

MILDENHALL RISING MAIN, MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE

**Assessment report on the results of the archaeological excavation
including proposals for report preparation and publication**

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CONTENTS

	SUMMARY	3
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
1	INTRODUCTION	5
2	THE SITE	5
3	PROJECT AIMS	6
4	METHODOLOGY	6
5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS	8
6	THE FINDS	11
7	ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIALS	13
8	STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL	14
9	POST-EXCAVATION OBJECTIVES	15
10	PROPOSED POST-EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY	15
11	REPORTING PROPOSALS	19
12	RESOURCES AND TASK LIST	20
13	REFERENCES	21
	Appendix 1: Summary of pits and ditches	21

Table 1: Total quantities of finds by feature

Table 2: Animal bone by feature and by species

Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Feature plan

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SUMMARY

In April 1997 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Thames Water Utilities through Mike Lang Hall, Archaeological Consultant, to undertake a programme of archaeological excavation and observation prior to, and during the construction of, a new sewer pipeline at Mildenhall, near Marlborough, Wiltshire, centred on OS Grid Ref. SU 208 692. The fieldwork was undertaken following the advice of Mike Lang Hall, in consultation with the Archaeology Service of Wiltshire County Council, that important buried remains associated with the Roman small town of *Cunetio* might be disturbed by the development proposals.

The aim of the project was to ensure that all archaeological features and finds revealed during the course of the work were adequately investigated and recorded, with particular emphasis on that section of the route in the vicinity of Roman burials recorded in 1951.

A surprising density and range of Roman features were identified during the course of the project. These features extend the known area of Roman activity at least 300 m to the west of the defences of the Roman town of *Cunetio* and to within 10 m of the existing course of the River Kennet. The excavations revealed a significant range of archaeological features and deposits, including a substantial, possibly defensive, ditch, a well, inhumations, structural features and settlement debris. The majority of these features are likely to be of late 1st to 2nd century AD date, although a small late Roman element is present in the finds assemblage.

The identification of earlier Roman settlement features so distant from the area contained within the later defences of the town is notable. These features may represent an early focus for settlement prior to the construction of the town's defences or suburban development aligned along the main road running west from *Cunetio* to *Aquae Sulis* (Bath). Although the excavation at Mildenhall was limited in scope and extent, the results are nevertheless significant as there has been little excavation on the Roman town of *Cunetio* or its immediate surroundings. On this basis it is considered appropriate that the results should be analysed further and the results should be published in a summary form in an appropriate archaeological journal.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned and funded by Thames Water Utilities. The co-operation of Thames Water Utilities and especially Mr Alan Young (Project Manager) and Ms Juliet Roper (Senior Conservation and Heritage Scientist) is gratefully acknowledged.

The collaborative role of Mike Lang Hall (Archaeological Consultant), Roy Canham and Duncan Coe (Wiltshire County Council) is also acknowledged, as is the assistance of the Resident Engineer, Mathew le Port (Gleasons).

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Roland J C Smith and was directed in the field by Phil Harding with the assistance of Julie Lovell, James Wright and Cornelius Barton. This report has been compiled by Phil Harding, Roland J C Smith, Lorraine Mepham, Sarah Wyles, Michael J Allen and Pippa Smith. The illustrations were prepared by S E James.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document has been prepared by Wessex Archaeology in accordance with the requirements of the Brief (ref: 9620/MH/BRF) prepared by Mike Lang Hall, Archaeological Consultant on behalf of Thames Water Utilities, and with Wessex Archaeology's project design (ref: T3721, dated 22 April 1997). The Brief and the project design, which was approved by the Archaeology Service of Wiltshire County Council, required an assessment of the results of an archaeological excavation and watching brief, undertaken in advance of and during the construction of a new sewer pipeline at Mildenhall, near Marlborough, Wiltshire, centred on OS Grid Ref. SU 208 692.

1.2 The fieldwork was undertaken following the advice of Mike Lang Hall, in consultation with the Archaeology Service, Wiltshire County Council, that important buried remains might be disturbed by the development proposals.

2 THE SITE

2.1 The pipeline route covered approximately 910 m by length on low-lying land adjacent to the south bank of the River Kennet (Fig. 1). Deposits of Upper Chalk are masked by alluvium on the River Kennet floodplain and by colluvium and soliflucted Chalk at the base of the steep valley slopes to the south of the pipeline.

2.2 The archaeological potential of the pipeline route is set out in the Brief and is summarised here. The principal monuments of the area are the two Scheduled Monuments of the site of the Roman town of *Cunetio* at Mildenhall (Fig. 1, AM666) and the probable Iron Age hillfort at Forest Hill (Fig. 1, AM850). Although the pipeline route lies outside of these monuments, several areas of particular archaeological potential were identified along the pipeline route. These areas included a number of structural and landscape features to the south-east identified from a study of aerial photographs undertaken as part of the programme of archaeological work for the project (Cox 1997) and two anomalous areas close to the pipeline which were thought to be indicative of further structural remains. Eight inhumations were also discovered in an unknown location within Plot 3 of the pipeline route (Fig. 1) in May 1951 (Meyrick 1955).

