

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**Earlier Neolithic pits and Late Iron Age settlement at  
Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire**

**An archaeological excavation**

**By Andy Taylor**

**LRB08/31  
(SU 6120 9200)**

# **Earlier Neolithic pits and Late Iron Age settlement at Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Excavation (draft)**

**CALA Homes (Chiltern) Limited**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LRB 08/31

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire

**Grid reference:** SU 6120 9200

**Site activity:** Archaeological Excavation

**Date and duration of project:** 18th September 2016-3rd February 2017

**Project Coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Andy Taylor

**Site code:** LRB 08/31

**Area of site:** 2.5 ha

**Summary of results:** The fieldwork examined an extensive spread of archaeological deposits representing several periods. The earliest finds were a cluster of four earlier Neolithic pits, two of which were dated to c. 36-3500 cal BC. They contained a range of flint and pottery finds with charred hazelnut shells but no cereals, along with part of the skull of a child. The Bronze Age, surprisingly was only represented by a single Middle Bronze Age pit and a scatter of residual pottery finds. The main findings dated to the Late Iron Age with a series of enclosures and other boundary features recorded. A rich grave was also found. Other cut features were surprisingly few suggesting that the site may have functioned as a part of the animal husbandry regime with more intensively occupied areas located elsewhere. Unexpectedly the settlement did not continue in use into early Roman times. A little Saxon pottery and a Medieval trackway were also recorded.

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

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: [www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 18.10.17
	Steve Preston✓ 18.10.17

# Earlier Neolithic pits and Late Iron Age settlement at Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire

by Andy Taylor

with contributions by

Steve Crabb, Ceri Falys, Steve Ford, Matilda Holmes, Malcolm Lyne, Cristina Mateos, Danielle Milbank,  
Rosalind McKenna, Steve Preston, Richard Tabor and David Williams

**Report 08/31c**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out on land at Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire (SU 6120 9200) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Dr Michael Dawson of CgMs Consulting on behalf of CALA Homes (Chiltern) Limited, Gemini House, Mercury Park, Wooburn Green, Buckinghamshire, HP10 0HH.

Planning permission (app no P14/S0673/FUL) has been gained on appeal (APP/Q3115/A/14/222295) from South Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of housing on the site. The consent was subject to a condition (3) relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of archaeological investigation prior to development.

This was in accordance with the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies relating to archaeology. Field evaluation (Weale 2010) having established that part of the site contained archaeological features which would be damaged or destroyed by the development, a formal archaeological excavation of this area was required. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist with Oxfordshire County Council, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology.

The fieldwork was undertaken by the author with assistance from Cosmo Bacon, Jesse Coxey, Maisie Foster, Cecilia Galleano, Tom Stewart, Benedikt Tebbitt and Jamie Williams between 18th September 2016 and 3rd February 2017. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course, with accession code: OXCMS:2011.98.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located in a large arable field with a trackway along its western edge. It lies on the northern margins of Benson, which itself lies on the northern bank of the River Thames with Wallingford c.3km to the south and Dorchester on Thames c.5km to the north west (Fig. 1). The underlying geology is mapped as 1st (Flood Plain) Terrace Deposits (BGS 1980), although gravels, clay and greensands were observed across the site. The site slopes gently from east to west and lies at a height of c.48m above Ordnance Datum. The excavation covered approximately 2.5ha located in the south-eastern portion of a much larger (24.6ha) overall development area (Fig. 2).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been demonstrated by various preliminary archaeological components comprising desktop study (Preston 2008; 2015), geophysical survey (Beaverstock and Constable 2015) and trial trenching (Weale 2010; Beaverstock 2015) with the latter fieldwork governed by briefs prepared by Mr Richard Oram of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service. In summary, the general area is one of high archaeological potential for almost all periods (Booth *et al.* 2007; Lambrick *et al.* 2009). There are numerous previously recorded sites and monuments in the area surrounding Benson. Three Scheduled Monuments, comprising a Roman settlement and two Neolithic long barrows, are known to the south-west of the site. At RAF Benson to the south is a Neolithic ceremonial complex, comprising a *cursus* monument and several ring ditches. To the north is a large Iron Age/Roman site. Early Neolithic, Bronze Age and Saxon occupation have been recorded in the village itself (Pine and Ford 2004).

The earlier archaeological evaluation concluded that the site has high archaeological potential (Weale 2010). The evaluation revealed numerous cut features of certain or possible archaeological interest, ranging from stake holes and postholes to ditches and large linear features that crossed the eastern area of the site. Artefacts were few but suggested a predominantly Iron Age component. Excavation was therefore required, to preserve features by record prior to their destruction by the development, and was targeted at the northern end of the south-eastern field in the overall development.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The general objectives of the excavation were;

Excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the proposed development.

Produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits recorded on the site.

Establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc.

Produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

Specific research objectives were;

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

What is the nature and origin of the features previously recorded on the site?

How do occupation areas relate to enclosed areas? Are the occupied areas enclosed or unenclosed?

Are the ditched features part of an enclosure complex around a settlement area or are they part of a wider organised landscape (field system)?

Are there any human burials present on the site?

What is the palaeoenvironmental setting of the area?

Topsoil and subsoil were removed by a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision (Pl. 1).

## Results

The excavation identified a moderate amount of archaeological deposits (Fig. 3). Much of this had been identified in the earlier evaluation although much of what had been perceived as possible features turned out to be treeboles or natural silt patches. The majority of features observed were of Late Iron Age to very early Roman date (1st century BC to 1st century AD) comprising linear features forming parts of field systems, although earlier Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age activity was also recorded. A number of discrete features were also observed, the majority of which were either undated or also of Late Iron Age or Roman date. Of particular note were three Neolithic pits and a Late Iron Age votive pit, containing nine whole vessels and four brooches. A medieval trackway was also observed.

### *Phase 1: Earlier Neolithic (Fig. 4)*

Four pits (29, 827, 830, 834) formed a loose linear cluster spread over 20m. Apart from various gullies and ditches belonging to later periods, there is only a single other feature nearby (undated pit 811). Pit 29 was excavated in the evaluation (at the time thought to be truncated by a gully) and was 0.80m wide and 0.28m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark grey/black silty clay (89) that contained six small sherds of Neolithic pottery.

The three excavation phase pits were 100% sampled and sieved. Typically their fills were dark grey/black silty clays with the occasional gravel piece (Fig. 5).

Pit 827 was 1m in diameter, 0.45m deep with steep sides and a concave base with 3 fills (1083-5) which were excavated in spits (Pl. 2). A sample of charcoal from layer 1084 returned a radiocarbon date of 3602–3524 Cal BC (UBA 34815). The pit contained 33 sherds, 2 cattle bones, burnt flint and 82 worked flints of which 63 of the latter were chips and spalls. Sieving produced a few hazel nut shells and some charcoal only

Pit 830, which was cut by gully 2026, measured 1.20m wide and 0.34m deep with a shallow bowl-shaped profile (Pl. 3). A sample of hazel nut from layer 1089 returned a radiocarbon date of 3646–3518 Cal BC (UBA 34814). It produced 177 sherds, 2 fragments of unidentified bone, burnt flint and 326 struck flints, again with the latter producing 220 chips and spalls. Sieving produced hazelnut shells, charcoal and 9 indeterminate cereal grains.

Pit 834 was 1.04m in diameter, 0.50m deep with a deep bowl-shaped profile (Pl. 4) and produced 25 sherds and 25 struck flints as well as the fragmentary remains of about a quarter of a child's skull of c.10 years of age. Sieving produced no charred plant material.

#### *Phase 2: Middle Bronze Age (Fig. 4)*

There was only a single feature of Bronze Age date recorded for the excavations. Pit 512 measured 1.30m wide, 0.17m deep with a shallow bowl-shaped profile (Fig. 5). It contained 6 sherds of a barrel urn as well as 2 fragments of animal bone (cattle and unidentified) and burnt flint. Residual material of this phase was also recovered from ditch 2000 and gully 2016 indicating further activity of this date in the vicinity of the stripped area.

#### *Phase 3a: Middle to Late Iron Age (Fig. 6)*

Underlying either the major boundary ditch (2000) of the next phase, or the enclosures (A and B) that follow, is a series of rather enigmatic gullies or minor ditches (2007, 2008, 2013, 2014, 2029 and 2033). All are parallel on a SW–NE alignment, at odds with all the later phases. Gullies 2013 and 2014 were both cut by ditch 2000; 2007 and 2008 were both cut by enclosure A, while enclosure B cut 2014 and 2029. The shared alignments, despite the large distance separating some of these boundaries, strongly suggest these all form a single landscape that predates ditch 2000. These minor gullies (typically under 0.5m wide and 0.30m deep, though sometimes slightly more substantial) contained virtually no finds of any sort: a single sherd of pottery came from each of cut 540 (2008) and 842 (2033), in each case in Late Iron Age fabrics dating from the last

quarter of the 1st century BC or first half of the 1st AD, but it may be suspected that these features have their origins at the end of the Middle Iron Age rather than the start of the Late.

Possibly associated with these, though much less securely so, are a curving and segmented boundary denoted by features 2001 and 2011 at the very north end of the excavation area. None of the features in this group produced any finds. As gully 2011 appears to respect the line of ditch 2000, it is possible that these belong in the next phase, however they might equally be stopping to respect pit 700.

The only other features cut by ditch 2000 were pits 700, 702 and 703. None of these contained any finds and they could be of any earlier period. The Bronze Age pottery in ditch 2000 might suggest it had disturbed pits of that date, but all of it came from much further west than this pit cluster so they cannot realistically be suggested as the source.

Probably also from the Middle Iron Age or the earlier part of the late Iron Age were pits 726 and 728 (in the interior of Enclosure B, so they might be later with residual pottery: the pottery was little more than crumbs).

### *Phase 3b: Late Iron Age 1 (Fig. 6)*

The majority of dated deposits came from the last century of the Iron Age (phases 3b–3d). Boundary ditch 2000 (Pl. 5) is the major feature, from which all the others appear to take their alignment. It was aligned approximately ENE-WSW and crossed the width of the site continuing outside the area in both directions. In addition to four slots (116, 134, 135, 232) excavated in the evaluation, a further 12 slots were explored in the excavation (513-5, 518, 535, 623-5, 629, 636, 649, 701) showing it to measure between 3m and 3.7m wide, between 0.83m and 1.31m deep and while most of the excavated sections produced pottery, animal bone, tile, struck flint and burnt flint, overall for such a large feature it produced little in the way of datable finds: only 43 sherds of pottery, including those from the evaluation, much of it residual (13 Bronze Age, 1 early Iron Age, and 6 Middle Iron Age, which is not necessarily residual) but the most diagnostic sherds recovered point to it coming from this phase of activity and its alignment is the same as Enclosure A. The latest pottery (all from slot 515, along with a fragment of probable *tegula*) suggests a final filling date shortly after the Roman conquest but most of the pottery from the ditch is middle to late Iron Age, suggesting an earlier original cutting date and a relatively long life. This boundary may indeed have survived through all of the late Iron Age sub-phases and up to around the date of the Roman conquest.



### *Phase 3c: Late Iron Age 2 (Fig. 6)*

#### Enclosure A (2006)

There is no convincing argument for making Enclosure A necessarily later than ditch 2000, especially as the latter probably continued to be open, but the earliest pottery in the enclosure ditch has marginally later start dates than that from ditch 2000.

Enclosure A was marked by ditch 2006 (Pl. 6), forming a 60m square enclosure in the centre of the site. It cut across gullies 2005, 2007, 2008, and was in turn later cut by enclosure B (2012 and 2028) and (much later) ditches 2009 and 2015. Ditch 2006 had 18 slots excavated (520, 526, 532, 536, 541, 543, 548, 610, 614, 618, 620, 740, 742, 747, 806, 808, 814) (Fig. 7) in addition to three from the evaluation trenching (122, 123, 233). It measured between 1.44m and 2.15m wide, between 0.44m and 0.80m deep and produced the site's largest assemblage of finds: pottery, animal bone, struck flint, burnt flint, nails and a piece of quern stone. Pottery may have been accumulating in ditch 2006 from the end of the 1st century BC until around the Conquest period, and while the latest sherds could carry on later into the 1st century AD there is nothing that needs definitely to be much beyond AD 43.

Within the enclosure were four postholes (544-7) forming a square (2021). These are assumed to be a structure on a raised platform, usually interpreted as a granary or but with other suggestions such as an excarnation platform. Only feature 547 produced any dating evidence, a single sherd of Early Iron Age pottery which is most likely residual material.

Only five other features occupied the interior of the enclosure: pits 530, 604, 615, 616 and 812. Of these, only pits 530 and 604 contained datable material, both reasonably large assemblages of pottery broadly of the end of the 1st century BC or start of the 1st century AD, with the group from 604 including some Gallo-Belgic imports. No structural remains were found, and the few pits might not be enough to suggest that Enclosure A was occupied.

### *Phase 3d: Late Iron Age 3 (Fig. 6)*

#### Enclosure B (2012, 2017, 2028)

Stratigraphically later than enclosure A, enclosure B extends the earlier enclosure and they must both have been in contemporary use. Enclosure B's southern side was ditch 2028 which cut (and replicated the line of) ditch 2006, for some 50m, although not all the way to the SW corner. The north side was formed by ditches 2012 and 2017, with an entrance gap indicated by the terminus (642) of 2012 (2017 having been truncated just where it too must have terminated). The west side must have been marked by continuing use of ditch

2006. Enclosure B extended at least 57m west from Enclosure A and they may even have been of identical size (60m square), although enclosure B could equally have continued east beyond the site.

By comparison with enclosure A, very little in the way of finds was recovered from enclosure B ditches. Ditch 2012 had four slots (613, 631, 639, 642) measuring between 0.28m and 0.71m wide and between 0.15m and 0.21m deep. Only one sherd of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered. Four slots across ditch 2012 (613, 631, 639, 642) produced just a single sherd of pottery. Ditch 2017 also had four slots (644, 704, 710, 712) measuring between 0.85m and 1.70m wide, between 0.22m and 0.69m deep and produced 62 sherds of pottery and some animal bone. The more substantial ditch 2028 had nine slots (725, 729, 730, 738, 746, 802, 805, 810, 813) measuring between 0.97m and 1.73m wide, between 0.30m and 0.73m deep and produced 87 sherds of pottery and some animal bone. The pottery may be marginally later than that from enclosure A, and suggests an early 1st century AD date, rather than late 1st century BC, but still with nothing necessarily post-Conquest.

Leading off ditch 2006 into the interior of enclosure B, ditch 2022 presumably marked a partial internal division. It contained no finds. Clustered around this line, however, was a group of pits all presumed to be of this phase (607, 712, 718, 721, 732–7, with possibly also 726 and 728 which have been phased earlier on the basis of crumbs of pottery). Only pits 719, 733 and 735 contained finds (and the single pottery sherd from 733 was Bronze Age). As with Enclosure A, these form the only, rather slight, basis for supposing that Enclosure B was occupied.

#### Enclosure C (2023–27, 2030–2)

Aligned off the southern ditch (2028) of enclosure B were further, less substantial ditches and gullies marking another rectilinear area, again extending some 60m south (if gully 18 from the evaluation is correctly interpreted as part of this) but with no sign of an eastern side either in the excavation area or in the evaluation trenches. Gullies 2025 and 2026 again mark a partial internal sub-division leading from the western side. Only 2023 produced finds, four sherds of comparable date to those from the other enclosures. The alignment of ditch 2023 on that part of the southern ditch of enclosures A and B that was recut, rather than at the corner where it was not, suggests that 2023 was laid out from, or at the same time as, enclosure B rather than the original creation of enclosure A.

Oddly, the only features in the interior of this enclosure were (wholly coincidental) Neolithic pits.

### Cremation Pit 525 (Fig. 9; Pl. 7)

This was a pit measuring 1.30m in diameter, but only 0.20m deep with a flat base. It produced nine pottery vessels, four complete brooches and the cremated remains of a woman, probably of advanced age. The pottery vessels comprised a large platter, bowls, dishes and a flagon (Fig. 13; Pl. 9). Of these two had potter's marks, one had a ritually stabbed slit in its shoulder and one has no known parallels. The brooches were copper alloy. Three of these were bow types with one of these being a La Tene type (Pl. 10). The remainder was a disc brooch which was found to have two glass droplets remaining on its face.

The pots were laid out in a semi-circle on the northern side of the pit, all originally upright. The platter lay to the extreme west and carried two portions of food represented by rib joints of a pig. To its right (east) were three cups/small bowls followed by the large jar which had been badly damaged by ploughing and would originally have stood proud of the subsoil. The next vessel was a beaker followed by a larger but damaged bowl, and finally by a flagon.

Present within the deposit, possibly as offerings to accompany the burial were the partial remains of a pig as well as a young chicken and on the south side of the pit were a collection of animal ribs (pig?).

The deposit of cremated bone was located centrally and was compact, probably having been placed in a bag. The pyre was located elsewhere as there was no evidence for scorching in the pit, no excessive amounts of charcoal nor fire damaged artefacts.

The cremated remains showed that the individual had a degenerative joint disease in the right shoulder, again indicative of a person of advanced age.

The pottery dates the cremation to between 10BC and AD25. The presence of the chicken is unusual in a pre-Roman context, though not without parallel (see *Conclusion* below).

### Discrete Features with Finds

Pit 501 measured 1m wide and 0.33m deep and contained Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone. Table 1 summarizes the other pits of the Late Iron Age phase, or those undated but probably of this phase:

Table 1: Summary of Late Iron Age pits

<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Finds</i>
Pit	501	551	1.00	0.33	Pottery; Bone
Pit	502	552	0.70	0.12	Bone
Pit	530	657-659	1.52	1.10	Pottery, Bone, Burnt Flint
Pit	604	770-772	1.08	0.67	Pottery, Bone
Pit	607	758	0.83	0.26	Burnt Flint
Pit	700	883	-	0.50	Bone
Pit	722	961, 962	0.93	0.38	Bone
Pit	726	968	1.80	0.70	Bone, Burnt Flint
Pit	727	969	1.60	0.75	Bone, Burnt Flint
Pit	728	970	0.96	0.20	Pottery

<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i> Finds</i>
Pit	733	981, 982	0.70	0.30	Burnt Flint
Pit	734	983, 984	2.70	0.55	Burnt Flint
Pit	735	985, 986	0.85	0.55	Pottery
Pit	737	988	0.80	0.40	Burnt Flint
Pit	749	1050-1052	2.80	0.80	Pottery, Bone
Pit	812	1064	1.25	0.25	Bone

#### *Phase 4: Roman*

Boundary ditch 2000, although given an Iron Age phase does also contain a small quantity of Early Roman pottery suggesting that the feature is likely to be earlier but is still not fully silted up in the Roman period.

#### *Phase 5: Saxon?*

A pair of roughly parallel but converging ditches (2009 and 2015) may represent a droveway for stock management into a larger area. These can only be dated as being later than the Iron Age enclosures, all of which they cut across; and that they appear unlikely to be related to the medieval features. Ditch 2009 contained just three sherds of ?Roman pottery and ditch 2015 contained only a single sherd of Saxon pottery. It seems likely that they are contemporary, creating a funnel for livestock heading south. Both cut the large boundary ditch 2000 and Enclosures A and B, while 2009 also cut Enclosure C and 2015 might do so, if gully 18 from the evaluation is part of the enclosure. Ditch 2009 had 12 slots (606, 611, 617, 626, 630, 803, 807, 809, 826, 841, 847, 849) dug across it (plus two in the evaluation) measuring between 0.87m and 1.32m wide, between 0.26m and 0.40m deep and produced a small amount of pottery as well as animal bone. Ditch 2015 also had 12 slots (635, 638, 643, 645, 647, 706, 714, 720, 741, 744, 748, 828) with another 4, perhaps 5 from the evaluation) measuring between 1.30m and 2.20m wide, between 0.30m and 0.50m deep and produced animal bone and a piece of fired clay.

#### *Phase 6: Medieval (Fig. 8)*

A probable trackway dating to the 13th-14th century was noted on the western side of the site, aligned approximately NW-SE consisting of linears 2002, 2003 and 2004. 2002 was a partial re-cut of 2003 with 2004 a parallel feature. 2002 had two slots (516 and 529) dug across it measuring 1.45m wide and between 0.10m and 0.12m deep and produced three sherds of pottery, a nail and pieces of tile. 2003 had seven slots (517, 528, 537, 600, 603, 819, 821) measuring between 0.79m and 1.20m wide and between 0.14m and 0.29m deep and produced a sherd of pottery and a piece of tile. 2004 had three slots (534, 539, 602) dug across it measuring between 0.84m and 1m wide and between 0.12m and 0.21m deep. No finds were

recovered from it but its parallel nature to 2002/2003 has given it this phase. Ditch 2020 (excavated as 7 slots: Pl. 8) produced mixed finds from the Neolithic, Middle and Late Iron Age and Roman periods but is also phases here based on its alignment parallel to 2003 and 2004 - it may represent a widening of the trackway.

At the other extreme of the excavated area, gullies 2016, 2018 and 2019 cut across the Iron Age enclosures and across ?Saxon ditch 2015. It is possible that this line extended further west as 2010, which cut Iron age gully 2011. These are only dated as later than 2015, itself only dated as later than the Iron Age enclosures, but a medieval phasing is not out of the question. If ditches 2009 and 2015 were not contemporary, however, this little group might sit more comfortably with 2009 (making it also later than 2015), as gully 2011 might mark the end of ditch 2009. The edge of the excavation, however, makes this slightly unclear.

## **Finds**

### *Early Neolithic Pottery* by Richard Tabor and Malcolm Lyne

#### Neolithic

The assemblage comprised 246 sherds and two crumbs weighing 811g, giving a very low mean sherd weight of 3.3g (Appendix 2, Table 2.1). The pottery was recovered from three pits and slot across a much later ditch. A significant amount of the pottery was collected during the processing of soil samples.

The sherds were allocated to fabric groups based on the material, size and sorting of the principal inclusions and surface treatments in accordance with guidelines for the recording and analysis of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 2010). Seven rims were identified, from a minimum of five different vessels, and three decorated refittable sherds were from a sixth vessel. Confidence in the identification of some fabrics is variable given the small sample of fabric represented by individual sherds and the varying local density of inclusions due to poor sorting. Indeed, the diagnosis of sorting quality is itself potentially compromised by the small sherd size.

#### Fabrics

The underlying local Gault and Greensand geology is reflected in the sandy quality of the fabrics, with flint being the dominant additional inclusion. Flint would have been acquired from further afield, the nearest source probably from the White Chalk 7km south-east of the site. All of the fabrics bear general comparison with a much larger Early Neolithic assemblage at St Helen's Avenue, 500m south-east of Littleworth Road, although no single fabric can be fully identified with both sites. Both assemblages are dominated by sherds

with sandy, often micaceous pastes with inclusions of sparse to moderate fine to medium and, more rarely, coarse burnt flint and have a smaller component of probably shelly fabrics (St Helen's Avenue NEOSH) (Timby 2004, 145). The St Helen's Avenue assemblage was made up of 77% sandy flint and 17.5% vesicular or shelly wares by count derived from two Early Neolithic phases and a later Neolithic phase compared with 69.9% and 30.1% at Littleworth Road where by weight the ratio was 84.5% to 15.5% (Appendix 2, Table A2.1). Fabric NEOQZ from the former site included larger fragments of polycrystalline quartz/quartzite which may argue for a particular similarity with fabrics SF4 and SF5. Local variability is highlighted by occurrence of quartzite inclusions but absence of shell only 7km south-east of the site at Ipsden (Edwards *et al.* 2005, 236, table 6). The proportions of flint in the matrices indicate that it was a deliberate additive in several fabrics (SF1, SF1a, SF3 and possibly SF2 and SF5) but that it is likely to occur incidentally in SF6.

A distinctive group of sherds from pit 827 retained traces of a thin black deposit on their exterior surfaces. This appeared to have been applied during production rather than being a residue acquired during use. Carbon 'painting' is gradually becoming more widely recognized and has been posited for sherds from: Hambledon Hill, Dorset; Carn Brea, Cornwall; Hembury, Devon; Windmill Hill, Wiltshire; and the exceptionally well-preserved examples from the Sweet Track, Somerset (Smith 2008, 591; Kinnes 1979, 52, Coles and Orme 1984, 44).

