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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**Bronze Age, Roman and early Saxon occupation on land to  
the south of Kings Reach, Ditton Park, Slough, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Excavation**

**by David Platt**

**Site Code: DPS16/19**

**(SU9922 7860)**

**Later Bronze Age, Roman and early Anglo-Saxon occupation  
on land to the south of Kings Reach, Ditton Park, Slough,  
Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Excavation**

**for CgMs Consulting**

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code DPS16/19

**October 2016**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land to the south of Kings Reach, Ditton Park, Slough, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU9922 7860

**Site activity:** Archaeological Excavation

**Date and duration of project:** 4th March - 18th April 2016

**Project manager:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** David Platt

**Site code:** DPS16/19

**Area of site:** 0.53ha

**Summary of results:** The excavations revealed an area of unenclosed Later Bronze Age/Earlier Iron Age occupation represented by perhaps as many as six post-built roundhouses. The site was subsequently abandoned but lay partly with an area of Later Iron Age and Roman enclosure, more fully explored on an adjacent site. The most significant discovery was the finding of additional Anglo-Saxon deposits including two sunken floored buildings. Radiocarbon dating of residues on one Anglo-Saxon vessel returned a date within the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD with a second sample returning a date of late 4<sup>th</sup>/ 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. This suggests that Anglo-Saxon colonisation of the valley was underway before the official end of Roman Britain in AD410.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a museum willing to accept it in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 07.11.16
	Steve Preston ✓ 07.11.16

# **Bronze Age, Roman and early Anglo-Saxon occupation on land to the south of Kings Reach, Ditton Park, Slough, Berkshire**

by David Platt

with contributions by Will Attard, Paul Blinkhorn, Steven Crabb, **Steve Ford**, Lizzie Lewins, Rosalind McKenna, Jane Timby and David Williams

**Report 16/19b**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out at Land South of Kings Reach, Ditton Park, Slough, Berkshire (SU9922 7860) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sally Dicks, CgMs Consulting, 140 London Wall, London EC2Y 5DN on behalf of Galliford Try Plc, Wonersh House, The Guildway, Old Portsmouth Road, Guildford GU3 1LR.

Planning consent (P/11425/022) has been gained from Slough Borough Council for the construction of Ditton Park Academy. This consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology requiring a programme of investigation prior to the development. It was determined that the investigation should take the form, initially, of an archaeological excavation within the northern part of the site where geophysical anomalies have been identified and an evaluation comprising trial trenching within the central and southern parts of the site. The southern area was to be built up as a playing field, and thus no further mitigation was required in this area.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Dicks 2015) approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Borough. The work was undertaken by David Platt, Jon Tierney Benedikt Tebbit, Peter Banks, Rebecca Constable, Kyle Beaverstock, William Attard and Luis Esteves, between 4th March and 18th April 2016 and the site code is DPS16/19. The archive is held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a museum willing to accept it, in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the southern edge of Slough, bordered to the north and east by new housing development, to the west by Upton Court Park and to the south by playing fields (Fig. 1). The site lies at 21m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology was flood plain gravel (BGS 1981) which was observed as a red brown sandy gravel across the site.

## **Archaeological background**

An archaeological excavation was conducted to the north of the site prior to the recent housing construction (WA 2013) (Fig. 2). This revealed archaeological features dating from the Neolithic to Anglo-Saxon periods. These included three possible Middle-Late Neolithic pits, an early Bronze Age cremation and a possible Bronze Age Ditch. An Iron Age trackway, flanked by ditches and enclosures, pits and post-holes were also observed. Most of the settlement pattern appeared to have originated in the Middle Iron Age. Adjacent to the east end of the trackway was a Late Iron Age penannular enclosure associated with iron smithing and copper-alloy casting, but no hearths or structural remains survived.

The Roman period showed a much reduced level of activity from the Iron Age. There was continued use of the trackway, several shallow enclosure ditches, a small number of pits and possibly two wells, spanning the 1st–4th centuries AD.

The Anglo-Saxon period was represented by three sunken-featured buildings, of probable 6th-7th century date. A possible beam-slot structure and one or more fence lines may also have belonged to this phase.

A magnetometer survey was undertaken across the site in February 2012 (Butler 2012). The survey suggested that the Iron Age enclosures revealed in the excavations on the adjacent site continued into the present site. In addition, other isolated geophysical anomalies recorded by the survey could be further evidence of any of the above phases of settlement or activity.

An evaluation conducted in the southern part of the site (Platt 2016a) revealed a number of archaeological deposits, half of which contained pottery of late Bronze Age date (Fig. 2). It was likely that the other features observed were of a similar date. As this area was to become a playing field, no further excavation was undertaken in this part of the site.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the archaeological excavation was to ascertain the character, quality and degree of survival of archaeological remains on the site and to ensure that features that might be impacted by the development would be preserved by record prior to the redevelopment of the site.

The specific aims of the project were:

- to clarify the character and extent of Middle-Late Neolithic activity on the site;
- to clarify the character and extent of Early Bronze Age/Bronze Age activity and burial on the site;

to define the extent, character and chronology of the Iron Age settlement and Iron working activity on the site;

to define the extent and character of Roman settlement and activity on the site;

to define the extent and character of Anglo-Saxon settlement and activity on the site;

to clarify spatial and chronological changes in activity on the site;

to establish the character of archaeological remains and to place these within the context of the landscape, settlement and activity patterns in the area.

The area of excavation comprised a L shaped parcel of land of *c.* 0.53ha (Fig. 2). The area was stripped to the archaeologically relevant level using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All archaeological deposits were cleaned and excavated by hand (Fig. 3). All features were half-sectioned as a minimum. A minimum of 20% of all ditches was excavated in slots unless they were post-medieval in date. All termini were examined. A catalogue of phased features and contexts is to be found in Appendix 1.

## **Results**

The following phases are discussed in this report, primarily defined on the basis of a ceramic chronology, and in the case of post-built roundhouses, the morphology of the features. There was very little stratigraphy other than that provided by the major ditches 1000–1003. The pottery assemblages from all periods were small and many features, especially of the prehistoric phase, contained just a single sherd, making it difficult to establish any sort of close resolution of the chronology.

Phase 1a: Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age

Phase 1b: Later Iron Age

Phase 2: Roman

Phase 3: Early - Middle Anglo-Saxon

Phase 4: Medieval

### *Phase 1: Prehistoric*

The majority of dated features on the site were prehistoric in date. The activity centred around two enclosures with a probable entranceway, and at least six post-built roundhouses.

#### Enclosure Ditch 1000

Enclosure ditch 1000 was between 0.55m and 1.40m wide and between 0.16–0.46m deep. This ditch was observed in the excavation to the north (WA 2013, feature 5619) and appears to form a square or rectangular enclosure some 75m north-south and at least the same east-west. The north side of this enclosure was also flanked by a trackway, several times recut. The part of ditch that is visible in this phase of works curved from NW to N then turned 90 degrees to exit at the northern limit of excavation. Pottery was recovered from 11 slots, however, due to the generally small size of the sherds and lack of typologically sensitive features, the pottery could only be dated roughly to the Bronze Age or Iron Age. One contradictory observation is that this ditch appeared to be cut by pit 435 which contained four sherds of middle Bronze Age pottery.

#### Enclosure Ditch 1001 and recuts 1002 and 1003

Ditch 1001 was between 0.90m and 1.10m deep, it was recut twice, by ditches 1002 and 1003 (Fig. 4). Ditch 1002 was between 0.33 and 0.90m deep and cut ditch 1001 and was cut by 1003, in total 51 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the 6 slots across 1002. Ditch 1003 was between 1.10m and 1.60m wide and between 0.25 and 0.55m deep and 12 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from slot 144. The pottery recovered from 1001 was Bronze Age or Iron Age in date, ditches 1002 and 1003 had a mixture of BA/IA and Roman pottery. The amount of Roman pottery would suggest that it was not intrusive and it is likely that the BA/IA pottery was from the recutting of the earlier ditch. It is likely that ditch 1000 was an enclosure dug in the Iron Age and was then redefined later in two separate Roman phases.

These ditches continued east into the WA excavation area (WA 2013, feature 5471) where it was considered Iron Age and to form a second enclosure similar to that defined by ditch 1000. It may be significant that the current excavations show that in fact this ditch did not form a continuous line with WA feature 5620, but clearly terminated at 207, with minor gullies closing the gap to the northwards extension (5620). It is possible that the original conception of this enclosure was Iron Age and defined by discontinuous gullies, only later recut as a continuous ditch.

#### Enclosure 1012

Enclosure 1012 was located on the eastern edge of the site and is on the southern edge of enclosure 1001. No pottery was recovered from any of the slots but it was cut by Roman ditch recut 1002 and is therefore earlier than that date, however it seems to be a sub-division of the larger enclosure and so probably not very much earlier. It is probable that this was contemporary with enclosure 1001 and formed a small internal enclosure or animal pen within the larger one. Against the edge of the excavation, gully 101 appears also to have been part of this pen, although, as it contained four sherds of prehistoric pottery, it may have been unrelated.

### Structures 1004-1009

A minimum of 6 post built structures were observed on site, structures 1008 and 1009 were located to the south of enclosure 1000 and the remaining structures were located within it. structures 1008 and 1009 contained no dating evidence but it is likely that these were BA/IA in date and possibly contemporary with at least one of the structures found within 1000.

A large cluster of postholes were uncovered located in the south eastern corner of enclosure 1000. Within this cluster, four circular post built structures have been identified with variable degrees of confidence (1004, 1005, 1006 and 1007). The circular nature of the features and the diameters observed, ranging from 10m to 14m, it is likely that these are post built roundhouses. The majority of postholes in this cluster can be attributed to these 4 roundhouses but there are some extraneous postholes that cannot. These may be additional posts added to repair the structures, form internal separations or be earlier or later structures for another purpose, however due to the number of postholes in this area it not possible to discern any further details. It is also the case that where the roundhouses overlap some postholes could be assigned to either feature. With the exception of posthole 406 the pottery recovered from these postholes indicate a Bronze Age or Iron Age date: posthole 406 contained a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery but it is likely that this is intrusive.

As roundhouses 1005, 1006 and 1007 overlay one another there were at least 3 different phases of roundhouse construction with periods of either destruction or abandonment in between the periods of occupation. Due to the fact that the roundhouses are constructed by posts there is no stratigraphic relationship between these three different roundhouses.

### Roundhouse 1004 (Fig. 5)

Roundhouse 1004 was located in the south east corner of enclosure ditch 1000, it was comprised of 8 postholes arranged in a circular pattern approximately 10m in diameter. It is likely that this was a post built roundhouse. Posthole 228 contained pottery of Bronze Age/Iron Age date. It is possible that if this roundhouse was contemporary with enclosure 1000 that the entrance would have been on the north west of the roundhouse, due to the proximity to the ditch, and if this was the case then it is likely that postholes 232, 233 and 234 formed an entrance porch. If not, these latter three features may have formed a 4-post structure (albeit with one post not earthfast).

### Roundhouse 1005 (Fig. 6)

Roundhouse 1005 was located to the west of 1004 and at the southern edge of enclosure 1000. It was comprised of a minimum of 8 postholes arranged in a circular pattern approximately 14m in diameter. BA/IA pottery was recovered from postholes 240, 325 and 317. Posthole 347 cut enclosure ditch 1000 suggesting that at least this roundhouse was later in date.



#### Roundhouse 1006 (Fig. 6)

Roundhouse 1006 was located in the southern edge of enclosure 1000, either overlying or underlying roundhouse 1005. It was constructed of a minimum of 9 postholes arranged in a circular pattern approximately 12.5m in diameter. BA/IA pottery was recovered from postholes 409 and 321 and posthole 406 contained a single piece of Anglo-Saxon pottery, it is likely due to the other datable postholes in this area being BA/IA in date, and posthole 406 fitting so well into the structure of this roundhouse, that this pottery is intrusive.

#### Roundhouse 1007 (Fig. 6)

Roundhouse 1007 was located on the southern edge of enclosure 1000 and was either underlying or overlying roundhouses 1005 and 1006. It was constructed of a minimum of 7 postholes and was approximately 11.5m in diameter. Posthole 321 attributed to 1006 may be part of this roundhouse but it is not possible to tell due to both roundhouses overlapping at this point. Posthole 321 and 331 both contained pottery of BA/IA date.

#### Roundhouse 1008 (Fig. 7)

Roundhouse 1008 was located on the western edge of the site to the south of enclosure 1000. It was constructed of a minimum of 11 postholes and was approximately 14m in diameter. Posthole 544 contained a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery but due to its small nature and its proximity to a Anglo-Saxon SFB (1010) it is likely that this is intrusive. None of the other postholes contained any dating evidence. In three places double postholes were observed suggesting that posts had been replaced at sometime during the life of the roundhouse. This roundhouse either underlay or overlay gully 536-537.

#### Roundhouse 1009 (Fig. 8)

Roundhouse 1009 was located to the south east of 1008, it was comprised of 10 postholes and was also 14m in diameter. No dating evidence was recovered from the postholes. It is possible that pit 619 was a double posthole but the section of this appeared to show one homogenous fill. Posthole 626 was observed cutting earlier pit 627.

