

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Milton Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood,
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Munding

Site Code: SUW18/32

(SP 2730 1790)

Land at Milton Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Deanfield Homes Ltd**

by Andrew Mundin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SUW 18/32

July 2018

Summary

Site name: Land at Milton Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SP 2730 1790

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 20th June – 28th June 2018

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Andrew Munding, Pierre Manisse

Site code: SUW 18/32

Area of site: 3.32ha (2.77ha developable)

Summary of results: The evaluation comprised the digging of 28 trenches across the area of the proposed development. In the central part of the site these trenches revealed occupation deposits of Bronze Age and Iron Age date with some Late Iron Age or Roman features. A few flints of Mesolithic date were also recorded. It is considered that this central zone has high archaeological potential.

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

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Land at Milton Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Muddin

Report 18/32

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on a parcel of land south of Milton Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, OX7 6BD (SP 2730 1790) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Tom Rider, Land Director at Deanfield Homes Ltd, 8 Packhorse Road, Gerrard Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 7QE.

Outline planning permission (16/02851/OUT) has been gained from West Oxfordshire District Council to develop the site for housing. The consent is subject to two conditions (6 and 7) relating to archaeology. The investigation followed a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed by Mr. Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service, the archaeological advisor to West Oxfordshire District Council and based on a brief provided by him (Coddington 2018). The fieldwork was supervised by Andrew Muddin, with assistance from Pierre Manisse, Anne-Marie Huvig, Maisie Foster and Daniel Neal. The site code is SUW 18/32.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service, with an accession code to be assigned in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies west of Wychwood Business Park and to the rear (south) of Wychwood Primary School off Milton Road (Figs 1 and 2). The south west boundary is defined by the watercourse known as 'The Liffs', which flows from the River Evenlode. This feeds water into the Wychwood Wild Gardens to the south which contains ornamental ponds. The site lies at a height of c. 108m above Ordnance Datum (OD) at Milton Road and slopes down to c. 102m in the west. Medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow is present on the site with three different alignments, separated by headlands (Fig. 7). The underlying geology is 2nd gravel terrace of the River Evenlode (BGS 1982) with patchy silts, reddish sand and gravel in the north east, and yellowy grey clay with gravel in the south and west recorded in the trenches. The southern boundary (south-eastern corner) is marked on the 1843 Shipton tithe map, and is considered to be a historic hedgerow (Millward 2016).

Archaeological background

The potential of the site has been highlighted in the brief, prepared by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (Coddington 2018) drawing on a desk-based assessment for the site (Millward 2016). In summary, the site lies beyond the historic (Medieval) core of the village. No archaeological finds have been recorded on the site itself and no pre-Medieval settlement deposits have been located from archaeological works nearby, though a wide range of archaeological findspots and buildings are known in the vicinity. Burial of 9th/10th century date has been found at the Old Prebendal House, close to the later 12th century church suggesting the presence of a Late Saxon Minster (Blair 1994,66). Archaeological observations on High Street and Church Street, recorded late Medieval deposits (Fry and Pollinger 1998; Coles and Hammond 2000; Taylor 2001) and The Shaven Crown Hotel in the village has 14th century structural elements in its built fabric (Kenyon 1998,6).

Finds of prehistoric flintwork, a hoard of Iron Age gold coin starters, Roman coins and pottery and medieval pottery have been recorded by fieldwalking from the greater village environs (Millward 2016). An early Neolithic long barrow known as The Grove lies c.250m to the south west.

Objectives and methodology

The general objectives of the project are to:

- To determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental within the area of development,
- To undertake the work in such a manner that will not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation,
- To provide information to allow the preparation of a mitigation strategy if necessary.

Specific research objectives to understand more local and thematic priorities, according to the Solent Thames Research Agenda (Hey and Hind 2014) are:

- When was the site first occupied and when as the site abandoned?
- What is the layout and organisation of the site?
- What activities are taking place on the site?
- What is the nature and date of any features encountered? (e.g fields, boundary features or settlement enclosures, or structural remains)

In total, it was proposed that 28 trenches, c.25m long and 1.6m wide were to be excavated across the main area of the site to be affected by proposed development. This encompassed most of the east and central parts of the site, but excluded the western area, which was to be left as undeveloped meadow and included a badger set.

Results

All 28 trenches were dug but the alignment of some in the south were adjusted to lie perpendicular to the slope of the ground. The trenches ranged from 21-27.8m in length and 0.31-1.1m deep. The trenches were 1.6m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Trench 1 was aligned SE-NW and was 22.5m long and 0.54m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil, which was a grey brown sandy silt, and 0.29m subsoil (a light brown silty sand with gravel) above the natural geology, a yellowish brown silty sand with gravel .

Trench 2 (Figs 3, 4 and 6)

Trench 2 was aligned SW - NE and was 23.8m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil, overlying 0.27m of subsoil above the natural (gravel) geology.

A pit and a posthole (1 and 2) were present towards the SW end of the trench. Pit 2 was 0.72m in diameter and 0.16m deep. It was filled with a firm, reddish brown sandy silt with occasional, rounded, medium pebble gravel (53) with a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery and animal bone. Posthole (1) was 0.31m in diameter and 0.12m deep. It contained no finds.

Trench 3 (Fig 3)

Trench 3 was aligned SW-NE and was 21m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.31m of topsoil above 0.27m of subsoil, above the natural geology.

Trench 4 (Fig 3)

Trench 4 was aligned WSW-ENE and was 22m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil above 0.15m of subsoil above the natural geology of gravel and yellowish grey silt.

Trench 5 (Figs 3, 4 and 6; Pl. 5)

Trench 5 was aligned SE-NW and was 23.5m in length and 0.66m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil, overlying 0.41m of subsoil, above the natural reddish brown gravel geology. Ditch (5) was present at the SE end of the trench. It was 2.5m wide and 0.7m deep, and contained two fills. The uppermost fill (56) was a

firm, light brown grey sandy silt with occasional gravel. The basal fill (57) was a firm, light reddish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel. No finds were recovered from either fill.

Trench 6 (Figs 3, 4 and 6; Pl.1 and 6)

Trench 6 was orientated SW-NE and was 21.8m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil over 0.15m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. At 17m was pit 3. This was at least 1.38m across and 0.26m deep. The single fill (54), which was a firm light grey brown sandy silt contained Iron Age pottery. Gully (4) was also located in this trench. It was 0.44m wide, but only 0.07m deep. The single fill (55) was of a light grey sandy silt with occasional small rounded pebbles and contained two sherds of LIA/Roman pottery.