3 PROJECT AIMS

- 3.1 The principal aim of the project, as set out in the Brief, was to ensure that all archaeological features and finds revealed during the course of the work were adequately investigated and recorded, with particular emphasis on that section of the route in the vicinity of the burials recorded in 1951.
- 3.2 The project aims were to be achieved through a programme of archaeological excavation and monitoring along the 910 m of the proposed pipeline route. The archaeological strategy was set out in the Brief and included three differing strategies along the route depending on the nature of current ground conditions and the archaeological potential in the vicinity.
- 3.3 The proposed strategy, from north-east to south-west, was as follows:
- 1) The first 30 m of the route was to be constructed in the public highway. No archaeological monitoring of this section was proposed.
 - 2) The following 310 m of the route (Fig. 1, Plots 1, 2 and 3) were to be investigated prior to pipeline construction by the excavation of a trench along the line of the proposed new rising main.
 - 3) The remaining 560 m of the route were to be monitored during topsoil stripping and trenching during construction work.
- 3.4 Emphasis was placed on establishing the location of deposits worthy of preservation *in situ*. Excavation and recording would target deposits that would otherwise be disturbed with the aim of recovering artefactual and environmental remains.
- 3.5 The Brief required the preparation of an assessment report, including a summary of the fieldwork results and recommendations for post-excavation analysis, publication and archive deposition, on completion of the fieldwork. This assessment report will be submitted to Thames Water Utilities, Mike Lang Hall, and the Archaeology Service of Wiltshire County Council for their approval before any post-excavation work is implemented.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The approximately 310 m of the route in Plots 1, 2 and 3 (Fig. 1) to be investigated prior to the construction of the pipeline was surveyed by representatives of Thames Water Utilities. Following fencing, the easement was stripped of topsoil to a depth of generally 0.2 m using a wheeled JCB excavator fitted with a 1.6 m toothless grading bucket. The line of the pipe trench was subsequently marked out by representatives of Thames Water Utilities to provide the location for the trench to be investigated archaeologically prior to pipeline construction.

- 4.2 After topsoil stripping in Plot 1, no archaeological features were observed and the stripped surface comprised deposits of 'made ground' containing frequent modern ceramic material. This 'made ground' was excavated by machine using a toothless bucket, approximately 1 m wide, along the pipe trench in Plot 1. The 'made ground' deposits were recorded to a depth of at least 1 m at which point alluvium and gravel was recorded in the base of the trench. The general instability of the sections and waterlogging prevented access to the trench and detailed recording of the alluvial and gravel deposits. Further investigation or excavation of deposits in Plot 1 was, therefore, not considered practical or safe.
- 4.3 In Plots 2 and 3 the stripped surface comprised further soil deposits with no indication of either archaeological features or bedrock at this level. Subsequently the line of the pipe trench was excavated by machine using a 1.6 m wide toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The soil and subsoil deposits, probably partly comprising deposits of colluvium, were excavated to a variable depth along the pipe trench within Plots 2 and 3. These deposits ranged between 0.2 – 1 m, generally decreasing in depth from east to west. These soil deposits were removed by machine to the top of bedrock which comprised a degraded chalk through which a series of archaeological features throughout Plots 2 and 3 had been cut.
- 4.4 All archaeological features were defined, planned and recorded. Features were sample excavated in a manner best able to interpret them rather than the excavation of the absolute course of the pipe. Occasionally the trench was extended to record the full plan of features.
- 4.5 All excavation ceased at 1.2 m below ground level which represented the installation depth of the pipe.
- 4.6 All human remains within recognisable graves were fully excavated, for which a Home Office licence under Section 25 of the *Burial Act* 1857 was obtained.
- 4.7 All artefacts from excavated contexts have been washed, counted, weighed and identified. Appropriate bulk soil samples (10 litres minimum) of archaeological deposits were taken for artefactual, economic and environmental data, particularly for recovering charred and carbonised plant remains.
- 4.8 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system which includes a comprehensive photographic archive and plans and sections drawn at an appropriate scale.
- 4.9 The remaining 560 m of the pipeline in Plot 4 (Fig. 1) was monitored during topsoil stripping and trenching. No archaeological features were identified.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS

5.1 The summary results of the excavation are described by plot and by feature type. Full context details are available in the archive.

5.2 Plot 1

5.2.1 Plot 1 lies immediately adjacent to the present river channel of the River Kennet. After topsoil stripping, the pipe trench was excavated using a 1 m wide toothless bucket and was backfilled when archaeological recording had been completed.

5.2.2 The pipe trench section showed a generally unsorted basal gravel (10) in an orange silty clay matrix which extended up the valley side from the flood plain and merged with the flinty subsoil on the lower slopes of the valley. This material, which overlay a deposit of clay, probably represents a decalcified solifluction deposit of the last glaciation.

5.2.3 The gravel was overlain by up to 0.5 m of dark grey fine silty clay (9) which feathered out against the valley side. Large quantities of Roman pottery, bone, unworked driftwood and Pennant Sandstone roof tile were recorded, particularly towards the west end of the trench which abutts the river bank.

5.2.4 The upper stratigraphy comprised light-medium grey silty clay which contained a fragment of pegged roof tile with chamfered edges, and mid-grey silt with 19th and 20th century pottery. This was particularly prevalent in front of the cottages which lay to the south of the trench.

5.3 Plots 2 and 3

5.3.1 These plots comprised two small rectangular paddocks separated by a discontinuous unfenced hedge. They lay on the lower slopes of the valley immediately above the bluff of the floodplain. The easement, which was 168 m long, lay approximately 4 m from the northern fence. Archaeological features were generally evenly distributed throughout these two plots although a concentration of features, including post holes and linear features, were located towards the west end of Plot 3 (Fig. 2).

5.3.2 The majority of features can be dated to the earlier Roman period (1st and 2nd centuries AD) by finds recovered from their fills, although some features may be later Roman in date (3rd and 4th centuries AD). Two features in the west of Plot 3 are probably medieval (12th or 13th century) in date, although the majority of features with little or no dating evidence are probably also Roman in date.

Pits

- 5.3.3 These were present as discrete features and as interconnecting groups. Most pits extended from the section and could not be planned completely. Details of individual features are summarised in Appendix 1.
- 5.3.4 Pit 16 at the east end of the trench was cut by a smaller pit (14) which contained an upright pot of late 3rd or 4th century date containing cremated human bone. Pit 16 was lined with fragments of Roman ceramic tile as was pit 30 immediately to the north. These two pits were the only features with substantial quantities of Roman building material, suggesting that a major building once stood nearby.
- 5.3.5 A group of deeper, interconnecting pits (158) was also located towards the east end of the trench. Individual features of this group showed well-defined relationships. All of these pits contained either Roman pottery or ceramic building material.
- 5.3.6 All other pits were found at the west end of the trench where evidence of domestic occupation was more prevalent. Most pits were shallow in relation to their diameter and it is unlikely that they were of sufficient depth to have functioned for anything other than rubbish disposal.
- 5.3.7 Pit 104, the most western of all the features recorded in Plot 3, contained 19 sherds of medieval pottery.

