

*BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY
FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT*

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Slade
Farm, Bicester, Oxfordshire, 1996**

B.U.F.A.U.



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

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by
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Slade Farm, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation carried out at Slade Farm, Bicester, Oxfordshire in February and March 1996 revealed a wide linear ditch of Iron Age date possibly relating to a droveway, aligned roughly north-south, in fields alongside the Banbury Road. Several oval pits and possible palisade gullies appear to be associated with this feature. A ring ditch or circular enclosure, probably also of Iron Age date, was identified to the west of the linear feature. An irregular sub-rectangular feature and a linear gully with two possible post-holes at its base contained microliths dating to the Mesolithic period. All these archaeological features were confined to the north-eastern part of the evaluated area. The remaining areas did not contain anything of archaeological significance.

INTRODUCTION

The following report describes the results of archaeological fieldwork, recording and reporting of a series of trial trenches excavated at Slade Farm, Bicester, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1: SP 580 240). The fieldwork was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in February and March 1996. The work was commissioned by Countryside Planning and Management (CPM) on behalf of J J Gallagher Limited and conforms to a specification prepared by CPM (CPM 1996).

The site has been divided into two zones (Fig. 2). Zone 1 comprises the north-eastern part of the site which was felt to have a higher archaeological potential due to its proximity to Roman features east of the Banbury Road (CPM 1996, 3). Zone 2 was felt to have a lower archaeological potential.

A geophysical survey undertaken within Zone 1 by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford (GSB 1995), recorded a number of possible archaeological features (Fig. 3). A long linear anomaly ran north-south across the study area associated with a number of pit-like anomalies and a possible ring ditch. A group of ditch and pit-like anomalies at the extreme north-east corner of the site were interpreted as either possible settlement features or due to recent quarrying. Some weaker linear responses were interpreted as possible field systems.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the evaluation was to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the study area.

METHOD

The trial excavation covered 1.5% of the Zone 1 study area and 0.75% of Zone 2. This was initially achieved by 30 trenches in Zone 1 (eleven 30m x 2m and nineteen 50m x 2m) (Fig. 3, Trenches 1-31) and 42 trenches in Zone 2 (Fig. 2, Trenches 1-42). One additional 30m trench, Trench 43, was excavated in the western part of the study area to clarify the character of an upstanding linear bank.

The topsoil/ploughsoil horizon within each trench was removed by machine using a toothless ditching bucket. Any possible underlying archaeological deposits or features that were identified were cleaned and a sufficient sample manually excavated in order to establish their extent, condition, nature, character, quality and (if possible) date.

The stratigraphy of all trial trenches was recorded even where no archaeological deposits were identified. Archaeological recording was undertaken using a continuous numbered context system and BUFAU pro-forma record cards. All archaeological features and deposits were photographed and a full drawn record at an appropriate scale was maintained. The locations of the trial trenches were surveyed using a Total Station Theodolite.

RESULTS

The natural bedrock comprised of a shattered limestone overlain in places by a brown silty clay. Near the brook running north-south across the centre of Zone 2 the natural shattered limestone bedrock was overlain by 0.45m of yellow-brown silty sand. This was overlain by 0.20m-0.30m of brown silty clay topsoil. A summary of those features and deposits containing datable artefacts is provided in Tables 1 and 2.

Zone 1 (Trenches 1-31)

Trenches 2,3,5,6 and 7

These trenches were positioned to examine geophysical anomalies in the extreme north-east corner of the site and coincided with a large oval surface depression. In all these trenches layers of disturbed limestone rubble and silty clays corresponded with the edge of the depression seen on the surface and were probably the backfill of fairly recent quarrying. Fragments of both late prehistoric and post-medieval pottery were recovered from these deposits (Table 1, Trenches 2-5). In Trench 3 (Fig.4) these deposits (3002) were up to 0.4m deep. Below 3002 at the east end of the trench was a steep sided pit with a flat base (F3), at least 4m wide and 0.40m deep, filled with a brown silty clay (3001) with limestone fragments and containing post-medieval pottery.

Trench 10 (Fig.4)

This trench was positioned to coincide with the north-south, linear geophysical anomaly. This appeared to correspond with a linear negative feature (F6), 4.5m wide and 0.30m deep, recorded at the south-west end of the trench. It had a steeply sloping

west side and a more gradually sloping east side with a flat base filled and was filled by a dark greyish-brown silty clay (10002), containing fragments of limestone, burnt stone, animal bone, flecks of charcoal and Iron Age pottery. Cutting F6 was an oval pit (F26) with steep sides and a flat base, 1.85m x 0.45m x 0.23m deep. It was filled with a dark greyish-brown silty clay (10003) containing fragments of limestone, animal bone, flecks of charcoal and Iron Age pottery. To the north-east was a gully (F7) running parallel with F6, 0.42m wide and 0.05m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a greyish-brown silty clay (10005) containing a few small fragments of limestone.

Trench 17 (Fig.4)

This trench was positioned to intersect with the same linear geophysical anomaly as Trench 10. In the central area of the trench was a gully (F29) aligned north-south, 0.70m wide and 0.17m deep, filled with brown silty clay (17004) and a few fragments of limestone. To the south-west, running parallel with F29, was a linear negative feature (F28), 2.2m wide. It was filled with a dark brown silty clay (17005), limestone fragments, burnt stone, flecks of charcoal and Iron Age pottery. It seems likely that this is the same feature as F6 in Trench 10 and was not sample excavated. A pronounced linear concentration of burnt stone was observed on the surface of 17005. To the south-west was an oval pit (F4), 1.0m x 1.27m x 0.10m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base filled with a dark brown slightly sandy clay (17001), limestone fragments, animal bone, flecks of charcoal and Iron Age pottery. To the south-west was another oval pit (F5), 1.3m x 1.5m x 0.30m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a greyish-brown silty clay (17002), limestone fragments, animal bone, and Iron Age pottery including a middle to late Iron Age sherd of scored-ware. This feature cut an earlier pit (F32) extending beyond the eastern edge of excavations, at least 0.7m wide and 0.18m deep. It was filled with a brown silty sandy clay (17006), animal bone, flecks of charcoal and Iron Age pottery which included an early to middle Iron Age rim sherd.

