



## Sutton Courtenay Oxfordshire

Archaeological Excavation and Assessment of Results



**Ref: 71505**  
**August 2010**



**SUTTON COURTENAY,  
OXFORDSHIRE**

**Archaeological Excavation and Assessment of Results**

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Report reference: 71505.01  
Path: X/projects/71505/post ex/TT Sutton Courtenay report (ed LNM)

**August 2010**

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SITE CODE	<b>71505</b>	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		NGR		<b>448733, 193671</b>	

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
01	F	NH	KEW		04/08/10	TT SUTTON COURTENAY REPORT (ED LNM)

\* I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

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## **SUTTON COURTENAY, OXFORDSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Excavation and Assessment of Results**

#### **Summary**

In June 2009 an archaeological excavation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the scheduled site of Drayton, commonly referred to as Sutton Courtenay (NGR 448733, 193671). Substantial and significant prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon remains are known from the near vicinity. Part of the Drayton Cursus runs through the Site, and there are a number of Bronze Age ring ditches and enclosures in the area. Previous archaeological work has revealed extensive Anglo-Saxon settlement remains, including both sunken feature buildings (SFBs) and timber-built halls.

The excavation, comprising four trenches, confirmed the location of several features previously identified from aerial photographs, but also demonstrated the limitations of both aerial photographs and geophysical survey data in the precise identification of features.

Two trenches over a feature (structure 500), identified from aerial photographs and interpreted as an Anglo-Saxon 'Great Hall', confirmed the size and nature of this feature. It was shown to be a substantial timber-built hall of early or middle Saxon date. The remains comprise foundation trenches with external postholes around one end, and two possible internal partitions.

A prehistoric penannular ditched feature, also seen on aerial photographs, was found to have been cut by the hall, possibly in a deliberate siting of the hall in association with the earlier landscape feature. A trench over a 'lesser' hall revealed that it cut through an earlier SFB of probable 5th to 7th century date. A trench positioned over another possible SFB (as identified from aerial photographs) found this to be a large pit, which could not be dated as it contained no artefacts or stratigraphic relationships.

A scarcity of good dating evidence means that many features cannot be closely dated within the overall chronological sequence, and therefore the precise chronological relationships between all of the Saxon features, in particular, could not be ascertained with any degree of confidence.

Given the national and regional significance of the site, the results of the excavation warrant dissemination through publication. It is suggested that a short article in *Oxoniensia* would be most appropriate.

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## **SUTTON COURTENAY, OXFORDSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Excavation and Assessment of Results**

#### **Acknowledgements**

This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Michael Douglas (Series Editor), Jane Hammond (Production Manager), Nick Gilliam-Smith (Director), Ben Knappett (Assistant Producer), Tom Scott (Researcher) and Anna Cosgrave (Production Coordinator) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Claire Stevenson and Emma Wood of GSB Prospection. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Birmingham and landscape survey and map regression was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth of English Heritage. The excavation strategy was devised by Mick Aston. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Naomi Hall, and on-site finds processing was carried out by Hannah Spieler, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Matt Williams, Ian Powlesland, Faye Simpson, Raksha Dave and Tracey Smith assisted by Jack Crennel, Phil Matthews, Dian King, Andy Hood, Charlotte Haines and Eoin Fitzsimons. The metal detector survey was carried out by Trevor Sprules and Kevin Benning.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Naomi Hall, incorporating background research by Jim Mower and Tom Scott (Videotext Communications), and with specialist reports prepared by Lorraine Mephram (finds), Jessica Grimm (animal bone), Dr Chris J. Stevens (palaeo-environmental), Sarah Wyles (molluscs) and David Norcott (soils and sediments). The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mephram.

Thanks are extended to Lynda Ward for allowing access to the Site for geophysical survey and archaeological excavation. Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge the support of Chris Welch (English Heritage) and Anni Byard (Finds Liaison Officer) during the excavation and to Helena Hamerow for her expertise and assistance during both the excavation and post-excavation stages.

# SUTTON COURTENAY, OXFORDSHIRE

## Archaeological Excavation and Assessment of Results

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological excavation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire (hereafter the 'Site') (Figure 1).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of the archaeological survey and excavation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works.

#### 1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site consisted part of the scheduled site of Drayton, commonly referred to as Sutton Courtenay, centred on NGR 448733, 193671, and located within the parish of Drayton. The Site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (number 234114). The scheduled area covers an area of approximately 0.22km<sup>2</sup>, lying on either side of the road to Milton. The Site was located to the west of the road and focused on the northern part of the scheduled area.

1.2.2 The Site lies approximately 3.5km to the south of Abingdon, and 1.1km to the west of Drayton, while the village of Sutton Courtenay is 1.7km to the east. The Site is bordered by Drayton East Way to the north, the Milton road to the east and Mill Brook to the south. However, due to time constraints the southern part of the area was not investigated and the Site was effectively limited to the south by the west-south-west – east-north-east running electricity pylons.

1.2.3 The Site is situated on a relatively level plain occupying a height of approximately 58m aOD. The land is currently under pasture. The underlying geology is mixture of gravels, sand and limestone (British Geological Survey, sheet 253).

#### 1.3 Archaeological Background

##### *Prehistoric*

1.3.1 A number of flint artefacts have been recovered from the area suggesting seasonal Mesolithic activity (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 133).

1.3.2 Within the Site is the southern part of the Drayton cursus (Figures 1 & 2). The cursus consists of two roughly parallel ditches with a number of causeways or entrances (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 67). Evidence suggests that it was an embanked enclosure (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 67). This Neolithic monument extends for over 1.5km on a north-north-east – south-south-west alignment and is generally considered to comprise two parts, as continuity



between the north and south areas has not been proved (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 6). To the west of the North Cursus a cropmark has been recorded, believed to be that of an earlier Neolithic long barrow (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 8). To the east lies a possible long enclosure, also believed to be of early Neolithic date (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 8). A number of ring ditches occur in the area, mostly in the vicinity of the South Cursus, and these are thought to be Bronze Age in date (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 8-9).

### **Romano-British**

- 1.3.3 Several Romano-British sites are known in the near vicinity of the Site, including Drop Short villa to the east, and a series of Roman enclosures lying to the east of the Site beyond Milton Road (for further details see below, Previous Archaeological Work).

### **Anglo-Saxon**

- 1.3.4 The parishes of Sutton Courtenay and Drayton lie within the hundred of Sutton which is centred on the royal estate at Sutton Courtenay (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 116-117). Substantial and significant Anglo-Saxon settlements are known from the near vicinity (see below, Previous Archaeological work)

## **1.4 Previous Archaeological Work**

- 1.4.1 In 1921 the Keeper of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum, E. T. Leeds, was alerted to some possible archaeological features visible in a gravel quarry near Sutton Courtenay. Intrigued by parallels to artefacts already in the Ashmolean collection which “*had been assigned to the late-Celtic periods on what seemed to be quite insufficient grounds*”, Leeds determined to investigate further before the features were destroyed (Leeds 1923, 147-8). He excavated a stretch of the eastern ditch of the Drayton South Cursus, identifying a possible causewayed entrance and discovering a flint hoard (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 16). He also excavated two ring ditches, at the time believed to be “*the ditch surrounding a hut or collection of huts*” (Leeds 1927, 59-60), but subsequently reinterpreted as early to middle Bronze Age barrow ditches (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 13, 22-3). A line of sub-rectangular features were shown to be the ‘hut-bottoms’ of a number of Saxon buildings (Leeds 1923, 154-74). This led to the first identification of domestic Anglo-Saxon features now known as sunken feature buildings (SFBs) or *Grubenhäuser* in this country (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 109). In addition to the SFBs, some associated refuse pits and a single inhumation grave of an adult male were also discovered (Leeds 1923, 154-74). Interestingly, many of the houses produced evidence for re-used or modified Roman pottery as well as for the reuse of Roman ceramic building material (Leeds 1923, 151-79; Leeds 1947, 85, 87).
- 1.4.2 Based on his findings, Leeds concluded that there was evidence for a fairly long period of occupation of these dwellings (Leeds 1923, 167). Excavation in this area continued and finally resulted in the identification of 33 SFBs (Leeds 1947, 79, 86). His discoveries were mainly confined to the area of land immediately east of Milton Road and south of Drayton Road but large areas had been already disturbed by gravel extraction (see illustration in Leeds 1947, 80). Three possible features to the west were also discovered, suggesting that settlement may have continued to the west of Milton Road (Leeds 1947, 92-93). While many of the finds from Leeds’ excavation cannot

be related to the features from which they came, they do indicate that the settlement was in use from the 5th or early 6th century into the 7th century AD (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 115).

- 1.4.3 A pit scatter partly excavated by Leeds and further excavated in 1994 at the Drayton Highways Depot appears to date from the middle Neolithic to the early Bronze Age (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 22). It is not uncommon to find pit clusters near major Neolithic monuments (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 22). Although the artefacts from the pits are consistent with an interpretation as domestic debris or refuse, the pits appear to have been dug and this material deliberately deposited in close vicinity to the cursus over a considerable period of time (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 22, 30-31).
- 1.4.4 In 1966 G. Thomas excavated Drop Short Villa, 0.7km to the east. Short reports in the *Journal of Roman Studies* (1966, 198) and the Daily Telegraph (15th August 1966) describe it as a substantial stone-built structure with a mosaic floor and a hypocaust. Finds recovered during the excavation suggest occupation throughout the Roman period (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 114-115). Field ditches visible as cropmarks to the east of the Milton road are likely to belong to an estate associated with this villa (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 23), and two of the ditches excavated by Leeds are also likely to be part of the Drop Short villa estate (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 23).
- 1.4.5 Excavations from 1971-4 at Corporation Farm to the south of Abingdon (and around 950m to the north-east of the Site) uncovered five ring ditches and other associated features, and cropmarks suggest another 17 ring ditches within the wider area (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 31-40). At least two phases of monumental features are suggested. The two earliest monuments appear to be a small ring ditch and an ovoid hengiform structure that date to the late Neolithic or earlier. The other ring ditches appear to belong to Bronze Age barrows. A number of ditches represent a series of middle Bronze Age enclosures, within which perhaps three phases of activity could be identified (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 32-39).
- 1.4.6 A number of aerial photographs of the region have been taken, primarily in 1933, 1932, 1962 and the summers of 1974 (**Front cover**) and 1976. In these a number of features have been identified (see Benson and Miles 1974). Within the area of the Site, five rectangular structures can be seen forming a rough 'L' shape with the long axis aligned east to west. One of the structures appears to overlap another small structure. A number of smaller, sub-rectangular features may well be SFBs similar to those found by Leeds. Five circular, presumed ring ditches are in the immediate area with another four slightly further beyond the Site environs. Running through the Site is the eastern ditch of the Drayton South Cursus.
- 1.4.7 A number of small-scale excavations within the wider landscape at Corporation Farm, at the Drayton Highways Depot and around 500m to the north of Leeds' excavations have also found evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement and activity (Barclay *et al.* 2003). In addition, a number of cemetery sites are known, including those at Milton, excavated in the 19th century, which contained the two most richly furnished 7th century burials in the region as well as burials believed to be of 6th century date. Further late 5th/6th century burials have also been identified to the east of Sutton

Courtenay, in addition to a number of burials from the 5th to 7th centuries discovered around the settlement at Long Wittenham (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 116).

- 1.4.8 Excavations in 1981 and 1985-6 around the Drayton North Cursus identified parts of a Romano-British field system, three possible SFBs as well as number of post-built structures. However no clear dating could be obtained for any of the structures (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 104-123).
- 1.4.9 In 1999 John Moore Heritage Services (2000) undertook a small, three-trench evaluation at the Old Farm House within the area of Brook Farm, just to the west of Milton Road. This area was not included in the original scheduling. Very little was found during this evaluation except some traces of north-west – south-east aligned medieval ridge and furrow and a potentially natural feature. A small sherd of early to mid Saxon pottery was found within one of the plough furrows.
- 1.4.10 In 2001-3 Helena Hamerow led phases of fieldwalking, excavation and geophysical survey to the east of Milton Road and to the south of Drayton East Way, falling within the scheduled area. The fields in this area, in contrast to the Site, are currently under arable cultivation and showed evidence of heavy plough damage. There has also been metal-detecting, including known illegal detecting, on the Site for at least the last ten years (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 113-4).
- 1.4.11 This geophysical survey covered a total area of 15.8 hectares. The following discussion is a summary of the survey results (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 119-22), which were published separately (Martin 2004). In general terms, the survey confirmed the presence of the features seen in the aerial photographs while in areas providing some further detail. The western third of the survey area showed evidence of very intense levels of activity with a series of sub-rectangular enclosures, some possible droeways and a large number of discrete anomalies. The central third in contrast was much quieter and this may result from a difference in geology rather than reflecting variation in the level of activity in this area in the past. The western third, while quieter than the eastern third, showed a number of interesting features, also visible on the aerial photographs. Immediately to the east of the road was a large rectangular feature, interpreted as a timber-built hall, similar to those seen on the aerial photographs to the west of the road. To the south-east of this was a circular anomaly some 32m in diameter, interpreted as a barrow ditch. Two parallel linear features were recorded in the southern part of the survey area; while the southernmost one seems to stop, the northern one appears to turn north, possibly respecting the position of this barrow. To the south-west of this was a similar circular anomaly within an oval enclosure. Parallels at Radley, adjacent to the Abingdon causewayed enclosure, suggest that this enclosure could well be Neolithic in origin (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 131).
- 1.4.12 A metal-detector survey was attempted in conjunction with the fieldwalking, but this had to be abandoned when it became apparent that the field may well have been 'seeded' with modern metal items in order to hinder the survey (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 119). However, metal finds from the site that have been reported to the Ashmolean Museum include several brooches as

well as other personal adornments and fittings dating from the 6th to 7th century. Fourteen separate findspots of late 7th to 8th century *sceattas* have also been reported. It is thought that much of the metalwork might indicate the presence of a cemetery, while the coins could be evidence of market trading. A human mandible was also found during the fieldwalking but this is, as yet, undated (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 171-83).

- 1.4.13 Four 20x10m trenches were excavated, and the results presented here are summarised from the published report of that excavation (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 122-68). Some Early Neolithic activity in the area is indicated, and an apparently isolated Bronze Age grave was discovered. Fieldwalking recovered struck flint from a much wider area, although in common with the results from other material types there was less from the central part of the area. Some residual Late Bronze Age pottery was also found. The mass of linear and discrete features in the eastern part of the site were found to be of Iron Age to Roman date, but continuity or otherwise between the Iron Age and Roman-British phases of use could not be demonstrated. Fieldwalking finds of this date were concentrated in this area, and excavation suggests an early Iron Age settlement. The main enclosure features appear to be Roman in date, although two other linear features, despite only containing Iron Age material, are believed to by the authors to be possibly later. The driveway running east - west along the southern part of the survey area was found to be Romano-British. The authors speculate on a possible relationship with the Drop Short Villa. A feature potentially identified as a SFB by the geophysical survey proved on excavation to be a waterhole and a series of intercutting pits of Anglo-Saxon date.
- 1.4.14 Of most relevance to the current excavation was Trench 4, positioned over the feature identified by aerial photographs and geophysical survey as a timber-built hall (**Figure 2**). Excavation revealed foundation trenches approximately 1m wide and 1m deep with steep, near vertical sides. An entrance was identified on the eastern side. Geophysical survey results along with the excavation show it to have been 19m long and 9m wide. Based on sections cut through the foundation trench, the authors concluded that the walls were constructed using double rows of planks, although this profile was not seen consistently in all sections. Variation in the upper fill of the foundation trench was sometimes reflective of a later posthole but others seem to be merely the result of variation in the upper fill. A number of irregularities, particularly along the outer edge of the foundation trenches, may equally indicate the position of postholes. No datable material was recovered from the foundation trenches. Five possible postholes were found within the structure, two of which were intercutting. All were very shallow and only one contained Early-Middle Anglo-Saxon pottery. They do not obviously appear to be related to the hall and may pre-date it. A pit or large posthole containing burnt stone, animal bone and a single sherd of Roman pottery was found just inside the south wall. A shallow ditch or gully stretching eastwards from the hall was seen to have been cut by the foundation trench. A roughly north-south aligned linear feature which cut across the hall was considered to be a plough furrow, while two other possible features in the north-eastern part of the trench were undated.
- 1.4.15 If some of the discrete features revealed by the magnetometer survey do in fact relate to SFBs, then taken with the results from the Leed's excavations

this seems to demonstrate a large Anglo-Saxon settlement potentially involved in trading (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 183-7).