Ditches

- 5.3.8 A massive linear ditch (43) was detected aligned north-south across the easement. The upper part of the ditch profile was sealed by ploughsoil accumulations which had migrated downslope and masked the ditch from detection on aerial photographs. These deposits overlay a charcoal rich layer which was accompanied by iron nails, suggesting that a timber structure, possibly a bank revetment, had been dismantled. The lower fills of redeposited chalk probably represent a slighted bank but were only excavated to expose the ditch edges. An attempt was made to define the complete profile by auger. The transect achieved 1.2 m below the level of manual excavation (i.e. a total depth of 2.4 m below present ground surface) but failed to distinguish the Chalk bedrock from primary fill. No evidence of a bank survived. Considerable quantities of Roman pottery were recovered from the upper fills of the ditch, while a charred wooden artefact, probably a pin, was recovered from the charcoal-rich layer.
- 5.3.9 The remaining ditches were located towards the west end of the trench and were all aligned north-south, perpendicular to the river except for undated ditch 54 which was aligned north-west to south-east. They averaged 0.8 m wide and 0.5 m deep with steep sides and flat or slightly rounded bases. Some edges were more difficult to define in this area owing to the poor

quality of the Chalk. There was nothing to suggest that these features held timbers with the possible exception of ditch 90.

- 5.3.10 Roman pottery was recovered from the majority of the ditches except for ditch 108 from which several sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. The relationship of this ditch to graves 60 and 67 was unclear.

Post holes

- 5.3.11 Three post holes were sectioned towards the west end of the easement. They averaged 0.45 m in diameter and 0.27 m deep. Post hole 94 was particularly well cut with large packing stones in the filling. Possible post holes were also present in the base of ditch 90 although the bedrock in this area was disturbed by solution weathering.

Graves

- 5.3.12 Two superimposed partially articulated skeletons, aligned approximately east-west, were excavated. They occupied shallow graves 60 and 67, and had been disturbed by ploughing and topsoil machining. The skeleton from grave 67 comprised vertebral, pelvic and disturbed limb fragments, while the skeleton from grave 60 comprised only the skull and left humerus.
- 5.3.13 Unassociated skull fragments were also found approximately 15 m to the west in ditch 149.

Well

- 5.3.14 A large sub-square feature (35), approximately 4 m across, with vertical sides and filled with mid grey-brown silty loam was located towards the east end of the trench. A circular shaft (37) 1.5 m across, with vertical sides, was located at the centre. This had been deliberately backfilled with sarsen boulders and large flint nodules. The feature was not bottomed so it was impossible to ascertain whether waterlogged deposits with preserved traces of timber shuttering might be present at the base. The fills of both the well and shaft contained Roman pottery.

Miscellaneous features

- 5.3.15 Two poorly defined irregular pits (55 and 57) were sectioned which were classified as tree throw hollows or products of solution weathering in the Chalk.

5.4 Plot 4

- 5.4.1 Observations during topsoil stripping and trenching in Plot 4 (Fig. 1) failed to identify and locate any archaeological features. Topsoil sealed deposits of a sterile orange brown colluvium up to 1 m in depth above soliflucted Chalk bedrock.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 All finds recovered have been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context. Overall finds totals are presented in Table 1. Most of the finds assemblage is of Roman date, with smaller quantities of medieval and post-medieval material; the Roman finds include a significant proportion of building material, both ceramic and stone. The finds are briefly discussed by material type below.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

6.2.1 This was recovered in significant quantities, particularly from pits 16 and 30, where it was associated with similar quantities of stone building material (see below). With the exception of a small quantity of post-medieval roof tile fragments, all of the ceramic building material is likely to be of Roman date, although some small fragments are undiagnostic. Larger fragments include identifiable *tegulae*, *imbrices* and box flue tiles, while many thicker pieces derive from bricks, used for flooring or possibly hypocaust supports.

6.3 Worked and Burnt Flint

6.3.1 A small quantity of worked flint was recovered, consisting of waste flakes and cores. Most pieces are patinated and show signs of edge damage; these pieces are prehistoric but are insufficiently diagnostic to date more closely. Some pieces, however (ditch 43 and posthole 94) are in markedly fresh, unpatinated condition, and could derive from more recent use as walling material (Roman or later).

6.3.2 Burnt, unworked flint was also recovered in small quantities; this material type is of uncertain date and origin.

6.4 Glass

6.4.1 One small fragment of glass was recovered, from the base of a square vessel of Roman type.

6.5 Pottery

6.5.1 Most of the assemblage is of Roman date, with smaller quantities of medieval material.

Roman

6.5.2 The Roman assemblage consists mainly of coarsewares, amongst which grog-tempered wares are overwhelmingly predominant. This is unsurprising given the proximity of a known source of grog-tempered wares in the Savernake Forest, at least in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Vessel forms represented here are mainly everted rim jars, some cordoned, and including

larger, thick-walled, storage jars, with a few bowls and at least one lid, all forms which can be paralleled amongst the Savernake Forest range. Other coarsewares present include a small quantity of sandy greywares, possibly also from north Wiltshire, where kilns are known in the Swindon area from the 2nd century AD; and Black Burnished ware (BB1) from Dorset. The latter occurs in jar and bowl forms which can be dated from the mid 2nd century onwards, and includes a complete jar of late 3rd/4th century type used as a cremation vessel (pit 14). Finewares include samian, Dressel 20 amphorae from Spain, and North Wiltshire colour-coated wares; interestingly, no finewares of Oxfordshire or New Forest type were recognised, which would tend to confirm the generally early date range of most of the assemblage (late 1st to 2nd century AD, with a small quantity of later forms).

