

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Glebe Farm, Priors Lane,
Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Site Code: GFO15/254

(SU3795 9891)

**Glebe Farm, Priors Lane,
Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Country Estates Ltd**

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GFO15/254

December 2015

Summary

Site name: Glebe Farm, Priors Lane, Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU3795 9891

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th - 20th November 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: GFO15/254

Area of site: c.0.4ha

Summary of results: Archaeological deposits were identified in all 6 trenches. Four features in Trench 2 were identified as probably Iron Age and a ditch in Trench 1 was possibly medieval in date. The other features were undated. The presence of foundations of a cottage was confirmed in the south-west corner of the site, which corresponds with a 17th century cruck-framed cottage shown on 19th-century maps.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 14.12.15 Steve Preston✓ 14.12.15

Glebe Farm, Priors Lane, Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Report 15/254

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Glebe Farm, Priors Lane, Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire (SU3795 9891) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Matthew Jeal on behalf of Country Estates Ltd, Kingfisher House, 17 Aldbury House, Reading, Berkshire RG30 1BD.

Planning permission (app no P15/V0456/FUL) has been gained from Vale of White District Council to erect six three-bed dwellings with carports and associated works. The consent is subject to two conditions (3 and 4) relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a field evaluation has been requested by the County Council's Archaeology Team leader. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012, para 128) and the District Council's Local Plan policies.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service and based on a brief supplied by him (Coddington 2015). The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt, Joan Garibo, Peter Banks, Jesse Coxey and Cosmo Bacon on the 19th and 20th November 2015 and the site code is GFO15/254. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south eastern extent of the village of Hinton Waldrist (Fig. 1), 2km north-west of Kingston Bagpuize and 11km west of Abingdon. The site lies east of Priors Lane and north of Hinton Road, at the opposite end of the village from the church and manor house. The current land use is arable farmland and the height was c.97m above Ordnance Datum (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as sand (BGS 1971) and this was observed in the trenches as a yellow grey clayey sand.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site area has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Coddington 2015). In summary the site lies in an area of archaeological potential in the immediate vicinity of a former cruck-framed cottage apparently built in the 17th century but demolished by the late 19th century. It is possible that deposits relating to the cottage survive within the development area. Roman and Saxon artefacts have also been found to the north, suggestive of earlier activity within the area.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

The specific research aims of this project were:

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;

To determine if any deposits of prehistoric Roman or Saxon date were present; and

To determine if any remains of the cruck-framed cottage were present or deposits associated with it.

It was proposed to dig six trenches, each 20m long and 1.6m wide. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to expose the archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

All 6 trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 19.40m to 20.40m and in depth from 0.40m to 0.70m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 1 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 20.0m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying natural geology. In total 3 ditches were observed, one of which terminated

in the trench. Ditch 3 was aligned NE - SW, it was 0.40m wide and between 0.05m and 0.13m deep and contained a single fill (52) which consisted of a mid brown grey clayey sand, this ditch terminated in the trench as terminus 6. A single piece of Late 11th Century pottery was recovered from the fill (55) of this terminus. Ditch 4 was aligned NE - SW and joined with ditches 3 and 5 at the WSW end of trench 1. There was no visible relationship between these 3 ditches. Ditch 4 contained a single fill (53) which consisted of a mid brown grey clayey sand, no finds were recovered. Feature 5 was observed on the very northern edge of Trench 1 so it was not possible to tell whether it was a ditch or gully but it appeared to be a linear feature. The proximity and similar alignment of these three features may suggest that some of the ditches were a redefining of an earlier one, perhaps a boundary ditch.

Trench 2 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pls 1 and 3)

Trench 2 was aligned SE - NW and was 19.70m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.10m subsoil overlying natural geology. In total 5 ditches, 1 gully and 2 pits were observed. Ditch 1 was aligned NE - SW and 0.67m wide and 0.20m deep and contained a single fill (50) which consisted of a light brown silty clay from which a single piece of Iron Age pottery and 2 pieces of unidentified animal tooth were recovered. Ditch 2 was also aligned NE - SW and was 0.48m wide and 0.13m deep and contained a single fill (51) which consisted of a light brownish grey silty clay, no finds were recovered. The relationship between ditches 1 and 2 was unclear. Ditch 19 was aligned NE - SW and was 1.53m wide and 0.20m deep and contained a single fill (76) which consisted of a mid grey brown clayey sand, no finds were recovered. Ditch 20 was aligned NE - SW and was 0.90m wide and 0.20m deep and contained a single fill (77) which consisted of a mid grey brown clayey sand, no finds were recovered.