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2009), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.

2.1.2 The aim of the project was to characterise the nature and date of the Site and place it within its historical, geographical and archaeological context. In light of what was already known about the Site and its national importance, several research aims were identified. These were:

### **2.2 Research Aim 1**

2.2.1 To characterise the extent, form of and spatial relationships between the possible prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon features identified on the Site through aerial photography, in particular between features interpreted as an Anglo-Saxon 'Great Hall' and a prehistoric ring ditch/barrow respectively. The possible hall appeared to cut the ring ditch.

2.2.2 This was intended to test the theory that the juxtaposition of high-status Anglo Saxon settlements with prehistoric monuments was deliberate and a means for newly emerging elites to 'appropriate' a supernatural landscape, and would depend on the ring ditch still being visible when the hall was constructed.

### **2.3 Research Aim 2**

2.3.1 To characterise the nature of, and the chronological relationship between possible Anglo-Saxon features identified on the site through aerial photography.

2.3.2 It was intended that at least one possible sunken feature building (SFB) would be targeted. Excavation was intended to address the following sub-set of questions:

- a) Whether at least some of the pit-like features are in fact SFBs.
- b) If they are, are they 7th/8th century in date; i.e. broadly contemporary with the 'Great Hall', or pre-dating it.

### **2.4 Research Aim 3**

2.4.1 To characterise the nature of and relationships between features interpreted through aerial photography as smaller Anglo-Saxon halls and the Anglo-Saxon 'Great Hall'. It was considered important to establish whether the smaller halls were contemporary with the 'Great Hall', or replaced an earlier, more typical Anglo-Saxon settlement. If these structures were contemporary, and articulated in such a way as to suggest procession through them in relation to the 'Great Hall' (i.e. a ritual/cultic component), this would enable comparisons to be made between patterns suggested at comparable sites such as Yeavinger, and to confirm the special nature of the Sutton Courtenay settlement.

## **2.5 Research Aim 4**

2.5.1 To characterise the condition of sub-surface archaeological deposits, in particular the survival rates of environmental material in archaeological contexts, and thereby to infer functional aspects of structural remains, diet, local economy and variations in local and regional vegetation.

2.5.2 Trenches were also intended to establish the condition of archaeological deposits, enabling a useful comparison to be made with the visibly lower and eroded field on the other side of the road where excavations from 2001-3 established severe truncation of archaeological deposits.

2.5.3 The following conditions were attached to invasive work:

- Clearly identifiable overburden was to be removed over a total area of no more than 250m<sup>2</sup>
- In relation to all significant relationships, and in particular the relationship between the 'Great Hall' and the barrow, no more than 25% of the total amount of deposits in which the relationship was identifiable could be removed.
- No more than two features identified as SFBs were to be excavated, and no more than 50% of deposits related to each of these features.
- No more than 50% of any posthole or pit could be excavated.
- Apart from the above, no more than 10% of any one feature and no more than 10% of any group of contemporary and similar features were to be excavated.
- No more than 10% of all significant archaeological deposits within the allowed total area were to be excavated.

## **3 METHODS**

### **3.1 Geophysical Survey**

3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of excavation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of resistance and magnetic survey. The survey grid was set out by Dr Henry Chapman and tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

### **3.2 Landscape and Earthwork Survey**

3.2.1 A landscape survey and analysis of the cartographic evidence was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth, Senior Investigator of the Archaeological Survey and Investigation Team, English Heritage. A summary of the findings is incorporated within the general discussion.

### **3.3 Excavation Trenches**

- 3.3.1 Four trenches of varying sizes were excavated, their locations determined in order to investigate and to clarify geophysical anomalies and to address specific research objectives (**Figures 1 & 2**).
- 3.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains, or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.
- 3.3.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.
- 3.3.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.3.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.
- 3.3.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.
- 3.3.7 The work was carried out on the 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

### **3.4 Copyright**

- 3.4.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2009), the summary of the landscape and earthwork survey and details of artefactual and environmental assemblages, are retained in the

archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

## 4.2 Geophysical Survey

- 4.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out over a total area of 1.3 hectares using a Fluxgate Gradiometer. After gathering data over a larger area more detailed sampling was carried out on specific areas of interest (**Figure 1**). In general the results confirm and provide some more detail on the wealth of archaeological features that are visible on the aerial photographs which include the Drayton South Cursus, three ring ditches, and features interpreted as an Anglo-Saxon great hall, three other smaller halls and possible sunken feature buildings.
- 4.2.2 Although the survey was divided into two areas (1 and 2), the results will be discussed as a whole and include the 'enhanced' survey areas.
- 4.2.3 The north-western section of the data shows part of a large ring ditch (A), approximately 38m in diameter. Other smaller ring ditches can be seen at (B) 13m in diameter and (C) 22m in diameter. Ring ditch (B) shows a central 'pit' anomaly which may represent a burial, while (C) has been cut by a rectangular feature (E).
- 4.2.4 Ditch (D) extends across both of the survey areas on a northeast – southwest alignment and forms part of the Drayton South Cursus, which is visible on aerial photographs extending some 250m.
- 4.2.5 Ring ditch (C) is cut by a rectangular anomaly (E). This feature measures 30m x 10m and excavation proved it to be the footprint of an Anglo-Saxon hall (the 'Great Hall'). Immediately to the east of the hall a number of potential pits were detected. It is thought that this end of the hall was the entrance, though plough damage has confused the results.
- 4.2.6 A series of three smaller 'halls' (F) have also been detected in Area 1, although not as well defined as (E), but they are clearly visible on the aerial photographs. East of each hall a pit response can be seen which may represent large, contemporary rubbish pits or possibly smaller, sunken feature buildings (SFBs). Further similar responses can be seen throughout the survey area, for example (G). Anomalies, such as those (H) may indicate further rubbish pits and are scattered throughout the data.
- 4.2.7 Towards the east of the survey area, response (I) forms a short section of ditch. It is on the same alignment as the cursus, but cropmarks from earlier APs suggest that they are not physically connected.
- 4.2.8 Ferrous responses along the limits of the survey areas have been caused by metal fencing. Smaller scale anomalies ("iron spikes") are present throughout the data, these responses are characteristic of small pieces of iron debris in the topsoil and are likely of modern origin.



### 4.3 Excavation Trenches

#### *Introduction*

4.3.1 The four trenches were laid out in a rough east – west line approximately 100m long; Trench 3 was the furthest west, and Trench 4 the furthest east. The size and shape of the trenches varied to account for the targets that they were sited on and the archaeology subsequently uncovered. The position of each trench was designed to address one or more of the research aims outlined above. All trenches had a bearing on Research Aim 4 (to characterise the condition of sub-surface archaeological deposits). The topography was very flat and ranged between 57.96 to 58.09m aOD.

4.3.2 All the trenches saw the removal of between 0.16m and 0.24m of overlying topsoil and between 0.13m and 0.25m of subsoil in order to expose the underlying archaeology. Although features were visible at the very base of the subsoil, further stripping proved necessary in order to expose and clarify their form. Where encountered, the natural geology was a sandy pea gravel.

#### *Trench 1 (Figure 3)*

4.3.3 Trench 1 was positioned at the western end of the largest rectangular feature, believed to be a large Anglo-Saxon hall (the ‘Great Hall’). Addressing Research Aim 1, this trench was excavated in order to clarify the relationship between the ‘Great Hall’ and the presumed prehistoric ring ditch identified from the aerial photographs. Geophysical survey was undertaken prior to the excavation of the trench to confirm the position of these features. This survey also suggested a possible entrance or break in the ring ditch, and the trench was also placed to explore this. The trench was subsequently extended to the south to establish the full width of the rectangular building.

4.3.4 During stripping, it was possible to discern some of the archaeological features at the very base of the subsoil (102), but it was not until reaching the top of the natural geology (103) that the edges of the features could be clearly seen, as the relatively friable nature of the natural geology leads to a weathered interface between the subsoil and the undisturbed natural.

4.3.5 Running south-east – north-west and then turning north was a large curvilinear ditch (104), part of the ring ditch. A clear break in this ditch could be discerned at the northern end. A section dug into the feature at this point confirmed this as a well defined ditch terminal. The depositional sequence within the terminal (see below, **section 6.4.3**, and **Table 5**) was shown to be a deep gravelly (primary) fill (105) representing the collapse of the feature sides during initial stabilisation after excavation. After this there was a period of more gradual silting, represented by fill (106). The overlying fill (107) could also be seen in plan, located on the internal edge of the ditch. Its position and high gravel content suggest that this could be the result of the erosion of an internal bank or mound. This was followed by another episode of lower energy deposition of silt and topsoil derived material, (108). Contexts (130) and (131), equivalent respectively to (108) and (107), were assigned in order to locate finds from a point further south along the line of the ditch. Upper fill (130) produced three body sherds of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery; the sherds are undiagnostic and the fabric type could be accommodated within the ceramic traditions of the Middle Bronze Age, Late

Bronze Age/Early Iron Age or Middle Iron Age (see below, **section 5.2.2**). No other dating evidence was recovered from ditch (104).

- 4.3.6 Only a small proportion of the opposing ditch terminus (148) was observed within the trench. Its upper fill (149) appeared to be equivalent to (108); no deposit equivalent to (107) was visible at this point.
- 4.3.7 An approximately east – west feature (111) was seen in the southern part of the trench. It was truncated at the western end by foundation slot (127) and at the eastern end by the curvilinear ditch (104). This feature was extremely shallow with an irregular base and may well be a natural feature. It is not visible as a cropmark on any of the available aerial photographs, neither does it appear to be related in alignment to any of the known cropmarks. Cut into the top of this feature was a shallow scoop (109) containing a small dump of material (110) containing some chalk and charcoal fragments.
- 4.3.8 Two postholes also cut through the western end of (111), (113) and (145). Posthole (113) was relatively shallow and its single fill (114) contained charcoal and chalk fragments. No direct relationship with foundation trench (127) could be discerned but the posthole seems likely to pre-date the foundation trench. Posthole (145) had a much deeper profile, with near vertical sides. It was cut through by foundation trench (127), but may still relate to the construction of the hall.
- 4.3.9 The majority of the trench was dominated by the western end of the 'Great Hall' (structure 500). This was composed of sharply defined foundation trenches (126, 127 and 190, forming group 192) as well as a series of postholes (group 193) just beyond the external edge of the foundation trenches to the west. The foundation trenches for the walls were nearly a metre deep with straight, vertical sides. Cut into the flat base of the foundation trench (126) on the northern side was an angular posthole (119). This posthole appeared to be contemporaneous with the foundation trench. The single fill (140) was a mixed secondary fill with no obvious post-pipe, and may have resulted from the fill of the foundation trench collapsing into the cut after the removal of the post. This raises the possibility that the hall may have been deliberately dismantled.
- 4.3.10 The northern foundation trench itself was filled with alternating bands of sandy gravels ((121), (123), (125) and (147)) and sandy silt loams ((122) and (124)). Another intervention in the western wall (127) was not fully excavated but in the south-facing section a lens of gravel within deposit (128) at the limit of excavation is a likely indicator that a similar sequence of sediments to that seen in the northern foundation trench also occurred at this point. There was an apparent break in the line of the foundation trench at the south-west corner, at the junction of (127) with the southern foundation trench (190). Given the depth of the foundation trench, this cannot be the result of truncation. One very small body sherd of early/middle Saxon pottery was recovered from the northern foundation trench (126).
- 4.3.11 Eleven postholes (group 193: postholes 115, 117, 162, 164, 166, 176, 178, 180, 184, 186, 188) were identified immediately outside the foundation trenches, at regularly spaced intervals. A possible twelfth posthole (182) was also identified. Although diffuse and unclear in plan its position makes it

likely that it formed part of group 193. Based on the positions of the other postholes, it is possible that a thirteenth posthole lay just to the north of (164), but that this could not be seen in plan as it was cut through the upper fill of ditch (104).

- 4.3.12 Several of the postholes within group (193) contained fragments of chalk, which cannot have had an immediately local source. This chalk was very soft and friable and appeared to have been modified in some way, possibly heated or burnt. Similar fragments of chalk were found intermittently within the upper fill of the foundation trench - a particular concentration (129) was seen in foundation trench (127). A sample of this was taken for further analysis (see below, **section 7.1.17**). Fragments of chalk were also seen in the top of unexcavated posthole (174), suggesting that this was contemporaneous with posthole group (193) and thus related to the Anglo-Saxon period of usage.
- 4.3.13 A possible internal division was found within the hall, group (194), consisting of at least five postholes on a north-south alignment (132, 136, 168, 172, 174). A possible further sub-division (group 195: postholes 134, 138, 170) could also be seen as a short spur to the west of this alignment. No relationship could be determined between these two alignments, although (134) and (136) intersected. Although the characteristics of the postholes within both groups are similar, being fairly oval in shape, relatively shallow for their width and with similar fills, the intersection of (134) and (136) proved that they could not be exactly contemporaneous. Indeed, the close proximity of (138) and (170) does suggest that these may not be contemporaneous either. It is possible that a sixth posthole lay in between (172) and (174) but that it could not be seen in plan as it was cut through the upper fill of ditch (104). Posthole 109 lies just off the alignment, but is dissimilar in plan to the other postholes in the group.
- 4.3.14 A further posthole alignment was found to the north-west of the hall (group 196: postholes 141, 143, 150, 152, 154, 156). Six postholes arranged in a slightly offset formation. The profiles and shape in plan of these postholes were similar to those of groups (194) and (195).

### **Trench 2 (Figure 4)**

- 4.3.15 Trench 2 lay over a strong geophysical anomaly just to the west of the Neolithic cursus. This feature was also visible from the aerial photographs and was initially presumed to be a possible SFB. This trench was therefore opened in order to address Research Aim 2.
- 4.3.16 In common with Trench 1, the archaeology was visible at the very base of the subsoil (202), but at this level the outline and nature of the features were unclear. A silty deposit (205) filled most of the exposed area of the trench, with a roughly sub-circular outline. A sondage was excavated along the southern edge of the trench and the possible feature. This confirmed that (205) was a thin accumulation of sediment overlying a gravel deposit (206), which also seemed to follow a sub-circular form in plan. The remnant of a plough furrow (204) was also seen running north-west – south-east, cutting through (205); a single post-medieval pottery sherd was recovered from this remnant furrow. The sondage was extended northwards in order to obtain a section through the centre of the possible sub-circular feature, which proved

to be a large, steep-sided pit (211), rather than an SFB. Deposits (205) and (206) appeared to be tertiary layers that had settled into the depression left by the infilled feature, rather than deposits directly filling the pit itself.