Medieval

- 6.5.3 Medieval material was confined to a few contexts. With the exception of a single sherd in a glazed sandy fabric, all sherds are in coarse limestone- or limestone/flint-tempered fabrics which are common in north Wiltshire and west Berkshire from the 12th to 14th centuries; the jar forms recognised here would suggest a date range in the late 12th or 13th century.

6.6 Stone

- 6.6.1 Stone building material was recovered, as with the ceramic building material, in large quantities from pits 16 and 30, with a small number of pieces from elsewhere. These consist of roughly shaped slabs of varying thickness; some of the thinner pieces could have been used as roof tiles, although none have surviving nail holes, while the thicker pieces could derive from walling. Most are of limestone, with some Pennant Sandstone.

- 6.6.2 In addition, one quern fragment in quartz conglomerate was recovered, and some small fragments of lava quern of continental origin.

6.7 Metalwork

- 6.7.1 Metalwork includes both iron and copper alloy objects. The iron consists mainly of nails and other structural items. The copper alloy comprises two Roman coins (both of 3rd or 4th century AD date), and two mounts or fittings.

6.8 Worked Wood

- 6.8.1 One wooden pin was retrieved from a soil sample taken from ditch 43. Such organic objects rarely survive; in this instance the pin had been completely carbonised.

6.9 Human Bone

- 6.9.1 Human bone was recovered from two disturbed inhumation burials (graves 60 and 67), one of which contained an adult male and the second the fragmentary remains of three individuals (two adults and one subadult). A third disturbed adult inhumation was recovered from ditch 149, and the fragmentary remains of a maximum of three other individuals, including one neonate or infant, came from pit 141 and topsoil context 79. In addition, cremated bone was found contained within a Black Burnished ware jar of 3rd/4th century type in pit 14.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIALS

7.1 Animal Bone

- 7.1.1 The animal bone assemblage is in generally good condition, although many of the bones have evidence of damage by carnivores. The species present (Table 2) are not unusual for an assemblage of this period.

7.2 Shell

- 7.2.1 The small assemblage of shell comprises almost exclusively oyster with a single mussel shell.

7.3 Soil Samples

- 7.3.1 Three bulk samples of between 2.3 and 2.5 litres were taken, two samples from pit 14, including one from the contents of the 3rd/4th century AD jar recovered from this feature, and one sample from ditch 43. The samples were taken for the retrieval and assessment of charred plant and charcoal remains.
- 7.3.2 The samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.
- 7.3.3 The flots were scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope and presence of charred remains quantified (Table 3), in order to present information about preservation and to determine the potential of the charred plant remains for detailed analysis.
- 7.3.4 The flots were all larger than usual (average flot size for 10 litres is 60 ml) with up to 10% rooty material and sparse numbers of uncharred weed seeds which can be indicative of stratigraphic movement.

- 7.3.5 Large numbers of charred grain fragments were recorded in the samples. A few charred weed seeds and charred chaff fragments were also observed in the ditch sample. The contents of the Roman vessel only contained a few charred grain fragments. Molluscs were present in all samples and small mammal bones in two of them.
- 7.3.6 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Table 3. Very large amounts of charcoal pieces of greater than 5.6 mm were retrieved. A charred worked wood fragment was observed in the ditch sample (see 6.8.1. above). The charcoal pieces were mainly large wood fragments.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

- 8.1 The excavation along the course of the new Mildenhall Rising Main has achieved the aims of the excavation as set out in the design. All features were excavated and recorded. A surprising density and range of Roman features were identified and which extend the area of Roman activity at least 300m to the west of the defences of the known Roman small town of *Cunetio*. Aerial photographic transcription for this project has established that there are extensive remains in the field to the west of the Scheduled area of the town (Fig. 1) (Cox 1997). These aerial photographs do not indicate buried remains in the fields to the north and adjacent to the River Kennet (Fig. 1, Plots 2 and 3). The excavation trench through these fields has confirmed, however, that the dense area of features can be extended to within 10 m of the existing course of the River Kennet and up to the edge of the floodplain.
- 8.2 The excavation demonstrated that these features were sealed in most places below deep deposits of ploughsoil, hence their absence as crop or soil marks on aerial photographs. These deep ploughsoils have, however, contributed to the generally good preservation of archaeological deposits, the exception being the inhumations which were recorded in shallow graves and which had been badly disturbed.
- 8.3 The excavations revealed a significant range of archaeological features and deposits, including a substantial, possibly defensive, ditch, a well, inhumations, structural features and settlement debris. The majority of these features are likely to be of late 1st – 2nd century AD date, although a small later Roman element is present in the finds assemblage. The identification of earlier Roman settlement features so distant from the area contained within the late defences of the town is notable. These features may represent an early focus for settlement prior to the construction of the town's defences to the east or suburban development aligned along the main road running west from *Cunetio* and shown as lying close to the south of the pipeline on aerial photographs (Cox 1997).

- 8.4 The identification of at least two inhumations adds to the evidence for burial in this area recorded by Meyrick (1951). The date range, extent, and location of the graves recorded by Meyrick remains unclear, although circumstantial evidence suggests all these burials may have comprised components of a suburban cemetery ranged along the main road running west from the town.
- 8.5 Although the excavation at Mildenhall was inevitably limited in scope and extent and this will inhibit interpretation, the results are nevertheless considered significant for the following reasons. There has been little excavation on the Roman town of *Cunetio* or its immediate surroundings. The small-scale excavation that has taken place has been focused on prominent features such as the defences and little has been published in detail (Burnham and Wachter 1990, 148). The results of the excavation extend the known extent of settlement and related activities associated with the town. In particular the results provide information on the early development of the town and on the nature and extent of suburban development. The excavation has revealed an intriguing set of generally well-preserved features from which a modest assemblage of finds has been recovered. On this basis it is considered that the results merit further analysis and the results should be published in a summary form in an appropriate archaeological journal.
- 8.6 The few medieval features and finds recorded are notable for their presence but are not considered worthy of further analysis.

