of structural remains cannot be ruled out. At the northern end of Plot A the chalk level drops to c. 1.1m below ground level before disappearing below the deeper silt deposits in Plot B.

3.9 Features

- 3.9.1 Only two definite archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation, both in test pit 1. Linear feature 106 was aligned east/west in the southern part of the test pit, only the northern edge of the feature was observed. This is likely to be the northern flanking ditch of the Roman Road which connected *Cunetio* (Mildenhall) with *Aquae Sulis* (Bath). This feature was cut through from the surface of the soil and chalk mix (Unit 4). Although it was not excavated, the upper fill (105) of the feature was examined and a bulk soil sample was obtained. A single sherd of later Romano-British pottery was found in this fill during examination.

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- 3.9.2 A small circular feature (108) measuring 0.25m in diameter was located adjacent to the linear one. This second feature, however, was sealed by the soil and chalk mix (Unit 4) and was cut into the underlying secondary silt deposit (Unit 5). This feature remained unexcavated and may represent activity in the area prior to the construction of the road, but it could equally be part of a roadside structure or a fence line.

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4 THE FINDS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A small quantity of artefacts was recovered from three test pits and retained for processing. These finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context (see Table 1). Details of condition, range and date of the artefacts have also been recorded where relevant, and this information is summarised by material type below. With the exception of a single flint flake, all the artefacts are considered to be of Romano-British date.

Table 1: All finds by context

TP	Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Fired Clay	Flint	Pottery	Shell	Stone	Iron
1	102	1/12			1/1	18/252	2/18	4/438	3/20
	105					1/2		1/128	
2	201	17/128				54/368	2/10	6/502	1/2
3	301	5/10	2/92	2/12		51/406	1/2	3/500	5/26
	Total	23/150	2/92	2/12	1/1	124/1028	5/30	14/1568	9/48

4.2 Animal bone and shell

4.2.1 The shell fragments consist entirely of oyster. Only two complete valves are present, one right and one probable left. The animal bone fragments are mostly from cattle or sheep/goat. Some of the fragments are measurable, but no metrical analysis has been undertaken as part of the present work.

4.3 Ceramic building material

4.3.1 Two fragments of ceramic roof tile came from test pit 3. These are of undiagnostic form but associated pottery suggests that they are of Romano-British date.

4.4 Fired clay

4.4.1 The two pieces of fired clay recovered from test pit 3 have been burnt almost to vitrification, and possibly derive from some kind of hearth or oven structure.

4.5 Worked flint

4.5.1 A single worked flint flake came from test pit 1, and is presumed to be of prehistoric date. Su16NW
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4.6 Pottery

4.6.1 The small pottery assemblage is entirely of Romano-British date, and contains a high proportion of fine wares (approximately one-third by number of sherds). Apart from two sherds of Samian, these finewares consist entirely of colour-coated wares from the Oxfordshire production centre, with a probable date range of 3rd to 4th century AD. Recognisable vessel forms in the accompanying coarsewares, which include greywares, Black Burnished ware (BB1), oxidised sandy wares and grog-tempered wares, would support this date range.

4.7 Stone

4.7.1 The fourteen pieces of worked stone collected consist of fragments of ferruginous sandstone, probably deriving from roof tiles. Associated pottery would suggest a Romano-British date for these fragments, which indicate the presence of a relatively substantial building in the vicinity. One fragment

from test pit 1 appears to have been roughly shaped into a disc approximately 100mm in diameter.

4.8 Ironwork

- 4.8.1 The ironwork assemblage comprises six nails, one cleat, one sheet fragment and one unidentified object; these are all assumed to be of Romano-British date on the basis of associated pottery.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Methodology

- 5.1.1 Bulk soil samples of 10 litres each were taken from three contexts in test pit 1; the 'Roman deposit' (Unit 3), the secondary silt (Unit 5), and the upper fill (105) of the ditch recorded in the base of this test pit. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.

- 5.1.2 The flots were scanned under a x10-x30 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains was quantified (Table 2), in order to present information about preservation and to determine the potential of the charred plant remains for detailed analysis.