Trench 20 (not illustrated)

This trench was positioned to coincide with the linear geophysical anomaly mentioned above. Near the middle of the trench was a 2m wide linear negative feature (F30), aligned north-south and filled with a greyish-brown silty clay (20002), limestone fragments, burnt stone, animal bone, flecks of charcoal and prehistoric pottery including two late Bronze Age - early Iron Age rim sherds. This feature was not sample excavated as it was almost certainly the same as F6 (Trench 10) and F28 (Trench 17).

Trench 24 (Fig.5)

This trench was situated to intersect with a possible ring ditch anomaly, associated features and the linear anomaly mentioned above. At the west end of the trench was a linear negative feature (F42) aligned north-south, 0.60m wide and 0.45m deep. It had a bowl-shaped profile and was filled with a brown silty clay (24006), fragments of limestone, and flecks of charcoal. To the west of F42 was a curvi-linear negative feature (F11) orientated northeast-southwest, 1.2m wide and 0.75m deep. It had very

steep sides and a 0.25m wide, flat-bottomed slot at the base. It was filled with a brown silty clay (24005) with limestone fragments, burnt stone, a lump of iron slag and flecks of charcoal. A brown slightly sandy silty clay (24004) containing large amounts of limestone fragments, burnt stone, animal bone, Iron Age pottery and flecks of charcoal, 0.32m deep, overlay the fills of both features (24005 and 24006).

East of F11 was a curvi-linear gulley (F20), aligned north-south, curving slightly to the south-east and appearing to butt-end to the north. It was 0.36m wide and 0.32m deep and had vertical sides and a slightly rounded base. Its primary fill was a brown silty clay (24007) with limestone fragments, burnt stone, animal bone and a single sherd of Iron Age pottery. In the upper part of 24007 was a charcoal-rich silty deposit (24009) containing animal bone. To the east was a north-south linear feature (F21), 2.82m wide and 0.40m deep, with a steeply sloping east side, a more gently sloping west side and a flat base. It was filled with a yellowish-brown, sandy silty clay with limestone fragments on the east side (24011) and a slightly darker brown silty clay with limestone fragments and charcoal flecks on the west side (24012). The secondary fill was a dark brown silty clay with limestone fragments, burnt stone, Iron Age pottery (including a late Iron Age rim) and flecks of charcoal (24008). Further east was an oval pit (F39), 0.95m x 1.40m x 0.33m deep, with steep sides and a base sloping down to the east. It was filled with a brown silty clay (24010), limestone fragments, burnt stone, animal bone, Iron Age pottery and flecks of charcoal. Two similar deposits (24013 and 24014) to the south and north may be the fills of similar pits.

Trench 30 (Fig. 5)

At the east end of the trench was a linear negative feature (F13) approximately 5m wide and filled with a dark greyish-brown silty clay with limestone fragments, burnt stone, animal bone, late prehistoric pottery and flecks of charcoal (30014). This feature corresponded with the north-south linear feature recorded elsewhere and was not sample excavated. To the west was a linear feature (F22), possibly a natural hollow, aligned north-south with an irregular sloping profile and a fairly flat base, 1.75m wide and 0.45m deep. It was filled with a brown silty clay (30007) and sherds of Iron Age pottery in the upper 0.01-0.02m, which may have been intrusive. West of F22 were three oval pits (F14, F31 and F40) with steep sides and flat bases, 0.70-0.85m x 1.04-1.10m x 0.20-0.35m deep. They were filled with dark brown silty clays (30004, 30006 and 30015), limestone fragments, burnt stone, animal bone, late prehistoric pottery and flecks of charcoal. West of these features was a larger pit (F15) with steep sides and a flat base, 1.72m and 0.40m deep, extending beyond the southern edge of excavation. It was filled with a dark brown silty clay (30002), limestone fragments, burnt stone, animal bone, a single sherd of Iron Age pottery and many charcoal flecks. The secondary fill on the western side of the feature was a brown silty clay (30003), limestone fragments, animal bone, charcoal flecks and a rectangular iron object. Another large pit (F37) extended beyond the north edge of excavations and was at least 1.0m wide and 0.70m deep, with a steep west side and a rounded base. It was filled with a slightly sandy silty clay (30012), limestone fragments, burnt stone, Iron Age pottery and flecks of charcoal. The east side of F37 was cut by a linear feature (F16) aligned north-south, 2.05m wide and 1.15m deep. The sides of the feature had a gentle upper slope, becoming very steep lower down

with a flat base. Its primary fill was a brown sandy clay silt (30011), with limestone fragments and animal bone. This was overlain by a brown silty clay (30010), with large quantities of limestone fragments, burnt stone, animal bone and flecks of charcoal. The upper layers were silty clays (30009 and 30005), with large quantities of small limestone fragments, burnt stone, animal bone, late prehistoric pottery and flecks of charcoal. West of F16 was a sub-rectangular feature (F36) with irregular steep sloping sides and a flat base, 1.3m x 0.52m x 0.14m deep. It was filled with a brown silty clay (30013) and a few small sandstone fragments with two sherds of pottery, possibly of Bronze Age date near the surface.

