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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL

# SERVICES

# Medieval Occupation at Chinnor Road, Bledlow, Buckinghamshire

**Archaeological Excavation** 

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Will Attard

Site Code: CRB21/51

(SP7784 0303)

# Medieval Occupation at Chinnor Road, Bledlow, Buckinghamshire

## An Archaeological Excavation

for Deanfield Homes Ltd

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Will Attard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CRB 21/151

#### **Summary**

**Site name:** Land at Chinnor Road, Bledlow, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SP 7784 0301

Site activity: Archaeological Excavation

**Date and duration of project:** 11th to 28th April 2022

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Will Attard

Site code: CRB 21/151

**Area of site:** *c*. 800 sq m.

**Summary of results:** The excavation revealed evidence for Medieval and post-Medieval occupation. The Medieval part is represented by probably three phases of possible enclosure ditches and gullies, which are dated by pottery to a wide 12th-15th century span. About 20 pits, sometimes grouped in clusters, and generally relatively shallow completed the Medieval occupation. The evidence for a later presence is limited to a single pit. Eleven postholes forming some alignments, presumably fences rather than structures, were undated.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Discover Bucks Museum in due course with accession code AYBCM2022.27.

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### Medieval Occupation at Chinnor Road, Bledlow, Buckinghamshire An Archaeological Excavation

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Will Attard

with contributions by Sue Anderson, Ceri Falys, Rosalind McKenna and Danielle Milbank

**Report 21/151b** 

#### Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried on land at Perry Lane, Pitch Green, Bledlow, Buckinghamshire, HP27 9QR (SP 7784 0303) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew Harvey on behalf of Deanfield Homes Limited, Oakingham House, Frederick Place, London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1JU.

Planning permission (17/07846/OUT) had been gained from Wycombe District Council (now Buckinghamshire Council) for the erection of five new dwellings. This consent was subject to a condition (no. 9) that required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The first phase consisted of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and the present excavation was decided upon its results. This was in accordance with the then Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Phil Markham, senior archaeology officer for the Council. Prior to the investigation a brief had originally been prepared by Ms Eliza Alqassar, Historic and Built Environment Manager at Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Will Attard assisted by Jack Redford, Beth Tucker, Katie Bridger, Ella Dansk and Emily Gibson, between 11th and 28th April 2022 and the site code is CRB 21/151.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Discover Bucks Museum in due course with accession code AYBCM:2022.27.

#### Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the parish of Bledlow, in a small hamlet, Pitch Green, less than 3km west of Princes Risborough and distant from the historic core of the village of Bledlow itself (Fig. 1). It is south of the junction between Chinnor Road and Perry Lane (Fig. 2), in a rectangular field, currently unimproved grassland. A small stream, the Lyde, flows just south-east of the site. To the south-west the site is bordered by residential properties.

The site is flat and lies at about 88m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 1994).

#### Archaeological background

The environs of the site contains a modest range of sites and finds recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. In particular there are a number of Bronze Age round barrows in the land surrounding the village of Bledlow. The site lies at some distance from the historic core of Bledlow and is within the hamlet of Pitch Green. Bledlow itself has late Saxon origins (Williams and Martin 2002). A number of Late Medieval to early post-Medieval buildings are noted in the vicinity of the site. Just to the south there is a late 16th-early 17th century mill complex which probably lies on the site of an earlier mill. Other listed buildings include the Brewhouse and associated barns, originating from the 18th century, a 17th-century farmhouse (Pitch Green) and a cottage (Vine Cottage) of same date to cite a few. There have been relatively few archaeological investigations in the area. A pit or well of Medieval date was found during an evaluation at West Lane, some 500m to the south-west (Wallis and Ford 2004).

Evaluation trenching was carried out on the site itself in 2021 (Colyer 2021) which revealed a number of archaeological features, from the Medieval to early Post-Medieval periods where dated, to suggest the requirement for a more thorough investigation.

#### Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the excavation was to examine an irregular area of about 700 sq m, corresponding to the ground impacted by the new development and where the evaluation had revealed a significant potential. The general objectives were to;

excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the development;

produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on site;

establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic...; and to

produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the regional

More specifically, the project aimed to gather date to answer the following questions:

When was the site first utilised and when was it abandoned?

What is the nature and extent of the Medieval activity on the site?

Are the Medieval ditches part of an enclosure, a boundary feature or part of a field system?

What is the nature of the transition from Medieval to Post-Medieval on the site?

Can any of the deposits revealed be related to the use of the nearby mill?

What is the palaeoenvironmental setting of the site?

The results were to be considered in regard to the regional (Hey and Hind 2014) or more general (HE 2017) research priorities. The defined area was to be reduced by machine down to the archaeological or geological level under constant archaeological supervision. The exposed features would be hand cleaned and sufficiently sampled to answer to the objectives of the project.

#### Results (Fig. 3-6; Pl. 1-6)

The fieldwork comprised excavation of an irregular-shaped zone of about 800 sq. m. and encompassing the location of evaluation trenches 1, 2 and 4. Topsoil and subsoil were stripped mechanically down to the archaeologically relevant level. Linear features were excavated in slots to a minimum sampling fraction of 10% by length; discrete features were mainly half-sectioned but many were fully excavated after recording in section, to enhance finds recovery. All spoil heaps were monitored for finds.

A complete list of features with phasing and summary of dating evidence is given in Appendix 1. The results of this excavation in terms of dating is quite homogeneous with the bulk of the features providing a Medieval date and few appearing earlier or later. The phasing therefore relies on stratigraphic considerations in conjunction with the pottery analysis. In all, some seven linear features, 20 pits and 12 postholes were found and are discussed below.

#### Phase I: Medieval

The vast majority of the features can be dated to the Medieval period, probably in the main 13th to 14th century but with a beginning in the 12th and/or extension to the 15th centuries not ruled out. That is, while the pottery dating ranges broadly from the 11th to the 15th century, none of the pottery need be earlier than the 13th century nor as late as the 15th. The features comprised a few ditches, gullies and 20 or so pits. The dating evidence recovered from these deposits was scarce and does not refine the phasing demonstrated by the stratigraphic relationships.

Phase 1a: Pre 14th century

The linear features

Among the earliest features was gully 204, based on its stratigraphic position, although it contained no dating

evidence. It was investigated through slots 7, 19, 120, 122, 126 and 136. It was truncated by ditches 200 and

207, ensuring a date earlier than these (13th-15th and 12th-14th century respectively). It was also truncated by

undated pit 206 and undated ditch 202. It was relatively shallow, about 0.60-0.72m wide and 0.13m deep. It was

orientated almost due south-north the full width of the excavation area.

Perpendicular to it, and truncating it, was ditch 202. Its phasing is was also provided by its truncation by

ditch 200 but it was apparently cutting through pit 203, for which a 12th-14th century date can be given. It was

investigated as slots 44, 102, 116, 118-9, 124 and 133. It was aligned close to W-E from the west edge of site,

and then turned sharply towards south to exit the area, but did not continue as far as the evaluation trench 2 (less

than 4m from the limit of excavation). It had a breadth of 0.53-0.64m and a depth of 0.17-0.26m.

Pit

Pit 203 was given a 12th-14th century date, based on just a single sherd of pottery. Investigated in the evaluation

as slot 9 and here as slot 134 it is shown being truncated by gully 202. It had an oval shape and was at least 1.44

x 4m for a depth of 0.33m. It was flat-based and slopes were moderate. It was flanked by post hole 8 of similar

date.

Phase 1b: likely 13th–14th century

The linear features

Gully 201 was another feature truncated by ditch 200, though not seen continuing beyond it allowing the

likelihood that they were contemporary. It was slightly curved but overall NW-SE. Slots 103 and 108 revealed a

shallow gully, 0.40m wide and 0.16m deep, with a concave profile. Two sherds of pottery from its fill give a

12th-14th century date.

