

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Land at Highworth Road,  
Shrivenham, Oxfordshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Daniel Bray**

**Site Code: HRS12/170**

**(SU 2325 8920)**

# **Land at Highworth Road, Shrivenham, Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Persimmon Homes and  
Hannick Homes & Developments Ltd**

by Daniel Bray

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HRS12/170

**February 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Highworth Road, Shrivenham, Oxfordshire

**Grid reference:** SU 2325 8920

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 13th – 20th January 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Daniel Bray

**Site code:** HRS 12/170

**Area of site:** c. 1.5ha

**Summary of results:** The trenching revealed a high density of ditches, gullies, pits and postholes, mainly dating to the early to middle Iron Age, suggesting the presence of a settlement on or very close to the site. Roman pottery was also recovered from a small number of features suggesting the presence of later deposits on the site. Previous work nearby had also suggested settlements of both the Iron Age and Roman periods.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Services in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 07.02.14 Steve Preston ✓ 07.02.14
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# Land at Highworth Road, Shrivenham, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray

**Report 12/170b**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land off of Highworth Road, Shrivenham, Oxfordshire (SU 2325 8920) (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr Rob Froude of Kemp and Kemp Property Consultants, Elms Court, Botley, Oxford OX2 9LP, on behalf of Persimmon homes, Verona House, Tetbury Hill, Malmesbury, and Hannick Homes and Developments Ltd, Dammas House, Dammas Lane, Old Town, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 3EF.

Planning permission (P13/V2490/FUL) has been sought from the Vale of White Horse District Council for the construction of 35 dwellings with open space and associated infrastructure. The results of an archaeological field evaluation have been requested to inform the planning process, to determine if the site has archaeological potential and if so, to produce information to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Hugh Coddington, Principal Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service, and based on a brief prepared by him (Coddington 2013). The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray along with Kyle Beaverstock, Aidan Colyer, Anna Ginger, Lizzi Lewins, Tom Stewart and Dan Strachan between 13th and 20th January 2014 with the site code HRS 12/170. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Services in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site, which is elongated, is located on the north-western edge of Shrivenham, Oxfordshire within the Vale of the White Horse, west of Wantage and east of Swindon (Fig. 1). The A420 is located within a cutting directly to the west, residential housing bounds the eastern side, Highworth Road is to the north east and Stallpits Road to the south (Fig. 2). During the construction of the A420 a substantial amount of spoil was dumped along the western edge of the field to create a large embankment. Highworth Road was also raised in order to construct a bridge across the A420 which also resulted in another steep embankment on the northern edge of the field. The field is relatively flat from north to south and is currently used for pasture. The site is at approximately 105m

above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and the underlying geology is mapped as 'Coral rag' and 'Red Down' (sand or clay) Corallian geology (BGS 1974).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site area has been highlighted in a brief prepared by Mr Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service drawing on a desk-based assessment (Preston 2012). In summary, the main interest in the site stems from its position adjacent to an area known to contain archaeological deposits of Roman date discovered when the adjacent bypass road was constructed. More recently, fieldwork to the south of the site has recorded additional deposits of Roman and prehistoric date (Coddington pers. comm.). The site lies a little distance from the historic core of the later Saxon and medieval settlement.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. The specific research aims of the project are:

- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any prehistoric occupation or landscape features are present on the site; and
- to determine if there are later prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval deposits present on the site.

It was proposed to excavate 14 trenches each measuring 30m long and 1.6m wide in a stratified random pattern. The trenches were to be excavated using a 360<sup>0</sup>-type excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and supervised at all times by an archaeologist, with the spoil removed being monitored for finds. All potential archaeological deposits were to be hand-cleaned and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project. Bulk soil samples were taken from 24 features for environmental evidence and to enhance small finds recovery.

## **Results**

All 14 trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended positions (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 22.70m to 35m and in depth from 0.55–1.84m; all measured 2.00m wide. The trenches contained between 0.40–0.80m of topsoil with only a thin subsoil present. The trenches in the southern part of the field were shallower with less topsoil present and the trenches excavated through the embankment contained considerable depths of dumped material. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

Archaeological deposits were revealed in 13 of the 14 trenches, with only Trench 12 being devoid of archaeology. The fills of the features were generally very similar, being soft and either mid or dark brown grey in colour and sandy clay in composition. Due to flooded trenches in the northern part of the field, and after consultation with Mr Coddington, it was decided that only a sample of the features in certain trenches would be excavated.

#### Trench 1 (Figs 4 and 9; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned NE - SW and was 25.50m long. The length of this trench was excavated through the A420 embankment giving a total trench depth of 1.84m. The stratigraphy at the north eastern end consisted of 0.44m of topsoil above 0.50m of light yellow grey clay gravel made ground which was above 0.40m of light brown yellow silty sand made ground. This made ground deposit was above another 0.30m of grey brown clay sand made ground which overlaid the light yellow grey clay natural geology. The stratigraphy at the south-western end consisted of 0.50m of topsoil above 0.48m of made ground. Excavation was stopped at this level as a dark brown grey clay silt spread 61 was revealed that contained Iron Age and Roman pottery. The spread extended across the whole southern half of the trench and a test pit excavated through the deposit showed that it was 0.62m thick with a possible feature (10) seen in section underneath. The character of the feature is unknown and no dateable artefacts were recovered from the single fill 62.

#### Trench 2 (Figs 4 and 9)

Trench 2 was aligned N - S and was 29m long and 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.60m of topsoil which directly overlay the natural silty clay geology. A feature (36) and two gullies (37 and 38) were excavated at the northern end of the trench but no relationship could be determined. Feature 36 was only partially excavated and could represent two intercutting pits or a larger pit possibly with redeposited natural on the eastern side. The single dark brown grey sandy clay fill (74) contained no dateable finds. The two gullies aligned roughly NNW-SSE were situated close together and both were shallow. Gully 37 contained two sherds of early Iron Age pottery and a single fragment of animal bone.

#### Trench 3 (Figs 4, 9 and 10)

Trench 3 was aligned E - W and was 29.10m long and 0.91m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.80m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying natural geology. Three excavated ditches (39, 40, 42) and two unexcavated ditches (126 and 127), all aligned north - south were recorded. Unexcavated ditch 126 was truncated by a modern land drain. Ditches 39 and 40, located in the western part of the trench, measured 0.90m wide, 0.36m deep and 0.73m wide and 0.19m deep respectively (Pl. 4). Both features contained animal bone

fragments and Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered from both. Ditch 42, 13m east of 40 measured 1.00m wide and 0.21m deep. The dark brown clay sand fill (79) contained a large quantity of animal bone and one small abraded sherd of Iron Age pot. Two discrete features were also present. A single posthole (41) with a diameter of 0.30m and a depth of 0.09m was recorded in the middle of the trench between ditches 40 and 42. At the eastern end a pit (128) was planned but not excavated.

#### Trench 4 (Figs 5 and 10)

Trench 4 was aligned SE - NW and was 29m long and 0.82m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.64m of topsoil and 0.14m subsoil overlying natural geology. At the north-eastern end a gully (110) was recorded, aligned NE-SW. This was 0.60m wide and 0.09m deep a soil sample taken from its fill (162) contained two small sherds of Iron Age pottery. Three metres south-east of this gully, a shallow oval pit (109) was excavated and recorded. It measured 0.80m in length, 0.70m wide and had a depth of 0.10m. Animal bone and middle Iron Age pot was recovered from the fills of both gully and pit. The rest of the trench was flooded and therefore only planned. Directly south-east of pit 109 was ditch 118 aligned NNE - SSW. Further along the trench another two ditches (119 and 123), both on the same alignment as gully 110, were planned only. Ditch 123 possibly relates to unexcavated gully 116 or unexcavated ditch 117 in the northern end of Trench 5. Located between these two ditches were three discrete postholes (120, 121, 122). And at the south eastern end a single pit (124) was planned. A single sherd of early Iron Age pottery was recovered from the subsoil.

#### Trench 5 (Figs 5 and 10)

Trench 5 was aligned NE - SW and was 30.80m long and 0.81m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.70m of topsoil and 0.11m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. This trench was also flooded and a number of features were not excavated. These included a gully (116) and ditch (117) in the northern end of the trench of which one most likely corresponds with ditch 123 in Trench 4. South-west of these was a gully (115) on a NW-SE alignment and a large pit (114) roughly 3m in diameter but only partially revealed. Half way along the length of the trench unexcavated pit (113) was recorded and measures 0.80m in diameter. At the southern end a gully (107) on a NW-SE alignment had an unclear relationship with posthole 108. Animal bone and Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from 107. Just north of these two features was an oval pit (106). This measured 0.80m in length and 0.60m wide and with a depth of 0.15m deep. Directly to the south of gully 107 is an unexcavated posthole (112). Although no finds were recovered from the features, 4 sherds of pottery, 1 Iron Age in date and 2 of Roman date were recovered from the subsoil.