#### Early Neolithic: Flint and sand

**SF1** (medium) Moderately hard, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with buff pink to buff yellow surfaces including moderate fine (<1mm), sparse medium (<2mm) and rare to sparse coarse (<4mm) moderately-sorted burnt angular flint.

**SF1a** (medium) Moderately hard, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with buff pink to buff yellow surfaces including moderate fine (<1mm), sparse medium (<2mm) and rare to sparse coarse (<4mm) moderately-sorted burnt angular flint. Traces of possible carbon-based additive to surfaces, typically exterior but interior in some instances.

**SF2** (medium) Moderately soft, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with buff orange surfaces including sparse fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm), moderately-sorted burnt angular flint and sparse medium to coarse clay pellets (<3mm).

**SF3** (coarse) Moderately hard, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with grey surfaces including common moderately-sorted fine (<1mm), sparsely poorly-sorted coarse (<4mm) burnt angular flint and rare to sparse sub-rounded quartz (<1mm).

**SF4** (medium) Moderately soft, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with grey to buff brown surfaces including sparse fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm), and rare coarse (<6mm) burnt angular flint, rare to sparse red or brown iron oxides (<2mm) and sparse fine (<0.5mm) to rare coarse (<4mm) rounded quartz.

**SF5** (medium) Moderately soft, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with grey to buff brown surfaces including sparse fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm), and coarse (<4mm) burnt angular flint, rare to sparse red or brown iron oxides (<2mm) and sparse fine (<0.5mm) to rare coarse (<4mm) rounded quartz.

**SF6** (medium) Moderately hard, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with grey surfaces probably incidentally including rare to sparse fine (<1mm), medium (<2mm) and coarse (<4mm) poorly-sorted burnt angular flint.

### Early Neolithic: Shell

**Sh1** (coarse) Moderately soft, soapy, often vesicular grey fabric with buff brown surfaces including common to abundant medium (<2mm) to coarse (<8mm) shelly limestone or voids of similar size to weathering out of calcareous material.

### Forms and discussion

Feature sherds are restricted to seven rims, of which three retain substantial portions of the upper wall, and a weak shoulder with decoration. The decorated sherd and all but one of the rims were from pit 830; the other rim was from pit 834. There is a significant absence of any base angles or flat base sherds as may be expected in an assemblage of this size from the late Neolithic onwards and some sherds thicken in the manner characteristic of a lower wall approaching a rounded base. All but one of the rims for which the attitude is determinable derive from closed bowls. The exception is from a moderately large deep, open, straight-sided bowl (Fig. 10, 1) with a profile similar to examples from Abingdon causewayed enclosure (Avery 1982, fig. 14, 2). At that site the form tended to be associated with extravagantly outwardly expanded rims, often tapered. An outwardly rolled rim from a strongly incurved bowl (Fig. 10, 2) is similar to a vessel from Goring (Allen 1995, fig. 58). Two rims are of upright, rounded form (Fig. 10, 3 and 6), one incurved, flattened (Fig. 10, 4) and one everted, rounded with an internal bevel. All fit comfortably within the Plain Bowl style, local examples of which have been found with comparable rims at St. Helens Avenue, Ipsden and Goring (Timby 2004, 146, fig. 10, 4 and 6; Edwards *et al.* 2005, 238, fig. 19, 1 and 5; Bayliss *et al.* 2011, fig. 14.89, 1 and 2). The upward straightening of a neck and shoulder sherd with closely-set vertical comb decoration (Fig. 10, 5) is likely to derive from a fairly large, slightly open or neutral bowl. Vessels of this kind formed a significant part of the Windmill Hill, Wiltshire, assemblage although the continuity of linear decoration from the lower to the upper half of the vessel was exclusive to small, closed bowls at that site (Smith 1965, fig. 26, P164, P174, P176, P177). They are now classified as Decorated Bowl pottery (Bayliss *et al.* 2011, 762-3, fig. 14.91).

A review of radiocarbon dating in southern Britain gives currencies at 95% probability for Plain Bowl pottery of 3970-3095 cal BC and for Decorated Bowl pottery of 3745-3245 BC (Bayliss *et al.* 2011, 762-3). Locally available dates for features associated with comparable material give a much narrower mid-4th millennium BC range at the same probability. Ranges of 3630-3370 cal BC and 3640-3350 cal BC were achieved for pits at Ipsden (Timby 2005, table 4) and of 3637-3377 cal BC for a pit at St Helen's Avenue (Pine and Ford 2004, table 11). Dates from pits 827 and 830 are fully commensurate with the pottery and are centred at the earlier end of these ranges.

The Early Neolithic pottery from Littleworth Road adds to the growing literature from this part of the Thames Valley of material from apparently mundane rather than monumental sites. The absence of decoration and simple forms are typical of the former sites.

#### Catalogue of Illustrated sherds

Fig. 10: 1. SF3. Rim, everted, round, slight outward roll. Open bowl, straight-sided. Rim radius: 140mm. Wall thickness: 7mm. Pit 830 (1089)

Fig. 10: 2. SF5. Rim, short, upright, rounded with outward roll, above incurving upper wall. Closed bowl. Rim radius: 100mm. Wall thickness: 7mm. Pit 830 (1089)

Fig. 10: 3. Sh1. Rim, short, upright, rounded, above incurving upper wall. Closed bowl. Wall thickness: 7mm. Pit 830 (1089)

Fig. 10: 4. SF5. Rim, incurved, flattened, above incurving upper wall. Closed bowl. Wall thickness: 6mm. Pit 830 (1089)

Fig. 10: 5. SF6. Lower neck and shoulder. Probably neutral of slightly open bowl. Decorated with 2mm wide parallel upright lines running continuously from lower wall over shoulder and onto neck. Wall thickness: 8mm. Pit 830 (1089)

Fig. 10: 6. SF4. Rim, short, upright, rounded, above incurving upper wall. Closed bowl. Wall thickness: 7mm. Pit 834 (1098)

#### *Later Pottery* by Malcolm Lyne

Apart from the early Neolithic material (above), the excavation yielded 841 sherds (22,298g) of pottery from 62 contexts: a further 50 sherds (123g) were retrieved from environmental samples (catalogued in Appendix 2B). Most of the sherds are of Late Iron Age date with significant numbers from Late Augustan fineware imports. A few Early Iron Age sherds, and 11 Roman, Early Saxon and Medieval fragments were also present.

All of the assemblages were quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric. These fabrics were identified using a x8 magnification lens with built-in metric graticule in order to identify the natures, forms, sizes and frequencies of added filler inclusions and those naturally present in the potting clay.

Eleven numbered fabric series (Appendix 2A) were drawn up with the prefixes BA, EIA, MLIA, LIA, CG, GB, F, A, ES and M for Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, Middle-to-Late Iron Age, Late Iron Age, Central Gaulish, Gallo-Belgic, Roman finewares, *Amphorae*, Early Saxon and Medieval wares respectively. Only one pottery assemblage, that from Late Iron Age enclosure ditch 2006/2028, is large enough for further quantification by Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) based on rim sherds (Orton 1975)



## The Assemblages

### **Bronze Age-Early Iron Age**

*Assemblage 1.* From the fill of Pit 512 (Context 562)

Six abraded and very-abraded sherds from later features include Middle Bronze Age urn fragments and an Early Iron Age situlate-jar sherd with finger-impressed rim. These are probably from field-marling but pit 512 in the north-west corner of the site produced six fresh sherds from the following vessel:

Fig. 11: 1. Convex-sided barrel urn in lumpy handmade fabric with profuse ill-sorted 0.50<5.00mm calcined-flint filler, fired patchy black/orange. Ext.rim diameter 220mm. c. 1770–1150 BC.

### **Late Iron Age**

All of the rim fragments amongst the 818 Late Iron Age sherds of pottery from the site, other than those from the nine vessels in the Pit 525 cremation, were quantified by EVEs (Appendix 2C).

Late Iron Age grog-tempered wares in fabrics LIA1A, 1B, 2, 3A, 3B and 3C make up the bulk of the Late Iron Age pottery from the site by EVE (67%), with an emphasis on the finer products in fabrics LIA1B and LIA3: grog and sand tempered wares in variants of fabric LIA6 make up a further 5% of the Late Iron Age pottery. The sources of most of these grog-tempered wares are unknown but are probably local. One where the source may be known is the light-grey Fabric LIA2 with coarse black, grey and white grog (6%), which is very similar to Young's (1977, 202) Oxfordshire industry reduced 'nougat' ware fabric 2: the few jars in this mid-late 1st century fabric come from the freshly set up kilns around Dorchester only 6km to the north-west and suggest that occupation within the enclosure continued for a few years after the Roman Conquest.

Calcined-flint tempered fabrics LIA13, 14A and 14B (8%) form a minority of the pottery and are of unknown origin. The bulk of these British wares are jars of various types (69%) and storage vessels (17%) but one or two cups, butt-beaker copies and dish/lids in fine fabric LIA3A are also present.

An unusual feature of this total Late Iron Age pottery assemblage is the high percentage of Central Gaulish and Gallo-Belgic fineware imports (19%), most of which are late Augustan in date and made up very largely of butt-beakers and ovoid beakers. This may be indicative of a high-status Late Iron Age site. There is very little ceramic evidence for Roman activity.

*Assemblage 2.* From the fills of 18 cuts across ditches 2006 and 2028 delimiting the square enclosure in the centre of the site. The 506 sherds (12,578g) of pottery from these ditches were also quantified by EVEs (Appendix 2D). All that has been said about the fabric and form breakdown of the overall pottery assemblage

applies here, although the combined percentages by EVE of grog-tempered and grog-and-sand tempered wares is somewhat less (63%). These grog-tempered wares include the following:

Fig. 11: 2. Everted rim storage-jar in coarse-grog-tempered fabric LIA.1A fired patchy black/orange. Ext.rim diameter 260mm. Ditch 2006, Cut 521, Context 599

Fig. 11: 3. Everted-rim jar in similar fabric. Ext.rim diameter 200mm. Ditch 2006, Cut 521, Context 599.

Fig. 11: 4. Lid-seated jar of Thompson type C5-1 (1982) in grey fabric LIA2 with profuse black and white grog filler, fired smooth black. Ext.rim diameter 180mm. *c.* AD30–50. Ditch 2006, Cut 618, Context 782.

Fig. 11: 5. Large storage-jar in similar fabric. Ext.rim diameter 400mm. Ditch 2006, Cut 618, Context 782.

Fig. 11: 6. Butt-beaker of Thompson type G5-4 in polished very-fine-grog-tempered black fabric LIA3A with pink margins. Ext.rim diameter 100mm. *c.* 25BC–AD50. Ditch 2006, Cut 620, Context 786.

Fig. 11: 7. Necked-jar in similar fabric with external polish. Ext.rim diameter 240mm. Ditch 2006, Cut 740, Context 979.

Fig. 11: 8. Cup of Thompson class E1-2 in similar fabric. Ext.rim diameter 120mm. *c.* 25BC–AD43. Ditch 2006, Cut 740, Context 979.

Fig. 11: 9. Dish/Lid of Thompson class L1 in similar fabric. Ext.rim diameter 200mm. *c.* 20BC–AD50. Ditch 2006 Cut 740 Context 977.

Fig. 11: 10. Bead-rim jar of Thompson class B5-1 in similar fabric fired pink-brown. Ext.rim diameter 90mm. *c.* 25BC–AD50. Ditch 2028, Cut 813, Context 1065.

Calcined-flint tempered wares in fabrics LIA13 and 14 are in a minority (8%) but include the following:

Fig. 12: 11. Handmade bead-rim jar in rough black fabric LIA.13 with profuse ill-sorted 0.50<2.00mm. calcined-flint filler. Ext.rim diameter 160mm. The form is paralleled at in Phase 3 at Silchester (Timby 2000, fig. 126: 484), where dated *c.* AD40–60. Ditch 2006, Cut 521, Context 599.

Fig. 12: 12. Everted-rim jar in similar fabric fired rough black. Ext.rim diameter 140mm. *c.* 25BC–AD50. Ditch 2006, Cut 742 Context 990.

Fig. 12: 13. Bead-rim jar in black fabric variant LIA.14A with profuse ill-sorted 0.50<1.50mm calcined-flint and <0.20mm white and colourless quartz-sand filler. Ext.rim diameter 180mm. *c.* 25BC–AD50. Ditch 2006, Cut 747, Context 995.

Fig. 12: 14. Everted-rim jar in similar fabric. Ext.rim diameter 180mm. *c.* 25BC–AD50. Ditch 2028, Cut 813 Context 1065.

Imported Central-Gaulish and Gallo-Belgic Fineware imports make up 25% of the assemblage: they include four bodysherds from ?CAM 102 jars in Central Gaulish fine micaceous fabric C (*c.* 15BC–AD25), a fragment from a platter in pink silty fabric TR1A (GB1) with internal red colour-coat (*c.* 15BC–AD25) and the following:

Fig. 12: 15. CAM 1 platter in micaceous Central Gaulish *Terra Nigra* fabric CG1. Ext.rim diameter 260 mm *c.* 15BC–AD25. Ditch 2006, Cut 620, Context 786.

Fig. 12: 16. Butt-beaker in orange fabric GB4A. Ext.rim diameter 150mm. *c.* 15BC–AD30. Ditch 2006, Cut 521, Context 599

Fig. 12: 17. Butt-beaker in silty buff-yellow fabric GB4B. Ext.rim diameter 120mm. *c.* 15BC–AD10. Ditch 2006, Cut 536, Context 671.

Fig. 12: 18. Another example in similar fabric but fired pink-brown. Ext.rim diameter 160mm. *c.* 15BC–AD10. Ditch 2006, Cut 543, Context 680. Another example came from Context 782 in the same ditch.

Fig. 12: 19. Ovoid beaker of type CAM 112b in grey-cored pink-brown fabric (GB4B). Ext.rim diameter 80mm. *c.* AD25–65. Ditch 2006, Cut 548, Context 690.

Fig. 12: 20. Ovoid beaker of type CAM 112a in similar fabric fired pink-brown with V-stamping on the body. Ext.rim diameter 160mm. *c.* 15BC–AD25. Ditch 2006. Cut 506 Context 1057.

Fig. 12: 21. Body sherd from another ovoid beaker in similar but coarser fabric with latticing below cordon and rouletting above. *c.* 15BC–AD65. Ditch 2006, Cut 740, Context 978.

Other imports comprise a fragment from a Pascual 1 or DR2.4 *amphora* in Catalan 1 fabric (Peacock and Williams 1991, 94. *c.*50/25BC–AD25/50) and the following:

Fig. 12: 22. Base from a Conspectus 22 cup in Arretine ware. Joanna Bird writes that the stamp is rather blurred but probably reads ATE, a stamp of the Cn. Ateius workshop, who worked at several centres, including Pisa, Arezzo and Lyon. A date-range of *c.*15BC–AD30 is likely. Ditch 2028, Cut 813, Context1065.

*Assemblage 3.* The cremation in Pit 525 (Context 598) (Fig. 9) yielded nine vessels:

Fig. 13: 23. CAM 2 platter in Gallo-Belgic *Terra Nigra* fabric. Ext.rim diameter 340mm. *c.* 10BC–AD25.

Fig. 13: 24. Deru form C2.1 cup in Gallo-Belgic *Terra Nigra* fabric with stamp attributed by Deru (1996, 181) in error (J. Timby pers. comm) to Edato. Ext.rim diameter 100mm. *c.* 15BC–AD25.

Fig. 13: 25. Pedestalled cup of Thompson class F3-2 in black fine-grog-tempered fabric LIA.3A copying *Terra Rubra* 1A form CAM 74A. Ext.rim diameter 100mm. *c.* 15BC–AD25.

Fig. 13: 26. Neck-cordoned jar of Thompson class B1-3 in fine-grog-tempered black fabric LIA.3A. Ext.rim diameter 110mm with ritually stabbed slit through shoulder. The pot contained a small abraded fragment from a TR3 vessel. *c.* 25BC–AD50

Fig. 13: 27. Truncated *lagena* of uncertain type in Central Gaulish micaceous Cream-slipped orange Standard fabric (CG2). *c.* 15BC–AD25.

Fig. 13: 28. Ovoid beaker in pink GB4B fabric with pedestal base, rows of hachured V stamps and external greying. Ext.rim diameter 100mm. *c.* 15BC–AD60.

Fig. 13: 29. Wheel-turned barrel jar of Thompson class B5-3 in black fabric LIA.3A. Ext.rim diameter 80mm. *c.* 25BC–AD50.

Fig. 13: 30. Wheel-turned flagon in black fabric LIA7 fired rough reddish-brown/buff/grey with <0.50 mm reddish-brown grog, <1.00mm cream grog and <0.30mm iron-stained quartz-sand filler. Ext.rim diameter 60mm. Very unusual vessel with no known parallels.

Fig. 13: 31. Bead-rim barrel-jar of Thompson class B5-1 in handmade grog-tempered fabric LIA.1B fired dirty grey-black with occasional <1.00mm calcined-flint inclusions. Ext.rim diameter 80 mm. *c.* 25BC–AD50.

This cremation therefore dates to between 10BC and AD25.

## Roman

*Assemblage 4.* From the fills of 6 cuts across Ditch 2000. The 28 sherds (173g) of pottery from this ditch include one each from a Bronze Age urn of indeterminate type and an Early Iron Age situlate jar, seven in Middle Iron Age calcined-flint tempered fabrics MLIA1, MLIA2 and MLIA3B (*c.* 300–1BC), six in Late Iron Age grog-tempered and grog-and-sand tempered fabrics LIA1A and LIA6 and one from a Gallo-Belgic butt-beaker in TR3 fabric. The latest sherds in what is a small mainly abraded assemblage are one from a South Gaulish samian platter of uncertain type (*c.* AD43–70) and six fresh fragments from a *Verulamium*

Region Whiteware flagon (*c.* AD50–150). This suggests that the ditch is earlier than, but continued in use during, the early Roman period.

### **Early Saxon**

*Assemblage 5.* From the fill of Cut 737 across Ditch 2015 (Context 989).

All but one of the eight cuts across the fills of Ditch 2015 were lacking in pottery but the fill of Cut 737 produced a fresh sherd in silty black Early Saxon fabric with a brown-black exterior (*c.* AD450–650).

### **Medieval**

*Assemblage 6.* From the fill of Cut 517 across Ditch 2003 (Context 585).

Six of the seven cuts across the fills of Ditch 2003 were also lacking in pottery but the fill of Cut 517 yielded a green-glazed whiteware jug fragment (*c.* AD1250–1350) and another from a sagging cooking-pot base in blackened sandy greyware.

### Discussion

The only period for which the pottery can be discussed in any detail is the Late Iron Age. The large numbers of Late Augustan imports from the Continent at Benson are most unexpected in Oxfordshire and reminiscent of contemporary occupation on high status sites at the *Camulodunum* and Prae Wood, St. Alban's *oppida*, and the Fishbourne *emporium*.

The square enclosure delimited by ditches 2006 and 2028 seems to be the focus for the Augustan Continental imports but contains very few features: the contemporary cremation lay just outside the north-west corner.

The only other site in central southern England known to the author where EVEs quantifications have been carried out on a late Augustan pottery assemblage is the Fishbourne *emporium* in Sussex (Lyne and Dannell 2005). Given the possibility that the Benson site on the east bank of the River Thames may owe its profusion of late Augustan imports to being a trading station on the tribal boundary between the Atrebates on the west bank and the ?Catuvellauni on the east bank, it was decided to compare the pottery assemblages from the two sites.

Late Iron Age British wares make up 75% by EVE of the assemblage from Benson ditches 2006/2028 and a somewhat smaller 54% of that from the Fishbourne ditch. The assemblages of such wares also differ considerably in that that from Benson is very largely in grog-tempered and grog-and-sand tempered fabrics, with just nominal amounts of calcined-flint tempered ware. That from Fishbourne is very much in the

Southern Atrabatic tradition in consisting almost entirely of vessels in a variety of quartz-sand tempered fabrics. Both assemblages do, however, have an overwhelming preponderance of jars.

There are far more continental imports at Fishbourne (46%) compared with the 25% of the pottery assemblage from ditches 2006/2028 at Benson. Both of the sites yielded sherds from jars in Central Gaulish fabric C, although no rim fragments are present at Benson and such wares account for only 4% of the Fishbourne assemblage. Both Italian and South Gaulish Arretine wares are present at Fishbourne and make up a significant 17% of the assemblage there: this is in contrast to the solitary Italian Arretine sherd from Benson. *Terra Rubra* dishes, beakers and cups are significant at Fishbourne (24%) and include vessels in fabrics TR1B, TR1C, TR2 and TR3. A similar percentage of such wares (23%) is present at Benson but has a different form make-up, consisting almost entirely of butt-beakers and ovoid beakers in variants of TR3 fabric. Butt-beaker imports are normally in Gallo-Belgic Whiteware variants but not here at Benson. There is even one in orange GB4A fabric (similar to TR2).

Butt, ovoid and girth beakers in fabrics GB4A and 4B are concentrated on sites around Dorchester-on-Thames and Abingdon, and have been regarded until very recently as being the products of an immigrant Gallo-Belgic potter and datable to the years immediately after the Roman Conquest. The problem with this is that some of the butt-beakers are of the barrel-shaped Late Augustan type with stubby rim and not made after *c.* AD30. It is now realized that the vessels in fabrics GB4A and 4B originate in Gallia Belgica but do not come from the same sources as most Gallo-Belgic fine wares supplied to Britannia: their fabrics are simply not covered by the accepted TR1A/B/C, TR2, TR3, TN and Gallo-Belgic Whiteware fabric-codings used for other imports from that part of Gaul during the period 15BC to AD60.

The Late Iron Age pottery from the Ashville Trading Estate site at Abingdon (Parrington 1978) includes ovoid, butt and girth-beakers in reddish-brown to reddish-yellow fabric GB4B (De Roche 1978, fig. 42: 346, 372, 373, 374 and 383): one of the butt-beakers (373) has the unusual feature of applied solid bosses. A similar situation occurs at Dorchester on Thames, where the fill of a Late Iron Age ditch sealed by the earth bank of the Roman town rampart yielded fragments from another butt-beaker of Augustan profile in what appears to be orange fabric GB4A with applied solid bosses (Frere 1962, fig. 12: 9) and a butt-beaker and ovoid beaker in fabric GB4B (Frere 1962, fig. 12: 15,16).

These wares also occur at Silchester, the King Harry Lane cemetery at St Albans, and elsewhere. Only one vessel appears to be present amongst the grave-goods from King Harry Lane and is a butt-beaker with solid bosses from the Late Augustan cremation 312.2 fired red (Stead and Rigby 1989, Table 17). Butt-

beakers and other forms in fabrics similar to GB4A and 4B come from the Silchester basilica excavations (Timby 2000, Fabric S16, figs 132 and 135: 610, 708 and 709) and there is an embossed butt-beaker fired orange from the 1900 Victorian excavations in Insula XXIII (Timby 2000, fig. 135: 710).

Deru states that butt-beakers with bosses were made at Arras in the Pas-de-Calais and at Braives near Liege in Belgium (Deru 1996, fig. 118: 2 and fig. 124: 3) and in both cases fired reddish-brown like some of the butt-beakers from Abingdon, Dorchester-on-Thames, Silchester and King Harry Lane. Vessels in fabrics GB4A and 4B may very well come from one or both of these production centres: Arras (*Nemetacum*) was the capital of the *civitas* of the Atrebates in *Gallia Belgica* and it may be no coincidence that imported wares in these fabrics and similar ones are concentrated on sites such as Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*), Abingdon, Benson and Dorchester-on-Thames within and in close proximity to the *civitas* of the Atrebates in *Britannia*.

### *Human Bone* by Ceri Falys

A disarticulated skull was excavated from Neolithic pit 834. The cranium is fragmented, and the majority of teeth recovered from deposit 1098 are loose. Osteological analysis has been undertaken following the guidelines of Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994) and Brickley and McKinley (2004).

