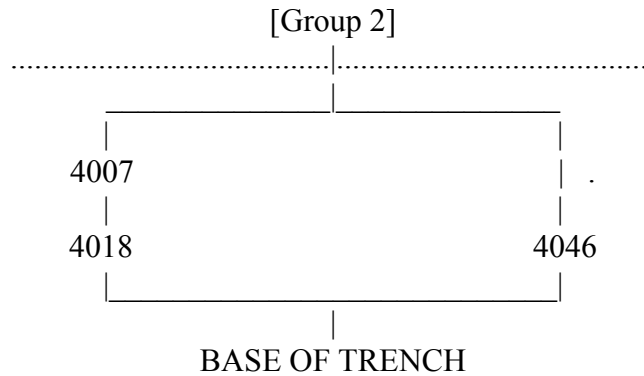


Appendix 5: Discussion of Groups

Group 1; natural deposits associated with the Taplow Terrace and subsequent alluviation prior to known human occupancy of the site. This consists of two subgroups, reflecting the excavation of two trenches.

Subgroup 1.1; natural subsoil in Trench 1



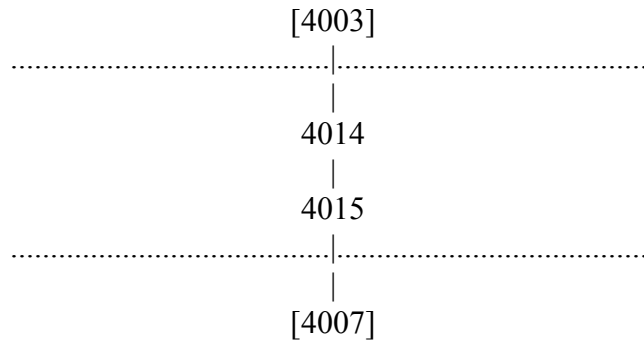
Context	Type	Description	Level above O.D.	
			High	Low
4007;	layer	brown silty clay alluvium with lenses of flint pebbles; contained burnt and struck flint.	8.40m	-
4018;	layer	brown sandy flint gravel, archaeologically sterile.	8.42m	-
4046;	layer	brown sandy flint gravel, archaeologically sterile	8.00m	-

Discussion.

Archaeologically sterile (the flint is certainly intrusive) gravels and silty clays; gravel deposition being due to turbidity in a flooded environment and finer material being deposited in still water. The presence of gravel in [4007] may be due either to hillwash or a varying turbidity during the period of deposition. [4046] is presumed to be the same as [4018] but appears in the bottom of cut [4045] and is separated from the other natural layers by modern cut [4003].

Group 2; Bronze Age cut features and their backfills, consisting of 15 subgroups.

Subgroup 2.1; A post-hole and its fill.

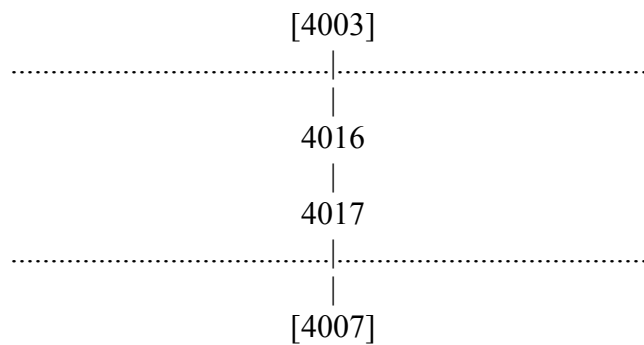


- | | | | |
|------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| 4014; fill | greyish -brown sandy silty clay with charcoal flecks, filling [4015]. | 8.37 | 8.17 |
| 4015; cut | sub-circular with near vertical sides and flat bottom, 0.2m diameter x 0.2m deep. | 8.37 | 8.17 |

Discussion.

No diagnostic features except size and shape. Flat bottom suggests post would have been inserted in previously dug hole, not driven; drawn profile however suggests a driven post, perhaps later dug out. May relate to [2.2] and [2.3].