#### Pits

In total only 8 pits could be dated to this period. Four of these were located on the northern extent of the site, two to the south and one on the eastern extent.

Pit 100 was circular in plan and located on the eastern edge of the site, it was 1.20m in diameter and 0.26m deep. Two fills (150 and 152) were observed and just two sherds of BA/IA pottery were recovered from the primary fill (152).

Pit 137 was located in the north eastern corner of the site, it was 0.70m in diameter and was partially truncated by later gully 138-309. A single fill (190) was observed and from this was recovered 7 sherds of BA/IA pottery.

Pits 403 and 404 were located on the northern edge of the excavation within enclosure 1000. Pit 403 was 0.45m deep and was partially truncated by pit 404. It contained two fills (469 and 470), both of these fills contained pottery of a late Bronze Age date. Pit 404 was 2.0m in diameter and 0.80m deep, 4 fills (471-474) were identified, the secondary fill and 4th fill contained pottery of late Bronze Age date.

Pit 435 was located on the southern edge of enclosure 1000, it was 0.85m in diameter and 0.17m deep. It contained a single fill (556) from which 4 sherds of middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered. This pit cut enclosure ditch 1000.

Pit 303 was located on the northern part of the site to the east of enclosure 1000, it was 0.70m wide and 0.14m deep and was irregular in shape, it appeared as though this was a natural hollow or treebole but 3 sherds of BA/IA pottery were recovered.

Pits 16 and 17 were excavated in trench 12 during the evaluation phase of works and were located in the south of the site. Pit 16 was 0.26m deep and contained a single fill (70) from which a single sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered and pit 17 was 0.16m deep and contained a single fill (71) from which three sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery were recovered. The relationship between pits 16 and 17 and posthole 18 were unclear.

Pit 13 was excavated in evaluation trench 10 and located in the south of the excavation area. It was 0.70m in diameter and 0.15m deep and contained a single fill (66) from which a single sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered.

#### Postholes

Postholes 11, 12 and 13 were excavated in trench 10 during the evaluation, in the southern area of the site. Posthole 11 was 0.30m in diameter and 0.20m deep and contained a single fill (64) from which 2 pieces of burnt flint that appear to be the remnants of sections of blades were recovered.

Posthole 12 was 0.30m in diameter and 0.15m deep and contained a single fill (65) from which 28 sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery were recovered.

#### *Phase 2: Roman*

The datable Roman phase on this site was limited to a recutting of enclosure ditch 1000, ditch terminus 212 and recut 213, gully 148, 3 pits and a posthole.

Ditch terminus 213 was 1.08m wide and 0.34m deep and was located on the northern edge of the excavation, north of the terminus of enclosure 1001. It contained a single fill (279) from which 6 sherds of Roman pottery was recovered, this was cut by ditch terminus 212. Ditch 212 was 0.97m wide and 0.20m deep and contained a single fill (278) from which 2 sherds of Roman pottery was recovered. Ditch 213 was likely to

be the terminus of ditch 5620 found in the previous Wessex Archaeology excavation to the north and ditch 212 was probably a redefining or recutting of this.

#### Pits and posthole

Pit 116 was 1.10m in diameter and 0.21m deep and was located on the southern edge of enclosure ditch 1001. It contained a single fill (167) from which 2 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. This pit cut BA/IA ditch 1001.

Pit 448 was located in the north west area of the site, it was oval in plan and was 0.40m deep, it contained a single fill (588) which contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. It was truncated by a modern geotechnical pit and the relationship with 447 was not clear.

Pit 147 was oval in plan and was located to the north of the terminus of enclosure ditch 1001. It was 0.45m wide and 0.11m deep and contained a single fill (254) from which a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered.

Posthole 420 was located to the south of enclosure ditch 1000, it was 0.38m in diameter and 0.21m deep, it contained a single fill (490) from which a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered. This posthole was part of a group of three but no obvious structure could be interpreted.

#### Gully

Gully 1013 was located on the northern edge of the terminus of 1001, it was between 0.45 and 0.55m wide and between 0.12m and 0.15m deep. 3 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the three slots. The gully was only 5m long and may have been a redefining of the entrance to enclosure 1001-1003.

#### *Phase 3: Anglo-Saxon*

The datable Anglo-Saxon phase comprised of two Sunken Featured Buildings (SFB), 4 pits, 2 postholes and a gully.

#### Sunken Featured Buildings (SFB) (Fig. 10)

SFB 1010 was located in the southern area of the site and it consisted of a hollow (601) with 6 postholes (602-607). The hollow measured 3.7m by 2.5m and was rectangular in plan with rounded corners. The hollow was excavated in quadrants and each quadrant given a separate fill number in order to separate finds. The hollow contained a single fill divided into numbers 669-672. A total of 100 sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from the hollow as a whole.

A posthole (604) was located centrally on the eastern edge of this hollow, this posthole was 0.50m in diameter and 0.50m deep. Posthole 607 was located on the western side of the hollow located directly opposite 604, this was 0.35m in diameter and 0.40m deep, 3 sherds of early/mid Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered

from the primary fill (684). Posthole 602 was located to the north of posthole 607, it was 0.33m in diameter and 0.25m deep and contained a single fill (679) from which no pottery was recovered. Directly to the south of posthole 607 was located posthole 606, this was 0.33m in diameter and 0.53m deep and contained a single fill (695) from which no pottery was recovered.

Postholes 603 and 605 were located to the west of posthole 604, posthole 603 was 0.35m in diameter and 0.31m deep, it contained a single fill (680) from which a single piece of early to mid Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered. Posthole 605 was 0.42m in diameter and 0.31m deep, and contained a single fill (682) from which no pottery was recovered. It is likely that one of these postholes was a repair or replacement for the other.

SFB 1011 was located on the northern border of the site, only half was visible in the excavation area and this consisted of a hollow (412/413) and two postholes (411 and 414). The hollow was 3m wide and 0.20m deep and 8 pieces of early/mid Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered. Posthole 411 was located on the western edge of the hollow, it was 0.45m in diameter and 0.40m deep and contained a single fill (481) from which no pottery was recovered. Posthole 414 was located to the east of 411 in the base of the hollow and this was 0.40m in diameter and 0.23m deep, it contained a single fill (484) from which no pottery was recovered.

#### Pits

Pit 136 was circular in plan, it was located in the north-east of the site. It was 0.94m in diameter and 0.11m deep, and contained a single fill (189) from which one sherd of early to mid Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered.

Pit 432 was located on the southern edge of enclosure ditch 1000, it was 2.85m in diameter and 0.15m deep and contained a single fill (553) from which 2 sherds of 5th-century pottery were recovered. Pit 432 was cut by posthole 433 and the relationship with ditch 1000 was not clear but it is likely that the pit cut the ditch.

Pit 508 was located to the west of the excavation area, it was 0.85m in diameter and 0.08m deep and contained a single fill (592) from which a single sherd of early to mid Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered. There was no stratigraphic relationship with medieval pit 507.

Pit 631 was located at the south of the excavation area, it was 1.90m in diameter and 0.20m deep and contained a single fill (759) from which 2 sherds of early to mid Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered. This pit cut pit 630.

#### *Phase 4: Medieval*

The medieval phase consisted of four pits, dated broadly to the 11th to 14th centuries by medieval sandy ware pottery. Pits 500, 501 and 502 were located to the east of the site. Pit 500 was 1.35m in diameter and 0.50m in depth, it contained a single fill (572) from which 4 sherds of pottery were recovered. Pit 500 was cut by pit 501

which was 1.35m in diameter and 0.25m deep, it contained a single fill (573) from which no pottery was recovered. Pit 501 was cut by pit 502 which was 1.10m in diameter and 0.60m deep and contained a single fill (574) from which a single piece of pottery was recovered.

Pit 507 was located in the north-west of the site, it was 0.25m deep and the diameter was unclear due to an unknown relationship with pit 506. A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the single fill (591).

### *Post medieval*

A ditch (1014) was observed aligned east - west across the centre of the site, and only investigated during the evaluation stage. It was between 1.25 and 2.15m wide and between 0.30m and 0.80m deep. Post-medieval pottery and metalwork were recovered from this ditch.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery from the evaluation by Jane Timby*

The evaluation phase resulted in the recovery of some 36 sherds of pottery weighing 576g (Appendix 2). The material appears to belong to a single phase of later prehistoric activity. The assemblage was sorted into fabrics based on the colour, texture and nature of the inclusions present in the clay following the PCRG (1997) guidelines.

In general terms the assemblage was in good condition with a few instances of multiple sherds from single vessels. The overall average sherd weight was 17.5 g. Pottery was recovered from just four cuts with most of the sherds, 28 pieces, coming from posthole 12. Four sherds in total were recovered from pits 13, 16 and 17. None of these features lie within the excavated area.

Most of the sherds are in a coarse, calcined flint-tempered fabric (F5) with three small pieces in a slightly finer, sparse flint-tempered ware (F1).

The vessels are handmade with no surface treatment or decoration. The group includes two joining sherds from a simple rim, carinated bowl where the shoulder diameter exceeds that of the rim; four sherds from a lid and two other vessels with simple squared-top rims.

The character of the assemblage suggests that it belongs to the plain ware assemblages of the later Bronze Age. The angular bowl is very characteristic of similar assemblages from the area; cf. Stanwell, Surrey (O'Connell 1990, 50, form D). Lids are a less common feature at this time but one was noted at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1980, fig. 26.150).

## *Pottery from the excavation* By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage from the excavation comprised 331 sherds with a total weight of 4398g (additional to those reported by Timby above). The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 1.06. It comprised a mixture of prehistoric, Romano-British, early-early/middle Anglo-Saxon and medieval wares. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 2. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

### Prehistoric

The prehistoric pottery assemblage comprised 120 sherds with a total weight of 972g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 0.07. The following fabric types were noted.

**F1: Flint and Sand.** Sparse to moderate angular calcined flint up to 2mm, rare to moderate quartz up to 0.5mm. 96 sherds, 708g, EVE = 0.07.

**F2: Grog-tempered.** Hand-built. Sparse to moderate grog up to 2mm. 5 sherds, 45g, EVE = 0.

**F3: Sand and ironstone.** Sparse to moderate quartz up to 1mm, rare to sparse iron ore up to 2mm. 11 sherds, 111g, EVE = 0.

**F4: Quartz, Flint and Ironstone.** Moderate angular flint up to 3mm, sparse to moderate ironstone up to 2mm, sparse to moderate quartz up to 1mm. 6 sherds, 77g, EVE = 0.

**F5: Coarse Flint.** Moderate to dense angular calcined flint up to 4mm. 2 sherds, 31g, EVE = 0.

The majority of the assemblage comprised fairly small, plain bodysherds which appear to be almost entirely the product of secondary deposition. Only one decorated sherd was noted, a fragment of a probable middle Bronze Age collared urn with scratched and cord-impressed decoration (Fig. SL9). Just two rimsherds were noted, both of which have simple, upright forms (eg. Fig. SL10).

The general small size of the sherds and lack of typologically sensitive features makes precise dating of the prehistoric assemblage very difficult. Flint-tempered fabrics were used in the region during the both the Bronze Age and Iron Age (e.g., Raymond 2003). The decorated sherd (Fig. SL9) and the simple upright rim (Fig. SL10) indicate middle Bronze Age and late-Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity respectively, but otherwise all the prehistoric pottery has had to have been given a general Bronze Age – Iron Age (BA/IA) date.

### Illustrations

Fig. SL9: Context 556, fabric F3. Decorated bodysherd. Black fabric with browner surfaces.

Fig. SL10: Context 473, fabric F1. Dark greyish-brown fabric with reddish patches on the outer surface.

### Roman

The Roman pottery assemblage comprised 76 sherds with a total weight of 1205g. Where possible, it was recorded using the conventions of The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 19986), as follows:

- F10: Miscellaneous Grey Wares.** 44 sherds, 671g.  
**F11: OXRS: Oxfordshire Red-slipped Wares,** 3rd – 4th century. 6 sherds, 146g.  
**F12: SGTS: South Gaulish Samian Ware,** 1st – 2nd century. 1 sherd, 2g.  
**F13: OXMO: Oxfordshire *Mortarium*,** 2nd – 4th century. 1 sherd, 4g.  
**F14: Miscellaneous Oxidized Wares.** 24 sherds, 382g.

The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region. Most of the pottery, aside from the the small amount residual in Anglo-Saxon features, is in good condition, and appears reliably stratified.

#### Early/Middle Anglo-Saxon

The early/middle Anglo-Saxon pottery assemblage comprised 128 sherds with a total weight of 2106g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 0.99.

**F30: Organic.** Sparse to moderate organic voids up to 5mm, rare fine sand and/or calcareous material. 24 sherds, 555g, EVE = 0.09.

**F31: Fine Sand.** Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm. 91 sherds, 1111g, EVE = 0.70.

**F32: Coarse Quartz.** Moderate top dense sub-rounded quartz up to 2mm. 8 182g, EVE = 0.11.

**F33: Quartz and Calcareous.** Moderate to dense sub-angular quartz up to 1mm, rounded calcareous material up to 2mm, most 1mm or less. The calcareous inclusions had largely leached out of all the sherds, making their exact identification impossible. 5 sherds, 258g, EVE = 0.09.