Ditch 207 was observed in the south-west corner of the excavation, and examined by four slots (20, 125,

129 and 131). It appears also to be the same as ditch 13 in evaluation trench 5 outside of the excavation area. The

ditch curved slightly from west to south-east. It was truncated by 13th-century pit 205, undated pit 206, while it

cut gully 204. It was assigned a 12th-14th century date.

Ditch 200 (Pl. 2) was the main dividing feature in the area opened. It was orientated south-west to north-

east with a slight curvature, continuing beyond the baulk in both directions, or it may have turned to continue

perpendicularly as 212 (or, less likely, 213) but the relation of the two was just outside the scope of the

investigation. It cut ditch 202, gullies 201 and 204 but was in turn cut by pit 46 and post-Medieval posthole 35.

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Ditch **200** was examined through slots 10, 36 (Pl. 5), 45, 104, 117, 121, and 127. It was 1m wide and 0.38-0.46m deep with moderate to steep V-shaped sides and a rounded base, consistently with two fills. The pottery (5 sherds in slot 10, 14 in slot 36 and 3 in slot 17) had currency ranging from 12th to 15th century with a majority suggesting a 12th-14th century date but a couple of sherds likely to be no earlier than 13th century.

Gully **212** could be a continuation of ditch **200**, or just aligned on it. It had been massively truncated and almost wholly removed by large elongated pits. Its remaining parts (slots 24, 33, 38, 107) revealed a feature that slowly narrowed from 0.88m wide to 0.45m at its extremity. It developed along a north-west – south-east axis. It contained no dating evidence but its truncation by pits **209**, 37 and 39 guaranteed a date earlier than 14th century and a place in the same layout as ditch 200 seems most probable, though it could be earlier.

Slots 21 and 40 were part of NW-SE ditch **213** only partially visible within the northern corner of the excavation. It had a complex profile on the south-west side and its opposite slope was not visible. It was at least 1.45m wide and 0.45m deep with two fills. A 12th - 14th century date can be considered based on just a single sherd of pottery.

#### Pits

Twenty or so pits were identified, sometimes isolated, sometimes clustered. Not all provided dating evidence but overall they belong for most part to this High Medieval period.

Pit **206** was truncating both gully **204** and ditch **207**, which confers on it at least a 12th-14th century date: it produced no dating evidence. From slots 132 and 135 (Pl. 3) this pit's depth exceeded 0.28m. It had an elongated shape, measuring about 2.30 x 0.80m.

Nearby pit 128 had an irregular oblong shape too with moderate sides and a flat base. Nine sherds of pottery give it one of the site's more convincing 13th-14th century dates. It was 2.88x0.80m and 0.20m deep.

Oblong pit **205** truncated ditch **207**. Its dimensions were 1.64x4m and 0.60m deep. Two fills were identified in it. Three more sherds of 12th-14th century pottery were collected in it, adding to the fragment already found during the evaluation phase in slot 6.

Pit 123 was cut by gully **202** and so from the stratigraphic relationship at the latest it was 12th-14th century. It was a pit with a diameter of 0.74m, a depth of 0.15m and a shallow concave profile.

Pit 46 was a large sub-rectangular pit, c. 2.5 x 1.65m. It was one of the rare features that had a decent depth, with a complex infill, at least 0.90m thick. Four deposits were noted with minor variation of colour and texture, overall a mid grey brown silty clay, sometimes with mottled yellow and orange sandy clay and a varying degree

of small stones, chalk and flint inclusions. It seemed to have filled from the south side. Despite its dimensions it provided just five sherds of pottery, with a 13th-14th century date range.

Pit 114 was a diffuse elongated pit with unclear edges, located north of ditch **200**. It was 1.02m wide and) 0.22m deep. Its length remain uncertain. Four sherds pottery resulted in a 13th to 14th century for this feature, and its alignment on the same orientation as ditch 200 supports their being contemporary. It was flanked to the north by an undated oval pit, 113, measuring 0.7x0.86m and 0.18m deep.

If the previously mentioned pits were dispersed, overlying gully 212, south of ditch 213, and following the same axis, there was a concentration of pits (Pl. 1), often grouped in pairs (208 and 209, 37 and 39, 210 and 211). Undated pit 106 might belong with this cluster and on the opposite side more securely pits 100 and 101 belonged to it too. They are detailed in the Table 1 below.

Table 1: Other pits in north part of the excavation

Group	Cuts	Fill(s)	Date range	Dimension (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
208	22, 32		12th - 15th	4.50 x 1.48	0.35	Subrectangular with rounded corners; vertical to undercutting
						sides, flat-based; cut by 209
209	23, 34		13th - 14th	3.80 x 1.60	0.30	Elongated; shallow to moderate sides, flat-based; cut 208
	37	99	14th - 15th?	3.80 x 1.35	0.21	Elongated oval; shallow to moderate sides; flat-based
	39	151	13th - 15th	3.50 1.72	0.13	Elongated oval; shallow sides; flat-based
210	11, 26, 27	85, 86	13th C.?	2.60? x 1.60?	0.20	Irregular shape; Steep sides; slightly rounded base; Pls 4 and 6
211	28, 29	87, 88	13th-15th C.	2.40? x 1.68?	0.22	Irregular shape; shallow; flattish base; Pl. 6
	20	00	124 154 6	0.040	0.14	0
	30	89	13th-15th C.	0.94?	0.14	Steep sides; rounded base
	100	170	12th-14th C.	>2.28  x > 2.80	0.22	Shallow, flattish base; Pl. 6
	101	171	12th-14th C.	0.70?	0.24	Steep sides; cuts 100; Pl. 6

Another cluster of shallow pits was present in the south-east corner, whose extent cannot be fully understood due to the site limits. This includes pits **214** (made of 42, 43, and 47), 48 and 49 and partially overlapped features 1-4 seen in evaluation trench 4 and there interpreted as a recut ditch. **214** would have been a large oval pit, at least 6.55 x 3m and 0.65m deep. It was truncated by pit 48. Similarly cut by pit 48, pit 49 was much smaller with an estimated diameter of 0.48m and a depth of 0.52m. Though the pottery found in Pit 48 was slightly earlier (12th - 13th century) than the potsherds found in **214** or 49, it clearly post-dated both. It measured at least 2.51 x 1.47m for a depth of 0.40m. It was an irregular oval with a flat base and moderate sides.

#### **Phase II: Post-Medieval**

A clay pipe and a potsherd leave no doubt regarding the post-Medieval date of post hole or pit 35 (Pl. 5), c. 0.55 x 0.64m and 0.12m deep. It also cut ditch **200**.

#### **Undated features**

Pit 106 was only partially uncovered in the northernmost edge of the excavation. It was at least 1.6m by 0.40m with a depth of 0.32m. It was flat-based with steep sides. Pit 101 was located between ditch **200** and pit 114. It had a diameter of 0.70m and was 0.24m deep. Neither produced any finds.

A series of shallow concave post holes, more or less regularly spaced formed two south-north alignments. An initial series in the south would have consisted of 137, 14, 15 and possibly a very diffuse extra one. That series then split and continued in two other lines: 16, 17, 18, 105 and 109 going NNW and 112, 111, 115 and 110 going NNE. While the first had diameters about 0.37-0.40m and depth not exceeding 0.16m. The second had diameters slightly larger, 0.43-0.47m but similar depth. Their excavation failed to produce any dating evidence but a contemporary date for all seems plausible. The northernmost posts of both lines possibly could be said to align on posthole 35 which was clearly post-medieval, but this association is perhaps too vague to be relied on as dating these ?fence lines. Perhaps more convincing evidence that they were not medieval is that neither line is a good match for either phase of the medieval ditches.