5.2 Results

5.2.1 *Charred plant remains*

In all three cases the flots were below average size (average for 10 litre samples is 60ml) and two contained over 50% rooty material but uncharred weed seeds were only recorded in small quantities. Charred remains were very sparse with low amounts of charcoal being observed in all samples but charred grain fragments were only retrieved from the ditch sample and even then in low quantities. Charred chaff fragments were not observed at all.

5.2.2 *Molluscs*

Although the bulk samples were not processed specifically for molluscs, they nevertheless contained rich assemblages. These include fresh/brackish water species (*Lymnaea/Bithynia*) and a number of planorbids which are relatively habitat specific, as well as a limited number of terrestrial species. Both terrestrial and fresh and brackish water species, were recorded in high numbers.

5.2.3 *Animal bone*

A single small mammal bone was recovered from the secondary silt deposit.

Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains

Feature type/ no	Context	Sample	Flot							Other	Residue Charcoal >5.6mm
			flot ml	size	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred	Charred	Charcoal >5.6mm		
'Roman deposit' Unit 3	102	20000	20	12	-	-	c	-	C	molluscs (A*)	-
Secondary silt deposit Unit 5	104	20001	40	2	-	-	c	-	C	molluscs: land (A*) fresh/brackis h (A*) smb (C)	-
Fill of ditch 106	105	20002	30	15	C	-	c	-	C	molluscs land (A*) fresh/brackis h (A*)	-

KEY: A* = 30+ items, C = < 5 items, smb = small mammal bones

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

5.3 Discussion

5.3.1 Charred plant remains

The charred plants are extremely sparse. This contrasts with the results of similar analysis carried out during the investigation of the Romano-British settlement on the eastern side of the River Winterbourne (Scaife, in Powell *et al.* 1996). The difference may be due in some part to variation in post-depositional ground conditions (eg. waterlogging), but may also be a reflection of the non-occupational nature of the deposits within the floodplain.

5.3.2 Molluscs

The mixture of terrestrial and freshwater/brackish species within the mollusc assemblages presumably indicates the influence of regular flooding across the area. More detailed analysis may provide information on the specific environmental conditions during the deposition of the secondary silts, the 'Roman deposit' and the fill of the ditch, but this is not within the scope of the current work.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Prehistoric

6.1.1 The primary and the secondary silt deposits (Units 7 and 5 respectively) appear to be indicative of widespread flooding across both Plots A and B for some considerable time prior to the later Roman period. Although no datable material was recovered from either of these deposits, the presence of charcoal in the primary silt some 0.8m below the dated Roman deposit does suggest

that there was human activity on this site at a date of some considerable antiquity. The lack of dating evidence, however, means that it is not possible to say whether either of these deposits is contemporaneous with the construction of Silbury Hill or other monuments in the vicinity.

6.2 Early Romano-British

- 6.2.1 The linear feature (106) found in test pit 1 is aligned parallel with the line of the current A4 trunk road which is situated immediately to the south. This road is known to follow the line of a Roman road which branches off from Ermine Street to the west of *Spinae* (?Speen, Berks.), and then carries on to *Aquae Sulis* (Bath) (Powell *et al* 1996, 27). Because of its orientation, the linear is most likely to be a flanking ditch associated with that Roman road, and as a result, is very probably Early Roman (late 1st or early 2nd century) in origin. A single sherd of Late Roman pottery found in the very top of the ditch fill (105) is thus indicative of the date of the final stage of infilling of the ditch.
- 6.2.2 The discrete circular feature (108) found close to the centre of test pit 1 did not contain any datable material. However, as it is situated in the same part of the stratigraphic sequence as linear 106, it may also be of Early Roman date. As the feature was viewed in isolation, interpretation is problematic. It could be part of a road-side structure, or possibly part of a fence line along the edge of the road.

