

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Roke Manor Farm, Shootash,
Romsey, Hampshire**

Phase 2b and Phase 3

Archaeological Recording Action

by Lizzi Lewins

Site Code: RMR14/178

(SU 3301 2262 and SU 3324 2268)

Roke Manor Farm, Shootash, Romsey, Hampshire, Phases 2b and 3

An Archaeological Recording Action

For Raymond Brown Aggregates

by Lizzi Lewins

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RMR 14/178

December 2017

Summary

Site name: Roke Manor Farm, Shootash, Romsey, Hampshire

Grid reference: Phase 2b SU 3301 2262, Phase 3 SU 3324 2268

Site activity: Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 31st May 2016 - 26th May 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luis Esteves, Lizzi Lewins, James McNicoll-Norbury, Joanna Pine

Site code: RMR 14/178

Area of site: 4.5ha (Phase 2b: 0.5ha; Phase 3: 4.0 ha)

Summary of results: The excavation revealed an extensive field system including a possible droveway, tentatively dated to the Late Iron Age-Early Roman period, into which two enclosures were incorporated. The smaller enclosure in the south-eastern quadrant is possibly contemporary with the field system but only scant dating evidence was recovered. The larger enclosure at the western extent of the excavation was securely dated to the Early Roman period.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

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Roke Manor Farm, Shootash, Romsey, Hampshire, Phase 2b and 3 An Archaeological Recording Action

by Lizzi Lewins

Report 14/178d

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at Roke Manor Farm, Shootash, Romsey, Hampshire (SU 3301 2262 and SU 3315 2266) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf of Raymond Brown Aggregates, Lee Lane, Nursling, Southampton, SO16 0AD.

Planning permission (07/02771/CMAS) has been gained from Hampshire County Council for the extraction of sand and gravel from, and subsequent restoration of, a parcel of land at Roke Manor Farm, Romsey. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology as guided by Archaeology and Planning (PPG16 1990) and the County Council's Mineral Policies. It is acknowledged that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) has superseded PPG16. The application was supported by cultural heritage desk-based assessment (Raymond 2007, presented in SBPC 2008), which detailed the archaeological potential of the site. There were to be two components to the archaeological study of the site: archaeology of late or post-glacial date; that is, stratigraphically, located on top of the gravel, typically just beneath the topsoil ('upper' archaeology) and; Lower or Middle Palaeolithic archaeology, which could lie within or beneath the gravel on the site ('lower' archaeology). It is the purpose of this document to report on the post-glacial aspects of the archaeology for the third phase of extraction works, and an additional area relating to phase two (phase 2b). The overall application covered an area much larger than that covered in this phase of works (Fig. 1). Two earlier phases within the site to the west and south-west of the current phase have already been reported on (Porter 2015; Porter and Strachan 2015).

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Hopkins, County Archaeologist for Hampshire. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luis Esteves, Lizzi Lewins, James McNicoll-Norbury and Joanna Pine with the assistance of Will Attard, Cosmo Bacon, Kyle Beaverstock, Jesse Coxey, Mike Johnson, David Platt, Benedikt Tebbit and Jamie Williams between 31st May 2016 and 26th May 2017 with the site code RMR 14/178.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located *c.*2.5km north-west of the centre of Romsey. The entrance to Roke Manor Farm is off Old Salisbury Lane which borders the site to the north and the medieval Roke Manor is itself located to the south-east of the site. To the north-east lies Stanbridge Earls and, and Stanbridge Ranvills Farm is located to the west of the site, close to the access road (Fig. 2). The site is a sloping parcel of land currently used as pastoral fields as part of the pig farm and lies at a height of 61m at the western extent sloping to 58m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the eastern extent. The underlying geology is mapped as River Terrace Deposits (BGS 1987) which was observed on site with occasional clay patches.

Archaeological background

The cultural heritage assessment (Raymond 2007) has detailed the archaeological background for the site and its environs. The site lies within an area with little recorded post-glacial activity with few finds recorded close to the site. For later periods, to the east and west are recorded clusters of struck flint, with a Mesolithic carved and decorated horn recorded to the south-east, along with further clusters of flints and an Iron Age ditch. Further to the north, Roman pottery and a coin have been recorded. On the southern edge of the overall site a single pottery vessel of middle to late Bronze Age date was recovered during preliminary test pitting.

The medieval Roke Manor lies just to the south-east and whilst first documented in 1448 presumably has earlier origins. The deserted village of Stanbridge Earls lies to the north-east with earthwork features such as fish ponds still present. Many of the farms and hamlets in the surrounding areas are also documented as having medieval origins; including Stanbridge Ranvilles Farm located to the west of the site.

Two previous phases of work on the site uncovered an 18th-19th century wood, recorded on earlier maps (Porter and Strachan 2015) and a number of post-medieval/modern ditches and enclosures (Porter 2015). Monitoring of the gravel deposits for Palaeolithic artefacts and deposits has also taken place though neither artefacts nor strata suitable for the survival of Palaeolithic sites were identified (Attard 2014).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the recording action was to:

- Sample excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within area threatened by the development;
- Produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site;
- Establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as domestic, industrial, etc. and

Produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavation or palaeoenvironmental studies in the region.

More specific research aims were to address the following questions:

- To determine when the site was first occupied;
- To determine when the site was abandoned;
- To determine what activities were taking place on the site;
- To determine if there was any medieval activity present relating to the use of Roke Manor at the east end of the site;
- To determine if, and how the site was used in prehistoric, Roman and medieval times for occupation, burial, agricultural or other purposes; and
- To determine if there were any concentrations of prehistoric lithic material indicative of occupation either within the topsoil or beneath and in-situ within the subsoil.

Results

Extraction Phase 2b (Figs 3 and 4)

This phase adjoined Phase 2 in the north-east corner. Just three features were investigated.

Ditch 920

Ditch 920 was L-shaped, extending out of the site to the north and terminating within the north-east corner of the phase 2 area. It was excavated in three slots encompassing a corner and terminus as well as one within the length of the ditch. The ditch varied in width between 0.81m-1.50m with shallow - moderate sides and a flattish base at a depth of 0.11m-0.32m and contained a single fill comprising loose brown grey sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions. Six sherds of early Roman pottery were recovered from slot 203 including a single rim sherd. It is possible that this ditch represents an early Roman enclosure of which only the western most edge has been exposed. There is no sign of any activity within the bounds of the enclosure and it is different in character from the square enclosures seen within Phase 2 to the west. No relationship was established between ditch 920 and gully 921 but in plan it appeared clear that 921 cut 920.

Gully 921

This gully is a continuation of post-medieval ditch 910 from Phase 2. Orientated SW-NE it continued under the baulk into the unexcavated area. It was excavated in five slots in this area. The gully was 0.41m-0.55m wide with shallow - steep sides and a flat base at a depth of 0.05m-0.16m containing a single fill comprising loose brown grey sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions from which no finds were recovered. Further excavation of the gully has not changed the previous interpretation of this as a late post-medieval field boundary.

Other Features

A natural feature (205, tree throw hole) was partially excavated; the width of the section was 1.19m with moderately sloping sides and a slightly rounded base to a depth of 0.51m and contained a single fill that

comprised a soft grey brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions from which fourteen sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were recovered, eight of which could be re-fitted.

A clearly modern ditch was observed to the south of ditch 920 but was not excavated.

Extraction Phase 3 (Figs 5–8)

The third phase of works was located 80m to the east of the previous phase, approaching to within 20m in the south, with the access road stripped as part of the excavation area. This area of the site was stripped and excavated in two stages.

Enclosure 1000 (Pls 1-3)

Enclosure 1000 was exposed at the westernmost edge of the area. It is broadly rectilinear in plan although the western side lay beyond the excavation area. The southern corner turns at almost a right angle whilst the northern corner is more sweeping and shallow angled; two termini in the eastern extent represent an entrance. Although this ditch does broadly align on L-shaped ditch 920 in the Phase 2b area, and is of comparable dimensions, they are too far apart (almost 100m) to posit any connection with confidence. The ditch was excavated in six slots including both corners and two termini. The width varied between 0.85m-1.10m with shallow - steep sides and a rounded-V shaped base to a depth of 0.27m-0.40m. The ditch contained a single fill which comprised a grey brown clayey silt with moderate gravel inclusions in all slots except for slot 425 where a small primary fill was observed which comprised a brown grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions. A total of 147 sherds of late Iron Age - early Roman pottery were recovered from four of the slots (425, 426, 429, 431), as well as two residual flint flakes which were not closely datable and a fragment of rotary quern stone. Some 1572g of burnt flint was also recovered as well as two pieces of iron bar (cat nos. 2 and 3) and a small quantity (66g) of fired clay. Given the range of pottery recovered it is likely that the enclosure ditch was filling in the early Roman period, but may have been opened earlier. Other than a single posthole (discussed below) there was no evidence for any activity within the enclosure which may suggest it was used as a livestock enclosure. Following excavation and recording the enclosure was fully excavated by machine to allow for additional finds retrieval, this resulted in three further sherds of early Roman pottery (for a total of 150) being recovered.