No features of archaeological significance were recorded in any of the other trenches in Zone 1.

Zone 2

Trench 3

At the south-west end of the trench was a linear feature (F27), aligned east-west, 0.42m wide and 0.04m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a greyish-brown silty clay (34002) containing brick and clay pipe fragments and flecks of charcoal.

Trench 13

At the south-east end of the trench was a ditch (F17) aligned north-south, 2.15m wide and 0.35m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile. It was filled with a orange-brown silty clay (13002) and a few flecks of charcoal. it contained no datable finds.

Trench 23

At the north-west end of the trench was a deposit of dark brown clay (23002) containing large quantities of brick rubble and modern window glass. This deposit was clearly recent in date and was not fully excavated.

Trench 30 (Fig.5)

At the west end of the trench was a linear negative feature (F33) extending beyond the west end of excavation. It was up to 4m wide and 0.7m deep. Its eastern side was gently sloping becoming steeper towards the flat base and it was filled with a greyish brown silty clay (61005), with limestone fragments, burnt stone, animal bone, Iron Age pottery and lumps of iron slag.

To the east was a curvi-linear gulley (F23) aligned north-south, 0.35m wide and 0.20m deep. It was filled with a brown slightly sandy silty clay (61008) and charcoal flecks and greyish-brown silty clay (61006), with limestone fragments, burnt stone, animal bone, worked flint, Iron Age pottery and charcoal flecks. This feature cut an oval pit (F34) with irregular, gradually sloping sides and a flat base, 0.70m x 2.50m x

0.30m deep. It was filled with a brown silty clay (61009) containing worked flint, probably of Mesolithic date, and a fragment of bone.

To the east was an irregular-shaped feature (F24) extending beyond the beyond the limit of excavation to the north and south, 1.95m wide and 0.25m deep. It was filled with a brown silty clay (61002). Further east was a gulley (F25), aligned north-east - south-west, 0.80m wide and 0.20m deep, with an irregular bowl-shaped profile. It was filled with a brown silty clay (61004) containing a large quantity of worked flint, including items of Mesolithic date, and occasional charcoal flecks. Cut through the base of F25 were two possible post-holes (F35 and F41). The northern, oval, post-hole (F35) was steep sided to the west and more gradually sloping to the east with a rounded slightly irregular base. It measured 0.80m x 0.40m x 0.25m deep and was filled with a greyish-brown silty clay (61007), a worked flint and flecks of charcoal. The south-western post-hole (F41) was more circular with steep sides and a rounded base, 0.35m in diameter and 0.13m deep. It was filled with a greyish-brown silty clay and flecks of charcoal.

At the east end of the trench was a layer of dark brown silty clay (61011), 0.05m deep, containing worked flint, post-medieval pottery, clay pipe stem, a modern nail and bottle glass. This layer directly overlay the natural (61001).

Trench 43

This trench was dug to investigate a linear bank aligned north-west - south-east running between the road opposite Lords Farm and a pond to the south-east (Fig. 2). The bank was made of a redeposited natural brown silty clay (43001), 28m wide and 0.55m deep, directly overlying the natural shattered limestone bedrock (43002). This was probably a leveled former field boundary.

FINDS

Prehistoric pottery (based on comments provided by Ann Woodward)

(See also Tables 1 and 2)

A total of 350 sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered during the evaluation. The pottery was generally unabraded and varied in size from very small fragments to large sherds. The majority derived from stratified contexts, in particular the ditches and pits associated with the possible driveway in Zone I.

Both shelly ware and sandy ware fabrics are present. A number of form types are present although the majority are jars (including a fragment from a large storage jar)

A preliminary examination suggests that the great majority can be dated to between the Late Bronze Age and the Late Iron Age although two possible Early Bronze Age sherds are also present (see Tables 1 and 2 for provisional spot dates).

Table 1 - Zone 1 summary finds and feature information

Trench	Feature	Context	Type	flint	Prehist pot	Post-med pot	Bone	Misc	spot date/comments
2	F1	2002				1			
3	-	3000			8				IA sherds
3	-	3002	quarry		38		15	Fe obj	1 x LBA-EIA rim; 1 x IA rim; IA sherds
3	F3	3001	quarry			1			
5	-	5002	quarry			7		1 glass	
10	F6	10002	ditch		41		50		?MIA
10	F26	10003	?pit		36		23		1 x ?IA rim
17	-	17000	topsoil			1		Fe nail	
17	F4	17001	pit		18		2		IA sherds
17	F5	17002	pit		9		11		1 x M-LIA (scored ware); IA sherds
17	F28	17005	ditch		14		6		IA sherds
17	F32	17006	pit		12		8		1 x E-MIA rim; IA sherds
20	F30	20002	ditch		4		6		2 x LBA-EIA rims; IA sherd
23	F18	23002	modern				13		
24	-	24000	topsoil		20	1	12	Fe nail	1 x ?BA sherd; 2 x IA (scored ware)
24	F11	24004	ring ditch		2				IA sherds
24	F11	24005	ring ditch					Fe slag	
24	F20	24007	?palisade		1		16		IA sherd
24	F21	24008	ditch		12		7		1 x LIA rim; 1 x LIA shoulder; IA sherds
24	F21	24009	?palisade		1		2		?IA sherd
24	F39	24010	pit		20		30	Fe nail	IA sherds
26	-	26000	topsoil			4		2 glass; 1 bk	
27	-	27000	topsoil			1		1 bk	
28	-	28000	topsoil					Fe nail	
30	-	30000	topsoil	1		1		Fe nail	retouched flint flake
30	F13	30014	ditch		2				LBA/IA sherds
30	F14	30004	pit		4		15		1 x IA rim (large storage jar)
30	F15	30002	pit		1		12	Fe obj	IA sherd
30	F15	30003	pit				6		
30	F16	30005	ditch		8				IA sherds
30	F16	30009	ditch		7				LBA/IA sherds
30	F16	30010	ditch			?1			
30	F16	30011	ditch				4		
30	F22	30007	?ditch		10				?IA sherds
30	F31	30006	pit	1	4		23		1 x LBA rim; IA sherds; flint flake
30	F36	30013	?slot/pit		2				BA sherds
30	F37	30012	?pit		6				IA sherds
30	F40	30015	pit		27		11		IA sherds