A number of decorated sherds were noted. By far the earliest was a large fragment of a carinated bowl with linear decoration and a delicately-faceted carination from pit 432, context 553 (Fig. SL8). Such vessels are amongst the earliest known from Anglo-Saxon England, and are usually of early-mid 5th century date (Myres 1977, fig. 95). The outer surface of the vessel is worn, suggesting it had a long use-life. Context 671 produced another decorated sherd. It (Fig. SL2) is somewhat abraded, but also has a fairly sharp carination, with incised cordons above and vertical bosses flanked by vertical lines below. The decorative scheme, classified by Myres as the “Bossed Panel Style” is reasonably well-known (eg. Myres 1977, fig. 260). It is probably of late 5th – early 6th century date (Myres 1977, 43).

Two stamped sherds from a single vessel occurred in SFB 601, contexts 670 and 671 (Fig. SL1). The vessel has a quite pronounced, angular shoulder carination typical of Myres’ “hollowed-necked” form, a type which seems to have had a long life throughout the 5th to seventh centuries (Myres 1977, 3). The decoration appears limited to two rows of stamps above the carination, with each row made using a different die, and incised cordons on the neck. This simple scheme is somewhat unusual, as most vessels with stamps usually have geometric incised lines to emphasise the stamped groupings, although a hollow-necked vessel with a similar scheme, albeit with a single row of stamps, is known from North Elmham in Norfolk (Myres 1977, fig. 97 no. 3587). Myres (1977, 19) suggested a 5th-century date for it on purely typological grounds, but given that stamping without lines seems to have been more of a 6th-century practice (Myres 1977, 20), the latter date seems more appropriate.

Decorated sherds were also present in context 670. One is the rim from a fairly large jar with multiple incised cordons on the neck (Fig. SL3). Such schemes were in use throughout the 5th and 6th century, and the sherd cannot be more closely dated. The other has a small fragment of a stamp and an incised line (Fig. SL4). It is most probably of 6th-century date. Most of the fills of the SFB produced one or two sherds of rusticated pottery (eg. Fig. SL5). No cross-fits were made, but they seem likely, from the fabric, all to be fragments of the same vessel. Such pots are fairly common finds in 5th- and 6th-century assemblages. A small rim-sherd from SFB 412, context 482 also had a fragment of an incised cordon, again suggesting a date in the 5th–6th century.

Most of the rimsherds were from jars of various sizes with simple upright and slightly everted forms (eg. Fig. SL7), along with a few bowls. One very unusual vessel was a small, shallow bowl which survived to a full profile (Fig. SL6).

This assemblage is by far the largest group of early Anglo-Saxon pottery from the Slough area, with most comparable sites being in the north of the county near the Oxfordshire border, such as Sutton Courtenay (Leeds 1947), or to the south-east. A fairly large assemblage of largely middle Anglo-Saxon pottery occurred at Lake End Road near Maidenhead, and while the general range of fabric types was similar, organic-tempered wares were much more common, and decorated vessels which could be securely dated to the early Anglo-Saxon period were almost entirely absent, with just one incised sherd present (Blinkhorn 2002, 35).

Some groups of early Anglo-Saxon pottery have been found at sites in Staines (Jones and Moorhouse 1981). Just 25 sherds were noted, all organic-tempered, and no decorated sherds were present, although middle Saxon Ipswich Ware was, meaning the hand-built material could well be of such a date. Certainly, organic-tempered pottery is usually the dominant ware at middle Anglo-Saxon sites in the region. At Shepperton Green, a group of unknown size included a range of similar fabrics and stamp-decorated wares which suggest a date of the 6th-century (Canham 1979, 115).

A fairly large group of pottery of this date (197 sherds, 2375g) was noted at Wraysbury (Timby 2003). The range of fabric types was similar, although organic tempered wares were not present. A decorated vessel suggested a 5th-century date for at least part of the assemblage, and rusticated sherds were also present

The presence of 5th-century pottery here, specifically the carinated bowl and bossed sherd (Figs SL2 and SL8), suggests that there was activity of such a date at the site. However, both vessels are somewhat worn on the outer surface, suggesting that they had a very long use-life, and the one of them is stratified with fragments of a 6th-century vessel indicates that they may not have been disposed of until that time.



### Illustrations

Fig. SL1: Contexts 670 and 671, fabric F31. Two non-joining sherds from a stamped vessel. Uniform black fabric, smoothed and burnished outer surface.

Fig. SL2: Context 670, fabric F31. Bossed and incised sherd. Grey fabric with darker, slightly browner surfaces.

Fig. SL3: Context 670, fabric F31. Rim from vessel with incised neck. Uniform grey fabric, smoothed surfaces.

Fig. SL4: Context 670, fabric F31. Stamped and incised sherd. Dark grey fabric with light brown patches on the outer surface.

Fig. SL5: Context 669, fabric F31. Two non-joining sherds from a rusticated vessel. Black fabric with brown outer surface.

Fig. SL6: Context 669, fabric F31. Full profile of small bowl. Uniform grey fabric

Fig. SL7: Context 483, fabric F33. Jar rim. Uniform black fabric, outer surface burnished.

Fig. SL8: Context 553, fabric F31. Faceted and incised carinated bowl. Grey fabric with a light brown outer surface.

### Medieval

The medieval pottery assemblage comprised seven sherds with a total weight of 115g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 0.

**F300: Medieval Sandy Ware**, late 11th-14th century? Dense sub-rounded white, grey and clear quartz up to 0.5 mm. Early medieval pottery types similar to this are found along a considerable length of the middle Thames Valley and its hinterland, and the problem of differentiating between the numerous different wares has been noted in the past (Mellor 1994, 84). 7 sherds, 115g, EVE = 0.

Fabrics such as these are common finds in the region. The assemblage consisted entirely of sherds from the bodies and bases of undecorated jars.

### *Fired clay*

Three small non-descript fragments of fired clay were recovered from Bronze Age pit 12 in the evaluation.

### *Struck Flint* by Steve Ford and Will Attard

A small collection of thirteen struck flints were recovered from the excavation and three from the evaluation (Appendix 3). This comprised seven flakes, three narrow flakes (blades) and three spalls (pieces less than 20x20mm). One of the narrow flakes was notched but not necessarily as a deliberate action. Where the pieces retain cortex this indicates that they were made from locally available gravel flint. The narrow flakes would appear to indicate items of Mesolithic or possibly early Neolithic date, with the remainder being less closely datable, but likely to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. All of the stratified flints are residual finds in features of Iron Age, Roman or Anglo-Saxon date.

The final piece of struck flint was recovered from the topsoil in the evaluation phase. It has been extensively and invasively flaked on both dorsal and ventral faces, though its intended form (if any) is unclear. Edge quality is generally very good, with edge damage apparently resulting from mis-struck blows rather than rolling or post-depositional damage. The flint used is a mid-grey (with light grey cherty patches accounting for approx. 20% of the surface area). As the vast majority of flint on this site is heavily flawed and largely unusable

for knapping, it is likely to have originated elsewhere. Given the lack of obvious form and the fact that this piece was recovered from the topsoil, it is not possible to assign even a tentative date.

### *Metalwork and slag* by Steven Crabb

The small assemblage was dominated by ferrous objects with 26 objects being recovered, however 11 of these were recovered from the post-medieval ditch 1014 (Appendix 4). Two lead objects were recovered, a possible small repair in feature 431 and a lead spindle whorl in 432. Apart from the ferrous objects from the post-medieval ditch all of the objects are nails, all of which have evidence for being used. The assemblage is too small and limited to be able to draw out any further conclusions from this site.

One 86g piece of iron smithing slag was recovered from SFB 601, more likely to be ‘background noise’ than any evidence that iron smithing was carried out on this site: the Wessex Archaeology excavation to the north had produced over 45kg of slag, along with crucibles, and this one piece is probably redeposited from workings there.

### *Stone* by David Williams

From pit 500, fill 572 comes a quernstone. The stone is a hard, compact, greenish-grey greensand with characteristic dark cherty swirls – almost certainly from the Lodsworth quarry in west Sussex, which seems to have operated from the Neolithic, producing saddle querns, through to the middle Iron Age and Roman periods, when its main product was the rotary quern (Peacock 1987; Shaffrey and Roe 2011). Lodsworth querns, rotary types especially, had a very wide distribution, stretching as far north as Northamptonshire (Shaffrey and Roe 2011, fig. 3), and with a number of examples from Buckinghamshire (Peacock 1987; Shaffrey and Roe 2011).

### *Animal Bone* By Lizzi Lewins

A very small assemblage of animal bone (39 fragments), weighing a total of 314g was recovered during the course of the excavation. The bone was classified according to size (large mammal - cattle, horse) and where possible by species. The bone was in poor condition with all the fragments displaying a moderate to high degree of erosion. A full inventory of the bone can be found in Appendix 5: only the identified bone is discussed.

Ditch (re-cut) 144 (196) contained four fragments of cattle tooth. Pit 501 (573) contained two fragments of large mammal metapodial shaft.

SFB 601 contained thirteen fragments of identifiable bone spread across three contexts (actually all one deposit). Deposit 669 contained two fragments of molar from a sheep/goat. Deposit 671 contained two fragments of large mammal long bone that had been sliced, a single pig tooth, four fragments of, and two complete cattle molars (m1/m2 and m3). A further fragmented tooth from a large mammal is likely to be from a horse. Deposit 672 contained a right cattle calcaneus.

Given the lack of duplicated skeletal elements the minimum number of individuals was found to be one each of cattle, pig, sheep/goat and perhaps horse. Overall it is likely that the assemblage represents domestic consumption however given the poor condition of the bone further analysis was not possible. Apart from the sliced long bone fragments no further taphonomic processes were identified.

### *Palaeoenvironmental samples* by Rosalind McKenna

A programme of soil sampling was implemented during the excavation, which included the collection of soil samples from 41 sealed contexts. The samples were wet sieved and processed using standard methodologies (details and identification guides used in archive).

Modern contaminants were present in many of the samples. Indeterminate cereal grains were recorded in eight of the samples. In two of these samples grass (POACEAE) seeds were also recorded. The results of this analysis can be seen in Appendix 6: Table 1: nothing of further interpretable value can be gained.

Charcoal fragments were present within the majority of the samples in small quantities. The preservation of the charcoal fragments was fair to poor. The majority of the fragments were too small to enable successful fracturing that reveals identifying morphological characteristics. Where fragments were large enough, the fragments were very brittle, and the material crumbled or broke in uneven patterns making the identifying characteristics difficult to distinguish and interpret, and so only a limited amount of environmental data can be gained from the samples. Identifiable remains were however present in thirteen of the samples, and the results of this analysis can be seen in Appendix 6, Table 2.

The total range of taxa comprises oak (*Quercus*) and willow/poplar (*Salix/Populus*) with oak by far the most numerous of the identified charcoal fragments, in fact being the only species recorded in twelve of the samples, with a small amount of willow / poplar recorded in a single sample.

## *Radiocarbon Dating*

Two samples of carbonized residues on pottery were submitted to the Chrono Lab at Queen's University, Belfast, for radiocarbon dating. Details of methodology are in the archive; in summary the lab considered the results reliable, with the proviso that sample UBA32758 provided only a very small amount of datable material and thus returned a rather large standard deviation. The results are detailed in Appendix 7 and plotted graphically as Figure 13. The laboratory calibrated the results with (CALIB rev 7) to be used in conjunction with Stuiver and Reimer 1993, with data from IntCal 13.14c (Reimer *et al.* 2013). The plot of the calibrated results presented as Figure 13 used OxCal v4.2.4 (Bronk Ramsey 2013)

The date from pit 508 spans from the mid-3rd to the end of the 4th century. The Anglo-Saxon pottery in this pit, therefore, at 2-sigma probability, pre-dates the traditional end date of Roman Britain. At one-sigma, the range is either cal AD 258–284 (27.7%) which can be rejected archaeologically, or, more likely, cal AD 322–387 (72.3%).

The date from SFB 601, even with its unfortunately wide calibrated range, is most likely in the 5th or early 6th century (the curve peaks at 420–540: the tabulated results, which imply it could be as late as 7th century, relate to much lower probabilities). There is even a marginal chance of its being 4th century (higher than the probability of it being 7th, at least). In this instance, while we normally hesitate to use the 1-sigma probability range, it is worth noting that at 1-sigma (68.3%) the date is cal AD399–569. This again is refreshingly early, and in a period for which the chronology of change is both crucial and little understood. Although the radiocarbon date is from fill 669 while the 6th-century pottery came from fills 670 and 671, these are in fact all the same deposit.

## **Conclusion**

The excavation has examined a site with a long, but discontinuous, history of use, from the later Bronze Age through to the medieval period (and post-medieval agriculture after that).