The surface preservation of the bone is good. Few areas of etching of the cortical bone are noted, in addition to a moderate amount of fragmentation of the cranial vault. Post-excavation reconstruction of the cranial vault has had some success, refitting several pieces of bone together to form larger sections of frontal and parietal bones. Overall, less than 25% of the bones expected from a human skeleton are present for analysis: several fragments of the frontal and both parietal bones, the right petrous portion of the temporal bone. A small piece of mandible is present, with a developing adult canine present within the alveolar bone. A total of 11 teeth are present for analysis.

Inventory of loose teeth present:

-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	7	-
-	7	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	4	5	6	7	-

Age at death has been estimated based on the stage of development of the dentition, based on criteria by van Beek (2002). The roots have very nearly completed development on the right maxillary lateral incisor and the maxillary and mandibular left first molars. The roots of all permanent canines and premolars are approximately half complete, and the second molars are approximately one third complete. van Beek (2002,

131) suggests an age of 10 years  $\pm$  9 months at the time of death. Given the young age of the individual, expressions of sex have not been investigated on the cranial fragments.

A single pathological observation has been made on the dentition. Faint lines of enamel hypoplasia are present on the crowns of the mandibular canines and premolars. Enamel hypoplasia are linear defects of the enamel that are formed in response to nutritional deficiency and/or pathological events (e.g., acute illness, high fever) during childhood. While the crowns are developing within the jaws (under the age of 7 years), these episodes of disease or malnutrition cause a cessation of growth, resulting in deficiencies of the enamel. These defects can take the form of grooves or pits, broad bands of hypomineralization or honeycombed beds of cup-shaped enamel voids (Langsjoen 1998).

No further information could be retrieved from the fragments of the disarticulated child's skull discovered in pit 834.

### *Cremated human bone* by Ceri Falys

A single human cremation burial (598) was present within pit 523. The bone was whole-earth recovered on site, and subsequently floated and wet-sieved to a 2mm mesh size during post-excavation processing. Osteological analysis has been undertaken following the guidelines of Brickley and McKinley (2004). Prior to analysis the bone from each context has been sorted using a sieve stack of 10mm, 5mm, and 2mm mesh sizes, and weighed. Several pieces of unburnt animal bone were found associated with the human fragments, (*see* Holmes, below). A total of 1077g of burnt human bone was present for analysis.

#### Preservation and Fragmentation

The bone itself is well preserved, uniformly buff in colour, and has a relatively large post-excavation fragmentation size. The majority of bone measures larger than 10mm in size (854g, 79.3%), 200g (18.6%) is between 5mm and 10mm in length, and just 23g (2.1%) measures smaller than 5mm. The maximum post-excavation cranial fragment size is 40.6mm by 35.8mm (parietal fragment), and the maximum long bone size is 85.8mm by 12.9mm (non-descript shaft fragment, possibly humerus). A total weight of 1077g is within range of the amount of human bone to be expected the cremation of an adult individual. Using information gained from modern crematoria, McKinley (1993) found the amount of bone resulting from the cremation of complete adult individuals ranged between 1001.5g to 2442.5g, with an average of 1625.9g.

#### Inventory

Although pieces of long bone shafts are the most abundant, fragments of bone are identifiable from all regions of the skeleton. Portions of cranial vault dominate, followed by vertebral fragments, pieces of

mandible and the facial skeleton (only one tooth crown is present), rib shafts, fragments of the small bones of the hands and feet, and small portions of the ilia.

#### Age and Sex

Osteological analysis has determined the remains are of a single adult individual, who was possibly female. Skeletal indications of age at death and sex are limited. Suggestions of age are present on the surface morphology of fragments of the auricular surfaces of the ilia (dense and flat, following criteria by Lovejoy *et al.* 1985), and the presence of osteophytic lipping along the superior and inferior rims of vertebral bodies. Although a specific age range cannot be confidently applied, both characteristics suggest the individual is of advancing age, perhaps older than 40 years of age at the time of death.

The assessment of the remains as possibly female relies heavily on the gracile nature of the skeletal elements themselves, as well as the "strength" of the muscle attachments. Supportive of this designation is the presence of a deep and relatively wide preauricular sulcus located inferior to the auricular surface on a fragment of ilium, following criteria by Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994, 18-19).

#### Pathology

Three pathological conditions have been identified on fragments within cremation 598.

- 1) A nodule of striated compact bone is located on the endocranial surface of the frontal bone, measuring 5.4mm by 3.2mm (Plate 11a). Given the fragmentary nature of the skeleton, it is not possible to suggest an aetiology for this nodule.
- 2) A small fragment of parietal bone has two depressions for arachnoid granulations running along the sagittal suture. Arachnoid granulations, although not strictly pathological, are believed to increase in frequency with age.
- 3) Degenerative joint disease of two skeletal regions are also identified. A fragment of the glenoid cavity of the right scapula (shoulder joint) displays development of osteophytes around the superior edge. Secondly, and as already mentioned, osteophytes are also present on the superior and inferior rims of several vertebral bodies (lower thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, Plate 11b). The spinal osteophytes are more projecting than those observed in the scapula, and it is noted that similar lipping has not been identified elsewhere on spinal fragments (e.g. the superior articular facets). Degenerative joint disease can result from the accumulation of normal wear and tear on the skeleton, and as a result, increases with advancing age, or may also occur in response to trauma.



### Summary

The cremated remains of an adult woman were excavated from pit 523, who was likely of advancing age (i.e. 40+ years at the time of death). Pathological conditions support the designation of advancing age (degenerative joint disease of the right shoulder and vertebral bodies and development of arachnoid granulations). The cause of a nodule of bone on the endocranial surface of the frontal bone cannot be determined.

### *Animal Bone* by Matilda Holmes

A moderate-sized assemblage was recovered from Littleworth Road, the majority of material coming from late Iron Age contexts. A few fragments were recorded from earlier prehistoric, and later (Roman or possibly early Saxon features), but only the late Iron Age assemblage was large enough, and sufficiently securely dated, to be considered in detail. An interesting group of bones was associated with the human cremation and several groups of butchery or food waste and crania came from the ditches of Enclosure A.

Bones were identified using the author's reference collection. Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goat, bones of this type were assigned to the category 'sheep/goat', unless a definite identification (Zeder and Lapham 2010; Zeder and Pilaar 2010) could be made. Bones that could not be identified to species were categorized according to the relative size of the animal represented (micro – rat/vole size; small – cat/rabbit size; medium – sheep/pig/dog size; or large – cattle/horse size). Ribs were identified to size category where the head was present, vertebrae were recorded when the vertebral body was present, and maxilla, zygomatic arch and occipital areas of the skull were identified from skull fragments.

Tooth wear and eruption were recorded using guidelines from Grant (1982) and Payne (1973), as were bone fusion, metrical data (von den Driesch 1976), anatomy, side, zone (Serjeantson 1996) and any evidence of pathological changes, butchery (Lauwerier 1988) and working. The condition of bones was noted on a scale of 0-5, where 0 is fresh bone and 5, the bone is falling apart (Lyman 1994, 355). Other taphonomic factors were also recorded, including the incidence of burning, gnawing, recent breakage and refitted fragments. All fragments were recorded: articulated or associated fragments were entered as a count of 1, so they did not bias the relative frequency of species present. Details of associated bone groups were recorded in a separate table. Bones from sieved samples were collected but because of the highly fragmentary nature of such samples a selective process was undertaken, whereby fragments were recorded only if they could be identified to species and/or element, or showed signs of taphonomic processes.

Bones were only included in analysis if they came from features that could be securely dated. Quantification of taxa used a count of all fragments (NISP – number of identified specimens), and that of anatomical elements was done using a restricted count of epiphyses only, based on Grant (1975). Mortality profiles were constructed based on tooth eruption and wear (Hambleton 1999) and bone fusion (after O'Connor 2003).

#### Taphonomy and Condition

Bones were generally in good condition (Appendix 3, Table A3.1), although the high proportion of fresh breaks observed alongside a number of refitted fragments suggests that burial conditions rendered the bones friable upon excavation and cleaning. Few bones showed signs of canid gnawing and the majority of teeth remained in the mandibles indicating that they were buried fairly rapidly following discard and there was minimal post-depositional movement. Butchery marks were recorded, and a small amount of burning, implying they were subject to some form of processing.

Several Associated Bone Groups (ABGs) were observed from late Iron Age contexts, they will be described here, but discussed in more detail below.

From the ditches of enclosure A:

- Eastern ditch 620 (context 786) a group of cattle cervical vertebrae
- Eastern ditch 740 (context 978) a group left mandibles, one from a cow and four from sheep, all with 3rd molars coming into wear; large number of butchered leg bones from cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse, two of which had been singed; a heavily butchered cattle skull and a pig maxilla (left)
- Western ditch 543/ 548 (680/690) skulls from a male pig and cow
- Southern ditch 813 (1065) cattle skull.

From pit 604 (770) within the enclosure was a large deposit of butchered, gnawed and burnt limb bones, from at least two cattle, two pigs and three sheep/goats. Additionally, there were left and right tibiae from a minimum of seven and mandibles from at least five sheep/goats.

From the human cremation 525 (598) located just outside the enclosure was a partial skeleton of a juvenile chicken just a few weeks old comprising bones from both wings and maybe a femur; and the occipital part (back) of a pig skull, and associated cervical, thoracic, lumbar and sacral vertebrae from an adult animal.

#### Species Representation

A few fragments of animal bone were identified from the Neolithic pits (Appendix 3; Table A3.2), a cattle humerus and loose tooth fragment. Middle Bronze Age to early Iron Age features contained teeth from cattle and pig, a cattle radius and a scapula fragment from a large mammal. The mid to late Iron Age was

represented by a sheep/goat scapula and metatarsal; the ?Roman assemblage was dominated by cattle long bones, with a few fragments of sheep/goat, horse and canid bones and teeth. The ?early Saxon period provided cattle and sheep/goat limb bones.

The late Iron Age assemblage was large enough to be analysed in detail (Appendix 3; Table A3.3), and the rest of the report will focus on bones from this period. The possible ritual inclusion of bones in association with the cremation means that these bones have been considered separately. Cattle and sheep/goat dominated the faunal remains in similar quantities, followed by pigs (Appendix 3; Table A3.3). A few equid remains were recorded, although it was not possible to identify them further to horse or donkey. A few fragments of canid (dog or fox), chicken, duck, goose and fish bones were also recovered. The low number of wild taxa is typical of Iron Age sites, at a time when wild resources were avoided rather than consumed. The absence of bones from micro-mammals, birds and fish in the samples reflects this. The proportions of cattle, sheep/goat and pig recorded are similar to those observed at contemporary sites in the region (Hambleton 1999), indicating that cattle, sheep and goats would have been common sights in the surrounding fields – even though beef would have made a greater contribution to the diet.

#### Carcass Representation and Butchery

The assemblage was dominated by head and limb bones, with relatively few vertebrae and phalanges recovered (Appendix 3; Table A3.3). Both cattle and sheep/ goat were most commonly represented by mandible fragments, not matched by maxillae or loose maxillary teeth. Cattle and pig mandibles came from even numbers of left and right sides, but the group of four left sheep mandibles recovered from ditch 740 brings the ratio to 12:8 left to right, and suggests that they may have originated from a different source. This is further exemplified when it is considered that they all came from animals of a similar age whose M3 was in the early stages of eruption or wear – consistent with those that died at around the age of maturity. This is not a large deposit, but it may be significant when considered in relation to other sites, such as Harlow Temple, Essex, where a predominance of right sheep/goat mandibles was observed in association with an Iron Age shrine (Legge and Dorrington 1985), although the trend for side selection becomes more common at Roman temples (King 2005). It may therefore be likely that this small group of left mandibles were retained at this part of the site, while the right mandibles were taken to a temple as an offering. The recovery of crania from the enclosure ditch may represent their opportune disposal, but it is equally possible that they were also deliberate placements.

The predominance of limb bones implies that the deposit originated from food waste, and the low numbers of vertebrae and phalanges suggests that primary butchery waste was disposed of elsewhere. Where

vertebrae were recovered, they were often in groups indicative of the burial of articulating parts of the spine, such as in ditch 620, possibly removed during splitting of the carcass – a trend that is not uncommon in this period (Morris 2011, 141).

While butchery marks were not commonly observed, they were recorded from cattle, sheep/goat, pig and equid bones. Knife cuts were more often found on the bones of smaller taxa, while cattle were more likely to have been butchered using a heavy chopper-type implement. Evidence for skinning came from sheep/goat and pig crania and a cattle 1st phalange and the heavily butchered cattle cranium from ditch 740 had the horn cores and brain removed, and had been dismembered from the vertebrae at the back of the skull. All other evidence for butchery related to disarticulation of the carcass and filleting of meat from the bones.

### The Assemblage

There was a small cull of cattle prior to maturity, as a number died before reaching the late fusion stage and at mandible wear stages C and D (Appendix 3; Table A3.4), but the majority were mature at death. This suggests that they were important for secondary products such as dairy production, traction or breeding before being culled for meat. Age-related wear and tear on the joints is probably the reason for eburnation of the distal humeral trochlea, which may be expected in animals that lived into old age, although it could have been accelerated in animals that were used for traction.

Both sheep and goats were identified in the assemblage, apparently culled at much younger ages than cattle (Appendix 3; Table A3.4). The cull of animals at the early and late fusion stages is reflected in the tooth wear data by those at stages B and E to G, respectively. An elderly animal is evident with a wear stage of I. In general, this pattern indicates that sheep/goats were of prime importance for meat, some in their first year of life that may have been excess stock, and some as they were nearing maturity. The presence of five porous bones from at least two lambs suggests that they may have been bred in the area, or that they provided food, perhaps as a delicacy.

Pigs were subject to a large cull at around the time of maturity, evident from the absence of fused bones in the late-fusing category (Chart 1), while the selection of animals at wear stage D indicates that all were culled as the 3rd molar was coming into wear. However, the presence of several fused vertebrae indicates the presence of at least one individual that was comparably old, which may have been used for breeding.

All but one of the equid bones were fused, suggesting that horses were also used for secondary products such as haulage or transport. Yet an unfused proximal radius implies a young animal that died before reaching 18 months of age, and suggests that it was bought in or bred nearby.

The single chicken bone not associated with the cremation was from an adult bird, which may have been used for breeding or fighting.

#### The Cremation

Two ABGs were recovered from the late Iron Age cremation 525, the presence of bones that would have been articulated implies deliberate deposition at the time of the cremation, with little subsequent disturbance. Neither group had been burnt, suggesting that they were not included on the cremation itself, but were buried alongside it. The pig axial skeleton is interesting, and is not typical of a joint of meat, but butchery waste, and may be representative of the meat consumed during the funerary feast.

The presence of chicken remains in association with late Iron Age burials is not uncommon and represents the esteem these newly imported, exotic creatures were held in. It is unlikely that chickens were consumed at this time, but rather were valued as fighting birds (Sykes 2012, 164). It implies that the person cremated was someone of status, although finds of cockerels are often found with males and hens with females (Sykes 2012), the presence of a juvenile bird means the sex is not obvious.

#### Summary

The late Iron Age assemblage is typical of a consumer site, the bones most likely originating as food waste, some groups indicate the inclusion of substantial numbers of animals. A number of deliberate deposits, as well as the cremation, suggests that there may also have been a ritual element to the site. Cattle were evidently important to the economy beyond food, for secondary products, which contrasts strongly with sheep/goat and pigs that were largely kept for meat. In general, the assemblage seems to represent a focus on food consumption, alongside possible ritual depositions and may have been in an area of communal feasting.

#### *Struck Flint* by Steve Ford

A collection comprising 466 struck flints were recovered during the course of the excavations as summarized in Appendix 4. The majority of the flint recovered were spalls, defined as pieces less than 20x20mm but most often much smaller. In comparison to the final removals present on the only core recovered from the site, several of the larger spalls could well have been deliberately made and used, but the majority are tiny chips either from primary knapping but also retouching. Surprisingly only one formally retouched item (a scraper) was recorded though 14 pieces were either informally retouched or utilized. A small number (3 items) were burnt with only one item very lightly patinated .

Most of the flint was recovered from Neolithic pits 827, 829 and 830, with pit 830 reporting most material. The fills of these three pits were wholly sampled and wet sieved.

Some 13 of the flakes and narrow flakes, all from pit 830, showed some edge damage. For four of these this could be a product of utilization though none of these had been obviously provided with a serrated edge nor possessed gloss visible to the naked eye. Another eight appear to have been lightly but continuously retouched to form a bevelled edge. One flake had an area of miscellaneous retouch. The one scraper was small, almost thumbnail in character but minimally retouched to form the scraping edge. A single small core weighing 36g and two core fragments were recovered.

### *Metalwork* by Steve Crabb and Cristina Mateos

A total of 11 metal objects were recovered from this site, of these 5 are copper alloy and 6 are ferrous (Appendix 5). Of the ferrous objects the most common are nails but with only 3 (Cat. Nos 1-3) all being recovered from context 516.

Two pieces of sheet iron (Cat. Nos. 10 and 11) are both damaged and it is not possible to determine the original role of these objects.

Cat. No. 9 is an iron hook, it has a right angled bend and would have been hammered into a wooden support. Of the copper alloy objects 4 are complete brooches and one is a small piece of sheet (Cat. No. 8). This small fragment of sheet, from ditch 2006, is too small to be identifiable.

All four brooches came from cremation burial 525 (Pl. 10).

Cat. No. 4 is a complete copper alloy brooch, it has a tapering bow with a series of parallel ridges along the bow. The spring is completely covered and the pin is not present. It corresponds to the incised bow of some Colchester BB brooches, probably having lost the concave face on each edge because of corrosion (Mackreth 2011, 36–45 and pls 21–22, Crummy 2015, fig. 438: 141) dating from the late 1st century BC to the mid 1st century AD. The type has continental origins but manufacture in Britain is well established by the second decade of the 1st century AD. It is not easy to determine if this example is an import or a British version. Most of the ‘native’ versions at Heybridge appeared to be post-Boudican but that late dating was seen as anomalous (Crummy 2015) and stratified examples also came from period 2 at that site (50BC–AD20).

Cat. No. 5 is a corroded but complete copper alloy brooch. It has a tapering bow with a central ridge. It has a covered spring and the pin is damaged. This is a Langton Down type (Mackreth 2011, 32–6 and pl. 20) which despite the name is continental; dated 15BC to mid 1st century AD.

Cat. No. 6 is a corroded but complete copper alloy brooch. It has a square head and foot and a bow that narrows in evenly spaced steps. The heavy corrosion makes identification of this brooch very difficult.

This one corresponds with Leontomorphe 5-d type, in which the bows have been reduced to some mouldings at the top (Mackreth 2011, pl. 17: 5947). Again, this type has pre-Conquest origins and continues later, but reliably stratified examples can be cited for the second quarter of the 1st century (Mackreth 2011, 30).

Cat. No 7 is a slightly damaged disc-shaped plate brooch, it is also heavily corroded. The centre of the disc has a raised central socket. Two loose glass droplets were originally found with the brooch and one of them was attached in the central setting. This type of brooches fits into Mackreth's round/oval enamelled series, but It is too damaged to identify the subtype. This type of disc plate brooch can be difficult to date but is considered to be a British style (Mackreth 2011, 158–60; pls 105–6).

### *Stone* by David F Williams and Cristina Mateos

The site produced just two pieces of worked stone. From ditch 2006 (cut 526, fill 650) came a small segment from a disc-type rotary quernstone, quite possibly from the upper stone [160mm x 90mm x 18-35mm]. The quern is made from a hard, compact, greenish-grey greensand with characteristic cherty swirls – almost certainly from the Lodsworth quarry site in west Sussex and possibly dated to the first two centuries AD [Peacock, 1987, Fig. 3, nos. 13-15]. Lodsworth querns were widely distributed during the Iron Age and Roman periods and seem to have reached Oxfordshire in relatively high numbers [cf. Shaffrey and Roe, 2011, Gazetteer].

From Neolithic pit 830 (1089) Spit 2, an irregular sandstone fragment weighing 1000g appeared to have been worked or at least worn/rubbed but its form could not be ascertained.

### *Ceramic Building Material* by Danielle Milbank

A total of 395g of ceramic building material (11 fragments) were recovered throughout the excavation stage of the project, in addition to the material recovered during the evaluation. This was encountered in the infilling deposits across several of the ditches encountered on the site.

The condition of the majority of the fragments overall was fair, with fragmentation and moderate abrasion. The pieces were examined under x10 magnification, these mainly comprised tile fragments, with a small proportion of smaller fragments which could not identified by form.

Roman material was identified in two contexts. This comprised a piece of *tegula* (flanged roof tile) recovered from ditch slot 515 (582) which is a medium hard fine clay fabric with an orange red colour and a

square profile, and is a commonly occurring and not closely dateable form (Brodrribb 1987). A second small fragment of possible *tegula* was recovered from slot 516 (584), along with a small piece of plain tile.

The material recovered from ditch slots 518 (587), 540 (676) and 623 (792) represents roof tile of medieval or early post-medieval date. The fabric is typically a fairly hard clay fabric with medium to fine clay with occasional fine groggy inclusions and a red colour. A piece from ditch slot 517 is a hard, evenly fired clay fabric with sparse groggy inclusions and a pale buff colour. The thickness is 28mm and the edges are slightly rounded, and the piece is likely to represent floor tile of broadly medieval date. A brick fragment recovered from ditch slot 813 (1065) is a slightly porous and friable sandy fabric and an orange red colour. The form is uneven and rounded, the thickness is 45mm, and the piece is likely to be broadly medieval.

Overall, the range of material encountered can be characterised as domestic and reflects low level activity during the Roman and medieval periods, with a limited range of forms encountered, though the presence of *tegula* is possibly suggestive of a tiled roof building in the vicinity of the site.

### *Fired Clay* by Richard Tabor and Danielle Milbank

A total of 260g of fired clay (59 fragments) was recovered in the course of the excavation. The material was found typically in small quantities and highly fragmented.

It is summarized in Appendix 7.

The fabric is typically medium to soft, with a few examples of harder material, and is typically fine clay with sparse sand inclusions. It is typically unevenly fired, and the colour ranges from orange red to pale grey, with occasional dark grey fragments.

Pieces representing daub were recovered from ditch slot 548 (690), which have impressions of the wooden wattles. A further piece of possible daub from ditch slot 618 has chopped straw and grain impressions, and a piece from pit 812 has a wattle impression and a smooth surface.

From deposit 1089 in pit 830 came 13 fragments, weighing 11g, which were very rounded and retained no indication of form. There were two distinct fabrics. Eleven pieces (10g) were in a vesicular sandy fabric, FC-fVS1, and two (1g) in a sandy fabric, FC-FS1 to which burnt flint appeared to have been added deliberately.

**FC-fVS1** (medium) Moderately hard, slightly micaceous vesicular sandy buff pink fabric with including moderate fine to medium (<1mm), and rarely coarse (<4mm) rounded quartz with abundant small spheroid voids. The voids may be due to the loss of quartz grains.



**FC-FS1** (medium) Moderately hard, slightly micaceous sandy buff pink fabric with including sparse fine to medium (<2mm), and coarse (<4mm) angular burnt flint, sparse fine rounded quartz (<0.5mm) and rare to sparse fine iron oxides (<1mm).

No pieces representing loomweights or other fired clay objects, such as kiln furniture, were identified, and the material recovered is overall very modest.

The fills of three Early Neolithic pits also included 87 small fragments of clinker weighing 101g, all recovered during wet sieving of soil samples (Appendix 7). The material comprised a brittle conglomeration of abundant fine to medium (<0.5mm) and rare coarse (<1mm) quartz sand and rare to sparse burnt and unburnt rounded and subangular medium (<2mm) to very coarse (<11mm) flint. There were no observable differences in the general character of the material from pit to pit. Typically clinker forms at the boundary of an enclosed fire, sometimes incorporating material from the boundary as well as from the fire itself.

### *Environmental Samples* by Rosalind McKenna

A programme of soil sampling was implemented during the excavation, which included the collection of soil samples from 52 sealed contexts., mostly dated to the Late Iron Age, with some low level activity suggesting use during the Neolithic, Bronze Age and early Iron Age, as well as the Roman, early Saxon and Medieval periods. Details of methodology and identification guides used are in the archive.

Fifty two samples (and a further seven sub-samples) as well as two handpicked charcoal samples are the basis of this investigation. Charred plant macrofossils were present in six of the samples (10 sub-samples). The results of the plant macrofossil analysis can be seen in Appendix 8: Table A8.1. The preservation of the charred remains was very poor.