#### **Finds**

#### Pottery by Sue Anderson

Pottery (129 sherds, 951g) was collected from 34 contexts in the excavation. Table 2 shows the quantification by fabric and a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 2. A full record is included in the archive in MS Access format.

Table 2: Pottery quantification by fabric.

Fabric	Code	Date range	No	Wt/g	eve	MNV
Early medieval sandy ware	EMW	11th-12th c.	3	19		3
Early medieval ware limestone	<b>EMWL</b>	11th-13th c.	1	6		1
Early medieval ware sparse limestone	<b>EMWSL</b>	11th-13th c.	5	31	0.05	3
Early medieval ware flint & limestone	<b>EMWFL</b>	11th-13th c.	1	5		1
Developed St Neots-type ware	DNEOT	M.11th-13th c.	6	82		1
Medieval limestone-tempered coarseware	MCWL	11th-14th c.	1	6		1
Medieval shelly ware	MSHW	11th-14th c.	4	10		1
Medieval sandy coarsewares	MCW	12th-14th c.	67	465	0.46	62
Medieval sandy coarseware micaceous	MCWM	12th-14th c.	2	17		1
Brill/Boarstall coarseware	BBCW	M.12th-14th c.	10	81	0.10	10
Brill/Boarstall glazed ware	BRIL	13th-15th c.	14	131		11
Unprovenanced whiteware	UNWW	12th-14th c.	1	7		1
Unprovenanced glazed	UPG	12th-15th c.	6	42		6
Late medieval oxidised ware	LMO	L.14th-15th c.	6	43	0.07	6
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	M.16th-18th c.	1	2		1
English stoneware	ESW	17th-19th c.	1	4		1
Totals			129	951	0.68	108

#### Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight, estimated vessel equivalent (eve) and minimum number of vessels (MNV). A full catalogue is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the

author's post-Roman fabric series. Methods follow MPRG recommendations (MPRG 2001) and form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Brill/Boarstall wares were identified with the aid of Mellor (1994). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes. The results were input directly onto an Access database.

#### The assemblage

The majority of sherds were of medieval date (broadly 11th–14th c.). A small group of probable early medieval wares was recovered, although these were largely residual or possibly contemporary with high medieval wares. Three were in fine to medium sandy fabrics similar to the later fabrics, but clearly handmade. Seven sherds were tempered with limestone, including a beaded rim possibly from a bowl in (157). Six fragments of a Developed St Neots-type ware vessel, probably a jar with a sagging base, were found in (97).

The medieval coarsewares (MCW) were all in fine to medium sandy fabrics with sparse quantities of local inclusions such as rounded quartz grit, ferrous and argillaceous pellets and occasional burnt-out organic material, and varying in colour from pale grey to black if reduced and from buff to red if oxidised. Several had red cores and black surfaces, but the majority were grey. A few contained limestone or shell fragments (MCWL, MSHW). A high proportion of sherds are comparable with the fabric descriptions for Great Missenden products (Ashworth 1983, mostly Fabric 1). Seven MCW rims were present, of which six were from jars and one was possibly a jug. One neck from a probable jar was also found. The rims in this small group have parallels at some of the regional production sites, for example a jar rim from (86) can be compared with an example from Great Missenden (Ashworth 1983, fig. 2.2), another jar rim in a black medium sandy fabric from (99) is similar to a late medieval example from Tylers Green (Hutchings and Farley 1989, fig. 2.7), and there were two jars with flaring thickened rims similar to medieval examples from Tylers Green (Cauvin *et al.* 1989, fig. 4, no. 38). Two vessels had combed horizontal lines at the shoulder, and one had a line of fine rouletting. Two sherds of a very fine sandy micaceous greyware were decorated with an applied thumbed strip. A few coarseware body sherds were of Brill/Boarstall type, two of which had shallow horizontal grooves on the upper body, and there was also a jar rim of collared form in this fabric (*cf.* Mellor 1994, fig. 48, nos 5–6).

Fourteen medieval glazed ware sherds were Brill types, three from a single vessel with diagonal red clay strips under a yellow glaze, presumably making a lattice pattern. There was also a handle with typical diagonal knife slashes along the centre. Other glazed wares were mostly comparable with the Great Missenden coarsewares or with SE Oxfordshire wares; these have been recorded as UPG.

Six sherds were probably late medieval and transitional in date, although some may have been late versions of the UPG group. Only one form was identifiable, a jar with a thickened everted rim comparable with an

example from Tylers Green (Hutchings and Farley 1989, fig. 2.5), found in (154); the sherd had two small spots of green glaze internally.

Two sherds were of post-medieval date, both from (95). One was a small fragment of red earthenware with an internal orange-brown glaze, and the other was a piece of English stoneware of uncertain source.

The pottery spotdates suggest that the ditches and pits were backfilled in the high and late medieval periods, but the small quantities recovered from the individual features are not indicative of intensive occupation on the site in these periods. The assemblage may relate to the infilling of open features with midden waste.

#### Discussion

A small assemblage of 30 sherds of medieval and later date was recovered during the evaluation of this site (Anderson 2021), with the excavation adding a further 129 sherds. The site appears to have been in use between the early and late medieval periods, although the few diagnostic sherds in the medieval coarseware assemblage were mainly of 13th-15th-century date – early medieval activity was probably limited. The medieval assemblage is of local importance, as there seem to be few other assemblages from the town and those which have been found are small (*e.g.* Blinkhorn 2004). However, much of it was recovered from ditches and was heavily abraded, suggesting that it may have reached the site during manuring activity rather than being related to any occupation on the site. The medieval wares were largely sourced from local potteries such as Brill/Boarstall, Great Missenden and Tyler Hill. A Surrey whiteware sherd was identified in the evaluation assemblage, but most of the glazed wares in the excavation group appeared to be of more local origin.

#### Ceramic Building Materials by Danielle Milbank

A total of 49 fragments of ceramic building material weighing 2357g were recovered in the course of the excavation, hand-collected from eight contexts (Appendix 3). The material largely comprised tile fragments, in addition to several small fragments which could not be identified. The typical fabric of the majority of the pieces is an evenly-fired, medium hard clay with occasional sand inclusions and an orange red colour. The pieces were examined under x10 magnification and categorised wherever possible based on dimensions, fabric and finish.

Tile pieces from 43 157 range from 12mm to 15mm in thickness and have a slightly uneven finish and edge thickening on some pieces, indicating a likely medieval date. Circular peg holes are present on two examples.

A piece from 46 (160) is uneven, 14mm thick, with a dark grey core indicating reduced oxygen conditions during firing. The piece is of broadly medieval date.

A single piece was recovered from 47 (164) which comprises a hard fabric with moderate fine sand inclusions, with a dark red surface colour and dark grey reduced core, and a thickness of 13mm. It is of likely medieval date.

48 (166) contained a pieces of roof tile including one with a peg hole present, a thickness of 13mm and of likely medieval date, and a small piece of curved tile, though the form of tile is not clear.

127 (199) contained a small piece with a shallow groove along one edge, and a thickness of 12mm, and a likely medieval date.

Overall, the material dates broadly to the medieval and early post-medieval periods, with several examples likely to date to the early part of this range, most likely the 13th to 15th centuries. The material comprises roof tiles with peg holes present on a range of examples.

In the first half of the medieval period, tiled roofing and floor tiles were prestigious, and even where clay was a readily available resource, was largely limited to high-status buildings, before becoming more widespread in the second half of the period and into the post-medieval period.

#### Shell by Danielle Milbank

Pit 42 contained four pieces of oyster shell weighing 29g and likely to represent food waste. Two garden snail shells from ditch 36 (97) appear to be modern intrusions.