6.3 Late Romano-British

- 6.3.1 Feature 108 was sealed by a thin layer of mixed soil and degraded chalk natural (Unit 4) which was found intermittently across Plot A. No datable material was found in this layer, which appears to represent the earliest stages of Romano-British activity in the vicinity of Plot A. Apart from in test pit 1, this layer lies directly on top of the chalk natural, suggesting that with the exception of the road and any associated activity along the southern boundary, the rest of Plot A had remained undeveloped prior to the 3rd century AD.
- 6.3.2 The 'Roman deposit' of soil mixed with chalk (Unit 3) was found across the whole of Plot A and appears to represent a phase of domestic activity in the vicinity dating from the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. The pottery assemblage recovered from three of the test pits suggest that this site producing this material is typical of a rural Romano-British site in southern England. Interpretation is difficult without further evidence of structures or land allotment.
- 6.3.3 The artefacts are slightly abraded and this might suggest that the material is derived from a nearby settlement rather than being *in situ* occupation debris. The nature of the deposit itself, recorded consistently as a single homogenous layer spread over a wide area of the floodplain, also suggests that this does

not represent a settlement *per se* but is an indicator of domestic activity in the vicinity. The material may be derived from the known settlement which lies to the east of the River Winterbourne (Powell *et al* 1996, 31-58), or possibly from an as yet unknown source. Other associated sites or findspots in the vicinity include the deep 'pits' or 'wells' found in Plot A in the late 19th century (Brooke and Cunnington 1896), the Romano-British burial found in the eroding bank of the Winterbourne in 1964 (Evans 1966), and the large quantity of Romano-British material recovered from the upper fill of the Silbury Hill ditch (Whittle forthcoming).

6.4 Post-Roman soil and silt accumulation

- 6.4.1 The 'Roman deposit' is sealed by the tertiary silt deposit (Unit 2) across most of Plot A, while the soil and silt mix (Unit 6) seals it at the northern extreme. Both of these deposits (Units 2 and 6) appear to represent a return to the wet conditions which seem to have prevailed in the prehistoric period. The mixed layer in Plot B (Unit 6) may be the result of agricultural disturbances such as deep ploughing, while the unadulterated silt in Plot A is interpreted as indicative of little or no arable activity within the post-Roman period in this field. No dating evidence was recovered from either deposit and so an exact chronology for their rates of deposition cannot be established.

7 THE PROJECT ARCHIVE

- 7.1 The project archive (Site Code W1687), including the artefacts, is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. In due course the paper archive will be deposited at the Devizes Museum, Wiltshire. Subject to the prior approval of the landowner, it is hoped that the finds will be deposited at the museum along with the rest of the archive.

- 7.2 The project archive consists of:

In File 1:

1.1	Archive Index	1 sheet
1.2	Report	20 sheets
1.3	Day book	3 sheets
1.4	Levels book	2 sheets
1.5	Test Pit Summary Records	6 sheets
1.6	Photographic Record	2 sheets
1.7	A4 Graphics	6 sheets
1.8	Auger Log	16 sheets
1.9	Environmental Sample Index	1 sheet
1.10	Environmental Sample Record	3 sheets
1.11	Context Finds Record	4 sheets

1.12 Spot Scanning and Dating Sheets 4 sheets

In File 2: The monochrome negatives and contact sheets
The colour transparencies

The finds 1 box

8 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: Summary of Test Pit Results

TEST PIT: 1		
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		Max. depth: 1m
Ground height: 147.49m OD		Co-ords: SU 10250 68380
Context No.	Description	Thick-ness
100	10 YR 4/2 Dark greyish-brown, slightly silty loam with occasional sub-rounded chalk inclusions. Has very dry and 'blocky' texture. - Topsoil - Unit 1.	0.24m
101	10 YR 6/2 Light brownish-grey silt with very rare chalk fleck inclusions. - Tertiary silt deposit - Unit 2.	0.23m
102	10 YR 4/2 Dark greyish-brown silty loam with frequent chalk fragments and occasional medium to large sized flint inclusions. Also contains sherds of Roman pottery, ironwork and fragments of worked foreign stone. - 'Roman deposit' - Unit 3. Seals linear feature 106.	0.32m
103	10 YR 5/4 Yellowish-brown / 10 YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown mix of soil and degraded chalk. Unit 4. Seals circular feature 108.	0.13m
104	10 YR 6/3 Pale brown silt with rare chalk fleck and snail shell inclusions. Not Bottomed. - Secondary silt deposit - Unit 5. Cut by Features 106 and 108.	0.08m +
Features:		
106	Linear feature partially exposed along southern edge of test pit. A 0.25m wide segment was visible. Not excavated. Cut layers 103 and 104.	n/e
105	10 YR 4/2 Dark greyish-brown silty loam with frequent chalk fragment inclusions along with sherds of Roman pottery and foreign stone. Fill of feature 106, sealed by 102.	n/e
108	Circular feature situated close to the centre of test pit. Has a diameter of 0.25m. Not excavated. Cut layer 104.	n/e
107	10 YR 4/2 Dark greyish-brown silty loam with occasional chalk fragment inclusions. Fill of feature 108. Sealed by 103.	n/e
Comments: Linear 106 was interpreted as a flanking ditch associated with the Roman road which runs directly to the south of Plot A. Feature 108 is probably a posthole. The later Roman layer (Unit 3) is sandwiched in between two phases of major flood deposit (101 and 104).		