#### Trench 6 (Figs 6 and 9; Pl. 2)

Trench 6 was aligned N - S and was 33m long and 0.76m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.58m of topsoil and 0.16m subsoil overlying the natural geology. Two ditches (3 and 4), aligned east - west and with a combined width of 2.60m were excavated and recorded 11m from the southern end of the trench. Ditch (3) had gradual sloping sides and a curved base and measured 0.90m wide and 0.15m deep and was filled with deposit 54 and produced 4 sherds of middle Iron pot. Ditch (4) which also had gradual sloping sides but a flat base measured 1.60m wide and 0.22m deep and was filled with deposit 55 which produced a total of 35 fresh sherds of early Iron Age pottery recovered during excavation and in the environmental sample. This ditch was cut by a modern field drain. Both ditches contained fragments of animal bone. The relationship between these two ditches could not be ascertained. To the north of these ditches were three postholes (5-7). These postholes all appeared circular in plan and all had gradual sloping sides and curved bases. No relationship could be seen between (6) and (7). Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from posthole (5) and middle Iron Age pottery from posthole (6) and animal bone from both. At the northern most part of the trench a feature (9) was revealed that measured at least 3.20m wide. The feature was not fully excavated because it had been truncated by a land drain but it is thought that it is linear. The relationship with the posthole (8) directly south was not clear. At the southern end of the trench a small posthole (1) was revealed that measured 0.56m in diameter and 0.17m deep and a single abraded sherd of Iron Age pottery and 2 small fragments of bone were recovered from the environmental sample taken from fill 52. Next to this was a large pit (2) measuring 0.80m in diameter and 0.40m deep which also produced bone fragments.

#### Trench 7 (Figs 6 and 9)

Trench 7 was aligned NNW - SSE and was 28.80m long and 0.73m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.48m of topsoil and 0.20m of subsoil overlying the natural silty sand geology. This trench contained seven linear features and three discrete pits/postholes. At the southern end a shallow ditch terminus (34), on a north - south alignment had been truncated by a pit/posthole (35) which contained early Iron Age pottery. To the north of these was an east - west ditch (11) which measured 0.90m wide and 0.16m deep and was filled with deposit 63, which contained a single animal bone fragment. At roughly a right angle to this were two ditches (12 and 13) both of which were deeper than the other linear features in the trench. Ditch 12, which was 0.28m deep, had been cut by the wider and slightly deeper ditch (13) which measured 1.03m wide and 0.34m deep. All three of these linear features produced animal bone and early Iron Age pottery, and 3 sherds of middle Iron Age pottery were also recovered from ditch 13, which fits it stratigraphically later position. Directly north of these and on the same



alignment were a gully (14), possible gully terminus (15) and ditch terminus (16). Gully 14 was 0.33m wide and 0.04m deep. Gully terminus 15 was also shallow and 0.28m wide and middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from its single fill 67. Ditch 16 was 0.60m wide and 0.13m deep and had an uncertain relationship with shallow pit 17. Pit 18 was located further north of these ditches.

#### Trench 8 (Figs 7 and 9)

Trench 8 was aligned NE - SW and was 29.40m long and 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.62m of topsoil and 0.13m subsoil overlying the natural reddish grey silty sand geology. This trench contained the greatest number of archaeological deposits. At the southern end a large ditch (33) aligned east - west and roughly 3m wide was recorded. Due to the presence of a land drain it was not possible to obtain a section across the whole ditch but a slot excavated on the northern edge showed the feature was steep sided and possibly flat based. Pottery was recovered from fill 95 dating to the early Roman period with 4 residual sherds of Iron Age pottery. No relationship could be seen in section with pit (32) although the Iron Age pottery recovered from the fill suggests that the pit is earlier (and potentially the source of the redeposited pottery in the ditch).

On the southern side of ditch (33) a pit (129) was planned but not excavated. The relationship between pit 32 and a possible linear feature (129) was not explored and neither was the one between the latter and pit 130. From these features fill is present for a further 5m, interrupted by a field drain. A section was dug and interpreted as a ditch (31) which from the pottery recovered is Iron Age in date. A piece of worked stone was also recovered. The ditch was steep-sided and the full depth possibly not reached. The edge excavated is at a right angle to ditch 33 which means that it could be the return of this ditch although the pottery suggests not.

To the north of this ditch were a posthole (30), which measured 0.43m in diameter and 0.08m deep, and a pit (29) which measured 0.65m in diameter and 0.13m deep and whose fill (91) which produced only a single fragment of burnt clay. Directly north of pit 29 and on the northern edge of the trench two pits (27 and 28) were excavated. Both were steep sided with flat bases and their relationship was unclear. Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from all three of these pits (27–29). At the northern end of the trench a linear feature (26) on a north - south alignment was excavated and it appeared in section to cut pit 25 (Pl. 5). The linear feature was steep sided and it is thought the base was concave although this was difficult to judge as the section was hindered by a number of large stones found throughout fill 88. Animal bone fragments were recovered from all the features in this trench except pit 27 and posthole 30.

#### Trench 9 (Figs 7 and 9)

Trench 9 was aligned E - W and was 35m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil and 0.20m of subsoil overlying natural geology. This trench revealed a large unexcavated ditch (125) at the western end of the trench on a NE-SW alignment. The full width of the ditch was not revealed but must measure at least 1.90m wide. A modern field drain and another modern linear were also revealed at the western end of the trench. Also present in the trench were six postholes (19-24). Posthole 19 at the eastern end of the trench measured 0.36m in diameter and 0.11m deep. Posthole 20 was similar in plan measuring 0.34m in diameter but deeper with a total depth of 0.30m. Posthole 21 truncated posthole 22, but no relationship could be seen for postholes 23 and 24. Animal bone was recovered from postholes 23 and 24 and a single sherd of early Iron Age pottery was recovered from the subsoil.

#### Trench 10 (Figs 7 and 10)

Trench 10 was aligned E - W and was 27.50m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.50m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. This trench revealed a number of ditches and postholes. At the western end a shallow ditch (43) measuring 0.80m wide and 0.13m deep and aligned NE-SW was recorded which could relate to the wide ditch in Trench 10 or it could turn and relate to ditch 47 aligned NW-SW in this trench, which measured 1.00m wide and although not fully excavated did produce pottery dating to the early Iron Age. Ditch 47 was truncated by posthole 46 which was vertical sided and flat based. Located between these two ditches were postholes 44 and 45, the latter which produced a single sherd of early Iron Age pottery. No relationship could be seen. West of ditch 47 were a number of postholes (48-103). These measured between 0.28m and 0.53m in diameter and between 0.15m and 0.23m deep. Postholes 101 and 103 produced Iron Age pottery although this was very abraded and may therefore be residual.

#### Trench 11 (Figs 8 and 10)

Trench 11 was aligned NE - SW and was 28.20m long and 0.64m deep and its shallowest and 1.50m deep at its deepest, where cut through the embankment at the south-west end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.50m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying the natural geology at the north-eastern end. Through the embankment there was 0.50m of topsoil above 1.00m of made ground which overlay the natural geology. At the south-western end a possible linear feature (132) was recorded but not excavated. The full width was not fully revealed but its minimum width is 2.40m. Although recorded as a possible feature this could be truncation from the construction of the road. Directly north of this, a ditch (131) aligned NNE-SSW was revealed but not excavated. At the north eastern end of the trench a single posthole (104) was excavated (Pl. 6). It measured 1.30m wide and no finds were recovered.

### Trench 13 (Figs 8 and 10; Pl. 3)

Trench 13 was aligned NNW - SSE and was 30.30m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.32m of subsoil overlying natural mid reddish yellow brown sandy clay geology. A single ditch (111) was recorded which was aligned NE-SW and was 2.30m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.32m although the base was not reached. No pottery was recovered from the ditch but a single fresh sherd of medieval pottery was found in the subsoil.

### Trench 14 (Figs 8 and 10)

Trench 14 was aligned E - W and was 22.70m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.25m of subsoil overlying natural geology. A NW-SE ditch (105) was recorded which was 1.50m wide and 0.43m deep and filled with 80. No finds were recovered.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Malcolm Lyne*

The site yielded 144 sherds (2665g) of pottery from 35 contexts: a further 50 sherds (195g) were retrieved from the sieving of environmental samples (Appendix 3). Much of the material is of Early-to-Middle Iron Age date, with the earlier sherds belonging to the Chinnor-Wandlebury tradition (c.500-200BC) and characterized by fossil-shell tempered situlate jars with finger-impressed rims and finger-jabbed shoulder cordons, as well as fineware bowls with polished haematite slip. Some abraded grog-tempered flakes of pottery from context 159 could conceivably be of Late Iron Age date but this is by no means certain. The Roman fragments span the period and include regionally traded wares from the Savernake kilns during the earlier part of the period and Oxfordshire Red Colour-coat ones during the Late Roman period

### Fabrics

#### *Early Iron Age*

**EIA.1A.** Handmade lumpy black silty fabric with sparse to profuse fossil shell filler

**EIA.1B.** Similar fabric but polished internally and externally.

**EIA.2.** Handmade carbon-soaked fabric with profuse <0.20mm white quartz-sand filler and occasional fossil shell. Polished

**EIA.3.** Handmade carbon-soaked fabric with profuse glauconite, fired lumpy brown externally.

**EIA.4A.** Fine handmade black fabric with profuse <0.20mm iron-stained quartz-sand filler, fired orange with polished haematite slip.

**EIA.4B.** Similar but with glauconitic sand filler

#### *Early-to-Middle Iron Age*

**MIA.1.** Handmade carbon-soaked fabric with profuse <0.10-to-0.30mm quartz-sand and glauconite filler. Polished internally and externally.

**MIA.2.** Handmade carbon-soaked polished fabric with profuse <0.50mm white quartz sand filler and occasional flint.

*?Late Iron Age*

**LIA.1.** Vesicular grog-tempered ware

*Roman*

**R.1.** Grog-tempered white-to-pale grey fabric fired darker grey with profuse <0.50mm grey grog, black ferrous inclusions and quartz-sand filler. Savenake fabric

**R.2.** Wheel-turned buff Roman fabric with profuse <0.30mm quartz-sand filler, fired smooth grey-black externally.

**R.3.** Rough pink-cored greyware with profuse <0.30mm quartz-sand filler and dark ferrous inclusions.

**R.4.** Rough wheel-turned orange fabric with profuse <0.30mm iron-stained and multi-coloured quartz-sand and glauconitic sand filler.