Subgroup 2.2; A post-hole and its fill

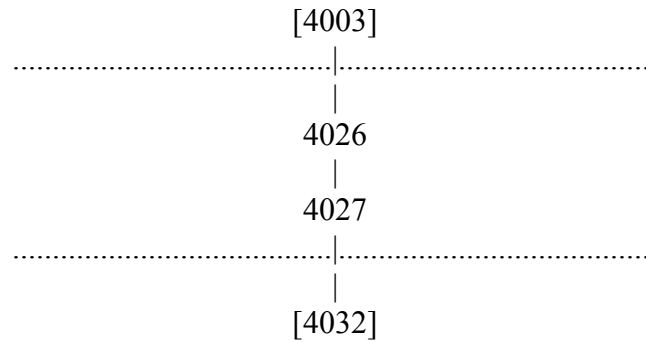


- | | | | |
|------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| 4016; fill | greyish-brown sandy silty clay with charcoal flecks. | 8.37 | 8.29 |
| 4017; cut | sub-circular, 0.2m diameter x 0.08m deep. | 8.37 | 8.29 |

Discussion.

No diagnostic features except size and shape; may relate to [2.1] and [2.3].

Subgroup 2.3; possible post-hole and its fill

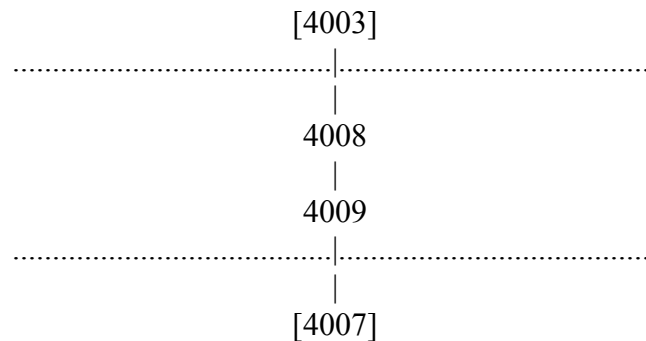


4026; fill	mottled grey/brown silty clay with occasional iron pan.	8.34	8.25
4027; cut	sub-circular 0.23m diameter x 0.09m deep, flat-bottomed with near vertical sides.	8.34	8.25

Discussion.

No diagnostic features; may be a lens within [4032] or a post-hole, in which case it may relate to [2.1] and [2.2].

Subgroup 2.4; A pit and its fill.



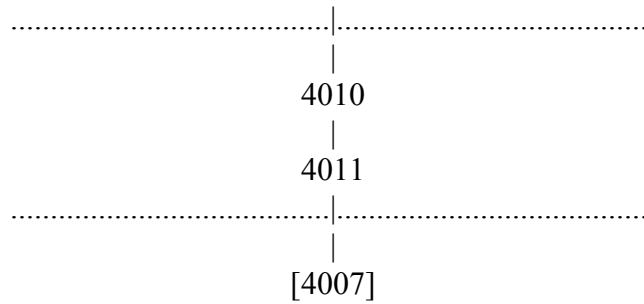
4008; fill	grey with brown mottles silty clay with charcoal flecks, flint pebbles and pottery fragments.	8.25	8.19
4009; cut	sub-rectangular/ovoid 0.9m x 0.65m x 0.09m deep shallow, concave, truncated above by machining.	8.25	8.19

Discussion.

Pit of unknown function and its fill. Only the very base remains and there are no diagnostic features.

Subgroup 2.5; A post-hole or pit and its fill.



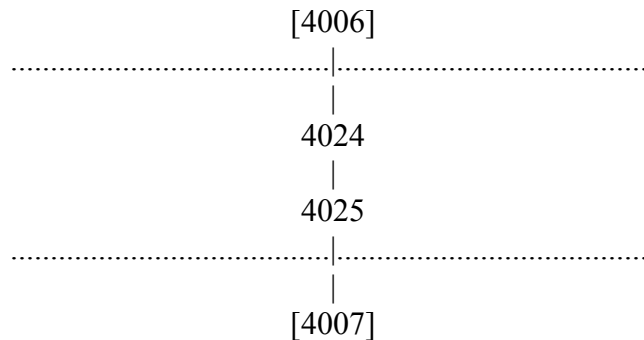


4010	fill	grey with brown mottles, silty clay with flint pebbles and charcoal flecks. Occasional pottery and burnt flint.	8.35	8.09
4011	cut	sub-circular near vertically sided, flat-bottomed, 0.75m diameter x 0.25m deep, cutting down to gravel.	8.35	8.09

Discussion.

No diagnostic features but bottoming on gravel could imply drainage or structural support as a priority. The sides may be less than vertical due to weathering. The pottery suggests a late bronze age date.

Subgroup 2.6; a post-hole and its fill.



