

THE RIDGEWAY NATIONAL TRAIL WEST BERKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the Countryside and Environment section of West Berkshire Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during a programme of works on the Ridgeway National Trail, West Berkshire (hereafter referred to as 'The Site'). The works involved the excavation of new drainage ditches, cross drains and soakaways as well as the stripping of small sections of the trail in advance of the laying of a new surface, to improve the ground condition of the trail.

The watching brief was undertaken to the specification prepared by West Berkshire archaeological service and the written scheme of investigation submitted by Wessex Archaeology. This required the excavation of ditches and stripping along selected lengths of the Ridgeway to be observed by an archaeologist. In total 3.7km was observed along a 10.3km length of the trail within West Berkshire. The archaeological watching brief was carried out intermittently between 28th June 2005 and 13th September 2005.

Although no archaeological features were discovered in the defined areas of high archaeological potential, one Late Roman burial was discovered and excavated at the eastern extent of the Site. A number of features were observed and recorded within the excavated ditches however, analysis on-site by Dr Mike Allen revealed that although highly reminiscent of archaeological features, they were in fact natural features of mostly Pleistocene date.

The location of a burial discovered within a ditch only 1km from a known Roman temple and in the vicinity of large numbers of Roman finds suggests that a previously unknown extensive Roman ritual and burial landscape may be located around Warren Farm extending over a wider area than has been previously anticipated.

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Acknowledgements

The programme of archaeological work at the Ridgeway was commissioned by Elaine Cox, Senior Rights of Way Officer of the Countryside and Environment section for West Berkshire Council. Wessex Archaeology is grateful for the assistance of Duncan Coe, Archaeological Officer and Sarah Orr, Sites and Monuments Officer for West Berkshire Heritage Service. Thanks are also due to Holly Robson for reporting the discovery of the burial in Area 7 and for her voluntary assistance during the recovery excavation.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Paul White. The fieldwork was coordinated by Matthew Rous and was assisted by Dave Budd, Bob Davis, and Gareth Owen. Dr Michael Allen visited the site and commented on the Pleistocene features and additional information on the geology of the Site. Dr. Jacqueline McKinley examined and reported on the human remains and Lorraine Mephram examined and reported on the Finds. This report was compiled by Matthew Rous with illustrations were prepared by S.E. James.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the Countryside and Environment Section for West Berkshire Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief along the Ridgeway National Trail within West Berkshire centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 450487, 182461 (hereafter referred to as the Site) (**Figure 1**). As part of the Action Plan for the Ridgeway, the Site is the subject of a scheme of works involving the excavation of new drainage ditches, cross drains and small areas to restore the ground surface to a condition convenient for use by walkers, cyclists and horse riders.
- 1.1.2 The archaeology service within West Berkshire Heritage and Tourism Service advised that part of the proposed scheme of works fell into areas of high archaeological potential and therefore needed to be accompanied by a programme of archaeological investigation to ensure that any archaeological remains encountered were recorded and examined adequately.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was carried out following advice received from Duncan Coe, the Archaeological Officer for West Berkshire, concerning the archaeological potential of the Site. Areas of high archaeological potential were identified by the Archaeological Officer in advance of any groundworks. The work was implemented in accordance with the 'Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief' (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Ridgeway National Trail runs for 139km from West Kennett in Wiltshire to Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire. The scheme of works took place over a 10.3km section of the Ridgeway in West Berkshire which runs from the western end at the Oxfordshire border near East Hendred Down to Warren Farm in the east. The Site runs through the parishes of West Ilsley, East Ilsley, Compton and Aldworth (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The Ridgeway within West Berkshire traverses a landscape of mixed agriculture interspersed with grassland with an emphasis on gallops for racehorses. The width of the trail varies in width from 24m at the western part of the Site narrowing to 6m at Warren Farm in the east and comprises a dirt track with grassy banks on either side. The surface of the trail has become severely rutted from the passage of vehicles during periods of wet weather, especially in low lying hollows along the Ridgeway

- 1.2.3 This section of the Ridgeway National Trail crosses a gently undulating landscape which varies in height between 140-190m OD. The trail runs along the escarpment of the Berkshire Downs which is formed by Cretaceous Upper and Middle Chalk. Deposits of clay-with-flints are mapped locally at Warren Farm and Coombe deposits are present at Blewbury Down (British Geological Survey Drift 1:50,000, Abingdon, Sheet 253 and Henley-on-Thames, Sheet 254).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.1 The Ridgeway runs through a landscape of high archaeological potential. Although the Ridgeway itself is often considered to be the oldest road in Britain the evidence from the surrounding landscape suggests that no formal route existed during the Prehistoric period.
- 1.3.2 The origins of the Ridgeway are therefore uncertain although its siting may merely reflect a topographic requirement. The development of a recognised route presumably took place subsequent to extensive woodland clearance which the limited available evidence indicates may have taken place early in the Neolithic period (Richards 1978).
- 1.3.3 The area has been surveyed as part of the National Mapping Programme undertaken by English Heritage aerial survey team in Swindon. This project has identified extensive field systems and linear monuments that lie across and adjacent to the line of the Ridgeway. Evidence from excavation as well as an examination of the relationship of field systems to other dated monuments, has shown that many components of these field systems have their origins in the Middle Bronze Age, but were also used through into Roman times (Bowden, Ford, and Mees 1991-3).
- 1.3.4 Human occupation in this part of West Berkshire begins about 500,000 BC in the Palaeolithic period during which time the climate was subject to dramatic change. The occupants of West Berkshire were nomadic people and would have followed the migration of animal herds hunting and gathering food. Stone tools have been discovered in the vicinity of the Ridgeway although the evidence is scant on the Berkshire Downs.
- 1.3.5 Archaeological evidence has shown that continuous settlement in West Berkshire occurred from the Mesolithic period (10,000 BC). The climate was gradually warming and evidence exists of settlements in the river valleys. Such areas would have been abundant with fish and waterfowl for food. However on the chalk downlands in this part of West Berkshire very little evidence exists for Mesolithic activity compared with similar landscapes in Wiltshire and Hampshire.
- 1.3.6 The Neolithic period (4000 BC – 2351 BC) is characterised in West Berkshire through the emergence of the first farmers clearing woodland and the beginning of crop cultivation and animal husbandry. The distribution of ceremonial sites and domestic material of Neolithic date is biased heavily towards the river gravels rather than the chalk. However, this area of the landscape does contain some evidence for Neolithic-Early Bronze Age activity

with flint scatters (8) discovered in the vicinity of the Ridgeway (Richards 1978).