**R.5.** Micaceous polished blue-grey Roman greyware with profuse <0.10mm quartz-sand filler.

**R.6.** South Gaulish La Graufesenque samian

**R.7.** Oxfordshire Red Colour-coat

*Medieval*

**M.1.** Very-fine wheel-turned cream fabric with profuse <0.20mm multi-coloured and iron-stained quartz-sand filler with occasional larger crushed ironstone. External apple-green glaze over raised brown barbotine decoration

*Animal Bone by Daniel Milbank*

A modest assemblage of fragmented disarticulated animal bone was recovered from 27 contexts encountered in the evaluation, including sieved soil samples. A total of 120 fragments were recovered, weighing 2695g. These are summarised in Appendix 4. The preservation of the remains was moderate, with fairly high fragmentation and some surface erosion. The bones were identified by species, and where this was not possible, categorized according to size of animal, either large (horse, cattle) or medium (sheep/goat, deer, pig). No small animal remains were encountered. Overall, the assemblage was dominated by cattle bone fragments, with a smaller number of sheep/goat fragments and other medium-sized animal bones. There were largely long bone fragments, with ribs and teeth also noted. Context 54 included a right tibia identified as horse. Pig remains were identified by two teeth recovered from deposit 65. Deposit 73 contained a cattle tibia-fibula which is relative small, and has unfused epiphyses, indicating it is from a juvenile animal. Deposit 79 contained an assemblage of cattle bones comprising several limb bones (a left humerus, two radius-ulna pieces, tibia-fibula, and metatarsal, and right radius-ulna and tibia-fibula), with cranium fragments also present including lower mandible with teeth. These were comparable in size and appear likely to derive from one individual. Context 83 contained a piece of possibly worked long bone, which is 68mm long and 4mm wide, tapering to a point. It is smooth but fairly irregular, and resembles a basic pin.

Due to the lack of duplicated skeletal elements, the minimum number of individuals present in the assemblage was found to be 5: 2 cattle, 1 horse, 1 pig and 1 sheep/goat. Evidence of butchery was not present on

any of the bones, however with the exception of the possibly worked fragment the remains are likely to represent domestic consumption.

#### *Burnt clay* by Daniel Milbank

A single piece of fired clay (24g) was recovered from pit 29 (deposit 91). It is of a fine clay material with no visible inclusions and the colour is pale red, with black interior indicating reducing conditions during firing. It lacks any diagnostic characteristics.

#### *Metalwork* by Steven Crabb

Three fragments of one copper alloy object were recovered from ditch (31). They are the remains of an elongated plate of copper alloy which has been folded over itself before being twisted giving a slight corkscrew shape. The full length of the intact object would have been 155mm long and 10mm thick. The sheet of copper alloy which has been folded to create this is 1mm thick. This piece is likely to have been modified like this because it was being prepared for recycling or to be traded.

#### *Slag* by Steven Crabb

A single piece of slag was recovered from ditch (40). This is a piece of fuel ash slag, this is not indicative of any one pyrotechnological process having been formed by the interaction between the fuel and the surrounding soil.

#### *Stone* by Daniel Milbank

Ditch slot 31 (deposit 93) contained a piece of worked stone (1396g). This comprised a piece of quartzite (possibly sarsen) with medium-sized, well-sorted sub-rounded grains and a pink-grey colour. It has a smooth flat base and one curved side, and is likely to represent a piece of a quern stone.

#### *Struck Flint* by Steve Ford

A single flint flake was recovered from posthole (104) 159. It can not be closely dated but most likely dates to either the Neolithic or Bronze Age.

#### *Macrobotanical plant material and charcoal* by Jo Pine

A total of 24 samples were processed, these ranging in quantity from 5 to 10 litres taken from a number of features excavated during the evaluation. The flots were sieved to 0.25mm and air dried and the resultant flots

examined under a low-power binocular microscope at a magnification of x10. Charred wheat grains (*Triticum* spp.) were recovered from a number of contexts and one context had burnt weed seeds (Appendix 5).

Charcoal was present in only two of the samples; <2> 3 (54) and <3> 4 (55) in high density and large enough (more than 2mm) in size to have potential for species identification.

## **Conclusion**

The trenching exercise reported here has confirmed the archaeological potential of the site. A high density of ditches, gullies, pits and postholes dating mainly to the early to middle Iron Age period suggests the presence of a settlement. Roman features were also found which had been hinted at during excavations undertaken during the construction of the road adjacent to the site. The features are predominantly located in the northern half of the field with the highest concentration being located in the middle of the site between trenches 7 and 10, but no area of the site is seemingly devoid of potential.

## **References**

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- Hillson, S, 1992, *Mammal Bones and Teeth*, Institute of Archaeology, London
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
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## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south or west end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	25.50	2.00	1.84	SW 0-0.50m topsoil; 0.50m-0.98m light yellow sandy clay; 0.98-1.16m+ dark brown grey silt deposit (60). NE 0-0.44m topsoil; 0.44m-0.94m light yellow grey clay and gravel made ground; 0.94m-1.34m light brown yellow silty sand made ground; 1.34m-1.64m dark grey brown clay sand made ground; 1.64-1.84m+ light yellow grey clay natural geology? Feature (10) <b>[PL. 1]</b>
2	29.00	2.00	0.68	0-0.60m topsoil; 0.60m+ light grey yellow silty clay natural geology. Feature (36); gullies (37), (38)
3	29.10	2.00	0.91	0-0.80m topsoil; 0.80m-0.91m light yellow grey sand subsoil; 0.91m+ grey yellow clay sand natural geology. Ditches (39), (40), (42), posthole (41); unexcavated ditches (126), (127); unexcavated pit (128) <b>[PL. 4]</b>
4	29.00	2.00	0.82	0-0.64m topsoil; 0.64m-0.78m subsoil; 0.78m+ natural geology. Gully (110); pit (109); unexcavated ditches (118), (119); unexcavated pit (124) unexcavated postholes (120-123)
5	30.80	2.00	0.81	0-0.70m topsoil; 0.70m+ natural geology. Gully (107); pits (106), (108); unexcavated ditch (117); unexcavated gullies (115), (116) unexcavated pit (113), (114); unexcavated posthole (112)
6	33.00	2.00	0.76	0-0.58m topsoil; 0.58m-0.74m light brown grey clay sand subsoil; 0.74m+ natural geology. Ditches (3), (4); feature (9); pit (2); postholes (1), (5-8) <b>[PL. 2]</b>
7	28.80	2.00	0.73	0-0.48m topsoil; 0.48m-0.68m subsoil; 0.68m+ natural geology. Ditches (11-13), (34); ditch terminus (16); gully (14); gully terminus (15), (17); pit (35); pit/posthole (18)
8	29.40	2.00	0.75	0-0.62m topsoil; 0.62m-0.75m subsoil; 0.75m+ mid reddish yellow grey silty sand natural geology. Ditches (31), (33); linear (26); pits (25), (27-29), (32); posthole (30); unexcavated linear (129); unexcavated pit (130) <b>[PL. 5]</b>
9	35.00	2.00	0.65	0-0.40m topsoil; 0.40m-0.60m mid reddish grey clay sand subsoil; 0.60m+ mid red brown clay sand natural geology. Postholes (19-24); unexcavated ditch (125)
10	27.50	2.00	0.65	0-0.50m topsoil; 0.50m-0.65m subsoil; 0.65m+ natural geology. Ditches (43), (46); postholes (44), (45), (47-103)
11	28.20	2.00	0.64	0-0.50m topsoil; 0.50m-0.64m subsoil; 0.64m+ natural geology. Posthole (104) <b>[PL. 6]</b>
12	30.50	2.00	0.55	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.45m mid reddish brown clay sand subsoil; 0.45m+ natural geology
13	30.30	2.00	0.55	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.50m mid reddish brown clay sand subsoil; 0.50m+ mid reddish yellow brown sandy clay natural geology. Ditch (111) <b>[PL. 3]</b>
14	22.70	2.00	0.60	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ natural geology. Ditch (105)

## APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
6	1	52	Posthole	Early Iron Age	Pottery
6	2	53	Pit		
6	3	54	Ditch	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
6	4	55	Ditch	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
6	5	56	Posthole	Early Iron Age	Pottery
6	6	57	Posthole	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
6	7	58	Posthole		
6	8	59	Posthole		
6	9	60	Feature		
1	10	62	Feature		
7	11	63	Ditch	Early Iron Age	Pottery
7	12	64	Ditch	Early Iron Age	Pottery
7	13	65	Ditch	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
7	14	66	Gully		
7	15	67	Gully terminus	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
7	16	68	Ditch terminus		
7	17	69	Pit		
7	18	70	Posthole/pit		
9	19	81	Posthole		
9	20	82	Posthole		
9	21	83	Posthole		
9	22	84	Posthole		
9	23	85	Posthole		
9	24	86	Posthole		
8	25	87	Pit		
8	26	88	Linear		
8	27	89	Pit	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
8	28	90	Pit	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
8	29	91	Pit	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
8	30	92	Posthole		
8	31	93	Ditch	Early Iron Age	Pottery
8	32	94	Pit	Early Iron Age	Pottery
8	33	95	Ditch	Roman	Pottery
7	34	71	Ditch		
7	35	72	Pit	Early Iron Age	Pottery
2	36	74	Feature		
2	37	75	Gully	Early Iron Age	Pottery
2	38	76	Gully		
3	39	73	Ditch	Roman	Pottery
3	40	77	Ditch	Early Iron Age	Pottery
3	41	78	Posthole		
3	42	79	Ditch	Early Iron Age	Pottery
10	43	96	Ditch		
10	44	97	Posthole		
10	45	98	Posthole	Early Iron Age	Pottery
10	46	99	Ditch		
10	47	150	Posthole	Early Iron Age	Pottery
10	48	151	Posthole		
10	49	152	Posthole		
10	100	153	Posthole		
10	101	154	Posthole	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
10	102	156	Posthole		
10	103	157, 158	Posthole	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
11	104	159	Posthole	Late Iron Age	Pottery
14	105	80	Ditch		
5	106	160	Pit		
5	107	161	Gully	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
5	108	164	Pit		
4	109	163	Pit	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
4	110	162	Gully	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
13	111	165	Ditch		
5	112	166	Posthole (not excavated)		
5	113	167	Pit (not excavated)		
5	114	168	Pit (not excavated)		
5	115	169	Gully (not excavated)		
5	116	170	Gully (not excavated)		