9 POST-EXCAVATION OBJECTIVES

- 9.1 The overall aims for the post-excavation project will, therefore, be:
- To produce a summary report presenting the significant project results based on the archaeological potential set out above. Limited supporting data will be published where this provides significant new information on the archaeology of *Cunetio*. It is currently proposed that the summary report will be published as a short article in the *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine*.
 - To ensure that the project archive is fully ordered and indexed, and of a satisfactory standard to be deposited with The Devizes Museum.

10 PROPOSED POST-EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

- 10.1 The following methods are proposed to achieve the project aims. The methods are those proposed to achieve the preparation of an integrated, ordered and detailed report from which a summary report will be extracted. Decisions on what the summary report may contain will be made on

completion of the post-excavation analysis and preparation of the detailed report.

10.2 Site Description

10.2.1 A site description will be constructed using the site archive, incorporating finds and environmental data where appropriate.

10.3 The Finds Analysis

10.3.1 All analysis will be undertaken in-house by Wessex Archaeology with external specialists being engaged where expertise is not otherwise available. Throughout the following section, reference is made to the guidelines for the processing and analysis of finds set out in *Data Levels Guidelines* (Wessex Archaeology Guideline 2, 1992), and full use will be made of all Wessex Archaeology guidelines for the analysis of various artefact categories.

10.3.2 Ceramic Building Material

Ceramic building material from Roman contexts will be quantified by type (*tegula, imbrex*, flue tile, etc.). The text will summarise the range of types present and their significance to the site, in conjunction with the stone building material (see below). Ceramic building material may be targeted for selective discard prior to deposition (see below).

10.3.3 Worked and Burnt Flint

No further detailed analysis is recommended for these categories.

10.3.4 Glass

The single piece of vessel glass will be briefly described and discussed in terms of possible vessel form and potential date range, citing relevant parallels.

10.3.5 Pottery

The Roman pottery assemblage will be subjected to fabric and form analysis, although detailed subdivision of the Roman coarsewares is not recommended. The text will discuss each assemblage within its local and regional contexts, with reference to potential sources, and chronological implications. There will be no further analysis of the medieval pottery.

10.3.6 Stone

The stone building material will be discussed in terms of potential stone sources, and the functional implications for the site, in conjunction with the ceramic building material (see above). The quern fragments will be briefly described and discussed in terms of potential sources and functional significance. Stone building material may be targeted for selective discard prior to deposition (see below).

10.3.8 *Metalwork*

All metal objects will be X-radiographed as a basic record, and as an aid to identification. One coin, and the two copper alloy fittings, will be submitted for cleaning and stabilisation to the Salisbury Conservation Centre. The coins will be identified, and the fittings described and discussed. Any other metal objects will be briefly described and discussed with regard to potential date range and significance to the site. Two copper alloy objects may be illustrated. Nails may be targeted for discard prior to deposition (see below).

10.3.9 *Wood*

The wooden pin will be briefly described and discussed in terms of potential date range and functional significance. It may be illustrated.

10.3.10 *Human Bone*

Bone from the more complete burials (one cremated and three inhumed) will be examined and details of age and sex will be recorded, as well as any pathology. This information will be presented in the text, together with a brief discussion of the burials in their chronological and geographical context. The redeposited human bone will be noted in terms of provenance, body parts represented and probable date range.

10.4 The Environmental Analysis

10.4.1 *Charred plant remains and charcoal*

In view of the limited nature of the archaeological record the charcoal is not considered appropriate for further analysis. Its presence should be noted and the material should be retained in the archive. The charred plant remains, especially from the ditch 43 will be identified and described, particularly to establish the nature and possible origin of the burnt layer in ditch 43.

10.4.2 *Animal Bone*

As the number of bones identifiable to species is very small (only 104) little is to be gained from further study of this group and no further work is recommended.

10.4.3 *Shell*

No further detailed analysis is recommended for this category.

10.5 Report preparation

10.5.1 The above tasks will contribute towards the completion of a detailed report on the results of the archaeological excavation. A summary report, presenting the principal and important results will be extracted from the detailed report. The principal elements involved in the completion of the detailed and digest reports that are not included in the detailed proposals set out above are as follows:

- the preparation of an introduction to the project, the background to the site and its archaeology and accompanying figures. The figures will include an illustration of the aerial photographic evidence for buried remains to the west of *Cunetio* collated at an earlier stage of the project (subject to agreement with Thames Water Utilities and Air Photo Services Ltd).
- the preparation of an interpretative site description and discussion, outlining the principal results of the project, including the results and conclusions of the finds and environmental reports and any additional background research. The discussion should especially draw attention to the significant results of the fieldwork and new information established on the archaeology of *Cunetio*.

10.6 Archive Preparation and Deposition

10.6.1 *Museum*

The recipient museum will be:

Devizes Museum
41 Long Street
DEVIZES
Wilts SN10 1NS

Curator: Paul Robinson

The museum has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive from the site on the completion of the project.

10.6.2 *Conservation*

There were no immediate conservation requirements in the field. Metal objects will be X-radiographed as part of the analysis phase. A selection has been made of objects which may require further conservation treatment. This work will be carried out by Salisbury Conservation Centre. Some metalwork may be targeted for discard prior to deposition (see below).

10.6.3 *Storage*

The artefacts and ecofacts are currently stored in 7 boxes, by material type, and are held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology. In addition, a large proportion of the ceramic and stone building material is as yet unboxed. All material has been packaged according to the recipient Museum's conditions for the acceptance of archaeological archives. The complete site archive, which will include records, plans, photos, artefacts, ecofacts and sieved and sorted residues, will likewise be prepared to comply with the Museum's specifications, and in general following guidelines set out in *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1995). The archive will be accompanied by a grant, which will cover its storage in perpetuity by the Museum.

10.6.4 *Security copy*
In accordance with current best practice, a security copy of the paper records, in the form of microfilm, will be prepared. The master copy of the microfilm, and one copy, will be deposited with the National Archaeological Record (RCHME). One copy will be deposited with the project archive, and a third copy retained by Wessex Archaeology.