Ditch terminus 16 was aligned NE - SW and was 0.90m wide and 0.50m deep and contained three fills, the primary fill (74) consisted of a mid brown grey clayey sand from which a single piece of Iron Age pottery was recovered, the secondary fill (73) consisted of a dark brown grey clayey sand from which 3 cattle bones, 1 medium mammal and 2 unidentified teeth were recovered, the tertiary fill (72) consisted of a mid brown grey clayey sand from which 7 pieces of Iron Age pottery were recovered all from one vessel.

Ditch terminus 16 was cut by gully 15, this was 0.62m wide and 0.20m deep and contained a single fill (71) which consisted of a dark brown grey clayey sand from which a single piece of Iron Age pottery was recovered.

Pit 17 was 0.55m in diameter and 0.55m deep and had vertical sides and a rounded base, the single fill (75) consisted of a mid brown grey clayey sand from which 5 pieces of Iron Age Pottery were recovered, the relationships with gully 15 and ditch terminus 16 were unclear.

Pit 21 was 0.70m in diameter and 0.10m deep and contained a single fill (78) which consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt, no finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 3 was aligned SE - NW and was 20.0m long and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.30m subsoil overlying natural geology. Two ditches (7) and (8) were observed in the SE end of the trench, Ditch 8 was 0.41m wide and 0.21m deep and contained a single fill (57) which consisted of a mid brown clayey silt, this ditch was cut by ditch 7 which was 0.91m wide and 0.30m deep and contained a single fill (56) which consisted of a mid brown clayey silt from which 1 piece of unidentified animal tooth was recovered.

Trench 4 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pls 2 and 4)

Trench 4 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.40m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.12m subsoil overlying natural geology. Two ditches were observed, ditch 9 was 0.78m wide and 0.35m deep and contained a single fill (58) which consisted of a mid grey brown clayey sand, no pottery was recovered. Ditch 10 was 0.55m wide and 0.28m deep and contained a single fill (59) which consisted of a mid grey brown clayey sand, no finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 5 was aligned E - W and was 20.10m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.07m subsoil overlying natural geology. A single ditch (14) was observed at the western end of the trench, this was 0.42m wide and 0.32m deep and contained a single fill (70) which consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt, no finds were recovered.

Trench 6 (Figs 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 6 was aligned S - N and was 19.40m long and between 0.20 and 0.50m deep. At the southern end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying a building consisting of demolished walls and a brick floor surface. At the northern end of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil overlying ditches.

The building observed at the southern end of the trench appears to be the cruck-framed cottage identified on early Ordnance Survey maps in this area. The extent of the building observed in the trench consisted of 4 walls and a brick laid flooring, the pottery, glass and metal recovered from these layers were of post medieval date. The northernmost part of the building consisted of two walls, wall 66 was 0.50m thick and was aligned

NW-SE, it was constructed of limestone approximately 100mm in size held by a degraded mortar. Wall 65 was 0.50m thick and was aligned NE-SW, it appeared contemporary with 66 as the stone construction was built into this wall. At the southern end of the building wall 68 was observed aligned NW-SE and this was 0.50m in diameter and was constructed of limestone and held with a degraded mortar. This wall was butted by wall 67 which was also limestone constructed and was observed in the very edge of the trench. The flooring (69) was constructed of unfrosted bricks measuring 100mm x 200mm.

The northern area of the trench contained a gully and 2 ditches, A modern ditch contained a ceramic waste pipe which appeared to be contemporary with the cottage, gully 12 cut this ditch so was either contemporary with or later than the cottage. The waste pipe ditch cut ditch 11 which was 0.30m deep and had flat base. This ditch contained two fills, the primary fill (62) consisted of a pale yellow brown clayey sand with occasional stone inclusions, the secondary fill (62) consisted of a mid grey brown clayey sand with occasional stone inclusions.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 34 sherds with a total weight of 206g. It consisted of a mixture of Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval wares, as follows:

Iron Age

The following fabric types were noted:

IAF1: Fine Sandy. Fine sandy matrix, few visible inclusions other than sparse sub-rounded limestone up to 5mm, most 1mm or less. 12 sherds, 109g.