#### Metal finds by Danielle Milbank

Seven contexts contained metalwork. There were all iron and comprised nails from pits 28 (87) and 32 (91), and ditch 200, slot 36 (97). These were small handmade nails with oval or irregular shaped heads, and are fairly corroded. Pit 42 (154) contained pieces of a badly corroded horseshoe which is incomplete and could not be closely dated, though it could be of later medieval or post-medieval date. Three iron fragments from pit 43 (157) are badly corroded and not identifiable. One piece of undiagnostic iron slag was recovered from ditch 213, slot 21 (77) and a small fragment of coal from pit 22 (80).

#### Animal Bones by Ceri Falys

A small assemblage of non-human bone was recovered from 16 contexts. Weighing 817g, a total of 53 pieces of bone were present for analysis (Appendix 3). The remains were of fair preservation. Although only occasional erosion and/or damage of the cortical bone surfaces was noted, the pieces of bone displayed moderate to high

fragmentation. The high degree of fragmentation resulted in several long bone shaft pieces becoming nondescript in appearance.

Initial analyses roughly sorted elements based on size, not by species, into one of three general categories: "large", "medium", and "small". Horse and cow are represented by the large size category, sheep/goat, deer and pigs are represented in the medium size category, and any smaller animal (e.g. dog, cat, etc.) are designated to the "small" category. Wherever possible, specific identification of skeletal element/side and species of origin was undertaken using reference to Hillson (1992). The minimum number of animal individuals was assessed, both within and between animal species and contexts, based on the duplication of skeletal elements or differences in skeletal development.

Due to the amount fragmentation present within the assemblage, it was not possible to identify approximately 32% of the pieces of bone to animal size category, specific skeletal element, or species of origin (17 fragments). Despite this, osteological analysis found the small assemblage contained a minimum of four animals: one "large" (a cow), two "medium" (a sheep/goat and a pig) and one "small" (unidentified species).

Of those pieces of bone able to be identified to general size category, a total of 18 fragments (34.0% of the assemblage) were allocated to the "large" sized animal category. Evidence of at least one cow was recovered from four contexts, including a mandibular fragment in pit 46 (160), a portion of cranium with the base of a horn core in pit 48 (166), the proximal end of a left ulna in pit 43 (157), and the distal end of a right tibia in gully 126 (197). Of note, transverse cut marks were observed on the shaft of a "large" long bone shaft.

A total of 13 fragments (24.5% of the assemblage) of "medium"-sized animals were collected from six contexts. Of these, a minimum of one sheep-goat individual was identified in pit 43 (157), based on the proximal end of a right metatarsal. Due to the lack of duplication of skeletal region, a minimum of one pig was also present, based on mandibular fragments recovered from pits 46 (161) and 47 (164).

Finally, a minimum of one, small animal of unidentified species was also present within the assemblage. A total of five long bone shaft fragments (9.4% of the assemblage) were collected from three contexts: pits 32 (91), 42 (155) and 43 (157). It was not possible to suggest the species of origin for the "small" long bone fragments.

In summary, a total of four animal individuals were identified within this small assemblage of bone, including one cow, one sheep/goat, one pig, and one "small" animal individual of unidentified species. Evidence of butchery practices was observed in the form of transverse cut marks to a long bone shaft of a "large" animal. No further information could be retrieved from the small assemblage of bone.

#### The palaeoenvironmental samples by Rosalind McKenna

A programme of soil sampling was implemented during the excavation, which included the collection of bulk soil samples from 17 contexts. The samples were floated, wet sieved using a 0.25mm sieve and air dried. The flots were examined under a hand lens and microscope and magnifications between x8 and x60. Flecks and small pieces of charcoal were present in most samples however this material of was of size and structure that does not allow species identification. Identifiable charred plant remains were present in just three samples and charcoal was present in only one: sample 8 from ditch 200 (cut 36) contained 9 fragments of oak and 45 indeterminate charcoal fragments. Indeterminate cereal gains were present in the samples, from the same ditch slot (36) and pits 39 and 42.

#### Conclusion

The excavation carried out at the junction of Perry Lane and Chinnor Road revealed a modest range of features that can be date to the Medieval period (broadly 12th to 15th century). There was no hint of any earlier activity, be it Saxon or earlier. The limited amount of pottery within each feature does not allow this occupation to be subdivided into sub-phases based on ceramic chronology, however stratigraphy determined the existence of a multi-phase sequence of occupation. The low volume of material evidence suggests that the site was peripheral to any settlement, with no structural remains found. In comparison, sites such as Townsend in the nearby village of Haddenham (Bray and Weale 2014) had produced, for a similar density of features, a much more substantial assemblage of artefacts. It is nonetheless tempting to divide the medieval occupation here into three phases, even if their duration may be hard to determine precisely, and indeed they may be short-lived.

The original layout might have been structured by the L-shaped gully 202 to which it is tempting to associate the perpendicular north-south gully 204, an embryo of a rectilinear field system. Pit 203 seemed also more adjacent to 202 than truncated by it and could possibly belong to this layout, undated other than broadly medieval, but earlier than the next phase.

Then, probably prior to the 13th century, the boundaries are replaced with the more substantial ditches 200 and 207 which truncated the previous layout and followed different orientations. The gullies 201 and 212, possibly abutting 200, probably contributed to this configuration, as did ditch 213. The modern layout more or less preserves their orientation.

Finally the Medieval period saw a number of pits overlapping the linear features, markedly concentrated in the north-east and south-east parts of the site. The purpose of the pits, generally relatively shallow but extensive, remained unclear. The infills of the various features appeared to be the result of natural infilling processes with no particularly deliberate deposits found. They were not storage pits and as they often cut the boundary ditches, they can hardly have been for mineral extraction, nor do the meagre finds suggest they were for rubbish disposal but this most be the most probable interpretation, the lack of finds simply reflecting distance from a main occupation focus. This lack of finds also makes it difficult to comment on the economy of any associated settlement, except that it was drawing pottery only from relatively local sources. Environmental sampling was not very conclusive, a very few indeterminate cereal grains and some oak charcoal being the only identifiable remains, and with very few animal bones found.

The site appeared almost abandoned after the 15th century with just a single pit dated to the 18th - 19th century. The scope of the investigation did not allow exploration of any relations with the mills to the south-east, but considering they are 16th - 17th century in their earlier documented phase, there would seem to be no link between the two.

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**APPENDIX 1:** Catalogue of excavated features