<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
5	117	171	Ditch (not excavated)		
4	118	172	Ditch (not excavated)		
4	119	173	Ditch (not excavated)		
4	120	174	Posthole (not excavated)		
4	121	175	Posthole (not excavated)		
4	122	176	Posthole (not excavated)		
4	123	177	Posthole (not excavated)		
4	124	178	Pit (not excavated)		
9	125	179	Ditch (not excavated)		
3	126	180	Ditch (not excavated)		
3	127	181	Ditch (not excavated)		
3	128	182	Pit (not excavated)		
8	129	183	Linear (not excavated)		
8	130	184	Pit (not excavated)		
11	131	185	Ditch (not excavated)		
11	132	186	Ditch (not excavated)		
		61	Spread	Roman	Pottery

**Appendix 3: Catalogue of Pottery  
From excavated features**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Date-range</i>	<i>No sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1		spoil	R2	Closed		1	3	Fresh
1		61	EIA 1A MIA 1 R5	Jar Necked jar	500-200BC c.300-1 BC c.200-400	1 1 2	8 9 120	sl abraded fresh
2		spoil	MIA 1 Tile		300-0BC Roman	1 1	2 4	Abraded
2	37	75	EIA 1A	Jar	c.500-200BC	2	88	
3		spoil	R1 R4	Jar ?beaker/flagon		1 1	50 1	Fresh Fresh
3		51	R7	C69 bowl C73 bowl	c.325-400+ c.340-400+	3	128	Fresh Fresh
3	39	73	R1 MIA 2	Jar Jar	c.70-150	3 12	43 134	Fresh Fresh
4		spoil	EIA 1A	Furrowed jars	500-200BC	5	254	Fresh
5		spoil	EIA 2 R3 R5 MISC	Jar Closed	500-200BC	1 1 2 1	9 8 13 16	Abraded Abraded Abraded and fresh Very abraded
6		spoil	EIA 1B	Jar	500-200BC	1	32	Fresh
		Tr 6 55	EIA 1A EIA 2	Situlate jar Jar	500-200BC 500-200BC	11 10	267 301	Fresh Fresh
6	5	56	EIA 4A	Bowl	500-200BC	2	23	
6	6	57	EIA 1A MIA1		500-200BC 300-0BC	2 2	3 6	Fresh Fresh and abraded
7		spoil	EIA 1A EIA 2 EIA 3	Large jar Jar	500-200BC	2 1 2	77 13 78	Abraded Fresh
7		51	EIA 1A	Jar	500-200BC	1	22	Fresh subsoil
7		63	EIA 1A		500-200BC	6	8	Ditch Cut 11 fill
7		64	EIA 1A	Large jar	500-200BC	3	114	Ditch Cut 12 fill
7		65	EIA 1A	Jar	500-200BC	9	37	Ditch Cut 13 fill
7	15	67	MIA 1		300-0BC	1	4	
7	35	2	EIA 1A	Large jar	500-200BC	1	148	Fresh.
8		spoil	MIA1 R1 MISC	Jar Field drain	300-1BC Early Roman 19 <sup>th</sup> century	2 1 1	30 2 7	Fresh Fresh Fresh
8		cleaning	EIA 1A EIA 3			2 1	16 1	Abraded
8	27	89	MIA 1	Jar base	300-1 BC	2	32	
8	28	90	MIA 1		300-1 BC	1	12	Fresh.
8	29	91	MIA 1	Jar	300-1 BC	1	2	Fresh.
8		93	EIA 1A EIA 3 Fired clay	Jar	500-200BC 500-200BC	4 5 1	61 41 10	Fresh and abraded
8		93	EIA 1B		500-200BC	1	2	Abraded.
8	32	94	EIA 1A EIA 4B	Situlate jar	500-200BC 500-200BC	8 1	104 7	Fresh and abraded Fresh
8	33	95	EIA 1A R1 R2 R5 R6	Jar Liquid storage jar Jar Dr 18	500-200BC c.50-150 c.70-150 c.50-150 c.43-90	1 2 1 3 1	4 38 68 26 4	Fresh Fresh Fresh Fresh
9		spoil	EIA 1A	Jar base		2	144	
10	45	98	EIA 1B		c.500-200BC	1	3	
10	47	150	EIA 3	Jar	c.500-200BC	5	21	
10	101	154	MIA 1		c.300-1 BC	1	11	
11	104	159	LIA 1		LIA	5	2	V abraded.
13		spoil	M1	Jug	1250-1350	1	15	Fresh

**From sieved samples**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Date-range</i>	<i>No sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	52	1	EIA 2		c.500-200BC	1	1	Abraded
3	54	2	EIA 1A MIA2	Bead-rim jar	c.500-200BC c.300-200BC	1 4	2 27	Abraded
4	55	3	EIA 1A MIA 1		c.500-200BC c.300-1 BC	4 10	18 31	Fresh

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Date-range</i>	<i>No sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
5	56	4	EIA 1A		c.500-200BC	1	3	Abraded lumps
13	65	5	MIA1		c.300-1BC	3	15	Abraded
42	79	6	EIA 1A	Finger impressed rim	c.500-200BC	1	2	Abraded
39	73	7	EIA 1A MISC		c.500-200BC	2 2	5 6	Abraded Fresh
40	77	8	EIA 1A EIA 4A		c.500-200BC c.500-200BC	1 1	3 1	Abraded Abraded
103	152	16	MIA1 Fired clay		c.300-0 BC	2 1	2 9	Abraded Abraded
26	88	17	Misc			3	3	Abraded
28	90	18	EIA 1A		c.500-200BC	5	17	Abraded lumps
33	95	20	MIA 1 R5	Ev rim jar	c.300-1BC c.200-400+	3 1	22 3	Fresh Fresh
107	161	22	MIA 1		c.300-1BC	1	2	Fresh
110	162	23	MIA 1	Jar	c.300-1BC	2	14	Abraded
109	163	24	MIA 1 MISC	Closed	c.300-1BC	1 1	17 1	Fresh v.abraded

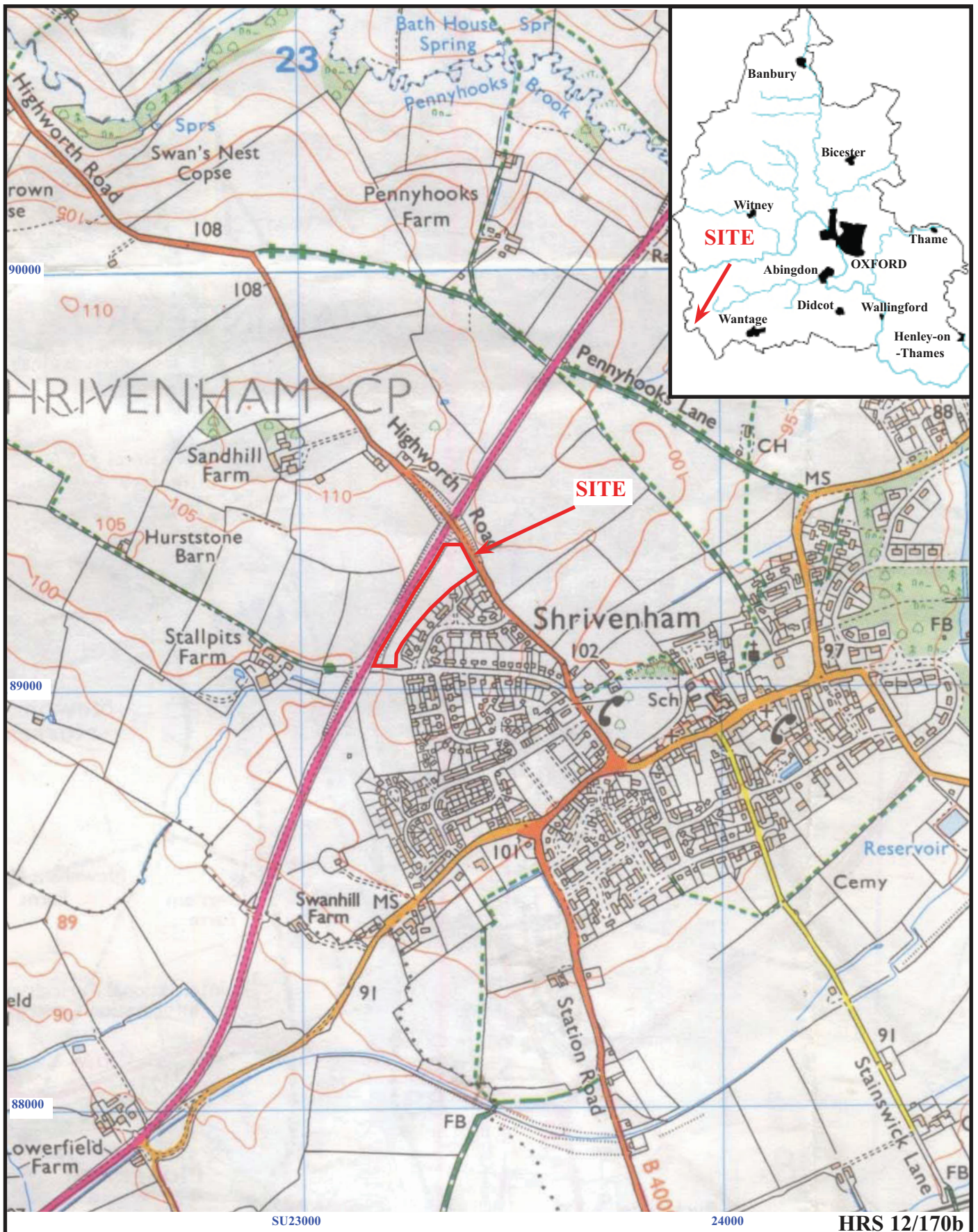
#### Appendix 4: Catalogue of Animal Bone