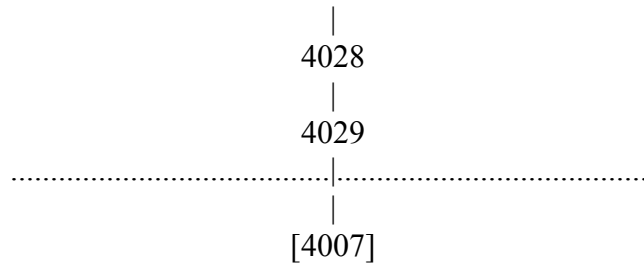
4024;	fill	greyish brown sandy silty clay with iron pan nodules and pottery.	8.34	8.26
4025;	cut	truncated to semi-circular by trench edge but otherwise concave bowl-shaped, 0.24m in diameter x 0.08m deep (excavated - rose 0.1m vertically up the section).	8.34	8.26

Discussion.

Probably the truncated base of a post-hole: no diagnostic features other than size and shape. Profile inconclusive as evidence for a driven rather than a dug-in post. May be related to [2.7] and [2.8]. The pottery suggests a prehistoric date, probably bronze age.

Subgroup 2.7; a post-hole and its fill.



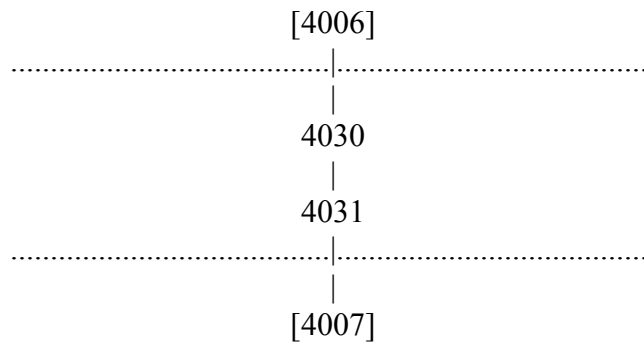


- 4028; fill greyish-brown sandy silt clay with flint pebbles and iron pan nodules.
8.47 **8.31**
- 4029; cut truncated to semi-circular, 0.3m diameter x 0.06m deep (excavated - rose
 0.1m vertically up section) flat bottomed, bowl-shaped.
8.47 **8.31**

Discussion.

No diagnostic features other than size and shape but may be related to [2.6] and [2.8].

Subgroup 2.8; a post-hole and its fill.

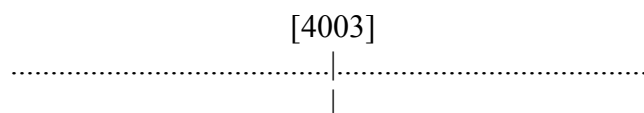


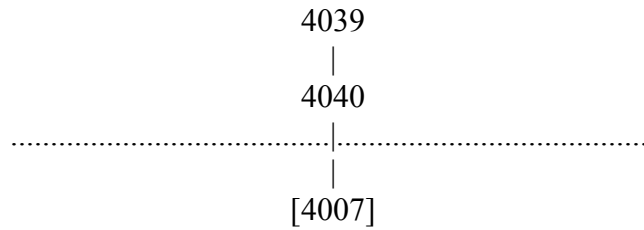
- 4030; fill greyish brown sandy silty clay with iron pan flecks.
8.47 **8.32**
- 4031; cut truncated to semi-circular bowl-shaped with concave bottom, 0.1m
 diameter x 0.1m deep (as excavated - rose 0.1m up section).
8.47 **8.32**

Discussion.

Probably a post-hole but no diagnostic features other than size and shape. May be related to [2.6] and [2.7].

Subgroup 2.9; Pit of unknown function.



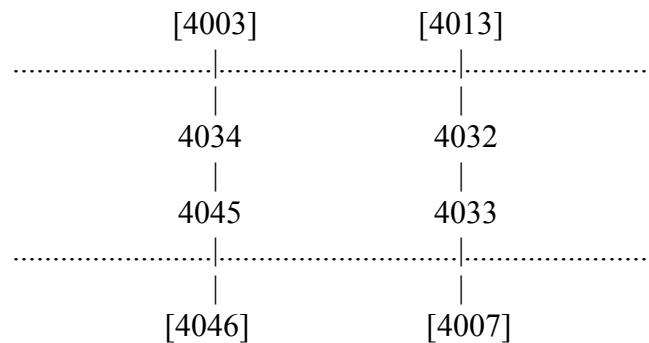


4039; fill	grey mottled brown silty clay with iron pan nodules and flint pebbles.	8.21	8.09
4040; cut	2m NS x 0.75m EW x 0.15m deep shallow, concave, possibly linear but truncated by [4003].	8.21	8.09

Discussion.