Trench 7 (Figs 3, 4 and 6; Pl.2, 7 and 8)

Trench 7 was aligned NW-SE and was 24.7m long and 0.72m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.37m of topsoil above 0.23m of subsoil above the natural geology.

Four pits were recorded.

Pit (11) was 1.58m in diameter and 0.6m deep with two fills and a flat base. The upper fill (66) was a dark brown grey sandy silt with very occasional limestone and gravel. The basal fill (67) of the pit was similar and contained 7 sherds of Bronze Age and one sherd of Iron Age pottery and animal bone.

Pit (12) was c.2m in diameter but was unexcavated.

Pit (6) was 1.23m across and was 0.3m deep with a flat base. The upper fill (59) was a grey brown clayey-sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and contained discoloured clay and limestone from an external heat source. No *in-situ* burnt deposits were found in the pit. The basal fill (58) was similar and contained two sherds of Bronze Age and one sherd of Iron Age pottery.

Pit (7) was 1.64m in diameter and 0.21m deep. It had a single fill (60) was found: grey brown sandy silt with moderate smaller rounded pebbles and contained nine sherds of Bronze Age pottery.

Ditch (13) was unexcavated but is considered to be the same as ditch 10 in Trench 9.

Trench 8 (Figs 3, 4 and 6)

This trench was aligned SW-NE and was 23.4m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil over 0.23m of subsoil overlying the natural geology.

At 17m was ditch (8) which was 1.03m wide and 0.24m deep. This contained a single fill (61) of greyish yellow-brown sandy silt with moderate pieces of angular flint and occasional rounded pebbles and some animal bone.

Trench 9 (Figs 3, 4 and 6: Pl.3 and 9)

Trench 9 was aligned SW-NE and was 27.2m long and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.27m of topsoil above 0.17m of subsoil overlying the natural reddish yellow sandy silt geology.

This trench contained two features. Pit (14) was 14m from the SW end of the trench. It contained a single fill (70) of firm grey brown sandy silt with small rounded pebbles and 10 sherds of Bronze Age pottery. At 20m was ditch 10 which was 2.8m wide and 1.13m deep with three fills. The top fill (63) was a firm, grey brown sandy silt. The secondary fill (64) was a dark grey brown sandy silt with reddened limestone pieces and rounded pebbles and two sherds of Bronze Age pottery and one of Iron Age date. The basal fill (65) was a firm reddish brown sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles.

Trench 10 (Fig 3)

Trench 10 was aligned SE-NW and was 25.3m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.25m thick overlying 0.2m of subsoil above the natural geology, which was light yellowish grey clayey silt with rounded pebble inclusions.

Trench 11 (Fig 3)

Trench 11 was aligned WSW-ENE and was 22.5m long and 0.49m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.34m thick overlying 0.15m of subsoil above the natural geology, which was light yellowish grey clayey silt with rounded pebble inclusions.

Trench 12 (Fig. 3, 5 and 6)

Trench 12 was aligned SE-NW and was 23.9m long and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.32m thick overlying 0.2m of subsoil above the natural geology of reddish grey sandy silt (with yellowish grey clay with gravel at the SE end). At 14m was gully 9. It was 0.48m wide and the slot was 0.68m long, on an exposed length of 1.58m. It was filled with one fill, a brown-grey clayey silt with moderately frequent sub-rounded and rounded stones (62). It contained no finds.

Trench 13 (Fig. 3, 5 and 6; Pl. 4 and 10)

Trench 13 was aligned N-S and was 25m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.3m thick overlying 0.16m of subsoil above the natural geology.

At 12m from the S end, was pit 17 cut by ditch 15. Pit (17) was c.2m in diameter. It contained a single fill of grey brown sandy clay with moderate sub-rounded stones but no finds were recovered from its fill. The linear feature was two parallel ditches, with the E side ditch (15) cutting the W side (16). Ditch (15) was 1.3m wide with a single fill of a dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles along with eight sherds of Bronze Age pottery, animal bone and a few struck flints.

Trench 14 (Fig. 3)

Trench 14 was aligned SE-NW and was 22.8m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.24m thick overlying 0.16m of subsoil above the natural geology. A large ditch (18) was recorded, but not excavated at the NW end of the trench. It was c.3.5m wide and would appear to be the same as the ditch uncovered in Trench 19. It seems to correspond with a boundary depicted on the 1843 Tithe map.

Trench 15 (Fig.3)

Trench 15 was aligned SW- NE and was 24.7m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.29m thick overlying 0.18m of subsoil above the natural geology, which was yellowish grey silt with gravel and patches of reddish brown silt.

Trench 16 (Fig.3)

Trench 16 was aligned W-E and was 22m long and 0.57m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.3m thick overlying 0.15m of subsoil above the natural geology, which was reddish yellow clayey silt with rounded pebbles.

Trench 17 (Fig.3)

Trench 17 was aligned W-E and was 23.7m long and 0.78m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.38m thick overlying 0.4m of subsoil above the natural geology, which was reddish yellow clayey silt with rounded pebbles.

Trench 18 (Fig.3)

Trench 18 was aligned SW-NE and was 22.8m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.25m thick overlying 0.15m of subsoil above the natural geology.

Trench 19 (Fig.3)

Trench 19 was aligned ENE-WSW and 25m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.2m of topsoil overlying 0.45m of subsoil, which in turn overlaid the natural geology. At 12m a large ditch (19) was present, which contained two fills. The upper was a yellowish-brown silty, clayey sand with sub-angular stone inclusions (75). The lower fill was a light greyish brown silty sandy clay with sub-angular stone inclusions (76). No finds were recovered. This ditch appears to be the same as that recorded in Trench 14, thought to be of post-medieval date.

Trench 20 (Fig.3)

Trench 20 was aligned SW-NE and was 24.1m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.35m thick overlying 0.25m of subsoil above the natural geology. The trench contained a stone-filled drain.

Trench 21 (Fig.3)

Trench 21 was aligned E-W and was 27.8m long and 0.8m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.3m thick overlying 0.13m of subsoil above the natural geology, which was composed of yellow sand and mottled greyish brown sand and silt.

Trench 22 (Fig.3)

Trench 22 was aligned W-E and was 23.8m long and 1.05m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.22m thick overlying 0.38m of subsoil above the natural geology of bluish grey clay/light brown sandy clay with rounded pebbles.