TEST PIT: 2		
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		Max. depth: 0.70m
Ground height: 147.42m OD		Co-ords: SU 10220 68475
Context No.	Description	Thick-ness
200	10 YR 4/2 Dark greyish-brown slightly silty loam. - Topsoil -Unit 1.	0.32m
201	10 YR 4/2 Dark greyishbrown silty loam with frequent chalk rubble and flint inclusions along with sherds of Roman pottery and metalwork. - ' Roman deposit ' - Unit 3.	0.34m
202	10 YR 5/4 Yellowish-brown / 10 YR 4/2 Dark greyish-brown mix of soil and degraded chalk. Unit 4	0.04m
203	10 YR 8/6 Yellow degraded chalk natural - Unit 8.	n/e
Comments: 'Roman deposit' (Unit 3) found in test pit 1 is located again in test pit 2 (layer 201). The remainder of the stratigraphic sequence is also similar, though with the absence of any flood deposits here.		

TEST PIT: 3		
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		Max. depth: 0.93m
Ground height: 147.80m OD		Co-ords: SU 10230 68570
Context No.	Description	Thick-ness
300	10 YR 4/2 Dark greyish-brown slightly silty loam with occasional inclusions of chalk flecking and flints. - Topsoil -Unit 1.	0.40m
301	10 YR 3/3 Dark brown silty loam with frequent inclusions of flint and chalk along with sherds of Roman pottery, bone fragments and pieces of worked sandstone. - ' Roman deposit ' - Unit 3.	0.30m
302	10 YR 3/3 Dark brown loam with occasional small fragments of chalk and flint along with Roman Pottery, bone fragments and sandstone. - ' Roman deposit ' - Unit 3.	0.17m
303	10 YR 5/4 Yellowish-brown / 10 YR 4/2 Dark greyish-brown mix of soil and degraded chalk. Unit 4.	0.06m
304	10 YR 8/6 Yellow degraded chalk natural. Unit 8.	n/e
Comments: Identical stratigraphy to that found in Test Pit 2. 'Roman deposit' (Unit 3) continues across Plot A. Thin interface layer of chalk and soil again found below Roman layer. No flood deposits noted.		

TEST PIT: 4		
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		Max. depth: 1.04m
Ground height: 148.84m OD		Co-ords: SU 10175 68680
Context No.	Description	Thick-ness
400	10 YR 2/2 Very dark brown slightly silty loam with very rare flint and chalk inclusions. - Topsoil - Unit 1.	0.35m
401	10 YR 4/2 Dark greyish-brown silty loam. Very firm and compact. Rare flint and chalk inclusions. - Soil and silt mix - Unit 6.	0.35m
402	10 YR 6/2 Light brownish-grey silt with rare chalk and flint inclusions. - Secondary silt deposit - Unit 5. Not bottomed.	0.34m +
<p>Comments: 'Roman deposit' (Unit 3) found in Plot A is not present. Layer 402 is similar to that found at the bottom of Test Pit 1 (104). No archaeological material was recovered from this pit or noted in the sections.</p>		