IAF2: Sandy. Moderate to dense sub-angular quartz up to 0.5mm. 3 sherds, 13g

The sherds from ditch 16, fill 72 are all from the rim and upper body of the same vessel, a small jar with an upright profile. All the sherds were undecorated, but the sandy fabrics are fairly typical of the middle Iron Age in the region (Edwards 2010, 55). The sherds are reasonably large and in fairly good condition, and appear reliably stratified.

Medieval and Later

The medieval and later pottery was recorded using the conventions of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXY: Medieval Oxford Ware, AD1075–1350. 1 sherd, 2g.

OBX: Late Medieval Brill/Boarstall Ware, 15th – early 17th century. 1 sherd, 13g.

OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 5 sherds, 27g.

CRM: Creamware, mid 18th - early 19th C. 6 sherds, 14g.

WHEW: Mass-produced White Earthenwares, 19th-20th century. 6 sherds, 28g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. All the sherds are small and are likely to be the product of secondary deposition.

Animal Bone by Lizzi Lewins

A small assemblage of animal bone (21 fragments), weighing a total of 74g was hand collected during the course of the evaluation. The bone was classified by size (medium mammal - sheep/goat, deer) and where possible by species. The bone was fragmented (including fresh breaks) and some surface abrasion was noted.

Animal bone was recovered from five features but bone was identifiable from only two. Gully 12 (63) contained three re-fitted fragments of a possible metapodial and a possible ilium neck fragment from medium mammals. Ditch 16 (73) contained a tooth from a medium mammal and three fragments of cattle molar.

No butchery marks or other taphonomic processes were observed.

Conclusion

The evaluation successfully investigated the areas of the site most affected by the planned development, a number of ditches were identified, three of these, located in the easternmost trench, are likely Iron Age in date. A gully and a pit of Iron Age date were also identified in the eastern area of the site. A ditch of possible medieval date was observed in the northernmost trench. Trench 6 successfully identified the presence of the foundations of the cruck-framed cottage observed in early Ordnance Survey maps. Because of the presence of features in all 6 trenches, of which 6 can be dated to the Iron Age and medieval periods, the site can therefore be considered to have a high archaeological potential.

References

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- Coddington, H, 2015, 'Glebe Farm, Hinton Waldrist: Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation', Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford
- Edwards, E, 2010, 'Prehistoric Pottery', in T Allen, K Cramp, H Lamdin-Whymark and L Webley, *Castle Hill and its Landscape; Archaeological Investigations at the Wittenhams, Oxfordshire* Oxford Archaeology Monogr⁹, Oxford, 47-55
- Mellor, M and Oakley, G, 1984, 'A summary of the key assemblages, a study of pottery, clay pipes, glass and other finds from fourteen pits, dating from the 16th to the 19th century', in T G Hassall, C E Halpin and M Mellor, 'Excavations in St Ebbe's, Oxford, 1967-1976: Part II: Post-medieval domestic tenements and the Post-Dissolution site of the Greyfriars', *Oxoniensia*, **49**, 181-211
- Mellor, M, 1994, 'A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region', *Oxoniensia*, **59**, 17-217
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at WSW, SE, SW, S and W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20	1.5	0.45	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.45m subsoil, 0.45m+ natural pale red brown clayey sand geology. Ditches 3, 4, 5 and 6
2	19.7	1.5	0.40	0–0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.34m subsoil, 0.34m+ natural pale yellow grey clayey sand geology. Gully 15, Ditches 1, 2, 16, 19 and 20 and Pits 17 and 21. [Pls 1 and 3]
3	20	1.5	0.70	0–0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.60m subsoil, 0.60m+ natural pale red grey clayey sand geology. Ditches 7 and 8.
4	20.4	1.5	0.60	0–0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.42m subsoil, 0.42m+ natural pale yellow grey clayey sand geology. Ditches 9 and 10 [Pls 2 and 4]
5	20.1	1.5	0.42	0–0.28m topsoil, 0.28-0.36m subsoil, 0.36m+ natural pale red brown clayey sand geology. Ditch 14
6	19.4	1.5	0.20-0.50	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20m+ building flooring and walls. Structures 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, Gully 12 and Posthole 13