Ditch 1001 (Pl. 5)

Ditch 1001 was orientated WNW-ESE spanning the entire width of the Phase 3 area, in four segments with short gaps between. The ditch was excavated in 26 slots. The width varied between 0.36m-1.20m with moderately sloping sides and a slightly uneven base to a depth between 0.05m-0.36m. Given the variable depths, it is not clear if the gaps were originally entrances or are a result of differential erosion/survival, but segmented ditches

(especially long and slightly sinuous ones) are not unusual on Iron Age sites. The ditch contained a single fill throughout which comprised a grey brown clayey/sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions from which just five tiny sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery and 84g of burnt flint were recovered. Following excavation and recording the remainder of the ditch was explored for pot retrieval which yielded one further sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery. Given the span of this ditch it is likely that it represents a field boundary forming part of a larger field system. Relationships with pit 404, tree throw hole 422 and ditch 1003(slot 316) were uncertain. It is possible that its line bends slightly to respect enclosure 1000, implying at least partial contemporaneity, but this is not a marked deviation and its line is in any case somewhat irregular.

Ditch 1002

Ditch 1002 is a short section of curvilinear ditch that was excavated in two slots and tapers out to the west. The width varied between 0.60m-0.90m with shallow-moderately sloping sides and a slightly rounded base to a depth between 0.17m-0.30m and contained a single fill which comprised a grey brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions from which no finds were recovered. Only a small amount of this ditch survives, it is possible given the surviving corner that this may have formed part of a small enclosure in the corner of the field created by ditches 1001 and 1003. It may be significant that this corresponds with one of the gaps through the former.

Ditch 1003

Ditch 1003 is orientated SE-NW and extends *c* two thirds of the way across site, intersecting with ditch 1001 and gully 1004 although both relationships were uncertain. The ditch was excavated in seventeen slots and varied in width between 0.80m-1.25m with shallow-steep sides and a slightly rounded base to a depth between 0.06m-0.30m containing a single fill which comprised a grey brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions from which a broken flint flake, 219g of burnt flint and an iron object (cat no. 1) were recovered, however no dating is possible closer than that the iron object makes it Iron Age or later. A single slot showed an episode of re-cutting (326 recutting 324) suggesting an attempt to keep the ditch open. The ditch was seen to cut pit 311. Although no relationship could be established with ditch 1001 it is likely that both form part of the aforementioned field boundary effectively subdividing the site into quarters.

Gully 1004

Gully 1004 was orientated broadly E-W and was excavated in two slots, petering out to both the east and west. The relationship with ditch 1003 was uncertain. The gully was 0.30m wide with shallow sides and an irregular base to a depth of 0.05m and contained a single fill which comprised a grey brown sandy silt from which no finds were recovered. It is unclear what the exact function of this gully was, although given its position it would

be tempting to assume a further associated field boundary (it is parallel to the much longer ditch 1001) however given how little of it survives this cannot be stated with any certainty. It is possible that it continued east as 1005.

Gully 1005

Gully 1005 is slightly curvilinear in plan and was excavated in three slots including two termini. The width varied between 0.50m-0.78m with moderately sloping sides to a slightly rounded base to a depth between 0.13m-0.25m containing a single fill which comprised a brown grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions from which no finds were recovered. The function of this short section of gully is unclear but it is tempting to note that its curve echoes that in ditch 1001 to the south-west.

Gully 1006

Gully 1006 is curvilinear in plan and tapers out to the north, it was excavated in three slots. The width varied between 0.40m-0.56m with moderate-steep sides to an uneven flat-slightly rounded base to a depth between 0.10m-0.16m containing a single fill which comprised a brown grey sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions from which three joining sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were recovered. Once again the function of the gully is unclear. Although it is much less substantial, it could be associated with ditches 1007-1008 to form part of a droveway/trackway system.

Droveway/Trackway 1007-1008

The double ditches 1007-1008 were orientated SE-NW and extended beyond this phase's limit of excavation to the south-east, both terminating to the north-west, though not in line with one another. They were excavated with five slots in total. The width of ditch 1007 varied between 1.00m-1.40m with steep sides to a slightly rounded base to a depth between 0.40m-0.50m. The ditch was observed to have a single fill in two of the slots which comprised a grey brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions from which no finds were recovered. Slot 345 within 1007 contained three fills which comprised a dark brown grey sandy silt overlying a mid brown grey sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions overlying a red brown sandy silt primary fill from which no finds were recovered. The width of ditch 1008 was 0.80m with moderate to steep sides down to a slightly rounded base to a depth between 0.29m-0.36m containing a single fill which comprised red/grey brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions from which a single sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery was recovered. During the stripping for phase 4 it was observed that ditch 1007 terminated on the edge of the phase under the gravel bund, while ditch 1008 continues into phase 4. Due to the parallel alignment of the ditches it is suggested that together they form a droveway or trackway through the existing field system. Ditch 1007 has been dated by association with 1008 although only scant dating evidence was recovered and so the late Iron Age-early Roman

date for this system is tentative at best. It does, however, gain support from their alignment perpendicular to the long boundary 1001 and parallel to ditch 1003.

Gully 1009

Gully 1009 was orientated SW-NE, was linear in plan and excavated in five slots including a terminus. The width of the gully varied between 0.26m-1.00m with shallow-moderate sides to slightly rounded/rounded base to a depth between 0.06m-0.35m containing a single fill which comprised grey brown sandy/silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions from which no finds were recovered. The function of the gully is unclear, it does not fit with the established field system (though it does not cut across any other feature) and is markedly straighter. It maybe modern.

Gullies 1010 and 1011

Gully 1010 was orientated SE-NW, linear in plan and excavated in three slots The width of the gully varied between 0.29m-0.40m with shallow-moderate sides to a flat-slightly round base to a depth between 0.05m-0.13m containing a single fill which comprised a grey brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions from which no finds were recovered. Gully 1011 was orientated SE-NW, linear in plan and excavated in three slots The width of the gully varied between 0.29m-0.46m with shallow-steep sides to a flat-slightly rounded base to a depth between 0.05m-0.12m containing a single fill which comprised a yellow brown sandy silt with occasional gravel patches from which no finds were recovered. Given the alignment of the gullies with ditch 1003 it is possible that they are part of the field system. It is possible that one gully went out of use or silted up necessitating the digging of the second to ensure that the boundary remained.

Gullies 1012 and 1013

The gullies were orientated broadly SE-NW, 1012 was linear in plan with 1013 curvilinear and were excavated in a total of eight slots including a relationship slot which established that 1013 cuts 1012. The width of 1012 varied between 0.40m-0.60m with shallow-moderate sides to a slightly rounded base to a depth between 0.06m-0.15m containing a single fill which comprised a red brown sandy/clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions from which two flint flakes (one broken, one intact) were recovered. The width of 1013 varied between 0.50m-0.70m with shallow-moderate sides to a slightly rounded base to a depth between 0.07m-0.13m containing a single fill which comprised red/grey brown sandy/clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions from which no finds were recovered. Given the layout of the ditches and gullies within this part of the field system it is likely that these gullies form the western extent of a small enclosure within the larger field system which appears to have been extended with the adding of gully 1013 which was shown to cut 1012.

Gully 1014

The gully was orientated SE-NW, linear in plan and excavated in six slots, no relationship was established with 1015/1016. The width varied between 0.55m-0.98m with shallow-steep sides to a flat-slightly rounded base to a depth between 0.15m-0.36m containing a single fill in all but slot 215 which comprised a brown grey sandy silt with occasional-moderate gravel inclusions, the lower fill in 215 comprised a brown grey sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered. As with 1012 and 1013 it is likely that this gully forms the eastern extent of a small enclosure or a sub-division of a larger one extending further east.

Ditches 1015 and 1016

Ditches 1015 and 1016 were orientated NE-SW, linear in plan and were excavated in a total of eleven slots including two termini slots. No relationship was established with gully 1014. The width of 1015 varied between 0.50m-1.15m with moderately sloping sides to a flat-rounded base to a depth between 0.10m-0.38m containing a single fill which comprised a grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel from which no finds were recovered. The width of 1016 varied between 0.45m-1.05m with shallow-moderate sides to a flat-rounded base to a depth between 0.05m-0.28m containing a single fill which comprised a grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions from which nine sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were recovered. It was shown that ditch 1016 cuts 1015 but it also appears that the ditches change relative positions, so that the later version, 1016, is the northernmost section of ditch in slots 213 and 211 but crosses over and is the southernmost section in slot 221 continuing in the southern branch of the ditch. It is likely that the westernmost portion of these ditches form the top of the small enclosure formed with 1012-1014. It is possible that 1016 represents a re-cutting of the original boundary with a slight change to its northern extent which brings it more into line with 1013. Both 1015 and 1016 continue into phase 4.

Discrete Features

A total of sixteen discrete features were excavated, one of which was a tree throw hole which intersected with ditch 1001, as well as two pit clusters. The features were dispersed across site.