Hazel nut shell fragments were present two of the samples, six of the sub-samples. Hazel-nuts are valuable nutritionally, as well as being readily available. In addition, the nut shell is hard and resistant to decay, favouring its survival. The hazelnut shells recovered may be indicative of a food source being consumed, and their husks being added to the fires as a method of waste disposal. However, the shell fragments show no marks typically associated with processed shells. Together with the presence of hazel charcoal, this may indicate that they are merely representative of hazel wood trees being burnt, which could be either a natural or a man-made process.

Indeterminate cereal grains were recorded in four of the samples, six of the sub-samples. Grass seeds (POACEAE) and weed seeds such as goosefoot / orache (*Chenopodium / Atriplex*), docks (*Rumex*) which are typical of cultivation were recorded in a single sample.

The fact that the samples have produced broadly similar results suggests that these secondary deposits do not result from deposition of debris from accidental charring events, but instead represent a consistent pattern of charring cereal grain and crop weeds over the period of occupation and using the waste for fuel.

Charcoal fragments were present in the majority of the samples, in varying quantities. The preservation of the charcoal fragments was generally poor. The majority of the fragments were too small to enable successful fracturing that reveals identifying morphological characteristics. Identifiable remains were only present in five of the samples, nine of the sub-samples and two of the handpicked charcoal samples. The results of this analysis can be seen in Appendix 8: Table A8.2.

The total range of taxa comprises oak (*Quercus*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and willow/poplar (*Salix / Populus*). Hazel is the most frequently identifiable and it is possible that this was the preferred fuel wood obtained from a local environment containing a broader choice of species such as oak, ash and willow/poplar.

#### Conclusion

The charcoal remains showed the exploitation of a several species native to Britain. Oak and ash have good burning properties and would have made a fire suitable for most purposes. Hazel is also recorded as a good fuel wood and was widely available within oak woodlands, particularly on the fringes of cleared areas. Willow/Poplar are species that are ideal to use for kindling. They are anatomically less dense than for example, oak and ash and burn quickly at relatively high temperatures.

Dryland wood species indicates the presence of an oak-ash woodland close to the site. This would have consisted of oak and ash which would be the dominant large tree species (Gale & Cutler 2000, 120, 205). On the marginal areas of oak woodlands or in clearings hazel thrives. The evidence of carr fen woodland indicates a damp environment close to the site. This type of woodland would have consisted of willow and poplar which are trees that thrive in waterlogged and damp soils, particularly in areas close to streams or with a high water table.

#### *Burnt flint*

A small quantity (1.4kg) of burnt flint was recovered from 29 features (Appendix 9), half of this amount coming from sieving of samples. Quantities in individual contexts, therefore were very small. The only concentration was in Neolithic pit 830 with just 323g.

## *Radiocarbon dating*

Two samples were submitted to the Chrono Centre, Queens University Belfast for radiocarbon dating. These consisted of a hazel nut shell from pot 830 and unidentified wood charcoal from pit 827. Details of methodology and assessment of the reliability of the results are held in archive. The results are presented in Table 2 below, the probabilities expressed as relative area under curve at 2-sigma (95.4%).

**Table 2: Radiocarbon dating**

<i>Lab No.</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>F14C</i>	<i>Radiocarbon years BP</i>	<i>Date Cal BC</i>	<i>Probability</i>
UBA 34814	Pit 830 fill 1089 spit 3	hazel nut shell	0.5512±0.0023	4786 ± 33	<b>3646–3518</b>	<b>100%</b>
UBA 34815	Pit 827 fill 1084 spit 2	charcoal	0.5481±0.0027	4830 ± 39	3696–3623	47.7%
					<b>3602–3524</b>	<b>52.3%</b>

## **Conclusion** by Andy Taylor with Steve Ford and Steve Preston

The excavation identified a range of archaeological deposits continuing those which had been identified in the evaluation. However, many of the identified features turned out to be tree throws or natural silt deposits. The identified deposits consisted of enclosures, boundary features, a trackway, pits, postholes and a cremation pit, with dates ranging from the Neolithic to the medieval periods.

### *Phase 1 Earlier Neolithic*

The earliest activity on the site came from the earlier Neolithic period represented by four pits (29, 827, 830, 834). A few stray or residual finds of struck flint elsewhere may be of similar date. All four pits produced Neolithic pottery with two radiocarbon dates placing two of the pits in the bracket 3700-3500 cal BC, with the expectation that all four pits are of the same period and in fact contemporary. None of the artefacts recovered can be considered as having been placed and none are noteworthy in their own right. Nevertheless as is common for many Neolithic pits (Garrow *et al.* 2006; Thomas 1999) the artefacts do not reflect simple rubbish disposal but the collection of 'domestic' debris for deposition. Admittedly, the pattern here is not marked; the significance is in the collection of a large volume of tiny spalls and chips from flint knapping and retouching. Unless the knapper stood over the pits and let this small debris fall into the pit, the material must have been collected by knapping onto a sheet of some kind and then disposed of into the pits.

The evidence for the subsistence base, whilst meagre, nevertheless conforms to convention with production of cereals, and the keeping of cattle alongside gathered wild foods, namely hazelnuts.

The partial remains of a human child skull were also certainly deposited deliberately in pit 834 if not actually placed. Human burial at this time away from formal burial monuments is uncommon but usually

comprises a complete body. To have a pit containing a single human bone is of particular note but difficult to explain.

The Thames Valley has long been recognized as being one of the core areas for earlier Neolithic settlement with a number of distinctive causewayed enclosures but rather less common long or oval barrows or other monuments (Hey and Robinson 2011; Hey and Barclay 2011). Occupation sites are most frequently represented by small clusters of pits, perhaps with occasional postholes and are considered to reflect the temporary dwellings of mobile communities. Larger clusters of pits such as those of similar date close by at St Helen's Avenue, Benson (Pine and Ford 2004) and recently reported at Duxford Farm, Standlake (Hart 2016) may represent repeated re-use of favoured locations.

More recent investigation, however, is showing that the emphasis on the Thames Valley may reflect the distribution of archaeological fieldwork rather than that of Neolithic settlement. At Banbury, for example, in the Cherwell valley, some 35 pits, scattered over a wide area, have been assigned Neolithic (or late Mesolithic) dates (Simmonds 2014, 15), while at Thame, six or eight late Neolithic pits formed a tighter cluster (Taylor 2012).

### *Phase 2 Middle Bronze Age*

The Bronze Age activity on the site consisted of a single pit (512) although residual pottery and flint were also recovered from later deposits. The discovery of isolated pits of this date are quite rare but are a recurrent, if difficult to explain pattern. It is considered that much MBA settlement, especially in the earlier part of the period is similar to earlier periods in that it leaves few below-ground traces and that such pits do represent a phase of occupation, perhaps small scale and short-lived.

### *Phase 3: Late Iron Age*

The series of SW–NE aligned gullies (2007, 2008, 2014, 2029, 2033) which can only be dated as pre-dating the late Iron Age remain enigmatic but presumably at least indicate an open landscape, from probably in the later Middle Iron Age. If gullies 2001, 2011 and 2013 are correctly phased to the same period, then at least the northern part of the site was being parcelled up, perhaps with two droveways being marked out.

The majority of the deposits on the site come from the Late Iron Age phases. The large boundary ditch (2000) is likely to be the earliest feature from this phase. It is not clear how far beyond the site this extends, but it was a major feature and defined the landscape for the whole of this period. Major land divisions

defined by ditches and banks are a prominent feature of the Iron Age landscape, often ill-dated but where dating can be refined, tending to be late in the period. While the ditch here is not on the scale of the Grim's Ditch some 4km to the south, or the so-called 'Wessex Linear Ditches' of Hampshire and Wiltshire, it may form part of a similar attitude to the land. There is debate as to whether such monuments formed territorial divisions (between 'tribes' or similar sub-groups), but some such function seems probable for the largest dyke systems at least (Lambrick 2014, 129). Ditch 2000 here presumably represents a similar division albeit on a smaller scale. The ditch appears to have terminated to the west not far beyond the excavation area (or changed direction markedly) as it was not noted in any of the evaluation trenches further west. Its presumed continuation to the east would lie under modern housing.

On the same alignment, enclosure A was later extended as enclosure B, and either at the same time or perhaps even as a third phase, enclosure C. With the exception of a four-post structure on the western side of enclosure A and a few pits there is little to suggest that these enclosures were for occupation. Rather it seems more likely that they were for the management of stock. Often small square enclosures are but one form of settlement infrastructure considered to have functioned as animal pens. If houses are present and if any occupation structures (eg roundhouses) are present in the vicinity they are often unenclosed with the enclosures a later activity and frequently recorded for the Thames Valley (Lambrick and Robinson 2009, 109ff).

Of particular note from this phase was a cremation pit with offerings of nine pottery vessels, four brooches and animal deposits (pig and chicken) which may have been intended as food or may have had had a more symbolic value. In fact the bones represented from the pig, despite being set on a platter, might be butchery waste rather than a food portion, possibly suggesting that the meat portions were consumed as part of the burial ceremony and only (token) waste deposited with the human remains. None of the grave goods had been on the pyre, further emphasizing the multi-phase nature of the funeral. The complexity of the late Iron Age funerary rite involving cremation as only one of several stages has been discussed in the context of its being restricted to a conspicuous elite in society (Atkinson and Preston 2015). The wealth on display in this burial reinforces that perception, and it may be worth making the point that this applies regardless of whether the goods in the grave were the possessions of the deceased or supplied by the mourners. Those who had access to these imports were not at the lower end of the social scale. The placement of 'butchery waste' parts of the pig (head and vertebrae) rather than leg or flank meat joints is the opposite of what might be expected: at Brisley Farm, Kent, it was suggested that the 'elite portion' of a pig was reserved for the dead

rather than consumed by the mourners at the funerary feast (Stevenson 2013, esp p.168); however in fact what was buried in that grave was half a pig's head, surely more symbolic than gourmand.

Morphologically, this site bears comparison with those of Late Iron Age date where rectilinear enclosure complexes develop, as at Lea Farm, Binfield and Jennets Park, though the site at Burghfield appeared to comprise an enclosure within the Middle Iron Age which was supported by a radiocarbon date (Booth 2013). Linear features 2023-7, and 2030-2 are short, segmented gullies that may be forming part of a smaller annex enclosure (C) parallel to enclosures A and B. However, it is unclear whether these would be contemporary with the initial enclosure A or its expansion, B: the latter has been preferred on admittedly no very strong grounds.

The Late Iron Age is an elusive period across much of southern Britain, and simply difficult to recognize in Oxfordshire (and even more so Berkshire). It is defined in material culture terms as much as chronological, and 'Middle' Iron Age material culture persists throughout the 'Late' subdivision of the period (which in Oxfordshire is the second half of the 1st century BC and first half of the 1st century AD). The defining elements of cremation burial, coinage, brooches and above all wheel-thrown pottery, whether continental imports or local manufactures in the same style, appear to co-exist with Middle Iron Age artefacts and sites.

The Late Iron Age deposits from this site are most unusual for this region in that a significant proportion of the pottery comprised imported material. One of the benefits this brings for the archaeologist is that these are much more chronologically diagnostic than the domestic wares that often cover long periods of time and do not allow for a tight chronology. These imports also allow for comparisons to be made with sites such as Fishbourne in West Sussex (Lyne above), which had a high proportion of imports from the continent. Further afield, Elms Farm, Heybridge in Essex (Atkinson and Preston 2015) has produced one of the country's largest Late Iron Age pottery assemblages, allowing for a more direct, rural, comparison site, with imports in comparable proportions, although there in much higher absolute quantities. Similar proportions of Gallo-Belgic imports are also seen at, for example, Puckeridge-Braughing (Partridge 1981; Rigby 1981).

Table 3. Summary of imported finewares compared to local pottery

<i>Category</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Amphora</i>	1	0.12%	98	0.44%
<i>Arretine/samian</i>	4	0.48%	17	0.08%
<i>Central Gaulish</i>	40	4.76%	2955	13.39%
<i>Gallo-Belgic</i>	85	10.11%	739	3.35%
<b>Total imports</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>15.47%</b>	<b>3809</b>	<b>17.26%</b>
<i>Local LIA</i>	679	80.74%	18142	82.21%
<i>Local MIA</i>	32	3.80%	116	0.53%

Apart from the imports, the economic basis of the Iron Age use of the site can only be described as modest. A single four-post structure, usually considered to be raised granaries on platforms, suggests that small scale grain storage was taking place, although no deep storage pits were encountered possibly explained by a high undulating water table across the site. With the exception of the deliberately deposited pieces in the votive pit, the faunal remains of the site suggest that animals such as sheep/goats and pigs were being kept for use as meat as well as cattle having secondary use as well as being consumed. Cattle dominate the bone assemblage, with sheep/goat also strongly represented and much less pig. This is a fairly typical picture for the period (Johnstone and Albarella 2015). Duck, goose and fish are represented only by single bones each, and domestic fowl by just two, so these cannot have played a significant part in the diet of the inhabitants. The duck and goose are potentially also of some note as it is not at all clear that these birds arrived in Britain much before the Roman conquest, or at least do not seem to have been consumed, although there is increasing evidence for some presence on late Iron Age sites (Johnstone and Albarella 2015) and their previous absence may be as much to do with recovery bias as a real absence. Equid (presumably horse) bones are also present, and although it is unclear if the flesh would have been consumed, their presence is also probably an indicator of status. Few cereal grains were recovered again suggesting the site had a pastoral rather than arable usage and that locally available fuel sources were being employed.

The presence of the chicken in the cremation is unusual in a pre-Roman context, though not entirely without parallel: for example there were two chicken bones from pre-conquest deposits at Heybridge, Essex, where there were only 88 chicken bones from all phases (Johnstone and Albarella 2015). It is not at all clear that domestic fowl were eaten in Britain before the Roman period, they may have had some more symbolic meaning (Poole 2010; Albarella 2007), and in pre-Roman contexts almost always occur in features with some religious/ritual connection. At Houghton Down in Hampshire, for example, a complete male and female and possibly a chick (Hamilton 2000) were deposited together in an structured deposit deep in an early Iron Age beehive pit: they clearly could not have been eaten, and most of the few other authenticated Iron Age examples might also have been 'special' (Best *et al.* 2016), although they could of course have been kept for eggs rather than meat. This is possibly also the case even into later Roman times; again at Heybridge, 66 of the 88 chicken bones came from the temple precinct area and nearly all of those from just two pits where they were probably sacrificial offerings rather than food waste (Atkinson and Preston 2015, 95–6).

How, then to account for a site which has a small quantity, but proportionally rather a high share, of both culturally and chronologically distinctive, imported pottery alongside a repertoire of Iron Age local

pottery? Have its inhabitants come by these imports by virtue of direct foreign contacts (or a foreign marriage?), or were they trading in some commodity that leaves no archaeological trace (hunting dogs and slaves are among late Iron Age Britain's recorded exports)? In either case it is slightly anomalous that they have not acquired imported wine along with their flagons, beakers and cups. Conspicuously lacking are *amphorae*, of which just a single sherd was recovered. Imported wine (or olive oil, or fish sauce) would have been an important part of the 'Late Iron Age' suite.

This site is among only a handful in the county that can truly be discussed as culturally (as well as chronologically) Late Iron Age. Here not only is the imported pottery, which would be regarded as high status even in the best pre-Roman British circles, clearly 'late Iron Age' but so is much of the local ware. As Lyne notes, the proportions of imports are lower than at Fishbourne, but the 'proto-palace' or 'emporium' site at Fishbourne is hardly a fair comparison. The proportion of imports here is higher than on all but the richest Roman villas, for example. The LIA phases at Elms Farm, Heybridge (Essex), in an area where a LIA phase is easily recognized, contained huge (absolute) numbers of central Gaulish and Gallo-Belgic imports (some 27kg recorded in detail), but these amounted to less than 14% of the overall phase assemblage, with imports from further afield (Italy and Spain) accounting for another 5% (Biddulph *et al.* 2015; Compton 2015): the 16%–17% imports here compares very favourably with a site seen as a local aristocratic centre in a much more precociously 'Romanizing' area at that period. Cremation burial accompanied by 'rich' (however we chose to define that term) grave goods is also an identifying characteristic of the Late Iron Age. It is also worth considering that although the cremation burial here was richly furnished, imported wares also found their way into the enclosure ditches in some quantity, so that the ceramic picture is not necessarily distorted by a single 'special' deposit.

Located close to the presumed late Iron Age *oppidum* at Dyke Hills, Dorchester, the site at Benson might have been in a position to benefit from any exchange centred on that place. It is unfortunate that so little is known about the occupation in the interior of Dyke Hills (Henig and Booth 2000, 22; Morrison 2009; Welch 2015). Frere's 1962 excavations, within Dorchester rather than at Dyke Hills itself, provided some evidence for pre-Conquest samian and Gallo-Belgic ware (Frere 1963) but continental imports predating the Roman Conquest are still generally rare in the region. Other sites of supposed Late Iron Age *oppida* in the county (Cassington, Abingdon and Salmonsbury) are also poorly dated, and even when the defences can be dated, interior settlement need not necessarily be of the same date (Henig and Booth 2000, 23–5).



The area along the Thames downstream from Oxford to around Wallingford is recognized as having been on the edge of several overlapping Late Iron Age coin distributions (Leins 2012) and it is possible that this may reflect its having been something of a frontier zone (as it would be again in Saxon times). The distributions of so-called ‘eastern’, ‘southern’ and ‘western’ coinages overlap in this area and while equating these coinages with polities or tribes is by no means unproblematical, the groupings that would later solidify as Atrebates (southern), Catuvellauni/Trinovantes (eastern) and Dobunni (western) may all have laid claim to, or had influence at, Benson. Such a frontier might be an area where contacts (and profits) could be made by an enterprising individual.

Morphologically perhaps the best comparison for the site is at Bicester Fields Farm further north in the county (Cromarty *et al.* 2000) where originally a single roundhouse was set in a small square enclosure, which was subsequently enlarged and added to as the roundhouse was replaced at least twice. There was little else within the enclosure although outside it were pits and probably quarries. The low density of charred plant material prompted the excavators to suggest a predominantly pastoral basis to the economy. However the comparison is probably only superficial. The Bicester Fields Farm site could be thought of as being chronologically Late Iron Age, but with material culture (pottery and architecture) still very much in the Middle Iron Age tradition with no imports and virtually no wheel thrown pottery.

Other late Iron Age sites in the area include one some 10km to the west, at Didcot (unpublished) and one to the south of Benson (known only from evaluation trenching). At the Great Western Park (Didcot) an extensive middle Iron Age site has been excavated, consisting of over 600 pits, at least 25 roundhouses and a complex series of intercutting ditches and enclosures. The late Iron Age settlement was apparently much smaller, consisting of roundhouses, enclosures and field ditches, and was succeeded by a Roman villa (not excavated) (Coddington and Oram 2012). Detailed comparisons would be premature before this important site’s post-excavation phase is complete, but the interim results suggest that it confirms how unusual the Litteworth Road site is, in not continuing in use from the late Iron Age into the Roman period.

#### *Phase 4: Roman*

The site is unusual in that typically Late Iron Age sites continue in use and flourish in early Roman times (Fulford 1992; 2014). This transition has not taken place here, despite the apparent success of its late Iron Age occupants. Only a very small quantity of early Roman pottery and two pieces of roof tile (*tegula*) were recovered from ditch 2000. Although this ditch originated in the Late Iron Age phase it seems likely that it

was still open into the earliest years of the Roman period. Although there is little evidence for the site having continued to be in use in Roman times activity of this period is likely to be present in the vicinity. It is possible that the cremation burial was one of the very last acts of the inhabitants before abandoning the site, sometime between 10BC and AD25. The death of a matriarch might not be too fanciful an interpretation for the end of the occupation here.

### *Phase 5: Saxon*

Undated but later than the final Late Iron Age phase, are what appear to be two roughly parallel, but converging as they head southwards, ditches (2009 and 2015) that may represent a droveway for stock management in order to funnel animals into a larger area. One sherd of Saxon pottery was recovered from ditch 2015 and while it is by no means clear that this provides a reliable date (the ditch also contained one LIA sherd), the stratigraphy does not contradict the possibility that it is Saxon (or later).

### *Phase 6: Medieval*

A second probable trackway was noted on the western side of the site and slightly more securely dated to the 13th-14th centuries. There was little in the way of pottery finds from the linear features comprising the trackway, although nothing earlier or later was recovered and as such it is likely that this came from the medieval period.

## **References**

- Allen, T, 1995, *Lithics and Landscape: archaeological discoveries on the Thames Water pipeline at Gatehampton Farm, Goring, Oxfordshire 1985-92*, Oxford
- Atkinson, M and Preston, S, 2015, *Heybridge: A Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement: excavations at Elms Farm, 1993-5, volume 1*, E Anglian Archaeol **154**, Chelmsford
- Avery, M, 1982a, 'The Neolithic causewayed enclosure, Abingdon', in H Case and A Whittle (eds), *Settlement patterns in the Oxford region; excavations at the Abingdon causewayed enclosure and other sites*, Oxford and London, CBA Res Rep **44**, 10-50
- Avery, M, 1982b, 'Pottery', in H Case and A Whittle (eds), *Settlement patterns in the Oxford region; excavations at the Abingdon causewayed enclosure and other sites*, Oxford and London, CBA Res Rep **44**, 10-35
- Bayliss, A, Healy, F, Whittle, A and Cooney, G, 2011, 'Neolithic narratives: British and Irish enclosures in their timescapes', in A Whittle, F Healy and A Bayliss *Gathering Time: Dating the Early Neolithic Enclosures of Southern Britain and Ireland*, vol 2, Oxford, 682-847
- Beaverstock, K, 2015, 'Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire: an archaeological evaluation', TVAS unpubl rep **15/210c**, Reading
- Beaverstock, K and Constable, R, 2015, 'Land at Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire, Geophysical Survey (magnetic)', TVAS unpubl rep **15/210b**, Reading
- Best, J, Feider, M and Pitt, J, 2016, 'Introducing Chickens: arrival, uptake and use in prehistoric Britain', *PAST*, **84**, 1-3