Table 2 - Zone 2 summary finds and feature information

Trench	Feature	Context	Type	flint	Prehist pot	Post-med pot	Bone	Misc	spot date/comments
3	F27	34002				1			
30		61000	topsoil	6	3			2 Fe obj	1 core; 1 serrated blade; 1 backed point
30		61011	layer	4		5	3	Fe nail; 1	clay pipe stem; bottle glass
30	F23	61006	?slot	1	15		45		IA sherds; 1 blade tip
30	F25	61004	gully	43					Mesolithic flint including 3 backed points
30	F33	61005	ditch	1	25		70	7 Fe slag	IA sherds
30	F34	61009	?pit	5			1		Mesolithic flint include 4 flakes and 1 disk-shaped scraper
30	F35	61007	?pit/p-h	1					Retouched flake, ?edge of scraper

The Flint by Lynne Bevan

A total of 65 pieces of worked flint was recovered, of which 63 came from Trench 30 in Zone 2. Of these, 43 came from a single feature - a gulley (Zone 2, Trench 30; F25/61004). The remainder of the pieces were found singly or in groups of up to six. The flint used was from secondary deposits in the form of small pebbles with the brown compacted cortex characteristic of river gravel flint. Originally light to mid grey in colour, the majority of pieces exhibited greater and lesser degrees of re-cortication with approximately one-quarter of the assemblage being completely white in colour with an opaque appearance.

Chronologically-diagnostic tools comprised four backed points all but one of which, a surface find, came from F25. All three of the points from this feature were bilaterally backed, in contrast to the surface find which was worked only down one side. The small size of these microliths indicates a later rather than earlier Mesolithic date for the assemblage which also includes ten narrow blades, three of which are serrated (1 from 61000 and 2 from 61004). One burnt discoidal scraper (typologically Mesolithic) and four flakes came from a single pit (F34/61009). A fragment from a small burnt core from which small blades had been detached was recovered from the topsoil. Although removed from its original context of loss or discard, this core could be contemporary with the microliths and scraper. No typologically later tool types were present in this assemblage, which also included a number of retouched and utilized items. It probably represents elements of material culture generated during the cyclical movements of mobile hunting-gathering groups, perhaps remnants of a small hunting camp, during the Later Mesolithic period.

Table 3 Flint

	<u>Flakes</u>	<u>Burnt Flakes</u>	<u>Micros</u>	<u>Scraper</u>	<u>Retouched</u>	<u>Blades</u>	<u>Core Frag.</u>
30000					1		
30006	1						
61000	2	1	1(backed point)		1	1(with serration)	1
61004	28	4	3(bilaterally backed points)			6 frags. (serrated x1) 2 complete (serrated x1)	
61005					1 possible edge of scraper (broken)		
61006						1 tip (burnt)	
61007					1 possible edge of broken scraper		
61009	4			1 burnt discoidal scraper			
61011	2				2 backed blades (1 has tip missing both complete)		
TOTALS	37	5	4	1	6	10	1

Animal Bone (Based on comments provided by Umberto Albarella)

(see also Tables 1-2 and 4)

A total of 391 fragments of animal bone was recovered during the evaluation. The general condition of the bone from the majority of contexts was poor with considerable corrosion of the bone surface. Even the tooth enamel was in poor condition.

All the main domesticates were present (cattle, horse, pig and sheep). The only items of note were some knawing marks on a sheep bone fragment (Trench 17, F5) suggesting the presence of scavengers/dogs; a jaw fragment from a young pig (Trench 30, 30008) and a bone from a neo-natal sheep (Trench 30, 30004).

Charred Plant Remains

Bulk soil samples were collected from selected contexts and features (Trench 10, F6; Trench 17, F5; Trench 24, F11 and F20) and wet sieved for charred plant remains. A formal scan of the resulting residues remains to be completed. However, very little charred material and no charred seeds could be identified during a preliminary examination. No waterlogged contexts were recorded during the evaluation.

DISCUSSION

The earliest evidence for activity within the study area is provided by the Mesolithic flint recovered from the topsoil and two of the features in Trench 30, Zone 2. One of these features, a linear slot (F25), was associated with two possible post-holes (F35 and F41). Structural features associated with any form of Mesolithic activity are extremely rare suggesting that those recorded at Slade Farm may be of considerable importance.