- 1.3.7 Evidence of further Neolithic activity is further represented by the presence of a long barrow at Sheep Down (7) north of East Ilsley. Only three long barrows are recorded within Berkshire. Sheep Down barrow may therefore represent an outlier to the important clusters of similar monuments in the West Berkshire landscape. Other Neolithic discoveries within the Site include some surface scatters of flint and earlier Neolithic pottery at Bury Down (8) north of West Ilsley (**Figure 1**).
- 1.3.8 Occupation of the chalk downland during the Neolithic may have been intermittent as an examination of one of the Bronze Age barrows at Hodcott Down (13) (**Figure 1**) suggests that woodland clearance may have taken place immediately prior to barrow construction (Richards 1986-90). Environmental evidence from Hodcott suggests periods of grassland, both maintained and neglected and of secondary clearance in pre-barrow contexts. The faunal remains from Hodcott also show a change of emphasis in animal use from pig and deer in pre-barrow contexts to sheep and goat in subsequent phases (Richards 1986-90).
- 1.3.9 An expansion seems to have taken place on the chalk in the Early Bronze Age. The expansion of settlement sites is complemented on the chalk by an increase in the number of monuments in the form of round barrows and ring ditches with the best known examples at Seven Barrows to the west of the Site at Lambourn and a group of six ring ditches at Streatley to the east. Several bell and bowl barrows exist within a few hundred metres of the Site although only one is situated directly adjacent to the Ridgeway at Hodcott Down (18- **Figure 1**).
- 1.3.10 Iron Age activity on the chalkland in West Berkshire is well represented by the presence of hillforts, long linear boundary ditches and cropmark evidence for field systems. The Iron Age is considered to be a period when population increase led to ever increasing competition and pressure on resources with the emergence of tribal boundaries and defended settlements.
- 1.3.11 The development of the hillfort can be seen as an essentially Iron Age phenomenon. A number of hillforts exist in West Berkshire, with examples at Walbury Camp 24km to the south-west and at Grimsbury Castle, 10km to the south of the Site. Hillforts tended to be placed at the boundaries of earlier land units as defined by linear ditches (Richards 1978).
- 1.3.12 Aerial photographs have been extremely valuable in locating ditches and field systems along the Ridgeway, for instance Grim's Ditch (20) in the vicinity of the Site (**Figure 1**). The presence of the Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age Grim's Ditch (20) has been suggested as a dividing boundary between soils of potential arable land to the north of the ditch and pasture to the south (Richards 1986-90).

- 1.3.13 Adjacent to the Site, a number of field systems on slopes are visible as lynchets whereas the traditionally square ‘Celtic’ fields are readily identifiable from the air. The term ‘Celtic’ attributes these field systems to the Iron Age however, without evidence from excavation most are recorded within the County SMR as undated (**Figure 1**).
- 1.3.14 West Berkshire lies between the Roman towns of Silchester, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wanborough and Mildenhall. At the eastern end of the Site there is some evidence that a Roman settlement may exist within the vicinity of Warren Farm due to the large amount of finds found during metal detecting in the area (**23**) (**Figure 1**). To the north-west of Warren Farm evidence exists for a Roman temple site at Lowbury Hill camp in Oxfordshire (**21**) and a possible Roman cremating place with an inhumation cemetery dating from the 1st – 5th century AD (**31**) was found on nearby Roden Down (**Figure 1**).
- 1.3.15 Anglo-Saxon evidence from this area is scarce but burials dating to the late 5th - 6th century have been discovered in West Berkshire and isolated burials have been discovered in the vicinity of the Site. Later evidence from 10th century charters suggests that the chalk downland of West Berkshire was an area which was substantially settled by this time (Richards 1978).
- 1.3.16 During medieval times the Ridgeway would have been heavily used by drovers driving livestock from the West Country to the Home Counties. The importance of sheep on the Berkshire chalk downland was great throughout the medieval period. The market at East Ilsley, first mentioned in 1232, was based on sheep trading and this market was still in existence during the 1930’s.
- 1.3.17 Until the Enclosure Acts of 1750 the Ridgeway was a broad band of tracks along the crest of the downs where travellers chose the driest or most convenient path. During Enclosures the exact course and width of the Ridgeway was defined by the building of earth banks and the planting of thorn hedges to prevent livestock straying into the newly cultivated fields. This has resulted in the existing public right of way, the current status of which is a by-way.

2 AIMS

- 2.1.1 The purpose of the watching brief was to establish the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition and depth of any surviving archaeological remains within the Site observed during the contractor’s groundworks.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Drainage ditches and soakaways were excavated along sections of the Site in an attempt to alleviate the compaction, rutting and erosion of the by-way surface, especially during the winter months. The ditches were excavated with a JCB mechanical excavator equipped with a narrow toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were excavated to approximately 0.75m below the present surface.

Spoil was stockpiled at a safe distance from the trench edge from where it was either retained or distributed across the path and rolled in order to establish a compact cambered surface to allow water run-off. Where practicable, the excavated spoil was scanned for artefacts.

- 3.1.2 Initially six areas were identified as consisting of high archaeological potential along the route of the Ridgeway (labelled Areas 1-6 on Figure 1). A further area (Area 7) was added later with the discovery of a burial in a location not considered originally to be of high archaeological potential. Approximately 2.35km of the Ridgeway was to be subject to ditching operations and 1.35km to limited surface stripping.
- 3.1.3 Exposed sections of ditching within the monitored areas were examined for archaeological potential through a combination of direct supervision of the contractors during ditching work and through intermittent visits to the Site.
- 3.1.4 All potential archaeological features were recorded as an archaeological section and drawn at a scale of 1:10 and located on a plan of the Site. Significant archaeological features were excavated by hand and all deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. This was achieved in order to characterise the nature, date and condition of the remains.
- 3.1.5 Human burials were totally excavated and samples taken. Home Office procedures were followed at all times regarding the excavation and retention of human remains.
- 3.1.6 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections (1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections. Representative sections were drawn of all the ditches. This information is currently stored within the Site archive.
- 3.1.7 A full photographic survey with 154 35mm colour slide and black and white negatives was taken. This was augmented by 163 digital images. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, and the Site as a whole. All slides and digital images are currently stored at Wessex Archaeology's Head Office in Salisbury as part of the project archive.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 In accordance with the approved specification (Wessex Archaeology 2005) the watching brief was undertaken between 28th June 2005 and 13th September 2005. Summaries of the context descriptions from the ditches are detailed in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.1.2 In general, the excavations across the Site revealed topsoil and thin calcareous subsoil of approximately 0.3m in depth above chalk natural except in the east at Warren Farm where topsoil of approximately 0.3m lay above sandy-clay

and pebbles. The areas of high archaeological potential are described from west to east along the Ridgeway (Areas 1-7).

- 4.1.3 The numbering of the ditches in this report reflects the order in which these were excavated, observed and recorded.