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

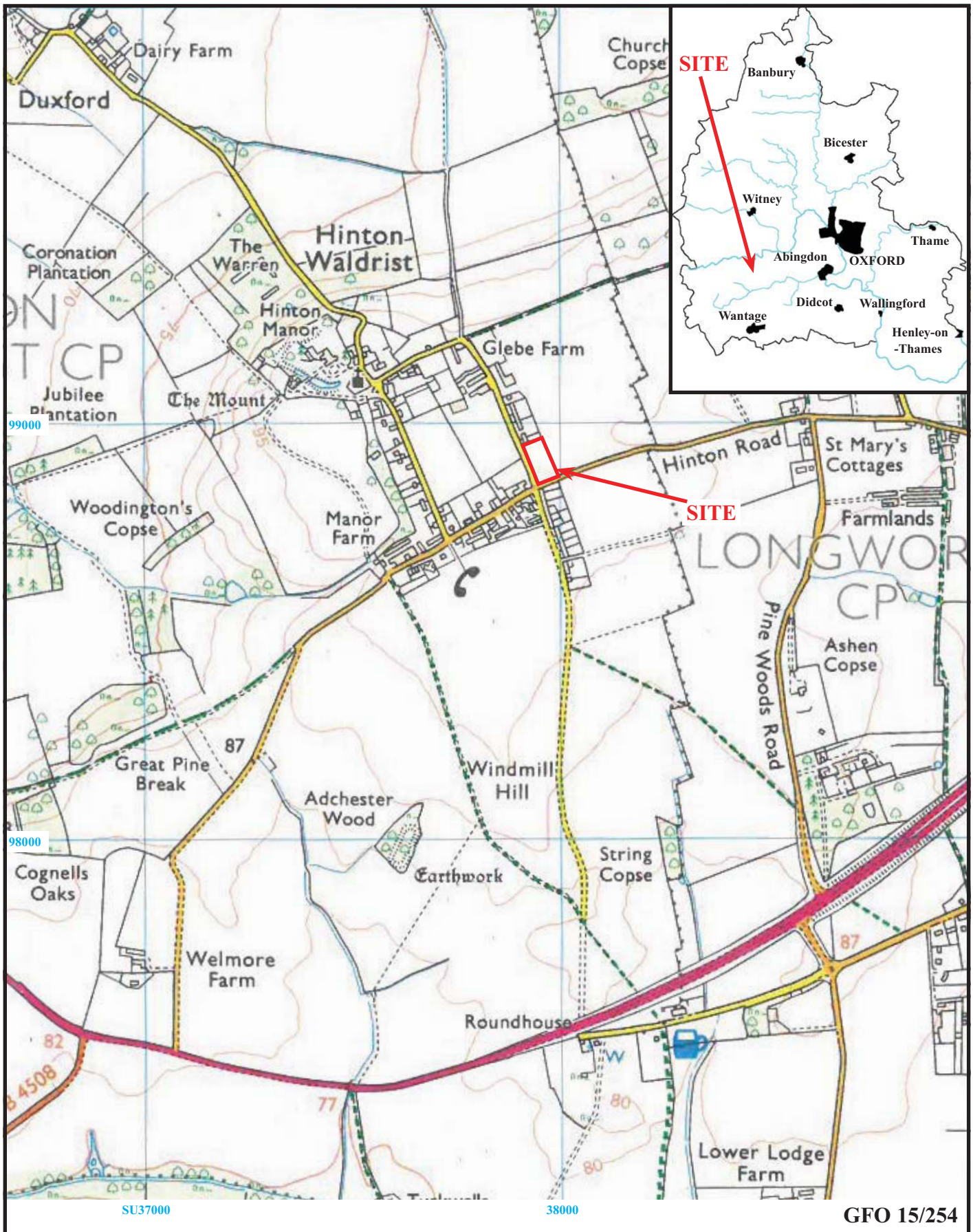
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	3	52	Ditch		
1	4	53	Ditch		
1	5	54	Ditch		
1	6	55	Ditch Terminus	Pottery	L11thC
2	1	50	Ditch	Pottery	Iron Age
2	2	51	Ditch		
2	15	71	Gully	Pottery	Iron Age
2	16	72, 73, 74	Ditch Terminus	Pottery	Iron Age
2	17	75	Pit	Pottery	Iron Age
2	19	76	Ditch		
2	20	77	Ditch		
2	21	78	Pit		
3	7	56	Ditch		
3	8	57	Ditch		
4	9	58	Ditch		
4	10	59	Ditch		
5	14	70	Ditch		
6	11	61, 62	Ditch	Modern	Pottery
6	12	63	Gully	Modern	Stratigraphy
6	13	64	Posthole		
6	18	60	Ditch	Modern	Pottery
6		65	Wall		
6		66	Wall		
6		67	Wall		
6		68	Wall		
6		69	Floor Surface		