Cut	Fill	Group	Туре	Phase	Date	Dating evidence/ Comments
1	52		Ditch (re-cut)?	2	16th century	Pottery; EVAL
2	53		Ditch (term)?	2?	15th century	Pottery; EVAL
3	54		ditch	2?	?15th century	Association; EVAL
4	55		pit	2?		EVAL
5	56		pit	1b	13th-15th century	Pottery; EVAL
6	57-58	205	pit	1b	13th century	Pottery; EVAL
7	59-600	204	Ditch (term)	1a		EVAL
8	61		Post hole	1a	12th-14th century	Pottery; EVAL
9	62	203	pit	1a	12th-14th century	Pottery; EVAL
10	63-64	200	ditch	1b		EVAL
11	65-66	210	pit	1b	13th century	Pottery; EVAL
12	67		pit	1a	13-14th century	Pottery; EVAL
13	68-69	207?	ditch	1b		EVAL
14	70		posthole			
15	71		posthole			
16	72		posthole			
17	73		posthole			
18	74		posthole			
19	75	204	gully	1a		
20	76	207	ditch	1a		stratigraphy
21	77-78	213	ditch	1b	12th-14th century	pottery
22	79-80	208	pit	1b	12th-15th century	pottery
23	81	209	pit	1b		association
24	82-83	212	gully	1a or 1b?	<13th-14th century	stratigraphy
25	84	208	pit	1b		association
26	85	210	pit	1b	13th century?	pottery
27	86	210	pit	1b	13th century?	pottery
28	87	211	pit	1b	13th-15th century	pottery
29	88	211	pit	1b	13th-15th century	pottery
30	89		pit	1b	13th-15th century	pottery
31	90		Post hole			
32	91-92	208	pit	1b	12th-15th c	pottery
33	93	212	gully	1a or 1b?	<13th-14th century	stratigraphy
34	94	209	pit	1b	13th-14th century	pottery
35	95-96		Post hole	2	18th-19th century	pottery
36	97-98	200	ditch	1b	13th-15th century	pottery
37	99		pit	1b	14th-15th century?	pottery
38	150	212	gully	1a or 1b?	<13th-14th century	stratigraphy
39	151		pit	1b	13th-15th century	pottery
40	152	213	ditch	1b	12th-14th century	pottery
41	153		Post hole			
42	154-155	214	pit	1b	13th-15th century	pottery
43	156-157	214	pit	1b	13th-15th century	pottery
44	158	202	gully	1a	104 174	
45	159	200	ditch	1b	13th-15th century	pottery
46	160-163	214	pit	1b	13th-15th century	pottery
47	164	214	pit	1b	13th-15th century	pottery
48	165-166		pit	1b	12th-13th century	pottery
49	167-168		Post hole	1 or earlier	<12th-13th century	stratigraphy
100	170		pit	1b	12th-14th century	pottery
101	171	202	pit	1		
102	169	202	ditch	1a		
103	172	201	gully	1b		association
104	173	200	ditch	1b		association
105	174		Post hole			
106	175-176	212	pit	1110	×124-144	
107	177	212	gully	1a or 1b?	<13th-14th century	stratigraphy
108	178	201	gully	1b	12th-14th+ century	pottery
109	179		Post hole			
110	1800		Post hole			
111	181		Post hole			
112	182		Post hole			
113	183		pit		124 144	
114	184		ditch		13th-14th century	pottery
115	185	202	Post hole	1 -		
116	18	202	ditch	1a		

Cut	Fill	Group	Туре	Phase	Date	Dating evidence/ Comments
117	187	200	ditch	1b		association
118	188	202	ditch	1a		
119	189	202	ditch	1a		association
120	190	204	gully	1a		
121	191	200	ditch	1b		association
122	192	204	gully	1a		
123	193		pit			
124	194	202	gully	1a		
125	195-196	207	ditch	1b		association
126	197	204	gully	1a		
127	198-199	200	ditch	1b	13th-15th century	pottery
128	250		pit		13th-14th century	pottery
129	251-252	207	ditch	1b		association
130	253-254	205	pit	1b	13th century	pottery
131	255-256	207	ditch	1b		association
132	257	206	pit	1b	>12th-14th century	stratigraphy
133	258	202	ditch	1a		
134	259	203	pit	1a		association
135	260	206	pit	1b	>12th-14th century	stratigraphy
136	261	204	gully	1a		
137	262		Post hole			

**APPENDIX 2:** Summary catalogue of pottery

Group	Cut	Deposit	Sample	Fabric	Туре	No	Wt (g)	MNV	Form	Rim	Spot date	Date range
	8	61		MCW	В	1	22	1				12th-14th c.
203	9	62		MCW	U	1	2	1				12th-14th c.
200	10	64		EMW	U	1	12	1				11th-12th c.
200	10	64		MCW	В	1	9	1				12th-14th c.
200	10	64		MCW	U	1	3	1				12th-14th c.
200	10	64		BRIL	U	1	7	1				13th-15th c.
200	10	64		UPG	U	1	2	1				12th-15th c.
	12	67		MCWM	D	1	14	1				12th-14th c.
213	21	78		MCW	U	1	6	1				12th-14th c.
208	22	80		MCW	U	1	4	1				12th-14th c.
208	22	80		MCW	U	1	5	1				12th-14th c.
210	26	85		MCW	U	3	12	2				12th-14th c.
210	26	85		MCW	U	1	7	1				12th-14th c.
210	26	85		MCW	U	1	2	1				12th-14th c.
210	26	85		MCWL	U	1	6	1				11th-14th c.
210	26	85		UNWW	U	1	7	1				12th-14th c.
210	26	85		BRIL	U	2	17	1				13th-15th c.
210	26	85		BBCW	U	1	4	1				M.12th-14th c.
210	26	85		UPG	B?	1	7	1				12th-15th c.
210	27	86		MCW	U	1	7	1			1.00	12th-14th c.
210	27	86		MCW	R	1	8	1	JR	FTEV	13?	12th-14th c.
211	28	87		EMW	U	1	6	1				11th-12th c.
211	28	87		MCW	U	2	21	2				12th-14th c.
211	28	87		BRIL	D	1	4	1				13th-15th c.
211	29	88		BBCW	D	1	11	1				M.12th-14th c.
211	29	88		BBCW	D	1	13	1				M.12th-14th c.
211	29	88		MCW	U	1	4	1				12th-14th c.
	30	89		MCW	U	1	2	1				12th-14th c.
	30	89		BRIL	U	1	4	1				13th-15th c.
200	30	89		LMO	D	1	4	1				L.14th-15th c.
208	32	91		MCW	U	1	8	1				12th-14th c.
208	32	91		MCW	D	2	6	1				12th-14th c.
208	32	91		MCW	U	1	6	1				12th-14th c.
208	32	91		BRIL	D	1	7	1				13th-15th c.
208 208	32	91		UPG	D	1	3	1				12th-15th c.
208	32	91		LMO MCW	B U	1	3	1				L.14th-15th c.
208	32	92		BBCW	R	1	24	1	JR	COLL	14-15	M.12th-14th c.
208	34	94		MCW	U	1	5	1	JK	COLL	14-13	12th-14th c.
209	34	94		BRIL	D	2	6	1				13th-15th c.
209	34	94		MSHW	U	3	6	1				11th-14th c.
209	35	95		GRE	D	1	2	1				M.16th-18th c.
	35	95		ESW	D	1	4	1			18-19	17th-19th c.
200	36	97	8	MCW	В	1	5	1			10-17	12th-14th c.
200	36	97	0	MCW	В	1	18	1				12th-14th c.
200	36	97		MCW	В	1	10	1				12th-14th c.
200	36	97		MCW	В	1	8	1				12th-14th c.
200	36	97		MCW	D	1	7	1				12th-14th c.
200	36	97		MCW	D	1	12	1				12th-14th c.
200	36	97		MCW	R	1	6		JG?	UPBD		12th-14th c.
200	36	97		MCW	R	1	16		JR.	FLTH		12th-14th c.
200	36	97		DNEOT	UB	6	82	1		1 1 1 1 1		M.11th-13th c.
	37	99	9	MCW	R	1	3		JR	THEV		12th-14th c.
	39	151	10	EMW	U	1	1	1		111L V		11th-12th c.
	39	151	10	BBCW	U	1	1	1				M.12th-14th c.
	39	151	10	MCW	В	1	2	1				12th-14th c.
	39	151	10	BBCW	U	1	4	1				M.12th-14th c.
	39	151		BBCW	В	1	18	1				M.12th-14th c.
214	42	154		UPG	D	1	12	1			L14-15	12th-15th c.
214	42	154		LMO	R	1	16		JR	THEV	D17 13	L.14th-15th c.
214	42	154		LMO	U	1	4	1		111L V		L.14th-15th c.
214	42	154		LMO	U	1	2	1	_			L.14th-15th c.
214	42	154		MCW	U	1	11	1				12th-14th c.
214	42	154		MCW	U	1	5	1				12th-14th c.
	42	155	11	MCW	U	1	1	1				12th-14th c.
214	147											