4.2 Area 1

- 4.2.1 Area 1 comprised the land from the border with Oxfordshire at East Hendred Down to approximately 100m to the south-east to Bury Down,
- 4.2.2 Groundwork in Area 1 involved the excavation of an 80m length of drainage ditch on the south-western edge side of the Ridgeway (**Ditch 1 - Figure 1 and Figure 3, Plate 1**). The excavated spoil was rolled along the side of the path to form a camber. Crushed demolition rubble was brought in and placed upon the path. This was then rolled before a surfacing layer of mixed aggregate was deposited as a cap on top.
- 4.2.3 No archaeological features were discovered within **Ditch 1** however some clay and flint filled natural features within the chalk were identified and recorded within the ditch profile.

4.3 Area 2

- 4.3.1 Area 2 ran from the Grosvenor Memorial, which is located 200m east of the A34, 720m south-east to the summit of Several Down (**Figure 1**).
- 4.3.2 Groundwork in Area 2 involved the excavation of two drainage ditches on the south-western and north-eastern edges of the Ridgeway trail (**Ditch 2** and **Ditch 5**, respectively). **Ditch 2** measured approximately 670m in length (**Figure 1 and Figure 3, Plate 2**) and **Ditch 5** measured approximately 720m in length (**Figure 1**). The excavated spoil from the ditches was then rolled along the side of the path to form a camber.
- 4.3.3 No archaeological features were discovered within **Ditch 2** or **Ditch 5**. Many natural features filled clay and flint were identified within the ditch profile. A number of these features were recorded in section (**Figure 4, Plate 6**). The presence of these features is discussed in more detail in **Appendix 2**.

4.4 Area 3

- 4.4.1 Area 3 crosses the area from the summit of Several Down eastwards to the junction of the Ridgeway and the Berkshire Cycling Route at Compton Down (**Figure 1**).
- 4.4.2 Groundwork in Area 3 involved the excavation of a drainage ditch measuring 103m in length along the north-western edge of the trail. Three further drainage ditches were later excavated at the south-eastern extent of the area (**Ditches 4, 6 and 8**).
- 4.4.3 In addition to the drainage ditches, a small trench was excavated across the Ridgeway in the south-east section of **Area 3** although mid-way through

excavation this was abandoned and immediately backfilled. **Ditches 4, 6 and 8** were similarly backfilled soon after excavation. **Ditches 6 and 8** were not recorded before they were backfilled, however no archaeological features were observed during the excavation of these trenches.

- 4.4.4 The excavated spoil was rolled along the side of the path to form a camber. On the south-east slope of Several Down crushed demolition rubble was brought in and placed upon the trail. This was then rolled before a surfacing layer of mixed aggregate was deposited as a cap on top.
- 4.4.5 No archaeological features were discovered within **Ditches 3, 4, 6 and 8**, however a number of clay with flint filled natural features within the chalk were identified in **Ditch 3** and a number were recorded in section.

4.5 Area 4

- 4.5.1 Area 4 covers an area located on Roden Down near to an intersection of the Ridgeway and two other public by-ways (**Figure 1**).
- 4.5.2 Although this was an area where resurfacing works were due to take place no groundworks other than minimal rolling and flatten of the trial surface occurred and consequently no archaeological features were observed.

4.6 Area 5

- 4.6.1 Area 5 covered an area of approximately 400m length, 1km south-east of Roden Down and is located near to an intersection of the Ridgeway trail and another by-way (**Figure 1**).
- 4.6.2 No ditching took place in this section although three soakaways were excavated to the south-east of the area. Soakaways 1 and 2 (located on the slope running down to the intersection) measured approximately 1.8m x 1.3m by 1m deep whereas Soakaway 3 (located at the bottom of the slope) measured 2m x 2.3m x 1.2m deep (**Figure 1** and **Figure 3, Plate 3**). All soakaways were accompanied by a cross-drain and raised bank which ran diagonally across the trail.
- 4.6.3 The north-western edge of the trail was cambered along a 260m length to allow for better water run-off on this section of the Ridgeway. This involved the north-east side of the Ridgeway being excavated to a depth of 0.38m to create a slope running down from south-west – north-east (**Figure 4, Plate 4**).
- 4.6.4 No archaeological features were discovered during excavation of the soakaways or the releveling of the Ridgeway surface.

4.7 Area 6

- 4.7.1 Area 6 ran for approximately 140m and is situated approximately 300m to the south-west of Warren Farm where the Ridgeway trail is joined by a track from the north-west (**Figure 1**).
- 4.7.2 Groundwork in **Area 6** involved the excavation of a drainage ditch (**Ditch 9**) on the south side of the Ridgeway measuring 140m in length (**Figure 1**).
- 4.7.3 Crushed demolition material was brought in and deposited on the Ridgeway trail before being rolled. A surfacing layer of mixed aggregate was then deposited as a capping layer.
- 4.7.4 No archaeological features were observed during excavation of **Ditch 9**.

4.8 Area 7

- 4.8.1 This part of the Site was not included within the areas to be monitored by West Berkshire Heritage Service; consequently unsupervised groundworks did occur in this area (**Ditch 7**). The discovery of a single inhumation (**7003**) with accompanying grave goods by a member of the public led to an excavation of the grave (**Figure 2** and **Figure 4, Plate 5**) and a search for further inhumations. No further inhumations or other archaeological features were observed within **Ditch 7**. The inhumation was located to the south of Warren Farm at the easternmost extent of the Site and is described in more detail in the following section.

5 FINDS

5.1 Human Bone and associated grave goods

- 5.1.1 A single disturbed burial (**7003**) was excavated within Area 7, and yielded a partial skeleton, and some associated grave goods (**Figure 2**). The skeleton is that of an adult male, of comparatively large stature. Disturbance to the grave had led to the removal of most of the skeleton – body parts surviving comprised part of the skull (vault and facial bone), right arm (ulna and humerus), left scapula, right ribs, pelvis, left leg (femur), left ankle (calcaneum) and toes from both feet. Exostoses (an abnormal benign bony growth on the surface of a bone) on the long bones suggest strong muscle use, and possible soft tissue trauma on the right elbow.
- 5.1.2 The skeleton was accompanied by a single ceramic vessel, a small colour coated beaker from the Oxfordshire production centre, with rouletted decoration (**Front cover**). This is an example of the standard late Roman Oxfordshire beaker type, and has a date range of AD 240-400+ (Young 1977, type C22).
- 5.1.3 Also found within the grave fill were eight nails or nail fragments, probably coffin nails, and an unidentified object, possibly also part of the coffin fittings.

Context	Material	No.	Wt.(g.)	Comments
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7004	Pottery	3	162	Single vessel: Oxon colour coated beaker (Young type C22)
7004	Iron	8	23	Object numbers 1,2,3; nails
7005	Animal Bone	1	2	Hare
7005	Human Bone	1	1	Partial skeleton: adult male
7005	Iron	1	12	Object number 4; uncertain
TOTAL		14	200	

Table 1: All finds by context

6 ARCHIVE

6.1.1 The archive of the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the site code 59740. In due course it will be deposited with the West Berkshire Museum.