APPENDIX 3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	IAF1		IAF2		OXY		OXBX		OXDR		CRM		WHEW	
			<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>
6		60											2	8	2	17
6	11	61									4	19	4	6	4	11
6		63							1	13	1	8				
1	6	55					1	2								
2	1	50			1	1										
2	15	71			1	8										
2	16	72	7	94												
2	16	74			1	4										
2	17	75	5	15												
		Total	12	109	3	13	1	2	1	13	5	27	6	14	6	28

APPENDIX 4 - Animal Bone Inventory

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No. Frags</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Unid Tooth</i>	<i>Unid</i>
2	1	50	Ditch	2	1			2	
3	7	56	Ditch	1	10			1	
6		61	Wall Foundation	1	10				1
6	12	63	Gully	10	33		4		6
2	16	73	Ditch	7	20	3	1	2	1
Total				21	74				



**Glebe Farm, Priors Lane,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Hinton Waldrist and Oxfordshire.

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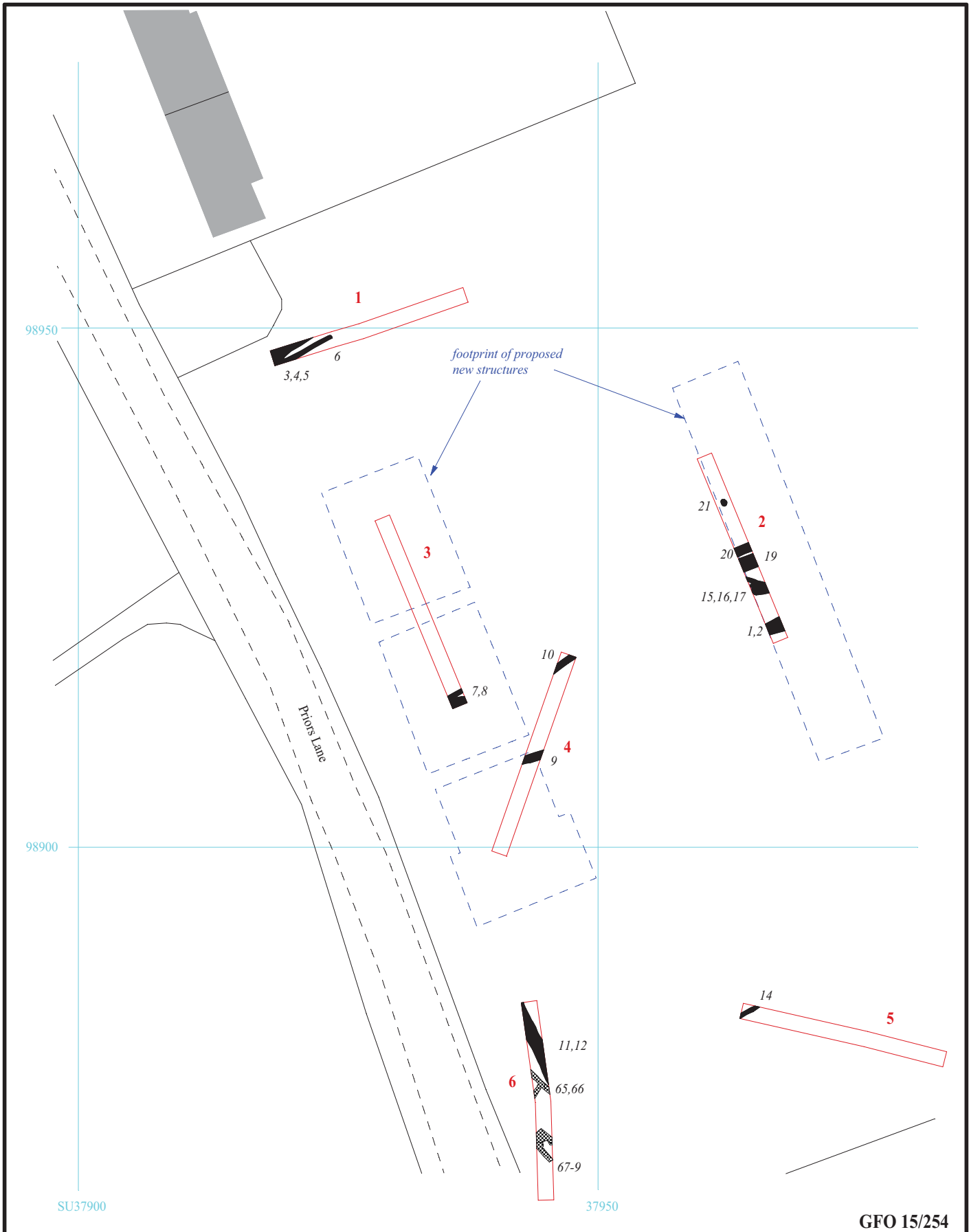