- BGS, 1980, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 254, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Biddulph, E, Compton, J and Martin, T S, 2015, 'The Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery', in M Atkinson and S J Preston, *Heybridge: A Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement, Excavations at Elms Farm 1993-5*, *Internet Archaeology* **40**; <http://dx.doi.org/10.11141/ia.40.1.biddulph1>
- Booth, P, Dodd, A, Robinson, M and Smith, A, 2007, *The Thames Through Time: The Archaeology of the Gravel Terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames: The early historical period AD1-1000*, Oxford Archaeology Thames Valley Landscapes Monogr **27**, Oxford
- Brickley, M and McKinley, J (eds), 2004, *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*, IFA Paper 7, Reading
- Brodribb, G, 1987, *Roman Brick and Tile*, Gloucester
- Buikstra, J E and Ubelaker, D H, 1994, *Standards for data collection from human skeletal remains*, Arkansas Archaeological Survey Research Series, **44**, Fayetteville, Ark.
- Coddington, H and Oram, R, 2012, 'Archaeological Work in Oxfordshire 2011', *Oxoniensia*, **77**, 292–6
- Compton, J, 2015, 'The Late Iron Age Gaulish Imports', in M Atkinson and S J Preston, *Heybridge: A Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement, Excavations at Elms Farm 1993-5*, *Internet Archaeology* **40**; <http://dx.doi.org/10.11141/ia.40.1.compton1>
- Cromarty, A M, Foreman, S and Murray, P, 2000, 'The excavation of a Late Iron Age enclosed settlement at Bicester Fields Farm, Bicester, Oxon', *Oxoniensia*, **64** (for 1999), 153–233
- Crummy, N, 2015, 'The Brooches', in M Atkinson and S J Preston, 'Heybridge: A Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement, Excavations at Elms Farm 1993-5', *Internet Archaeology* **40**; <http://dx.doi.org/10.11141/ia.40.1.crummy5>
- De Roche, C D, 1978, 'The Iron Age Pottery', in M Parrington, *The Excavation of an Iron Age settlement, Bronze Age ring ditches and Roman features at Ashville Trading Estate, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, 1974–1976* Oxford Archaeol Unit Rep 1/CBA Res Rep **28**, 40–74, London
- Deru, X, 1996, *La Ceramique Belge dans le Nord de la Gaule*, Louvaine-la-Neuve
- Driesch, A von den, 1976, *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*. Cambridge, Mass
- Edwards, E, Peters, M and Barclay, A, 2005, 'Prehistoric Pottery', in J Timby, D Stansbie, A Norton and K Walsh, 'Excavations along the Newbury Reinforcement Pipeline: Iron Age-Roman activity and a Neolithic pit group', *Oxoniensia*, **70**, 234–41
- Frere, S S, 1963, 'Excavations at Dorchester on Thames, 1962', *Archaeol J* **119**, 114–49
- Fulford, M, 1992, 'Iron Age to Roman: a period of radical change on the gravels', in M Fulford and E Nicols (eds), *Developing landscapes of lowland Britain: the archaeology of the British gravels: a review*, Soc Antiq London Occas Pap **14**, London, 23–38
- Fulford, M, 2014, 'The Roman Period: Resource Assessment', in G Hey and J Hind, *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*, Oxford Wessex Monogr **6**, Oxford, 155–78
- Garrow, D, Lucy, S and Gibson, D, 2006, *Excavations at Kilverston, Norfolk, an episodic landscape history*, *E Anglian Archaeol* **113**, Gressenhall
- Grant, A, 1975, 'The Animal Bones' in B W Cunliffe, *Excavations at Portchester Castle. Vol 1: Roman*, Rep Res Comm Soc Antiq London **32**, London, 378–408
- Grant, A, 1982, 'The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates', in B Wilson, C Grigson and S Payne (eds), *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, BAR Brit Ser **109**, Oxford 91–108
- Hambleton, E, 1999, *Animal Husbandry Regimes in Iron Age Britain*, BAR Brit Ser **282**, Oxford
- Hamilton, J, 2000, 'Animal bones', in B Cunliffe and C Poole, *Houghton Down, Stockbridge, Hants, 1994: The Danebury Environs Programme: The Prehistory of a Wessex Landscape*, vol. 2 pt. 6, Oxford Univ Comm Archaeol Monogr **49**, Oxford, 139
- Hart, J, 2016, 'Farmoor to Blunsdon water main: excavations along the pipeline route 2001-4', *Oxoniensia*, **81**, 99–153
- Hawkes, C F C and Hull, M R, 1947, *Camulodunum. First Report on the Excavations at Colchester 1930-1939*, Rep Res Comm Soc Antiq London **14**, London
- Henig, M and Booth, P, 2000, *Roman Oxfordshire*, Stroud
- Hey, G and Barclay, A, 2011, 'Chapter 12 - Inscripting the landscape: Neolithic funerary and ceremonial monuments', in A Morigi, D Schreve, M White, G Hey, P Garwood, M Robinson, A Barclay and P Bradley, *The Thames through Time: the Archaeology of the Gravel Terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames Early Prehistory; to 1500BC*, Oxford Archaeol Thames Valley Landscapes Monogr **32**, Oxford, 261–310
- Hey, G and Robinson, M, 2011, 'Chapter 13 – Domesticating the landscape: settlement and agriculture in the early Bronze Age', in A Morigi, D Schreve, M White, G Hey, P Garwood, M Robinson, A Barclay and P

- Bradley, *The Thames through Time: the Archaeology of the Gravel Terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames Early Prehistory; to 1500BC*, Oxford Archaeol Thames Valley Landscapes Monogr **32**, Oxford, 311–30
- Johnstone, C and Albarella, U, 2015, 'The Late Iron Age and Romano-British mammal and bird bone assemblage from Elms Farm, Heybridge, Essex', in M Atkinson and S J Preston (eds) *Heybridge: A Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement, Excavations at Elms Farm 1993-5*, *Internet Archaeology* **40**: <http://dx.doi.org/10.11141/ia.40.1.albarella>
- King, A, 2005, 'Animal remains from temples in Roman Britain' *Britannia*, **36**, 329–269
- Lauwerier, R, 1988, *Animals in Roman Times in the Dutch Eastern River Area*, ROB Nederlandse Oudheden **12**, Amersfoort
- Lambrick, G, 2014, 'The Later Bronze Age and Iron Age Resource Assessment', in G Hey and J Hind, *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*, Oxford Wessex Monogr **6**, Oxford, 115–47
- Lambrick, G, and Robinson, M with Allen, T, 2009, *The Thames Through Time: The Archaeology of the Gravel Terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames: The Thames Valley in Later Prehistory: 1500BC-AD50*, Oxford Archaeology Thames Valley Landscapes Monogr **29**, Oxford
- Langsjoen, O, 1998, 'Diseases of the dentition', in A C Aufderheide and C Rodriguez-Martin, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Human Paleopathology*, Cambridge, 393–412
- Legge, A J and Dorrington, E J, 1985, 'The animal bones', in N E France and B M Gobel (eds), *The Romano-British Temple at Harlow, Essex*, West Essex Archaeol Grp, Harlow, 122–33
- Leins, I M R, 2012, 'Numismatic data reconsidered: coin distributions and interpretation in studies of late Iron Age Britain', unpubl PhD thesis, Univ Newcastle
- Lovejoy, C O, Meindl, R S, Pryzbeck, T R and Mensforth, R P, 1985, 'Chronological metamorphosis of the auricular surface of the ilium: A new method for the determination of adult skeletal age at death', *American J Physical Anthropol* **68**, 15–28
- Lyman, L, 1994, *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge
- Lyne, M and Dannell, G, 2005, 'The pottery from the fills of the early ditch at Fishbourne', in J Manley and D Rudkin, 'A Pre-A.D.43 Ditch at Fishbourne Roman Palace, Chichester', *Britannia*, **36**, 64-75
- Mackreth, D, 2011, *Brooches in Late Iron Age and Roman Britain*, Stroud
- McKinley, J I, 1993, 'Bone fragment size and weights of bone from modern British cremations and its implications for the interpretation of archaeological cremations', *Internat J Osteoarchaeology* **3**, 283–7
- Mercer, R and Healy, F, 2008, *Hambledon Hill, Dorset, England: Excavation and Survey of a Neolithic Monument Complex and its Surrounding Landscape, volumes 1 & 2*, London
- Morris, J, 2011, *Investigating Animal Burials: Ritual, Mundane and Beyond*, BAR Brit Ser **535**, Oxford
- Morrison, W A, 2009, *A Synthesis of Antiquarian Observation and Archaeological Excavation at Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire*, BAR Brit Ser **491**, Oxford
- O'Connor, T, 2003, *The Analysis of Urban Animal Bone Assemblages: A Handbook for Archaeologists*, The Archaeology of York **19/2**, CBA, York.
- Orton, C J, 1975 'Quantitative pottery studies. Some progress, problems and prospects', *Science and Archaeology*, **16**, 30–5
- Parrington, M, 1978, *The excavation of an Iron Age settlement, Bronze Age ring ditches and Roman features at Ashville Trading Estate, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, 1974–76*, CBA Res Rep **28**, London
- Partridge, C, 1981, *Skeleton Green: a late Iron Age and Romano-British site*, Britannia Monogr **2**, London
- Payne, S, 1973, 'Kill-off patterns in sheep and goats, the mandibles from Asvan Kale', *Anatolian Studies*, **23**, 281–303
- PCRG, 2010, *The Study of Prehistoric Pottery: General policies and guidelines for analysis and publication*, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Occas Pap 1 & 2, 3rd edition
- Peacock, D P S, 1987, 'Iron Age and Roman quern production at Lodsworth, West Sussex', *Antiq J* **67**, 61–85
- Peacock, D P S and Williams, D F, 1991, *Amphorae and the Roman economy*, London
- Pine, J and Ford, S, 2004, 'Excavation of Neolithic, late Bronze Age, early Iron Age and early Saxon features at St Helen's Avenue, Benson, Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia*, **68**, (for 2003), 132-78
- Preston, S, 2008, 'Land off Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment', TVAS Unpubl rep **08/31**, Reading
- Preston, S, 2015, 'Land at Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment', TVAS unpubl rep **15/210**, Reading
- Rigby, V, 1981, 'The Gallo-Belgic wares', in C Partridge, *Skeleton Green: a late Iron Age and Romano-British site*, Britannia Monogr **2**, London, 159–95
- Schweingruber, F H, 1978 *Microscopic wood anatomy*, Birmensdorf

- Serjeantson, D, 1996, 'The animal bones'; in (eds) S Needham and T Spence, *Refuse and disposal at area 16 East Runnymede*, Runnymede Bridge Research Excavations **2**, London, 194–223
- Shaffrey, R and Roe, F, 2011, 'The Widening use of Lodsworth Stone: Neolithic to Romano-British Quern Distribution', in D F Williams and D P S Peacock (eds), *Bread for the People: the archaeology of mills and milling*, BAR Int Ser **2274**, Oxford, 309–24
- Simmonds, A, 2014, *The Archaeology of Banbury Flood Alleviation Scheme, Oxfordshire: Neolithic and Roman occupation in the Cherwell Valley*, Oxford Archaeol Monogr **21**, Oxford
- Smith, I, 2008, 'The pottery from the hilltop excavations of 1974–82', in R Mercer and F Healy, *Hambledon Hill, Dorset, England: Excavation and Survey of a Neolithic Monument Complex and its Surrounding Landscape, volume 1*, London, 587–621
- Stace, C, 1997, *New flora of the British Isles*, Cambridge
- Stead, I M and Rigby, V, 1989, *Verulamium: The King Harry Lane Site*, Engl Heritage Archaeol Rep **12**, London
- Stevenson, J, 2013, *Living by the Sword: The archaeology of Brisley Farm, Ashford, Kent*, Spoilheap Publications Monogr **6**, Portslade
- Sykes, N, 2012, 'A social perspective on the introduction of exotic animals: the case of the chicken', *World Archaeol* **44(1)** 158–69
- Thomas, J, 1999, *Rethinking the Neolithic*, 2nd edn, Cambridge
- Thompson, I, 1982, *Grog-tempered 'Belgic' Pottery of South-eastern England*, BAR Brit Ser **108**, Oxford
- Timby, J R, 2000, 'The pottery', in M Fulford and J Timby, *Late Iron Age and Roman Silchester: Excavations on the site of the Forum-Basilica 1977, 1980–86*, Britannia Monogr **15**, London, 180–312
- Timby, J, 2004, 'The Pottery', in J Pine and S Ford, 'Excavation of Neolithic, Late Bronze Age, Early Iron Age and Early Saxon Features at St. Helen's Avenue, Benson, Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia*, **68**, 144–57
- Timby, J, Stansbie, D, Norton, A and Walsh, K, 2005, 'Excavations along the Newbury Reinforcement Pipeline: Iron Age-Roman activity and a Neolithic pit group', *Oxoniensia*, **70**, 203–307
- Tomber, R and Dore, J, 1998, *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: a handbook*, MoLAS Monogr 2/ Engl Heritage/ Brit Mus, London
- van Beek, G C, 2002, *Dental Morphology: An Illustrated Guide*, (2nd edn), Bristol
- Weale, A, 2010, 'Land at Littleworth Road, Benson, Oxfordshire, an archaeological evaluation', TVAS unpubl rep **08/31b**, Reading
- Welch, C M, 2015, 'The Destruction of the Dyke Hills, Dorchester-on-Thames', *Oxoniensia*, **79** (for 2014), 77–95
- Whittle, A, Healy, F and Bayliss, A, 2011, *Gathering Time: Dating the Early Neolithic Enclosures of Southern Britain and Ireland*, volumes 1 and 2, Oxford
- Young, C J, 1977, *Oxfordshire Roman Pottery*, BAR Brit Ser **43**, Oxford
- Zeder, M and Lapham, H, 2010, 'Assessing the reliability of criteria used to identify post-cranial bones in sheep, *Ovis*, and goats, *Capra*', *J Archaeol Sci* **37**, 2887–905
- Zeder, M A and Pilaar, S, 2010, 'Assessing the reliability of criteria used to identify mandibles and mandibular teeth in sheep, *Ovis* and goats, *Capra*', *J Archaeol Sci* **37**, 225–42

## APPENDIX 1: Feature details

### A> Evaluation - features located in subsequent excavation area

Group	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Phase	Dating evidence
2015	17	84	Ditch		
	18	85	Gully Terminus		
	19	86	Gully		=846
2032	20	87	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2029	27	82	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
	29	89	Pit	Neolithic or Bronze Age	Pottery
2020	31	91	Gully	Medieval	
2015	34	94	Ditch		
2003	36	96	Ditch	Medieval	
	38	98	Pit	Middle Iron Age	Pottery
	39	99	Pit		
2009	49	162	Ditch		
2028	102	152	Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	Pottery
2015	106	165	Ditch		Pottery Roman
2011	108	170	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
2010	109	171	Gully	Late Iron Age 4	
2001	110	166	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
2003	115	185	Ditch	Medieval	
2000	116	177-9	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	Pottery
	117	180	Furrow (?)	Not earlier than Roman	Stratigraphy
2007	120	183	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2006	122	196-9	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2006	123	186, 187	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2000	133	254, 255	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	
2000	134	256, 257	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	
2014	135	265	Ditch	Middle to Late Bronze Age	Pottery = 637
2015	136	263, 264	Ditch		=638
2015	213		Ditch		
2025	215		Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
2029	228		Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
2028	229		Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	
2000	232		Gully	Late Iron Age 1	=636
2006	233		Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	

### B> Excavation

*Phasing based on stratigraphy/association unless stated*

Group	Cut	Fill(s)	Type	Phase	Dating evidence
	500	550	Pit/Treebole	Late Iron Age 1-2	Pottery
	501	551	Pit/Treebole		
2001	502	552	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
	503	553	Posthole		
	504	554	Pit		
2001	505	555	Posthole	Late Iron Age 3	
2001	506	556	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
	507	557	Pit		
2001	508	558	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
	509	559	Posthole		
	510	560	Posthole		
2001	511	561	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
	512	562	Pit	Middle Bronze Age	Pottery
2000	513	563-73	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	Pottery
2000	514	574-8	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	Pottery
2000	515	579-83	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	Pottery
2002	516	584	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery
2003	517	585	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery
2000	518	587-92	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	
2005	519	586	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
2006	520	593	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
2005	521	594	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
	522	595	Treebole		
	523	596	Treebole		
	524	597	Treebole		
	525	598	Pit	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2006	526	599, 650	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2007	527	651-2	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
2003	528	653-5	Ditch	Medieval	
2002	529	656	Gully	Medieval	
	530	657-9	Pit	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery

<i>Group</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
	531	660	Gully		
2006	532	661–2	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
	533	663	Gully		
2004	534	664	Ditch	Medieval	
2000	535	665–9	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	Pottery
2006	536	670–1	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2003	537	672	Gully	Medieval	
	538	673	Gully		
2004	539	674–5	Gully	Medieval	
2008	540	676	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2006	541	677–8	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
2008	542	679	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2006	543	680–1	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2021	544	682	Posthole	Late Iron Age 2	
2021	545	683	Posthole	Late Iron Age 2	
2021	546	684–6	Posthole	Late Iron Age 2	
2021	547	687–8	Posthole	Late Iron Age 2	(Pottery Early Iron Age)
2006	548	689–90	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2020	549	693–9, 750	Ditch	Medieval	
2003	600	691–2	Ditch	Medieval	
	601	751, 752	Gully		
2004	602	753–4	Gully	Medieval	
2003	603	755–6	Gully	Medieval	
	604	770–2	Pit	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2020	605	760–3	Ditch	Medieval	(Pottery Middle Iron Age)
2009	606	757	Ditch		
	607	758	Pit	Late Iron Age 3	
	608	759	Posthole	Late Iron Age 3	
2020	609	764–8	Ditch	Medieval	(Pottery Roman?)
2006	610	773	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
2009	611	774	Ditch		
2006	612	775–6	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2012	613	777	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
2006	614	778	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
	615	779	Pit	Late Iron Age 2	
	616	780	Pit	Late Iron Age 2	
2009	617	781	Ditch		
2006	618	782–3	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2007	619	784	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
2006	620	785–6	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2009	621	787, 788	Ditch		
2014	622	789	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
2000	623	790–3	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	Pottery
2000	624	855–9	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	
2000	625	794–8	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	
2009	626	799	Gully		
2011	627	850	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
2010	628	851	Ditch	Late Iron Age 4	
2000	629	852–3	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	
2009	630	854	Ditch		
2012	631	860	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
2014	632	861	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
2011	633	862	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
2010	634	863	Gully	Late Iron Age 4	
2015	635	864	Ditch		
2000	636	865	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	
2014	637	866	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
2015	638	867	Ditch		
2012	639	868	Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	
2014	640	869	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2013	641	870	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2012	642	871	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	Pottery
2015	643	872	Ditch		
2017	644	873	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	Pottery
2015	645	874–5, 880	Ditch		
2016	646	876–8	Ditch	Late Iron Age 4	
2015	647	879	Ditch		
2013	648	881	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2000	649	882	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	
	700	883	Pit		
2000	701	884	Ditch	Late Iron Age 1	
	702	885	Pit		
	703	886	Pit		
2017	704	887	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	

<i>Group</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2016	705	888	Gully	Late Iron Age 4	
2015	706	889–92	Ditch		
2016	707	893	Gully	Late Iron Age 4	
2014	708	894	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2016	709	895	Gully	Late Iron Age 4	
2017	710	896	Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	Pottery
2018	711	897	Ditch	Late Iron Age 4	
2017	712	898–9	Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	Pottery
2019	713	950	Ditch	Late Iron Age 4	
2015	714	951	Ditch		
2016	715	952	Gully	Late Iron Age 4	
2019	716	953–4	Ditch	Late Iron Age 4	Pottery
2018	717	955	Gully	Late Iron Age 4	
	718	956	Posthole		
2022	719	957, 959	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2015	720	958	Ditch		
	721	960	Pit	Late Iron Age 3	
	722	961, 962	Pit	Late Iron Age 3	
2022	723	963	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2029	724	964–5	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2028	725	966–7	Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	
	726	968	Pit	Late Iron Age 1	
	727	969	Pit		
	728	970	Pit	Late Iron Age 1	Pottery (MIA–LIA)
2028	729	971	Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	Pottery
2028	730	972–3	Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	Pottery
2029	731	974	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
	732	980	Posthole	Late Iron Age 3	
	733	981, 982	Pit	Middle Bronze Age	Pottery
	734	983, 984	Pit	Late Iron Age 3	
	735	985, 986	Pit	Late Iron Age 1	Pottery
	736	987	Pit	Late Iron Age 3	
	737	988	Pit	Late Iron Age 3	
2028	738	975	Gully	Late Iron Age 3	
2029	739	976	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2006	740	977–9	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2015	741	989	Ditch		Pottery
2006	742	990	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
	743	991	Pit		
2015	744	992	Ditch		
2029	745	993	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2028	746	994	Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	Pottery
2006	747	995	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2015	748	996	Ditch		
	749	1050–2	Pit	Early Iron Age	Pottery
2015	800	1053	Gully		
2015	801	997	Gully		(Pottery LIA 2)
2028	802	998–9	Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	
2009	803	1054	Ditch		
2029	804	1055	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
2028	805	1056	Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	
2006	806	1057	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2009	807	1058–9	Ditch		
2006	808	1060	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2009	809	1061	Ditch		Pottery
2028	810	1062	Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	
	811	1063	Pit		
	812	1064	Pit		
2028	813	1065	Ditch	Late Iron Age 3	Pottery
2006	814	1066	Ditch	Late Iron Age 2	
2023	815	1067	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	Pottery
2020	816	1068–9	Ditch	Medieval	(Pottery Early Iron Age)
2009	817	1070	Gully		
2023	818	1071–2	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2003	819	1073–4	Gully	Medieval	
2023	820	1075–6	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2003	821	1077	Gully	Medieval	
2025	822	1078	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2027	823	1079	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2027	824	1080	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2025	825	1081	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2009	826	1082	Ditch		
	827	1083–5	Pit	Early Neolithic	Pottery
2015	828	1090–1	Ditch		



<i>Group</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2026	829	1088	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
	830	1089, 1096-7	Pit	Early Neolithic	Pottery
2020	831	1092-3	Ditch	Medieval	(Pottery Neolithic, Roman and MIA)
2024	832	1094	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2024	833	1095	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
	834	1098-9, 1150	Pit	Early Neolithic	Pottery
2026	835	1151	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2033	836	1152	Gully	Late Iron Age 2+	
2031	837	1153	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2031	838	1156	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
	839	1154-5	Pit		
2030	840	1157	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2009	841	1158	Ditch		
2033	842	1159	Gully	Late Iron Age 2+	Pottery
2033	843	1160	Gully	Late Iron Age 2+	
2020	844	1161-2	Ditch	Medieval	
2030	845	1163	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
	846	1164	Gully		
2009	847	1165	Ditch		
2032	848	1166	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	
2009	849	1086	Ditch		
2032	900	1087	Gully	Late Iron Age 2	

## APPENDIX 2: Pottery

### A> Fabrics.

#### Early Neolithic: Sand

**SF1** (medium) Moderately hard, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with buff pink to buff yellow surfaces including moderate fine (<1mm), sparse medium (<2mm) and rare to sparse coarse (<4mm) moderately-sorted burnt angular flint.

**SF1a** (medium) Moderately hard, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with buff pink to buff yellow surfaces including moderate fine (<1mm), sparse medium (<2mm) and rare to sparse coarse (<4mm) moderately-sorted burnt angular flint. Traces of possible carbon-based additive to surfaces, typically exterior but interior in some instances.

**SF2** (medium) Moderately soft, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with buff orange surfaces including sparse fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm), moderately-sorted burnt angular flint and sparse medium to coarse clay pellets (<3mm).

**SF3** (coarse) Moderately hard, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with grey surfaces including common moderately-sorted fine (<1mm), sparsely poorly-sorted coarse (<4mm) burnt angular flint and rare to sparse sub-rounded quartz (<1mm).

**SF4** (medium) Moderately soft, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with grey to buff brown surfaces including sparse fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm), and rare coarse (<6mm) burnt angular flint, rare to sparse red or brown iron oxides (<2mm) and sparse fine (<0.5mm) to rare coarse (<4mm) rounded quartz.

**SF5** (medium) Moderately soft, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with grey to buff brown surfaces including sparse fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm), and coarse (<4mm) burnt angular flint, rare to sparse red or brown iron oxides (<2mm) and sparse fine (<0.5mm) to rare coarse (<4mm) rounded quartz.

**SF6** (medium) Moderately hard, slightly micaceous sandy grey fabric with grey surfaces probably incidentally including rare to sparse fine (<1mm), medium (<2mm) and coarse (<4mm) poorly-sorted burnt angular flint.

#### Early Neolithic: Shell

**Sh1** (coarse) Moderately soft, soapy, often vesicular grey fabric with buff brown surfaces including common to abundant medium (<2mm) to coarse (<8mm) shelly limestone or voids of similar size to weathering out of calcareous material..

Table A2.1. Distribution of Neolithic fabrics by feature

Fabric	827		830		831		834		Total		Mean (g)
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	
SF1	5	13.5	8	12	-	-	-	-	13	25.5	2
SF1a	19	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	89	4.7
SF2	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	2
SF3	2	4	22	232	-	-	17	63	41	299	7.3
SF4	-	-	22	48	-	-	3	20	25	68	2.7
SF5	-	-	43	105	11	39	-	-	54	144	2.7
SF6	-	-	15	50	-	-	2	4	17	54	3.2
Sh1	4	5	67	118.5	-	-	3	2	74	126	1.7
Total	33	117.5	177	565.5	11	39	25	89	246	811	3.3

#### *Bronze Age*

BA1. Handmade lumpy black fabric with profuse ill-sorted and protruding <5.00 mm. calcined-flint filler.

#### *Early Iron Age*

EIA1. Handmade lumpy black fabric with profuse ill-sorted and protruding <3.00 mm. calcined-flint filler.

EIA2. Finer version with <1.00 mm. calcined-flint filler.

#### *Middle to Late Iron Age*

MLIA1. Silty black fabric with profuse <1.00 mm. calcined-flint filler

MLIA2. Silty black fabric with sparse <1.00 mm. calcined flint filler.

MLIA3A. Rough carbon-soaked black fabric with profuse <1.00 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand and sparse <1.00 mm. calcined-flint filler.