6.1.2 The archive consists of:

- A copy of this report
- Trench Record sheets
- Graphics index and drawings
- Photographic index, black and white contact sheets and colour slides
- All finds

7 CONCLUSION

7.1.1 Apart from the single Roman inhumation in Area 7 no archaeological evidence was discovered from the Site. Aerial photography suggested areas of high archaeological potential however, no evidence on the ground was encountered during monitoring of these areas.

7.1.2 The limited groundworks on the actually trail surface did not reveal any archaeological features in plan form. Numerous features were observed in the drainage ditch profiles but these appear on inspection from the environmental archaeologist to be mainly natural Pleistocene features. The ditch profiles revealed a very thin layer of topsoil overlying the chalk geology.

7.1.3 The discovery of a Late Roman inhumation in Area 7 is of interest as the location of the burial is 1.2km to the south of a Roman temple at Lowbury Camp in Oxfordshire (**Figure 1**). Although the excavation of Ditch 7 provides a very limited view of the archaeological potential of this area, it is highly possible that the burial formed part of a larger Roman cemetery.

7.1.4 An examination of the West Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record for this part of the Site shows that a findspot (**23**) lists a large number of Romano-British objects found by metal detecting to the south of Warren Farm (**Figure**

1 and **Appendix 2**). The presence of a cemetery combined with a nearby temple, and large numbers of Roman finds, suggests that a previously unknown area of extensive Roman ritual activity may exist in the vicinity of Area 7.

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Appendix 1: Ditch Context Summary Tables

Ditch 1		
Context no.	Description	Depth (m)
1001	TOPSOIL – Long pasture. Mid-dark grey brown silty loam. Rootlets throughout. <5% chalk fragments – sub-rounded, <20mm. Rare flint fragments, sub-angular, <40mm	0-0.15
1002	SUBSOIL. Mid-grey brown silty clay. Rootlets throughout. <20% chalk fragments, <40mm, sub-rounded. <5% flint fragments, <30mm, sub-rounded	0.15-0.3
1003	CHALK NATURAL – Creamy pale chalk. Blocky consistency. <5% flint nodules, <70mm, sub-rounded. Rare staining from Mn. Pale brown patches.	0.3+

Ditch 2		
Context no.	Description	Depth (m)
2001	TOPSOIL – Short pasture. Mid-dark grey brown silty loam. Rootlets throughout. <5% chalk fragments – sub-rounded, <20mm. <10% flint fragments, sub-angular, <25mm	0-0.22
2002	SUBSOIL. Mid-grey brown silty clay. Some rootlets. <10% chalk fragments, <40mm, sub-rounded. <10% flint fragments, <25mm, sub-rounded	0.22-0.31
2003	CHALK NATURAL – Creamy pale chalk. Blocky consistency. <2% flint nodules, <70mm, sub-rounded. Pale brown patches.	0.31+

Ditch 3		
Context no.	Description	Depth (m)
3001	TOPSOIL – Short pasture. Mid-dark brown silty loam. Rootlets throughout. <3% flint fragments, sub-angular, <20mm	0-0.20
3002	SUBSOIL. Mid-grey brown silty clay. Some rootlets. <40% chalk fragments, <40mm, sub-rounded. <1% flint fragments, sub-rounded	0.20-0.32
3003	CHALK NATURAL – Creamy pale chalk. Blocky consistency. <2% flint nodules, <90mm, sub-rounded. Pale brown patches.	0.32+

Ditch 4		
Context no.	Description	Depth (m)
4001	TOPSOIL – Long pasture. Brownish-grey silty loam. <5% flint fragments, sub-angular-sub-rounded, <20mm. <10% chalk fragments, sub-rounded. Heavily disturbed by roots and rootlets. Some modern Ceramic Building Material, Fe and plastic present. Suggests some make-up of topsoil layer as a resurfacing episode.	0-0.29
4002	CHALK NATURAL – Creamy pale chalk. Blocky consistency. <2% flint nodules, <90mm, sub-rounded. Pale brown patches.	0.29+

Ditch 5		
Context no.	Description	Depth (m)
5001	TOPSOIL – Long pasture. Mid-dark grey brown silty loam. Rootlets throughout. <25% chalk fragments, sub-rounded, <20mm. <1% flint fragments, sub-angular, <40mm	0-0.2
5002	SUBSOIL. Mid-grey brown silty clay loam. Some rootlets. <20% chalk fragments, <40mm, sub-rounded. <5% flint fragments, sub-rounded	0.2-0.34
5003	CHALK NATURAL – Creamy pale chalk. ‘Blocky’ consistency. <20% flint nodules, <70mm, sub-rounded. Pale brown patches. Occasional Mn staining.	0.34+

Ditch 7		
Context no.	Description	Depth (m)
7000	TOPSOIL – Short pasture. Mid-dark grey brown silty loam. <20mm. <5% flint fragments, sub-angular, <40mm. Occasional asphalt fragments, Fe and Ceramic Building Material suggesting a modern resurfacing episode.	0-0.25
7001	SUBSOIL. Mid-grey brown silty clay loam. Some rootlets. <40mm, sub-rounded. <5% flint fragments, sub-rounded	0.25-0.4
7002	CHALK NATURAL – Creamy pale chalk. ‘Blocky’ consistency. <20% flint nodules, <70mm, sub-rounded. Patches of clay with flints.	0.4+
7003	CUT FOR GRAVE	
7004	FILL OF GRAVE	
7003	SKELETON	

Ditch 9		
Context no.	Description	Depth (m)
9001	TOPSOIL – Long pasture. Dark orangey-brown silty clay loam. Rootlets throughout. Frequent flint fragments, sub-angular-sub-rounded, <50mm	0-0.3
9003	CLAY NATURAL – Pale brown-orangey silty clay. <20% flint nodules, <60mm, sub-angular-sub-rounded. Rootlets throughout..	0.3+

Appendix 2

Pleistocene features on The Ridgeway; exposures examined on Several Down

Dr Michael J. Allen

Geology

The Ridgeway runs along the escarpment of the Berkshire Downs adjacent to the chalk ridge of the escarpment on Upper and Middle Chalk and extensive deposits of clay-with-flints are mapped locally. The clay-with-flints was formerly far more extensive than its mapped outcrop (British Geological Survey, Sheet 253) and deposits rest on an irregular surface of the chalk, some in hollows or in cylindrical 'pipes' (Chatwin 1960, 77). The ridge is mapped as supporting typical brown calcareous of the Coombe 2 Association and surrounded by brown rendzinas of the Andover 1 Association (Jarvis *et al.* 1984; Findlay *et al.* 1984). The soils observed on site were thick (0.4m) dark greyish brown stone-free rendzinas and shallow stone-free brown earths with a dark yellowish brown horizon with weak block structure and these were predominantly loessic.