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>No Frags</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Sheep/ goat</i>	<i>Pig</i>	<i>Large</i>	<i>Medium</i>
	51	Subsoil		1	42						
1	52	Posthole	1	2	1						
2	53	Pit		3	82	1					
3	54	Ditch	2	8	40		1				
4	55	Ditch		2	38					1	
4	55	Ditch	3	3	6						
5	56	Posthole	4	2	2						
6	57	Posthole		1	2						
11	63	Ditch		1	28						
12	64	Ditch		6	84	2					
13	65	Ditch		2	66				1		
13	65	Ditch	5	5	8						
15	67	Gully Terminus		1	6						
39	73	Ditch		2	50	1					
37	75	Gully		1	36			1			
40	77	Ditch		8	290	2				1	
42	79	Ditch		16	1346		11			2	
42	79	Ditch	6	6	184	1					
23	85	Posthole		1	2						1
24	86	Posthole		1	4						
25	87	Pit		1	8			1			
26	88	Linear		1	32					1	
26	88	Linear	17	2	2						
28	90	Pit	18	3	26			1			
29	91	Pit		2	10			1			
31	93	Ditch		5	88	1		1			
32	94	Pit		7	42			1			
33	95	Ditch		4	95			1			2
33	95	Ditch	20	3	4						
107	161	Gully	22	1	1						
110	162	Gully	23	1	2						
109	163	Pit		16	38						3
109	163	Pit	24	2	30						
Total				120	2695						
MNI						2	1	1	1		

**Appendix 5:** Catalogue of charred seed remains

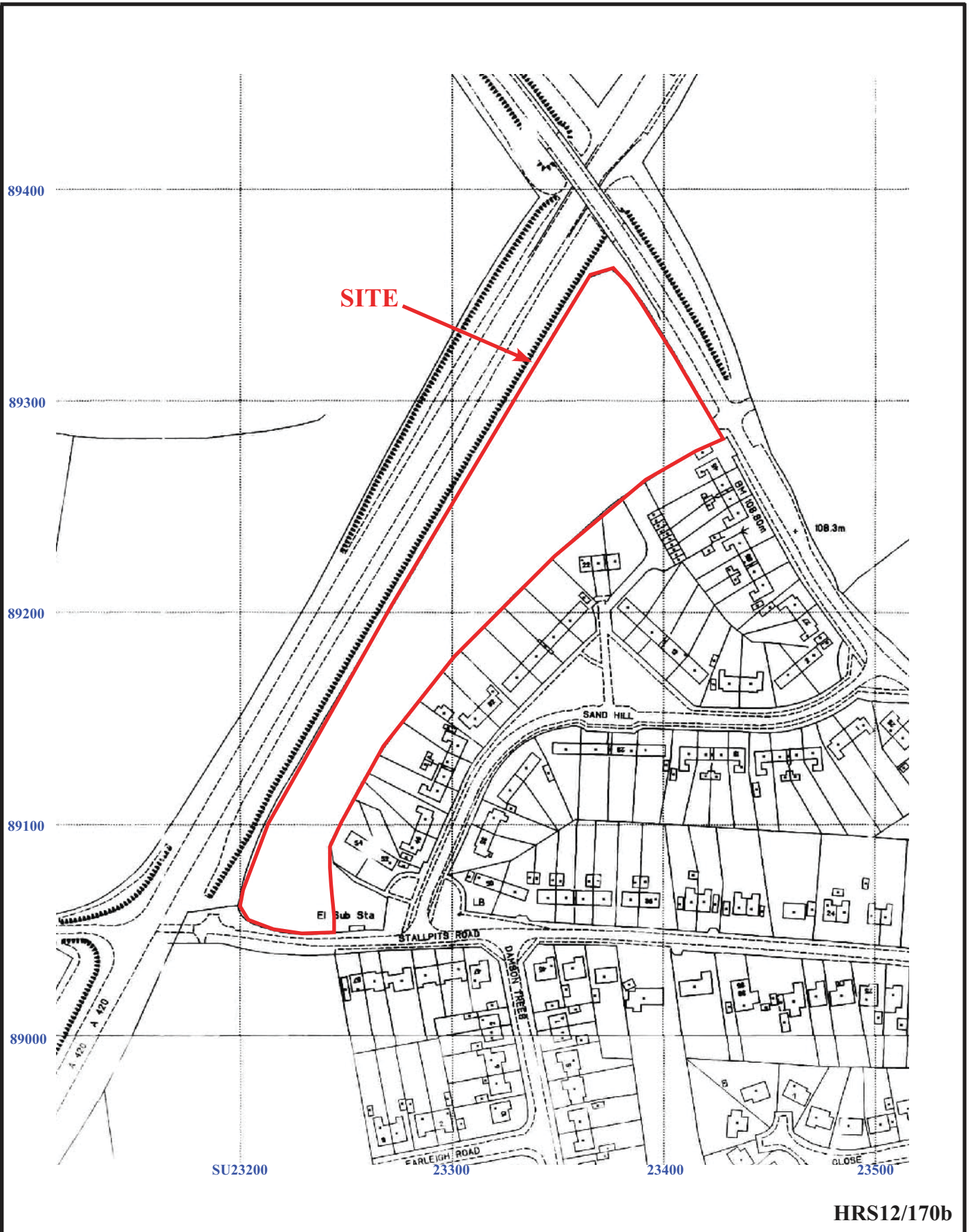
<i>Sample</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Charred wheat, grains</i>
4	5	56	xx
5	13	65	xxx
20	33	95	xxx
8	40	77	xxx
6	42	79	xxx
10	104	159	x
9	105	80	x
21	106	160	xx (weed)
24	109	163	x

x=occasional. xx=moderate, xxx=frequent



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 Figure 1. Location of site within Shrevenham and  
 Oxfordshire.

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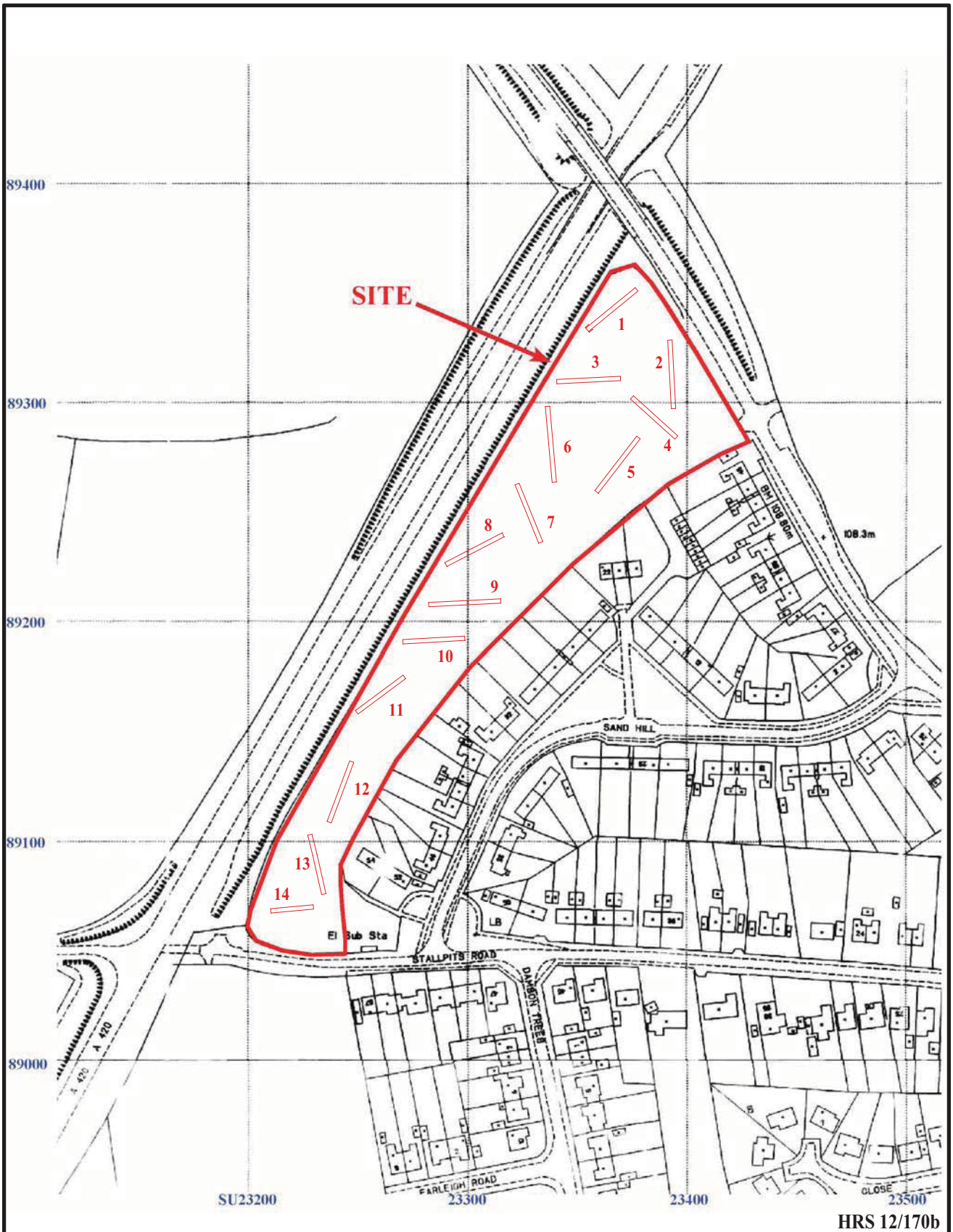
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Fig. 2. Detailed location of trenches.