**Glebe Farm, Prior Lane, Hinton Waldrist,
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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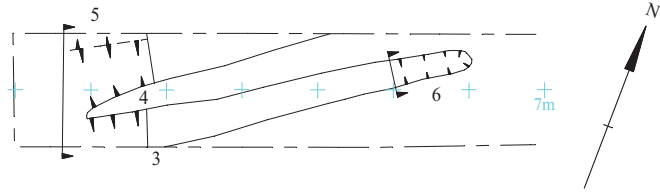
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

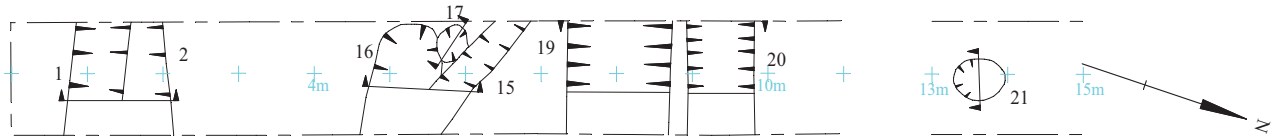


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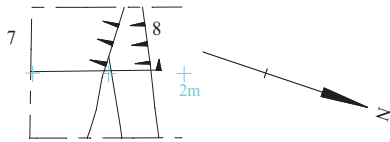
Trench 1



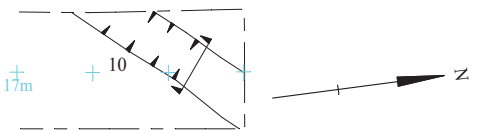
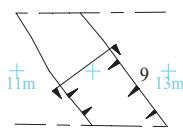
Trench 2