10.6.5 *Discard Policy*
Wessex Archaeology, in consultation with recipient museums, follows the guidelines set out by the Society of Museum Archaeologists in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 1993). This allows for the discard (by means of outright disposal, or dispersal to reference or teaching collections) of undiagnostic and/or poorly provenanced material, whose further study is considered to be of limited value. In this instance, it is likely that structural metalwork, and undiagnostic ceramic and stone building material, will be selected for discard. The final selection will be made after full consultation with the recipient Museum.

10.7 Project Management

10.7.1 During the course of the post-excavation programme, overall project supervision and monitoring will be undertaken by the Project Manager. The Finds and Archives Manager, Environmental Manager and Reports Manager will also assist in the management of the project. In order to maintain overall quality standards the progress of the project will be monitored by the Deputy Director.

11 REPORTING PROPOSALS

11.1 It is proposed that the summary report will present the significant project results. Limited supporting data will be published where this provides significant new information on the archaeology of *Cunetio*. It is currently proposed that the summary report will be published as a short article in the *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine*.

11.2 The summary report will be extracted from a detailed report on the results of the excavation based on the proposed methods set out above. On this basis a synopsis of the contents of the summary report will not be proposed at this stage but on completion of the detailed report.

12 RESOURCES AND TASK LIST

12.1 Project Team

12.1.1 The following staff are currently proposed to undertake the post-excavation work for this project.

Name	Project Role	Organisation
Susan M Davies	Deputy Director	Wessex Archaeology
Roland J C Smith	Project Manager	Wessex Archaeology
Phil Harding	Project Officer	Wessex Archaeology
Lorraine Mephram	Finds Manager	Wessex Archaeology
Rachael Seager Smith	Pottery	Wessex Archaeology
Jacqueline I McKinley	Human Bone	Wessex Archaeology
Emma Loader	All other finds	Wessex Archaeology
Michael J Allen	Environmental Manager	Wessex Archaeology
Linda Coleman	Graphics	Wessex Archaeology
Pat Hinton	Plant Remains	External Specialist
Conservation Consortium	Conservation	External Specialist
Penton Micrographics	Microfilming	External Specialist

12.2 List of tasks

12.2.1 The following table lists the main tasks involved in achieving the project aims and states the personnel and time required to achieve each task.

Task	Staff Name	Estimated Days
Site description	Phil Harding	5
Pottery	Rachael Seager Smith	8
All other finds categories	Emma Loader	2
Conservation	Cons. Consortium	1
Human bone	Jacqueline I McKinley	1
Charred plant remains	Pat Hinton	1
Summary Report Preparation	Phil Harding	1
	Roland Smith	1
	Rachael Seager Smith	1
	Linda Coleman	4
Order archive	-	1
Microfilm preparation	Lorraine Mephram	-
Microfilm archive	Penton Micrographics	-
Deposit archive	-	-
Project Management and liaison	Roland Smith	1
	Lorraine Mephram	0.5
	Michael J Allen	0.5
	Julie Gardiner	1

13 **REFERENCES**

Burnham, B C, and Wachter, J, 1990 *The 'Small Towns' of Roman Britain* London

Cox, C, 1997 'Mildenhall Rising Main SU 2068, 2069, 2168, 2169 Wiltshire. Aerial Photographic Assessment' unpublished Air Photo Services Ltd client report 967/13

Meyrick, O, 1947-55 "Romano-British Burials at Werg' *Marlborough College Natural History Society* 96, 19-20

APPENDIX 1: Summary of pits and ditches

PITS

Pit	Plan	Sides	Base	Diam	Depth	
14	Sub circular	Steep	Irreg	1.3	0.30	Cremation
16	Sub circular	Steep	Flat	1.6	0.32	
30	Unknown	Steep	Flat	?	?	Extends from baulk
71	Unknown	Sloping	Round	?	0.92	Extends from baulk
101	Sub circular	Sloping	?	? 1.8	0.24	Extends from baulk
104	Oval	Sloping	Flat	? 2.3	0.28	Extends from baulk
141	Circular	Steep	Flat	2.2+	0.62	Extends from baulk
151						Mostly destroyed
GROUP 158						
19	Circular	Steep	Flat	c. 0.7	0.61	
21	Circular	Steep	Round	2.0	0.90	Cuts 19
23	Oval	Sloping	Flat	?	0.30	
25	Circular	Sloping	Flat	2.4	0.60	Cuts 23 and 27
27	Circular	Steep	Round	1.2	0.40	Cuts 25
GROUP 159						
127	Circular	Steep	Round	?	0.55	Cuts 129
129	Unknown	Steep	Round	?	0.25	
137	Unknown	Steep	Flat	?	0.34	

DITCHES

Linear	Alignment	Sides	Base	Width	Depth	
43	N - S	Steep	?	9.8	?	Not bottomed
54	SE - NW	Steep	Flat	0.7	0.19	
68	N - S	Sloping	Narrow	0.8	0.54	V shaped
73	N - S	Steep	Flat	0.5	0.58	
75	NW - SE	Sloping	Flat	0.9	0.45	Cut by 77
77	N - S	Sloping	Round	0.8	0.73	Cuts 75
90	NW - SE	Sloping	Narrow	0.4	0.14	
96	N - S	Sloping	Flat	0.9	0.25	
99	N - S	Steep	Flat	0.7	0.45	
108	N - S	Sloping	Round	0.7	0.65	
110	N - S	Sloping	Narrow	0.8	0.89	V shaped
121	N - S	Steep	Flat	1.9	0.8	V shaped

Table 1: Total quantities of finds by context

NB. Totals are presented as number/weight in grammes, except metalwork, where numbers only are given. * indicates present but not quantified.