The Ridgeway

The Ridgeway runs along the downland with prehistoric ditches and field boundaries to either side; many of which do not respect The Ridgeway indicating that it post-dates a number of these land divisions. Nevertheless, the antiquity of the Ridgeway is demonstrable. Soil and Pleistocene features are well preserved along its course as a result of the area being protected from the abrasive ploughing that land adjacent to it has endured for millennia. Better survival of both Pleistocene (Quaternary) structures and archaeological features might, therefore, be expected within this corridor.

Features observed

The presence of former superficial deposits resulted in a number of features containing deposits which were highly reminiscent of archaeological features. The presence of former clay-with-flints and other superficial deposits has led to weakly and non-calcareous fills of features of Pleistocene (up to 2.2 million years) to archaeological (1000 years) age.

A strip of about 100m of the Pleistocene and modern soil sequence were observed on Several Down (**Ditch 2** and **Ditch 5**). Because of their location within the protected corridor of The Ridgeway, a number of relatively shallow features were very well preserved, providing a rare opportunity to observe and record such structures.

The former presence of weakly and non-calcareous deposits made the immediate differentiation between archaeological man-made features infilled with relict clay-with-flints and superficial deposits, difficult to immediately distinguish from Pleistocene features containing these fills as a part of their formation or infilling history. Several different types of features were observed and are summarised below:

1. Pockets of clay-with-flints (interglacial origin)

Occasional features rarely more than 3m across.

The clay-with-flints which covers the chalk is a product of the non-calcareous residue from long periods of weathering of the chalk. Although largely removed from the Berkshire Downs along The Ridgeway, it survives in deeper hollows. It is characterised by a dark reddish brown clay to silty clay which on exposure to air will dry out into very resistant peds. Flints are brecciated, unsorted and largely cortical. The boundaries of the features are often smooth, wavy and gradual.

2. Cold stage features

Involutions and cryoturbation were evident along the entire exposed sections. These are characterised by pocket and plug shaped, or flame and club shaped involutions (French 1976; Ballantyne and Harris 1994)). They are a result of cold stage environments, with frozen and thawing ground and result in the 'injection' of finer sediment into the weathered chalk. The features typically contain a calcareous light yellowish brown silty clay with very few flints. Minimum age >10,000 years

3. Solution features

The presence of clay-with-flints results in local acidification and the dissolving of the chalk by solution often in pipes, hollows or along natural faults. These features can be divided into Tertiary solution hollows often containing a stone-free highly rubified plastic clay some with manganese nodules and later solution features which contain often silty and buff coloured deposits with unsorted flints.

4. Flint bands

At the base of the brown earth soils a thin band (c. 100mm) of orientated medium sized flints occurs over the features. These are sorted from former clay-with-flint and superficial deposits and are the product of freeze-thawing. Other less pronounced flint bands may be relict forms of this with stone concentration exacerbated by earthworm working.

5. Former loess

The presence of a light buff (yellowish brown) highly silty deposits in a number of hollows (solution and archaeological features), indicates the local former presence of loess. This is a windblown deposit originating from the North Sea during lower sea levels and much being deposited across much of south-east and southern England (Catt 1977; 1978; 1979) generally about 22,000-17,000 BC. This provides the basis of the silty rendzinas and brown earths that exist on the chalk downs today (Allen 1988).

6. Possible tree hollows / subsoil hollows (can be confused with solution features)

Other amorphous features with structure-less and varying fills may be a result of tree hollows which have infilled with relict former soils and superficial deposits. Boundaries tend to be irregular and wavy.

7. Possible archaeological features (solution hollows)

Archaeological features tend to be filled with a darker deposit derived from humic rendzina and brown earth soils, or if filled with products of the superficial deposits will have sharper clearer cut edges.

Summary Pleistocene History

The chalk was deposited some 65 - 100 million years ago and has subsequently undergone considerable alteration. The upper zone of the exposed chalk observed is deeply weathered and fractured by frost action.

Clay-with-flints formed as a result of weathering and solution of the chalk itself leaving a mantle of iron-rich clay over parts of the chalk.

During the last glacial episode between about 30,000 and 14,000 BC coversands were deposited over much of the chalk.

The presence of both clay-with-flints and non-calcareous loess exacerbated solution and dissolution of chalk in pipes and local weaknesses. This resulted in both a very plastic reddish brown clay, but also in natural (and archaeological) hollows which were latterly infilled by either clay-with-flints, or loess rich deposits.

During episodes of freeze thawing and possible permafrost and tundra/arctic conditions periglacial involutions were formed injecting silty calcareous deposits into the upper weathered chalk zone.

Freeze – thawing results in orientated stone lenses over many non-archaeological features.

Early Holocene vegetation may have resulted in the formation and survival of tree hollows, which then became infilled with (reworked) loess rich and non-calcareous deposits.

Archaeological feature fills will reflect the nature of the former soils. Earlier features will tend to be less calcareous (derived from clay-with-flints and loess) than later features derived from thin brown earths and rendzinas after erosion and deflation of clay-with-flints and loess respectively.

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Appendix 3: Gazetteer of Sites, Monuments and Finds

WA Number	PrefRef	RecordType	Name	Period	Summary	NGR Easting	NGR Northing
1	SMR: WB1567. SAM: 109	Monument	Grim's Ditch - From Chilton Plantation to Ridge Hill	Prehistoric	Grim's Ditch, Chilton plantation to Ridge Hill.	447724	184544
2	SMR: WB 1566. SAM: OX 216, WB 102	Monument	Grim's Ditch - West of Chilton Plantation	Prehistoric	W section of Grim's Ditch (W of Chilton plantation)	446857	184807
3	OA 2017. SMR: WB 1212.06.0 - 1212.06.4	FIND SCATTER	Finds N of Cow Down,	Prehistoric	Flint finds consisting of a flake scraper, hammerstone, flint knife, another scraper and Prehistoric and Roman and Medieval pottery sherds.	446900	184600
4	SMR: WB 1571	Monument	Cow Down, Grim's Ditch - Event	Prehistoric	2m x 13m trench across Grim's Ditch by brg	447020	184680
5	SMR: WB 9396	Find Spot	WEST ILSLEY/GRIM'S DITCH - Event	Prehistoric	Prehistoric pottery found fieldwalking	447000	184600
6	SMR: WB 9402	Find Spot	WEST ILSLEY/GRIM'S DITCH - Event	Prehistoric	Prehistoric flakes found fieldwalking	447500	184400
7	SAM: 12016	Monument	Long barrow on Sheep Down	Neolithic	Long barrow on Sheep Down, 1km N of E Ilsley	449224	182371
8	SMR: WB 12296	Find Spot	BURY DOWN, WEST ILSLEY - Event	Neolithic	A flint flake and shed of prehistoric pottery found fieldwalking	447800	184000
9	SAM: 12044	Monument	Bowl barrow 500m W of Churn Park Cottage	Bronze Age	Bowl barrow 500m W of Churn Park Cottage	450711	183086
10	SAM: WB 111	Monument	East Ilsley Down round barrows	Bronze Age	East Ilsley Down round barrows	450690	180943