MLIA3B. Oxidised rough fabric with <0.30 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand, ferrous inclusions and <2.00 mm. calcined flint filler

#### *Late Iron Age*

LIA1A. Coarse grog-tempered fabric with occasional <2.00 mm. calcined-flint inclusions.

LIA1B. Fine grog-tempered fabric with occasional <0.50 mm. calcined-flint inclusions.

- LIA2. Coarse grog-tempered pale grey to off-white fabric with profuse black and white grog filler, fired darker externally.
- LIA3A. Fine carbon-soaked grog-tempered polished fabric.
- LIA3B. Similar but fired grey.
- LIA3C. Similar but deliberately oxidised and polished.
- LIA4. Lumpy handmade orange/grey fabric with coarse grog and chaff filler
- LIA5. Handmade silty black fabric with sparse white rock inclusions.
- LIA6A. Very-fine-grog-tempered fabric with additional multi-coloured quartz-sand filler
- LIA6B. Handmade carbon-soaked grog-tempered fabric with additional <0.50 mm. white and colourless quartz-sand filler.
- LIA6C. Miscellaneous grog and very-fine-sand tempered hard greyware fired rough orange.
- LIA7. Wheel-turned black fabric with profuse <0.50 mm. reddish-brown grog, <1.00 mm. cream grog and <0.30 mm. iron-stained quartz-sand filler.
- LIA8. Wheel-turned rough buff-grey fabric with profuse angular <1.00 mm. white ?limestone and <2.00 mm. red ironstone filler.
- LIA9. Handmade carbon-soaked fabric with profuse <0.30 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler.
- LIA10. Wheel-turned pink-orange fabric fired smooth blue-grey externally with profuse soft <0.50 mm black ferrous inclusions.
- LIA11. Wheel-turned glauconitic pink fabric fired rough grey with additional <0.20 mm. quartz-sand
- LIA12. Very-fine polished pink-brown fabric with profuse <0.30 mm. ferrous and ?granitic inclusions.
- LIA13. Handmade black fabric with profuse 0.50-<2.00 mm calcined-flint filler. Rough smoothed. Silchester ware variant
- LIA14A. Handmade carbon-soaked black with profuse <0.20 mm. white and colourless quartz-sand and 0.50<1.50 mm. calcined-flint filler
- LIA14B. Handmade carbon-soaked black with profuse <0.50 mm. white and colourless quartz-sand filler and sparse <0.50 mm. calcined-flint.

#### *Central Gaulish Fineware Imports*

National Roman Fabric Collection codings (Tomber and Dore 1998) are put in brackets after entries in this and the following three sections, where applicable.

- CG1. Micaceous Central Gaulish Terra Nigra (CNG TN).
- CG2. Micaceous orange fabric with fine granitic inclusions and external white-slip. Central Gaulish fabric B.
- CG3. Wheel-turned micaceous pink fabric fired smooth black externally with profuse <0.50 mm. granitic and metamorphic rock inclusions. Central Gaulish fabric C variant
- CG4. Wheel-turned highly micaceous beige yellow fabric with golden mica, silt and <0.20 mm soft ferrous inclusions. Externally greyed and polished. Central Gaulish fabric C variant.
- CG5. Wheel-turned micaceous pink-brown/black with sparse <0.10 mm. white inclusions.

#### *Gallo-Belgic Finewares*

- GB1. Pink silty fabric with internal red colour-coat. TR1A (GAB TR 1A).
- GB2. Wheel-turned polished orange TR2 fabric. (GAB TR 2).
- GB3. Pale grey cored silty pink fabric with profuse <0.20 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler. TR3 variant. (GAB TR 3)
- GB4A. Pale grey silty fabric fired deep pink with very-fine ferrous inclusions. TR3 variant (GAB TR 3).
- GB4B. Silty buff-yellow fabric with profuse <0.10 mm. multi-coloured and iron-stained quartz-sand filler. TR3 variant. (GAB TR 3).
- GB5. Gallo-Belgic Whiteware. Sand-free white with external patchy blackening. Rigby fabric WW1.
- GB6. Gallo-Belgic Terra Nigra (GAB TN1)

#### *Other Roman finewares*

- F1. Italian Arretine ware from Arezzo
- F2. South Gaulish Samian (LGF SA).
- F3. Verulamium Region Whiteware (VER WH).

#### *Amphorae*

- A1. Micaceous orange amphora fabric with profuse <1.00 mm. feldspathic inclusions and occasional volcanic glass and granitic inclusions. Catalan Fabric 1 (Peacock and Williams 1991, 94). (BAT AM 1)

#### *Early Saxon*

ES1. Handmade carbon-soaked fabric with silt<0.20 mm. quartz-sand filler, browned externally. ?Early Saxon

*Medieval*

M1. Grey fabric with profuse shell and <1.00 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand filler

M2. Grey fabric with profuse white and colourless quartz-sand filler fired black externally

M3. Green-glazed whiteware.

**B> Catalogue**

*From Excavated Contexts (in group number order)*

Dates AD unless stated

Group	Cut	Deposit	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No. sherds	Wt (g)	Comments
2000	513	563	MLIA1 MLIA2		300-1 BC 300-1 BC	1 1	2 2	Abraded fresh
2000	513	569	MLIA3B		Residual	1	5	Abraded
2000	513	571	MLIA 3B	Storage-jar	Residual	3	20	Abraded
2000	514	577	GB4A	P23.2 beaker	25 BC-AD 20	1	24	Fresh
2000	514	578	EIA.1	Situlate jar	600-200 BC but residual	1	5	Abraded
2000	515	581	F2 F3	Dish Flagon	43-70 50-150	1 6	4 26	Flake fresh
2000	535	665	MLIA1 LIA1A	Closed storage-jar	25 BC-AD 50	1 4	5 14	Fresh fresh
2000	535	666	LIA6	Jar	1-60	2	23	Sl abraded
2000	623	792	BA1	Urn	Residual	2	10	Abraded
2002	516	584	LIAX M1	Closed sagging base	1000-1250	2 1	20 36	Fresh fresh
2003	517	585	M2 M3	Sagging base Jug	1250-1350	1 1	4 15	Fresh fresh
2006	526	599	LIA13 LIA1A LIA1B LIAX GB2	Bead rim jar ev rim store-jar ev rim jar D1-1 bowlx3 necked jar beaker	25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 70 25 BC-AD 70 25 BC-AD 50 1-30	1 67 31 5 5	33 3590 504 51 61	Fresh fresh fresh sl abraded fresh
2006	532	662	LIA3A	Necked jar/bowl	25 BC-AD 50	4	12	Fresh
2006	536	670	LIA2 LIA3A	Closed closed	0-100 25 BC-AD 50	2 1	18 5	Fresh and abr fresh
2006	536	671	GB4B	1A1 Butt-beaker	15 BC-AD 10	1	10	Fresh
2006	543	680	MLIA3A LIA14B LIA1B LIA2 LIA3A LIA3B LIA10 LIA11 LIAX GB1 GB2 GB4B	Ev rim jar HM jars polished jar necked jars necked jar neck-cordoned jar    Open form CAM54 cup 1A1 Butt-beaker	  25 BC-AD 50 1-100 25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 50 43+   15 BC-AD 25 15 BC-AD 25 15 BC-AD 10	1 13 2 42 9 2 1 3 8 1 4 1	11 49 22 1197 18 21 5 12 203 6 22 25	Fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh
2006	548	690	LIA2 LIA3A CG5 GB3 MISC	Storage jars closed form closed form CAM 112A beaker	1-100 25 BC-AD 50 15 BC-AD 30 15 BC-AD 65	5 1 1 1 2	343 7 10 11 3	Fresh fresh fresh fresh abraded
2006	612	776	LIA3A Tile	Necked jar	25 BC-AD 50 Roman	1 1	6 49	Fresh sl abraded
2006	614	778	LIA1A	Storage jar	25 BC-AD 50	2	36	Fresh
2006	618	782	LIA2	Storage-jarx2	25 BC-AD 70			Fresh

Group	Cut	Deposit	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No. sherds	Wt (g)	Comments
			GB4A	C5-1 jar 1A1 Butt beaker	30-50 15 BC-AD 10	7 26	417 52	fresh fresh 1 beaker
2006	620	786	LIA1A LIA3A LIA9 CG1 CG3	HM Storage jar G5-4 butt-beaker closed CAM 1 platter CAM 262 jar	25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 50  15 BC-AD 25 15 BC-AD 25	3 16 6 2 3	161 74 61 49 23	Fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh
2006	740	977	LIA13 LIA1A LIA3A  LIAAX CG1 GB3	HM jar HM and WT jars necked jar L1 lid  Platter closed	25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 70 25 BC-AD 50 20 BC-AD 50  15 BC-AD 25 15 BC-AD 65	5 10  5 1 1 1	182 409  226 14 23 25	Fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh
2006	740	978	LIA1A LIA2 LIA3A GB3	Storage jars C5-1 jar necked jar CAM 112a beaker	25 BC-AD 50 30-50 25 BC-AD 50 15 BC-AD 65	11 2 7 2	476 170 175 43	Fresh fresh fresh sl abraded.latticed
2006	740	979	LIA3A BL  LIA3A OX	Necked jar E1-2 cup	25 BC-AD 43	4 3	238 71	Fresh fresh fresh and abr
2006	742	990	LIA13 LIA1A LIA3B LIA3A Fired clay	Ev rim jar storage jar jar jar	25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 50	19 29 1 1 1	193 683 10 6 3	Fresh fresh abraded fresh
2006	747	995	LIA14A LIA2 LIA3A BL LIA3A OX A1	Bead-rim jar storage jar closed closed DR2.4 amphora	25 BC-AD 50 1-100 25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 50 50 BC-AD 150	4 1 5 1 1	156 83 41 20 98	Fresh sl abraded fresh fresh
2006	806	1057	MLIA2A LIA2 LIA3A LIA4 GB3 Fired clay	Jars closed form base storage jar CAM 112A beaker	1-100 25 BC-AD 50 15 BC-AD 65	5 7 1 6 3 3	18 413 25 117 17 2	Fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh
2006	808	1060	LIA3A	Necked jar	25 BC-AD 50	1	17	
2008	540	676	LIA3A	Closed	25 BC-AD 50	1	4	Fresh
2009	809	1061	LIA6C	Storage jar	43-150	3	217	Fresh
2012	642	871	LIAX	Closed	25 BC-AD 70	1	1	Fresh
2015	741	989	ES1	Closed	450-650	1	8	Fresh
2015	801	997	LIA6A	Closed	1-50	1	3	Fresh
2017	644	873	LIA1A	Jar	25 BC-AD 50	1	21	Fresh
2017	710	896	LIA13 LIA1A LIA2 LIA3A LIA11 LIA5 CG2 Brick	Bead-rim jar jar necked bowl B3-7 jar jar base bead-rim jar flagon Belgic grogged	25 BC-AD50 25 BC-AD50 1-50 20 BC-AD50  15 BC-AD 25	15 4 1 26 6 1 4 2	172 113 4 405 53 19 1 235	Fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh
2017	712	899	LIA8	B1-6 jar	1-50	2	33	Fresh joining
2018	711	897	LIAX		25 BC-AD 50	5	20	
2019	716	953	BA1	Urn	2000-1000 BC	1	115	
2020	609	764	GB2? Tile		1-65 ?Roman	1 1	2 3	Sl abraded abraded
2020	831	1092	LIA9	Jar	43+	1	17	Sl abraded
2020	831	1093	MLIA2			11	39	Fresh

Group	Cut	Deposit	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No. sherds	Wt (g)	Comments
2022	719	957	LIA1B	Jar	25 BC-AD 50	1	20	
2023	815	1067	LIA6B	Storage-jar	25 BC-AD 50	4	45	
2028	729	971	LIA1A LIA2	Jar closed	25 BC-AD 50	2 3	44 30	Fresh fresh
2028	730	972	LIA2 LIA3 LIA6A MISC Fired clay	Neck-cordoned jar HM jar	1-AD 50 25 BC-AD 50 1-AD 50	4 3 3 1 2	31 9 30 1 2	Fresh fresh fresh abraded
2028	746	994	MLIA2B LIA2	Jar storage jar	43-100	1 1	6 20	Fresh sl abraded
2028	813	1065	EIA1 LIA14 LIA2 BL LIA2 OX LIA3 OX LIA6B LIA10 CG4 F1	Jar ev rim jar storage-jar ev rim jar B5-1 bead-rim jar necked jar jar thin walled WT closed form cup stamped ATE	1000-600 BC 25 BC-AD 50 1-100 25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 50 15 BC-AD 25 5 BC-AD 9	1 12 16 2 13 17 2 1 3	9 190 612 46 76 309 60 15 13	Very abraded fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh
2033	842	1159	LIA1A	Closed	25 BC-AD 50	1	9	Fresh
	501	551	LIA13		25 BC-AD 50	4	16	
	512	562	BA1	Barrel urn	1700-1150 BC	6	52	Fresh
	525	598	LIA1B LIA3A  LIA6 LIA7 CG2 GB3 CG1  GB6	B5-1 barrel jar F3-2 cup B5-3 barrel jar B1-3 jar flagon truncated lagena CAM112A beaker CAM1 platter  CAM54 cup	25 BC-AD 50 25-1 BC 25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 50 15 BC-AD 25 15 BC-AD 65 10 BC-AD 25 15 BC-AD 25	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	595 159 512 272 549 1628 296 1190 75	1 pot. 1 pot <3> 1 pot <7> 1 pot <4> holed 1 pot <9> 1 pot <5> 1 pot <6> 1 pot mould makers signature 1 cup.<2> stamped SELI
	530	657	LIA2 LIA3A	Storage jar necked jar	1-100 25 BC-AD 50	12 2	459 10	Fresh fresh
	530	658	LIA1A	Jars	25 BC-AD 50	7	192	Fresh
	530	659	LIA1A	Jar with light furrowing	25 BC-AD 50	8	56	Fresh
	604	770	LIA1A LIA3A  LIA3C LIA6B LIA6C GB3 GB5 GBX  MISC Fired clay	Storage jar base B1-2 jar G5-1 barrel beaker D1-1 bowlx2 E1-3 cupsx2 B1-2 jar closed closed CAM 112a beaker ?flagon elaborately rouletted sherd	25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 50 1-50 15 BC-AD 50 1-50 25 BC-AD 50 1-50 1-50 15 BC-AD 65 15 BC-AD 60	22 38 12 1 14 34 1 1 15	1086 589 113 19 140 57 7 6 30 11	Fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh fresh sl abraded abraded
	604	772	LIA1A	Storage jar	25 BC-AD 50	2	44	
	728	970	MLIA1		301-1 BC	5	4	Crumbs
	733	981	?BAX	?urn	Residual	1	3	Very abraded
	735	985	LIA1A?		Residual	17	6	Small lumps
	749	1050	EIA1		Residual	5	10	Abraded

*From Environmental samples*

Group	Cut	Deposit	Sample	Fabric	Form	Date range	No. sherds	Wt (g)	Comments
2006	620	786	52	EIA1		Residual	1	1	Abraded flake
2020	605	761	45	MLIA2			1	2	Fresh chip
2020	816	1069	70	EIA1	Closed	1000-300 BC	1	15	Sl. abraded
2021	547	687	43	EIA2		Residual	1	2	Abraded
2028	730	972	64	LIA1A	Closed jar	25 BC-AD 50 AD 1-100	1	2	Fresh fresh
				LIA2			2	22	
	525	598	35	CG2	Lagena	15 BC-AD 25	26	16	
	604	770	47	MLIA1	Closed necked bowl	25 BC-AD 50 25 BC-AD 50	1	2	Fresh fresh fresh
				LIA3A			8	44	
				LIA3C			8	17	

**APPENDIX 2C** Iron Age and Roman pottery summary by fabric and form (by estimated vessel equivalent: EVE). P = present, no rims

Fabric	Jars	Bowls	Dishes	Beakers	Storage jars	Others	Total	%
MLIA1	P	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
MLIA2	P	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
MLIA3A	0.07	-	-	-	-	-	0.07	0.8
LIA1A	0.20	-	-	-	0.84	-	1.04	12.6
LIA1B	0.27	-	-	-	-	-	0.27	3.3
LIA2	0.34	-	-	-	0.17	-	0.51	6.2
LIA3A	2.26	-	0.16	0.30	-	Cup 0.43	3.15	38.2
LIA3B	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	0.08	1.0
LIA3C	0.42	-	-	-	-	-	0.42	5.1
LIA4	-	-	-	-	P	-	P	-
LIA6A	P	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
LIA6B	0.12	-	-	-	-	-	0.12	1.5
LIA6C	-	-	-	-	0.15	-	0.15	1.8
LIA8	0.16	-	-	-	-	-	0.16	1.9
LIA9	P	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
LIA10	P	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
LIA11	P	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
LIA13	0.35	-	-	-	-	-	0.35	4.2
LIA14A	0.31	-	-	-	-	-	0.31	3.8
LIA14B	P	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
LIA14X	0.03	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.4
Total coarse	4.61 (69.2%)		0.16 (2.4%)	0.30 (4.5%)	1.16 (17.4%)	0.43 (6.5%)	6.66	80.8
CG1	-	-	0.10	-	-	-	0.10	1.2
CG2	-	-	-	-	-	Flagon P	P	-
CG3	P	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
CG4	P	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
CG5	-	-	-	-	-	p	P	-
GB1	-	-	P	-	-	-	P	-
GB2	-	-	-	0.39	-	-	0.39	4.7
GB3	-	-	-	0.42	-	-	0.42	5.1
GB4A	-	-	-	0.34	-	-	0.34	4.1
GB4B	-	-	-	0.34	-	-	0.34	4.1
GB5	-	-	-	-	-	Flagon p	P	-
GB6	-	-	P	-	-	-	P	-
GBX	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	-
F1	-	-	-	-	-	Cup P	P	-
A1	-	-	-	-	-	Dr2.4P	P	-
	4.61 (55.8%)		0.26 (3.2%)	1.79 (21.7%)	1.16 (14.1%)	0.43 (5.2%)	8.25	100.0

**APPENDIX 2D.** Pottery from enclosure ditches 2006 and 2028: summary by fabric and form (by estimated vessel equivalent: EVE). P = present, no rims

Fabric	Jars	Bowls	Dishes	Beakers	Storage-jars	Others	Total	%
MLIA1	P						P	
MLIA2	P						P	

MLIA3A	0.07						0.07	1.3
LIAIA	0.20				0.84		1.04	19.5
LIA1B	P						P	
LIA2	0.34				0.17		0.51	9.6
LIA3A	0.93		0.16	0.08	Cup	0.16	1.33	25.0
LIA3B	0.08						0.08	1.5
LIA3C	0.29						0.29	5.4
LIA4					P		P	
LIA6A	P						P	
LIA6B	0.12						0.12	2.3
LIA9	P						P	
LIA10	P						P	
LIA11	P						P	
LIA13	0.19						0.19	3.6
LIA14A	0.25						0.25	4.7
LIA14B	P						P	
LIA14X	0.13						0.13	2.4
Totallocal	2.60 (64.8%)		0.16 (4.0%)	0.08 (2.0%)	1.01 (25.2)	0.16 (4.0%)	4.01	75.3
CG1			0.10				0.10	1.9
CG3	P				Flagon	P	P	
CG4							P	
CG5	P						P	
GB1(TN)			P				P	
GB2(TR2)				0.39			0.39	7.3
GB3(TR3)				0.32			0.32	6.0
GB4A				0.17			0.17	3.2
GB4B				0.34			0.34	6.3
F1					Cup	P	P	
A1					Amphora	P	P	
	P	-	0.10 (7.6%)	1.22 (92.4%)	-	P	1.32	
	2.60 (48.8%)		0.26 (4.9%)	1.30 (24.4%)	1.01 (18.9%)	0.16 (3.0%)	5.33	100.0



### APPENDIX 3: Animal Bone

Table A3.1: Condition and taphonomic factors affecting the hand-collected assemblage identified to taxa and/ or element. Teeth included where stated

Condition	Neolithic	MBA-EIA	M-LIA	LIA	Roman	Early Saxon
Fresh	-	-	-	-	-	-
Very good	-	-	1	27	2	2
Good	-	-	-	144	6	2
Fair	-	2	1	75	8	3
Poor	1	-	-	12	3	-
Very poor	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>
Refit	1=4	2=6	-	50=224	1=4	5=22
Fresh break	100%	50%	50%	30%	21%	86%
Gnawed	-	-	50%	14%	5%	29%
Loose mandibular teeth*	-	-	11	-	-	-
Teeth in mandibles*	-	1	-	122	-	-
Butchery	-	50%	50%	9%	-	-
Burning	-	-	-	1%	-	-

\*deciduous and permanent 4th premolar and molars

Table A3.2: Species representation (NISP) of hand collected assemblage. H= hand collected; S= samples

Taxa	Neolithic	MBA-EIA	M-LIA	LIA		LIA crem		Roman	Early Saxon
	H	H	H	H	S	H	S	H	H
Cattle	2	2	-	120*	-	-	-	11	6
sheep/ goat	-	-	2	101	3	-	1	2	1
Sheep	-	-	-	16	1	-	-	-	-
Goat	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
Pig	-	1	-	51	3	2*	-	-	-
Equid	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	3	-
Canid	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Domestic fowl	-	-	-	1	-	-	1*	-	-
Duck	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Fish	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Total identified</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>
Unidentified mammal	-	-	-	183	-	9	-	14	-
Large mammal	-	2	-	279	-	5	-	18	10
Medium mammal	-	-	-	258	-	22	-	9	-
Bird	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1039</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>17</b>

\* Associated bone groups included as a count of 1

Table A3.3: Species representation by anatomical element for Iron Age contexts (Epiphysis count). Hand collected bones

Element	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Equid
ABG	1	-	-	-
Horn core + frontal	2	4	-	-
Skull	3	1	1	-
Zygomatic	-	-	1	-
Maxilla	2	3	1	-
Loose maxillary tooth	-	-	-	-
Mandible	16	25	4	-
Loose mandibular tooth	3	3	-	-
2nd cervical vertebra	1	-	-	-
Cervical vertebra	4	-	-	-
Thoracic vertebra	2	2	-	-
Lumber vertebra	-	-	2	-
Sacrum	2	-	2	-
Scapula D	5	3	6	-
Humerus P	-	-	-	-
Humerus D	3	5	1	1
Radius P	5	7	1	1
Radius D	1	5	-	-
Ulna	-	2	1	-
Pelvis	2	2	3	2
Femur P	-	2	1	-
Femur D	-	3	1	-
Patella	-	1	-	-
Tibia P	1	-	-	2
Tibia D	3	9	4	3

<i>Element</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep/ goat</i>	<i>Pig</i>	<i>Equid</i>
Astragalus	-	-	1	-
Calcaneus	-	-	1	-
Tarsal	-	1	-	-
Metacarpal P	5	2	-	2
Metacarpal D	2	3	-	2
Metatarsal P	4	1	-	2
Metatarsal D	1	2	-	1
1st phalange	2	-	1	1
2nd phalange	-	-	-	-
3rd phalange	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>17</b>

Table A3.4: Mandible wear stages for cattle, sheep/ goat and pig from Late Iron Age contexts.