- 4.3.17 The pit was filled with a series of deposits. Initially a fairly deep primary fill (210) had been deposited. The depth of this fill was partly a result of the steep sides of the pit being cut through a very loose natural geology, and partly a result of the incorporation of lenses of silt. These lenses are suggestive of material being washed into the pit by heavy rain and may hint at nearby anthropogenic activity, leading to unconsolidated material and spoil in the vicinity.
- 4.3.18 The primary fill was overlain by (209), a mixed deposit containing burnt material and red silt clay mottles, suggesting the incorporation of deliberately dumped material. This contrasted with the overlying fill (208), where defined lenses of gravel within the deposit demonstrate a long sequence of naturally deposited sediments. The final low energy silting of the feature comprised fill (207).
- 4.3.19 No artefacts were recovered from any of the pit fills (although the overlying deposit (205) contained a small, abraded, grog-tempered pottery sherd of probable Late Iron Age or Romano-British date), and its function is slightly enigmatic. The lack of artefacts and the large diameter argue against it being a refuse pit. The sandy gravel of the natural geology would seem to be unsuitable for quarrying, and the steep sides make it unlikely to be a water hole.

### **Trench 3 (Figure 4)**

- 4.3.20 Trench 3 was targeted on one of the smaller rectilinear features, identified from the aerial photographs and from the geophysical survey, which appear to run in a north – south line in the western part of the Site. The trench also included a feature/anomaly that was thought to correspond with a possible SFB. This trench was therefore designed to address Research Aims 2 and 3.
- 4.3.21 As with Trenches 1 and 2, some of the archaeological features were visible although not clearly defined at the base of the subsoil. In particular, artefactual material within the upper fill of SFB (330) was visible. Also, the south-facing section through foundation trench (320), situated against the edge of the trench, showed that this feature cut through the subsoil. The subsoil horizon is therefore undeveloped, although as an active soil horizon it does stratigraphically post-date the archaeology.
- 4.3.22 Further machining to the top of the natural geology (303) revealed the eastern end of a rectangular structure (329) formed by foundation trenches (306) and (326). The steep-sided profile of these trenches suggests a similar construction technique to that used for the hall in Trench 1 (group 192), although in this case there are no additional supporting posts along the external wall line as with group (193) in Trench 1. Although slightly shallower than the foundation trenches in Trench 1, the width of those in Trench 2 was comparable. No definite placements for posts within the base of the foundation trenches were found, but it should be noted only two small interventions were dug into this structure, and some irregularities in the

shape in plan of the feature may in fact suggest the presence of postholes within the foundation trench. A possible posthole (324) was found on the southern edge of the southern wall line. Severe truncation by the foundation trench (326) made it difficult to determine whether this was in fact a posthole.

- 4.3.23 The alternating bands of material within the fill of the foundation trench were not as pronounced as in Trench 1 but lenses of sand were visible within fills (307) and (327), and generally the characteristics of the material were very similar. Seven sherds of organic-tempered early/mid Saxon pottery, including a vertically perforated lug, were found within the foundation trenches.
- 4.3.24 A similar linear feature (320) was found running north – south near the north-eastern corner of the building. Slightly narrower and shallower, this feature displayed the same steep-sided profile as the other foundation trenches and had a posthole within the base of the feature. The fills of the feature, (322) and (323), contained a smaller percentage of gravel and a higher proportion of silt than the deposits within the other foundation trenches, but it seems likely that this feature was related to the hall, perhaps to an ancillary building. A further 12 very small sherds of organic-tempered early/mid Saxon pottery came from trench (320).
- 4.3.25 The foundation trench of structure (329) (interpreted as a hall) cut through a sub-rectangular feature (305), suspected to be a SFB. This identification was confirmed by the location of associated postholes (310), (312) and (314). The SFB (group 330) was 0.38m deep and filled with deposits (303) and (304). Both of these contained domestic refuse (including 73 sherds of organic-tempered early/mid Saxon pottery, fragments of a bone comb, and 436 animal bone fragments, including the remains of at least four pigs) but may represent a deliberate backfilling of the SFB prior to the construction of (329), rather than deposits relating to its use. Postholes (310), (312) and (314) are likely to have contained the supporting posts of the structure and irregularities in the shape of (330) in plan suggest that there were originally at least three more postholes.
- 4.3.26 Three other features were found in the trench. An isolated posthole (308) was found to the north-west of SFB (330) and within the north-east corner of hall (329). No finds were recovered from it, but its position suggests that it is more likely to be related to the SFB than to the hall. Two further intercutting features, (316) and (318), lay just to the north, outside the corner of the hall. No dateable material was recovered from these features. The earlier feature (316) was large enough to have been a small pit, although its fill (317) gave no clue as to its possible function. This feature was cut by (318), whose steep-sided profile is typical of a posthole; it is slightly more substantial than the postholes known to be associated with the SFB (330).

#### **Trench 4 (Figure 3)**

- 4.3.27 Trench 4 was positioned on the eastern end of structure 500 (the 'Great Hall'). The geophysical survey had suggested the presence of an entranceway at this end of the structure. This trench would therefore establish the extent and size of the structure as well as addressing Research Aim 3.

- 4.3.28 Removal of the topsoil and subsoil clearly showed the eastern end of the 'Great Hall'. The break seen on the geophysical survey was confirmed as an entrance with a large posthole (403) in the centre. As the nature of the foundation trench for the hall had been explored in Trench 1, no intervention was dug into the foundation trenches (410) or (418), but two possible flanking postholes (414) and (416) and an additional posthole (412) along the western edge of foundation cut (410), were noted and recorded. No definite relationship between (410) and these features could be determined in plan but (412) and (414) possibly cut the edge of the foundation trench while (418) appears to be truncated by it. It was thought, however, that they are likely to have been fairly contemporaneous.
- 4.3.29 A half-section through posthole (403) showed this to be an exceptionally large, deep posthole, capable of supporting a substantial timber. The remains of a postpipe (405) were also discerned, which were likely to incorporate deposit (421) below. The profile of (405), and the inferred profile of (421) within such friable material suggests that the post must have remained *in situ* (possibly cut off at ground level) and later decayed. Although there was frequent charcoal within (405) there was not enough to conclude that the post had been burnt *in situ*. The presence of chalk fragments within this deposit is similar to deposits found in Trench 1.
- 4.3.30 A north – south aligned, gravelly linear feature was observed just to the east of the hall, and a small intervention into this revealed it to be shallow and irregular, probably a natural band of gravel within the natural geology.
- 4.3.31 A possible feature (409) was found in the extreme south-eastern corner of the trench, but excavation showed this to be fairly irregular and disturbed by animal burrowing. This feature contained most of the Roman material recovered from the Site – nine sherds of pottery, including one piece from a Spanish Dressel 20 amphora.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from all four of the trenches excavated, with the majority coming from Trench 3. The assemblage includes material of prehistoric, Romano-British, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Following quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned, in order to ascertain their nature, probable date range, and condition. Spot dates have been recorded for datable material (pottery). This information provides the basis for an assessment of the potential of the finds assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the Site, with particular reference to the nature of and relationships between the Anglo-Saxon features on the Site (Research Aims 2 and 3). Some understanding of the date range and nature of prehistoric activity on the Site was also sought (Research Aim 1).

## 5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The small assemblage includes later prehistoric, Romano-British, Saxon and post-medieval sherds. One sherd remains undated. The condition overall is fair to poor; there are one or two possible (Saxon) single-vessel sherd groups, but the very fragmentary condition prevents profile reconstruction, and in general sherds are small and abraded. Mean sherd weight overall is 6.8g.
- 5.2.2 The whole assemblage has been quantified by ware type (e.g. flint-tempered ware, Roman amphora, post-medieval redware) within each context, and the totals are presented in **Table 2**.

### **Prehistoric**

- 5.2.3 Three sherds from Trench 1 (ditch terminus 104) are in flint-tempered fabrics, the flint inclusions relatively fine and well sorted. The sherds are not diagnostic, and on fabric grounds could fit within several different ceramic traditions, for example the fineware component of either the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury tradition, or the post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition (Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age). Alternatively, the sherds could be Middle Iron Age.
- 5.2.4 Four small, heavily abraded and undiagnostic body sherds from the upper fill of Trench 4 (possible pit 409) are in sandy fabrics. The fabric is not particularly distinctive and could be either of Iron Age or Saxon date.

### **Late Iron Age/Romano-British**

- 5.2.5 Two small, grog-tempered sherds have been tentatively dated as Late Iron Age or Romano-British, although the possibility that they are Early Bronze Age (e.g. from the Collared Urn tradition) cannot be entirely ruled out (layer 205 over pit 211; feature 409).
- 5.2.6 Other sherds within this chronological group are clearly wheelthrown, 'Romanised' wares and include coarse greywares and one sherd from a Spanish Dressel 20 amphora. Most of the Romano-British sherds came from Trench 4 (possible pit 409).

### **Saxon**

- 5.2.7 The majority of the pottery assemblage comprises sherds dated as early/middle Saxon. All but two are in organic-tempered fabrics, with one sherd in a sandy variant with some organic inclusions, and a second in a sandy fabric with some calcareous inclusions. Sherd groups from two contexts (303, 304) within SFB (330) may represent single vessels, although only one group contained a rim sherd. Only one other diagnostic sherd was recovered – a vertically perforated, applied lug from foundation trench (306).

### **Post-Medieval**

- 5.2.8 Nine sherds are post-medieval, and consist of coarse redwares and modern, refined whitewares. These sherds came from topsoil and subsoil contexts, and from one plough furrow (204).

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**Undated**

5.2.9 One sherd is currently undated. This sherd, from topsoil in Trench 1, is in a relatively fine sandy fabric with some calcareous inclusions (on this basis it could be early/middle Saxon), but has been burnt, thus obscuring the fabric.

**5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

5.3.1 CBM was recovered only from topsoil and subsoil contexts, and comprised fragments of medieval roof tile and post-medieval brick.

**5.4 Stone**

5.4.1 None of the stone recovered is definitely worked or utilised, although one piece from Trench 1 subsoil is of a suitable form for a whetstone. The remaining pieces (of limestone, sarsen and flint) all appear to be burnt.

**5.5 Metalwork****Coin**

5.5.1 The single coin recovered from the site is a small copper alloy *antoninianus* of the late 3rd century AD, found in Trench 2 subsoil. The coin is heavily corroded, but nevertheless can be identified with confidence as a Barbarous copy of a contemporary coin. These copies of 'official' coinage were probably struck to compensate for gaps in supply of coinage to Britain and to supply sufficient small change for the provinces needs. It is unclear whether these copies were officially sanctioned, if at all, but they are not uncommon as site finds, and seem to have circulated in the same fashion as officially struck coins. Coins such as these are common site finds in Britain.

**Silver**

5.5.2 A small sheet fragment from topsoil in Trench 2, with one curved and one straight edge, is of unknown date and function.

**Copper alloy**

5.5.3 Apart from the coin, other objects of copper alloy comprise a plain ring, possibly a finger ring (diameter 25mm), a small strip fragment, a possible pin shank, and a strap end.

5.5.4 Of these, only the strap end, which was an unstratified find, is chronologically distinctive. This is a double-riveted type, with a split end, convex-sided shafts and a zoomorphic terminal with a mirrored curvilinear pattern below (Hinton 1996, fig. 16, type C; Thomas 2003, class A); the base of the shaft is broken off, and the plain reverse does not survive. The type appears to have had its origins in the 7th century, and remained current into the 10th century. It is, however, considered to be a type fossil of the 9th century from its appearance in coin hoards and its stylistically diagnostic features such as the zoomorphic terminal. The Sutton Courtenay strap-end has some similarities with an example from near Winchester, which falls within Thomas's class A, type 2 (patterned) strap-ends (Thomas 2003, fig. 1, no. 5), with a highly stylised animal-head terminal.

5.5.5 The other objects came from topsoil and subsoil contexts.



**Lead**

- 5.5.6 The lead consists of two small waste fragments, recovered from topsoil and subsoil contexts in Trench 1.

**Iron**

- 5.5.7 Nails (ten examples) make up the majority of the ironwork. The only other identifiable object is a whittle-tang knife from subsoil in Trench 3. This appears to be of Böhner's type B, with a straight back and curved cutting edge, which was in use from c. 450-600 and to a certain extent in the 7th century (Böhner 1958, Taf. 60.3, 4; Evison 1987, 115, text fig. 22).
- 5.5.8 Other objects include a small point, of uncertain function, from subsoil in Trench 2; a small rectangular bar, tapering to a strip, again of unknown function, and recovered from subsoil in Trench 1; and two unidentifiable fragments.

**5.6 Worked Bone**

- 5.6.1 A fragment of a bone comb came from the fill of SFB (330). This is part of the tooth-plate from a composite, double-sided comb, with the tooth-spacing different on each side. Part of one rivet hole is visible. The double-sided composite comb is a common Saxon type.

**5.7 Animal Bone**

- 5.7.1 A total of 601 bones was hand-recovered at the site and derive from contexts dating mainly to the Saxon period; the majority came from a single feature (SFB 330). All bones derive from mammals and birds. No bones from fish or amphibians were present. Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion, and so totals differ from the raw fragment counts given in **Table 1**. No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category.
- 5.7.2 The extent of mechanical or chemical attrition to the bone surface was recorded; the numbers of gnawed bone were also noted. Marks from chopping, sawing, knife cuts and fractures made when the bone was fresh were recorded as butchery marks.
- 5.7.3 All animal bone fragments were in fair or good condition with some superficial root-etching. Eight bones showed signs of butchery with a knife and the disarticulated nature and the breakage patterns of the assemblage as a whole indicate that the remains are food waste. Eight bones showed gnawing marks, and one bone showed scorching.
- 5.7.4 The bones identifiable to species derive from horse (n=7), cattle (154), sheep/goat (47), pig (215), dog (1) and chicken (9). The assemblage contained the bones of adult horse and cattle, adult and juvenile sheep/goat and adult and juvenile pig.
- 5.7.5 A fragment of a sheep/goat mandible in foundation trench (320) showed gross pathological deformation due to an inflammation around the molars. A cattle rib fragment from SFB (330) showed signs of a healed fracture.

5.7.6 The assemblage from SFB (330) (529 bones, 184 from the upper fill and 345 from the lower fill) warrants some comment. This included the remains of at least four pigs, two aged 4-6 months and two aged 7-14 months; a large dog skull; and seven articulating cattle thoracic vertebrae. Horse, sheep/goat and bird (domestic fowl) were also present. While this might be regarded as a deposit of domestic refuse, the possibility that it may have another interpretation cannot be ruled out. Hamerow has noted the occurrence of possible 'special deposits', including both animal and human bone, in SFBs and other features on Saxon settlements, and suggests that these are likely to represent termination deposits. Deposits of pig bone are rare amongst the (admittedly small) sample quoted, but dogs and horses are well represented (Hamerow 2006).

## 5.8 Other Finds

5.8.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of burnt, unworked flint (unknown date and origin), fired clay (undated, probably structural), worked flint (prehistoric waste flakes); modern bottle glass, and ironworking slag (undated).

## 6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Twenty-six bulk samples were taken from features and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals. The samples mainly came from features associated with Anglo-Saxon structures recorded in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. A further sample also came from a probable Romano-British pit 211.

6.1.2 Four samples were taken for the retrieval of molluscs from the prehistoric ring ditch 104.

6.1.3 The bulk samples break down into phase groups, as given in **Table 3**.

### 6.2 Charred plant remains and charcoal

6.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 6**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.2.2 All of the flots were extremely rooty with high numbers of modern seeds and shells of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula*. The degree of rooting undoubtedly will have affected the degree and extent of preservation within the flots. The range of charred material was generally low and much of that recovered was very poorly preserved. In addition such rooting will readily destroy wood charcoal that easily fragments in such scenarios, as well as possibly introducing intrusive later elements into earlier features.