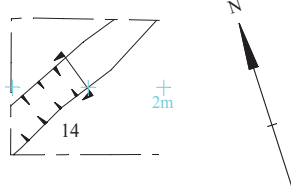
Trench 3



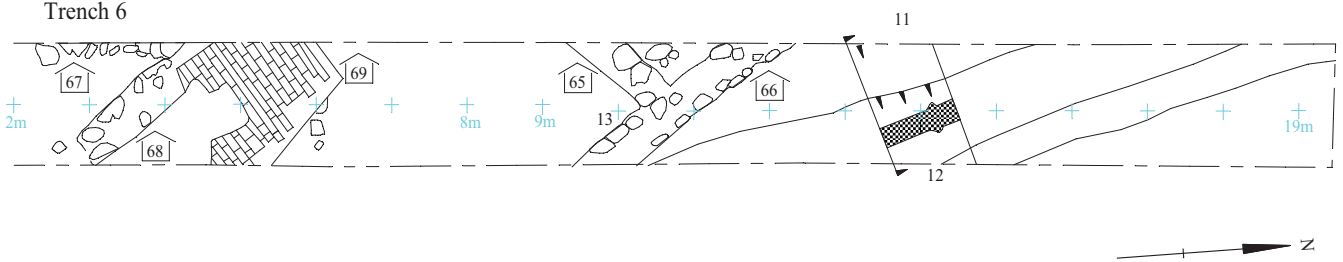
Trench 4



Trench 5



Trench 6



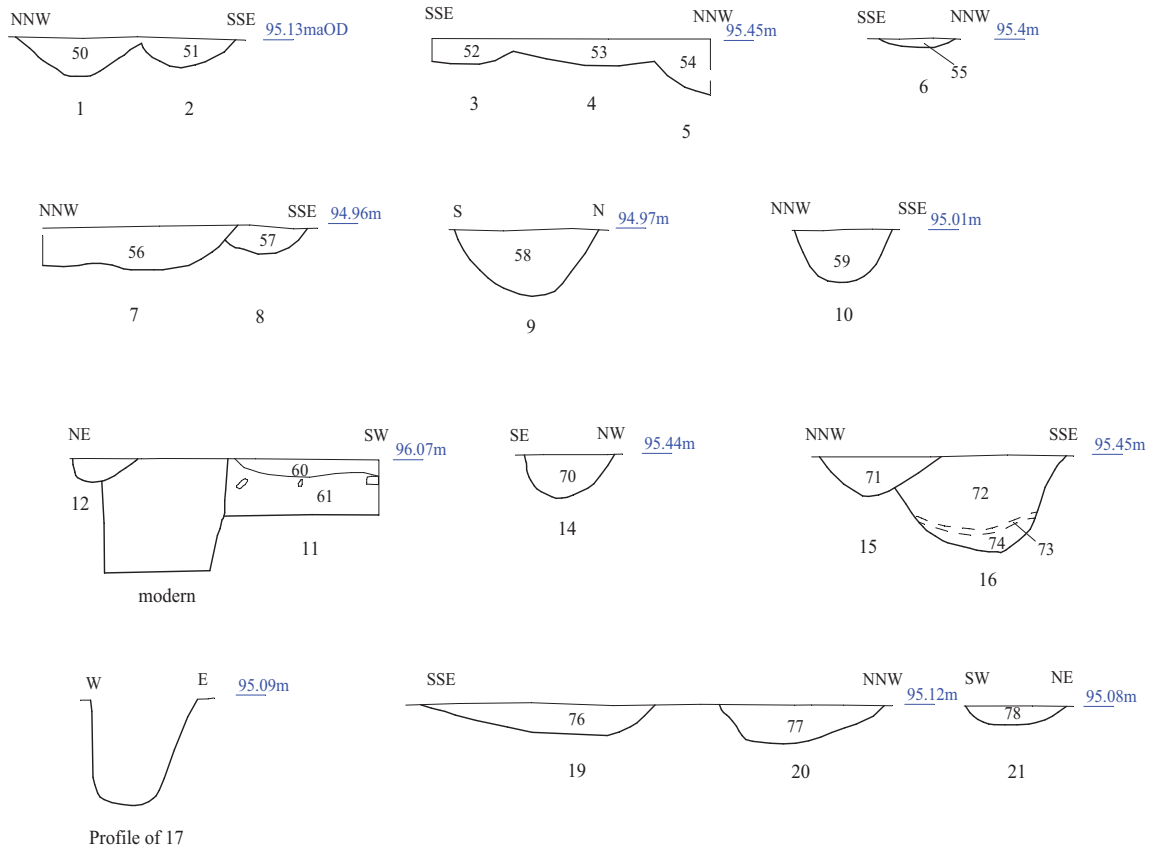
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Figure 4. Detail of trenches.



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Figure 5. Sections.





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



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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**Glebe Farm, Priors Lane,
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 2, ditches 1 and 2, looking west, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, ditch 9, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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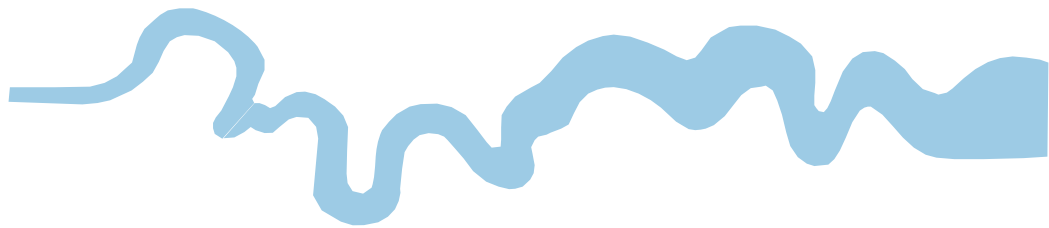
Plates 3 - 4.

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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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