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Trench 23 (Fig.3)

Trench 23 was aligned SE-NW and was 22.9m long and 0.49m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.32m thick overlying 0.17m of subsoil above the natural geology (with greyish brown clay patches).

Trench 24 (Fig.3)

Trench 24 was aligned SW-NE and was 23.7m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.2m thick overlying 0.34m of subsoil above the natural geology of blueish grey sandy clay/brownish grey clay. The trench contained a stone-filled drain.

Trench 25 (Fig.3)

Trench 25 was aligned SW-NE and was 25.1m long and, at its deepest, 1.1m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.2m thick overlying 0.16m of subsoil above clayey silt natural geology.

Trench 26 (Fig.3)

Trench 26 was aligned SE-NW and was 27m long and up to 0.9m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.2m thick overlying 0.5m of subsoil above the natural gravel geology.

Trench 27 (Fig.3)

Trench 27 was aligned on an SW-NE and was 27m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.2m thick overlying 0.3m of subsoil above the natural geology which was grey-yellow silts and mottled reddish brown clayey silts with gravel. A stone-filled drain was observed at the SW end.

Trench 28 (Fig.3)

Trench 28 was aligned N-S and was 23.5m long and 0.75m at its deepest. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.22m thick overlying 0.62m of subsoil above the natural sand, clay and gravel geology.

Finds

Pottery by Richard Tabor

The assemblage comprised 72 sherds weighing 343g and four indeterminate crumbs weighing 1g giving a low mean sherd weight of 4.5g. The pottery was spread over five of the evaluation trenches and was recovered from the fills of a range of discrete and linear features. A single modern sherd was found in subsoil. The sherds were allocated to fabric groups based on the material, size and sorting of the principal inclusions in accordance with guidelines for the recording and analysis of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 2010). The weights, fabrics, vessel parts

and thickness of all sherds were recorded. Vessels with significant formal traits were restricted to two rim sherds so that attribution of date was judged in the main by fabric and wall thickness.

Character of the assemblage

The fabrics ranged from grog mixtures, through two varieties of fossiliferous, including oolitic, limestone to a single quartz fabric. A single glazed modern sherd was recovered from subsoil (Appendix 3A).

Middle Bronze Age: grog mixtures

GQ1 (medium) Moderately hard grey fabric with buff pink to yellowish brown surfaces including moderate medium (<2mm) to coarse (<6mm) sub-rounded grog, moderate to common medium (<1mm) rounded quartz, rare to sparse reddish brown fine (<1mm) iron oxides and rare dark brown small ironstone pebbles (<3mm).

GQ2 (medium) Moderately hard grey fabric with grey surfaces including moderate medium (<2mm) to coarse (<6mm) sub-rounded and sub-angular grog and rare to sparse medium (<1mm) rounded quartz.

GV1 (medium) Moderately hard, dark grey, sparsely micaceous fabric with dark grey surfaces including moderate medium (<3mm) to rare coarse (<5mm) grey grog, moderate to common medium (<2mm) to coarse (<5mm) sub-rounded and sub-angular voids and rare reddish brown fine (<1mm) iron oxides. The voids are due to the weathering out of calcareous material, possibly shelly limestone.

GL1 (coarse) Moderately soft, soapy, vesicular grey fabric with buff pink to yellowish brown exterior and dark grey interior surfaces with common fine (<1mm), medium (<2mm) and sparse coarse (<8mm) voids and including sparse fine (<1mm) reddish brown iron oxides. The voids are due to the weathering out of calcareous material, possibly shelly/oolitic limestone.

Middle Bronze Age: limestone mixtures

L1 (coarse) Moderately soft to soft, sometimes vesicular grey fabric with buff red to yellowish grey surfaces including common fine to medium crushed (<2mm) and sparse plate (<8mm) fossil shell.

Middle Iron Age: Oolitic

O1 (medium) Moderately soft, greyish brown vesicular fabric with dark grey brown exterior and light grey brown interior surfaces with abundant fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm) spheroid and rounded voids, sparse to moderate medium (<2mm) to coarse (<5mm) sub-angular and sub-rounded voids and rare to sparse fine to medium iron oxides. Voids due to loss of calcareous inclusions, probably crushed oolitic limestone.

Later Iron Age / Roman: Quartz/sand

Q1 (medium) Hard, grey fabric with dark grey brown surfaces including abundant well-sorted fine (<0.5mm) to sparse medium (<1.5mm) sub-rounded quartz, sparse fine (<1mm) to rare medium (<2mm) reddish brown iron oxides.

Modern: Sand

glS1 (medium) Hard, pink fabric with pink surfaces including abundant well-sorted very fine (<0.25mm) sub-angular quartz, and rare fine (<1mm) to coarse (<3mm) pink grog. Yellow glaze on interior.

Given the dearth of feature sherds particular attention was given to the combination of fabrics and wall thickness and the distribution of the range of wall thicknesses across cut features. Even this analysis was hampered by the limited number of sherds per fabric but 53 of the sherds in L1 ranged in thickness from 10mm to 15mm (Appendix 3b). Of these 26 ranged from 12mm to 15mm. This range is strongly suggestive of the Deverel-Rimbury tradition and hence a Middle Bronze Age date. It may also be noteworthy that the only grog tempered fabric for which a thickness could be ascertained, GV1, was thinner, consistent with an earlier Bronze Age date. The range for the oolitic fabric O1 would be consistent with an Iron Age date.

At Eynsham Abbey, 17km south-east of the site, sandy grog fabrics were a feature of the earlier Bronze Age assemblage and shell plate occurred in association with grog. Shell plate was largely absent or rare in the later prehistoric assemblage (Barclay 2001a and b, 125 and 127). Oolitic inclusions were not noted at Eynsham which is relatively remote from a source but ooidal limestone forming the north-facing slope of the River Evenlode valley outcrops less than 1km to south of Milton road so its presence in this assemblage is entirely to be expected. An incurved, simple rounded rim in pit 2 is from an ovoid jar, a form which is common in the

Bronze Age and Iron Age. The use of oolitic limestone tempering combined with a wall thickness of 7mm makes a Middle Iron Age date the more likely. Several ovoid jar rims of that date from Witney, 10km south-east of the site, included examples in oolitic fabrics (Timby 1995, 79, fig. 6, 7).