### **Prehistoric**

- 6.2.3 The remains from the prehistoric ring ditch (104) in Trench 1 were relatively sparse comprising single fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*), and seeds of possible bean (*Vicia faba*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), and an unidentified Apiaceae seed, possibly fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*) or hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). There were also a few fragments of grass rootlets and a tuber of onion couch grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosus*).
- 6.2.4 Given the amount of modern roots and seeds in this sample and the similarity of some of the contents to that recovered from Saxon features it is likely that some, if not most, of the material may be intrusive. It might be noted though that remains of onion couch grass tubers and grass rootlets are not uncommon finds from cremation barrows and as such this material may relate to funeral pyres contemporary with and in the general vicinity of the barrow. (It may also be noted that there was no evidence of funerary activity from the fill of the ring ditch itself.)
- 6.2.5 The sample contained very little wood charcoal, although it is quite probable as stated above that wood charcoal would not have survived the degree of disturbance caused by modern rooting.

### **Romano-British**

- 6.2.6 The possible Romano-British pit (409) in Trench 4 produced a relatively large number of glume bases. These were too degraded for further identification, although it is probable that most are of spelt (*Triticum spelta*), rather than emmer wheat (*T. dicoccum*). This feature also yielded a single degraded grain of probable barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), as well as a few weed seeds of cleavers (*Galium aparine*), rye-grass (*Lolium* sp.), meadow grass/cat's tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.) and a fragment of wild oat floret (*Avena fatua*).
- 6.2.7 The sample is generally in keeping with Romano-British assemblages from the local region (e.g. Jones 1978) while cultivation within the Early Romano-British period is known from cultivation marks nearby at Drayton (Barclay *et al.* 2003) and the presence of waste from cereal processing can be seen as generally indicative of settlement and occupation upon the site at this date.

### **Anglo-Saxon**

- 6.2.8 The largest number of samples came from postholes and foundation trenches associated with Anglo-Saxon Halls in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. All of the samples were highly rooty and there was generally very little charred material. Also notably in a number of samples, in particular from Trench 1, fragments of coal indicate the presence of intrusive material within the features.
- 6.2.9 The charred material present within Trench 1 comprised largely of occasional fragments of pea (*Pisum sativum*), bean (*Vicia faba*) and/or lentil (*Lens culinaris*), and grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). There were also a few fragments of grass cereal rootlets and culm nodes.
- 6.2.10 There was generally very little wood charcoal within these samples, with the highest amount coming from foundation trench (126)/(127), which produced

about 10 ml of charcoal >2mm. Most of this charcoal could be seen to be ring-porous and presumably was of oak (*Quercus* sp.).

- 6.2.11 Slightly greater numbers of grains, mainly of barley, were recovered from the features in Trench 3 associated with the Anglo-Saxon sunken feature building and the lesser hall. However, no more than around 10 grains were recovered in total from the features. A few weed seeds were also present including oats, and persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia/maculosa*).
- 6.2.12 Charcoal was generally sparse in the samples, bar that from the Anglo-Saxon SFB (330) (fill 304) that had around 7 ml of charcoal >2mm.
- 6.2.13 The final two samples came from a single posthole (403) associated with the Saxon 'Great Hall' in Trench 4 (structure 500). The samples had relatively little material other than a single grain of probable free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* sl).
- 6.2.14 While the range of material may be in keeping with other Saxon assemblages in the region, given the low amount of material present and the high number of roots there is no guarantee that the charred material recovered is indeed contemporary with the occupation and could be intrusive and therefore of a later date. It might be noted that the postholes from the timber halls at Yarnton generally had little charred material within them, although contemporary assemblages from deeper more substantial features did produce high numbers of charred plant remains (Stevens 2004), including those from sunken feature buildings at Lechlade (Stevens 2003).

### **Undated**

- 6.2.15 Two samples came from an undated scoop (109) possibly of Anglo-Saxon date. The samples contained very few remains, but that from the south-east quadrant did have a moderate amount of ring-porous charcoal probably of oak (*Quercus* sp.) within it.
- 6.2.16 An undated pit (211) in Trench 2 produced only a few fragments of possible pea, bean or lentil and a small amount of wood charcoal. That the sample had relatively few roots might explain the survival of wood charcoal.

### **6.3 Land molluscs**

- 6.3.1 Four samples of 1800-2000g from ring ditch (104) were processed by standard methods (Evans 1972) for land snails. The flots (0.5mm) were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x 10 – x 40 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. The numbers of shells and the presence of taxonomic groups were quantified (**Table 7**). Nomenclature is according to Kerney (1999).
- 6.3.2 These mollusc samples included high quantities of rooty material and large numbers of the burrowing snail, *Cecilioides acicula*, which may be indicative of intrusive material within the samples. Only small mollusc assemblages were recovered from the samples and these were dominated by the open country species, including *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vertigo pygmaea*, *Helicella itala* and *Vallonia* spp. There were also a few intermediate species in one of

the samples, Sample 35. These included *Trichia hispida*, *Cochlicopa* sp. and *Punctum pygmaeum*.

- 6.3.3 Within the flots taken for charred plant material, there were low to moderate numbers of shells recorded (**Table 6**), mainly comprising shells of *Vallonia* spp. and *Helicella itala*.
- 6.3.4 One feature, the undated pit (211) within Trench 2, produced slightly higher numbers of shells. From this feature, along with shells of the aforementioned species were those of *Pupilla muscorum*, *Trichia hispida*, *Cochlicopa* sp., *Vertigo pygmaea*, Introduced Helicellids, *Cepaea/Arianta* spp. *Vitrina pellucida* and *Aegopinella nitidula*.
- 6.3.5 Pit (409) also had slightly more mollusc remains than seen in the other samples including *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia* spp., *Helicella itala*, Introduced Helicellids, *Trichia hispida*, *Oxychilus cellarius* and *Aegopinella nitidula*.
- 6.3.6 The sample from ring ditch 104 had shells of *Helicella itala*, *Vallonia* spp., *Trichia hispida* and Introduced Helicellids while that from fill (106) also had shells of *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vertigo pygmaea* and *Cochlicopa* spp. These assemblages are generally similar in composition to those observed in the mollusc samples from this feature.
- 6.3.7 The mollusc assemblages from the Site are, in general terms, indicative of an open local landscape with the occurrence of some areas providing environments of greater shade such as patches of longer grass or habitats within the pits.

## **6.4 Sediments**

- 6.4.1 One monolith and two Kubiena samples were taken from a prehistoric ring ditch terminus and a Saxon sunken-featured building respectively, as shown in **Table 4**.

### **Ring ditch terminus (104)**

- 6.4.2 The monolith was cleaned prior to recording and standard descriptions used, (following Hodgson 1997) including Munsell colour, texture, structure and nature of boundaries, as given in **Table 5**.
- 6.4.3 The sampled sediments show a sequence fairly typical of a ditch infilling 'naturally' over time, with a relatively quickly accumulating stony primary fill being overlain by a finer, more slowly accumulating secondary fill as the feature sides become more vegetated and stable. Over this an un- or poorly-sorted tertiary fill is inactive of ploughed-in material (very probably of relatively modern date), in the top of which is sampled the base of the modern topsoil removed prior to excavation.

### **Sunken-featured building (330)**

- 6.4.4 The Kubiena samples taken through the fill of this feature have been retained and the photographs / drawings studied, but they have not been examined directly. Given that the samples are within the main fills (303 &

304) of the feature, rather than at the base, any evidence within them is almost certainly going to post-date the use of the building.

## **6.5 Fish and small animal bones**

6.5.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals, small animal bones were noted, and recorded (**Table 6**), in the flots. These included those of birds/small mammals as well as anurans (frogs, toads)/fish.

6.5.2 The sample from SFB (330) contained a number of small mammal bones and a fish scale. Bones were also present in the foundation trenches (306) and (320) with small mammal bones, possibly intrusive and occasional anuran bones in the former.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Introduction**

7.1.1 This excavation, although relatively limited in its extent, confirmed the position and survival of features previously known from aerial photographs.

7.1.2 What has become clear both from this excavation and from those conducted in 2001-3 by Helena Hamerow (2007) is that geophysical survey cannot be used as a definitive tool to identify sunken feature buildings (SFBs). The surveys by both English Heritage (Martin 2004, 3) and GSB (2009, 3) identified possible SFBs that subsequently proved to be pits. What must also be borne in mind when considering this area on the basis of aerial photography and geophysical survey is that any post-built structures will not necessarily be visible.

### **7.2 The prehistoric landscape**

7.2.1 The Site must be considered within the wider prehistoric landscape. Due to the monumental nature of features like the Drayton Cursus and the Bronze Age round barrows, it may be expected that later features would have been built with reference to these earlier but still visible features.

7.2.2 The construction of the Drayton North Cursus is known to have taken place around 3600-3300 BC, probably followed by the construction of the South Cursus. The cursus itself seems to have been placed deliberately over an area of uneven topography and across two different geological deposits. The monument is likely to have fulfilled a variety of functions, but once built it may have acted as ceremonial avenue, linking places along a certain alignment while creating a division between others (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 95-100, 237-8). The current excavation, which did not investigate the cursus, can add nothing to the continuing debate, but comment may be possible on one of the nearby features – the ring ditch (104) investigated in Trench 1.

7.2.3 Excavation confirmed that this ditch was relatively substantial (at least 0.5m deep) and discontinuous, with a narrow break on the western side. However, questions remain as to its date and function. An interpretation as a barrow ditch is not entirely straightforward.

- 7.2.4 The group of presumed barrows by the Drayton South Cursus (**Figure 2**) seems to be the southernmost of three major barrow cemeteries in the area. To the north is one in the vicinity of Corporation Farm and to the north of this is the linear barrow cemetery at Radley. The group by the Drayton South Cursus seems to mirror most closely that at Corporation Farm (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 37). These barrows may relate to a period of Early Bronze Age barrow construction that would have affected the ways in which the local inhabitants perceived the cursus - some barrows would have blocked access to the cursus interior while others would have altered the sight lines along it (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 97-8). The group of presumed barrows in the area of the Site is aligned roughly east – west. This may be along the axis of sunrise and sunset, but this orientation is not precisely mirrored by the other barrow cemeteries.
- 7.2.5 In the Middle Bronze Age, barrows tended to be slightly smaller than those of the Early Bronze Age, and are almost always associated with cremations rather than inhumations. While discontinuous ditches are not unknown these tend to be a feature of earlier barrows (Woodward 2000, 37, 43). The presence of a defined ditch terminal within Trench 1 and, moreover, such a substantial ditch, suggests that this feature may not be a barrow at all, although the cropmark evidence does suggest a possible central feature which could indicate a grave; this was not investigated. It is not clear whether deposit (107) (the secondary fill of the ring ditch terminus, seen on the eastern side of the ditch) derived from the erosion of a bank or a mound (see also below, **7.3.2**), but an internal bank would argue against it being classified as a henge.
- 7.2.6 The pottery recovered from the ring ditch was found in the upper ditch fill, and as such may relate to its later use and possible abandonment rather than its construction, but it does suggest that this feature is probably Middle Bronze Age or later; there is no earlier dating evidence from this or from any other feature on the Site. Although the pottery dating is inconclusive the ring ditch seems unlikely to be Iron Age. Apart from a small number of sherds from a feature in Trench 4 (it is perhaps significant that this trench lay the furthest west) there is little evidence of Iron Age or Romano-British, in contrast to the Iron Age and Romano-British settlement activity found to the east of Milton Road.
- 7.3 Correlation between the earlier landscape and later activity (Research Aim 1)**
- 7.3.1 Although an Anglo-Saxon cemetery site has not definitely been located, the evidence from the fieldwalking undertaken at the site across Milton Road, and other chance finds, does strongly suggest a cemetery in this location. Evidence suggests that in the Anglo-Saxon period there was a deliberate appropriation of visible earlier monuments through the reuse of earlier monumental sites. This is a trend particularly seen in the Upper Thames Valley from the 5th to the 7th century. This practice may be seen as an attempt to create links with the past and the supernatural, and politically may have helped to create a common identity and sense of the past within a culturally diverse people. In the 7th century there may have been a diversification away from the reuse of monuments in a mortuary context to use within political and religious contexts (Williams 1997, 14-26). The results from Leeds' excavations show that the Anglo-Saxon settlement extended

across the probable line of the *cursus*. Both the settlement and the 'palace' complex which Leeds identified appear to be more deliberately sited with reference to the Bronze Age barrows (Barclay *et al.* 2003, 23).

7.3.2 In this context it may be significant that the 'Great Hall' (structure 500) was built over part of the ring ditch (104), perhaps implying that the latter had an internal bank rather than a mound, which might have rendered the reuse of the earlier monument less practicable. The alignment appears to lie parallel with but not blocking the entrance. Although the ditch must have been largely backfilled by this time it is possible that the monument would still have been visible as an earthwork.

#### 7.4 Anglo-Saxon activity (Research Aims 2 and 3)

7.4.1 Although a written source not without problems of interpretation, the evidence of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle seems to place the royal centre and stronghold of the emerging West Saxon kingdom in the 6th century within the Upper Thames Valley. During the 7th century there appears to have been increasing conflict on the border between the West Saxon kingdoms and the kingdom of Mercia (Yorke 1990, 132-7), which may have led to a shift in focus further south. For example, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (the Parker manuscript) records a battle in 628 between Cynegils and Cwichelm of the West Saxons against Penda, King of Mercia at Cirencester (Garmonsway 1972, 24). There also seems to have been a move of ecclesiastical power from nearby Dorchester-on-Thames to Winchester in the 660s, probably due to the close proximity of Mercia (Yorke 1990, 136-8). Nevertheless there is a reference during Ine's reign to Abingdon (Yorke 1990, 144) indicating that this land must still have been under West Saxon control in the late 7th or early 8th century.

7.4.2 There are indications throughout the 7th century that the province may have been divided into several sub-kingdoms, with different branches of the royal house traditionally holding influence in a particular area (Yorke 1990, 144-6). The administrative system adopted during the Anglo-Saxon period, apparently inherited from a late Roman predecessor, appears to have comprised a large area of rural territory containing a number of subsidiary settlements and dependent on a central residence termed a *vill*. These *vills* acted as centres of royal administration and would have been regularly visited by the ruler; the model of kingship was therefore peripatetic (Yorke 1990, 8). An 868 charter issued by King Aethelred suggests that Sutton Courtenay was still a royal *vill* at this time (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 117).

#### **Sunken feature building**

7.4.3 *Grubenhäuser* or SFBs were most dominant between the mid 5th and 7th centuries (Tipper 2004, 1). The shape and size of SFB (330) appears to be within the normal parameters for a structure of this type (Tipper 2004, 64). While the pottery from this feature could not be closely dated, it fell within the early to middle Saxon period. A fragment of Romano-British greyware was also found in the upper fill, and an iron knife dating from the mid 5th to the early 7th century, although recovered from the subsoil, was also thought to have come from this feature. Three postholes were identified within SFB (330) during excavation, but irregularities in the shape of the feature in plan suggest that there were originally three more. SFBs show considerable



variety in number, profile and positioning of postholes. The evidence suggests that most SFBs had at least two postholes supporting a gable but that the gable posts were not essential to the stability of the superstructure. The size of the base of most SFBs and the sparse evidence for activity directly at the base of the cut do seem to support the argument for these structures having suspended floors rather than operating as cavity-floored structures (Tipper 2004, 64-93).