WA Number	PrefRef	RecordType	Name	Period	Summary	NGR Easting	NGR Northing
11	SAM: 28187	Monument	2 Bowl barrows and a pair of confluent barrows 270m NE of Churn Farm	Bronze Age	2 Bowl barrows and a pair of confluent barrows 270m NE of Churn Farm	451569	183727
12	SAM: 28189	Monument	2 Round barrows 520m and 550m north of Lower Chance Farm	Bronze Age	2 Round barrows 520m and 550m north of Lower Chance Farm	451962	183252
13	OA 2012. SMR: WB 1052. SAM: 82	BARROW	Barrow NW of Gore Hill	Bronze Age	A bowl-barrow with no visible ditch, north of the Ridgeway and immediately west of the West Ilsley to Abingdon road. In the 1930s it was 2.5 feet high. Still extant April 1998 - mutilated mound c. 10m in diameter, 0.2m high, no trace of ditch. Very severe	448960	183560
14	SAM: 28190	Monument	Bowl barrow 310m south-east of Lower Chance Farm	Bronze Age	Bowl barrow 310m south-east of Lower Chance Farm	452331	182582
15	OA 2015. SMR: WB 1212, WB 1212.01 (BE 2290-3)	ENCLOSURE	Field system on Cow Down	Bronze Age	APs in the 1950s show a system of bivallate ditches on Sheep Down that formed a four sided enclosure of about 26 acres (BE2293). They also show a small subrectangular compound of about a quarter of an acre (SU 470847) in the NE corner where pot boilers, L	447000	184500
16	OA 2014. SAM: 28193. SMR: WB 1212.04/12. WB 1212.04.1/2	BARROW	Site of barrows on East Hendred Down	Bronze Age	Two small mounds, 40 feet diameter and 3 feet high were excavated in 1934 (Event UID 628002) and found to be ditchless. On the old ground surface a Roman bronze hook and a large quantity of RB pot sherds were found, indicating a post-Roman construction date.	446374	185012
17	SAM: 28198	Monument	Bowl barrow 700m NW of Churn Farm	Bronze Age	Bowl barrow 700m NW of Churn Farm	450694	183996
18	SMR: WB 1573. SAM: WB 82	Monument	BARROW-HODCOTT DOWN	Bronze Age	Barrow known from cropmarks but very reduced by ploughing	448971	183551

WA Number	PrefRef	RecordType	Name	Period	Summary	NGR Easting	NGR Northing
19	SMR: WB 16362	Monument	South of the Ridgeway	Bronze Age	Bronze Age spearhead fragments found during a metal detecting rally	448800	183450
20	OA 2264. SAM: OX 216 & 260. WB 102. SMR: O7741/WB 1051.01	EARTHWORK	Grim's Ditch on Chilton Downs	Iron Age	Extant section of Grim's Ditch, running approximately parallel to Ridgeway. See also OAU 2269, 2273, 2399 & 2271. This section (SAM OX 216) is 740m in length running in a L-shape along slopes of a re-entrant valley on N slope of Downs, below Ridgeway. D	447500	184600
21	SAM: OX 204	Monument	Lowbury Hill Camp	Roman	Lowbury Hill Camp	454019	182264
22	SMR: WB 14492	Find Spot	Area around junction of the Ridgeway and the Downs Road to Lowbury trackway	Roman	Very large number of Roman coins found by metal detecting	453972	181546
23	SMR: WB 16195	Monument	Area south of Warren Farm, Aldworth	Roman	Large number of Romano-British objects found by metal detecting, indicating a site	454689	181423
24	SMR: WB 14391	Find Spot	COMPTON DOWNS HOARD	Roman	245 silver Roman coins found in 1981 spread over an area of the Ridgeway path.	451000	182000
25	SMR: WB 14394	Find Spot	COMPTON DOWNS	Roman	Worn 4th century AD coin	451000	182000
26	SMR: WB 2292	Monument	DITCHES- SHEEP DOWN	Roman	Bivallate ditch system. No coherent or regular plan suggesting a non-defensive local boundary? Main axis is roughly west-east with at least two prominent branches to the north (.01.100). Much fragmented by ploughing and gallops. Dimens of remnants OS-1963	446606	184322
27	SMR: WB 2298	Monument	BARROWS- WEST ILSLEY DOWN	Roman	Two small mounds excavated in 1934. Roman finds indicate a roman or post roman construction date.	446430	184850

WA Number	PrefRef	RecordType	Name	Period	Summary	NGR Easting	NGR Northing
28	SMR: WB 2299	Monument	BARROW N OF RIDGEWAY (1st of 2)	Roman	Cross trench excavation of mound revealed no regular ditch although the chalk had been dug into at some places. Roman finds indicate roman or post roman date. Not traceable on ground (OS field visit 1964)	446460	184870
29	SMR: WB 2300	Monument	BARROW- N OF RIDGEWAY (2nd of 2)	Roman	Cross trench excavation of mound revealed no regular ditch although the chalk had been dug into at some places. Roman finds indicate roman or post roman date. Visible as a spread ploughed mound reduced to 20cm high (OS field visit 1964)	446400	184820
30	SMR: WB 9401	Find Spot	WEST ILSLEY/GRIM'S DITCH - Event	Roman	Roman pottery found fieldwalking	447300	184500
31	OA 2007	ENCLOSURE	Enclosure on Roden Down	Roman	A possible Roman "cremating place" inside an enclosure of 1st-2nd century AD. The enclosure was enlarged in the 4th-5th centuries when it was used as an inhumation cemetery. Five minims in one grave suggests occupation in 5th and 6th centuries. Several co	453150	182000
32	OA 2008. SMR: WB 3582.0 - WB 3582.02	FIND SPOT	Coin Hoard on Compton Downs	Roman/Saxon	3 Silver coins dating from 301AD to 500AD found on Compton Downs.	451000	182000
33	OA 2803	SITE OF POND	Site of Pond N of Roden Farm.	Post-medieval	Site of a probable pond seen on 1st ed 6", no longer extant, April 1998.	452282	182145
34	OA 2620	ENCLOSURE	Enclosure on Roden Downs	Post-medieval	Triangular enclosure defined by bank with external ditch. Overall width of bank and ditch 5m. Ditch 2.5m wide and 0.4m deep, bank 2.5m wide and 0.4m high. Generally well preserved with Scots Pines within enclosure. Mixed deciduous trees, pine and scrub	453450	182100