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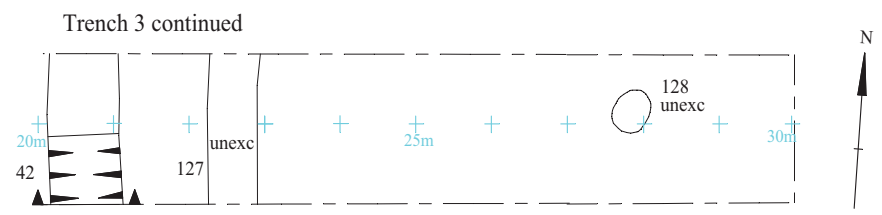
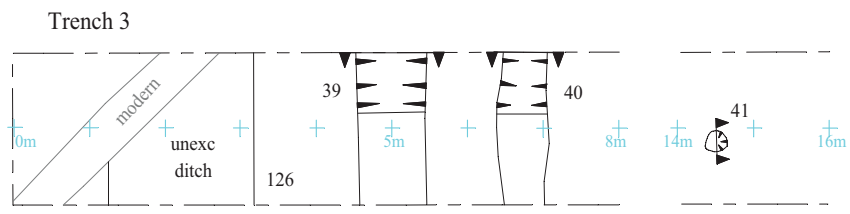
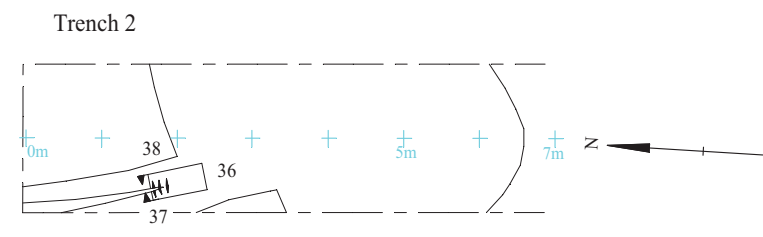
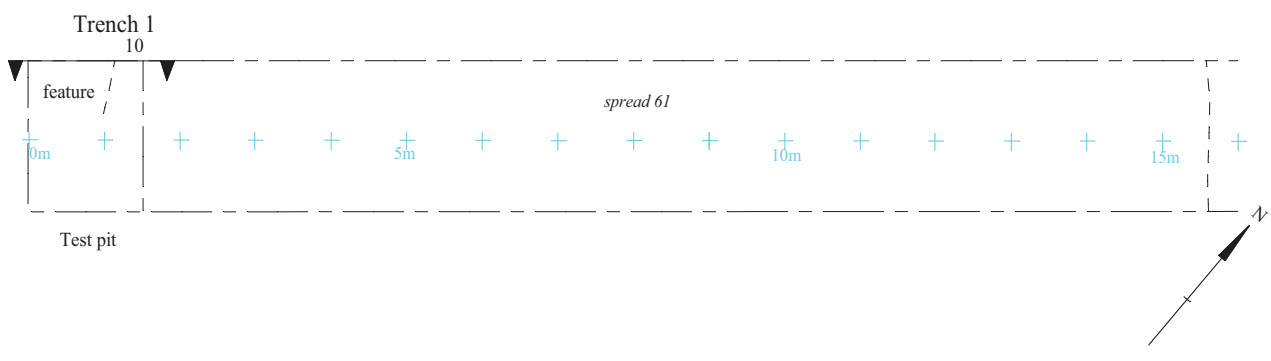
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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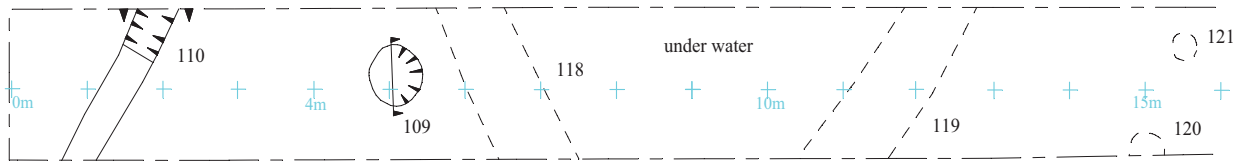
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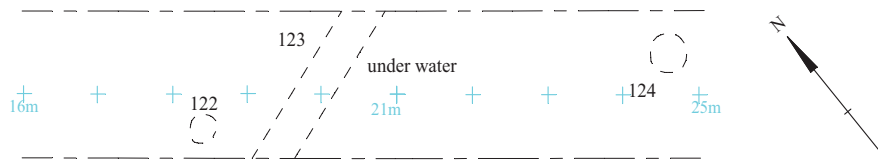
Figure 4. Detail of trenches.



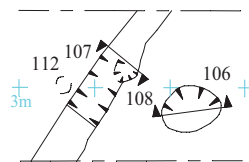
Trench 4



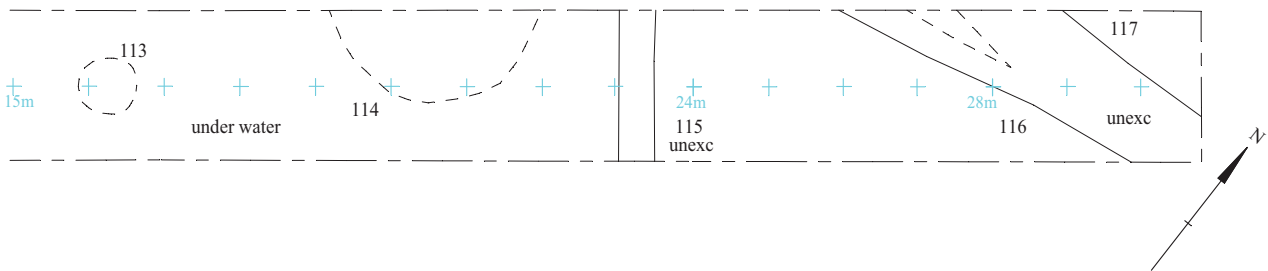
Trench 4 continued



Trench 5



Trench 5 continued



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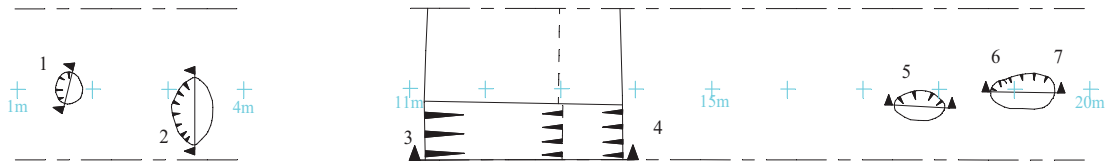
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Figure 5. Detail of trenches.

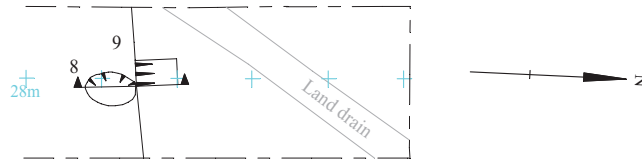


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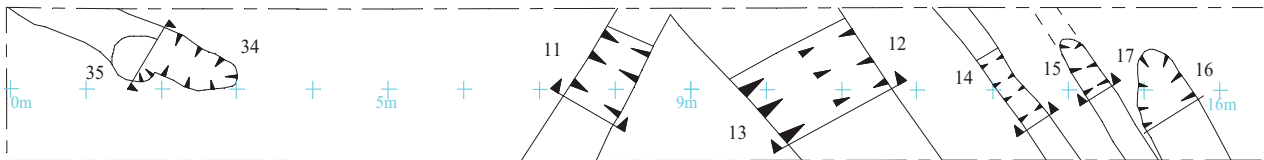
Trench 6



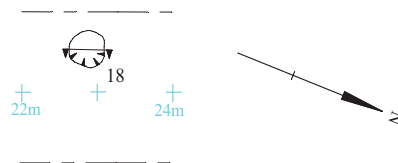
Trench 6 continued



Trench 7



Trench 7 continued



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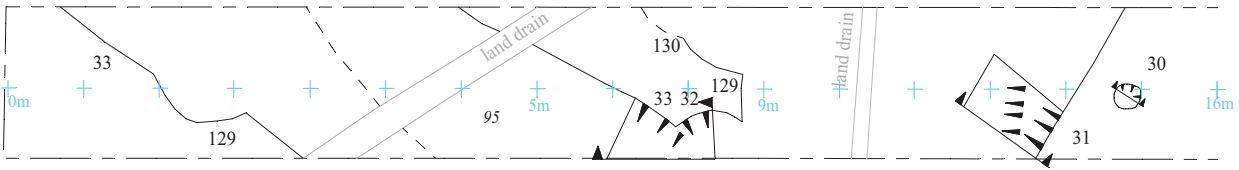
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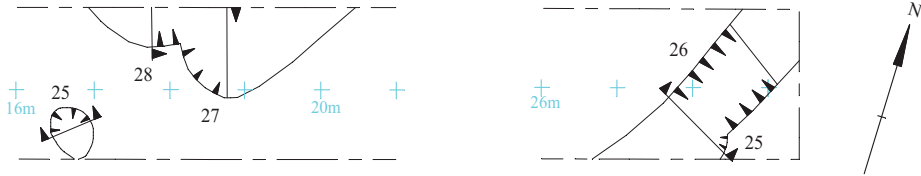
Figure 6. Detail of trenches.