- 7.4.4 In common with many SFBs, the one uncovered in Trench 3 had what can be described as a bipartite fill. In common with the deposits from other SFBs, the deposits found within (330) seem to represent a period of rapid deposition consistent with deliberate backfilling. Other sites have shown pottery sherd joins between the upper and lower deposits, indicating that the deposits were closely associated and unlikely to have been widely separate depositional events (Tipper 2004, 106-7). The large quantity of cultural material seen here, particularly animal bone, is also typical for these features. Evidence from other sites suggests that there may be a ritual component to the animal bones deposited within the fills of SFBs, which may be regarded as 'special deposits' (Tipper 2004, 150-1; Hamerow 2006).
- 7.4.5 Apart from the possible 'special deposit', the material found in SFB 330 is likely to be the result of secondary deposition from a temporary refuse dump once the building went out of use (Tipper 2004, 184). Since this pattern of deposition has been demonstrated across a number of sites, the deliberate backfilling of SFB (330) cannot be interpreted as the need to demolish or level this structure prior to the construction of building (329). With regard to Research Aim 2, therefore, although the SFB found in Trench 3 clearly predated the hall also found in this trench, a short time period between these structures cannot be presumed. Equally, while SFB (330) may have gone out of use prior to the construction of hall (329), this does not mean that there were not other SFBs contemporary with the latter structure.

#### **Timber-built halls**

- 7.4.6 The scarcity of finds found in association with the structures (500) and (329) is consistent with what was found at Yeavinger (Yorke 1990, 8), Cowdery's Down (Millett and James 1983, 249-50) and on the site to the west (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 154). It does, however, mean that dating the structures is problematic and this is exacerbated by the generally poor results from the environmental samples. No chronology could therefore be established for any relationship between the 'Great Hall' and the 'lesser' hall (Research Aim 3). The documentary sources seem to support a date range stretching from the 7th to the 9th centuries. Although a small amount of pottery found in the foundation trenches from both structures (329) and (500), this was only datable broadly to the early to middle Saxon period and may in fact pre-date the construction of the halls, occurring residually in the foundation trenches. No direct dating evidence was found for the structure to the west of the road (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 154).
- 7.4.7 An attempt to draw associations and in effect to create lineages by referencing earlier monuments would be consistent with the trend that Williams (1997) identifies from the 7th century. Unless radiocarbon dates are obtained for the animal bone from SFB (330) to give *terminus post quem* for structure (329), the most that can be said at this point is that the halls

appear to be middle Saxon in date. The number of buildings, the apparently overlapping structure through the western part of structure (329), and the parallels with other sites such as Yeavinger and Cowdery's Down, do suggest that the buildings may not all have been contemporaneous and may show different phases of use. They do, however, seem to demonstrate a high degree of coherence in orientation and layout, suggesting continuity of function.

- 7.4.8 The structure excavated to the west of the Site, across Milton Road, shows a number of parallels to the structures found on the Site, but also several differences. Estimating from the geophysical survey, the structure from the 2001-3 measured 19m by 9m (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 160) which is larger than structure (329) (7.0x11.5m) but smaller than (500) (10.8x30.9m). An eastern entrance appears to be common to all the structures. This was seen in (329), (500) and the structure from the 2001-3 excavations (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 163), and was even suggested by the cropmark evidence for the southernmost of the halls (Benson and Miles 1974, 224). This is interesting, as the long axis of this southern building was north – south aligned, whereas the others have their long axis east – west aligned. Such consistency in alignment is also seen at sites such as Yeavinger and Cowdery's Down.
- 7.4.9 The building excavated in 2001-3 lacked a defined line of external postholes, and in general the sections across the foundation trenches suggested a construction method involving two lines of parallel planks, perhaps with a horizontal timber at the base of the trench (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 163-6). In profile and depositional sequence, the foundation trenches from both the structures excavated during the current excavation show alternating bands of sand and gravel, although this was more apparent within structure (500). This more closely parallels the sections of the foundation trench from the earlier excavation interpreted as being without the double rows of planks. A lack of defined external postholes but possibly a number of posts along the outer edge of the foundation trench is similar to what was seen within structure (329). In contrast, structure (500) has clearly defined, regularly spaced external postholes comparable with those observed at Cowdery's Down. The profile of posthole (117) clearly shows a raking profile and this is also similar to what was found at Cowdery's Down. At the latter site the postholes were interpreted as supporting the wall plate upon which the roof rested, thus preventing the weight of this causing the wall plate to rotate off the wall (Millett and James 1983, 242-3). The vertical timber construction of structure (500) appears most similar to the B4 type identified at Cowdery's Down (Millett and James 1983, 228-9). Some burnt daub with wattle impressions found at Cowdery's Down suggests that wattle panelling was used between the vertical timbers. Internal postholes at Cowdery's Down were interpreted as being secondary and not load-bearing (Millett and James 1983, 236). This seems to be consistent with what was found within structure (500).
- 7.4.10 The excavation in 2001-3 found that the foundation trenches had been cut as separate features (Hamerow *et al.* 2007, 160). This might explain the curious gap in south-west corner of structure (500).
- 7.4.11 Chalk appears to have been associated almost exclusively with the upper posthole fills of the 'Great Hall' and within the upper backfill of the foundation

trenches. This material may have been used as packing material around the vertical posts. A sample of the chalk was collected from deposit (129) within foundation cut (127). A visual examination showed the chalk to be very friable but retaining its natural laminations. Addition of the sample to water caused it to start to hydrate fairly rapidly, gradually dissolving; this appears to indicate that the sample had been burnt or heated but not slaked. Chalk is the underlying geology to the south of the region. There were no geophysical anomalies within the survey area likely to correspond with lime kilns or areas of burning, and the reason for the occurrence of chalk in these features therefore remains somewhat ambiguous.

## **7.5 Preservation (Research Aim 4)**

7.5.1 In general the archaeological preservation of features was good, although the upper level of features had been disturbed in the past by cultivation. Environmental preservation, however, was poor, partly due to the geology of the Site and partly due to the nature of the deposits found (being substantially derived from the geological parent material). Environmental samples also encountered a high level of contamination, which is likely to be the result of the high levels of root disturbance, introducing intrusive material. The fragments of coal encountered in many of the samples may be indications of steam ploughing.

## **8 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL**

### **8.1 Stratigraphic data**

8.1.1 The results of the excavation at Sutton Courtenay have demonstrably only partially addressed the original research aims. The limitations of both the aerial photographic data and the geophysical survey data in the identification of features have been noted. Features of both prehistoric (one ring ditch) and Saxon date (one SFB; two timber-built halls) were nevertheless identified and investigated through excavation. Relationships between the prehistoric ring ditch and a Saxon hall (group 500), and between the second hall (group 329) and the SFB (330), were observed. Details of the construction of the SFB and the halls were ascertained. However, the paucity of good dating evidence recovered means that many features cannot be closely dated within the overall chronological sequence, and therefore the precise chronological relationships between all of the Saxon features, in particular, could not be ascertained with any degree of confidence.

### **8.2 Finds**

8.2.1 This is a small finds assemblage of mixed date range, and including a limited range of material and object types. The assemblage is not in particularly good condition, with the ceramic material in particular showing high levels of abrasion (which has hampered confident dating in some cases). The evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity is very sporadic (pottery, Roman coin). Only one feature (ring ditch 104) contained well stratified prehistoric pottery, but this came from an upper fill, and in any case is not particularly chronologically distinctive.

8.2.2 A small assemblage from the Saxon SFB 330 (animal bone, pottery, bone comb) is of some interest, as well as one other Saxon artefact (a strap-end of probable 9th century date) found unstratified. The assemblage from the

SFB is perhaps more likely to relate to its abandonment rather than its use, although the possible same-vessel sherd groups suggest that material, if redeposited, has not moved far from its original source. The animal bone included a possible 'special deposit' comprising the remains of at least four pigs. Dating evidence from other Saxon features (rectangular halls 329 and 500) was extremely sparse (20 small sherds of pottery), and was almost identical in terms of fabric with that from the SFB – no chronological distinctions are apparent here.

### **8.3 Palaeo-environmental**

#### ***Charred plant remains***

8.3.1 Given the uncertainty of the provenance and whether the material recovered from the Anglo-Saxon structures are indeed contemporary with them these samples have little to no potential to inform on the arable economy of the site during this period. It should be noted that the presence of coal is likely to relate to 19th century farming practices that may have introduced charred material into the assemblages.

8.3.2 The sample from pit (211) has a small potential to inform on the range of crops and weed seeds and the arable economy. However, given that material is very poorly preserved and the dating uncertain, such potential is very limited.

#### ***Wood charcoal***

8.3.3 While wood charcoal can inform on the selection of wood for fuel, as well as potentially woodland management, preservation of wood charcoal was very low in the samples and as such potential is very limited.

#### ***Land molluscs***

8.3.4 There is no potential for the molluscs to assist in determining a more detailed description of the local landscape due to the paucity of the assemblages recovered. In addition the presence of introduced helicelids, which are Roman or post-Roman in date, in the bulk samples from the barrow ditch, together with the large quantity of rooty material, indicates the presence of intrusive material within the mollusc assemblage.

#### ***Sediments***

8.3.5 The Kubiena samples from SFB (330) are of relatively low potential to yield information regarding the use of the feature.

8.3.6 The sediments sampled in monolith <31> are of low potential as regards pollen and other micro- and macro-fossil work.

#### ***Small animal and fish bones from samples***

8.3.7 Given the limited range of material available and the high possibility that small mammal bones and those of anurans may be intrusive there is little to no further potential. Any bones from SFB 330 will be considered with the rest of that assemblage (see below, **9.2.1**).

## Dating

- 8.3.8 Radiocarbon dating was requested by English Heritage for several features as desirable where the evidence permitted. These comprised ring ditch (104), the post-pipe from Trench 4, posthole (403), and the lower fill of SFB (330).
- 8.3.9 The potential for dating from charred material alone is very limited given the low amount of material and the uncertainty regarding whether they are contemporary with the structures or indeed intrusive and therefore of a later date. Only two features (SFB 330; foundation trench 127) had even enough material to consider dating from wood charcoal, although given that most appeared to be from oak and potentially of heartwood, such potential is again very limited.
- 8.3.10 The potential may be much higher for animal bone, in particular the semi-articulated animal skeleton from the secondary fill of SFB (330).
- 8.3.11 In terms of the more desirable dates, the ring ditch has some possible contemporary material, but the material could not be used to date the feature itself reliably.
- 8.3.12 The posthole (403) from the Anglo-Saxon hall (group 500) in Trench 4 had a small amount of charred material within it but, given the amount of rooting and the size of the material, there is a high possibility it could be re-worked or intrusive. The backfill of this feature did produce some largish fragments of animal bone that might be more suitable for dating, and more probably broadly contemporary with the structure than the charred plant remains.
- 8.3.13 The secondary fill of SFB (330) within Trench 3 produced very little charred material but, as stated above, produced articulated animal bone that would be suitable for dating.

## 9 PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

- 9.1.1 Despite the limited potential outlined above, given the national and regional significance of the site, the results of the excavation warrant dissemination through publication. It is suggested that a short article in *Oxoniensia* would be the most appropriate output.
- 9.1.2 A short article, of up to c. 4000 words, with two or three supporting illustrations, based on the results presented in this assessment report, is suggested as an adequate level of publication given the results of this project. This would comprise a brief introduction considering the circumstances of the project and its aims and objectives, a results section detailing the structural remains, with finds and environmental information integrated into the text as appropriate, and a brief discussion of the results.
- 9.1.3 A copy of this assessment report will be submitted to the county Sites and Monuments Record, and information on the excavation will also be submitted to the OASIS website.

## 9.2 Finds

9.2.1 Apart from the animal bone, the assemblage has already been recorded in sufficient detail, and no further analysis is recommended. The information presented in this report can be utilised for publication. The animal bone from Saxon contexts should be fully recorded in order to enhance the preliminary results presented here; particular attention should be paid to the assemblage from SFB (330).

9.2.2 The Saxon strap-end should be illustrated.

## 9.3 Palaeo-environmental

### ***Charred plant remains***

9.3.1 No further work is proposed.

### ***Wood charcoal***

9.3.2 No further work is proposed.

### ***Land molluscs***

9.3.3 No further work is proposed.

### ***Sediments***

9.3.4 No further work is proposed.

### ***Small animal and fish bones***

9.3.5 No further work is proposed.

### ***Dating***

9.3.6 It is proposed that a radiocarbon date is obtained on the articulated animal bone from the SFB (330). A second date could be suggested on the cattle bone from posthole (403) if the nature of the fill is thought to be contemporary or immediately post-dating the structure itself.

## 10 ARCHIVE

10.1.1 The project archive comprises the following components

- 1 file records
- A1 graphics
- artefacts: 2 boxes animal bone; 1 box pottery; 1 box metalwork; 1 box ceramic building material; 1 box stone; 1 box misc. finds
- environmental material: 4 boxes unsorted residues; 1 box assessed flots; 1 monolith
- 200 digital photos
- other digital data (word processed files; spreadsheets; database; CAD drawings)

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- 10.1.2 The archive will be prepared in accordance with the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990) and Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Brown 2007). The archive is currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 71505. It is intended that the archive will be deposited with the Oxford County Museum Service (OXCMS:2009.24).

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**Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)**

Material	Tr. 1	Tr. 2	Tr. 3	Tr. 4	unstrat.	Total
Pottery	9/39	6/12	97/758	16/49	-	128/858
<i>Prehistoric</i>	3/22	-	-	4/10	-	7/32
<i>LIA/Romano-British</i>	-	1/3	1/40	9/28	-	11/71
<i>Saxon</i>	3/4	2/5	95/705	-	-	100/714
<i>Post-Medieval</i>	2/7	3/4	1/13	3/11	-	9/35
<i>Uncertain</i>	1/6	-	-	-	-	1/6
Ceramic Building Material	13/199	2/75	1/54	5/144	-	21/472
Fired Clay	3/53	-	-	-	-	3/53
Stone	1/76	-	7/1513	4/434	-	12/2023
Flint	2/35	-	-	2/5	-	4/40
Burnt Flint	1/2	-	1/52	1/2	-	3/56
Glass	1/4	-	1/3	-	-	2/7
Slag	1/175	-	-	-	-	1/175
Metalwork (no. objects)	13	7	2	-	1	23
<i>Coins</i>	-	1	-	-	-	1
<i>Silver</i>	-	1	-	-	-	1
<i>Copper alloy</i>	2	1	-	-	1	4
<i>Lead</i>	2	-	-	-	-	2
<i>Iron</i>	9	4	2	-	-	15
Worked Bone	-	-	1/1	-	-	1/1
Animal Bone	42/187	1/1	506/4468	5/7	-	554/4663

**Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type**

Period	Ware TYPE	No. sherds	Weight (g)
PREHISTORIC	Flint-tempered ware	3	22
	Sandy ware	4	10
	<i>sub-total prehistoric</i>	7	32
LIA/ROMAN	Grog-tempered ware	3	4
	Greyware	7	53
	Amphora	1	14
	<i>sub-total LIA/Roman</i>	11	71
SAXON	Sandy/organic-tempered ware	1	3
	Sandy/calcareous ware	1	2
	Organic-tempered ware	98	709
	<i>sub-total Saxon</i>	100	714
POST-MEDIEVAL	Refined whiteware	3	3
	Redware	6	32
	<i>sub-total post-medieval</i>	9	35
UNCERTAIN	Sandy/calcareous ware	1	6
	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>858</b>

**Table 3: Sample provenance summary**

<i>Phase</i>	<i>No of samples</i>	<i>Vol. (litres)</i>	<i>Feature types</i>
Prehistoric	2	67	Curvilinear ditch
Romano-British	1	15	Pit
Anglo-Saxon	21	280	Postholes, foundation trenches
Unphased	3	29	Scoop, pit
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>391</b>	