Feature	Human Bone	Burnt Flint	Ceramic building material	Flint	Glass	Roman Pottery	Medieval Pottery	Shell	Stone	Wood	Copper Alloy	Iron
Topsoil	*	1/28	34/2109	2/32	-	32/935	13/366	-	4/94	-	-	1
Layer 4	-	-	1/22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Layer 5	-	-	-	-	-	5/102	-	-	-	-	-	-
Layer 9	-	-	-	-	-	21/548	-	-	1/210	-	-	-
Pit 14	*	-	4/294	1/8	1/1	95/2150	-	4/56	-	-	7	11
Pit 16	-	-	45/20113	-	-	33/1424	-	2/36	21/17353	-	-	1
Pit 19	-	-	1/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pit 21	-	-	1/18	1/6	-	10/61	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pit 23	-	-	1/60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pit 25	-	-	4/118	2/56	-	74/1542	-	1/29	-	-	-	2
Pit 27	-	1/22	2/28	1/34	-	18/270	-	-	1/23	-	-	1
Pit 30	-	-	76/21911	-	-	31/598	-	3/103	34/21222	-	-	-
Layer 31	-	-	1/14	-	-	17/416	-	2/106	-	-	1	-
Well 35	-	-	1/144	-	-	58/836	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shaft 37	-	-	3/120	-	-	15/173	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pit 40	-	-	1/59	-	-	8/160	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pit 42	-	-	-	-	-	4/53	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ditch 43	-	7/158	4/101	6/78	-	456/7830	-	3/58	1/17	1	1	13
Pit 51	-	1/10	-	-	-	6/41	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ditch 54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grave 60	*	-	-	-	-	5/28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grave 66	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ditch 68	-	1/1-2	-	1/174	-	6/72	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pit 71	-	-	4/181	-	-	15/159	1/8	1/20	-	-	-	-
Ditch 75	-	-	2/6	-	-	3/23	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ditch 77	-	-	-	-	-	6/42	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ditch 90	-	-	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	1/118	-	-	-
Post-hole 94	-	-	7/466	3/282	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ditch 96	-	-	2/4	-	-	10/271	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pit 101	-	-	-	1/1	-	13/123	-	-	1/380	-	-	-
Pit 104	-	-	-	-	-	-	19/424	-	1/102	-	-	-
Ditch 108	-	11/330	1/10	2/16	-	4/46	46/486	-	-	-	-	-
Ditch 110	-	-	-	-	-	7/142	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ditch 121	-	-	-	-	-	8/188	3/18	-	-	-	-	-
Pit 127	-	-	-	1/8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pit 141	*	1/6	-	-	-	13/178	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ditch 149	*	-	1/4	1/80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4 indiv.	22/556	199/45906	18/639	1/1	803/18739	256/1312	16/508	65/39719	1	9	32

Table 2: Animal bone by feature and by species

Feature	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Horse	Other	Bird	Unident	Total	Comment
Topsoil	-	1	-	-	-	1	8	10	Domestic fowl
Alluvium	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	4	
Pit 14	11	-	-	3	2	-	14	30	Skull, badger?, dog mandible
Pit 16	2	1	1	1	-	-	3	8	
Pit 21	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	4	
Pit 25	6	1	-	-	-	-	4	11	Skull frag.
Pit 27	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	4	
Pit 30	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	
Layer 31	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	
Well 35	1	2	-	-	-	2	5	12	
Well 37	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	Skull with teeth
Pit 40	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	
Ditch 43	22	11	4	4	1	1	67	110	
Pit 51	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Ditch 54	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Ditch 68	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Pit 71	1	3	-	-	-	-	3	7	
Ditch 75	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Ditch 77	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	6	
Ditch 96	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	
Pit 104	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Ditch 108	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Ditch 121	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Pit 141	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	Burnt
Ditch 149	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	
Unstrat	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
	53	27	5	12	3	4	126	230	

Table 3. Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	size litres	flot size ¹		Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds ²		Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm
				ml				Uncharred	charred			
Pit 14	12	1000	25	250	(25)	A	-	c	-	A*	mollusc (A) smb (A) crem. bone	c.25
Pot in pit 14	500	1012	2.3	3	-	C	-	c	-	-	mollusc (A)	-
Ditch 43	44	1001	10	2150	(100)	A*	C	c	C	A**	mollusc (A) smb (C)	worked charred wood

KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 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.