Paradoxically, quartz fabrics in the Middle Bronze Age tend to be used in fine, thinner-walled fabrics thus the thick walls in Q1 are likely to be from Late Iron Age or, most probably, Roman storage jars. An everted, outwardly expanded, flattened rim in Q1 with a shallow groove on the interior upper surface is from a large, thick-walled jar. The groove may have been a lid seat.

Fired clay by Richard Tabor

The assemblage comprised eight fragments weighing 31g distributed between pit 2 and ditch slot 16. (Appendix 4). There were no surviving surfaces which have indicated the nature of their use.

FC-Sh1 (coarse) Moderately hard, sandy pink to grey fabric including common to abundant medium (<2mm) to coarse (<15mm) shelly limestone.

FC-GQ1 (medium) Moderately hard grey to pink fabric including moderately-well-sorted moderate medium (<2mm) to coarse (<6mm) sub-rounded grog, moderate to common medium (<1mm) opaque and translucent rounded quartz.

FC-Q1 (medium) Moderately soft, soapy grey, silty fabric including sparse to moderate medium (<1mm) rounded and rare medium/coarse (<2mm) sub-angular quartz.

Summary

Despite the scarcity of sherds with diagnostic formal traits the pottery is sufficient to provide outline dating for activity on the site. It is likely that the grog tempered material is a residual scatter from the Early Bronze Age whilst the size and number of some sherds in the dominant fabric, L1, may indicate their survival in feature fills broadly contemporary with their currency in the Middle Bronze Age. Scrappy Iron Age and Roman sherds are insufficient to date any features with confidence although they are at the least indicative of some activity during those periods.

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A small collection, comprising 5 struck flints was recovered from the site as detailed in Appendix 5. Two of the flints from ditch 15 are narrow flakes (blades) which are patinated bluish or whitish blue and are of Mesolithic date. They are residual finds in this context. The other pieces are not closely datable but could easily be contemporary with the Bronze Age pottery recovered.

Animal Bone by Lizzi Lewins

A small assemblage of animal bone (73 fragments) weighing a total of 1129g was recovered during the course of the evaluation (Appendix 6). The bone was in fair condition although some erosion was noted. The bone was classified according size (large – cattle, horse; medium – sheep/goat, pig, deer; small – dog, cat, rodent) and where possible to species level. Only the identified bone will be discussed here.

Pit 6 (59) contained a sliced long bone shaft fragment classified as a medium mammal. Ditch 8 (61) contained a partial distal humerus from a medium mammal. Ditch 10 (64) contained a rib fragment classified as a small mammal; a partial neural spine was classified as a medium mammal; a rib fragment, a distal humerus epiphysis, a partial mandible, a partial scapula, eight long bone fragments (three of which were sliced) and a partial distal metapodial epiphysis recovered from bulk sample 7 were all classified as large mammal. A single horse tooth and a partial cattle molar were also recovered.

Two non-descript burnt fragments were recovered from Ditch 10 (65) bulk sample 8. Pit 11 (66 and 67) contained a sliced long bone shaft fragment from a small mammal, a partial proximal radius and a distal radius epiphysis were classified as large mammal. Ditch 15 (71) contained three cattle mandible fragments with the m2-m3 teeth in situ and a loose cattle molar. Ditch 16 (72) contained 3 long bone shaft fragments classified as large mammal.

Minimum number of individuals was not conducted due to the lack of duplicated skeletal elements. A small amount of taphonomy associated with butchery was noted.

Charred plant remains by Joanna Pine

Eleven samples were taken from the features on the site (Appendix 7). 8L samples of these were floated and wet sieved using a 0.25mm mesh. Several of the flots contained charcoal in small amounts with others containing nothing. One sample (2) from pit 2 (53) was notable with a modest quantity of charcoal and some hazelnut shell.