TEST PIT: 5		
Dimensions: 1 x 1m		Max. depth: 1m
Ground height: 149.11m OD		Co-ords: SU 10120 68765
Context No.	Description	Thick-ness
500	10 YR 4/2 Dark greyish-brown slightly silty loam. Firm and dry with a 'blocky' texture. Common root and rare flint grit inclusions. - Topsoil - Unit 1.	0.35m
501	10 YR 5/2 Greyish-brown silty loam. Very firm and dry with occasional root and rare chalk inclusions. - Soil and silt mix- Unit 6.	0.60m
502.	10 YR 6/2 Light brownish-grey silt. Soft, malleable and smooth, Contains rare chalk and flint inclusions. - Secondary silt deposit- Unit 5.	0.05m+
<p>Comments: Identical stratigraphy to that found in test pit 4, although layer 501 is twice the depth of the equivalent TP 4 deposit (401). As in test pit 4, no archaeological material was recovered or noted in the sections.</p>		

APPENDIX 2: Auger Log

Auger No: 100	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10255 68405	Surface Height: 147.56m OD	Plot: A
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.30m	10 YR 4/2	Slightly silty loam	Very dry and blocky in texture. Root and chalk inclusions.	1
0.30 - 0.50m	10 YR 5/2	Silt	Very dry and highly compacted.	2
0.50 - 1.00m	10 YR 4/2	Silty loam	Dry and highly compacted - takes a polish. Many chalk inclusions.	3
1.00 - 1.50m +	10 YR 6/2	Silt	Softer and damper than above deposits. Some chalk inclusions.	5

Auger No: 101	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10210 68430	Surface Height: 147.60m OD	Plot: A
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.30m	10 YR 4/2	Slightly silty loam	Very dry and 'Blocky' in texture.	1
0.30 - 0.60m	10 YR 5/2	Silty loam	Frequent chalk and some flint inclusions.	3
0.60m +	10 YR 8/3	Chalk	Degraded chalk natural.	8

Auger No: 102	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10265 68455	Surface Height: 147.61m OD	Plot: A
Depth	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.30m	10 YR 4/2	Slightly silty loam	Very dry and crumbly. Some roots and chalk.	1
0.30 - 0.40m	10 YR 5/2	Silt	Very firm, but damper than above deposit. Some chalk and charcoal inclusions.	2
0.40 - 0.63m	10 YR 4/2	Silty loam	Very firm, compact and drier than above. Frequent chalk inclusions.	3
0.63 - 0.66m	10 YR 4/2 - 8/1	Silty loam and chalk	Softer than above deposit and with a much higher chalk inclusion.	4
0.66m +	10 YR 8/3	Chalk	Degraded chalk natural.	8

Auger No: 103	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10260 68500	Surface Height: 147.41m OD	Plot: A
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.35m	10 YR 4/2	Slightly silty loam	Very dry and firm with root and some chalk inclusions.	1
0.35 - 0.55m	10 YR 5/2	Silt	Damper than above deposit, though just as firm and compact. Some chalk fragment inclusions.	2
0.55 - 0.75m	10 YR 4/2	Silty loam	Less compacted than in previous holes. High chalk and light grit inclusions.	3
0.75m +	10 YR 8/3	Chalk	Degraded chalk natural.	8

Auger No: 104	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10205 68525	Surface Height: 147.48m OD	Plot: A
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.35m	10 YR 4/2	Slightly silty loam	Firm and compact. Crumbly near to surface. Chalk and root inclusions.	1
0.35 - 1.49m	10 YR 5/2	Silt	Damper than above deposit, though just as firm and compact. Some chalk fragment and flint inclusions.	2
1.49m +	10 YR 8/3	Chalk	Degraded chalk natural	8

Auger No: 105	Type: Dutch 200 mm	NGR: SU 10240 68545	Surface Height: 147.57 m OD	Plot: A
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.03m	10 YR 4/2	Slightly silty loam	Firm and compact. Crumbly near to surface. Chalk and root inclusions.	1
0.03 - 0.40m +	10 YR 8/3	Chalk	Degraded chalk natural.	8

Auger No: 106	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10220 68590	Surface Height: 148.00m OD	Plot: A
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.40m	10 YR 6/2	Slightly silty clay	Very dry and crumbly with occasional chalk and root inclusions.	1
0.40 - 0.85m	10 YR 4/2	Silty loam	Very firm, compact and drier than above. Frequent chalk inclusions.	3
0.85m +	10 YR 8/3	Chalk	Degraded chalk natural.	8