Pits 240-243

Pit 240 was 0.90m in diameter with steep sides and a rounded base to a depth of 0.50m containing a single fill which comprised a blue grey sandy silt with occasional gravel from which two flint flakes (one broken, one intact) were recovered. Pit 241 had steep sides and a rounded base to a depth of 0.40m with a single fill comprising a yellow grey sandy silt with occasional gravel from which no finds were recovered. Pit 242 had steep sides and a rounded base to a depth of 0.25m containing two fills; fill (352) comprised a blue grey sandy silt, fill (353) comprised a blue grey sandy silt with occasional gravel, no finds were recovered. Pit 243 was

0.72m in diameter with steep sides and a rounded base to a depth of 0.40m and contained two fills; fill (354) comprised a yellow brown sandy silt from which 86g of burnt flint and one sherd of early Roman pottery were recovered, fill (355) comprised a blue grey sandy silt from which no finds were recovered. Relationships between the pits consisted of 241 cut by 240 and 242, 242 was cut by pit 243.

Pit 248

Pit 248 was circular in plan, it was 0.61m in diameter with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base to a depth of 0.20m which contained a single fill of grey brown silty clay from which no finds were recovered.

Pit 308

Pit 308 was ovoid in plan, the section was 1.00m wide with shallow sides and a slightly rounded base to a depth of 0.26m containing a single fill of grey brown sandy silt with occasional gravel, but no finds.

Pit 311

Pit 311 was ovoid in plan with shallow sides and a slightly rounded base to a depth of 0.13m containing a single fill of grey brown sandy silt from which 1500g of burnt flint was recovered. The pit was cut by ditch 1003.

Pit 318 (Pl.4)

Pit 318 was ovoid in plan, it was 0.91m wide with moderately sloping sides and a slightly rounded base to a depth of 0.13m containing a single fill of grey brown sandy silt from which 3000g of burnt flint was recovered.

Pit 343

Pit 343 was ovoid in plan, it was 0.55m wide with shallow sides and a rounded base to a depth of 0.10m containing a single fill which comprised a grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks but no finds.

Pit 400

Pit 400 was circular in plan, it was 1.10m in diameter with moderately sloping sides and a flat base to a depth of 0.22m containing a single fill which comprised a grey yellow clayey silt with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks from which no finds were recovered.

Pit 404

Pit 404 was circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base to a depth of 0.16m containing a single fill which comprised a brown grey clayey silt with occasional small gravel from which no finds were recovered. The relationship with ditch 1001 was uncertain.

Pits 416-418 (Pl. 6)

Pit 416 was 2.20m wide with steep sides and an uneven rounded base to a depth of 0.69m containing five fills; fill (478) comprised an orange brown sandy silt with occasional gravel from which one sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery was recovered. No finds were recovered from the other fills: fill (479) comprised a brown

grey clayey silt; (481) was an orange brown sandy silt with occasional gravel; (484) was a brown grey sandy silt, and fill (485) comprised a red brown sandy silt with occasional gravel.

Pit 417 was 1.64m in diameter with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base to a depth of 0.36m containing a single fill which comprised a brown grey clayey silt from which an intact flint flake, 117g of burnt flint and four sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery were recovered.

Pit 418 was 1.05m in diameter with steep sides and a rounded base to a depth of 0.58m containing two fills. Fill (482) comprised a brown grey clayey silt from which 171g of burnt flint was recovered. Fill (483) comprised a red brown sandy silt with occasional gravel from which no finds were recovered. This fill was only found in a small hollow at the bottom of the pit and did not extend into the drawn section.

The relationship between the pits was observed to be 417 cutting 418 cutting 416.

Tree throw hole 422

Tree throw hole 422 was roughly oval in plan with shallow sides and an uneven rounded base to a depth of 0.27m containing a single fill which comprised a grey brown clayey silt with occasional gravel and moderate rooting from which no finds were recovered. The relationship with ditch 1001 was uncertain.

Posthole 428

Posthole 428 was circular in plan, it was 0.35m in diameter with steep sides and a flat base to a depth of 0.14m containing a single fill which comprised a yellow brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions from which 25 sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery was recovered. The posthole is the only feature found within enclosure 1000 suggesting some activity within the area, although it is possible this could have been before the enclosure was established.

Finds

Pottery by Jane Timby

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 215 sherds of pottery weighing 712.5g dating to the later prehistoric and/or early Roman period (Appendix 2). In addition there are 20 small fragments of fired clay weighing 66g. Pottery was recovered from 17 defined features; a total of 18 contexts, largely from cut features, including pits, gullies and ditches. The pottery was in poor condition with a number of well fragmented, often worn, sherds, reflected in an extremely low overall average sherd weight of just 3g. There appeared to be a few instances of multiple sherds from single vessels.

For the purposes of the assessment the assemblage was sorted into fabrics based on the main inclusions in the clay and firing colour. The sherds were coded following recommendations in the PCRG (1997) where letters

denoted the main inclusions combined with the firing colour (GY=grey; BW= black; OXID= oxidized). The sherds were quantified by sherd count and weight for each context. Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces where joins could be made.

The assemblage comprises a mixture of handmade and wheel-made vessels. There are just two rim-sherds present along with one handle and some base-sherds. The remaining pieces are all bodysherds or small crumbs. The rims come from a jar and a bowl or dish with burnished surfaces.

Three main ware groups present: grog-tempered ware (GR); sandy wares (SA) and sandy with flint (SAFL). Some sandy wares have a particularly iron-rich matrix (SAFE).

Most of the pottery comes from two ditch systems; one linear 1001 (419-424); the other forming enclosure 1000 (425-6, 429-31). The former produced just five sherds weighing 19.5g, whilst the latter was slightly more productive with 150 sherds, 65% of the total assemblage.

The range of fabrics is typical of the later Iron Age and early Roman periods. It is often difficult to discriminate between the two as in rural situations pottery of later Iron Age character can continue to be used up until the end of the 1st century AD. A small number of wheel-made sandy wares can be regarded as Roman in character and most of these appear to be concentrated in the enclosure ditch suggesting this is early Roman. Similarly the sherds from pit 243 and ditch 203 are probably early Roman. The other material is potentially slightly earlier. The very small assemblages and the lack of diagnostic material means that such conclusions can only be very tentative.

Metalwork by Steve Crabb

Three pieces of ferrous metalwork were recovered from this site.

Cat. No. 1 is a fragment of a triangular cross section iron plate, this along with the form of the tip of the object would suggest this is a fragment of a small knife with a straight back and an upward angled edge.

Cat. No. 2 and 3 are fragments of the same object, it is a U-shaped object made of square cross sectioned bar. It is likely to have been a fitting but it is difficult to ascertain an exact function for this object.

The metalwork does not suggest that any one particular craft or industrial specialization was being carried out on this site.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A small collection of just 8 struck flints were recovered from this phase of the excavations (Appendix 2). They were all flakes. The flints are not closely datable, but are likely to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date and residual in the contexts from which they came.

Worked Stone by Genni Elliott

A single fragment of worked stone was recovered from fill 497 of ditch slot 426. This consisted of a small segment from the outer edge of a rotary quern with a flat grinding surface. The quern is made from upper old red sandstone quartz conglomerate with the closest sources being either the Bristol Channel or the Forest of Dean.

Macrobotanical plant material and charcoal by Jo Pine

Nine bulk soil samples were processed from features excavated, ranging in volume from 5 to 40 litres. These were wet-sieved to 0.25mm and air dried and the resultant flots examined under a low-power binocular microscope at a magnification of x10. No charred seeds were recovered and only one fragment of charcoal (likely oak) was recovered from cut 428 (499).

Conclusion

Phase 2b revealed a little archaeology with a portion of a possible early Roman enclosure revealed. The only other feature within this phase of works was a tree throw hole which contained late Iron Age-early Roman pottery likely deposited through natural processes.

The Phase 3 excavation revealed a coaxial ditched field system probably of late Iron Age-early Roman date though few datable finds were recovered. The ditches can be assumed to have been reinforced by accompanying banks and probably hedges. The field system provides for very large fields (ditches 1003 and 1007 mark an area 100m wide), incorporating two smaller enclosed areas, and, at the eastern limit of this phase of excavation, a droveway/trackway. The enclosed area to the south-east appears to be a part of the field system which continues to the east and south, whereas that to the north-west (1000), although only partly exposed within the stripped area, seems more likely to be a self-contained enclosure perhaps for coralling stock rather than, say for controlling their grazing.

Discrete features were few, and spread across the site, but some were clearly of late Iron Age and/or -early Roman date. Although the evidence points to a well organized landscape dating from late Iron Age and/or -early Roman times, it seems unlikely that the focus of contemporary occupation areas have been revealed.

In a wider context, as repeatedly observed for the Thames Valley well to the north (Booth *et al.* 2007, 33–6) but also in north Hampshire (e.g., Moore 2011), the late Iron Age saw a significant ‘filling up’ of the landscape (Fulford 1992, 35). It is therefore perhaps of greater note that the settlement of the area here commenced in the Late Iron Age/ Early Roman period and included significant investment in organizing the landscape, only for it to revert to being (apparently) un-maintained within such a short timespan. Although boundaries marked by banks (and/or hedges) could survive after the ditches filled in, some signs of maintenance could still be expected. At best the site may have passed from enclosed space to some extensive open landuse (‘ranching’?) but an early abandonment is the simpler explanation (although again the paucity of dating evidence must be borne in mind). It is possible that this represents a short-lived pressure on land, at a time when the nucleated centres known as *oppida* are beginning to develop, or additional resources are being mobilized for trade (or perhaps, expected conflict) with the Roman continent.