Conclusion

The evaluation has successfully characterised the archaeological potential of the site. Several trenches towards the centre of the site contain a typical range of archaeological features, namely ditches, pits and postholes, which are indicative of the presence of an occupation site. The chronology of these feature seems to be mainly of Bronze Age date but some Iron Age and Roman features also appear to be represented. Trenches dug to the west, south east and north east revealed nothing of archaeological interest. The central part of the site area is therefore considered to have high archaeological potential.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south or west end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	22.5	1.6	0.54	0–0.3m grey brown sandy silt (topsoil); 0.3–0.59m light yellowish/reddish brown silty sand with rounded gravel (subsoil); 0.59m+ yellowish brown clayey silt with rounded gravel (natural geology)
2	23.8	1.6	0.55	0–0.28m.topsoil; 0.28–0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ natural geology. Pit 2 and posthole 1.
3	21	1.6	SW=0.58 NE=0.56	0–0.31m.topsoil; 0.31–0.58m subsoil; 0.58m+ natural geology.
4	22	1.6	SW=0.56 NE=0.43	0–0.28m.topsoil; 0.28–0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ natural geology.
5	23.5	1.6	0.66	0–0.25m.topsoil; 0.25–0.66m subsoil; 0.66m+ natural geology. Ditch 5. [Pl. 5]
6	21.8	1.6	0.48	0–0.33m.topsoil; 0.33–0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ natural geology. Pit 3 and gully 4. [Pls 1 and 6]
7	24.7	1.6	N=0.6 S=0.72	0–0.37m.topsoil; 0.37–0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ natural geology. Four pits, 67,11,12 and a large ditch 13. [Pls 2,7 and 8]
8	23.4	1.6	0.56	0–0.33m.topsoil; 0.33–0.56m subsoil; 0.56m+ natural geology. Ditch 8.
9	27.2	1.6	0.44	0–0.27m.topsoil; 0.27–0.44m subsoil; 0.44m+ natural geology. Ditch 10 and pit 14. [Pls 3 and 9]
10	25.3	1.6	0.45	0–0.25m.topsoil; 0.25–0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ natural geology.
11	22.5	1.6	0.49	0–0.34m.topsoil; 0.34–0.49m subsoil; 0.49m+ natural geology.
12	23.9	1.6	0.64	0–0.32m.topsoil; 0.32–0.52m subsoil; 0.52m+ natural geology with yellow-grey clay with gravel 9.7m from the ESE end. Ditch 9.
13	25	1.6	S=0.46 N=0.53	0–0.3m.topsoil; 0.3–0.46m subsoil; 0.46m+ natural geology. Two ditches 15,16 and pit 17. [Pls 4 and 10]
14	22.8	1.6	0.48	0–0.24m.topsoil; 0.24–0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ natural geology. Lynchet 18.
15	24.7	1.6	N=0.41 S=0.47	0–0.29m.topsoil; 0.29–0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ natural geology with yellow-grey silt with gravel and patches of reddish brown silt.
16	22	1.6	SW=0.57 NE=0.45	0–0.3m.topsoil; 0.3–0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ natural geology.
17	23.7	1.6	SW=0.62 NE=0.78	0–0.38m.topsoil; 0.38–0.78m subsoil; 0.78m+ natural geology.
18	22.8	1.6	SSW=0.4 NNE=0.6	0–0.25m.topsoil; 0.25–0.4m subsoil; 0.4m+ natural geology.
19	25	1.6	ENE=0.4 WSW=0.65	0–0.2m.topsoil; 0.2–0.65m subsoil; 0.65m+ natural geology.
20	24.1	1.6	N=0.49 S=0.6	0–0.35m.topsoil; 0.35–0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ natural geology. Lynchet 19.
21	27.8	1.6	E=0.4 W=0.8	0–0.3m.topsoil; 0.3–0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ natural geology with yellow sand and gravel and patchy grey-brown sand and silt.
22	23.8	1.6	W=0.6 E=1.05m	0–0.22m.topsoil; 0.22–0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ natural geology; bluish-grey clay with small rounded pebbles in west and light brown sandy clay with rounded pebbles in east.
23	22.9	1.6	0.49	0–0.32m.topsoil; 0.32–0.49m subsoil; 0.49m+ natural geology; with grey brown clay patches in WNW.
24	23.7	1.6	SSW=0.54 NNE=0.7	0–0.2m.topsoil; 0.2–0.54m subsoil; 0.54m+ natural geology; with bluish grey sandy clay in SSW and brownish grey clay in NNE.
25	25.1	1.6	SSW=1.1 NNE=0.46	0–0.2m.topsoil; 0.2–0.46m subsoil; 0.46m+ natural geology; deepen to 1.1m in SSW due to earthwork. Yellow-brown sands and rounded pebble to NNE.
26	27	1.6	SSW=0.54 NNE=0.7	0–0.2m.topsoil; 0.2–0.7m subsoil; 0.7m+ natural geology; with light brown sandy clay and light grey patches in NNE. Light brown clayey sand with gravels to SSW.
27	27	1.6	SW=0.4 NE=0.4	0–0.2m.topsoil; 0.2–0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ light brown clay and grey sandy clay with rounded pebbles (alluvium deposits)
28	23.5	1.6	S=0.75 N=0.5	0–0.22m.topsoil; 0.22–0.75m subsoil; 0.75m+ alluvial deposits similar to Trench 27.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2	1	52	Post-hole	-	-
2	2	53	Pit	Bronze Age	pottery
6	3	54	Pit	Iron Age	Bronze Age pottery
6	4	55	Gully	Late Iron Age/Roman	pottery
5	5	56-7	Ditch	-	-
7	6	58-9	Pit	Iron Age	pottery
7	7	60	Pit	Bronze Age	-
8	8	61	Ditch	-	
12	9	62	Gully	-	-
9	10	63-5	Ditch	Late Iron Age/Roman	Bronze Age pottery
7	11	66-7	Pit	Iron Age	Bronze Age pottery
7	12	68	Pit (unexc)	-	-
7	13	69	Ditch (unexc)	Late Iron Age/Roman	Same at 10 in Tr 9?
9	14	70	Pit	Bronze Age	pottery
13	15	71	Ditch	Bronze Age	pottery
13	16	72	Ditch	Bronze Age	Pottery, cut by Ditch 15.
13	17	73	Pit	-	-
14	18	74	Lynchet	Medieval?	-
19	19	75	Lynchet	Medieval?	-

APPENDIX 3: Pottery catalogues

Appendix 3a. Distribution of all fabrics by cut, deposit and trench (weight in g)

			Bronze Age										Iron Age		LIA/ Roman		Modern				
			GQ1		GQ2		GL1		GV1		L1		O1		Q1		glS1		Total		
Tr	cut	fill	no	wt	no	wt	no	wt	no	wt	no	wt	no	wt	no	wt	no	wt	no	wt	Mean
2	2	53							1	7									1	7	7.0
6	3	54	1	14									1	7					2	21	10.5
6	4	55													2	14			2	14	7.0
7	6	58					1	2					4	8					5	10	2.0
7	7	60									9	8							9	8	0.9
9	10	64			1	5					18	14			1	8			20	15	7.7
9	10	65											4	1					4	1	0.3
7	11	67									7	8	1	3					8	11	1.4
9	14	70									10	8							10	8	0.8
13	15	71									8	95							8	95	11.9
13	16	72									2	5							2	5	2.5
subsoil																	1	9	1	9	9
Totals			1	14	1	5	1	2	1	7	54	265	10	19	3	22	1	9	72	343	4.5

Appendix 3b. Minimum and maximum wall thickness by fabric (in mm)

Fabric	No of sherds	Wall thickness	
		Minimum	Maximum
GV1	1	9	9
L1	53	10	15
O1	6	7	10
Q1	2	10+	14

Appendix 3c. Minimum and maximum wall thickness by cut, deposit and trench (in mm)

Trench	Cut	Fill	wall thickness	
			min	max
2	2	53	9	9

6	3	54	7	10+
6	4	55	10+	14
7	6	58	8	10
7	7	60	-	-
9	10	64	10	15
9	10	65	-	-
7	11	67	9	10
9	14	70	10	10
13	15	71	15	15
13	16	72	12	12

APPENDIX 4: Distribution of fired clay fabrics by cut/slot (weight in g)

		FC-GQ1		FC-Q1		FC-Sh1		Total	
Cut	Deposit	no	wt	no	wt	no	wt	no	wt
2	53	3	10					1	9
16	72			2	11	1	8	3	19

APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of struck flint

Trench	Cut	Fill	Type
6	U/S		Broken flake (retouched)
7	6	58	Broken flake
7	7	60	Spall
13	15	71	2 Broken narrow flakes