<i>Wear Stage</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep/ goat</i>	<i>Pig</i>
A			
B		2	
C	1		
D	3		4
E		3	
F	3	5	
G	3	2	
H			
I	2	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>

## APPENDIX 4: Struck Flint

### 4a: Summary of struck flint

Type	Number
Intact flake	92
Broken flake	54
Intact narrow flake	12
Broken narrow flake	6
Spalls	299
Core	1
Core fragment	2
Scraper	1

### 4b: Catalogue of struck flint

Cut	Fill	Group	Feature	Intact flake	Intact narrow flake	Broken flake	Broken narrow flake	Spall	Other
Trench 19				1	-	-	-	-	-
515	579	2000	Ditch	1	-	1(burnt)	-	-	-
535	665	2000	Ditch	-	-	1	-	-	-
543	680	2006	Ditch	-	-	1	-	-	-
605	761	2020	Ditch	-	-	1	-	-	-
604	770		Pit	1	-	-	-	-	-
620	786	2006	Ditch	-	-	-	-	-	Core frag
749	1050		Pit	-	-	-	1 (util.pat)	-	-
827	1084		Pit	7	3	4	-	44	-
827	1085			3	1	1	-	19	-
830	1089		Pit	55 (1 ret, 1 burnt, 6 bevelled, 3 util)	7(1 util, 1 beve)	42 (1burnt)	2 (1 bevelled)	220	Core, Scraper
834	1098		Pit	5	-	2	2	16	Core frag

## APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of Metalwork

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Cat No</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>object</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
516	584	2002	Ditch	1	Fe	nail	1	3
516	584	2002	Ditch	2	Fe	nail	1	5
516	584	2002	Ditch	3	Fe	nail	1	8
525	598		Pit	4	Cu	Brooch	1	6
525	598		Pit	5	Cu	Brooch	1	6
525	598		Pit	6	Cu	Brooch	1	6
525	598		Pit	7	Cu	Brooch	1	4
543	680	2006	Ditch	8	Cu		1	1
604	770		Pit	9	Fe		1	7
810	1062	2028	Ditch	10	Fe		1	12
844	1161	2020	Ditch	11	Fe		1	5

**APPENDIX 6: Catalogue of Ceramic Building Material**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
515	582	2000	Ditch	1	83
516	584	2002	Ditch	2	34
517	585	2003	Ditch	1	61
518	587	2000	Ditch	1	15
540	676	2008	Gully	1	13
623	792	2000	Ditch	3	100
813	1065	2028	Ditch	3	102
			Total	12	411

## APPENDIX 7: Catalogue of fired clay

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
536	671	2006	Ditch	5	12
548	690	2006	Ditch	16	140
604	770		Pit	1	6
604	772		Pit	10	11
618	782	2006	Ditch	1	10
710	896	2017	Ditch	8	20
742	990	2006	Ditch	2	15
812	1064		Pit	2	34
828	1091	2015	Ditch	1	1
830	1089	-	Pit	13	11
			Total	59	260

Table A7.1. Catalogue of clinker

<i>Cut`</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Sampl e</i>	<i>Spit</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
827	1084	80	1	5	13
827	1084	80	2	5	7
827	1084	81	-	3	7
830	1089	79	2	17	12
830	1089	79	3	7	13
830	1089	79	4	18	21
830	1089	79	-	27	22
834	1098	78	-	5	6
		Total		87	101

## APPENDIX 8: Environmental Samples

Table A8.1: **Plant Macrofossils.** Taxonomy and Nomenclature follow Stace (1997).

Sample	31	47	48	66	79	81	
Feature	513	604	604	748	830	827	
Context	570	770	772	996	1089	1085	
Feature Type	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Pit	Pit	
Sub-Sample							
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	-	-	-	-	31	7	Hazel nut shell frags
<i>Chenopodium / Atriplex</i> spp.	-	1	-	-	-	-	Goosefoot / Orache
<i>Rumex</i> spp.	-	1	-	-	-	-	Dock
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.) Vill.	-	1	-	-	-	-	Stitchwort
BRASSICACEAE	-	3	-	-	-	-	Cabbage family
POACEAE	-	1	-	-	-	-	Grass family
Cerealia	1	26	1	1	3	-	Indeterminate Cereal
indeterminate	1	-	-	-	-	-	Indeterminate

Sample	79	79	79	79	
Feature	830	830	830	830	
Context	1089	1089	1089	1089	
Feature Type	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	
Sub-Sample	Spit 1	Spit 2	Spit 3	Spit 4	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	8	18	7	31	Hazel nut shell fgts.
Cerealia	1	2	2	3	Indeterminate Cereal

Table A8.2: **Charcoal.** Taxonomy and nomenclature follow Schweingruber (1978). Numbers are identified charcoal fragments for each sample.

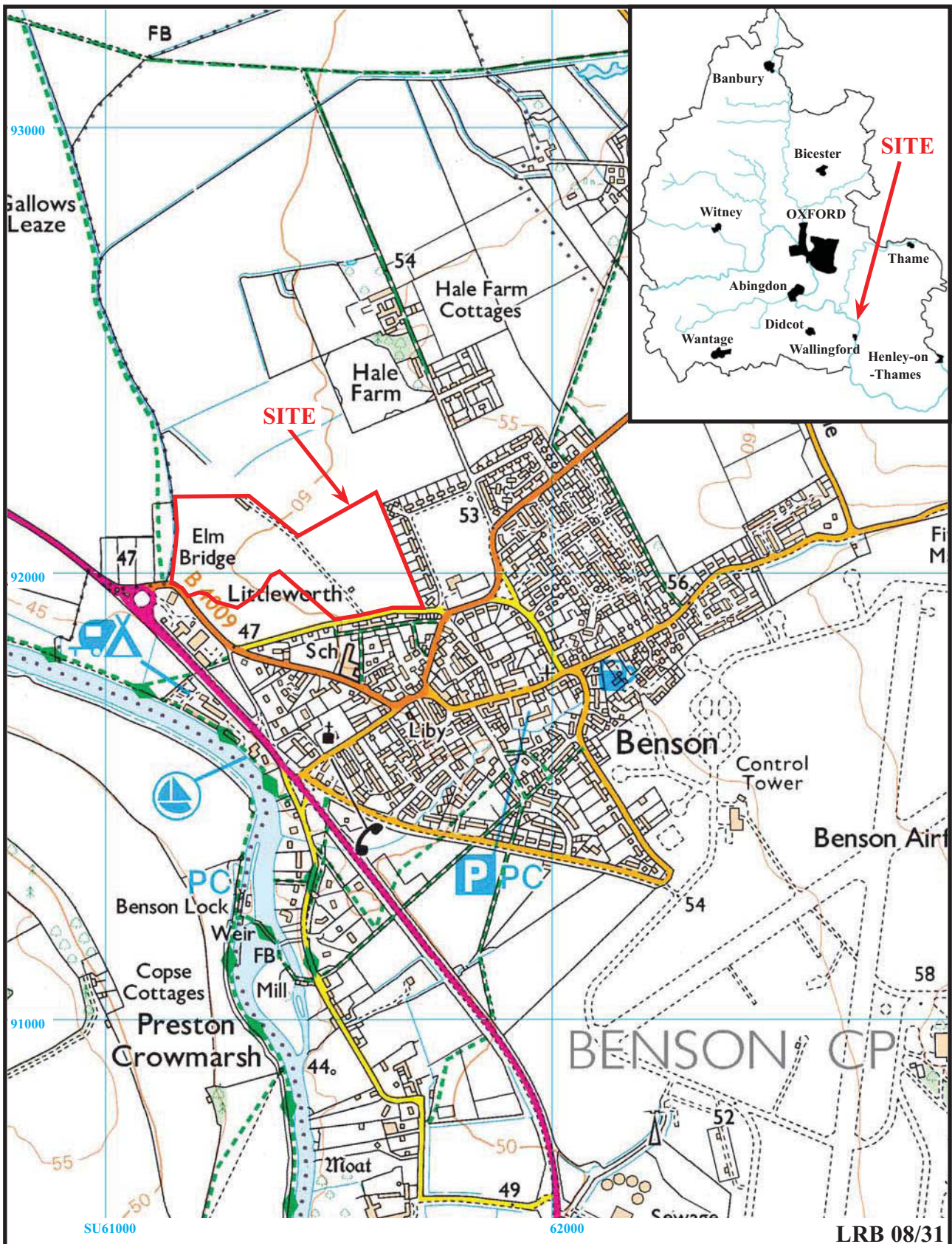
Sample	37	47	79	79	79	79	79	
Feature	529	604	830	830	830	830	830	
Context	656	770	1089	1089	1089	1089	1089	
Feature Type	Gully	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	
Sub-Sample				Spit 1	Spit 2	Spit 3	Spit 4	
No. frags.	3	50+	50+	50+	39	27	50+	
Max. size (mm)	14	21	17	12	11	16	20	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	-	-	3	2	6	9	11
<i>Salix / Populus</i>	Willow / Poplar	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	-	19	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	-	6	23	5	-	-	-
Indeterminate	Indeterminate	-	25	24	43	33	18	39

Sample	80	81	Handpicked	Handpicked	
Feature	827	827	604	733	
Context	1084	1085	770	981	
Feature Type	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	
Sub-Sample	Spit 2				
No. frags.	20	29	1	1	
Max. size (mm)	15	10	12	34	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	8	6	1	1
Indeterminate	Indeterminate	12	23	-	-

## APPENDIX 9: Burnt flint

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	
512	562		Pit		49	
513	563	2000	Ditch		69	
513	570	2000	Ditch	31	41	
514	577	2000	Ditch	33	20	
515	579	2000	Ditch		8	
515	580	2000	Ditch		27	
518	587	2000	Ditch		9	
529	656	2002	Gully	37	1	
530	657		Pit		22	
535	665	2000	Ditch		22	
543	680	2006	Ditch		7	
545	683	2021	Posthole	42	15	
548	690	2006	Ditch		34	
605	761	2020	Ditch	45	67	
607	758		Pit		153	
616	780		Pit	49	1	
620	785	2006	Ditch	51	10	
620	786	2006	Ditch	52	41	
621	787		Ditch	53	11	
624	857	2000	Ditch	55	29	
704	887	2017	Gully	60	10	
710	896	2017	Ditch		1	
726	968		Pit		40	
728	970		Pit		9	
730	972	2028	Ditch	64	52	
734	983		Pit		91	
737	988		Pit		120	
748	996	2015	Ditch	66	20	
803	1054	2009	Ditch	67	9	
816	1068	2020	Ditch		17	
827	1084		Pit	80	30	
827	1085		Pit	81	48	
830	1089		Pit	79	227	spoil heap
830	1089		Pit	79	62	Spit 4
830	1089		Pit	79	20	Spit 3
830	1089		Pit	79	7	Spit 1
830	1089		Pit	79	7	Spit 2





**Land at Littleworth Road, Benson,  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Benson and Oxfordshire.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500  
Crown Copyright reserved

THAMES VALLEY  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**  
SERVICES

LRB 08/31



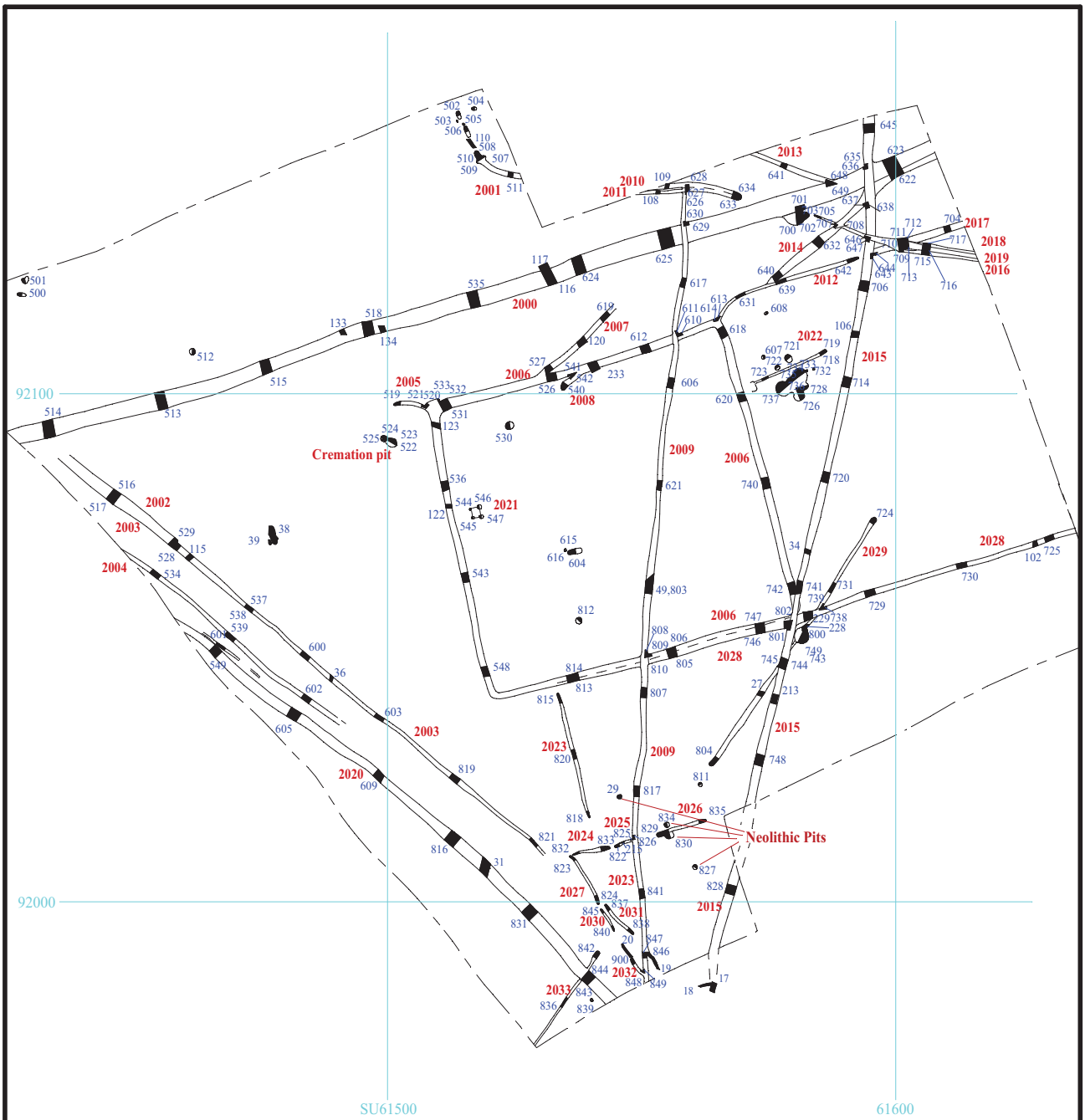
LRB 08/31c

**Land at Littleworth Road, Benson,  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 2. Location of excavation and evaluation trenches.



THAMES VALLEY  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**  
SERVICES



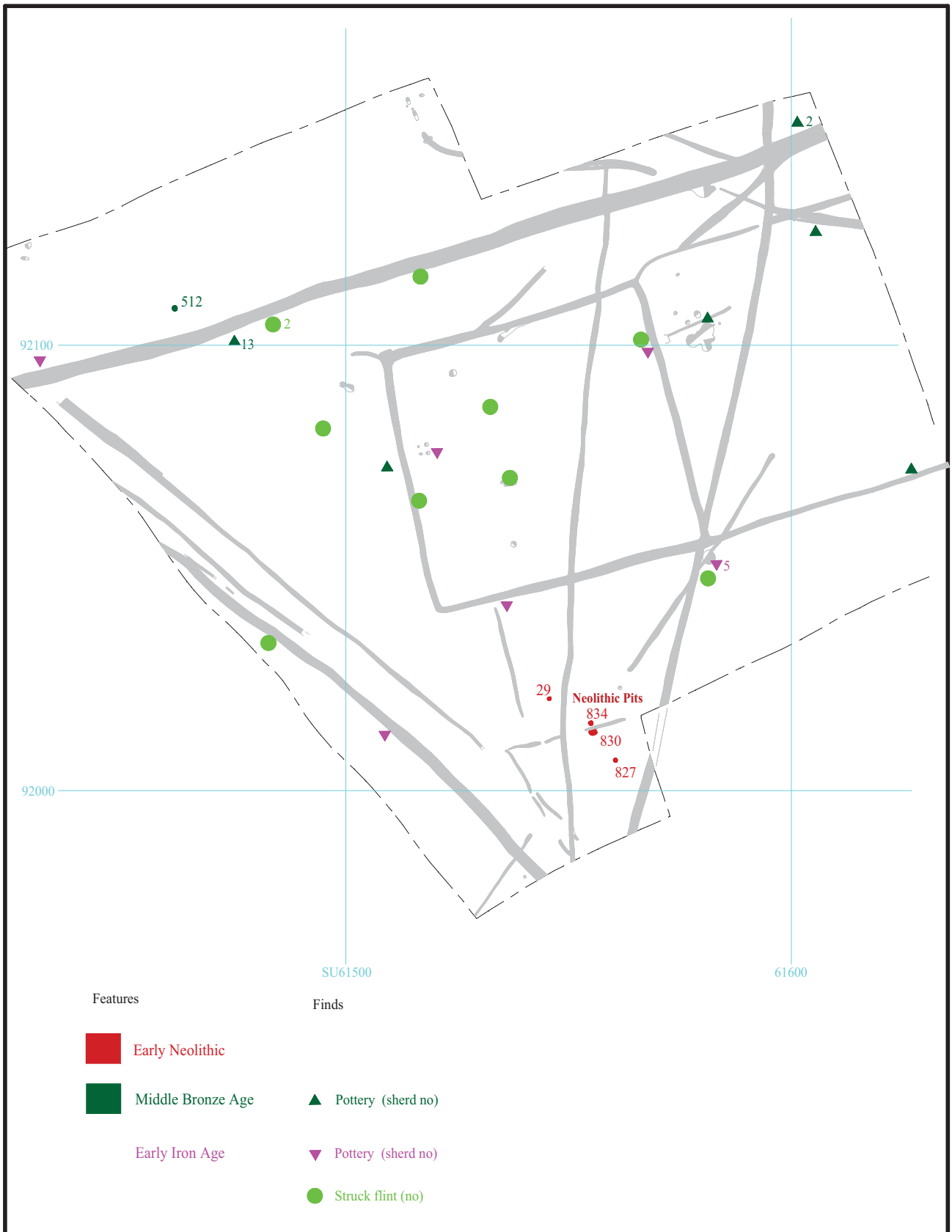
LRB 08/31

Land off Littleworth Road, Benson.  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation

Figure 3. Plan of features.



THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



**Land off Littleworth Road, Benson,  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation**

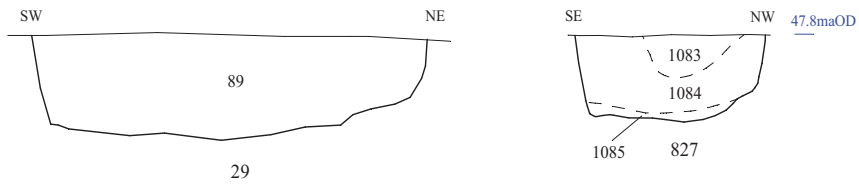
Figure 4. Earlier Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Phase plan with stray and residual finds.



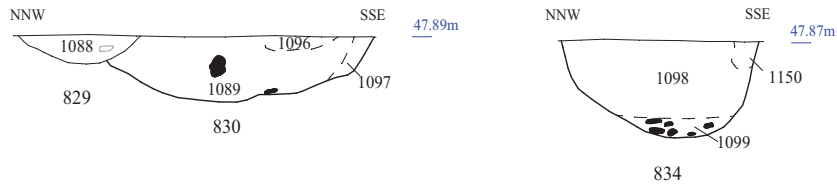
0 100m

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

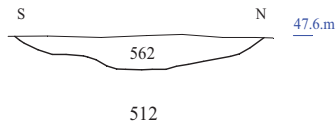
*Neolithic pits*



**Gully 2026**



*Middle Bronze Age pit*



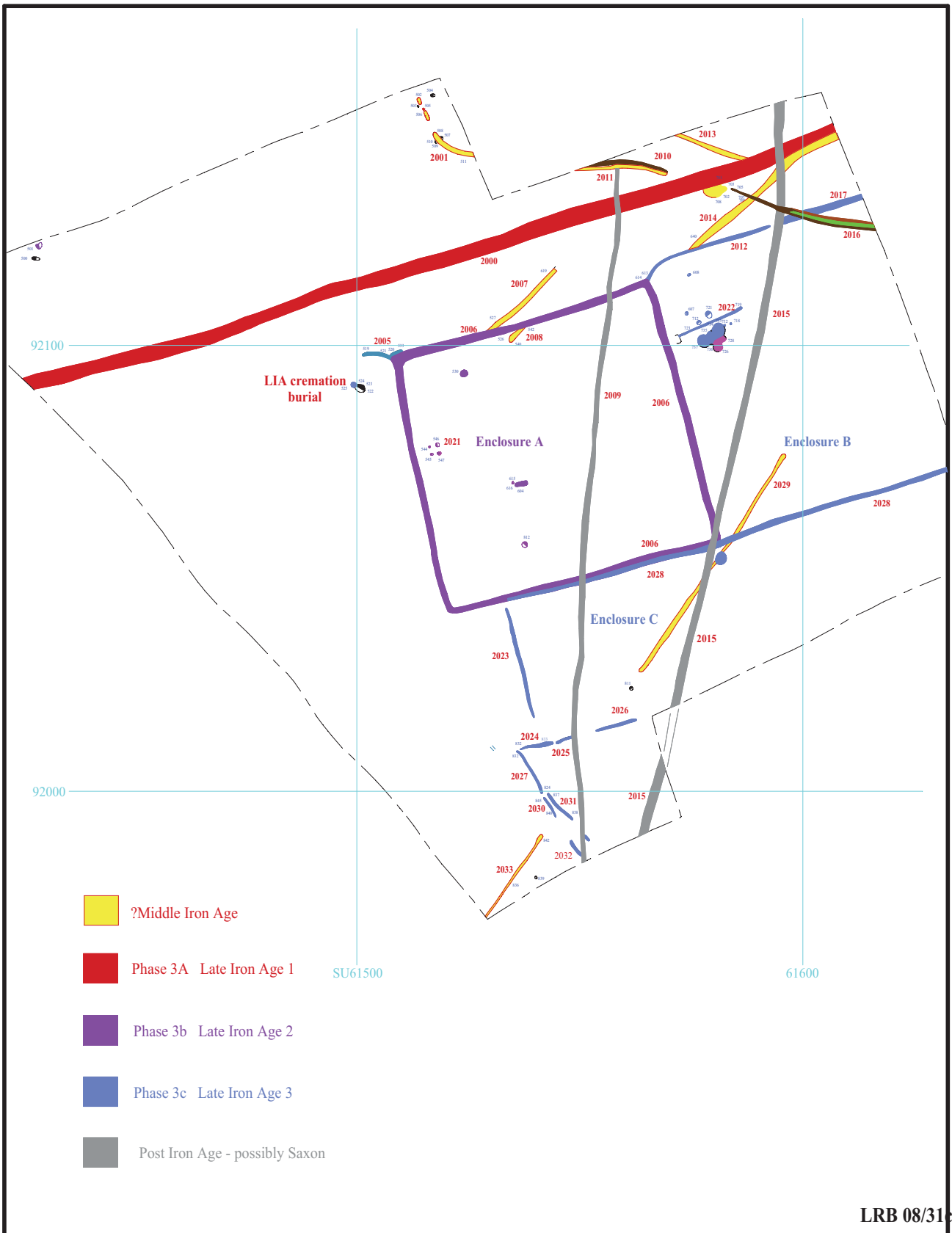
LRB 08/31c

**Land off Littleworth Road, Benson.  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 5. Neolithic and Bronze Age Sections.



THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



LRB 08/31



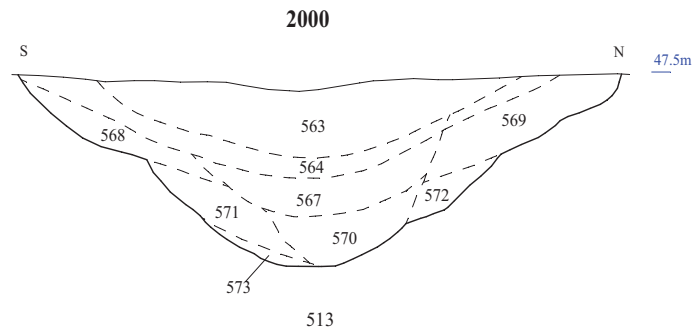
**Land off Littleworth Road, Benson.  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 6. Phase plan.