Group	Cut	Deposit	Sample	Fabric	Туре	No	Wt (g)	MNV	Form	Rim	Spot date	Date range
214	43	157		EMWSL	R	1	22	1	BL?	BD		11th-13th c.
214	43	157		BRIL	U	1	12	1				13th-15th c.
214	43	157		MCW	U	1	3	1				12th-14th c.
200	45	159		MCW	D	4	19	1				12th-14th c.
	46	160		BBCW	U	2	3	2				M.12th-14th c.
	46	160		MCW	U	2	10	2				12th-14th c.
	46	160		BRIL	Н	1	41	1	JG			13th-15th c.
213	40	152		MCW	В	1	44	1				12th-14th c.
	46	161	2	MCW	U	1	1	1				12th-14th c.
	46	161		MCW	В	1	24	1				12th-14th c.
	46	161		MCW	U	3	12	3				12th-14th c.
	46	161		MCW	U	1	5	1				12th-14th c.
	46	161		MCW	U	1	2	1				12th-14th c.
	46	161		BRIL	D	1	2	1				13th-15th c.
	46	161		BRIL	D	1	3	1				13th-15th c.
	46	162	3	MCW	U	1	1	1				12th-14th c.
	46	162		BRIL	D	1	25	1			15-16?	13th-15th c.
	47	164		MCW	U	1	14	1	JR			12th-14th c.
	48	166		UPG	D	1	10	1				12th-15th c.
	48	166		MCW	R	1	5	1	JR	EV	12-13?	12th-14th c.
	100	170		MCW	U	1	15	1				12th-14th c.
201	108	178	16	MCW	U	1	1	1				12th-14th c.
201	108	178	16	MCW	U	1	1	1				12th-14th c.
	114	184		MCW	U	1	3	1				12th-14th c.
	114	184		BBCW	U	1	3	1				M.12th-14th c.
	114	184		BRIL	D	1	3					13th-15th c.
	114	184		UPG	D	1	8	1				12th-15th c.
200	127	199		MCWM	D	1	3					12th-14th c.
200	127	199		LMO	U	1	15	1			L14-16	L.14th-15th c.
200	127	199		EMWFL	U	1	5	1				11th-13th c.
	128	250	2	MSHW	U	1	4					11th-14th c.
	128	250	2	MCW	U	1	8	1				12th-14th c.
	128	250	2	MCW	U	1	3	1				12th-14th c.
	128	250	2	EMWSL	U	2	3	1				11th-13th c.
	128	250		EMWL	U	1	6	1				11th-13th c.
	128	250		MCW	U	1	18	1				12th-14th c.
	128	250		MCW	R	1	9	1	JR	EVFTBD		12th-14th c.
	128	250		MCW	R	1	13	1	JR	FLTH		12th-14th c.
205	130	253		MCW	U	1	4	1				12th-14th c.
205	130	253		MCW	U	1	2	1				12th-14th c.
205	130	253		MCW	U	1	2	1				12th-14th c.

Notes: Type: U/D – undecorated/decorated body sherd; B – base; R – rim.

 $Form: BL-bowl; \ JG-jug; \ JR-jar. \ Rim: BD-beaded; \ COLL-collared; \ EV-everted; \ EVFTBD-everted \\ flat-topped beaded; \ FLTH-flaring \ thickened; \ FTEV-flat-topped \ everted; \ THEV-thickened \ everted; \ UPBD-upright beaded.$ 

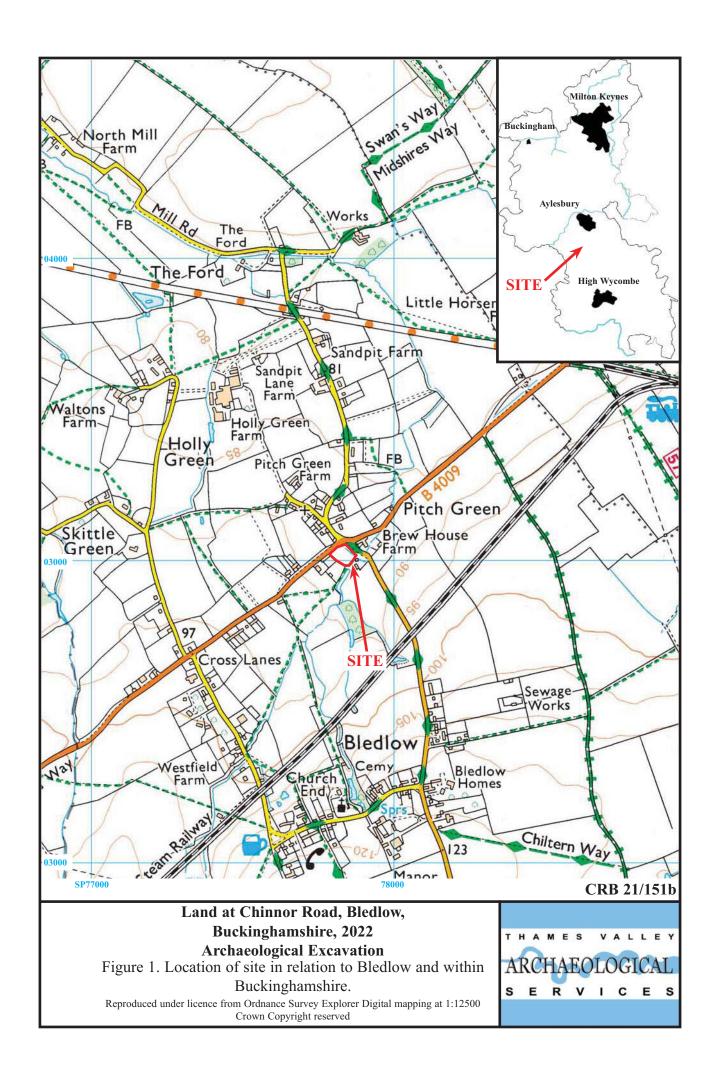
**APPENDIX 3:** Summary catalogue of ceramic building material

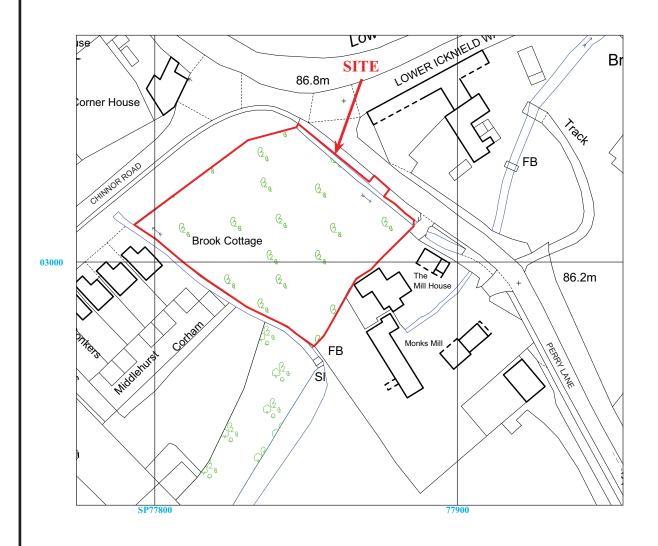
Cut	Deposit	Group	Туре	No	Wt (g)
32	91	208	Pit	1	19
42	154		Pit	3	279
43	157	214	Pit	21	1204
46	160		Pit	6	106
47	164	214	Pit	2	141
48	166		Pit	10	486
127	199	200	Ditch slot	3	109
130	253	207	Pit	3	13