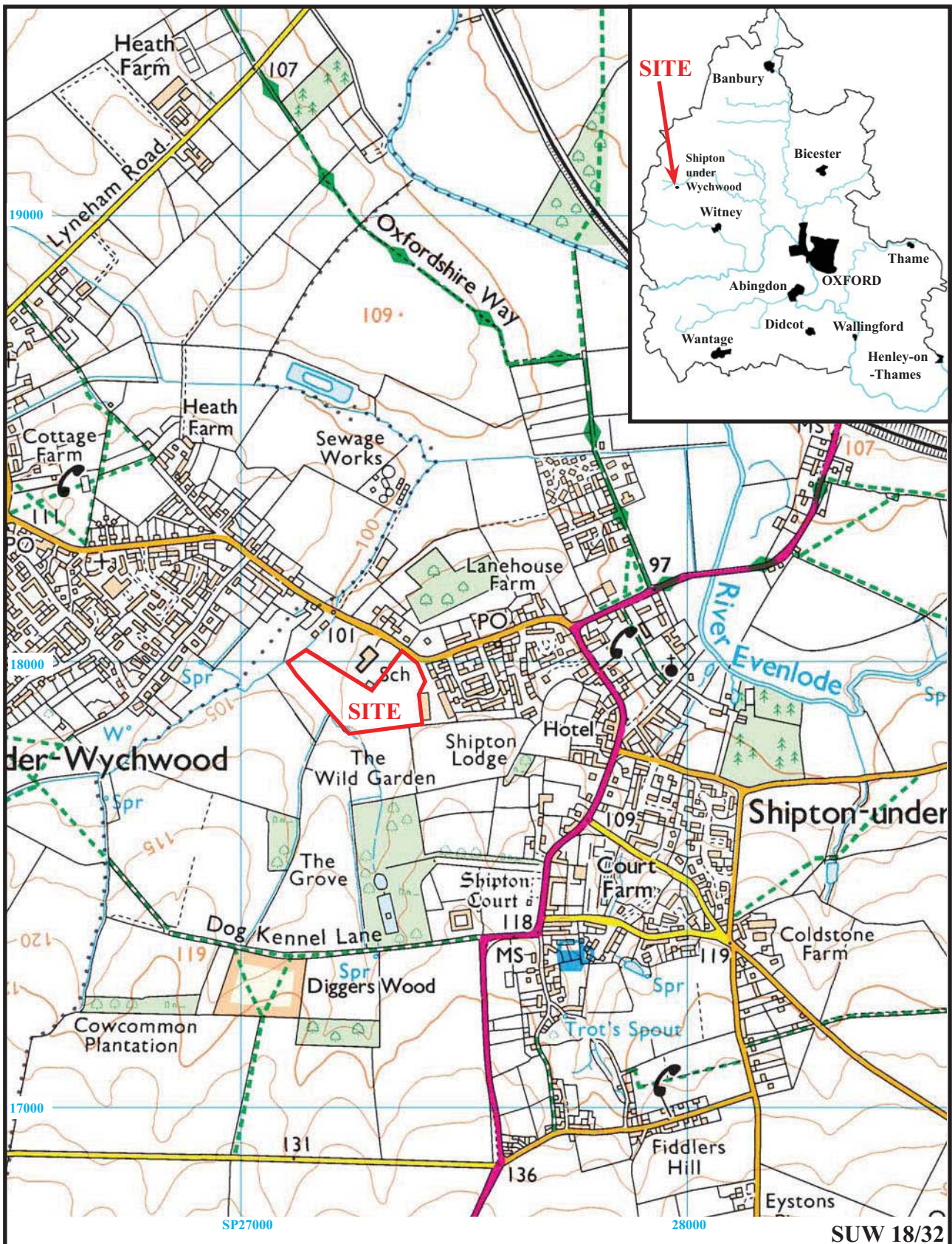
APPENDIX 6: Catalogue of animal bone

Cut	Deposit	Sample	Type	No. of Frags	Wt(g)	Horse	Cattle	Large	Medium	Small	Unid	Notes
6	58	6	Pit	2	3						2	

6	59	-	Pit	3	13				1		2	Sliced
8	61	-	Ditch	2	7				1		1	
10	64	-	Ditch	24	765	1	1	12	1	1	8	Sliced
10	64	7	Ditch	4	13			1			3	
10	65	8	Ditch	15	12						15	Burnt
11	66	-	Pit	3	155			2			1	
11	67	-	Pit	1	3					1		Sliced
15	71	-	Ditch	16	121		4				12	
16	72	-	Ditch	3	38			3				
				73	1129							

APPENDIX 7: Charred plant remains

Trench	Cut	Fill	Sample	Comment
2	1	52	1	Rare charcoal
2	2	53	2	Moderate charcoal, hazelnut shell
6	3	54	3	Rare charcoal
6	4	55	4	Rare charcoal
5	5	59	5	Rare charcoal
7	6	58	6	Rare charcoal
7	10	64	7	-
8	10	65	8	-
7	11	66	9	Rare charcoal
9	14	70	10	-
13	15	71	11	-