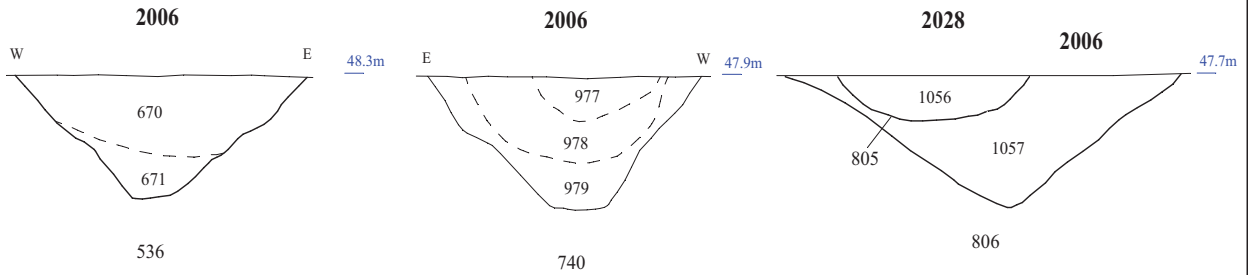


THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

Late Iron Age



Enclosure ditch 2006



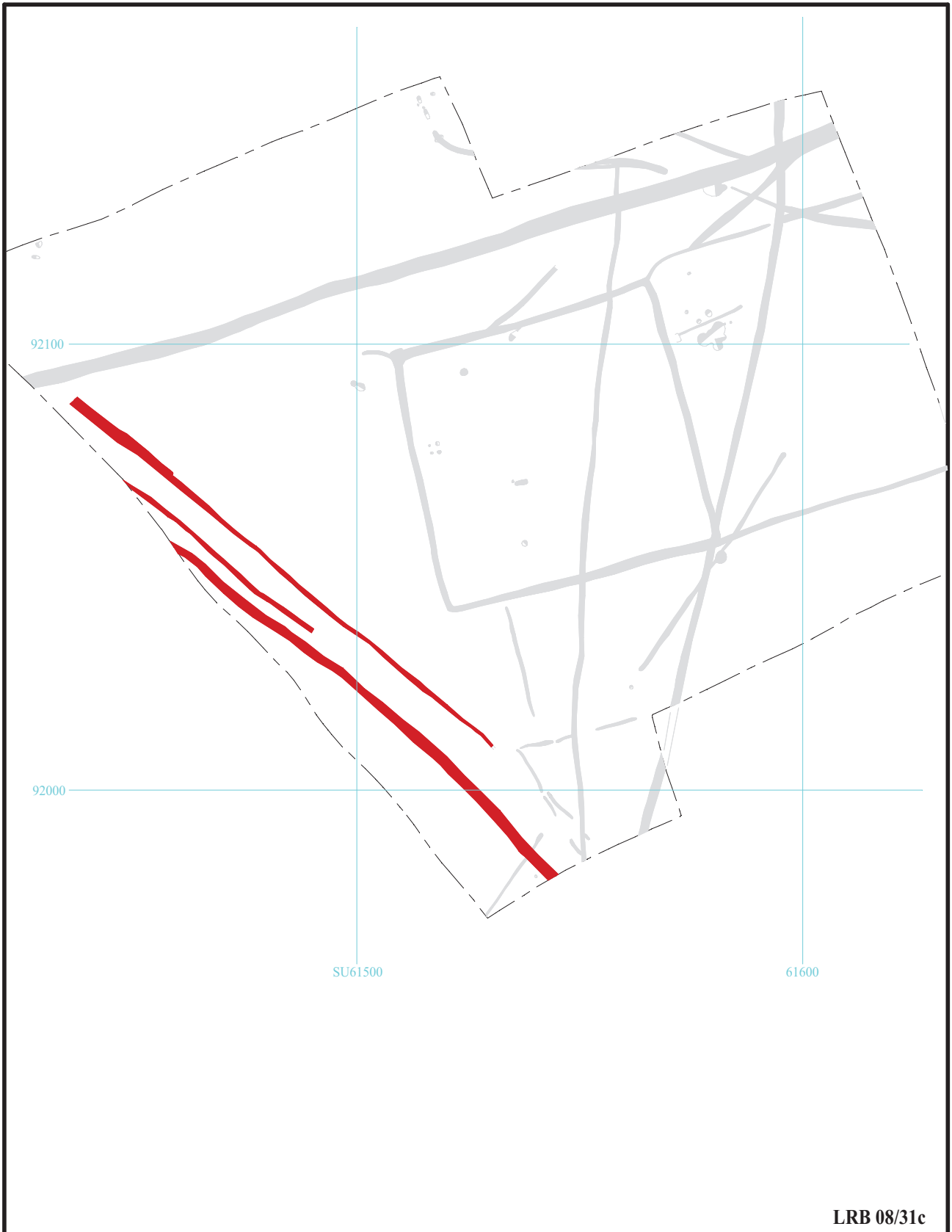
LRB 08/31c

Land off Littleworth Road, Benson.  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation

Figure 7. Late Iron Age and Roman Sections.



THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



LRB 08/31c

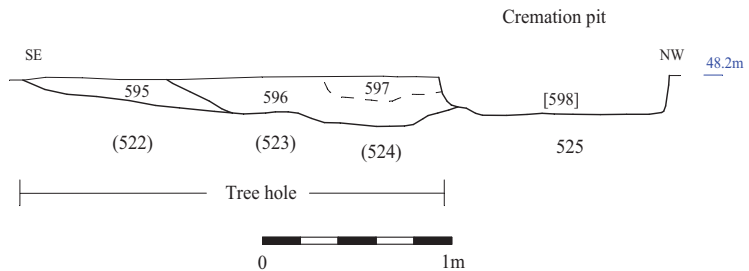
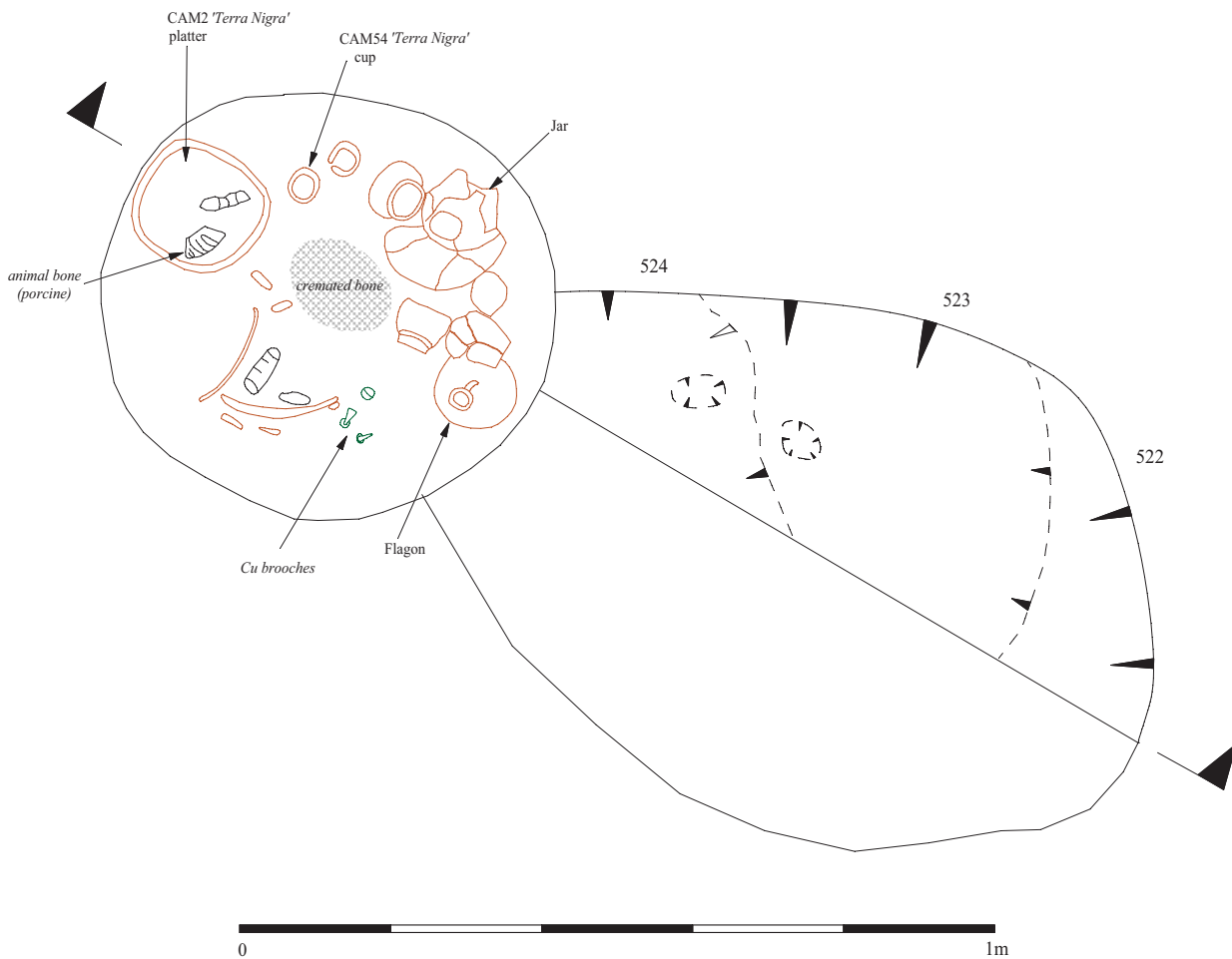
**Land off Littleworth Road, Benson.  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 8. Medieval.



THAMES VALLEY  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**  
 SERVICES





LRB 08/31c

**Land off Littleworth Road, Benson.  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 9. Cremation pit (525) and underlying features (522 - 524).



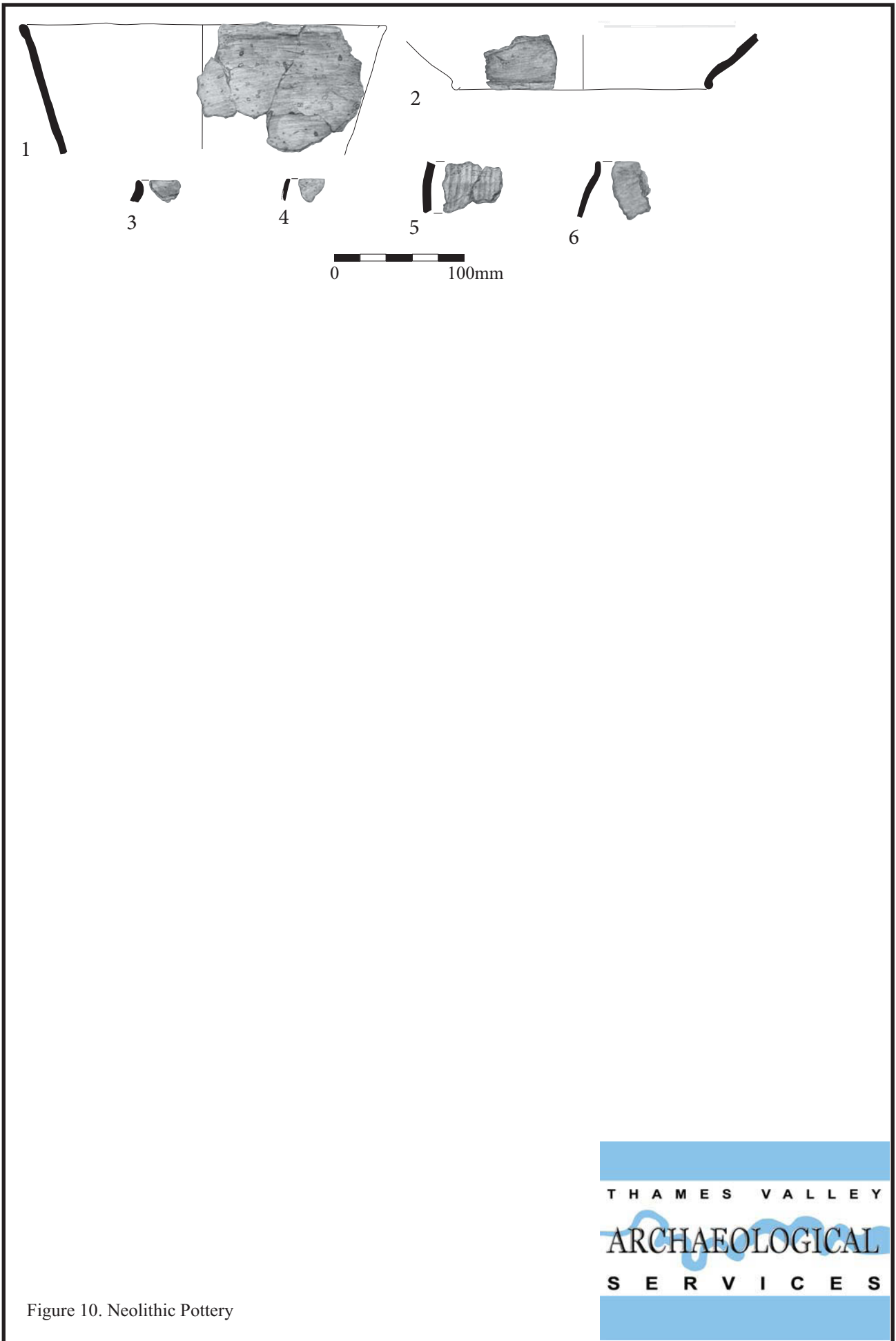
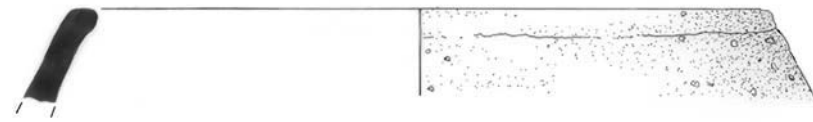
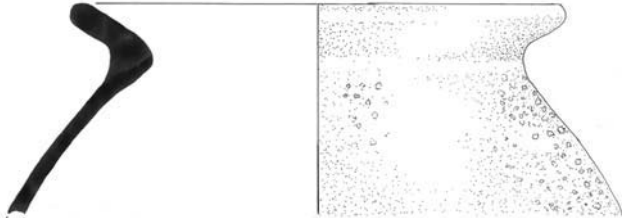


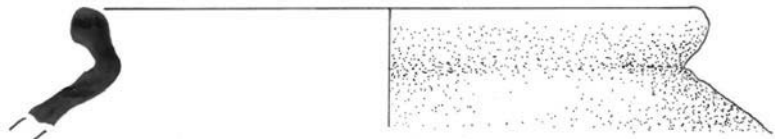
Figure 10. Neolithic Pottery



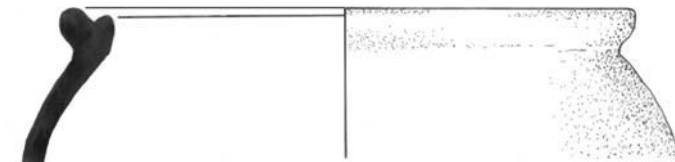
1 *Bronze Age (Barrel urn)*



2



3



4



6



5



7



8



9

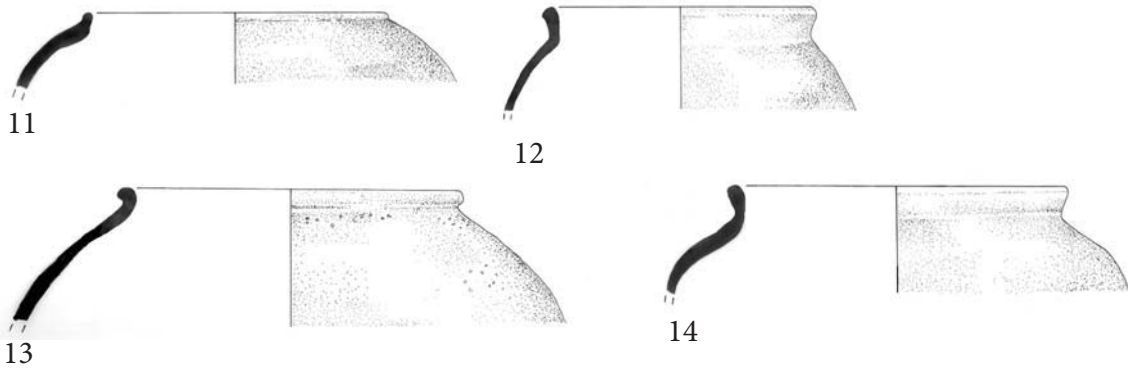


10

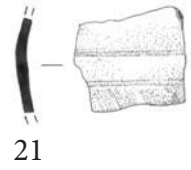
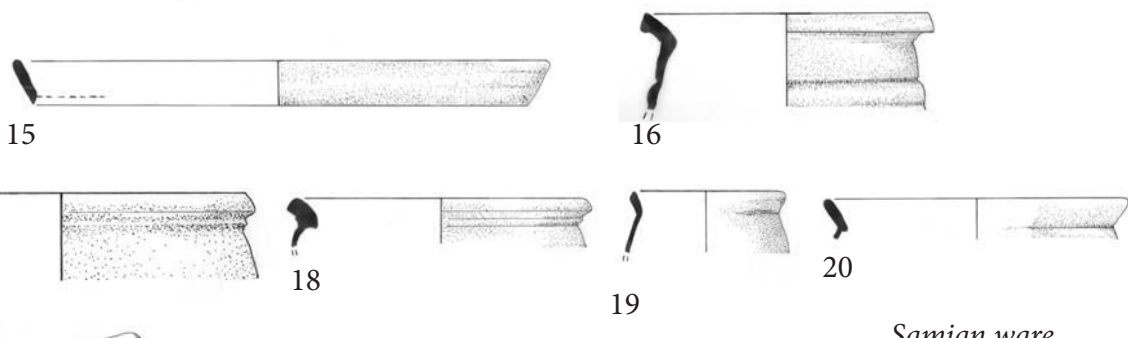


THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

Figure 11. Later Prehistoric Pottery



*Silchester and Silchester-type ware*



*Samian ware*

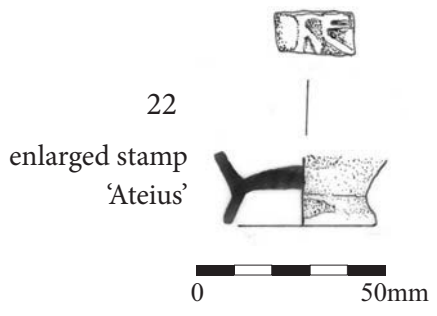
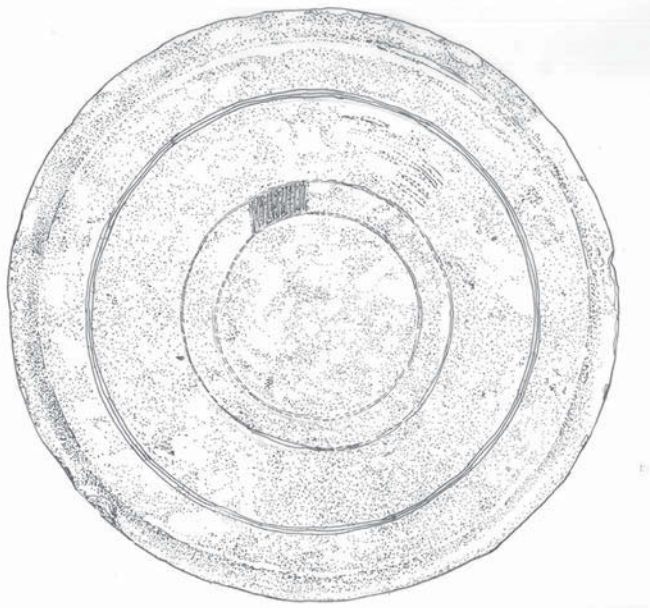
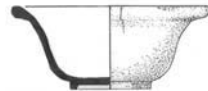


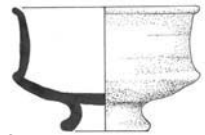
Figure 12. Conquest-era Pottery



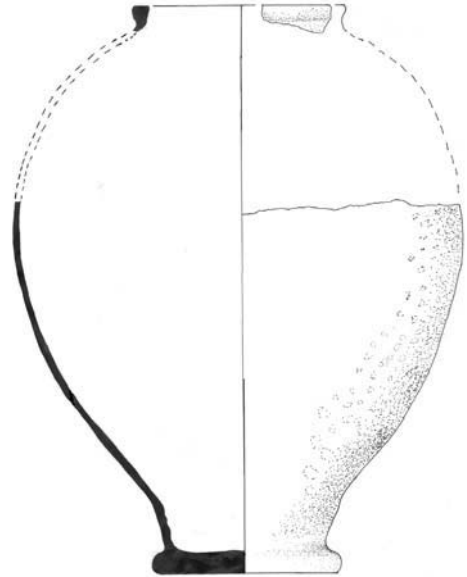
23



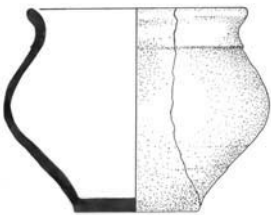
24



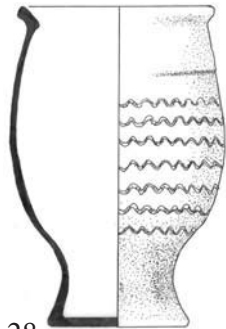
25



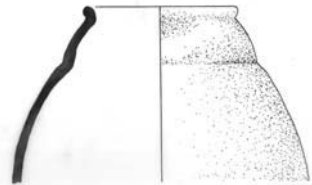
27



26



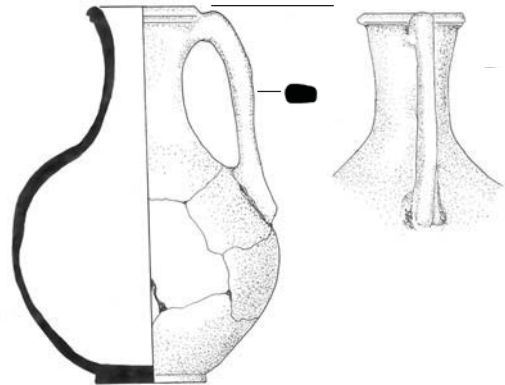
28



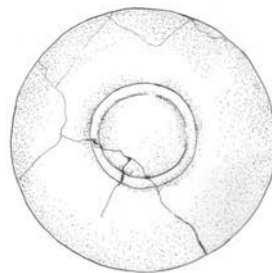
29



31



30



THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

Figure 13. Pottery from cremation pit 525.



Plate 1. Site shot.



Plate 2. Neolithic pit 827, looking south south west,  
Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 3. Neolithic pit 830 and gully 829,  
looking east, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Neolithic pit 834, looking east,  
Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

LRB 08/31

**Land at Littleworth Road, Benson,  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation  
Plates 1 to 4.**

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



Plate 5. Ditch 2000, slot 535, looking west south west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 6. Enclosure 2006, slot 740, looking south, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

LRB 08/31

**Land at Littleworth Road, Benson,  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation  
Plates 5 and 6.**

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



Plate 7. Cremation burial pit 525, looking north west, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 8. Ditch 2020, looking east south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

LRB 08/31

**Land at Littleworth Road, Benson,  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation  
Plates 7 and 8.**

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES





Plate 9. Pottery collection (part) from Cremation burial pit 525, Scale: 0.1m.



Plate 10. Copper alloy brooches from Cremation burial pit 525, Scale: 100mm.

LRB 08/31

Land at Littleworth Road, Benson,  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation  
Plates 9 and 10.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



Plate 11. Pathologies. a) dense nodule of bone on the endocranial surface of the frontal bone. b) osteophytic lipping of the superior edge of a thoracic vertebral body.

LRB 08/31

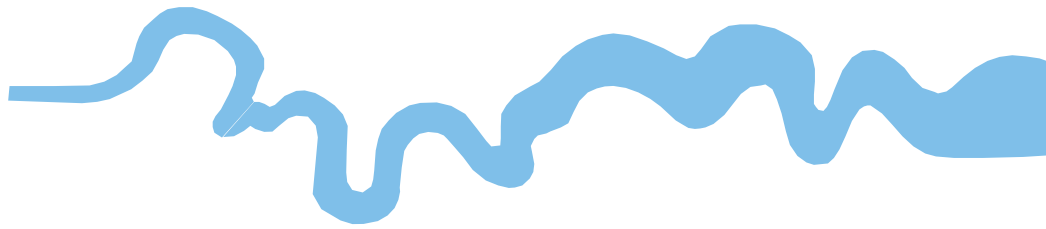
Land at Littleworth Road, Benson,  
Oxfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Excavation  
Plate 11.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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





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

**Tel: 0118 9260552  
Email: [tvas@tvas.co.uk](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**

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