WA Number	PrefRef	RecordType	Name	Period	Summary	NGR Easting	NGR Northing
35	OA 2860	MONUMENT	Memorial Stone north of Gore Hill	Modern	Stone Monolith 1.4m high. Bearing a brass plaque (vandalised) with the following inscription. 'Near this spot Hugh Frederick Grovesnor 2nd Lieutenant the Life Guards, lost his life in an armoured car accident while on military duty. 9th April 1947...'	449270	183360
36	SMR: WB 11923	Find Spot	EAST ILSLEY - Ilsley Barn Farm?	Undated	Unsourced reference to spearhead found whilst laying a road surface	450600	182000
37	SMR: WB 1565	Monument	Grim's Ditch, East and West Ilsley - General record	Undated	Generally consists of a 150cm scarp, a ditch with a 60 to 120cm counterscarp and a second 150cm scarp- grass island within arable. Runs along new county boundary so for most part is half in Oxon.	448000	184470
38	SMR: WB 16194	Monument	Earthwork between Roden Downs and Lowbury Hill	Undated	Faint feature in shape of rectangular or square bank noted by metal detectorist	453611	182004
39	SMR: WB 2263	Landscape	GORE HILL/RIDGEWAY AREA	Undated	Numerous features identified primarily from APs. Confined to a corridor of upper chalk in the vicinity of the Ridgeway; bounded on the SW by minor river valley and on NE by middle chalk.	449200	183400
40	SMR: WB 2266	Monument	FEATURE- S OF RIDGEWAY	Undated	Shallow ditch and bank, a continuation of the ditch projects across the crest of the hill. Not visible on ground- MJ Willis field visit 9/1971. Situated astride gallops and arable to n on APs; incomplete on N and NW.	448800	183400
41	SMR: WB 2268	Monument		Undated	A plethora of ditched linear features visible on APs. Mainly on a generalised NE-SW alignment they climb the slope from the line of Grim's ditch to the Ridgeway, further to the SW their course is indicated by several converging lines truncated by gallops.	449100	183500

WA Number	PrefRef	RecordType	Name	Period	Summary	NGR Easting	NGR Northing
42	SMR: WB 2269	Monument		Undated	A swathe of ditched linear features on APs, extending from e of gallops towards the gore. Appear to cut thro course of trackways .04 at su49288367	449480	183480
43	SMR: WB 2288	Monument	DITCH S OF RIDGEWAY	Undated	Irregular dark linear soilmark. Dubious. No other obvious features of possible arch. Origin visible on APs in vicinity of ditch.	448170	183800
44	SMR: WB 2290	Landscape	SHEEP DOWN TO BURY DOWN	Undated	Major linear ditch, enclosure, other linears etc visible on APs. Several field work finds covering a range of periods.	447000	184300
45	SMR: WB 2291	Monument	FIND FROM THE RIDGEWAY	Undated	Fragmentary arrowhead found on the Ridgeway a mile n of West Ilsley village.	447400	184300
46	SMR: WB 2293	Monument	Field south of The Ridgeway, Sheep Down	Undated	System of ditches includes a four sided arrangement of approx 26 acres. Appears to have a small sub-rectangular subdivision in NE corner (.01.200)	446900	184400
47	SMR: WB 2294	Monument	ENCLOSURE-GRIM'S DITCH	Undated	Small compound identified from APs in NE corner of larger earthwork (.01.100). Ploughed out- cannot be identified on the ground- OS 1963.	446978	184590
48	SMR: WB 2301	Monument	FEATURES-GALLOPS	Undated	Light ring mark visible on grass? Within gallops. Similar feature to N. Dimens approx from sketch plot. Dubious.	446680	184350
49	SMR: WB 3201	Monument	TRACKWAYS N OF RODEN DOWNS ENCLOSURE	Undated	An area of dispersed linear trackways	453200	182050
50	SMR: WB 3296	Landscape	COMPTON TO BLEWBURY DOWNS	Undated	Detail from early aerial photograph not plotted on SMR due to lack of reference points to locate accurately. Multiple trackways and traces of field system. part at least in Oxon.	451700	182500

WA Number	PrefRef	RecordType	Name	Period	Summary	NGR Easting	NGR Northing
51	WB 9391	Find Spot	WEST ILSLEY/GRIM'S DITCH - Event	Undated	Many finds from fieldwalking	446900	184600
52	OA 2660	CROPMARK	Cropmarks on Roden Downs	Undated	Area of cropmarks identified during survey of Aps as part of this study. Possible lynchets on Roden Downs - maybe associated with field system to south - OA 2003 and possibly with the enclosure OA 2007.	453050	181950
53	OA 2621	CROPMARK	Lynchets West of Starveall	Undated	Identified during site walkover in a crop of rape, April 1998. Cropmark of ploughed out Lynchets, aligned SW / NE. Observed from NGR 45330 18180. The lynchets extend from 45390 18045 to 45415 18110. Well outside zone B but observable from Ridgeway. PRINT FILM	453900	180450
54	OA 2657	CROPMARK	Cropmarks W of Town Copse	Undated	Area of cropmarks identified during survey of Aps as part of this study. Possibly a part of the large field system to east OA 2283. Probably represent relatively modern field boundaries.	455060	181420
55	OA 2658	CROPMARK	Cropmarks NE of Starveall	Undated	Area of cropmarks identified during survey of Aps as part of this study. Possibly a part of the large field system to the east OA 2283. Covers an area c. 200m x 300m.	454700	181100
56	OA 2659	CROPMARK	Cropmarks NW of Starveall	Undated	Area of cropmarks identified during survey of Aps as part of this study. Small field system covering c.300m EW x 500M NS. Bounded to northeast and northwest by tracks.	454000	181300
57	OA 2622	HOLLOW WAYS	Hollow ways North of Roden Farm	Undated	Identified during walkover of April 1998. Multiple Hollow ways up to 1.5m deep running parallel to present Ridgeway where it descends a gentle western slope. Visible for a distance of approx. 300m.	452850	182300
58	OA 2662	CROPMARK	Cropmarks on Blewbury Down	Undated	Area of cropmarks identified during survey of Aps as part of this study. Area of ploughed out or levelled barrows to north of Ridgeway.	451500	183000
59	OA 2663	CROPMARK	Cropmarks on Compton Down	Undated	Area of cropmarks identified during survey of Aps as part of this study. Ploughed out or levelled barrows to north of Ridgeway.	451000	182400