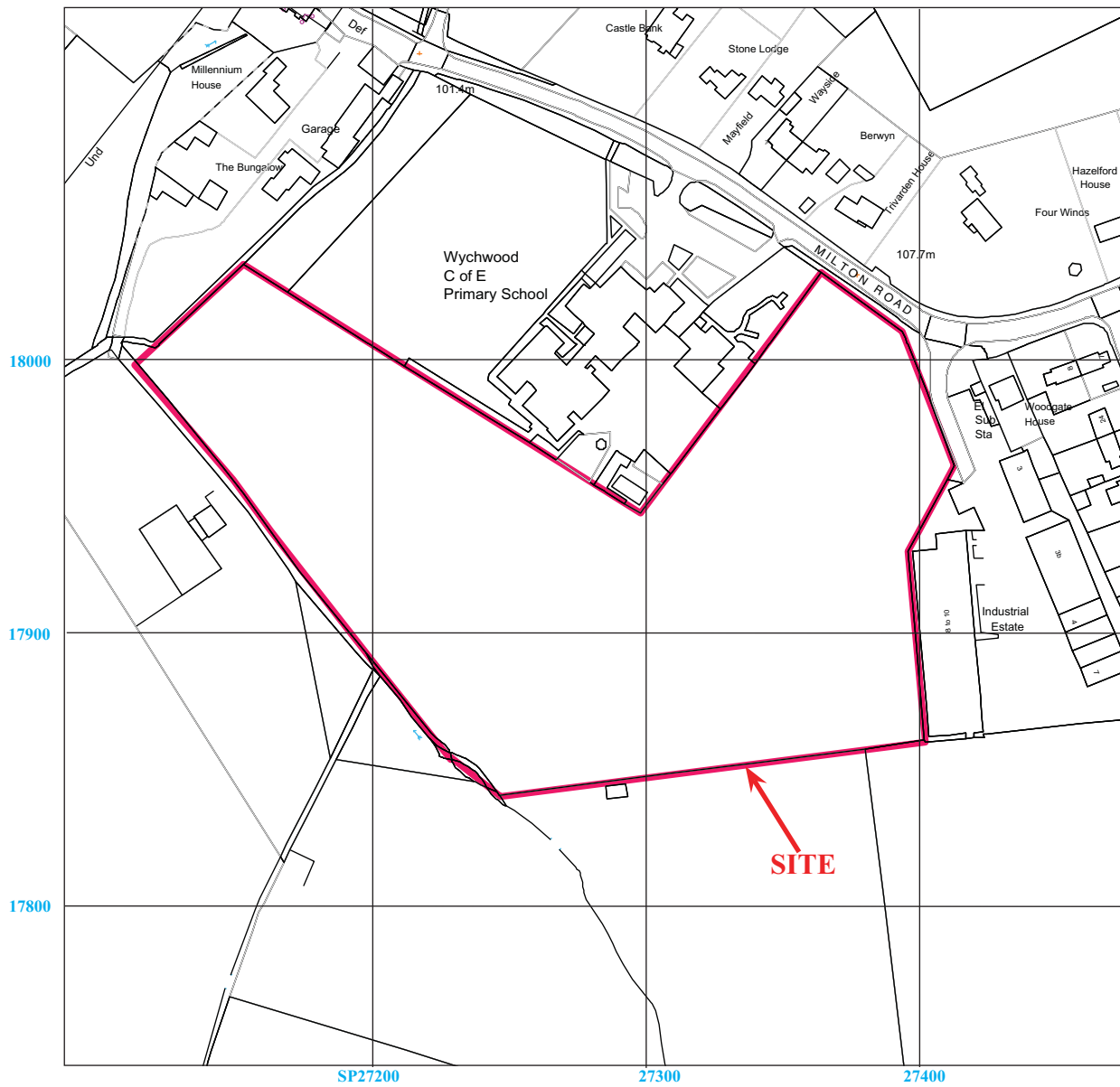


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Figure 1. Location of site within Shipton-under-Wychwood and Oxfordshire.

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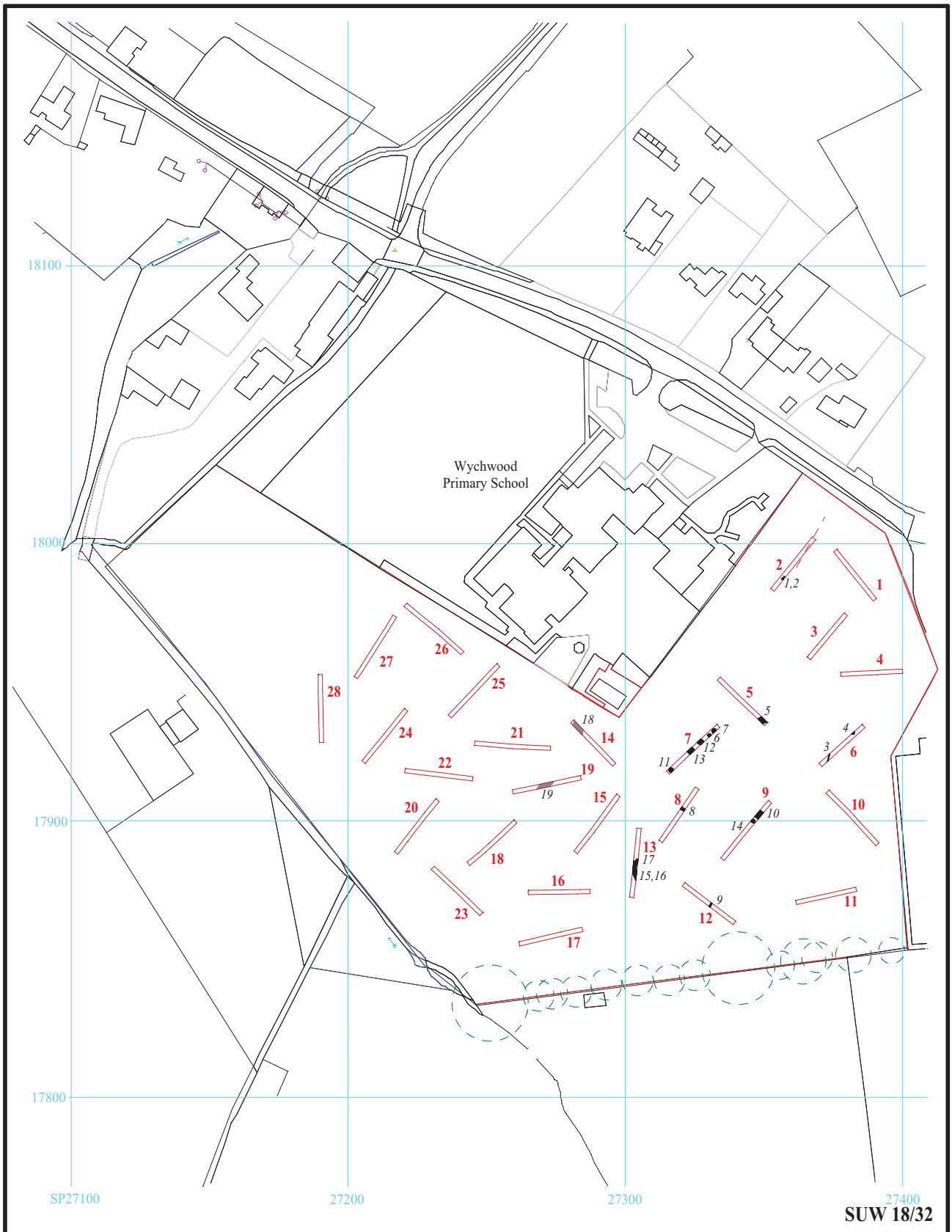
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Milton Road.

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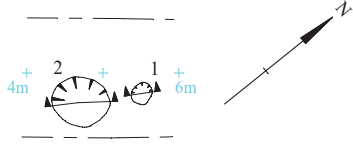
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Figure 3. Location of trenches and features.