Auger No: 107	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10210 68615	Surface Height: 148.14m OD	Plot: A
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.40m	10 YR 6/4	Slightly silty loam	Dry and crumbly with flint, chalk and root inclusions.	1
0.40 - 0.80m	10 YR 5/2	Silt	Very firm and compact. Rare chalk and shell inclusions.	2
0.80 - 1.40m	10 YR 4/2	Silty loam	Firm and compact with common chalk and occasional flint inclusions.	3
1.40 - 1.50m +	10 YR 6/2	Silt	Soft and smooth with rare chalk inclusions, becoming more common with depth. Not bottomed	5

Auger No: 108	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10200 68635	Surface Height: 148.43m OD	Plot: A
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.40m	10 YR 3/3	Slightly silty clay	Very firm and compact. Crumbles on examination. Regular chalk and occasional flint inclusions.	1
0.40 - 0.70m	10 YR 5/2	Silty clay	Very firm and compact. Damper than above layer with common chalk and occasional flint inclusions.	6
0.70 - 0.95m	10 YR 4/2	Silty loam	Very firm with abundant chalk and occasional flint inclusions, along with grit and pottery fragments.	3
0.95 - 1.10m	10 YR 6/2	Silt	Soft and malleable with rare chalk inclusions.	5
1.10m +	10 YR 8/3	Chalk	Degraded chalk natural.	8

Auger No: 109	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10190 68655	Surface Height: 148.68m OD	Plot: B
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.40m	10 YR 3/2	Slightly silty loam	Very firm and compacted with rare chalk, some roots, and occasional flint inclusions.	1
0.40 - 0.70m	10 YR 5/2	Silty loam	Firm but malleable and smooth with occasional chalk fragment inclusions.	6
0.70 - 1.10m	10 YR 4/2	Silty loam	Firm but malleable with common chalk and some flint inclusions.	3
1.10m +	10 YR 8/3	Chalk	Degraded chalk natural	8

Auger No: 110	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10115 68700	Surface Height: 148.94m OD	Plot: B
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.35m	10 YR 4/2	Slightly silty clay	Compact and crumbly when handled. Regular root inclusions.	1
0.35 - 0.75m	10 YR 5/2	Silty loam	Very firm and compact. Rare root inclusions. Takes polish.	6
0.75 - 1.50m +	10 YR 6/2	Silt	Soft, sticky and malleable with rare shell inclusions. Not bottomed.	5