No diagnostic features - possibly a quarry pit.

Subgroup 2.10; Pit of unknown function.

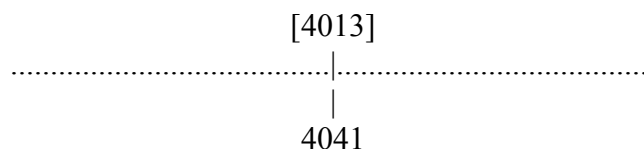


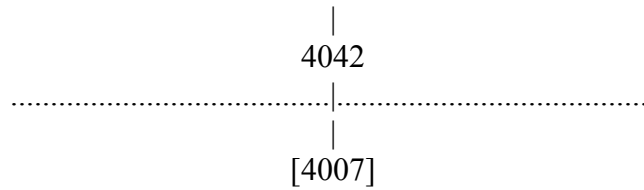
4032; fill	greyish brown silty clay with flint pebbles, occasional charcoal and iron pan nodules.	8.34	7.94
4033; cut	shallow, steep concave sides, flat bottom, 3.2m EW x 2.7m NS x 0.2m deep.	8.34	7.94
4034; fill	greyish brown silty clay with flint pebbles, occasional charcoal and iron pan nodules.	8.34	7.98
4045; cut	flat base only found in trench, 2.5m EW x 1.5m NS.	8.00	7.98

Discussion.

Actually a single feature, the two parts being divided by [4003]. A large pit, similar to [2.09], this produced no finds and had no diagnostic features. The presence of carbonised remains was demonstrated by flotation sieving on site: the feature being undatable, the flot was discarded but this does demonstrate likely human presence at the time of deposition. Possibly a quarry pit.

Subgroup 2.11; A large post-hole or small pit.



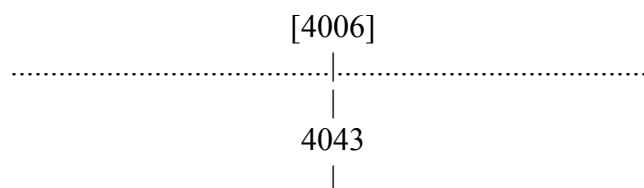


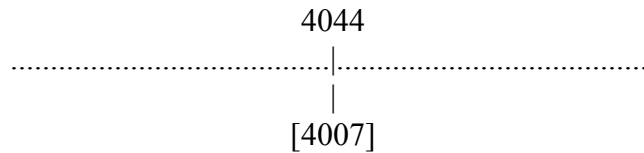
4041; fill	grey mottled brown silty clay with flint pebbles and iron pan nodules. Contained burnt and worked flint and daub.	8.17	8.01
4042; cut	sub-circular, 0.4m diameter x 0.15m deep; concave sides with a flat bottom on gravel.	8.17	8.01

Discussion.

No diagnostic features but possibly aligned with [4044] and [4023] or [4011] and [4009], perhaps parallel with the edge of [4033]. Probably too small to be a pit unless it is the truncated remains of a tapering base; if a post-hole then likely to be structural which would explain the penetration down to gravel. Possibly the cut is this size and shape due to robbing of the post. The presence of burnt flint and daub is suggestive of a nearby prehistoric settlement structures.

Subgroup 2.12; A post-hole



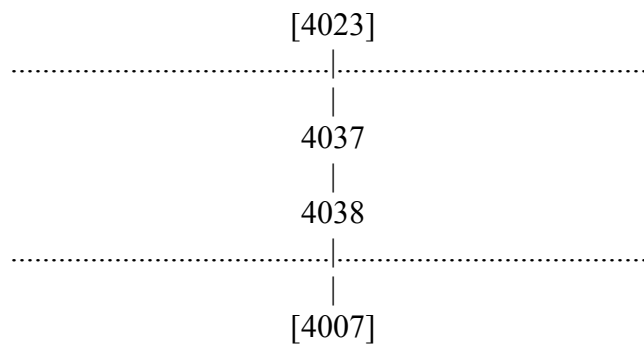


- 4043; fill grey/brown mottled silty clay with flint pebbles and iron pan nodules. The pebbles are concentrated at the W end of the material. **8.21** **8.11**
- 4044; cut truncated to 0.6m diameter semi-circle ,by trench edge, concave bowl-shaped profile 0.35m deep with a sharp break of slope to a central vertically sided, flat-bottomed depression 0.05m deep. **8.21** **8.11**

Discussion.