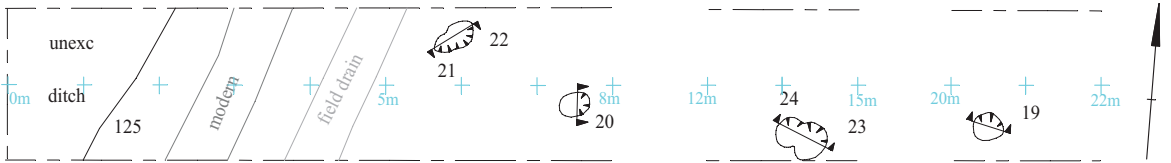
Trench 8



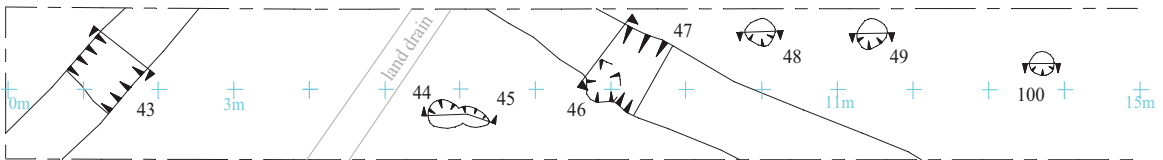
Trench 8 continued



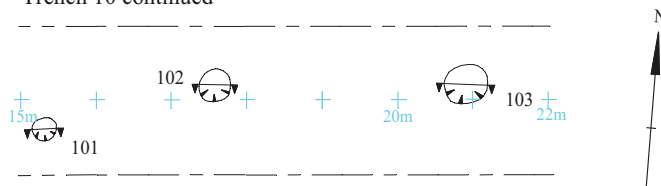
Trench 9



Trench 10



Trench 10 continued



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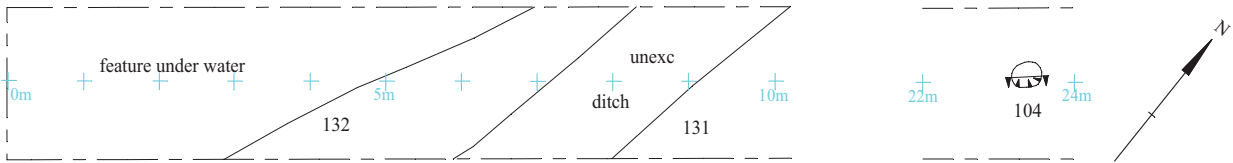
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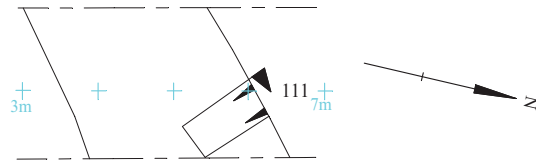
Figure 7. Detail of trenches.



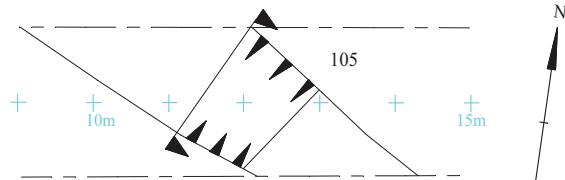
Trench 11



Trench 13



Trench 14



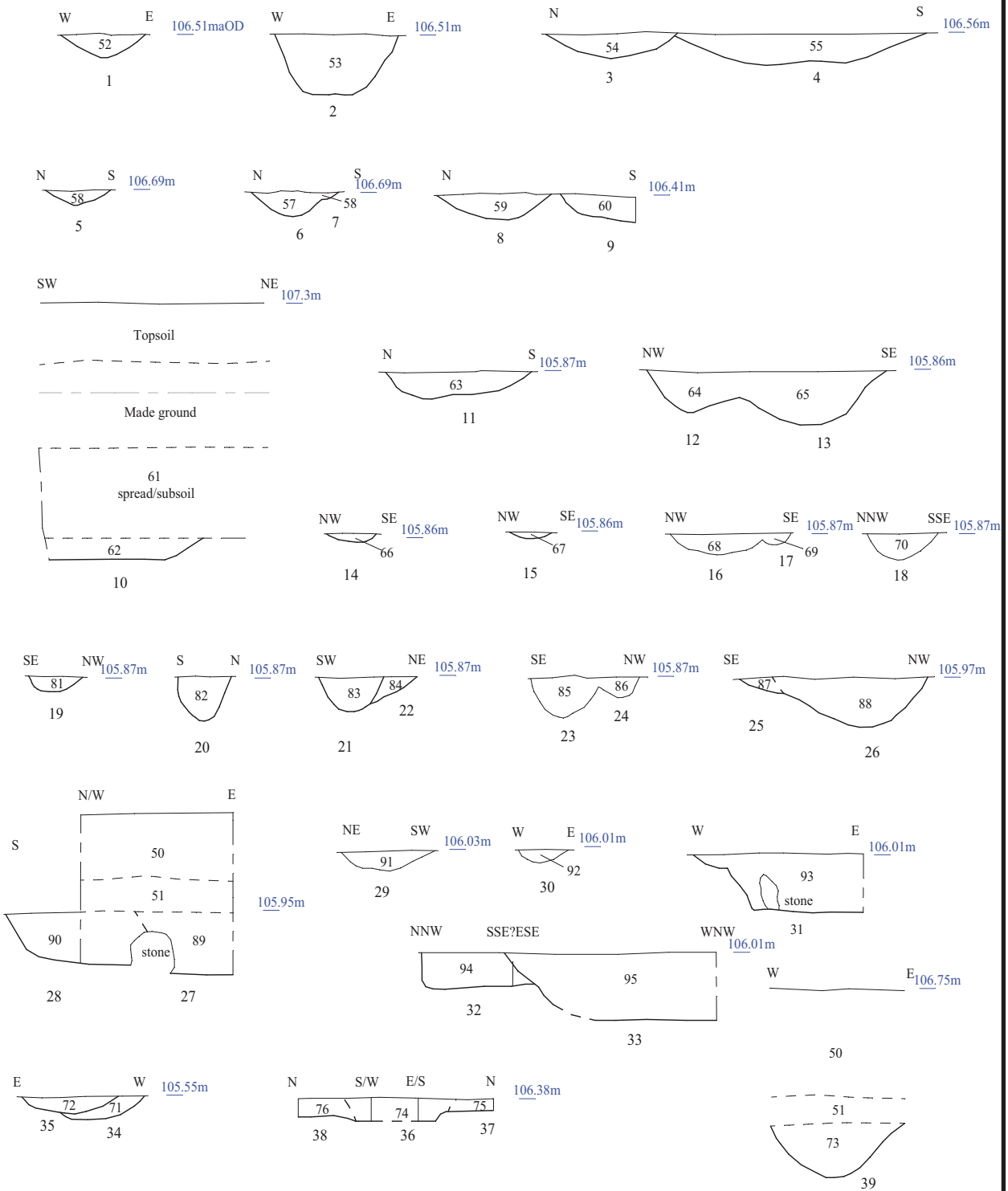
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Figure 8. Detail of trenches.