The chronology of the prehistoric phase on the site is unfortunately poorly understood, with most of the pottery being very difficult to date more closely than Bronze Age to Iron Age, but there are hints at least that distinct phases represented include Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze age and early-middle Iron Age. The most convincing dating came from post hole 12 in the evaluation, in an area not subsequently excavated, so it may leave open the possibility for future work in this area to ascertain the nature of the site in that period. The difficulty of tight dating of pottery in such small assemblages and with so little evidence for form and decoration

means that the chronology of the pre-Roman occupation is frustratingly vague. On the adjacent site, it was noted that 72% of the Iron Age pottery could not be dated more closely than to the broad period, and that despite the benefit of a much larger assemblage overall, while the greater certainty of dating of Bronze Age features there is largely based on the presence of multiple sherds from single vessels whose form can be readily ascertained. The absence of ring gully structures (nor artefacts) which are typical of Middle Iron Age settlements were not present here, an observation which may add comfort to the suggestion that the site had been abandoned before then.

The post-built roundhouses, with as many as six possibly represented, could be either later Bronze Age or earlier Iron Age. They must represent at least three phases of building, as structures 1005, 1006 and 1007 cannot be contemporary.

Ditch 1000 (or its more dimly-recognized predecessor) might have been enclosing some of the roundhouses, but did clearly cut both 1004 and 1005, while 1008 and 1009 would certainly have been unenclosed, so it is unclear if the ditch is necessarily related to any of the occupation. In the adjacent excavation, the trackway and large enclosure complex were given broad Iron Age dates, and nothing here contradicts that, allowing that the eastern enclosure at least must have remained recognizable into the Roman period, when it was recut and (probably) regularized. On balance, assuming that the two enclosures co-existed at least in part, the ditches probably both belong later in the Iron Age. It remains unclear if the roundhouses predate it by several centuries or were broadly contemporary.

Fieldwork in the Middle Thames Valley has now identified a range of site types with which to compare Ditton Park. If, as seems most likely, the enclosure ditches here belong to a subsequent, mature (LIA) phase of activity, then comparison for the other features best lies with sites such as at Old Way Lane, Cippenham or Furze Platt, Maidenhead (Ford et al 2003, 108; Hood, 2013; Lobb; 1980) where small unenclosed Later Bronze Age sites have been excavated, comprising one or two unenclosed post-built roundhouses. What seems less likely is that the deposits here belong to the Middle to Late Bronze Age organised landscapes (field systems) as at Horton Brook Quarry (Taylor et al 2012) or Heathrow Airport (Lewis et al, 2006), nor self-contained enclosed sites as at Eton Wick or Petters Sports Field (Ford 1986, O'Connell 1986).

The Roman period sees the creation of a more regular enclosure, 1002 and 1003, recutting 1001. Usually, a site occupied in the Roman period will produce considerably greater quantities of finds than an Iron Age one, but here there was a marked reduction in the amount of pottery at least. Either the Roman occupation was extremely short-lived, or this area was well away from the core of any settlement. The presence of two wells on the adjacent site, however, suggests that occupation was not in fact very far removed.

Almost no data are available to attempt to address questions of the site's economic basis, in any period, as animal bone had not survived at all well, and the programme of sieving for environmental remains was most unproductive, which was especially disappointing as previous work on similar geologies in Slough had been more rewarding (e.g. various sites reported in Ford *et al.* 2003; Preston 2012), and indeed, even the adjacent site seems to have produced more carbonized plant remains. This may reflect the different types of features present here (mainly post holes rather than pits, cremations and wells) or again, distance from the occupied area. The industrial evidence (slag) which was such a prominent part of the adjacent site was virtually absent.

The more interesting results from this area involve the early Anglo-Saxon period. Although features of this period were not numerically dominant (just two Sunken Featured Buildings (SFB), 4 pits, a few postholes and a gully), they produced more finds and more significant information. From the adjacent site, three more SFB can be added, showing quite a wide spread across the site (roughly 95m separate SFB1010 from SFB5279).

The SFB is sometimes considered as an 'ancillary' structure to a main occupation based on post-built or beam-slot 'halls', but there is nothing here convincingly representing either type of 'hall'. There is a possible candidate (features 5622, 5626) for a beam-slot building on the adjacent site, but the excavators there are probably right to disregard it, as wholly untypical, and in any case, undated.

It is the two radiocarbon dates which are a particularly significant result for the site with regard to the historic sources relating to the end of Roman Britain and subsequent emergence of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. The timing and process of the Anglo-Saxon colonisation is a much debated topic (cf Rippon *et al.* 2015) but considerably hindered by the paucity of an accurate chronology. The Thames Valley, at least as far as Oxfordshire, is considered to have been well colonized by the later 5th century (Blair 1994, 7) implying earlier colonisation of the lower reaches of the valley. One possibility is that Anglo-Saxon colonization of Britain was already underway before the official end of Roman Britain in AD410, perhaps even with official (or unofficial) British support. On the continent the use of mercenaries to protect the Roman frontier in exchange for land (*laeti* and *foederati*) is historically documented and evidence for the possible adoption of such a system in late Roman Britain much debated (e.g., Esmonde Cleary 1989) even if not definitively concluded. Ammianus Marcellinus (book xxix, 4) provides evidence for the extension of the concept to Britain under Valentinian, as early as AD372, though this should be treated with caution as probably an isolated example (Frere 1987, 226, n. 5). The application here of scientific dating method to a demonstrably Anglo-Saxon artefact has returned a date that is, statistically, late 4th century, with a second date on another demonstrably Anglo-Saxon artefact possibly as early. On ceramic grounds, Myres and Green (1973) placed the earliest cremations in the Anglo-Saxon

cemeteries at Caistor-by-Norwich in the mid 4th century or even the later 3rd. To these can be added other recently obtained radiocarbon dates from the upper reaches of the Thames. Pottery residues found on a demonstrably Anglo-Saxon vessel at Kempsford, Gloucestershire (Platt 2016b) returned a date of 377–476 cal AD (UBA31016). A second bone sample from a Saxon hall at Latton, Wiltshire returned a date of 406–544 cal AD (KIA 36855). These dates are difficult to explain unless Anglo-Saxon colonization is already well underway before the end of the 4th century, still within Roman times.

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**APPENDIX 1:** Catalogue of all excavated features

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
	Topsoil					
	50					
	51					
1	52		Ditch	3		
2	53, 54		Ditch	6		
3	55	1009	Posthole	4		
4	56	1009	Posthole	4		
5	57		Ditch terminus	4		
6	58, 59		Ditch	5		
7	60		Ditch	2		
8	61		Gully	5		
9	62		Ditch	1		
10	63		Pit	5		
11	64		Posthole	10		
12	65		Posthole	10	LBA	Pottery
13	66		Pit	10	LBA	Pottery
14	67		Pit	12		
15	68, 69		Pit	12		
16	70		Pit	12	LBA	Pottery
17	71		Pit	12	LBA	Pottery
18	72		Posthole	12		
100	150, 152		Pit		BA/IA	Pottery
101	151		Gully terminal		BA/IA	Pottery
102	153		Pit			
103	154		Gully			
104	155		Gully			
105	156		Posthole			
106	157		Posthole			
107	158		Gully			
108	159		Gully terminal			
109	160		Pit			
110	161		Pit			
111	162		Pit			
112	163		Pit			
113	164		Gully			Cut by 114
114	165	1003	Ditch		Roman	pottery, cuts 113
115	166	=201	Gully terminal		BA/IA	Pottery, =201
116	167		Pit		Roman	pottery, cut by 117
117	168	1001	Ditch			
118	171	1003	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
119	172	=125	Ditch terminus		BA/IA	=125
120	173		Pit			
121	174		Pit			
122	175		Posthole			
123	176		Pit			
124	260		Posthole			
125	178	=119	Ditch		BA/IA	Pottery, cut by 1001
126	179	1001	Ditch			
127	182, 183	1003	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
128	177		Posthole			
129	184		Posthole			
130	185		Posthole			
131	186		Posthole			
132	255		Posthole			
133	256		Posthole			
134	187		Pit			
135	188		Gully terminal		Saxon	pottery
136	189		Pit		Saxon	pottery
137	190		Pit		BA/IA	pottery
138	191		Gully			
139	197		Pit			
140	198-9, 250-1		Pit			
141	192		Pit		Saxon	pottery
142	193, 194	1001	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
143	195	1002	Ditch re cut		Roman	pottery
144	196	1003	Ditch re cut		Roman	pottery

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
145	252		Gully			
146	253		Ditch/Pit			
147	254		Gully		Roman	pottery
148	274		Gully		Roman	pottery
149	275		Pit			
200	257	=145	Gully		BA/IA	Pottery, cut by 1002
201	258	=115	Gully terminus			
202	259		Posthole			
203	261		Posthole			
204	262		Posthole			
205	263		Posthole			
206	264		Posthole			
207	265-8	1002	Ditch		Roman	pottery
208	269	1001	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
209	270	1003	Ditch			
210	271	1001	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
211	272	1003	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
212	278		Ditch		Roman	pottery
213	279		Ditch terminus		Roman	pottery
214	280		Posthole			
215	276		Posthole			
216	277		Posthole			
217	273	1002	Ditch			
218	281, 282		Posthole			
219	283	1004	Posthole			
220	284, 285	1004	Posthole			
221	286	1004	Posthole			
222	287		Posthole			
223	288		Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
224	289		Posthole			
225	290		Posthole			
226	291	1004	Posthole			
227	292	1004	Posthole			
228	293	1004	Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
229	294	1004	Posthole			
230	295, 296	1007	Posthole			
231	368	1005	Posthole			
232	297		Posthole			
233	298		Posthole			
234	369-70		Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
235	299	1007	Posthole			
236	371		Posthole			
237	372, 373		Posthole			
238	374		Posthole			
239	375		Posthole			
240	376	1005	Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
241	377, 378		Posthole			
242	379-81		Posthole			
243	382		Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
244	384		Posthole			
245	390		Posthole			
246	391		Posthole			
247	392		Posthole			
248	393		Posthole			
249	394		Posthole			
300	350		Posthole			
301	351, 352		Pit			
302	353		Gully		Roman	pottery
303	354		Ditch terminus		BA/IA	pottery
304	355	1000	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
305	356	1000	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
306	357		Posthole			
307	358	1000	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
308	359		Gully			
309	360		Gully			
310	361		Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
311	362	1000	Tree			
312	363	1000	Ditch			

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
313	364	1000	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
314	365	1000	Posthole			
315	366	1000	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
316	367	1004	Pit			
317	397	1005	Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
318	398		Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
319	399	1007	Posthole			
320	450		Posthole			
321	451	1006	Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
322	452	1007	Posthole			
323	453	1005	Posthole			
324	455, 454	1005	Posthole			
325	456	1005	Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
326	457		Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
327	458	1006	Posthole			
328	459	1007	Posthole			
329	460	1006	Posthole			
330	461		Posthole			
331	462, 463	1007	Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
332	464		Posthole			
333	465		Posthole			
334	466	1005	Posthole			
335	467	1006	Posthole			
336	468	1006	Posthole			
346	383	1000	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
347	385		Posthole			
348	386	1000	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
349	387		Tree			
400	388	1000	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
401	389	1000	Ditch			
402	395, 396	1007	Pit			
403	469, 470		Pit		LBA?	pottery
404	471-4		Pit		LBA?	pottery
405	475		Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
406	476	1006	Posthole		Saxon	pottery
407	477		Posthole			
408	478		Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
409	479	1006	Posthole		BA/IA	pottery
410	480	1006	Posthole			
411	481	1011	Posthole			
412	482	1011	SFB		Saxon	pottery
413	483	1011	SFB		Early Saxon	pottery
414	484	1011	Posthole			
415	485		Posthole			
416	486	1006	Posthole			
417	487		Pit			
418	488	1000	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
419	489		Pit			
420	490		Posthole		Roman	pottery
421	491		Pit			
422	492, 493		Pit			
423	494		Posthole			
424	495		Posthole			
425	496		Gully terminus			
426	497		Gully terminus			
427	498		Gully terminus			
428	499		Gully terminus			
429	550	1000	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
430	551		Posthole			
431	552		Pit			
432	553		Pit		Early Saxon	pottery
433	554		Posthole			
434	555	1000	Ditch			
435	556		Pit		Iron Age?	Residual MBA Pottery?
436	557		Posthole			
437	558		Posthole			
438	559		Posthole			
439	560		Posthole			

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
440	561		Pit			
441	562	1000	Ditch			
442	563		Posthole			
443	564		Posthole			
444	565		Posthole			
445	566		Posthole			
446	567		Posthole			
447	587		Pit			
448	588		Pit	Roman		pottery
449	568, 569		Pit			
500	572		Pit	Medieval		pottery
501	573		Pit	Medieval		Stratigraphy
502	574		Pit	Medieval		pottery
503	575		Pit			
504	576		Pit			
505	589		Pit			
506	590		Pit			
507	591		Pit	Medieval		pottery
508	592		Pit	Saxon		pottery, radiocarbon date
509	570		Posthole			
510	571		Posthole			
511	594		Pit			
512	595		Pit			
513	596		Pit			
514	597		Pit	Medieval		pottery
515	598		Pit			
516	581	1000	Ditch			
517	582		Posthole			
518	583		Posthole			
519	584		Gully			
520	585		Posthole			
521	586		Posthole			
522	579		Pit			
523	580		Gully			
524	577		Posthole			
525	578		Posthole			
526	593		Pit			
527	599		Posthole			
528	650		Pit			
529	651		Posthole			
530	652	1008	Posthole			
531	653	1008	Posthole			
532	654	1008	Posthole			
533	655		Posthole			
534	656		Posthole			
535	657	1008	Pit			
536	658		Gully terminus			
537	659		Gully terminus			
538	660		Pit			
539	661		Posthole			
540	662		Posthole	Roman		pottery
541	663		Pit			
542	664		Posthole			
543	665	1008	Posthole			
544	666	1008?	Posthole	BA/IA?		(Saxon pottery intrusive?)
545	667	1008	Posthole			
546	668	1008	Posthole			
548	674	1008	Posthole			
549	675		Posthole			
600	676	1008	Posthole			
601	669–72	1010	SFB	Early Saxon		pottery, radiocarbon date
602	679	1010	Posthole			
603	680	1010	Posthole	Saxon		pottery
604	681	1010	Posthole			
605	682	1010	Posthole			
606	695		Posthole			
607	683, 684	1010	Posthole	Saxon		pottery
608	673	1008	Posthole			