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APPENDIX 1: Feature details

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
202	261	920	2b	Ditch		
203	262	920	2b	Ditch	Early Roman	Pottery
204	263	920	2b	Ditch Terminus		
205	264		2b	Tree throw hole	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
206	265	921	2b	Gully		
207	266	921	2b	Gully		
208	267	921	2b	Gully		
209	268	921	2b	Gully		
210	269	921	2b	Gully		
211	270	1016	3	Ditch		
212	273	1014	3	Gully		
213	271	1016	3	Ditch	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
214	272	1015	3	Ditch		
215	274, 275	1014	3	Gully		
216	276	1014	3	Gully		
217	277	1014	3	Gully		
218	278	1014	3	Gully		
219	279	1014	3	Gully		
220	280	1015	3	Ditch		
221	281	1016	3	Ditch		
222	282	1001	3	Ditch		
223	283	1001	3	Ditch		
224	284	1001	3	Ditch		
225	285	1001	3	Ditch		
226	286	1015	3	Ditch		
227	287	1016	3	Ditch		
228	288	1015	3	Ditch		
229	289	1015	3	Ditch		
231	291	1016	3	Ditch		
232	292	1016	3	Ditch		
233	293	1016	3	Ditch		
234	294	1015	3	Ditch		
235	295	1001	3	Ditch		
236	296	1001	3	Ditch		
237	297	1009	3	Gully		
238	298	1009	3	Gully		
239	299	1009	3	Gully		
240	350		3	Pit		
241	351		3	Pit		
242	352, 353		3	Pit		
243	354, 355		3	Pit	Early Roman	Pottery
244	356	1010	3	Gully		
245	357	1011	3	Gully		
246	358	1010	3	Gully		
247	359	1011	3	Gully		
248	360		3	Pit		
249	361	1009	3	Gully Terminus		
300	362	1009	3	Gully		
301	363	1003	3	Ditch Terminus		
302	364	1011	3	Gully		
303	365	1010	3	Gully		
304	366	1003	3	Ditch		
305	367	1003	3	Ditch		
306	368	1003	3	Ditch		
307	369	1003	3	Ditch		
308	370		3	Pit/Tree throw hole		
309	371	1003	3	Ditch		
310	372	1003	3	Ditch		
311	373		3	Pit		
312	374	1001	3	Ditch		
313	375	1001	3	Ditch		
314	376	1001	3	Ditch		
315	377	1001	3	Ditch		
316	378	1003	3	Ditch		
317	379	1003	3	Ditch		
318	380		3	Pit		
319	381	1001	3	Ditch		
320	382	1001	3	Ditch	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
321	383	1002	3	Ditch		
322	384	1002	3	Ditch		
323	385	1003	3	Ditch		
324	386	1003	3	Ditch		
325	387	1001	3	Ditch		
326	388		3	Ditch re-cut		
327	389	1012	3	Gully		
328	390	1013	3	Gully Terminus		
329	391	1013	3	Gully		
330	392	1012	3	Gully		
331	393	1013	3	Gully		
332	394	1013	3	Gully		
333	395	1003	3	Ditch		
334	396	1003	3	Ditch		
335	397	1003	3	Ditch		
336	398	1003	3	Ditch		
337	399	1003	3	Ditch Terminus		
338	450	1012	3	Gully Terminus		
339	451	1012	3	Gully		
340	452	1012	3	Gully		
341	453	1003	3	Ditch		
342	454	1004	3	Gully		
343	455		3	Pit		
344	456	1004	3	Gully		
345	457, 458, 459	1007	3	Ditch	Late Iron Age – Early Roman	Association
346	460	1008	3	Ditch	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
347	486	1007	3	Ditch	Late Iron Age – Early Roman	Association
348	487	1007	3	Ditch	Late Iron Age – Early Roman	Association
349	488	1008	3	Ditch		
400	467		3	Pit		
401	462	1001	3	Ditch Terminus		
402	463	1001	3	Ditch Terminus		
403	464	1001	3	Ditch		
404	465		3	Pit		
405	466	1001	3	Ditch		
406	468	1001	3	Ditch		
407	469	1005	3	Gully Terminus		
408	470	1005	3	Gully		
409	471	1005	3	Gully Terminus		
410	472	1006	3	Gully	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
411	473	1006	3	Gully		
412	474	1006	3	Gully		
413	475	1001	3	Ditch Terminus		
414	476	1001	3	Ditch Terminus		
415	477	1001	3	Ditch		
416	478–9, 481, 484–5		3	Pit	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
417	480		3	Pit	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
418	482, 483		3	Pit		
419	489	1001	3	Ditch	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
420	490	1001	3	Ditch		
421	491	1001	3	Ditch	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
422	492		3	Tree throw hole		
423	493	1001	3	Ditch		
424	494	1001	3	Ditch	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
425	495, 496	1000	3	Enclosure Ditch Terminus	Early Roman	Pottery
426	497	1000	3	Enclosure Ditch Terminus	Early Roman	Pottery
427	498	1000	3	Enclosure Ditch		
428	499		3	Posthole	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
429	550	1000	3	Enclosure Ditch	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
430	551	1000	3	Enclosure Ditch		
431	552	1000	3	Enclosure Ditch	Late Iron Age - Early Roman	Pottery
432	553	1015	3	Ditch		

APPENDIX 2: Pottery Catalogue

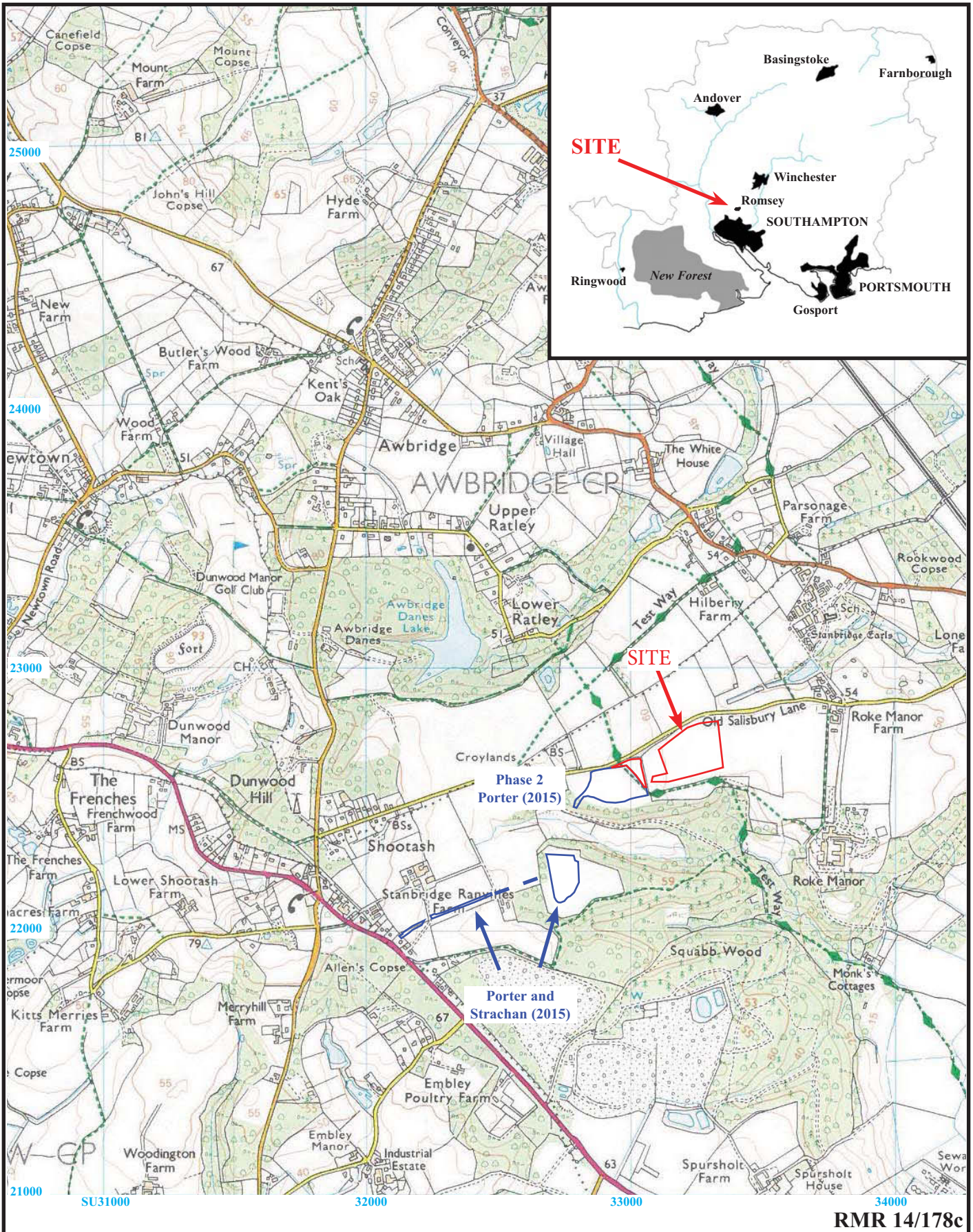
<i>Group</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Rim</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>DATE</i>
920	203	262	ditch	SA	25	6	1	Bowl/dish, int/ext burnished	ERO
	205	264	tree throw hole	SAFE	48	1	-	8=1 fresh break	LIA-ERO
	205	264	tree throw hole	SAFL	20	6	-		LIA-ERO
1016	213	271	ditch	GRSA	47	9	-	ext burnished	LIA-ERO
	243	354	pit	BWFSY	4	1	-	burnshed line lattice	ERO
1001	320	382	ditch	SAFL	2	1	-		LIA-ERO
1008	346	460	ditch	GRSA	7	1	-		LIA-ERO
1006	410	472	gully	BW	5	1	-	3=1 fresh bk	LIA-ERO
	416	478	pit	SA	1	1	-		LIA-ERO
	417	480	pit	SA	3	4	-		LIA-ERO
1001	419	489	ditch	GRSA	1	2	-		LIA-ERO
1001	421	491	ditch	GYGR	9	1	-		LIA-ERO
1001	424	494	ditch	SA	0.5	1	-		LIA-ERO
1000	425	495	ditch	GYSY	4	3	-		ERO
1000	425	496	ditch	OXIDF	15	2	-	Wheelmade	ERO
1000	425	496	ditch	BWSY	41	8	-		ERO
1000	425	496	ditch	GYGR	31	4	-		ERO
1000	426	497	ditch	BWSY	120	107	-		ERO
1000	426	497	ditch	GYSY	80	12	-	Wheelmade	ERO
1000	426	497	ditch	SAFL	15	3	-		ERO
1000	426	497	ditch	GRSA	44	0	1	Hand made jar	ERO
	428	499	posthole	SF	49	16	-		LIA-ERO
	428	499	posthole	SAFL	4	9	-		LIA-ERO
1000	429	550	ditch	SAFL	0.5	1	-		LIA-ERO
1000	429	550	ditch	SA	3	1	-		LIA-ERO
1000	429	550	ditch	SAFL	0.5	1	-		LIA-ERO
1000	431	552	ditch	SA	42	4	-	hanlde	LIA-ERO
1000	431	552	ditch	SAFL	4	1	-		LIA-ERO
1000	431	552	ditch	SAFE	3	1	-		LIA-ERO
1000	431	552	ditch	SA	2	1	-		LIA-ERO
1001			ditch	SAMIC	9	1	-		LIA-ERO
1000			ditch	GYFSY	4	2	-		ERO
1000			ditch	SA	3	1	-		ERO
	TOTAL				646.5	213	2		
1000	426	497	ditch	Fired clay	66	20	-		