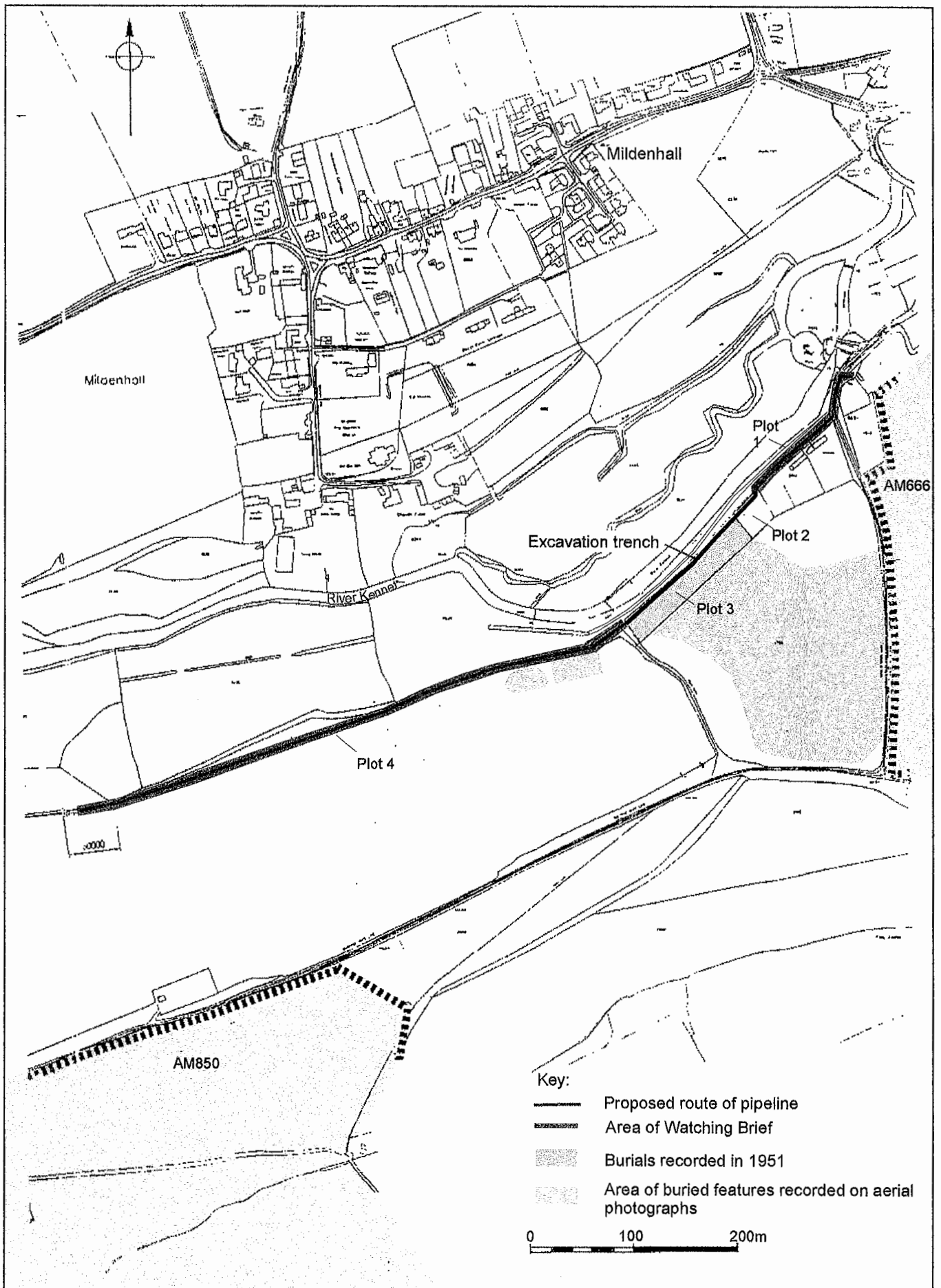
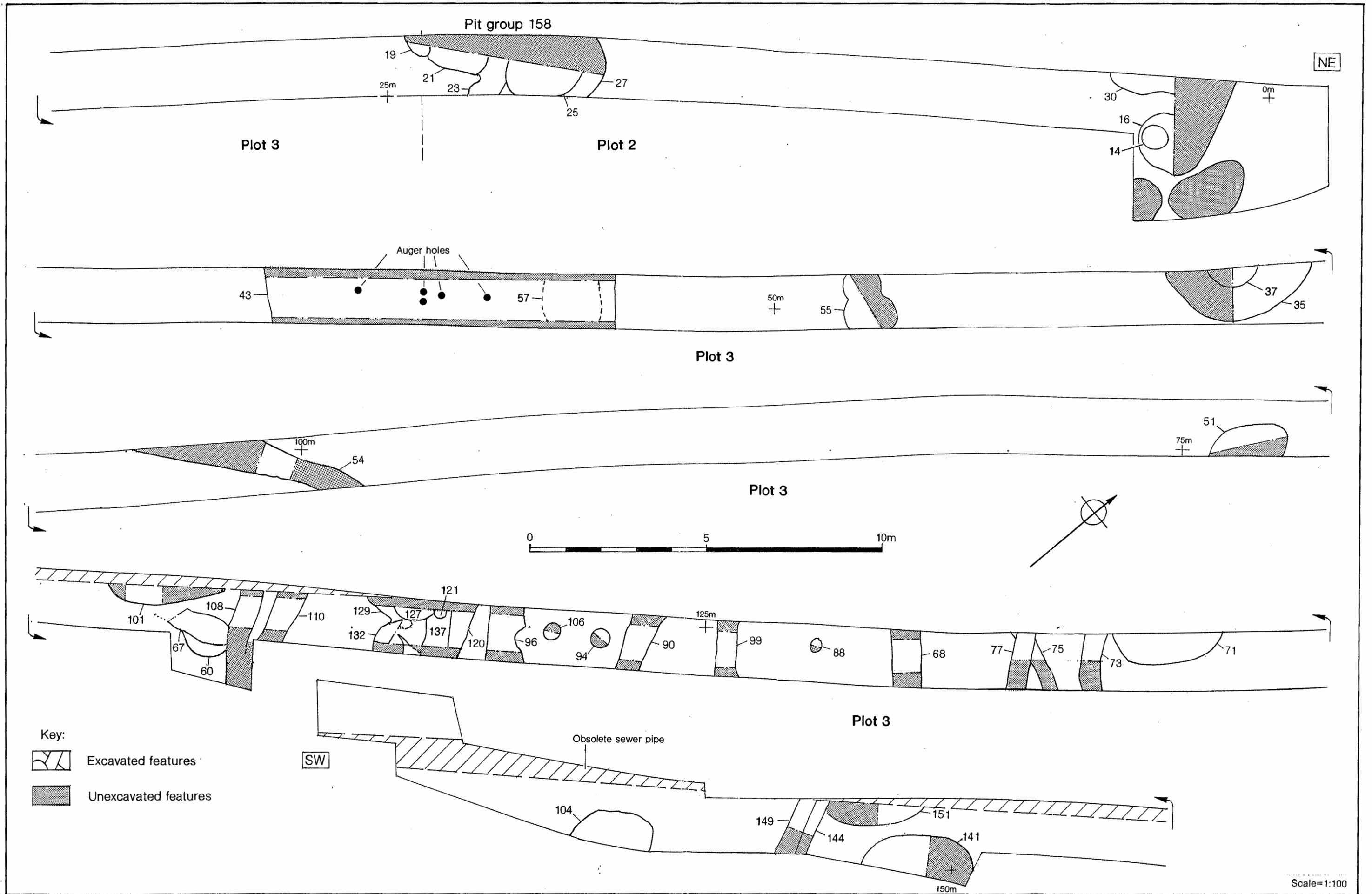


Figure 1



Scale=1:100

Figure 2