WA Number	PrefRef	RecordType	Name	Period	Summary	NGR Easting	NGR Northing
60	OA 2661	CROPMARK	Cropmarks N of Roden Farm	Undated	Area of cropmarks identified during survey of Aps as part of this study. Trackways, one measuring 200m the other c.400m.	452800	182000
61	OA 2003	CROPMARK	Cropmark on Roden Down	Undated	In the 1940s it was reported that there were earthworks on the ridge south of the "RB cremating place"(SU 58 SW 7) which possibly represented an associated settlement. The site has been ploughed and is still under the plough. Roman tile and pottery have b	453400	181800
62	OA 2006 WB 1305.02.3	TRACKWAY	Trackways on Roden Down	Undated	Not accesable during walkover (April 1998) as field now under cultivation - doubtful whether the trackways would have survived ploughing - nothing was seen from the Ridgeway National Trail during the walkover.	453200	182000
63	OA 2668	CROPMARK	Cropmarks on Several Down.	Undated	Area of cropmarks identified during survey of Aps as part of this study. Linear cropmark c.250m in length NW - SE.	450300	183000
64	OA 2018	ENCLOSURE	Enclosure on Sheep Down	Undated	Probably an old penning, a valley entrenchment or old field boundaries'. April 1998 - Part of an old 'Penning'. Where it survives in zone B is now little more than a lynchet up to 0.2m. W. side has a ditch or hollow way outside, i.e. E of lynchet. See fe	449400	182800
65	OA 2623	LINEAR FEATURE	Linear feature on Abingdon Lane Down	Undated	Linear feature crossing zone A. This feature, a ditch 6m wide and up to 0.4m deep, continues the line of the eastern side of the enclosure OAU 2018. It survives as an earthwork for a distance of 40m on mag. bearing 350. Can be seen as a faint hollow in ar	449780	183060
66	OA 2004	TRACKWAY	Trackways on Streatley Warren	Undated	Two parallel tracks seen on the walkover of April 1998. Seen as a terrace-way, approximately 6m wide, immediately south of Zone A, i.e. south of the Ridgeway National Trail. Visible from SU 5555 8125 - 5495 8135. Also parallel tracks seen to the north	455470	181220

WA Number	PrefRef	RecordType	Name	Period	Summary	NGR Easting	NGR Northing
67	OA 2013. SMR: WB 1210	LINEAR FEATURE	Ditch N of Folly Down	Undated	Irregular dark linear soilmark seen on APs. April 1998, soilmark of linear ditch 2013 visible as a mutilated earthwork where it crosses the line of the Ridgeway. The feature has been damaged by the use of the Ridgeway. The ditch is up to 6m in width with	448130	183950
68	OA 2011. SMR: WB 1204.04	CROPMARK	Cropmarks N of Gore Hill	Undated	Trackways visible on APs, mainly on a generalised NE-SW alignment. They climb the slope from the line of Grim's Ditch to the Ridgeway. Further to the SW their course is indicated by several converging lines truncated by gallops. April 1998, nothing visible	449100	183500
69	OA 2631	DITCH	Linear Feature on Cow Down	Undated	A ditch with no visible bank crosses the Ridgeway at this point on a magnetic bearing of 026. The width of the ditch is approximately 3.5m, and has a maximum depth of 0.2m. It is visible for c. 9m, with the line of the ditch being truncated over the north	446850	184560
70	OA 2010. SMR: WB 1204	CROPMARK	Cropmarks on Gore Hill	Undated	SMR cites 'numerous features' at this point identified from APs. Confined to a corridor of upper chalk in the vicinity of the Ridgeway. April 1998, nothing visible on the ground.	449200	183400
71	OA 2009. SMR: WB 1204.2	CROPMARK	Cropmark on Hodcott Down	Undated	In the 1940s a small oval earthwork survived on Hodcott Down, just south of the Ridgeway, consisting of a shallow ditch and bank. A continuation of the ditch crossed the crest of the hill. This earthwork has been completely destroyed by ploughing and the	448800	183400
72	OA 2016. SMR: WB 1212.01	LINEAR FEATURE	Ditches to N of Cow Down	Undated	Bivallate ditch system. No coherent or regular plan suggesting a non-defensive local boundary? Main axis is roughly West-East with at least two prominent branches to the north (1212.01.1). Much fragmented by ploughing and gallops. April 1998, probably par	447000	184500

WA Number	PrefRef	RecordType	Name	Period	Summary	NGR Easting	NGR Northing
73	OA 2629	DITCH	Linear feature on Cow Down	Undated	A ditch with a magnetic bearing of 027 was observed crossing the line of the Ridgeway at this point. There was no trace of a bank, but the ditch was 4.5m in width, and had a maximum depth of 0.30m. Visible for a distance of 16m. This feature is one of a series	446890	184530
74	OA 2630	LINEAR FEATURE	Linear Feature on Cow Down	Undated	Ditch crossing the Ridgeway with a bank on both sides, E. bank 4m wide and 0.5m high. The ditch is 5m wide and up to 0.5m in depth. The W. bank is 4m wide and has a maximum height of 0.1m. The ditch and ditch is on a magnetic bearing of 027, and is visible	446890	184530
75	OA 2628	LINEAR FEATURE	Linear feature on Cow Down	Undated	Linear ditch with faint traces of bank on each side crossing zone A. The bank is 4m in width, and stands up to 0.2m high. The ditch is a maximum of 6m wide, and has a maximum depth of 0.5m. It is visible for a distance of 18m on a Magnetic bearing of 045	447010	184460
76	OA 2627	DITCH	Linear feature on Cow Down	Undated	Cutting across the line of the Ridgeway with no trace of a bank, is a ditch on a magnetic bearing of 053. It is 4.5m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.2m. This feature is one of a series of linear features cut by the Ridgeway at this point and identified	447060	184440
77	OA 2626	DITCH	Linear feature on Cow Down	Undated	Cutting across the line of the Ridgeway on a magnetic bearing of 018 is a ditch 4.2m wide with a maximum of 0.25 m. The ditch is visible for approximately 6m. Between 2626 and 2628 the ground along the Ridgeway has numerous hollows, many indistinct, but	447120	184400
78	OA 2625	DITCH	Linear feature on Cow Down	Undated	Linear ditch, no trace of bank, visible for a distance of 16m, 3.7m wide, maximum depth 0.3, On Mag. bearing of 026. Parallel to features 2624-33. Runs across the line of the Ridgeway. This feature is one of a series of linear features cut by the Ridgeway	447180	184370

WA Number	PrefRef	RecordType	Name	Period	Summary	NGR Easting	NGR Northing
79	OA 2624	LINEAR FEATURE	Ditch on Cow Down	UNDATED	Linear ditch with traces of bank on eastern side. Alignment = 026 degrees (mag) and is visible for 16m. Dimensions - bank 2.5m wide, max. height 0.3m. Ditch 4.0m wide, max. depth 0.2m. The ditch cuts across line of Ridgeway.	447200	184350

Note:

WA = Wessex Archaeology OA = Oxford Archaeology number SAM = Scheduled Ancient Monument
 SMR = Sites and Monuments Record WB = West Berkshire OX = Oxfordshire