**APPENDIX 5:** Inventory of animal bone

Key: lbsf = long bone shaft fragment, (R) = right side, (L) = left side

Cut	Deposit	No frags	Wt (g)	Large	Medium	Small	Unidentified	Comments
28	87	1	13	-	-	-	1	lbsf
32	91	1	3	-	-	1	-	"Small": lbsf
36	97	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
42	154	12	206	2	5	2	3	"Large": lbsf with transverse cutmarks; "Medium": tibia and metatarsal shafts, innominate fragments; "Small": lbsf
42	155	1	13	1	-	-	-	"Large": proximal ulna (R)
43	157	8	67	2 (cow)	1 (sheep/goat)	2	3	Cow: proximal ulna (L); "Large": spinous process; Sheep/goat: proximal metatarsal (R); "Small": lbsf
45	159	4	10	-	4	-	-	"Medium": metapodial shaft
46	160	6	141	3 (cow)	-	-	3	Cow: mandible (L) fragments with tooth
46	161	5	29	-	1 (pig)	-	4	Pig: mandible fragment with teeth
47	164	1	40	-	1 (pig)	-	-	Pig: mandible fragment with tooth
48	166	7	118	7 (cow)	-	-	-	Cow: horn core fragment; "Large": lbsf
100	170	1	6	-	-	-	1	lbsf
126	197	1	149	1 (cow)	-	-	-	Cow: tibia distal shaft (R)
127	199	1	4	-	-	-	1	lbsf
128	250	1	11	1	-	-	-	"Large": tooth fragment
134	259	1	6	-	1	-	-	"Medium": tooth





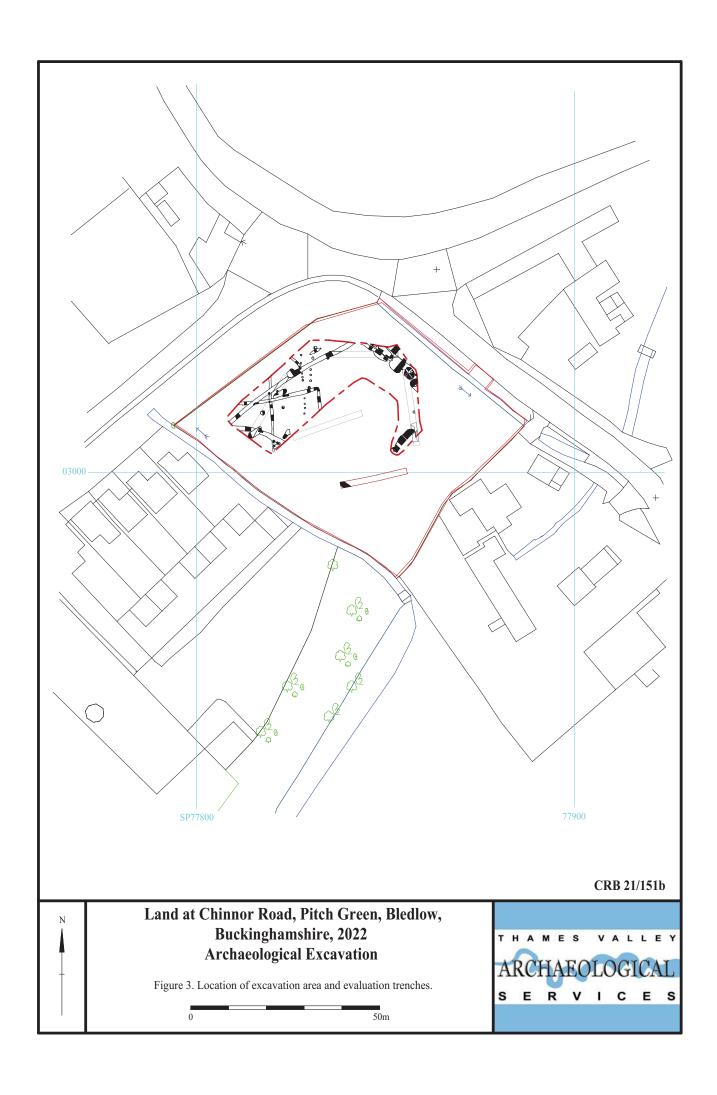
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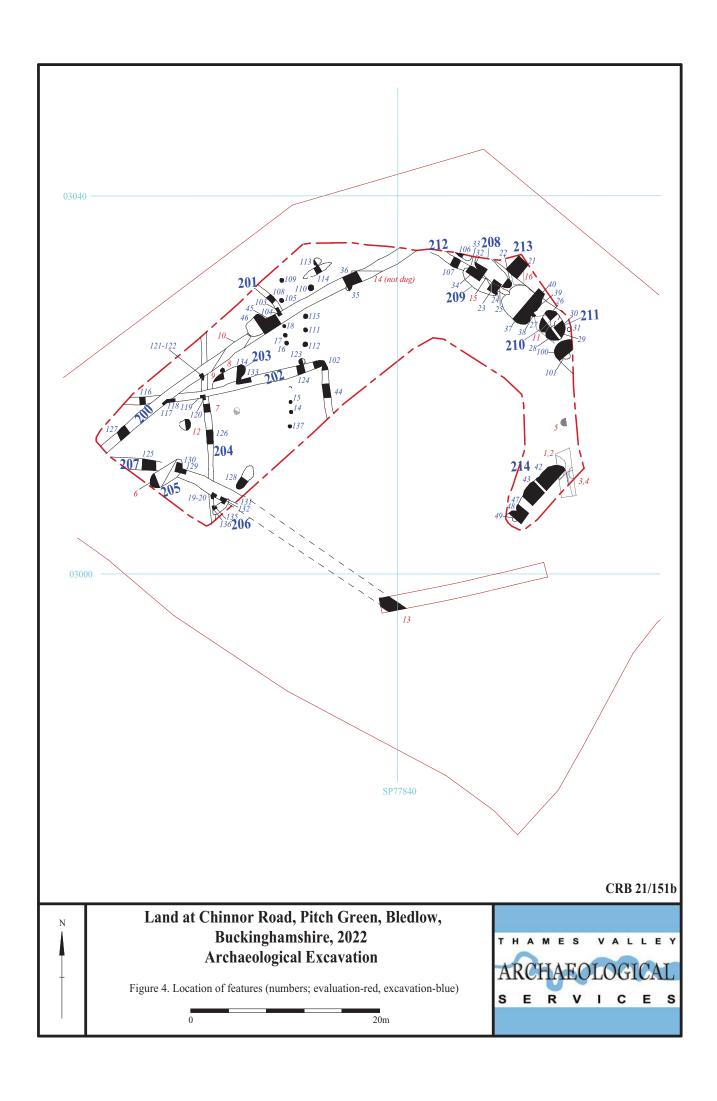
## Land at Chinnor Road, Pitch Green, Bledlow, Buckinghamshire, 2022 Archaeological Excavation

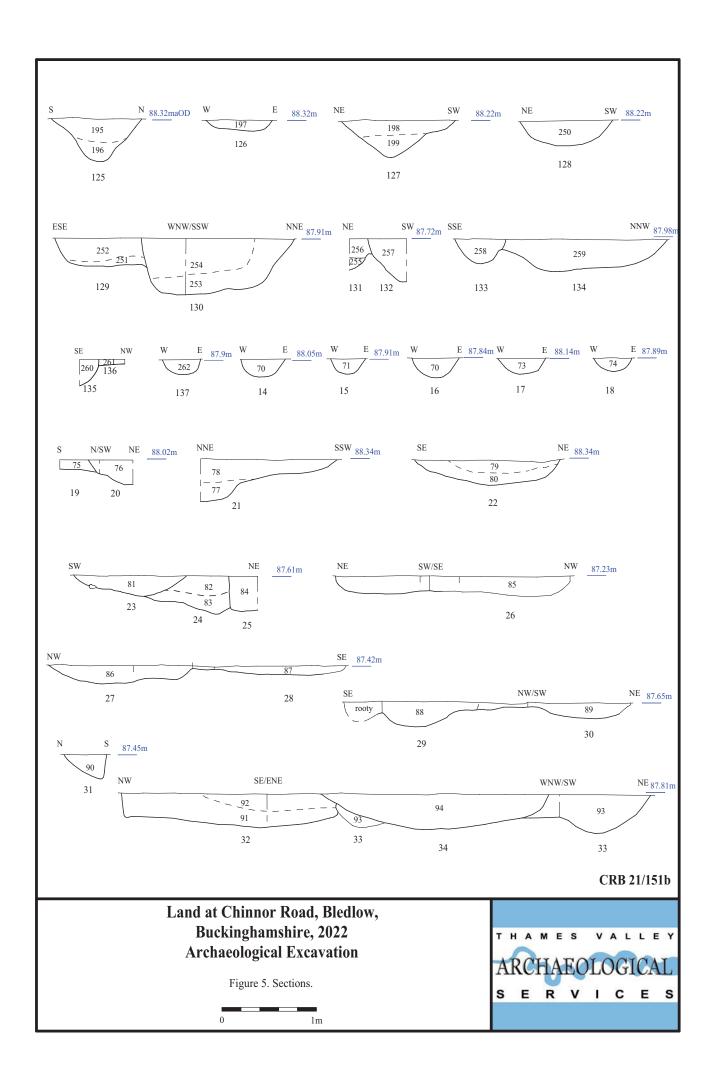
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Perry Lane and Chinnor Road.