LIA - Late Iron Age

ERO - Early Roman

APPENDIX 2: Struck flint Catalogue

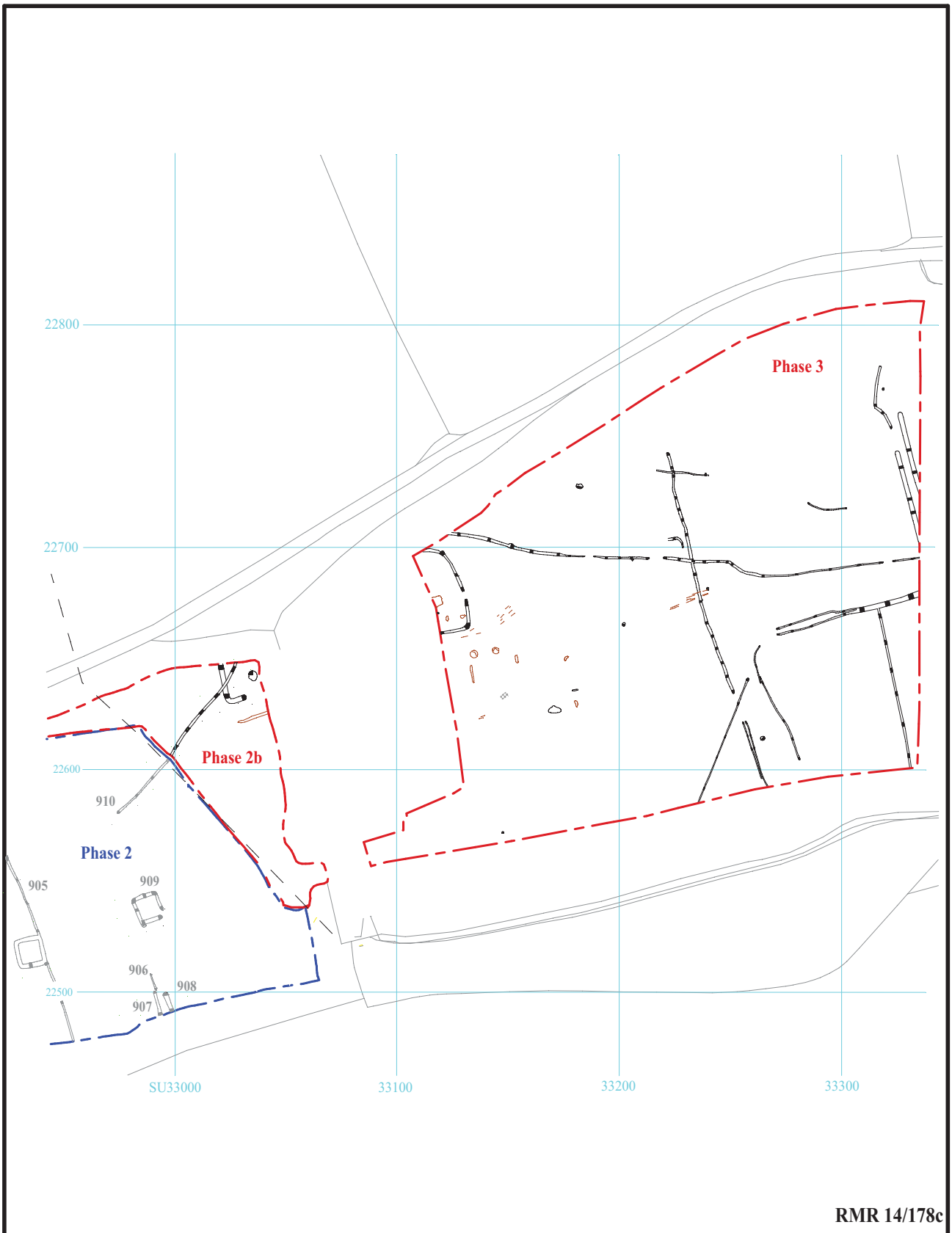
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Intact Flake</i>	<i>Broken flake</i>
240	350		Pit	3	1	1
309	371	1003	Ditch	3		1
330	392	1012	Gully	3	1	1
417	480		Pit	3	1	
426	497	1000	Ditch	3		1
429	550	1000	Ditch	3	1	



**Roke Manor Farm, Shootash, Romsey, Hampshire
Archaeological Recording Action (Phase 2b and 3)**

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Roke Manor, Shootash and within Hampshire.

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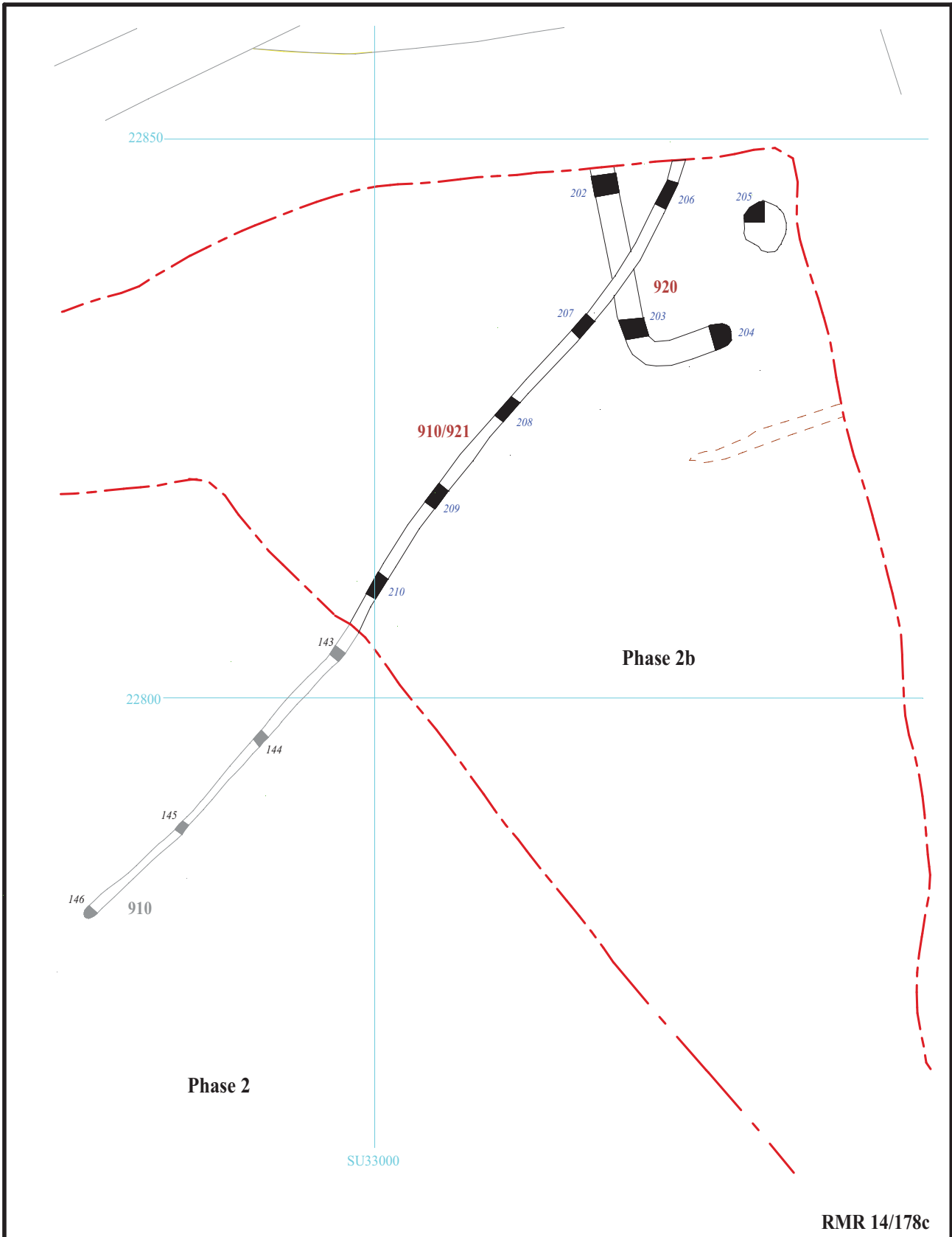
RMR 14/178c