A few sherds of early Bronze Age-type pottery were recovered; notably from a small pit (F36) in Trench 30, Zone 1. However, the majority of the prehistoric pottery recovered during the evaluation dates to between the late Bronze Age and the late Iron Age. This pottery was recovered from numerous features in Zone 1 and Trench 30, Zone 2. There appears to be a very close correlation between many of these features and the anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey. In particular the north-south linear feature was recorded in a number of the trial trenches (Trench 10, F6; Trench 17, F28; Trench 20, F30, Trench 24, F21, Trench 30, F13 and Zone 2, Trench 30, F33). Where this feature was sectioned it proved to be up to 2.8m wide and 0.7m deep with a rounded profile. Late Bronze Age and/or Iron Age pottery and animal bone (including cattle and sheep/goat) was recovered from all the exposed sections. A second, parallel ditch was recorded by the geophysical survey in the northern part of Zone 1, leading to the suggestion of a former trackway or driveway. Elements of a possible second ditch are also suggested by features recorded in several of the trenches (For example, Trench 17, F29 and Trench 30, F16). This possible trackway

Table 4 - Identifiable animal bone fragments

Trench	Feature	Context	Cattle	Horse	Sheep	Pig	Comments
ZONE 1							
10	F6	10002			5		
10	F26	10003	4		1		
17	F5	17002			2		one with probable knawing marks
17	F32	17006	?1	2			
20	F30	20002			1		
24	F11	24004			1		
24	F21	24009			2		
24	F21	24018			3		
24	F39	24010	5		7		
30	F40	30015			2	2	one pig jaw fragment from young individual
30	F14	30004			1	1	
30	F15	30002	?6		1		
30	F15	30003	?2 (Burnt)		3	1	well-preserved - ?modern
30	F16	30005	1				
30	F16	30010	2				
30	F16	30011	1	1			
30	F31	30006		1	5		
30	F33	61005	10	1	5		
ZONE 2							
30	F23	61006			5		

may have been associated with structural elements such as palisades; suggested by the narrower linear features in Trench 24 (F20) and Zone 2, Trench 30 (F23)

The presence of pits on either side of this possible trackway suggests Iron Age settlement activity in the vicinity (Trench 17, F4, F5 and F32; Trench 24, F39; Trench 30, F14, F15, F31, F40 and F42). In some cases these pits are inter-cutting suggesting more than one phase of activity (for example, Trench 17, F5 and F32). It seems likely that the steep-sided feature in Trench 24 (F11/F42) corresponds with one side of the circular enclosure or ring ditch recorded by the geophysical survey. Unfortunately, the dating of this feature was inconclusive. However, the few finds of pottery from the upper fill and a fragment of iron slag suggests an Iron Age rather than an earlier date.

All of the archaeological features recorded were concentrated in the north-eastern part of the site (Zone 1 and the north-eastern part of Zone 2). No features of archaeological significance were identified elsewhere in the study area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

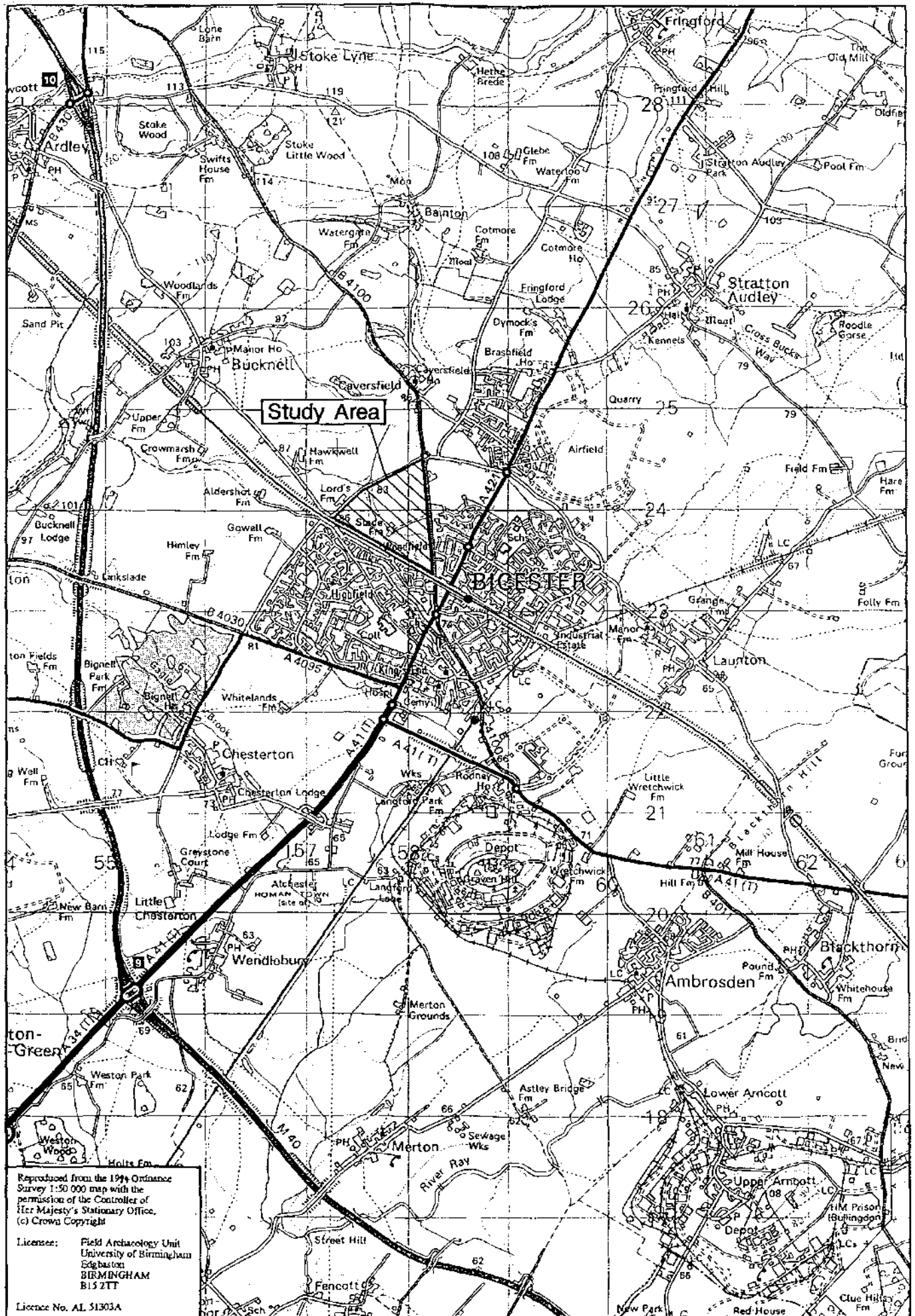
The fieldwork was carried out by a team consisting of R. Burrows, F. Giocco, D. Moscrop, E. Newton, K. Nichol under the supervision of L. Jones. The report was compiled by L. Jones and G. Hughes and the figures were prepared by N. Dodds. Ann Woodward and Umberto Albarella kindly provided comments on the prehistoric pottery and the animal bone.