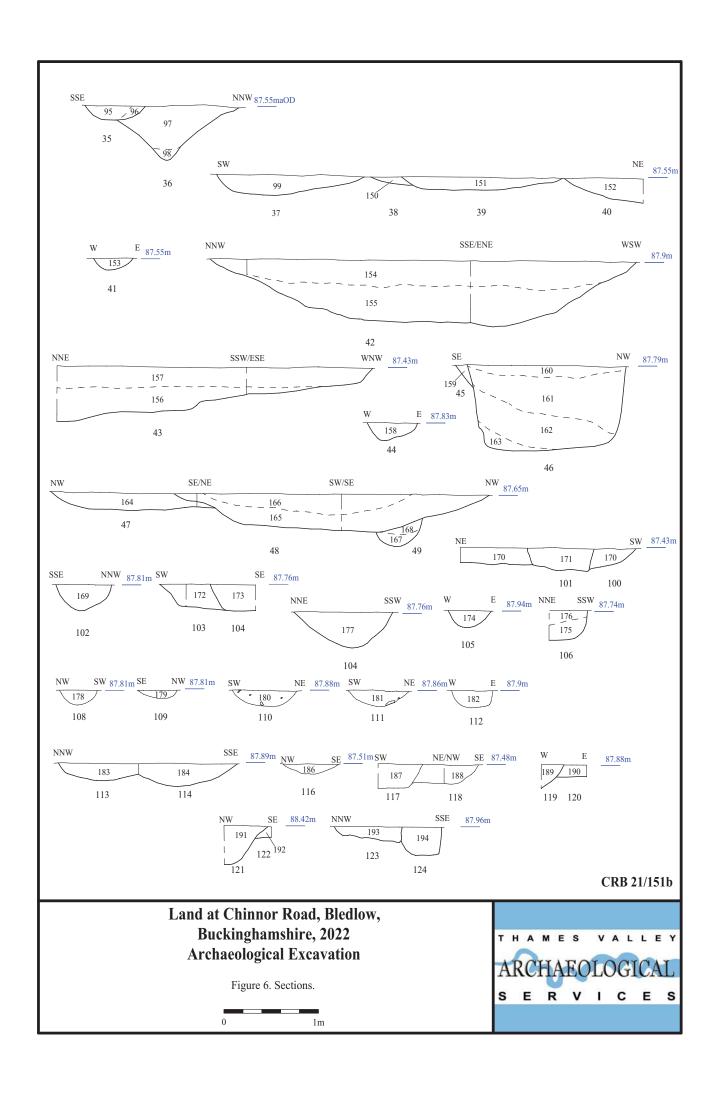
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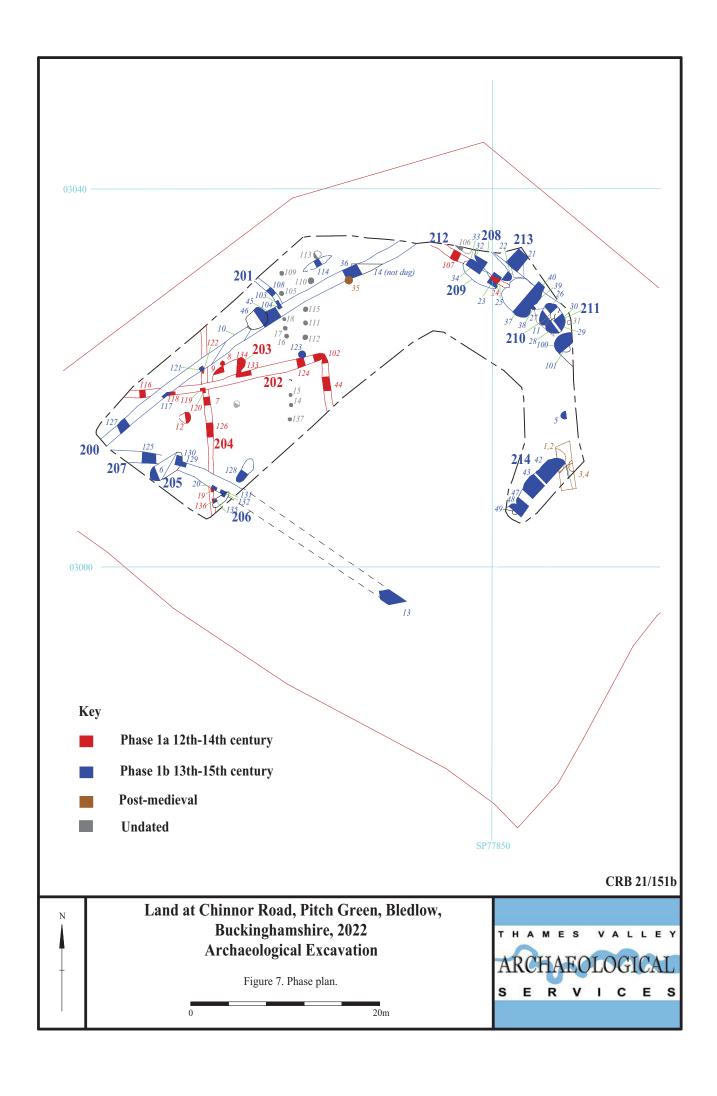




Plate 1. Northern pit and feature cluster, looking South East.



Plate 2. Western excavation of area in progress, looking South West.

Land at Chinnor Road, Pitch Green, Bledlow, Cheltenham, Buckinghamshire, 2022 Archaeological Excavation Plates 1 and 2.





Plate 3. Pit 135 (formerly 11) and gully 136 (formerly 12), looking South South East, Scales: 0.5 and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Pit 210, slot 26, part of northern cluster, looking South East, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

Land at Chinnor Road, Pitch Green, Bledlow, Cheltenham, Buckinghamshire, 2022 Archaeological Excavation Plates 3 and 4.





Plate 5. Ditch 36 with pit 35, looking South West, Scales: 0.5 and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Pits containing slots 26, 27 (Grouped as 210) and 28, 30 (grouped as 211), and pit 100 in th background; all part of northern cluster, looking East South East.

Land at Chinnor Road, Pitch Green, Bledlow, Cheltenham, Buckinghamshire, 2022 Archaeological Excavation Plates 5 and 6.



# TIME CHART

## Calendar Years

Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
Iron Age	AD 0 BC 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC
<b>↓</b>	<b>\</b>



Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR

> Tel: 0118 9260552 Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk Web: www.tvas.co.uk

Offices in: Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent, Wellingborough and Ennis (Ireland)