**Roke Manor Farm, Shootash,
Romsey, Hampshire
Archaeological Recording Action (phase 2b and 3)**

Figure 2. Extraction phase 3.

0 125m

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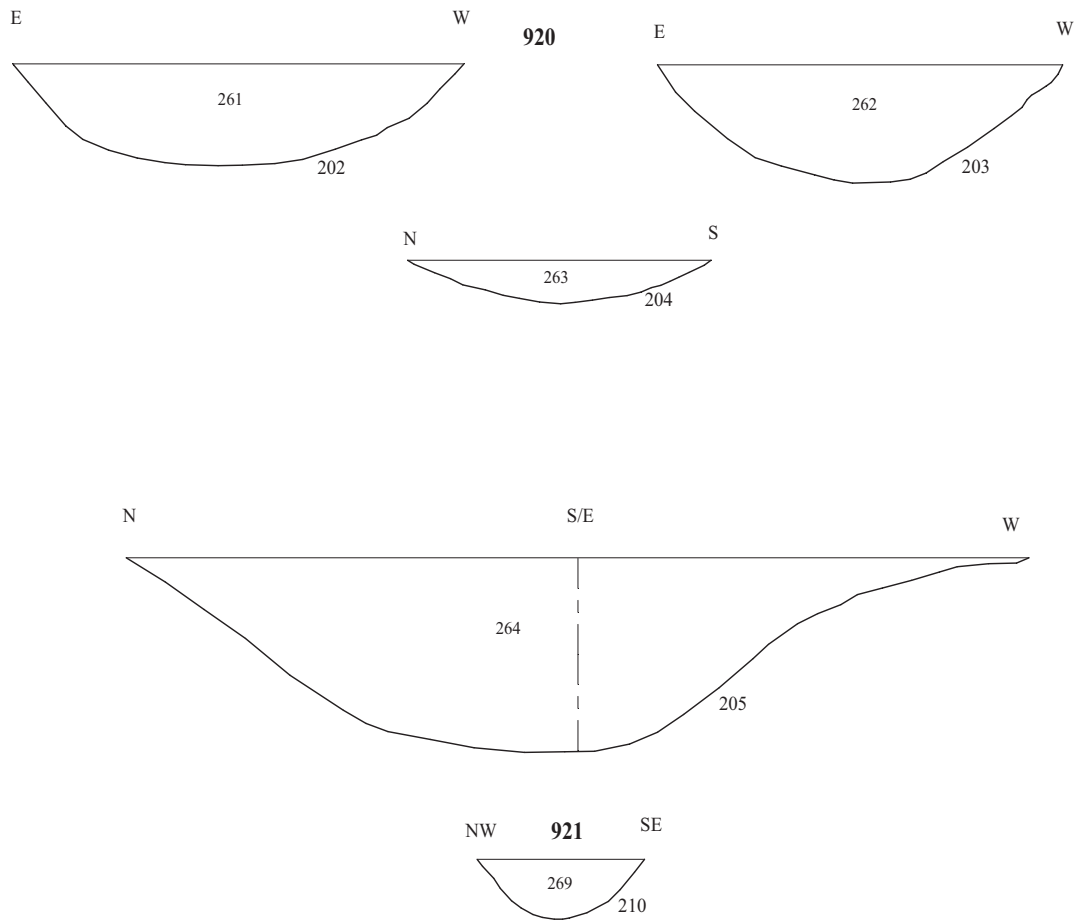
RMR 14/178c

**Roke Manor Farm, Shootash,
Romsey, Hampshire
Archaeological Recording Action (phase 2b and 3)**

Figure 3. Extraction phase 2b.



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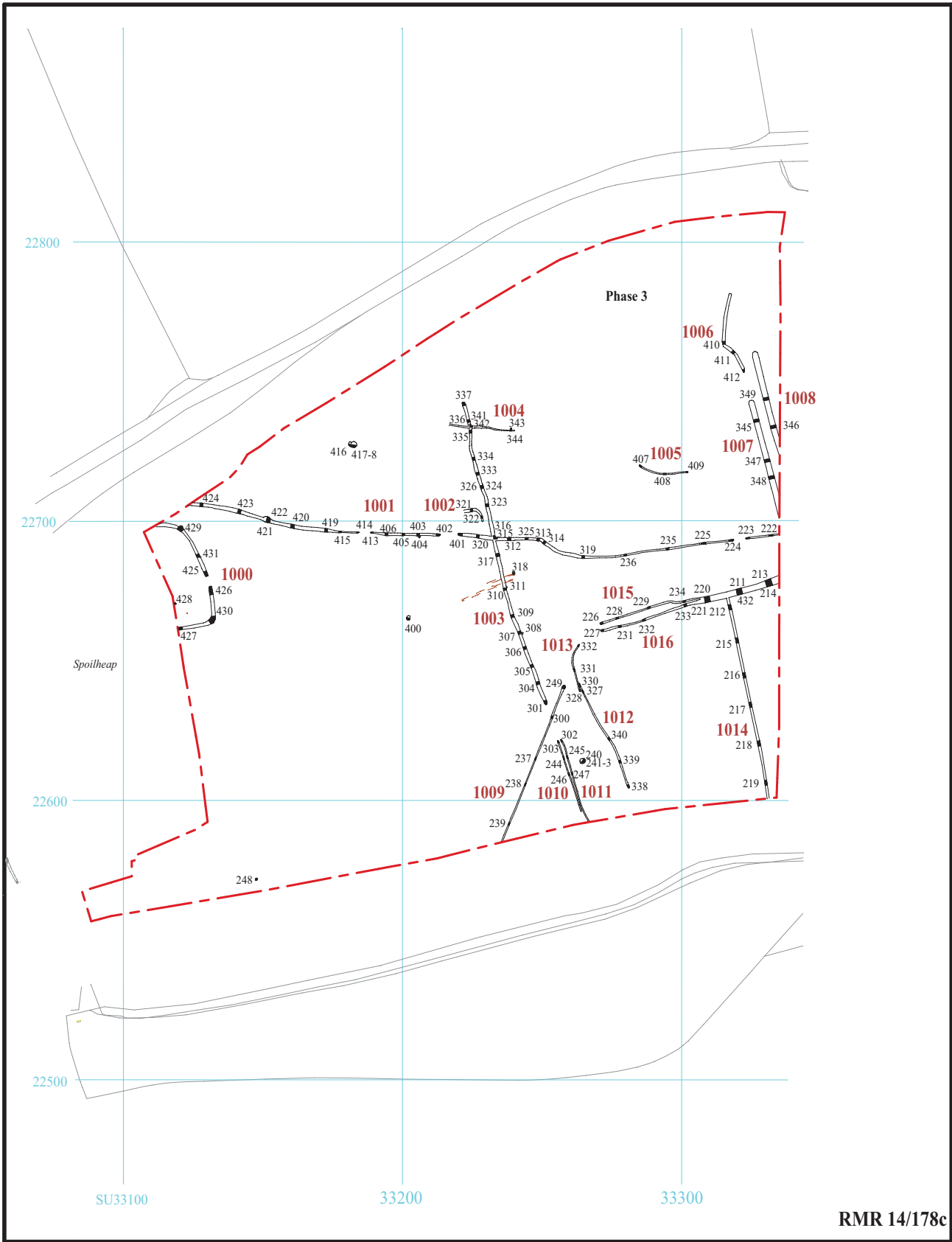
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**Roke Manor Farm, Shootash,
Romsey, Hampshire, 2017
Archaeological Recording Action (Phase 2b and 3)**