The project was monitored by Royston Clark on behalf of CPM and Paul Smith on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

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Figure 1 - Location of Study Area.

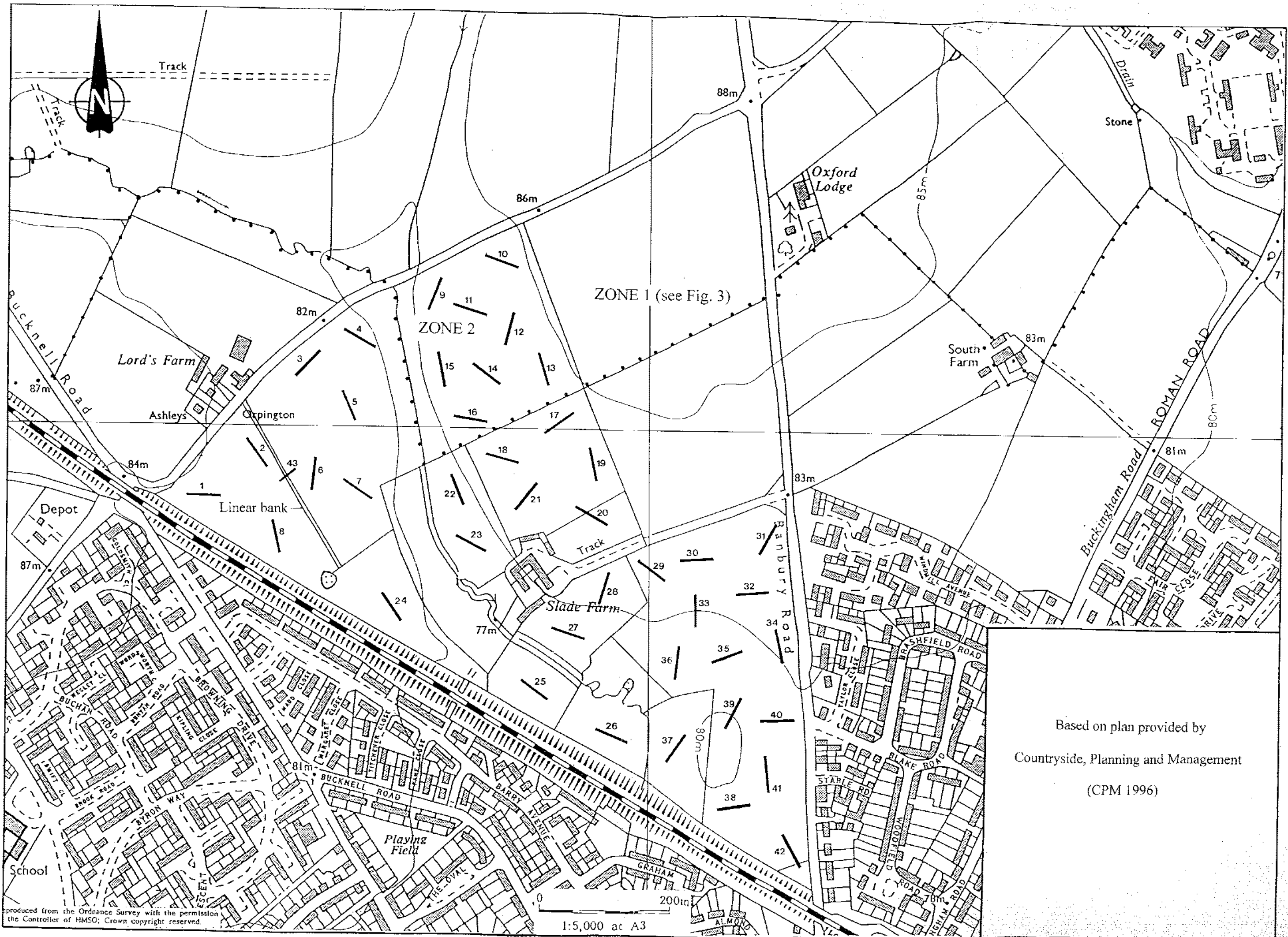


Figure 2 - Location of Trial Trenches in Zone 2

SLADE FARM