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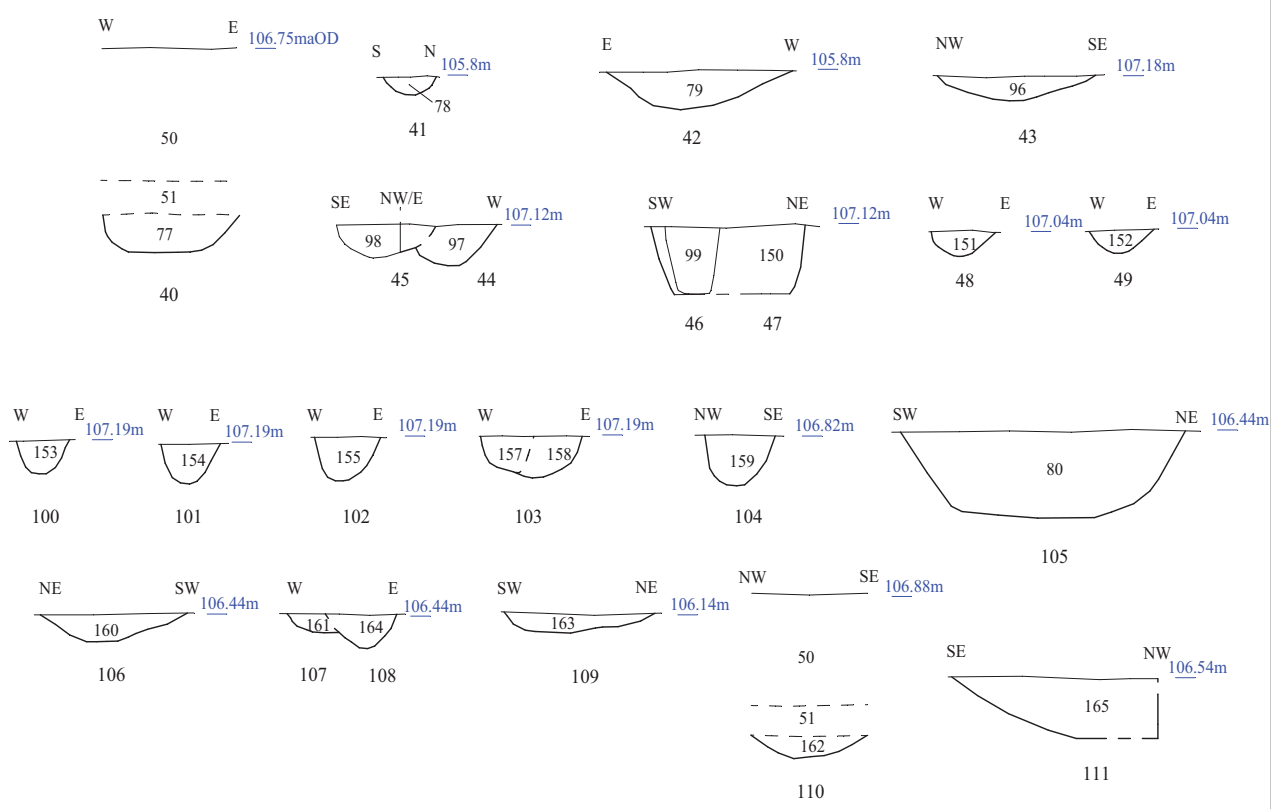
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Figure 9. Sections.



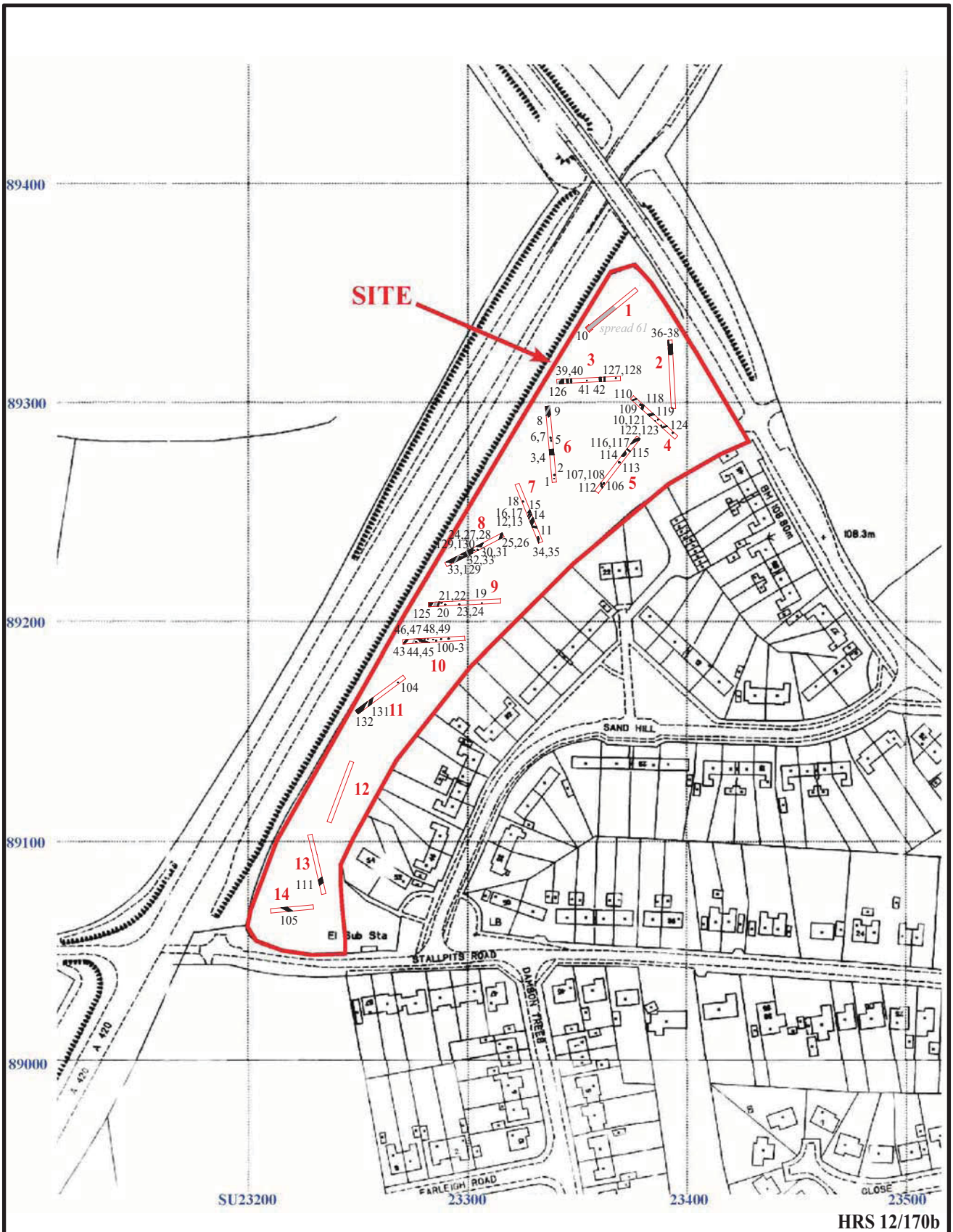


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Figure 10. Sections.  
0 1m





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Figure 11. Location of features.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 6, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plate 3. Trench 13, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 3, ditch 39, looking north east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

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Plate 5. Trench 8, ditch 26 with pit 25, looking south, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

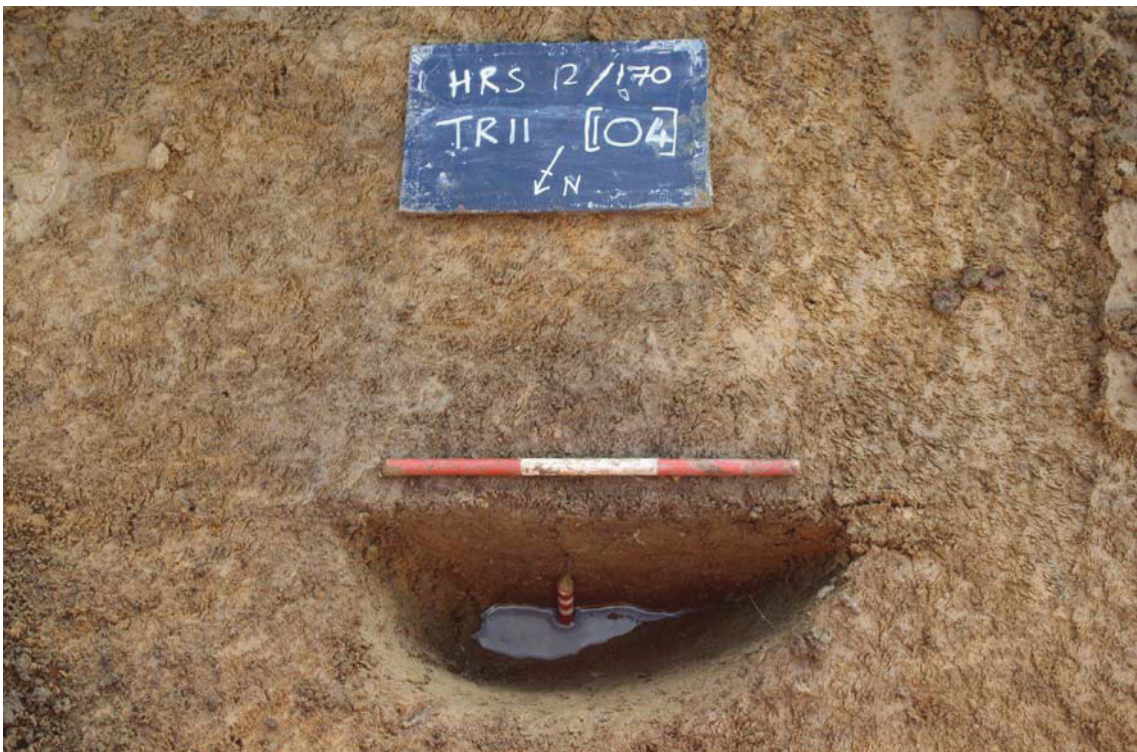


Plate 6. Trench 11, pit 104, looking south, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

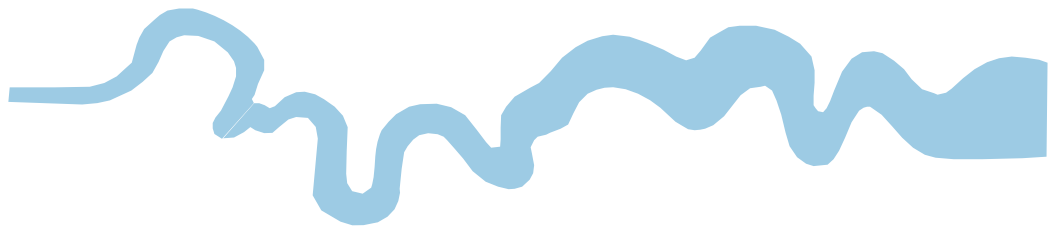
HRS 12/170b

Land at Highworth Road, Shrivenham,  
Oxfordshire, 2014  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 5 - 6.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

## 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 _____	BC/AD 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
↓	↓



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