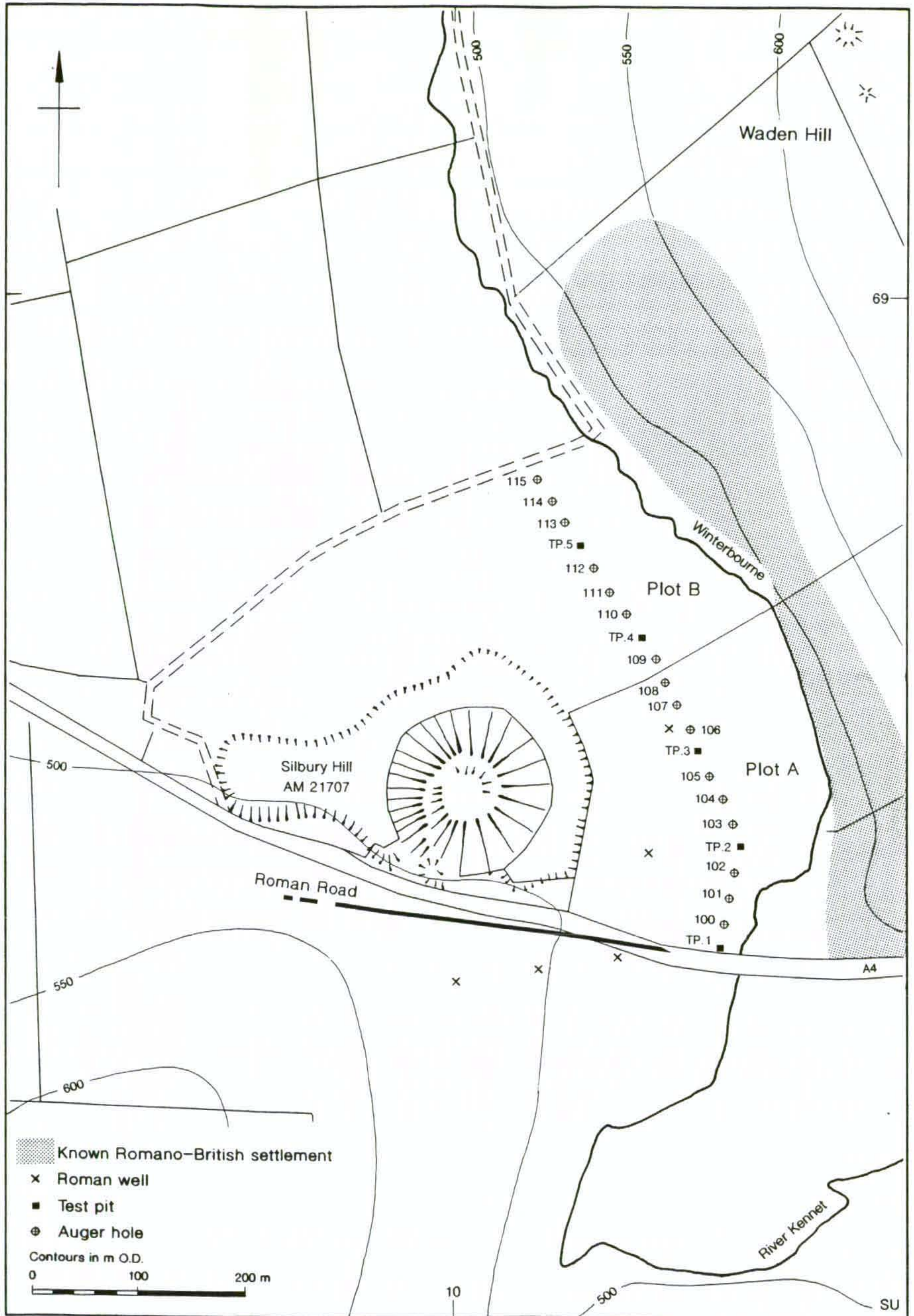
Auger No: 111	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10145 68720	Surface Height: 148.84m OD	Plot: B
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.35m	10 YR 4/2	Slightly silty loam	Very firm and compacted with some root inclusions.	1
0.35 - 0.75m	10 YR 5/2	Silty loam	Very firm and compacted, takes polish, very rare chalk inclusions.	6
0.75 - 1.5m +	10YR 6/2	Silt	Softer and more malleable than above deposit, Rare inclusions of shell and grit after 1m. Not bottomed.	5

Auger No: 112	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10140 68745	Surface Height: 149.04m OD	Plot: B
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.35m	10 YR 4/2	Slightly silty loam	Firm and dry with a 'blocky' texture. Occasional root inclusions.	1
0.35 - 0.80m	10 YR 5/2	Silty loam	Firm, dry and compacted with rare chalk inclusions.	6
0.80 - 1.40m	10 YR 6/2	Silt	Softer and more malleable than above deposit, Rare inclusions of shell and grit after 1m.	5
1.40 - 1.50m +	10 YR 6/3	Silt	Similar to above layer, but with occasional inclusions of chalk. Not bottomed.	7

Auger No: 113	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10105 68790	Surface Height: 149.12m OD	Plot: B
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.35m	10 YR 4/2	Slightly silty loam	Firm and dry. Occasional root inclusions.	1
0.35 - 0.80m	10 YR 5/2	Silty loam	Firm, dry and compacted with rare chalk inclusions.	6
0.80 - 1.5m +	10 YR 6/2	Silt	Softer and more malleable than above deposit, Rare inclusions of shell and grit after 1m. Not bottomed.	5