Figure 4. Sections (Phase 2b)



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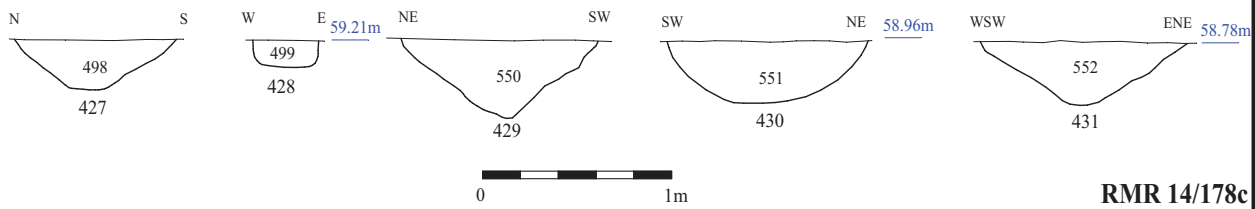
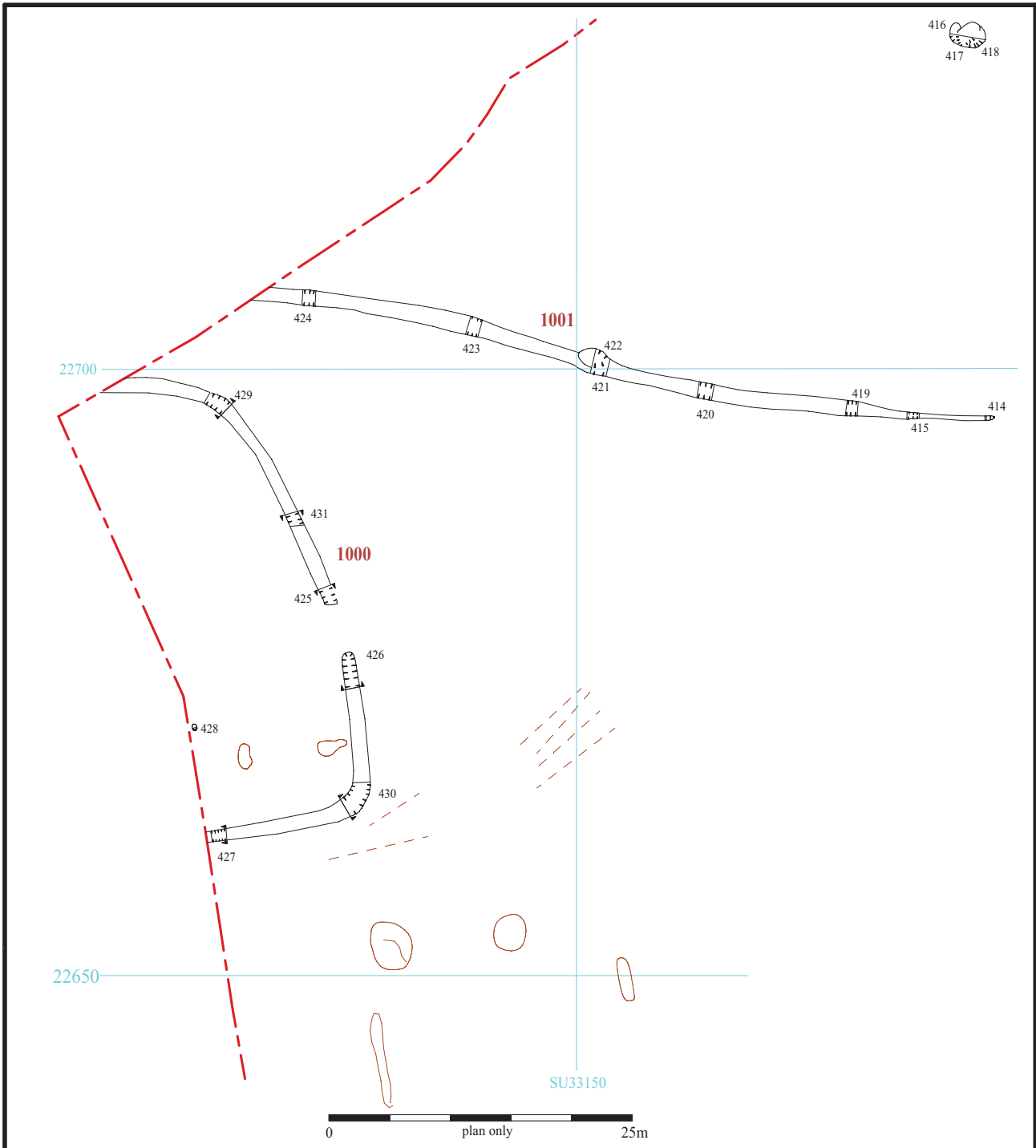
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**Roke Manor Farm, Shootash,
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Archaeological Recording Action (Phase 2b and 3)**

Figure 5. Plan of main phase 3.



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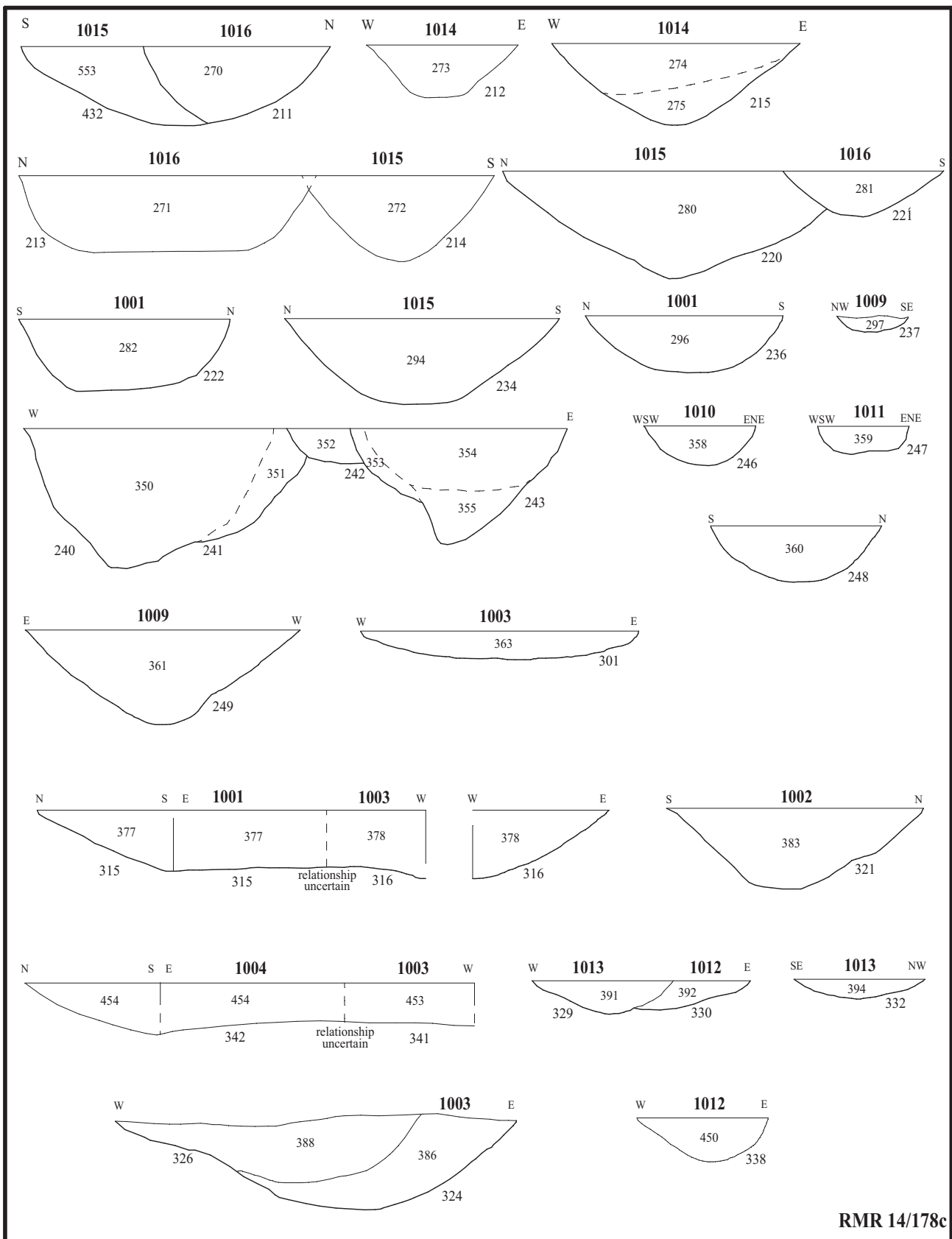
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**Roke Manor Farm, Shootash,
Romsey, Hampshire
Archaeological Recording Action (Phase 2b and 3)**

Figure 6. Detail of main enclosure 1000 and sections.