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
609	677		Posthole			
610	678		Posthole			
611	685	1009	Posthole			
612	686	1009	Posthole			
613	687	1009	Posthole			
614	688	1009	Posthole			
615	689		Pit			
616	690		Posthole			
617	692		Pit			
618	691	1009	Pit			
619	693		Pit			
620	694		Pit			
621	696		Posthole			
622	697		Posthole			
623	698, 699	1010	Pit			
624	750		Pit			
625	751, 752		Pit			
626	753	1009	Pit			
627	754, 755	1009	Pit			
628	756		Pit			
629	757		Pit			
630	758		Pit		Saxon or earlier	Stratigraphy
631	759		Pit		Saxon	pottery
632	760		Pit			
633	761		Pit			
634	762		Pit			
635	767		Posthole			
636	768		Posthole			
637	763	1009	Pit			
638	764	1009	Post hole			
639	765		Pit			
640	766		Posthole			
641	772		Posthole			
642	773		Posthole			
643	769		Posthole			
644	770		Posthole			
645	771		Posthole			
646	169, 170	1002	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery
647	180, 181	1002	Ditch		BA/IA	pottery

## Appendix 2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

A> Prehistoric contexts (some prehistoric pottery is included in table B: the totals in table A include these)

Group	Cut	Deposit	F1		F2		F3		F4		F5		Date
			No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
	12	65	6	9	23		-	-	-	-	-	-	LBA?
	13	66			1	9							BA/IA
	16	70			1	11							BA/IA
	17	71			2	10							BA/IA
	100	152					2	12					BA/IA
	101	151	4	17									BA/IA
	115	166	5	35									BA/IA
1003	118	171	2	10	2	24							BA/IA
	125	178									1	12	BA/IA
1003	127	183			2	19					1	19	BA/IA
	137	190	7	81									BA/IA
1001	142	194	2	9									BA/IA
	200	257	1	14									BA/IA
1001	208	269	1	14									BA/IA
1001	210	271	2	16									BA/IA
1003	211	272	2	11									BA/IA
1004	228	293	1	14									BA/IA
	234	369	1	1									BA/IA
1005	240	376	1	3									BA/IA
	243	382	1	12									BA/IA
	303	354	3	13									BA/IA
1000	304	355	5	15									BA/IA
1000	305	356	2	14									BA/IA
1000	307	358					1	7					BA/IA
	310	361	1	3									BA/IA
1000	313	364	1	1									BA/IA
1000	315	366	4	18									BA/IA
1005	317	397	1	4					1	11			BA/IA
	318	398	1	2									BA/IA
	321	451	1	1									BA/IA
1005	325	456							2	26			BA/IA
	326	457	1	8									BA/IA
1007	331	462	2	17									BA/IA
1000	346	383	1	2			1	4					BA/IA
1000	348	386	10	54					1	24			BA/IA
1000	400	388							1	14			BA/IA
	403	469	6	29									LBA?
	403	470					1	8					LBA?
	404	471	10	130									LBA?
	404	473	2	40			1	11					LBA?
	405	475	1	3									BA/IA
	408	478	2	13									BA/IA
1006	409	479					1	3					BA/IA
1000	418	488			1	2							BA/IA
1000	429	550	1	7									BA/IA
	435	556	3	48			1	44					MBA
1002	646	170	1	3									BA/IA
1002	647	180	1	6									BA/IA
	Total		102	717	32	75	11	111	6	77	2	31	

**B> Roman, Saxon and Medieval contexts**

Group	Cut	Deposit	Prehistoric						Roman						Saxon						Medieval		Date					
			F1	F2	F3	F10	F11	F12	F13	F14	F30	F31	F32	F33	F300	No	Wt											
1003	114	165	1	10		17	180																		RB			
1003	116	167	2	10	2	2	27																			RB		
1003	118	171																								BA/IA		
	135	188																								E/MS		
	136	189																								E/MS		
	141	192																								E/MS		
1002	143	195	3	14		4	95	4	132	1	2	1	4	3	51											RB		
1003	144	196																								RB		
	147	254																								RB		
	148	274																								RB		
1002	207	267																								RB		
	212	278																								RB		
	213	279																								RB		
	223	288																								RB		
	302	353																								?		
1006	406	476																								RB		
1011	412	482																								E/MS		
1011	413	483																								E/MS		
	420	490																								ESAX		
	432	553																								RB		
	448	588																								5thC		
	500	572																								RB		
	502	574																								L11thC		
	507	591																								L11thC		
	508	592																								L11thC		
	514	597																								E/MS		
	540	662																								L11thC		
1008?	544	666																								RB		
1010	601	669																								E/MS		
1010	601	670																								ESAX		
1010	601	671																								6thC		
1010	601	672																								6thC		
1010	603	680																								E/MS		
1010	607	684																								E/MS		
	631	759																								E/MS		
Total			8	50	2	24	3	22	44	671	6	146	1	2	1	4	24	382	24	555	91	1111	8	182	5	258	7	115

(totals for prehistoric fabrics in this table are for the residual sherds only)

### Appendix 3: Flint catalogue

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Type</i>
U/S			flake
	topsoil		Mis-shaped flake
11	64		Two broken blades, burnt
112	163		spall
141	192		flake
200	257		flake
220	285		narrow flake
315	366	32	flake
335	467		flake
403	469		flake
404	471		spall
404	473		narrow flake (notched)
432	553		Flake; spall
501	573		narrow flake



#### Appendix 4: Metalwork catalogue

<i>cut</i>	<i>deposit</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>material</i>	<i>type</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt (g)</i>
207	268		fe	nail	1	6
209	270		fe	nails	3	18
313	364		coke/coal		1	1
413	483		fe	nail	1	14
431	552		pb	repair?	1	20
432	553		pb	spindle whorl	1	74
732	553		fe	nail	1	21
449	568		fe	nail	2	23
601	669		slag	smithing	1	85
601	670	44	fe	nail	1	9
601	671		fe	nail	2	26
601	672		fe	nail	1	14
624	750		fe	nail	2	25
1014	surface		fe	straps, nail, loop	11	441

**Appendix 5: Animal Bone Inventory**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No. Frags</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Pig</i>	<i>Sheep/ Goat</i>	<i>Large Mammal</i>	<i>Unid</i>	<i>Notes</i>
144	196	-	1003	Ditch	4	4	4					
324	454	36	1005	Posthole	1	5				1		
324	454	-	1005	Posthole	2	7				2		
431	552	-	-	Pit	9	61				9		
432	553	-	-	Pit	1	2					1	
501	573	-	-	Pit	2	36				2		
601	669	-	1010	SFB	2	5			2			
601	671	-	1010	SFB	16	140	6	1		3	6	Sliced
601	672	-	1010	SFB	2	54	1				1	

## Appendix 6 - Environmental remains

**Table 1: Plant Macrofossils**

*Taxonomy and nomenclature follow Stace (1997)*

<i>Sample</i>	10	12	14	17	29	41	44	48	
<i>Feature</i>	115	135	142	208	219	429	601	631	
<i>Context</i>	166	188	193	269	283	550	670	759	
<i>Feature Type</i>	Gully	Gully	Ditch	Ditch	Posthole	Ditch	SFB	Pit	
<i>Phase</i>	BA/IA	Sax	BA/IA	BA/IA	BA/IA	BA/IA	Sax	Sax	
<b>Latin</b>									<b>Vernacular</b>
POACEAE	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	Grass Family
Cerealia	1	11	2	2	1	2	1	2	Indeterminate Cereal

**Table 2: Charcoal**

*Taxonomy and nomenclature follow Schweingruber (1978).*

	<i>Sample</i>	14	17	19	26	31	32	36	41
	<i>Feature</i>	142	208	220	226	230	315	324	429
	<i>Context</i>	193	269	284	290	295	366	454	550
	<i>Feature Type</i>	Ditch	Ditch	Posthole	Posthole	Posthole	Ditch	Posthole	Ditch
	<i>Phase</i>	BA/IA	BA/IA	BA/IA	BA/IA	BA/IA	BA/IA	BA/IA	BA/IA
	<i>No. frags</i>	25	15	26	14	100+	16	100+	23
	<i>Max. size (mm)</i>	9	8	12	5	16	14	18	4
<b>Latin</b>	<b>Vernacular</b>								
<i>Salix / Populus</i>	Willow / Poplar	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	10	2	8	-	20	6	25	2
-	Indeterminate	15	13	18	9	80	10	75	21

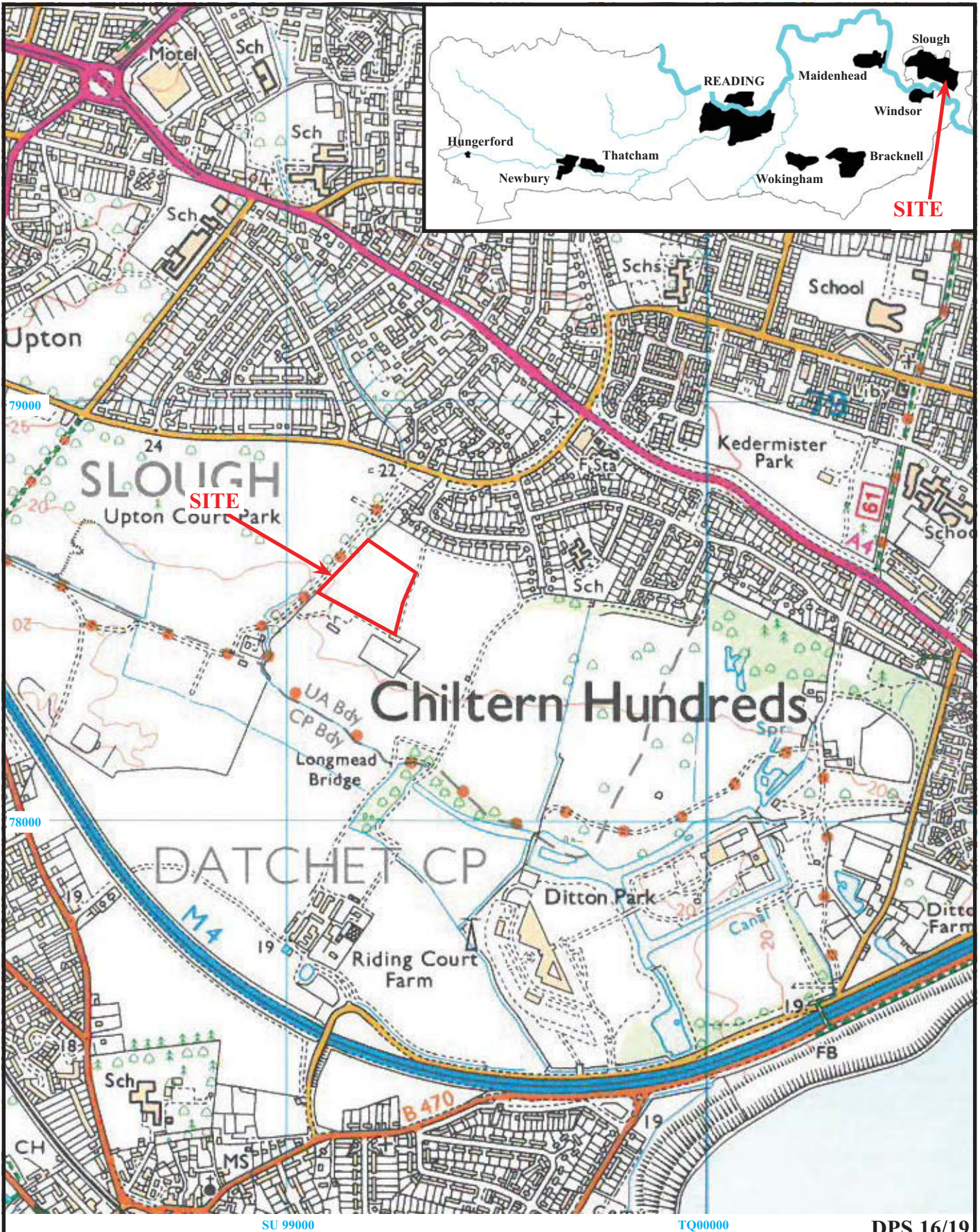
	<i>Sample</i>	43	44	45	46	48
	<i>Feature</i>	601	601	601	601	631
	<i>Context</i>	669	670	671	672	759
	<i>Feature Type</i>	SFB	SFB	SFB	SFB	Pit
	<i>Phase</i>	Sax	Sax	Sax	Sax	Sax
	<i>No. frags</i>	26	20	18	18	9
	<i>Max. size (mm)</i>	6	19	15	11	7
<b>Latin</b>	<b>Vernacular</b>					
<i>Salix / Populus</i>	Willow / Poplar	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	4	10	6	6	1
-	Indeterminate	22	10	12	12	8