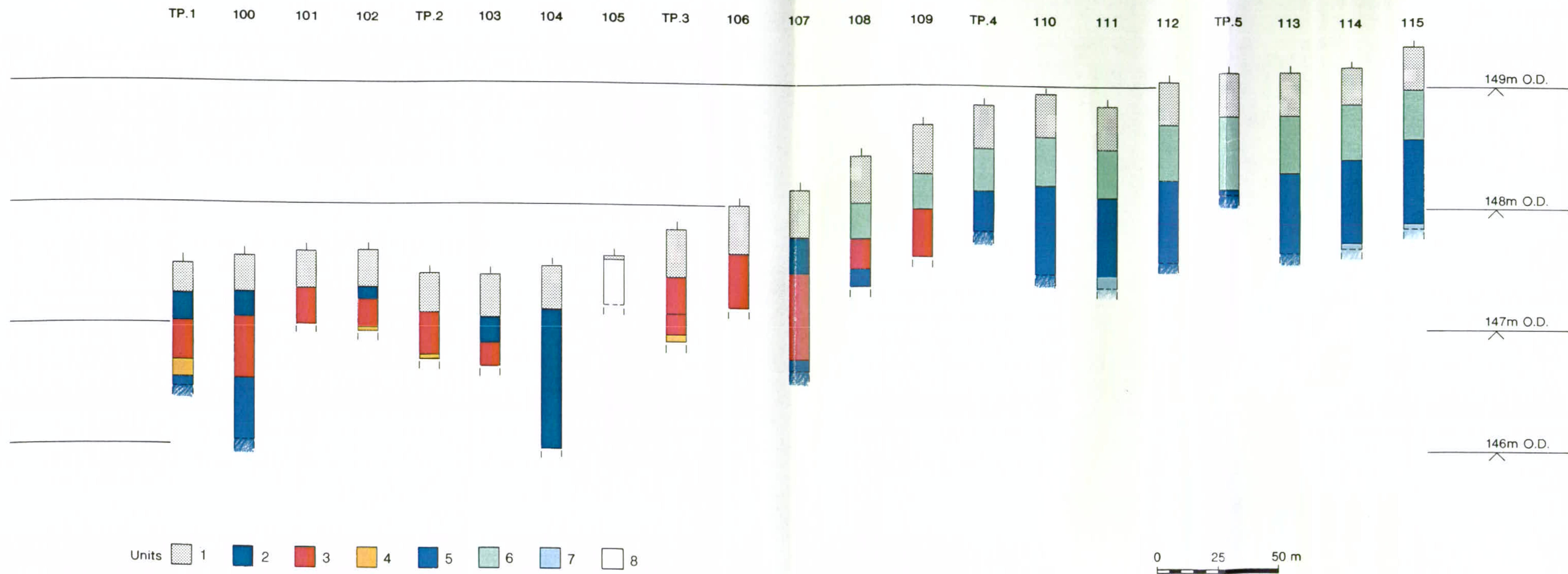
Auger No: 114	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10095 68810	Surface Height: 149.16m OD	Plot: B
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.30m	10 YR 4/2	Slightly silty loam.	Firm and dry. Occasional root inclusions.	1
0.30 - 0.75m	10 YR 5/2	Silty loam	Firm, dry and compacted with rare chalk inclusions.	6
0.75 - 1.45m	10 YR 6/2	Silt	Softer and more malleable than above deposit, Rare inclusions of shell and grit after 1m.	5
1.45 - 1.50m +	10 YR 6/3	Silt	Similar to above layer, but with occasional inclusions of chalk. No bottomed.	7

Auger No: 115	Type: Dutch 200mm	NGR: SU 10080 68830	Surface Height: 149.33m OD	Plot: B
Depth from surface	Colour	Textural Class	Description	Unit
0 - 0.35m	10 YR 4/2	Slightly silty loam	Firm and dry. Occasional root inclusions.	1
0.35 - 0.75m	10 YR 5/2	Silty loam	Firm, dry and compacted with rare root inclusions.	6
0.75 - 1.45m	10 YR 6/2	Silt	Softer and more malleable than above deposit, Rare inclusions of shell and grit after 1m.	5
1.45 - 1.50m +	10 YR 6/3	Silt	Similar to above layer, but with occasional inclusions of chalk. Not bottomed.	7



Location of test pits and auger holes

Figure 1



Extent of recorded deposits

Figure 2

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