**Table 4: Sediment profile summary**

<i>Monolith/ core sample no.</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Unit or summary description</i>
SFB (330)			
29	0.02-0.14m	303-304	Kubiena sample from SFB fill
30	0.15-0.27m	304	Kubiena sample from SFB fill
Monolith from ring-ditch (104)			
31	0-0.62	105-108	From barrow ditch terminus

**Table 5: Sediment descriptions from Monolith <31>**

<b>Feature:</b>	104	<b>Mono:</b>	31	<b>Comments:</b> Monolith through terminal of barrow ditch, immediately below modern topsoil.	
<b>Level (top):</b>	**m aOD	<b>Drg:</b>	Sec 6 Plan 1		
<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Pollen samples</b>	<b>Other samples</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Sediment description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
0-0.25	-	-	108, 107	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown sandy silt loam, 5% very fine macropores, occasional fine fleshy rootlets. 2-5% very small stones, increasing to 5-10% from 0.10-0.25m. Moderately well developed coarse crumb / medium blocky structure. Clear to sharp boundary	Tertiary fill (backfilled or more likely ploughed-in material, with base of modern soil to top)
0.25-0.37	-	-	106	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown sandy silt loam, 5% very fine macropores, <1% very small stones. Weak medium crumb to fine blocky structure. Sharp boundary. Probably represents a reasonable period of time although thin.	Secondary fill (slowly accumulating material in probable turfline)
0.37-0.63	-	-	105	10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown sandy loam, 2% very fine macropores, abundant very small to small gravel, rounded to subrounded (as visible in the geology through which the feature is cut, pic 0189). Some layering within fill showing episodes of side collapse with finer material interleaving.	Primary fill (eroded in from feature sides over short timescale; c.<25 years)

**Table 6: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Samples				Flot								
Feature	Context	Sam ple	Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Grain	Chaff	Chd other	Notes	Charcoal 4/2mm	Other	Anal ysis
TRENCH 1												
Prehistoric ring ditch (104)												
104	105	1	30	60	80	-	-	A	++ coal. 1x frg. of parenchyma, 1x <i>Corylus avellana</i> , 1x <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> subsp. <i>bulbosus</i> . 1x <i>Rumex</i> sp., 2x grass frgs. 1x cf. <i>Vicia faba</i> (frgs). <i>Conium/Aethusa</i> type x1	1/1mm	moll-t (A)	-
	106	2	37	80	80	-	-	C	Coal frgs, ?frgs of <i>Vicia faba</i> , 1x <i>Aethusa cynapium</i> ,	-	moll-t (A)	-
Undated shallow scoop (109) (possibly Anglo-Saxon)												
109	110	4	2	120	10	-	-	-	Quercus charcoal,	6/6ml	moll-t (C) smb-(C)	-
	110	5	2	30	80	-	-	-	Quercus charcoal,	0.5/1 ml	moll-t (A)	-
Postholes associated with Anglo-Saxon 'Great Hall' (Groups 193, 194, 196)												
ph 113	114	6	8	40	80	-	-	-	Small amount of charcoal	1/0.5m l	moll-t (C)	-
ph 115	116	7	32	175	80	-	-	-	Burnt bone x2-3	1/1ml	moll-t (C)	-
ph 117	118	8	25	175	80	-	-	C	Frgs of <i>Lens/Vicia/Pisum</i> type, 1x <i>Galium</i> sp.	1/1ml	moll-t (B) smb-(C)	-
ph 132	133	17	9	120	90	-	-	-	Coal x2	0/0.1m l	moll-t (C)	-
ph 138	139	18	6	40	90	-	-	C	Coal +, frg. Pea/bean/lentil	0/0.1m l	moll-t (C)	-
ph 119	110	19	10	40	75	-	-	C	<i>Vicia/Pisum/Lens</i> frgs x6	0/0.1m l	moll-t (C)	-
ph 141	142	20	10	50	80	-	-	C	<i>Vicia/Pisum/Lens</i> frgs, x5 <i>Galium</i> sp. ?cereal? Coal	0/0.1m l	moll-t (C)	-
ph 143	144	21	7	40	90	C	-	-	1x Barley, 2x Pea/Bean/Lentil x1	-	moll-t (C)	-
ph 145	146	25	8	35	90	-	-	C	1x rootlets	0/0.3m l	moll-t (C)	-
Foundation Trench for Anglo-Saxon 'Great Hall' (Group 126/127)												
126	120	13	13	30	80	-	-	C	Poaceae culm. <i>Pisum/Vicia/Lens</i> frgs. x4.	-	moll-t (B)	-
126	124	14	10	30	80	-	-	C	Frg. Fabaceae hilum	-	moll-t (C)	-
126	125	15	30	100	80	-	-	C	Coal. 3x <i>Vicia/lens/Pisum</i> 1x <i>Cereale/Poaceae</i> culm	-	moll-t (B)	-
126	122	22	18	30	80	-	-	C	Coal. 2x <i>Pisum/Vicia/lens</i> frgs.	-	moll-t (B)	-

Samples				Flot								
Feature	Context	Sam ple	Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Grain	Chaff	Chd other	Notes	Charcoal 4/2mm	Other	Anal ysis
127	128	23	10	90	75	-	-	-	Oak charcoal.	5/5ml	moll-t (A)	-
127	129	24	10	55	75	-	-	-	-	2/2ml	moll-t (B)	-
TRENCH 2												
Undated Pit												
Pit 211	209	12	25	50	50	-	-	C	?frgs. pea/bean/lentil	4/2ml	moll-t (A*)	-
TRENCH 3												
Anglo-Saxon SFB (Group 330)												
305	304	11	25	160	80	B	-	C	Oak charcoal. cf. 4x barley, +1x barley?naked 1x <i>Persicaria</i> sp.	4/3ml	moll-t (B) smb-(B)	C14 ?
Foundation Trench of Anglo-Saxon 'lesser' hall (Group 329)												
306	307	26	10	40	75	C	-	C	1x <i>Avena</i> sp. 1x grain? 1x grain/pea/bean	1/1ml	sab-(C)	-
320	322	37	10	175	80	C	-	C	1x <i>Hordeum</i> sp., Fabaceae frg?	1/1ml	smb-(C)	-
320	323	27	15	175	80	C	-	C	2x <i>Hordeum</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i>	1/1ml	smb-(B)	-
TRENCH 4												
East end of Anglo-Saxon 'Great Hall' (Postholes)												
Ph 403	405	9	9	120	80	C	-	C	Burnt bone. 1x F-t wheat, 1x cereal indet. 1x <i>Corylus avellana</i>	1/2ml	moll-t (C)	-
Ph 403	405	10	5	20	80	-	-	-	-	1/1ml	moll-t (C)	-
Romano-British Pit												
Pit 409	407	16	15	55	80	C	A*	B	<i>Hordeum</i> sp. 30-40 glume bases <i>Galium</i> sp. <i>Avena</i> floret (wild), <i>Poa/Phleum</i> x1, <i>Lolium</i> sp.	1/1ml	moll-t (B)	

Key:- A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5. sab/smb = small animal/mammal bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon.

**Table 7: Land snail assessment from ring ditch (104)**

Site Phase	Bronze Age			
Feature type	Ring Ditch			
Feature no.	104			
Context no.	105	106	107	108
Sample no.	36	35	34	33
Depth (m)	0.38-0.71	0.27-0.38	0.15-0.27	0.0-0.15
Weight (g)	2000	1900	1800	2000
<b>Open country species</b>				
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	C	C	C	-
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	-	C	C	-
<i>Helicella itala</i>	-	B	C	C
<i>Vallonia</i> spp.	-	C	B	-
<b>Intermediate species</b>				
<i>Trichia hispida</i>	-	C	-	-
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	-	C	-	-
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	-	C	-	-
<b>Burrowing species</b>				
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	A*	A	A	A*
<b>Approx totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>

Key:- A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5.



## Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 16.80x8.00m		Max. depth: 1.35m	
		Ground level: 57.96m aOD	
context	description		depth
101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid brown sandy silt loam. 1% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Homogeneous; fairly loose and friable; bioturbated. Directly under turf; clear interface with (102). Overlies (102).	0.00-0.20m bgl
102	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 8% gravel, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-3cm. Some bioturbation; fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Clear interface with (103); overlies (103).	0.18-0.38m bgl
103	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid yellow sand and pea gravel. 60% gravel, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact.	0.38m+ bgl
<b>104</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Well defined northern terminus of ring ditch. Filled with (105)-(108) and (130)-(131). Contexts (105)-(108) referred to those encountered in terminus intervention; (130)-(131) to deposits seen in plan further south. Clear in plan and section. Steep, concave sides, concave base; 1.7m wide. Deposit (107) suggests possible internal bank. Further south ditch seen to cut (112).</b>	<b>0.70m deep</b>
105	<i>Deposit</i>	Primary fill of ditch terminus (104). Pale yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 60% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact but lacks cohesion. Inclusions poorly sorted; fairly homogenous. Overlies (104).	0.35m deep
106	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch terminus (104). Mid brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact and homogeneous. Fairly clear interface with (105); overlies (105).	0.30m deep
107	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch terminus (104), possible eroded bank material. Pale brown sandy silt loam. 15% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact and homogeneous. Slightly diffuse interface with (106). Same as (131). Derives from the east; overlies (106).	0.15m deep
108	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch terminus (104). Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Moderately compact and homogeneous. Slightly diffuse interface with (107). Same as (130); overlies (107).	0.14m deep
<b>109</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Barely discernible cut or hollow into which (110) was place/dumped. Sub-oval; highly truncated. 0.57m long, 0.40m wide. Cuts (112).</b>	<b>0.08m deep</b>
110	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate deposit, fill of (109). Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 2% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. 2% chalk, sub-rounded, <1cm. Frequent large charcoal fragments. Fairly mixed.	0.08m deep
<b>111</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Linear feature, possible natural. Very shallow, with irregular base. Filled with (112). 1.6m wide.</b>	<b>0.08m deep</b>
112	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (111). Mid brown sandy silt loam. 2% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Slightly mixed. Bioturbated.	0.08m deep
<b>113</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Sub-circular posthole. Filled with (114). Moderate concave sides, flat base. 0.50m in diameter. No direct relationship with (127) but possibly earlier, may be related to (145). Cuts (112).</b>	<b>0.27m deep</b>
114	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (113). Mid brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous.	0.27m deep
<b>115</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Large, deep, sub-oval posthole, part of roof support – north wall. Filled with (116). Steep, straight sides. Concave base. 0.65m long, 0.54m wide. Component of group 193.</b>	<b>0.38m deep</b>
116	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (115). Mid brown sandy loam. <1% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. 1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-2cm concentrated at top of fill. Fairly compact and homogeneous.	0.38m deep
<b>117</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Large, deep, sub-oval posthole, part of roof support – north wall.</b>	<b>0.20m</b>

		<b>Filled with (118). Steep, straight sides, south side slopes to the south. Concave base. 0.56m long, 0.50m wide. Component of group 193.</b>	<b>deep</b>
118	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (116). Mid brown sandy loam. <1% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Rare charcoal. Fairly compact and homogeneous.	0.20m deep
119	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole within foundation trench (126). Sub-oval, straight steep to moderate sides, angled to the east. Concave base. 0.50m in diameter. Filled with (140).</b>	<b>0.25m deep</b>
120	-	VOID	-
121	<i>Deposit</i>	Primary fill/deliberate backfill of foundation trench (126). Pale yellow-white sand. 2% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Similar to/equivalent to (147). Moderately compact, fairly homogeneous. Overlies (126).	0.50m deep
122	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill/deliberate backfill of foundation trench (126). Mid brown sandy silt loam. 2% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact, fairly homogeneous. Overlies (121) and (147).	0.31m deep
123	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill/deliberate backfill of foundation trench (126). Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 50% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact, fairly homogeneous. Overlies (122).	0.22m deep
124	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill/deliberate backfill of foundation trench (126). Mid brown sandy silt loam. 2% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact, fairly homogeneous. Overlies (123).	0.16m deep
125	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill/deliberate backfill of foundation trench (126). Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 60% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact, slightly mixed. Overlies (124).	0.39m deep
126	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of foundation trench filled with (121)-(125) and (147). Straight, vertical sides, flat base. Associated with posthole (119). 0.60m wide. North wall of hall. Component of group 192.</b>	<b>0.99m deep</b>
127	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of foundation trench filled with (128) and (129). Straight, vertical sides, flat base. 0.70m wide. Not fully excavated. West wall of hall. Component of group 192.</b>	<b>0.45m+ deep</b>
128	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill/deliberate backfill of foundation trench (127). Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 40% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact, slightly mixed. Not fully excavated. Same as (125).	0.45m+ deep
129	<i>Deposit</i>	Discrete deposit within (128), fill of foundation trench (127). Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 25% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. 25% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Moderately compact, slightly mixed. Not fully excavated.	0.45m+ deep
130	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch terminus (104). Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Moderately compact and homogeneous. Unexcavated. Same as (108).	-
131	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch terminus (104), possible eroded bank material. Pale brown sandy silt loam. 15% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact and homogeneous. Derives from the east. Unexcavated. Same as (107).	-
132	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Sub-oval posthole, possible internal division of hall. Filled with (133). Moderate, straight sides; concave base. 0.70m long, 0.38m wide. Component of group 194.</b>	<b>0.14m deep</b>
133	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (132). Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous.	0.14m deep
134	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Sub-oval posthole, possible internal division of hall. Filled with (135). Steep, straight sides; flat base. 0.45m wide, 0.39m wide. As fill identical to (137), not possible to determine relationship but probably contemporary. Component of group 195, possible component of group 194.</b>	<b>0.22m deep</b>
135	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (134). Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 8%	0.22m deep

		gravel, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Fill identical to (137).	
136	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Sub-oval posthole, possible internal division of hall. Filled with (137). Moderate, straight sides; concave base. 0.40m in diameter. As fill identical to (135), not possible to determine relationship but probably contemporary. Component of group 194.</b>	<b>0.15m deep</b>
137	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (136). Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 8% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Fill identical to (135).	0.15m deep
138	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Sub-oval posthole, possible internal division of hall. Filled with (139). Steep, straight sides; flat base. 0.55m long, 0.33m wide. Component of group 195.</b>	<b>0.21m deep</b>
139	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (138). Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous.	0.21m deep
140	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (116). Mid grey-brown loamy sand. <1% gravel, sub-rounded, <1cm. Moderately loose and friable; fairly homogeneous.	0.25m deep
141	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Sub-oval posthole, possible fence-line or subsidiary building. Filled with (142). Moderate, straight sides; flat base. 0.59m long, 0.40m wide. Component of group 196.</b>	<b>0.12m deep</b>
142	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (141). Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous.	0.12m deep
143	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Sub-oval posthole, possible fence-line or subsidiary building. Filled with (144). Steep, straight sides; concave base. 0.34m long, 0.30m wide. Component of group 196.</b>	<b>0.22m deep</b>
144	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (143). Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous.	0.22m deep
145	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Sub-circular posthole. Filled with (146). Steep, straight sides. Truncated, full shape in plan unknown. 0.15m in diameter remaining. May be related to (113). Cuts (112).</b>	<b>0.40m deep</b>
146	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (145). Mid brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous.	0.40m deep
147	<i>Deposit</i>	Primary fill of foundation trench (126). Pale yellow-brown sand. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Similar to/equivalent to (121). Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (126).	0.47m deep
148	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of ditch terminus to north of (104). Filled with (149). Unexcavated.</b>	-
149	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (148). Similar/equivalent to (108). Unexcavated.	-
150	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (141). Filled with (151). Unexcavated. Component of group 196.</b>	-
151	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (150). Similar to (142). Unexcavated.	-
152	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (141). Filled with (153). Unexcavated. Component of group 196.</b>	-
153	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (152). Similar to (142). Unexcavated.	-
154	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (141). Filled with (155). Unexcavated. Component of group 196.</b>	-
155	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (154). Similar to (142). Unexcavated.	-
156	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (141). Filled with (157). Unexcavated. Component of group 196.</b>	-
157	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (156). Similar to (142). Unexcavated.	-
158	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of area of possible bioturbation. Filled with (159). Unexcavated.</b>	-
159	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (158). Similar to (102). Unexcavated.	-