**APPENDIX 7: Radiocarbon dating (all given at 2-sigma, most probable date highlighted).**

<i>Lab ID</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Radiocarbon Age (BP)</i>	<i>Calibrated Age</i>	<i>Probability (%)</i>
32758	SFB 601, fill 669	Residue on pottery	1575 ± 85	cal AD 260- 279 <b>cal AD 325- 645</b>	0.017 <b>0.983</b>
32759	Pit 508, fill 592	Residue on pottery	1713 ± 36	<b>cal AD 244- 400</b>	<b>1.000</b>

(Note probability given as area under the probability curve at 2-sigma)





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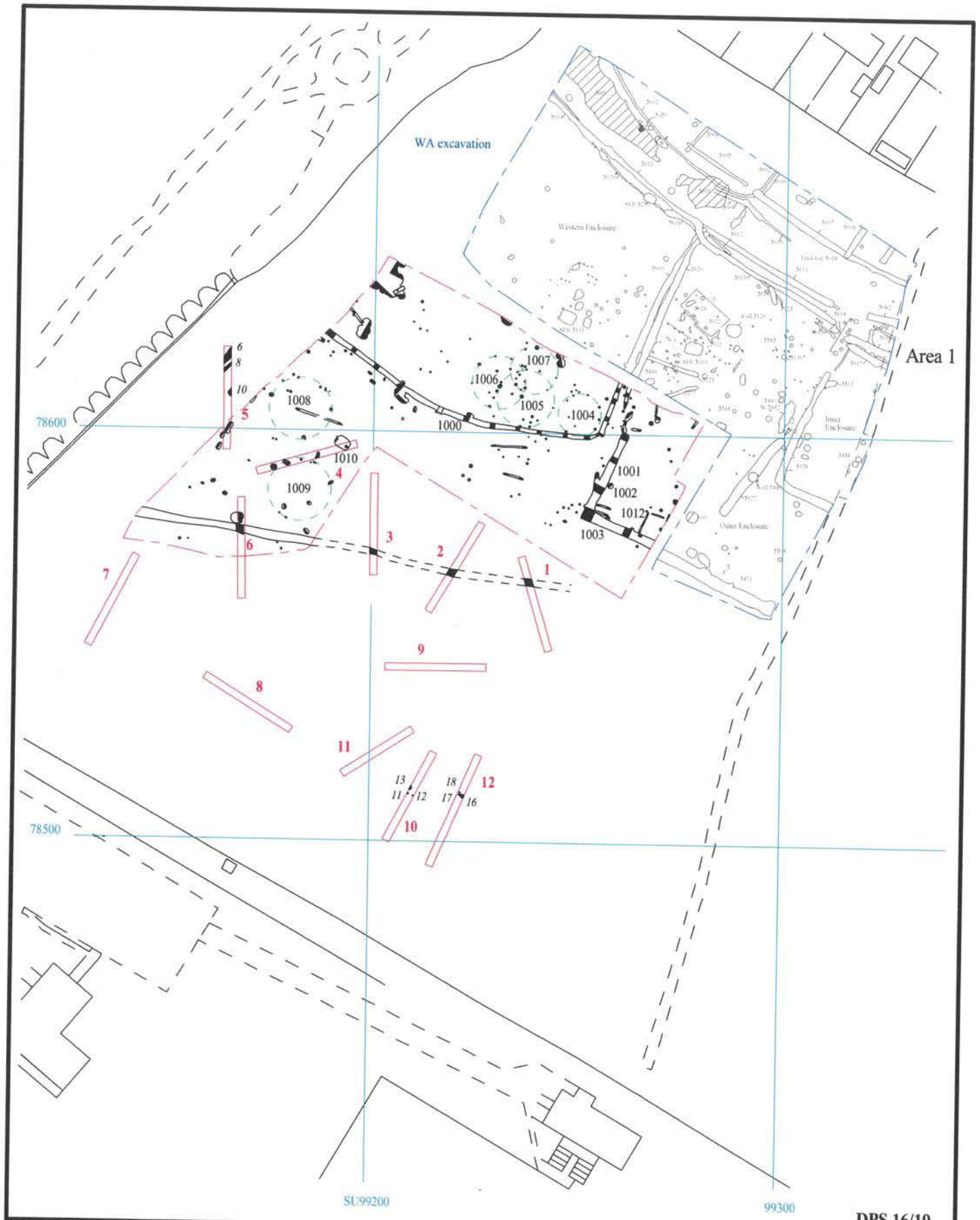
**Ditton Park Academy, Kings Reach,  
Slough, Berkshire, 2016  
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Slough and Berkshire.

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Slough, Berkshire, 2016  
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 2. Location of trenches and previous fieldwork.



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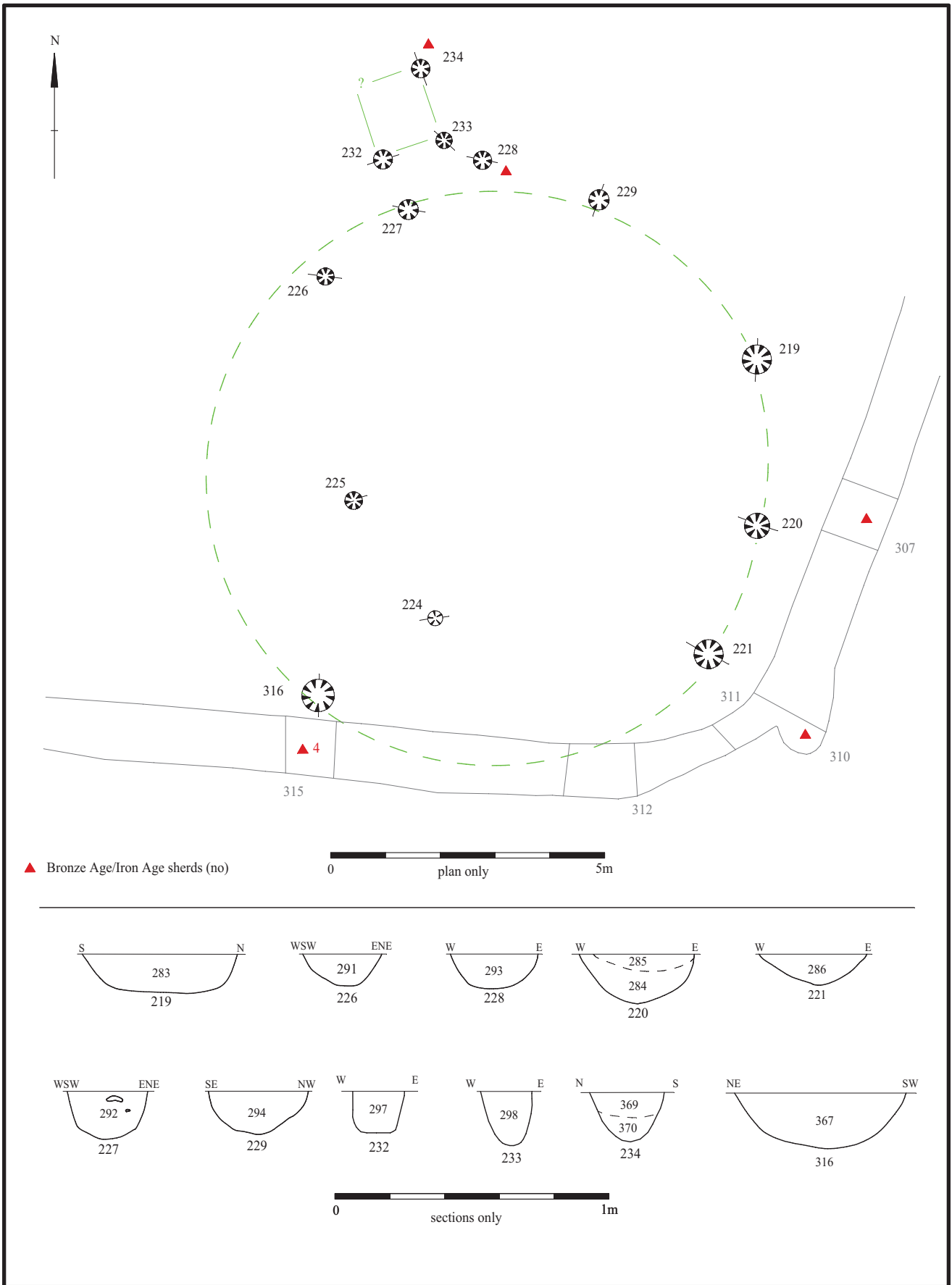