The profile and second depression suggest that this feature is a post-hole to hold a central square post 0.15m across which was rammed into a pre-excavated hole and backfilled around.

Subgroup 2.13; pit of unknown function



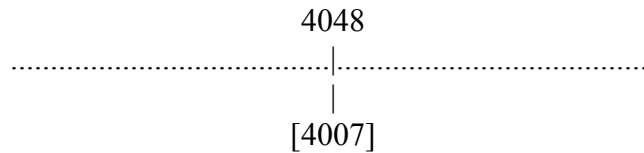
- 4037; fill light grey silty clay. **8.07** **8.02**
- 4038; cut truncated to lunate, with flat-bottomed, 45° sloping sides. **8.07** **8.02**

Discussion.

No diagnostic features, no finds. Possibly the end of [4048] but truncated by [4023].

Subgroup 2.14; an amorphous cut feature: possibly three post-holes.





4047; fill	grey silty clay.	8.27	7.96
4048; cut	amorphous linear feature 3m EW x 1m NS x 0.3m deep, aligned EW. Steep sided and flat bottomed.	8.27	7.96

Discussion.

This feature had the aspect of three post-holes terminated by a fourth to the W. No finds were produced and no diagnostic features were recorded: the fill was homogenous.

Subgroup 2.14: A post-hole.

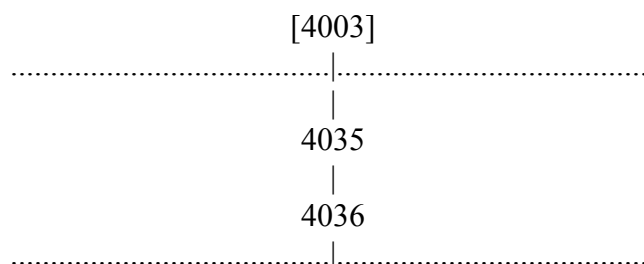


4022; fill	brown mottled greyish brown sandy silty clay with pebbles and some burnt flint.	8.28	7.95
4023; cut	circular, 0.6m diameter x 0.3m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base.	8.28	7.95

Discussion.

Probably a post-hole although no diagnostic evidence was recorded. The size suggests a major structural timber although the cut did not penetrate through to gravel; there may be a functional relationship to subgroup 2.13 with which it is aligned though later.

Subgroup 2.15: a cut feature of unknown function.



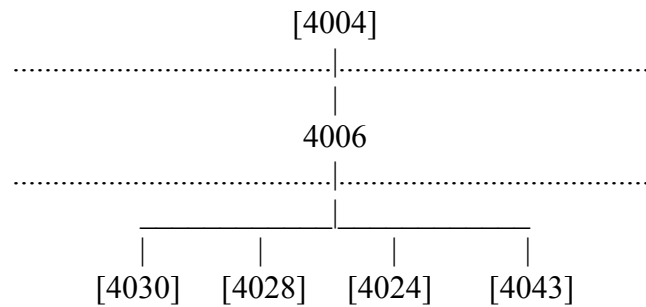
		 [4047]		
4035;	fill	greyish-orange sandy silty clay.	8.21	8.12
4036;	cut	amorphous shallow cut.	8.21	8.12

Discussion.

A small sterile feature not obviously archaeological, possibly a subsoil mottle.

Group 3; Agricultural use of the site is indicated in the deposits attributed to group 3; this is divided into two subgroups, perhaps artificially though this may represent distinct periods.

Subgroup 3.1; redeposited subsoil.



4006;	layer	greyish brown silty clay with occasional flint pebbles.	8.50	8.20
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Discussion.

This layer was machined through and so its true relationships with the contexts attributed to Group 2 are uncertain. This layer may be the product of either hillwash or a leached out ploughsoil; it is undated.

Subgroup 3.2; buried cultivated soil.



4004; layer brownish grey silty clay containing CBM fragments.

9.15

8.50

Discussion.

A cultivated soil, provisionally dated to the 19th century by the CBM.

Group 4; the modern layers of material, consisting of three contexts ([4001], [4002], [4003]) distinguished mainly by quantities of hard core probably associated with the construction and subsequent occupation of the Oliver Close estate. [4003] specifically applies to all modern features not separately described. This group also contains a small pit and its fill, [4012] and [4013].