160	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of area of possible bioturbation, though may be a posthole. Filled with (161). Unexcavated.</b>	-
161	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (160). Similar to (102). Unexcavated.	-
162	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (115) and (117). Filled with (163). Unexcavated. Component of group 193.</b>	-
163	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (162). Similar to (118). Unexcavated.	-
164	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (115) and (117). Filled with (165). Unexcavated. Component of group 193.</b>	-
165	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (164). Similar to (118). Unexcavated.	-
166	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (115) and (117). Filled with (167). Unexcavated. Component of group 193.</b>	-
167	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (166). Similar to (118). Unexcavated.	-
168	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (136). Filled with (169). Unexcavated. Component of group 194.</b>	-
169	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (168). Similar to (137). Unexcavated.	-
170	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (138). Filled with (171). Unexcavated. Component of group 195.</b>	-
171	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (170). Similar to (139). Unexcavated.	-
172	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (136). Filled with (173). Unexcavated. Component of group 194.</b>	-
173	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (172). Similar to (137). Unexcavated.	-
174	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (136). Filled with (175). Unexcavated. Component of group 194.</b>	-
175	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (174). Similar to (137). Unexcavated.	-
176	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (115) and (117). Filled with (177). Unexcavated. Component of group 193.</b>	-
177	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (176). Similar to (118). Unexcavated.	-
178	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (115) and (117). Filled with (179). Unexcavated. Component of group 193.</b>	-
179	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (178). Similar to (118). Unexcavated.	-
180	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (115) and (117). Filled with (181). Unexcavated. Component of group 193.</b>	-
181	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (180). Similar to (118). Unexcavated.	-
182	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of possible posthole. Very unclear in plan. Similar to (117). Filled with (183). Unexcavated. Possible component of group 193.</b>	-
183	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (182). Similar to (118). Unexcavated.	-
184	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (115) and (117). Filled with (185). Unexcavated. Component of group 193.</b>	-
185	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (184). Similar to (118). Unexcavated.	-
186	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (115) and (117). Filled with (187). Unexcavated. Component of group 193.</b>	-
187	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (186). Similar to (118). Unexcavated.	-
188	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Similar to (115) and (117). Filled with (189). Unexcavated. Component of group 193.</b>	-
189	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (188). Similar to (118). Unexcavated.	-
190	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of southern wall foundation trench. Similar/equivalent to (126) and (127). Filled with (190). Unexcavated. Component of group 192.</b>	-
191	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of (190). Similar/equivalent to (125) and (128). Unexcavated.	-
192	<i>Group</i>	<b>Composed of (126), (127) and (190). Foundation trenches for post-and plank-built hall.</b>	-
193	<i>Group</i>	<b>Composed of (115), (117), (162), (164), (166), (176), (178), (180), (184), (186), (188) and possibly (182). Posthole alignment, roof support posts for hall.</b>	-
194	<i>Group</i>	<b>Composed of (132), (136), (168), (172), (174) and possibly (134). Posthole alignment, possible north-south internal division within hall.</b>	-

195	<i>Group</i>	Composed of (134), (138) and (170). Posthole alignment, possible further east-west subdivision within hall, associated with group 194.	-
196	<i>Group</i>	Composed of (141), (143), (150), (152), (154) and (156). Posthole alignment, zig-zag north – south alignment, possible fence-line or eastern edge of subsidiary building.	-
197	<i>Group</i>	Composed of (119) and groups 192 and 193 and potentially 194 and 195. Western end of Anglo-Saxon Great Hall. Timber-built, east – west aligned. 10.80m wide. Component of group 500.	-

TRENCH 2		Type:	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 6.02x5.92m		Max. depth:	1.57m
		Ground level:	58.07m aOD
context	Description	depth	
201	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid brown silt loam. 1% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Homogeneous; fairly loose and friable; bioturbated. Directly under turf; clear interface with (202). Overlies (202).	0.00-0.24m bgl
202	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation; moderately compact. Clear interface with (203); overlies (203).	0.20-0.33m bgl
203	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid yellow sand and pea gravel. 60% gravel, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-5cm. Fairly loose and friable. Occasional pale yellow mottling. Some bioturbation.	0.30m+ bgl
204	<i>Layer</i>	Secondary deposit, fill of plough furrow. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 30% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Approximately 1.1m wide. Overlies (205).	0.18m deep
205	<i>Layer</i>	Secondary deposit, layer accumulated over hollow left by infilled pit (211). Mid orange-brown silt loam. 2% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (206).	0.14m deep
206	<i>Layer</i>	Secondary deposit, layer accumulated over hollow left by infilled pit (211). Mid orange-brown silt loam. 70% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. May be natural sorting of inclusions from (205). Overlies (207).	0.12m deep
207	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of pit (211). Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Moderately diffuse interface with (208); overlies (208).	0.16m deep
208	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of pit (211). Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 30% gravel, sub-angular - sub-rounded, <1-3cm forming lenses within the deposit. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Moderately diffuse interface with (209); overlies (209).	0.35m deep
209	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of pit (211). Mid grey silty clay. 5% gravel, sub-angular - sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Moderately compact; mixed with mid red mottling. Slightly diffuse interface with (210); overlies (210).	0.16m deep
210	<i>Deposit</i>	Primary fill of pit (211). Mid yellow sand. 80% gravel, sub-angular - sub-rounded, <1-3cm with lenses of mid grey silt clay. Fairly compact; fairly homogeneous. Overlies (211).	0.40m deep
211	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Large, steep sided pit. Probably sub-circular but obscured by overlying deposits (205) and (206). Filled with (207) to (210). Steep, convex sides, concave base. 3.82m wide, 4.70m long. Undated. Function unclear.</b>	<b>1.05m deep</b>

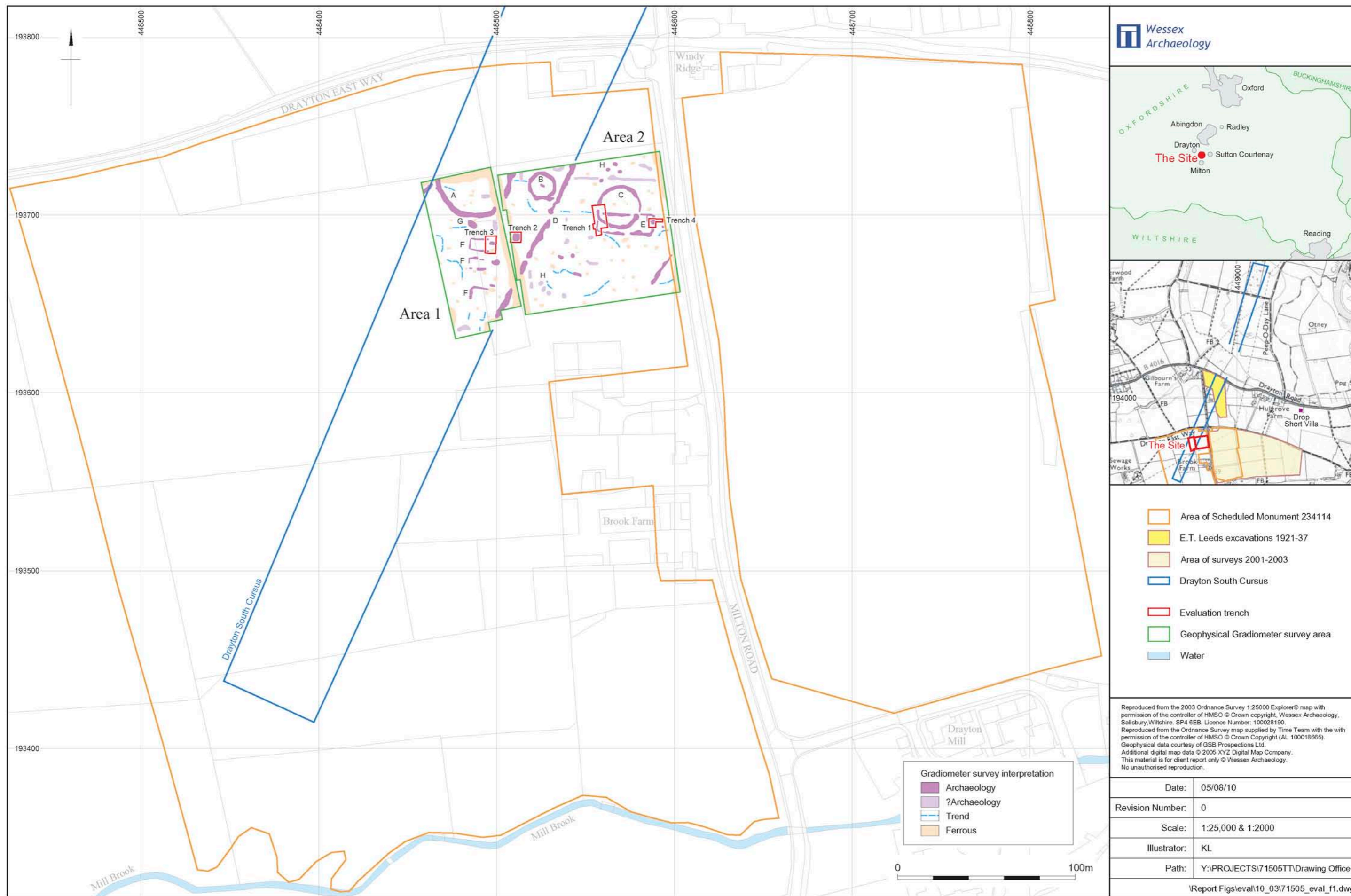
<b>TRENCH 3</b>		<b>Type:</b>	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 9.82x6.20m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.84m	
		<b>Ground level:</b> 58.09m aOD	
<b>context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>depth</b>	
301	<i>Topsoil</i> Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown silt loam. 1% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Homogeneous; fairly loose and friable; bioturbated. Directly under turf; clear interface with (302), which it overlies.	0.00-0.20m bgl	
302	<i>Subsoil</i> Modern subsoil. Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 5% gravel, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation; moderately compact. Clear interface with (328), which it overlies. Features visible at base of subsoil.	0.20-0.38m bgl	
303	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of SFB (305). Possible deliberate, rapid backfilling. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 15% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Cut by (306). Overlies (304).	0.09m deep	
304	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of SFB (305). Possible deliberate, rapid backfilling. Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 15% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact; fairly homogeneous. Contains semi-articulated animal bone. Overlies (305), (311) and (313).	0.30m deep	
305	<i>Cut</i> <b>Sub-rectangular sunken featured building (SFB), filled with (303) and (304). Steep, concave sides, concave base. 3.28m long, 2.58m wide. Associated with postholes (310), (312) and (314). Overlies (328). Component of group 330.</b>	<b>0.38m deep</b>	
306	<i>Cut</i> <b>Cut of foundation trench filled with (307). Straight, vertical sides, flat base. Same as (326). 0.75m wide. East wall of hall. Component of group 329.</b>	<b>0.73m deep</b>	
307	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill/deliberate backfill of foundation trench (306). Pale yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 60% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Contains some lenses of sand. Moderately compact. Overlies (306).	0.73m deep	
308	<i>Cut</i> <b>Sub-circular posthole. Filled with (309). Moderate concave sides, concave base. 0.36m long, 0.35m wide. Isolated feature; relationship to Anglo-Saxon structures unclear. Cuts (328).</b>	<b>0.17m deep</b>	
309	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of posthole (308). Light yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 10% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly loose and friable; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation.	0.17m deep	
310	<i>Cut</i> <b>Sub-oval posthole. Filled with (311). Moderate concave sides, concave base. 0.38m long, 0.28m wide. Support post within SFB (305). Cuts (328). Component of group 330.</b>	<b>0.14m deep</b>	
311	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of posthole (310). Light yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 10% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly loose and friable; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation.	0.14m deep	
312	<i>Cut</i> <b>Sub-oval posthole. Filled with (313). Moderate concave sides, concave base. 0.35m long, 0.30m wide. Support post within SFB (305). Cuts (328). Component of group 330.</b>	<b>0.20m deep</b>	
313	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of posthole (312). Light yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 10% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly loose and friable; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlain by (304).	0.20m deep	
314	<i>Cut</i> <b>Heavily truncated but apparently sub-oval posthole. Filled with (315). Steep, straight sides, concave base. 0.20m+ diameter. Support post within SFB (305). Cuts (328). Component of group 330.</b>	<b>0.08m+ deep</b>	
315	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of posthole (314). Mid grey-brown sandy silt loam. 10% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly loose and friable; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation.	0.08m+ deep	
316	<i>Cut</i> <b>Sub-circular posthole/pit. Filled with (317). Steep, concave sides, concave base. 0.53m long, 0.44m wide. Cuts (328).</b>	<b>0.32m deep</b>	
317	<i>Deposit</i> Secondary fill of posthole (316). Light yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 10% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly loose and	0.32m deep	

		friable; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation.	
<b>318</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Sub-oval posthole. Filled with (319). Steep, concave sides, concave base. 0.50m long, 0.30m wide. Cuts (317).</b>	<b>0.27m deep</b>
319	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (318). Mid red-brown sandy silt loam. 10% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-8cm. Fairly loose and friable; fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation.	0.27m deep
<b>320</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>North – south aligned foundation trench. Possibly related to structure (329). Near vertical, straight sides, flat base except where a posthole had been cut into the base (not given separate number). Filled with (321), (322) and (323). Seen to cut through base of subsoil (302). 0.42m wide.</b>	<b>0.62m deep</b>
321	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole within base of (320). Mid grey-brown silt loam. Fairly loose and friable. 5% gravel, sub-angular, <1-2cm. Overlies (320).	0.06m deep
322	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (320). Mid brown-yellow sandy silt loam. 15% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Moderately loose and friable; some bioturbation. Overlies (323).	0.34m deep
323	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of foundation trench (320). Mid yellow-brown silt loam. 10% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Moderately loose and friable; some bioturbation. Rare charcoal flecks. Overlies (321).	0.23m deep
<b>324</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Depression or possible posthole. Filled with (325). Sub-oval in plan. Moderate, concave sides, concave base. 0.28m long, width truncated by beamslot (326) but 0.33m+. Overlies (328).</b>	<b>0.15m deep</b>
325	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (324). Mid brown-yellow sandy silt loam. 2% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately loose and friable; some bioturbation. Overlies (324). Cut by (326).	0.15m deep
<b>326</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>East - west aligned foundation trench. Related to/same as (306). Near vertical, straight sides, flat base. Filled with (327). 0.42m wide. Cuts (325). South wall of hall. Component of group 329.</b>	<b>0.59m deep</b>
327	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill/deliberate backfill of foundation trench (326). Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 30% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Contains some lenses of gravel. Moderately compact. Overlies (326).	0.59m deep
328	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid yellow sand and pea gravel. 60% gravel, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact.	0.38m+ bgl
<b>329</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Composed of (306) and (326). Foundation trenches forming rectangular building 7.00m wide, full length not seen but 2.76m+.</b>	-
<b>330</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Composed of (305), (310), (312) and (314). Sunken featured building and associated postholes. 3.90m long, 2.60m wide. Cut by group (329).</b>	-

<b>TRENCH 4</b>		<b>Type:</b>	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 7.80x4.96m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 1.50m	<b>Ground level:</b> 57.97m aOD
<b>context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>depth</b>	
401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid brown sandy silt loam. 1% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Homogeneous; fairly loose and friable; bioturbated. Directly under turf; clear interface with (102), which it overlies.	
402	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-brown sandy silt loam. 8% gravel, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-3cm. Some bioturbation; fairly homogeneous; moderately compact. Clear interface with (103), which it overlies.	
<b>403</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Cut of large sub-oval posthole, filled with (404), (405) and (421). Steep, straight, near vertical sides, flat base. 1.32m long, 0.93m wide. Component of group 423. Overlies (420).</b>	
404	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of posthole (403). Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 15% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly friable, fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (403).	