Figure 4. Roundhouse 1004 plan and sections



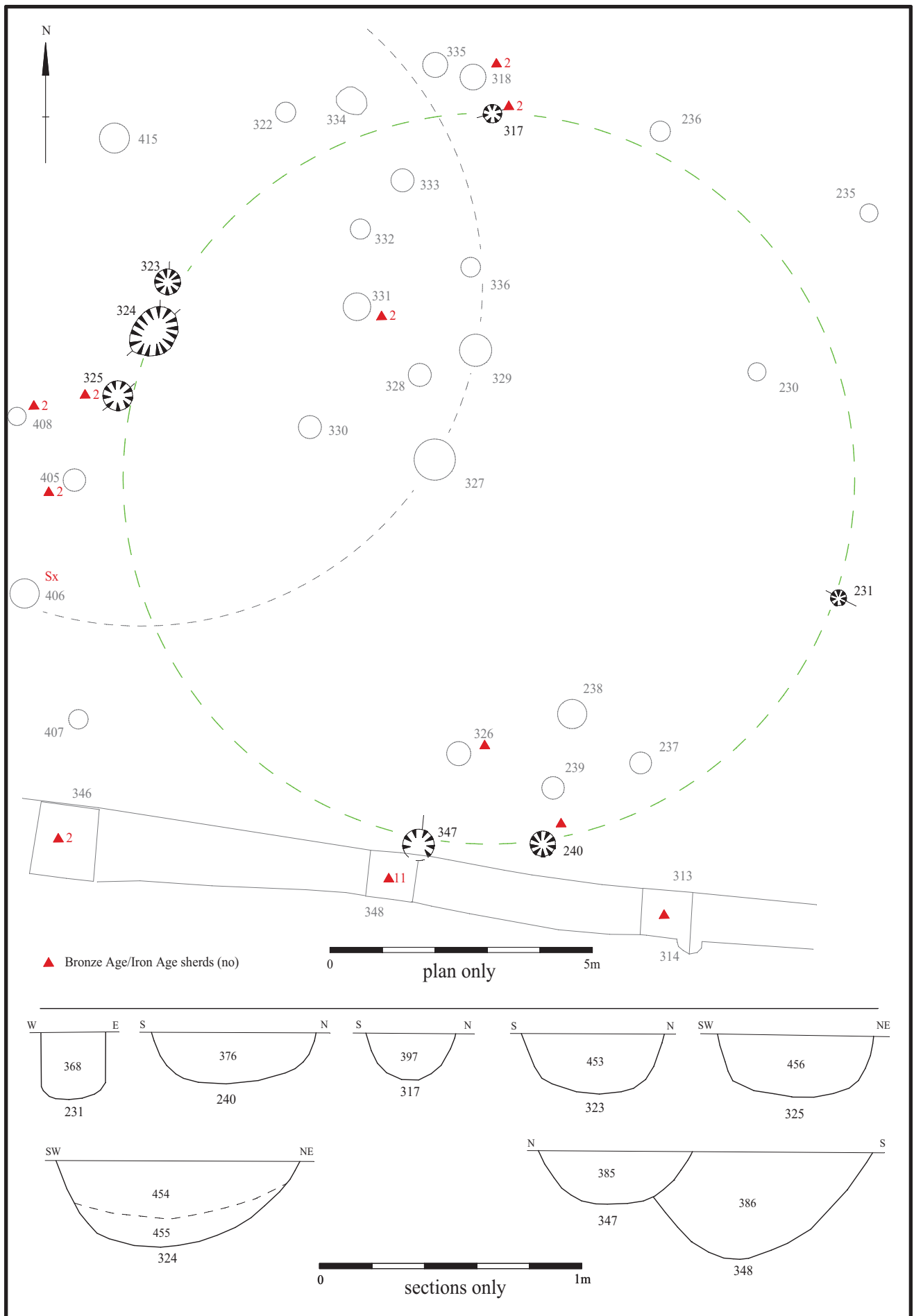


Figure 4. Roundhouse 1005 plan and sections



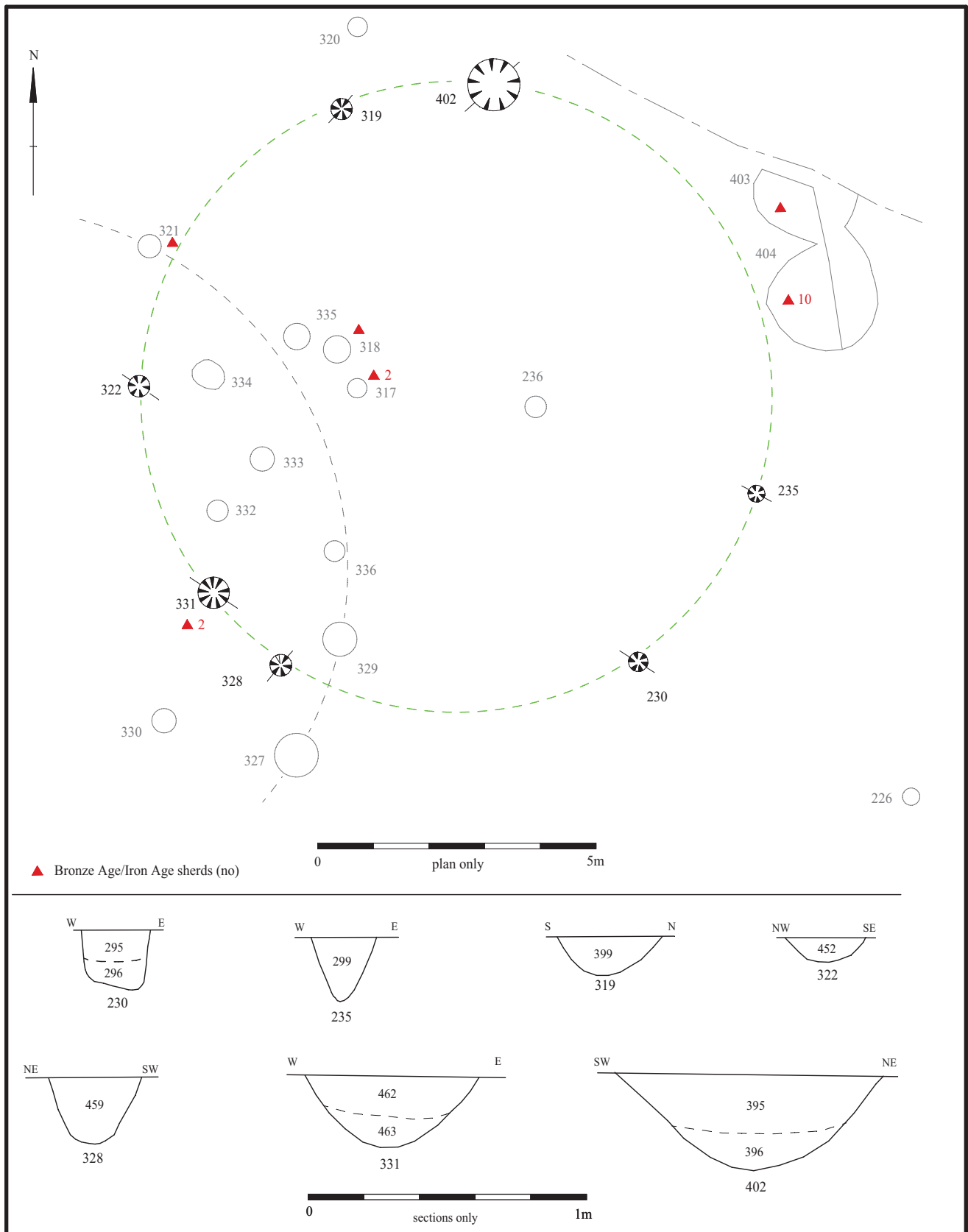


Figure 7. Roundhouse 1007 plan and sections

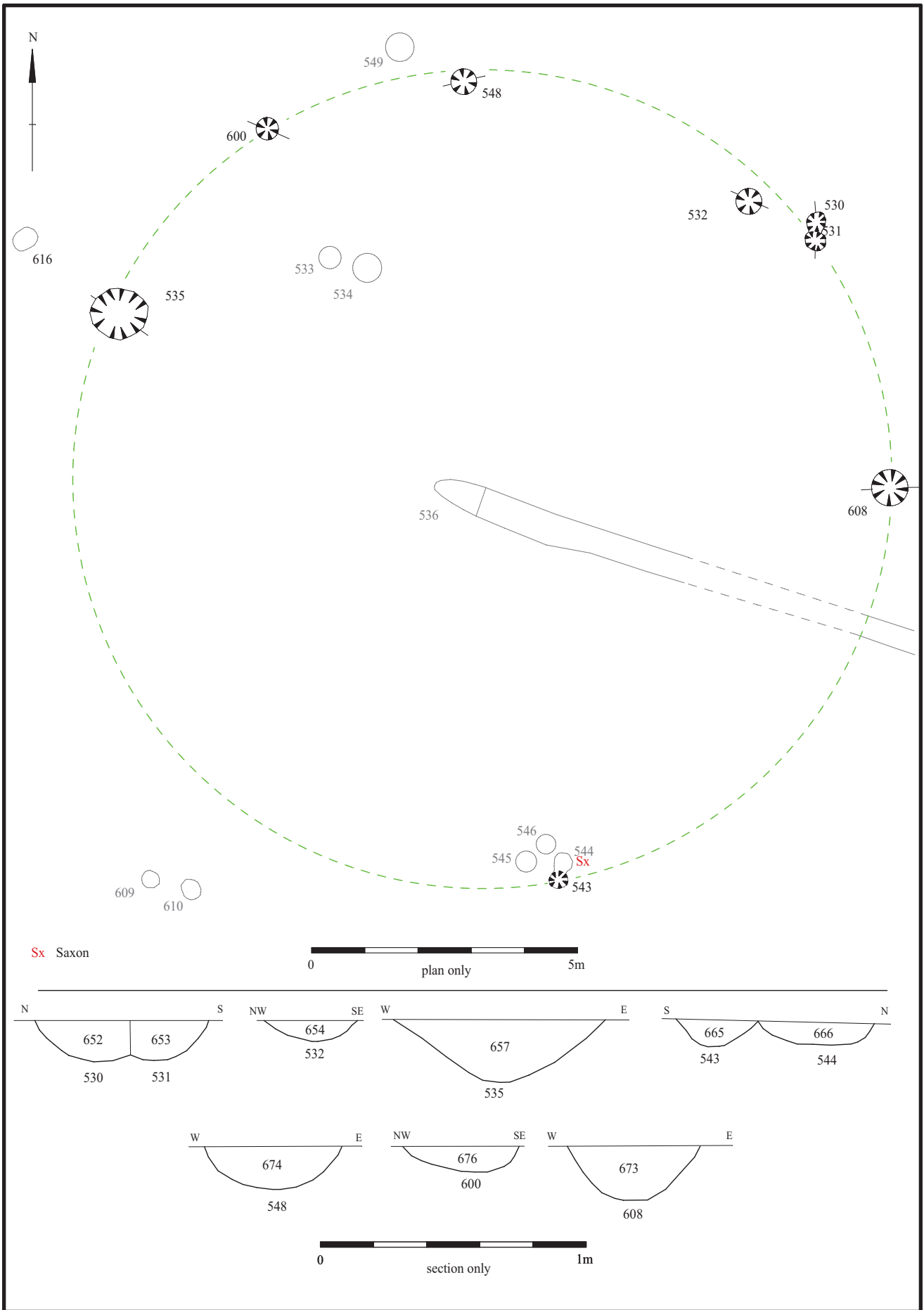


Figure 8. Roundhouse 1008 plan and sections

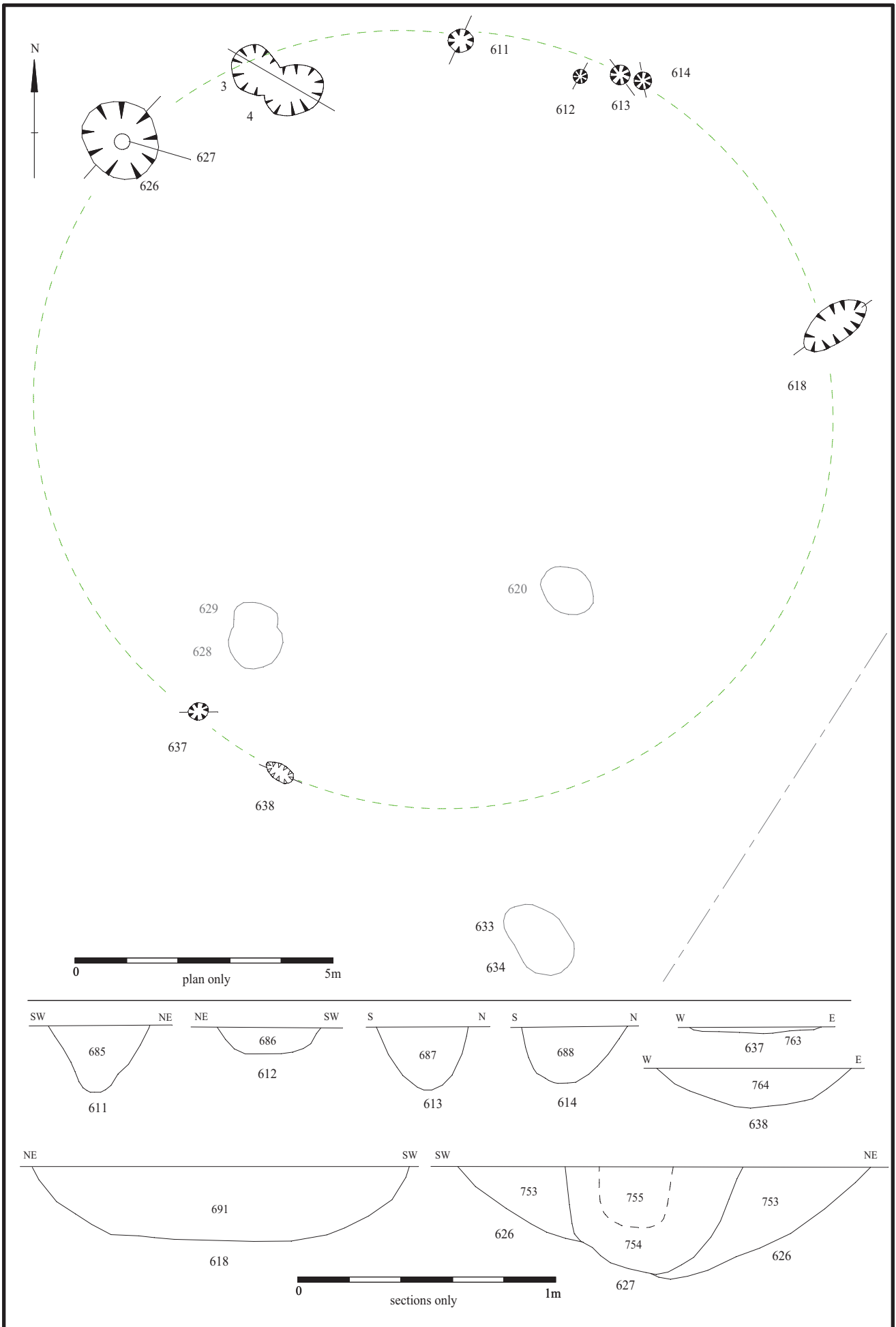


Figure 9. Roundhouse 1009 plan and sections

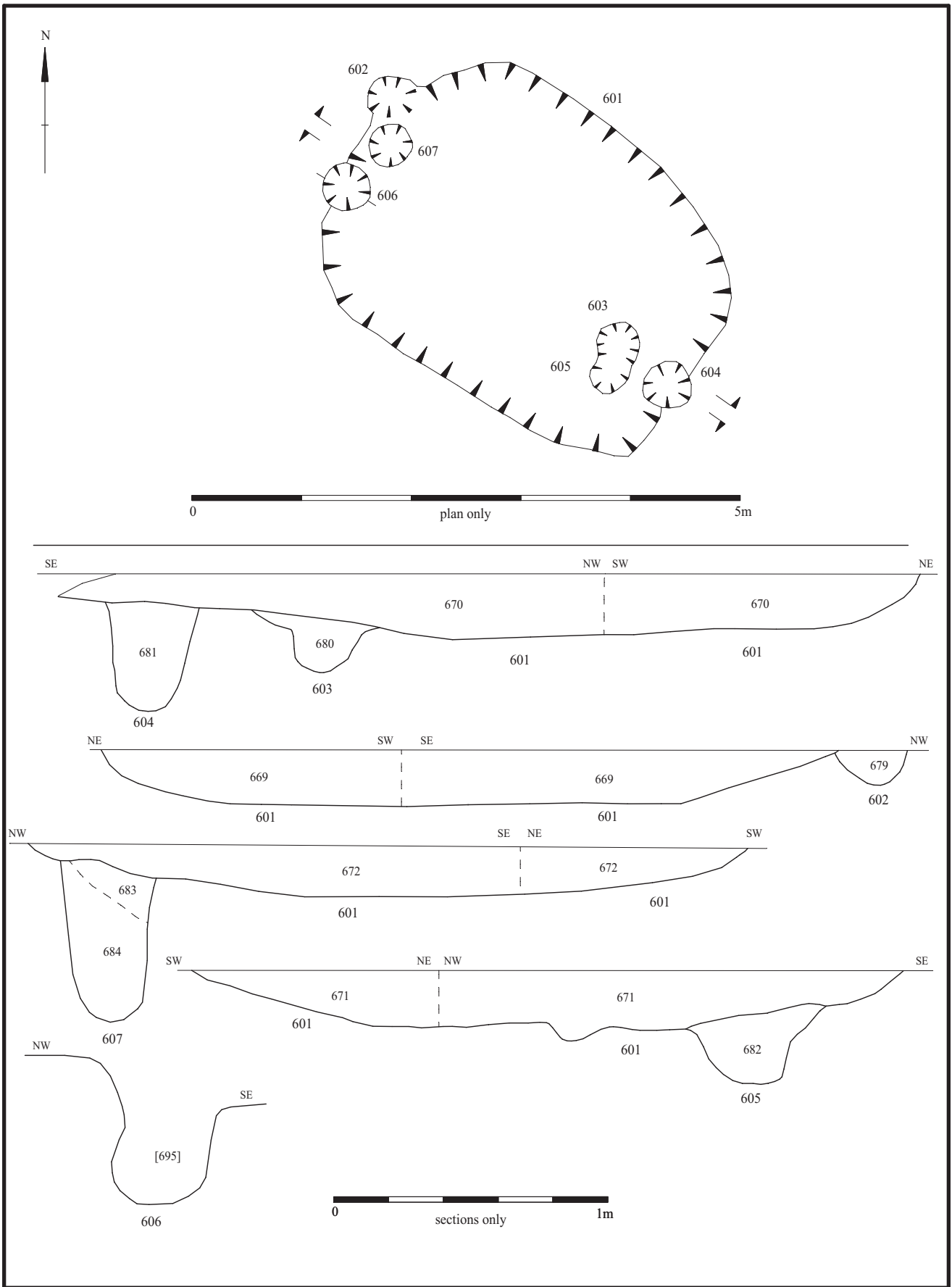
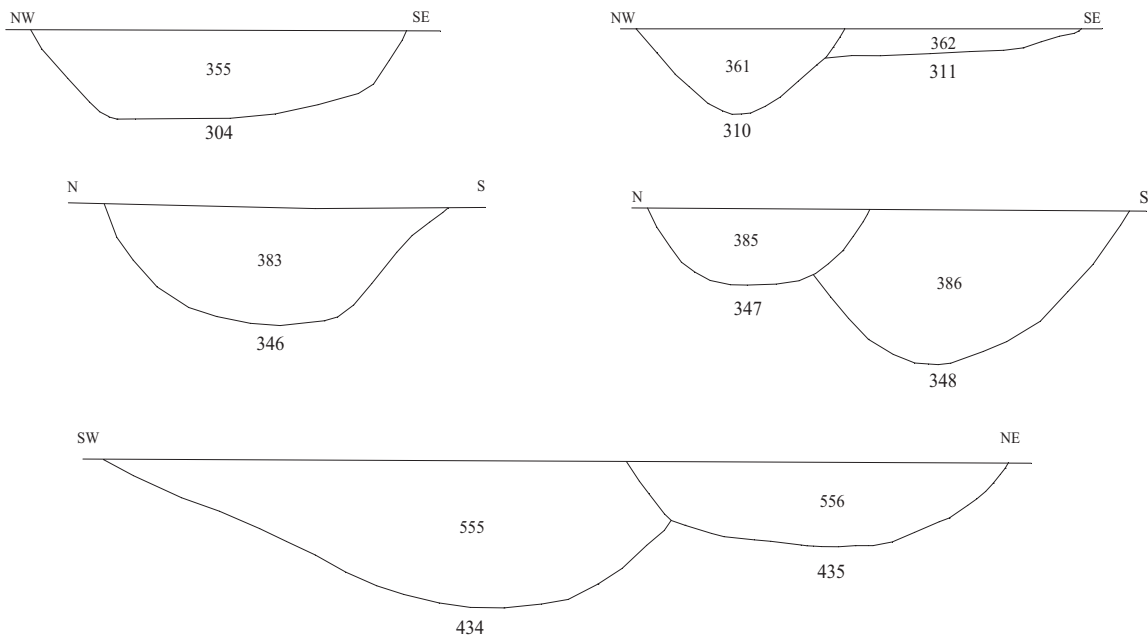


Figure 10. Sunken Feature Building 1010 plan and sections

### Ditch 1000



### Ditches 1001, 1002 and 1003

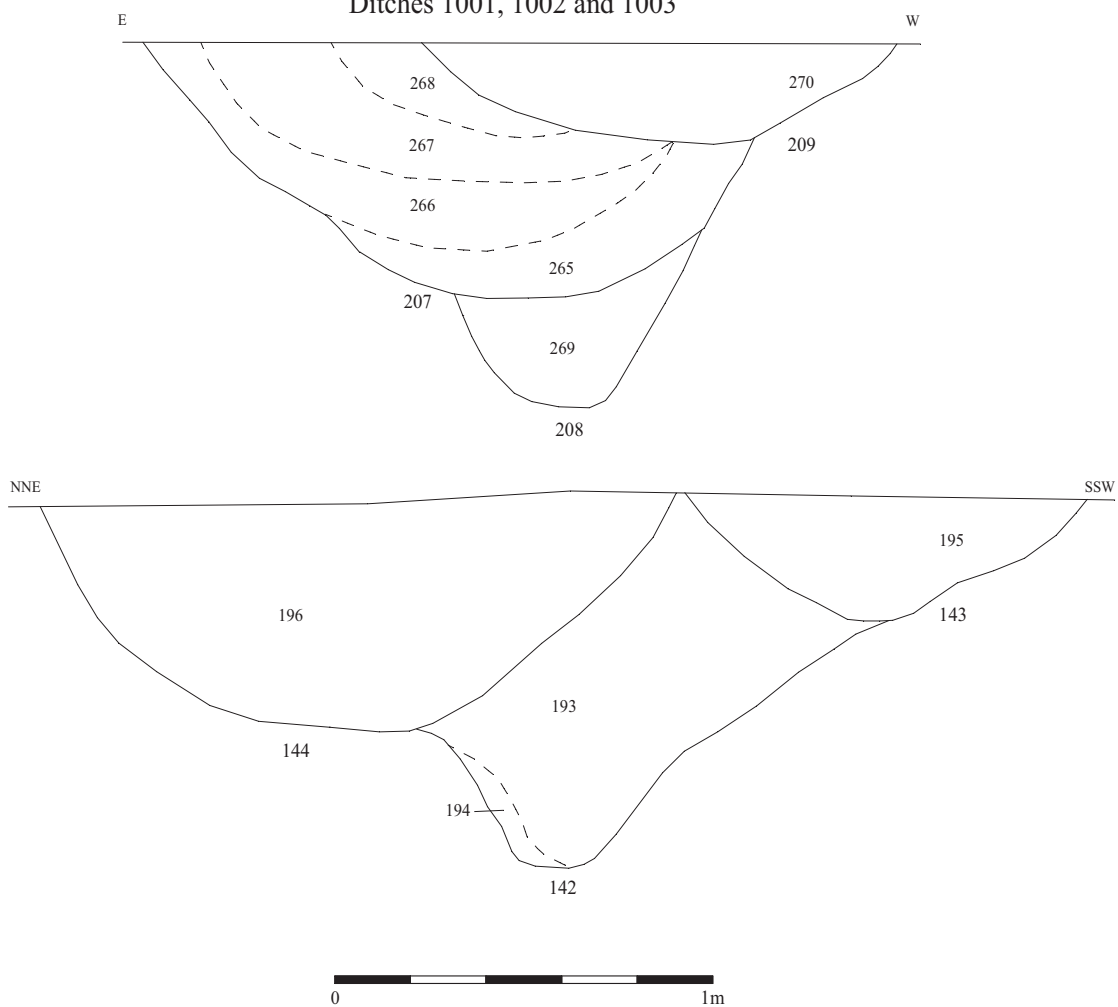