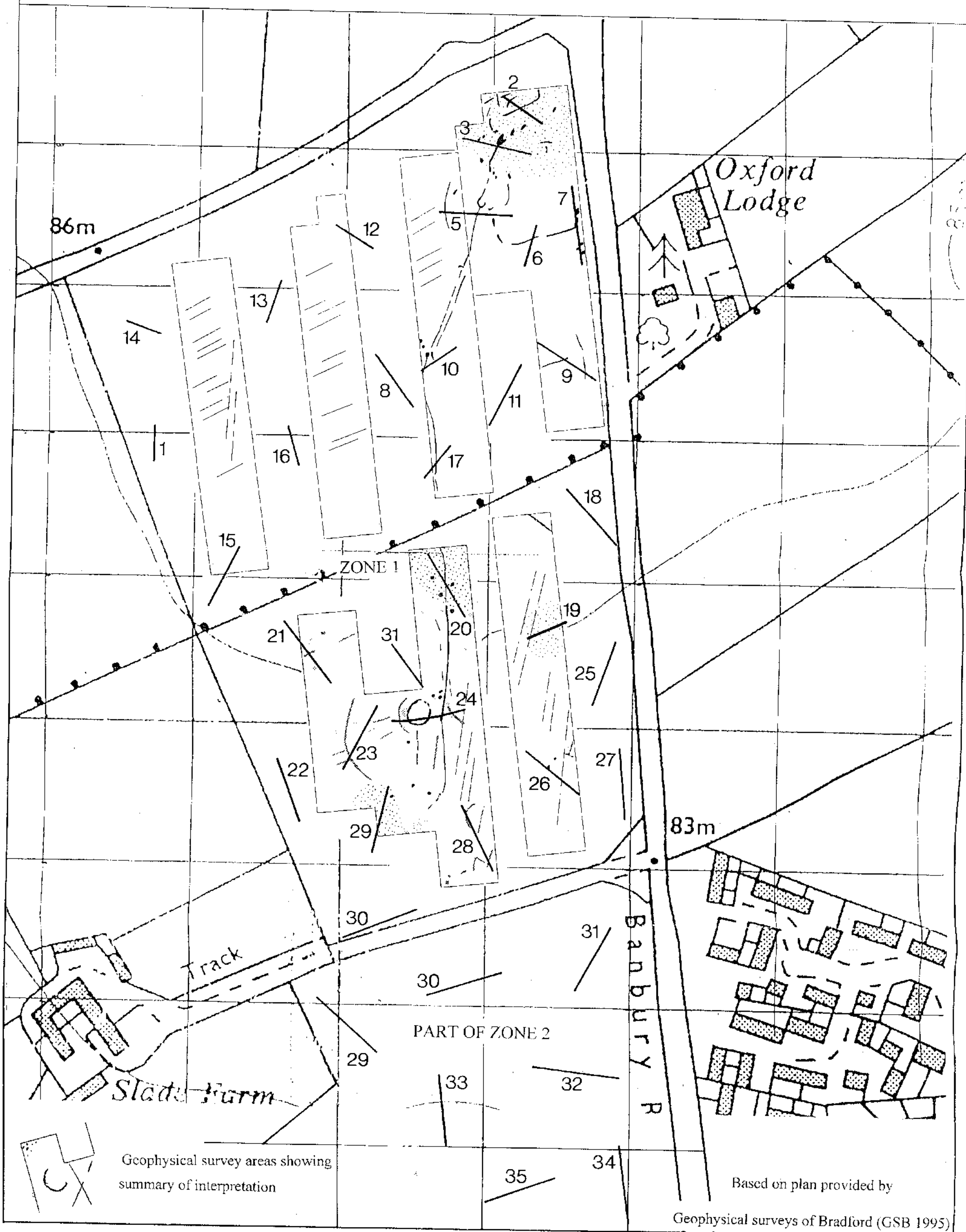
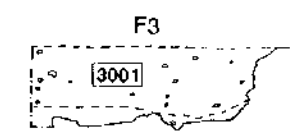
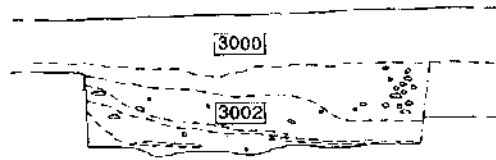
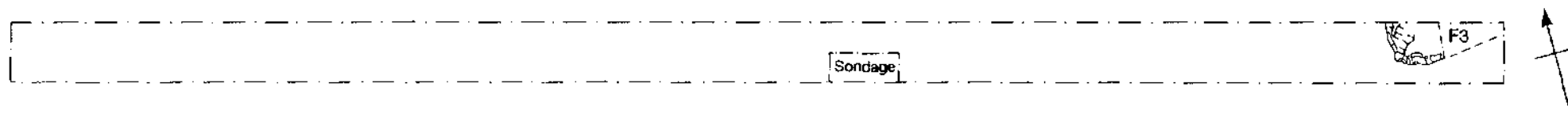
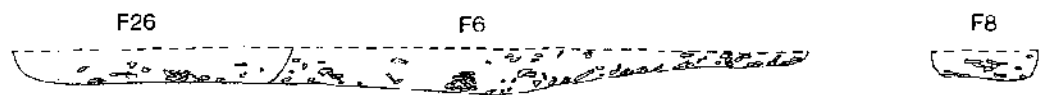
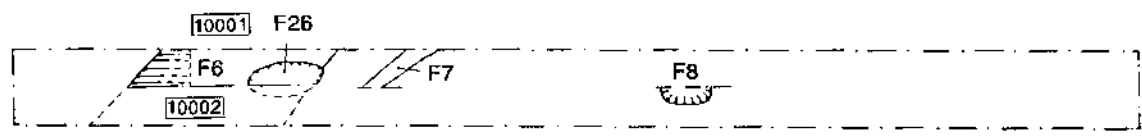


Figure 3 - Location of Trial Trenches in Zone 1 and Northern Part of Zone 2 and Geophysical Survey Information.