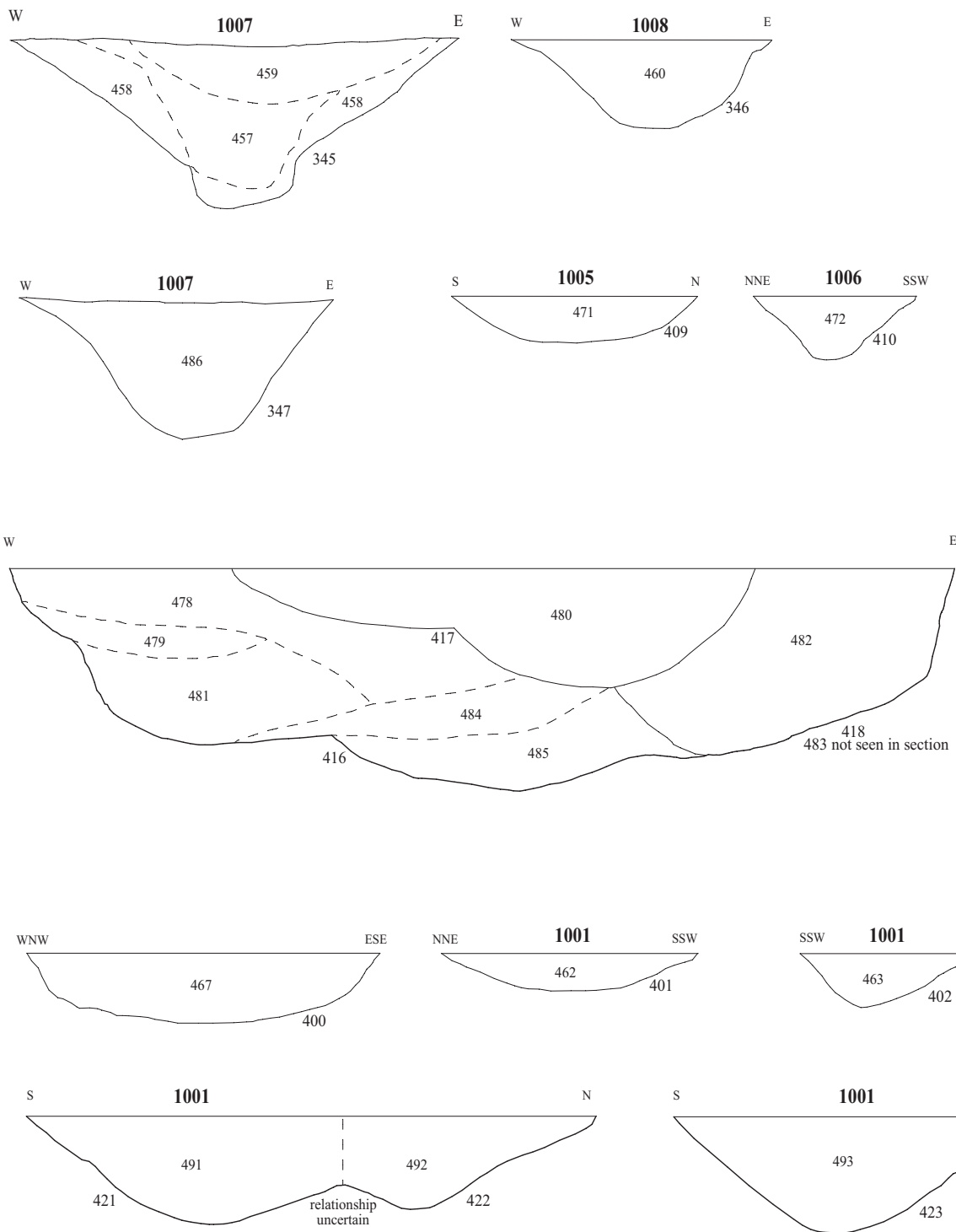
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Figure 7. Sections



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**Roke Manor Farm, Shootash,
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Archaeological Recording Action (Phase 2b and 3)**

Figure 8. Sections



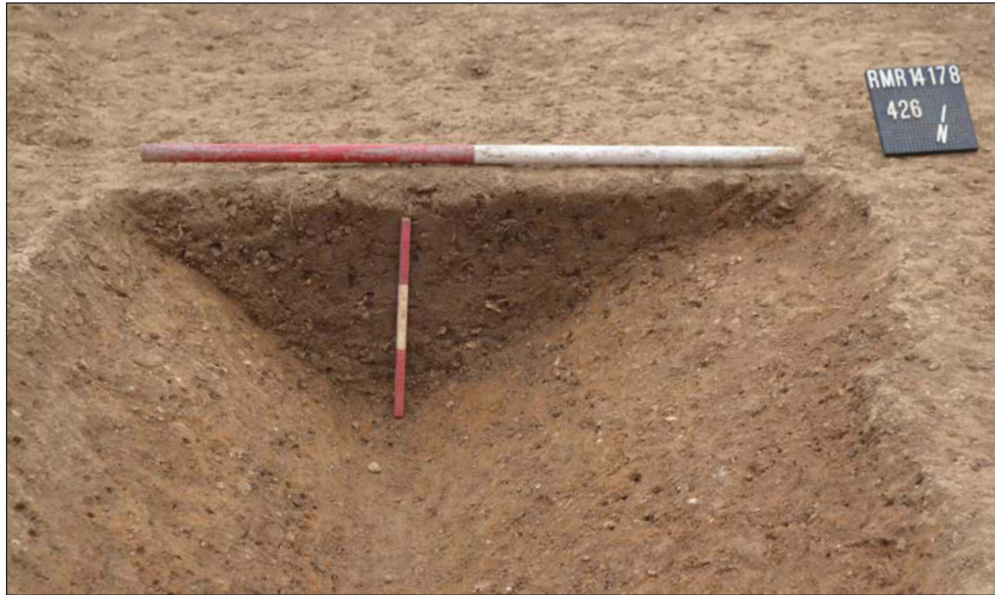


Plate 1. Enclosure 1000, slot 426, looking south south west, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Enclosure 1000, slot 431, looking south, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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Archaeological Recording Action (Phase 2b and 3)
Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Enclosure 1000 in NW part of Phase 3, looking north east, Scales: 2m.



Plate 4. Burnt flint in pit 318, looking west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

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**Roke Manor Farm, Shootash,
Romsey, Hampshire**
Archaeological Recording Action (Phase 2b and 3)
Plates 3 and 4.

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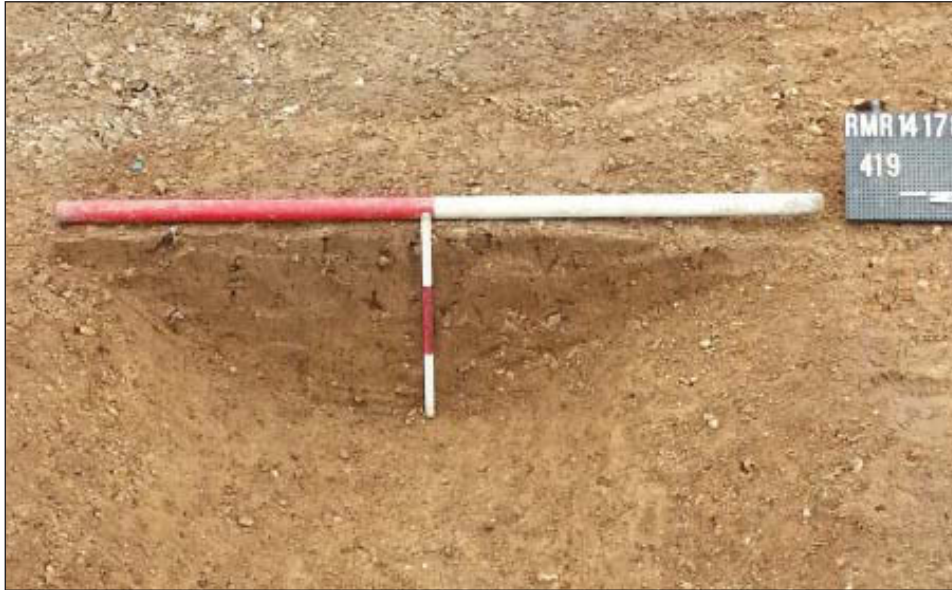


Plate 5. Ditch 1001, slot 419, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Pits 416-418 looking north, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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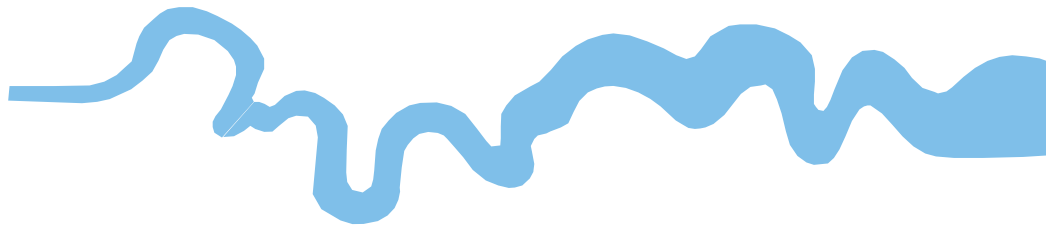
**Roke Manor Farm, Shootash,
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Archaeological Recording Action (Phase 2b and 3)
Plates 5 and 6.

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TIME CHART

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





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