Figure 11. Ditches 1000-1003 sections

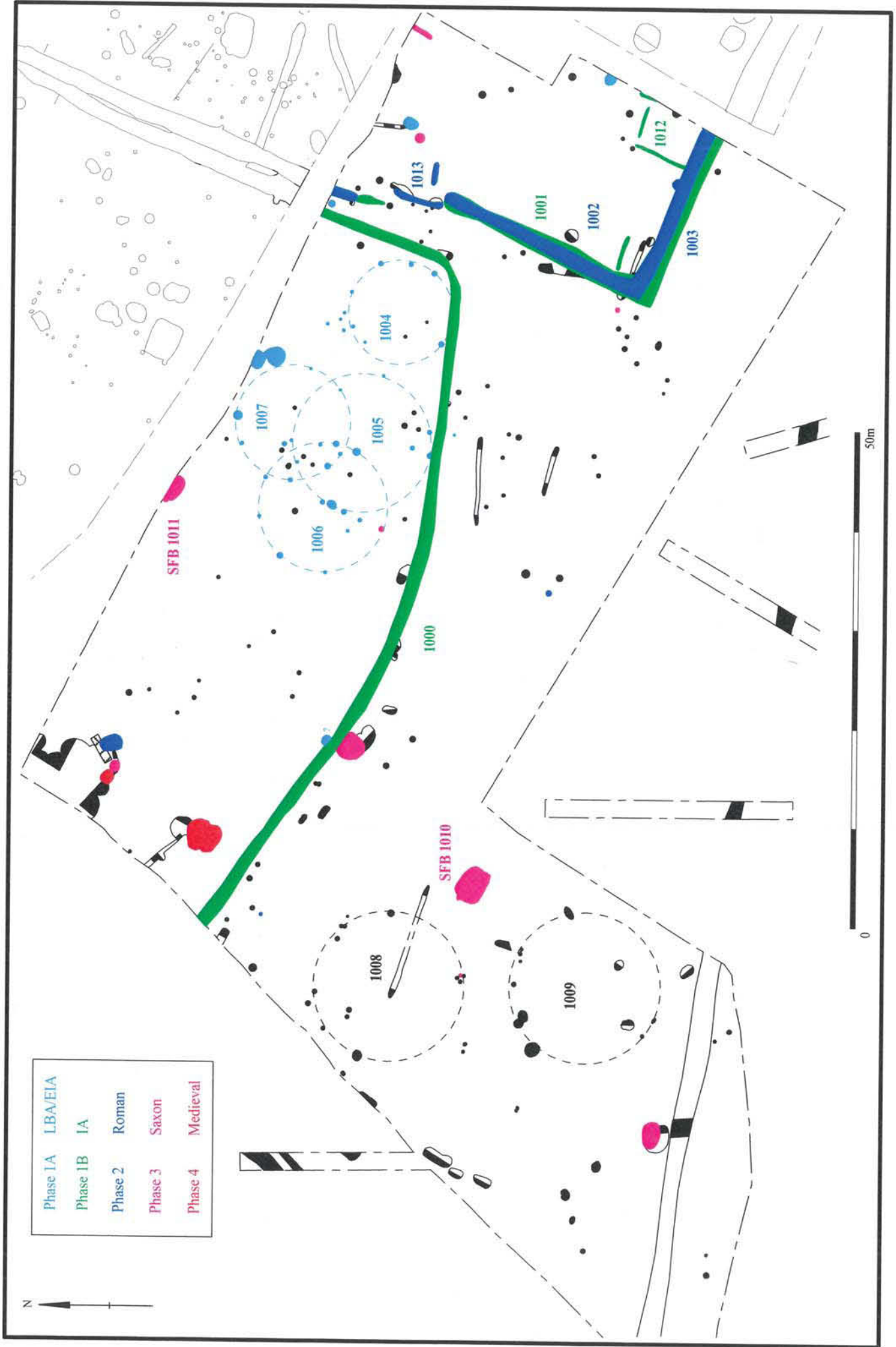


Figure 12 Phase plan





Plate 1. Ditches 1002 and 1003 and pit 116



Plate 2. Ditches 1002 and 1003



Plate 3. Ditches 1001-1003



Plate 4. Ditch 1000 and pit/posthole 347



Plate 5. Pits 403 and 404



Plate 6. Sunken floored building 1010

DPS 16/19

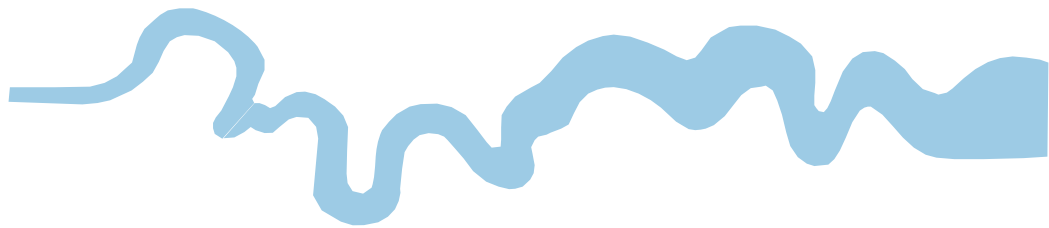
Ditton Park Academy, Kings Reach,  
Slough, Berkshire, 2016  
Archaeological Excavation  
Plates 1-6

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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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