Zone 1, Trench 3



Zone 1, Trench 10



Zone 1, Trench 17

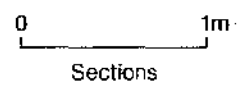
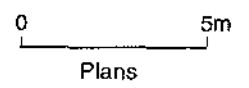
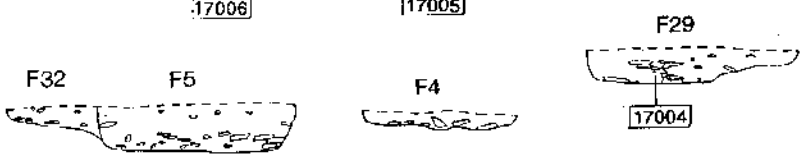
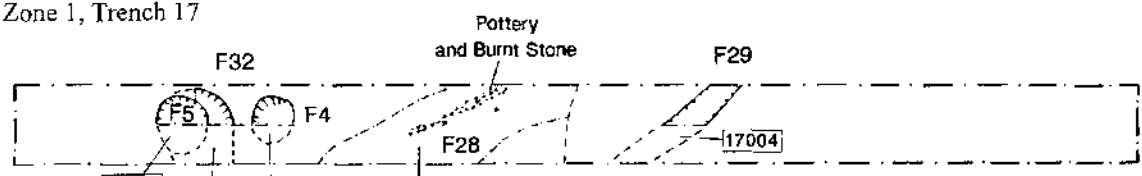


Figure 4 - Plan of Trenches 3, 10 and 17.

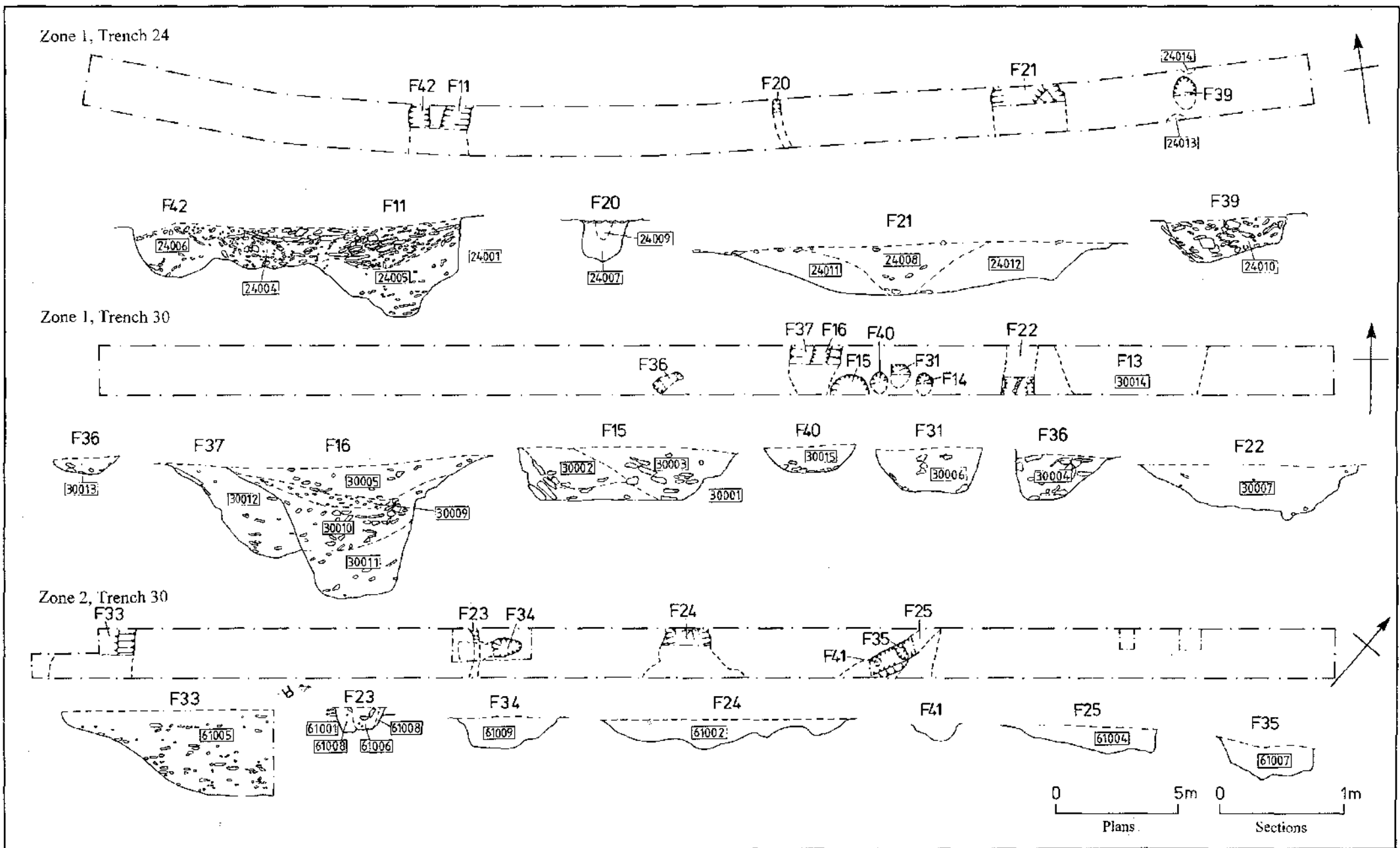


Figure 5 - Plan of Trenches 24, 30 and Zone 2, Trench 30