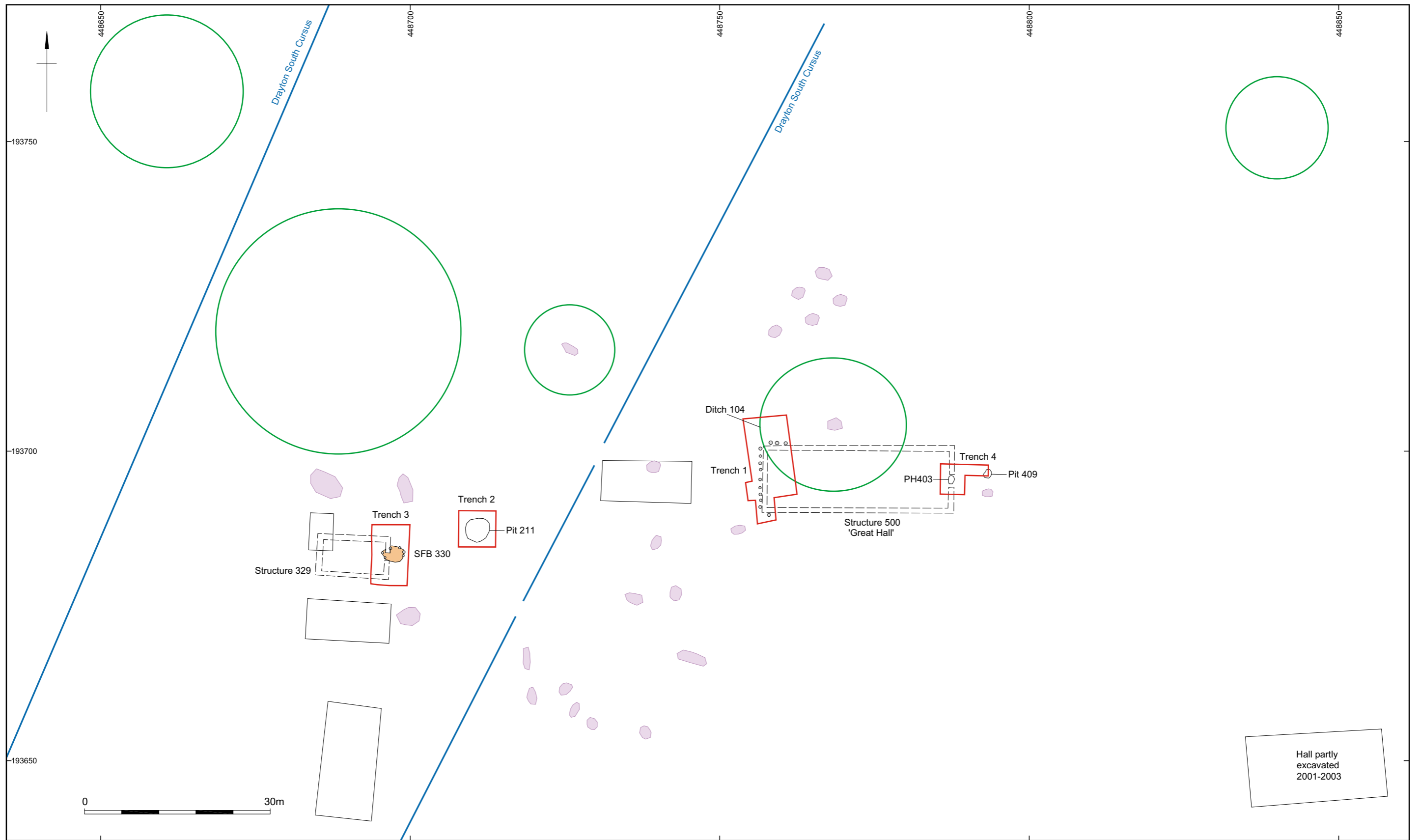
405	<i>Deposit</i>	Post-pipe deposit within posthole (403). Mid grey-brown sandy silt. 15% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Frequent charcoal and chalk fragments. Fairly friable, fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (421).	0.58m deep
406	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of pit/feature (409). Mid yellow-brown sandy silt. 15% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Fairly friable, fairly homogeneous; some bioturbation. Overlies (407).	0.17m deep
407	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of pit/feature (409). Mid grey-brown sandy silt. 15% gravel and pea grit, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly friable, fairly homogeneous; bioturbation. Overlies (409).	0.16m deep
408	<i>Deposit</i>	Identical to (407).	-
409	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of pit/feature filled with (406), (407) and (408). Northern part very irregular, disturbed by animal burrowing. Moderate, concave sides, irregular. May be natural feature. Only partly seen in plan. 0.92m+ long, 0.87m+ wide. Overlies (420).</b>	<b>0.29m deep</b>
410	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of foundation trench, north – south aligned. Northern part of entrance. Filled with (411). Unexcavated. Component of group 422 ad 423.</b>	-
411	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of foundation trench (410). Mid brown sandy silt. 5% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Very occasional chalk fragments. Unexcavated.	-
412	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Sub-circular, cut by/cuts (410). Filled with (413). Unexcavated. Component of group 423.</b>	-
413	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of posthole (412). Mid brown sandy silt. 5% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Unexcavated.	-
414	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Sub-oval, cut by/cuts (410). Filled with (415). Unexcavated. Component of group 423.</b>	-
415	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of posthole (414). Mid brown sandy silt. 5% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Unexcavated.	-
416	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of posthole. Sub-oval cut by/cuts (410). Filled with (417). Unexcavated. Component of group 423.</b>	-
417	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of posthole (416). Mid brown sandy silt. 5% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Unexcavated.	-
418	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of foundation trench, north – south aligned. Southern part of entrance. Filled with (411). Unexcavated. Component of group 422 and 423.</b>	-
419	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of foundation trench (418). Mid brown sandy silt. 5% gravel, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Very occasional chalk fragments. Unexcavated.	-
420	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid yellow sand and pea gravel. 60% gravel, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-3cm. Moderately compact.	0.40m+ bgl
421	<i>Deposit</i>	Very similar to (404) but may form part of the post-pipe more clearly seen with (405).	
422	<i>Group</i>	<b>Composed of (410) and (418). Foundation trenches forming eastern end of Hall. Component of group 423.</b>	-
423	<i>Group</i>	<b>Composed of group 422 along with (403), (412), (414) and (416). Eastern end of Anglo-Saxon Great Hall. Timber built, east – west aligned. 10.80m wide. Component of group 500.</b>	-
500	<i>Group</i>	<b>Composed of groups 197 and 423. Anglo-Saxon Great Hall. Timber-built, east – west aligned, post and plank construction. 10.80m wide, 30.90m long.</b>	-





Location of site and results of geophysical survey

Figure 1



- Evaluation trench
- Structure
- Extrapolated building
- Postholes
- Ring ditches
- Sunken Featured Building (SFB)
- Features (identified in geophysical survey and aerial photographs)

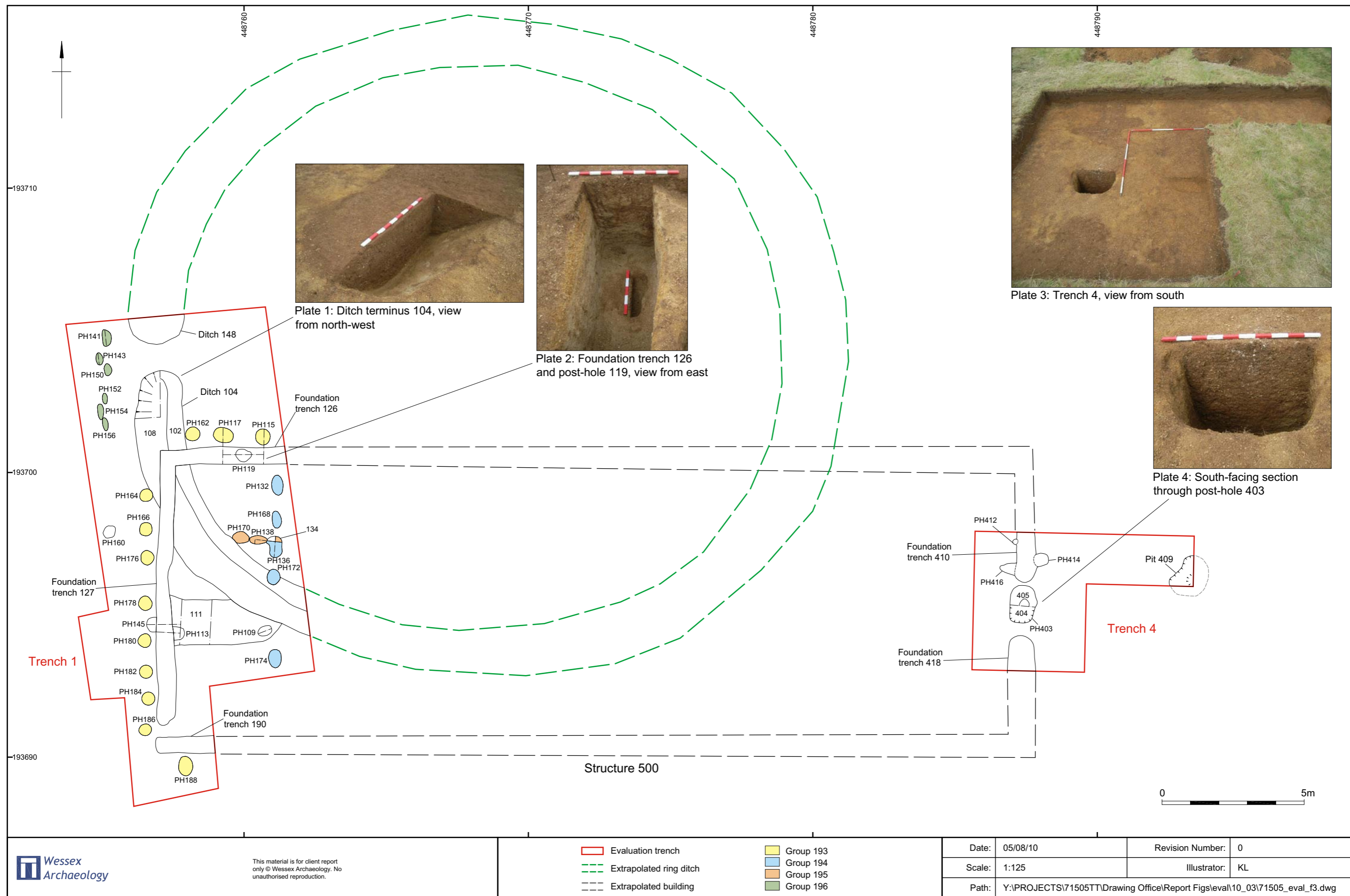
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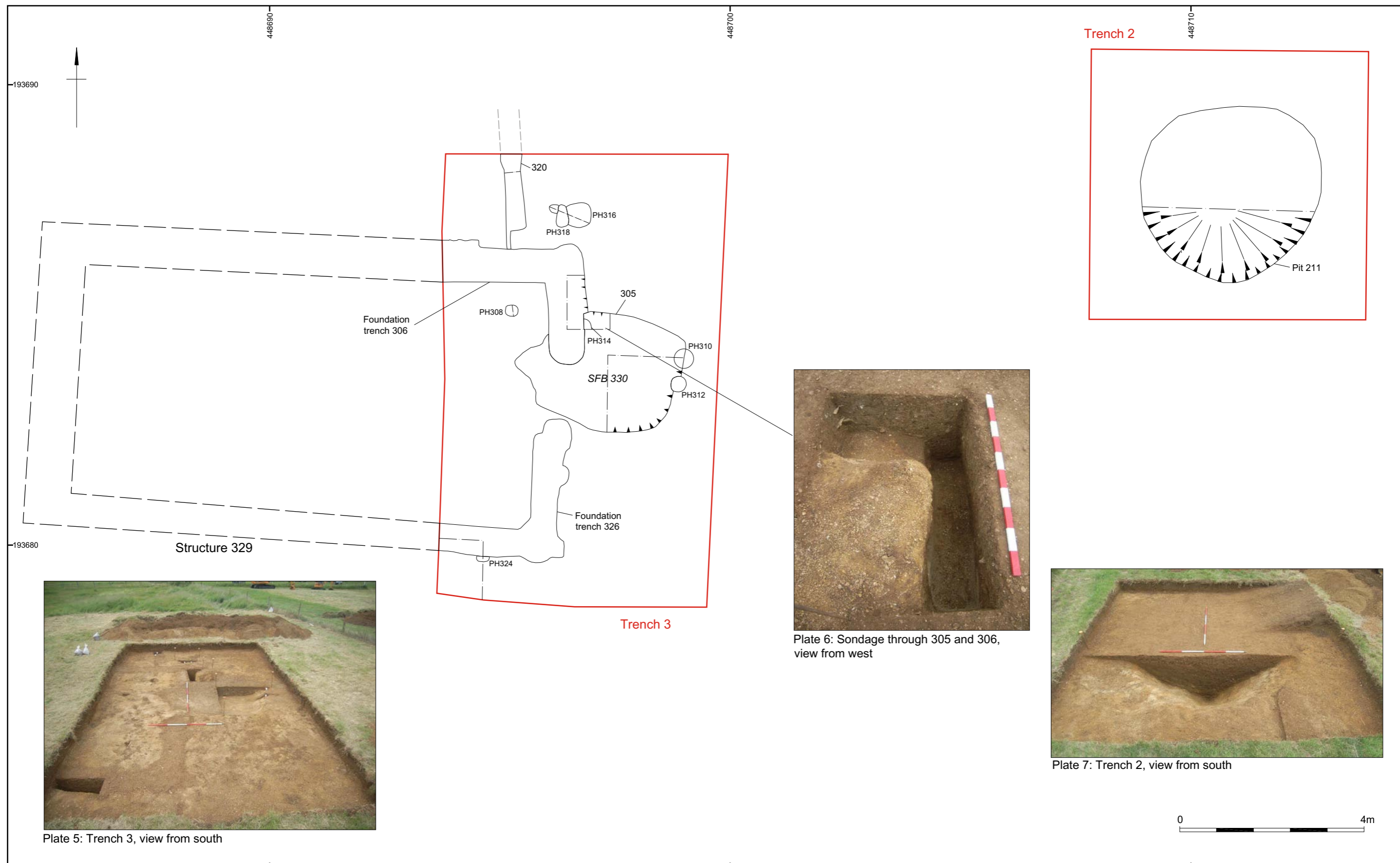
Combined results from excavation, geophysical survey and cropmark evidence

Figure 2



Trenches 1 and 4: plan and photographs

Figure 3



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