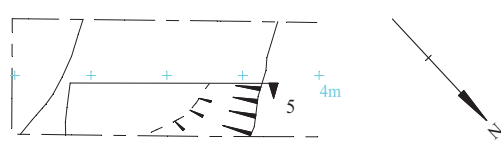


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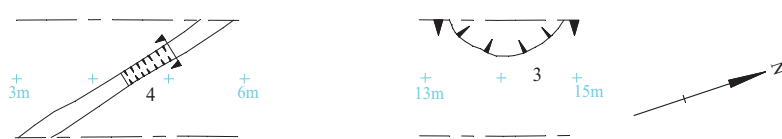
Trench 2



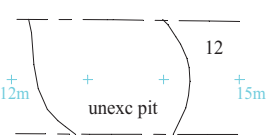
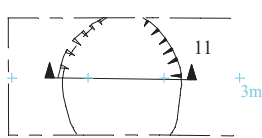
Trench 5



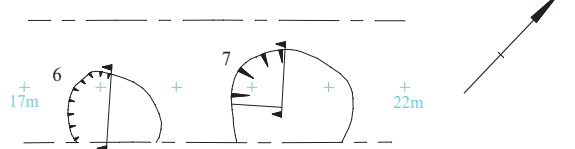
Trench 6



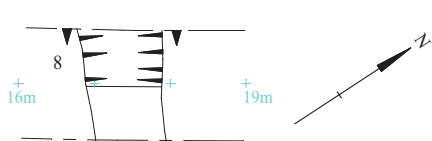
Trench 7



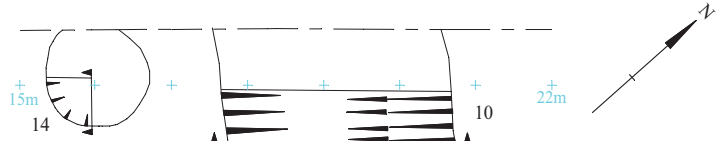
Trench 7 continued



Trench 8



Trench 9



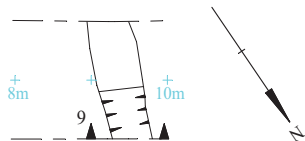
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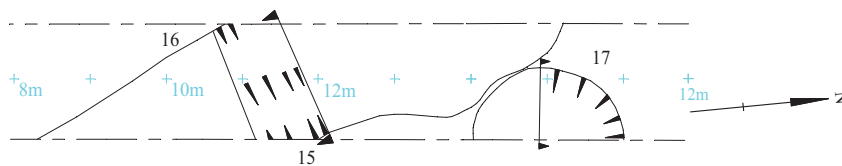
Figure 3. Location of trenches, compared to earthworks.



Trench 12



Trench 13



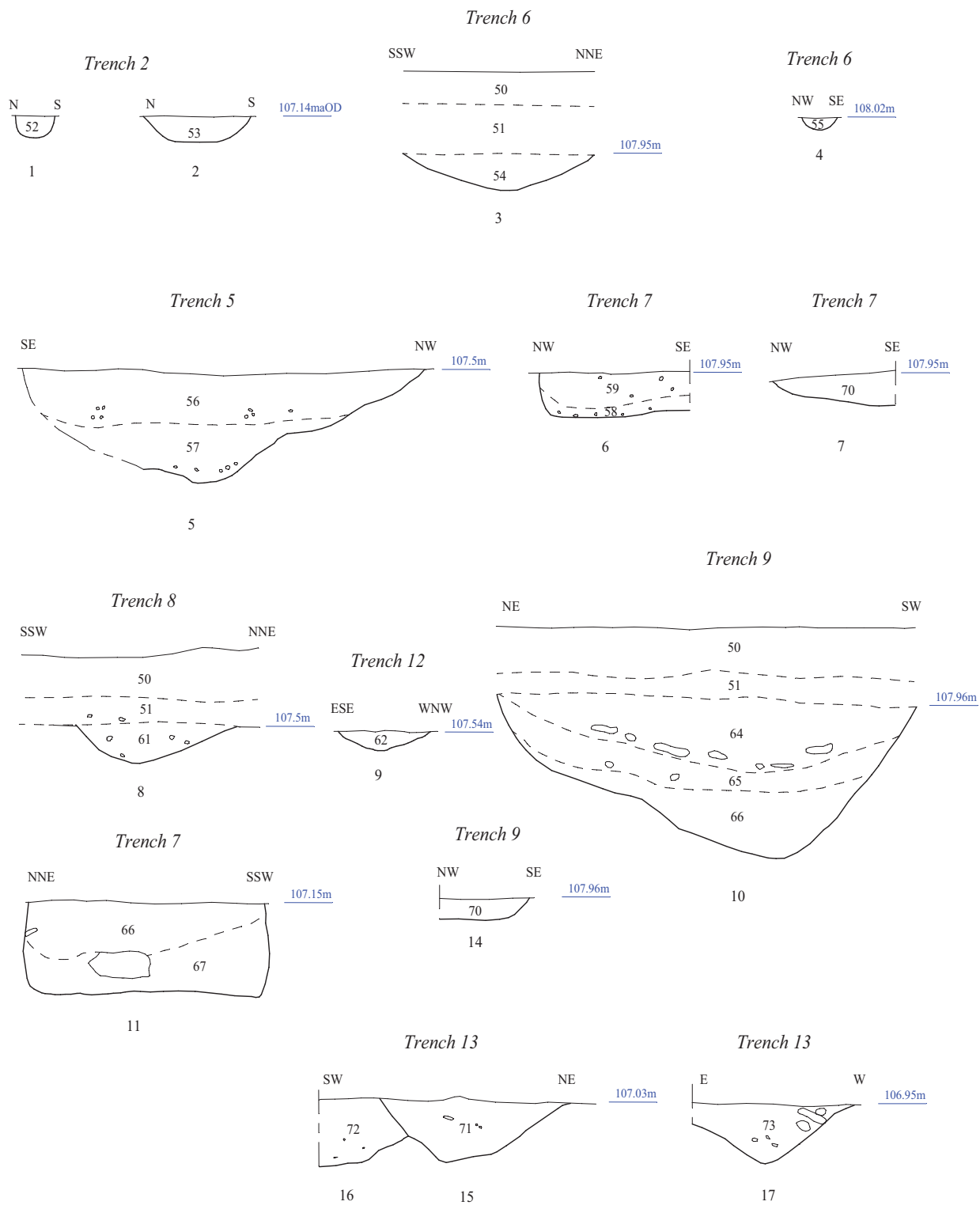
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Figure 5. Detail of trenches.



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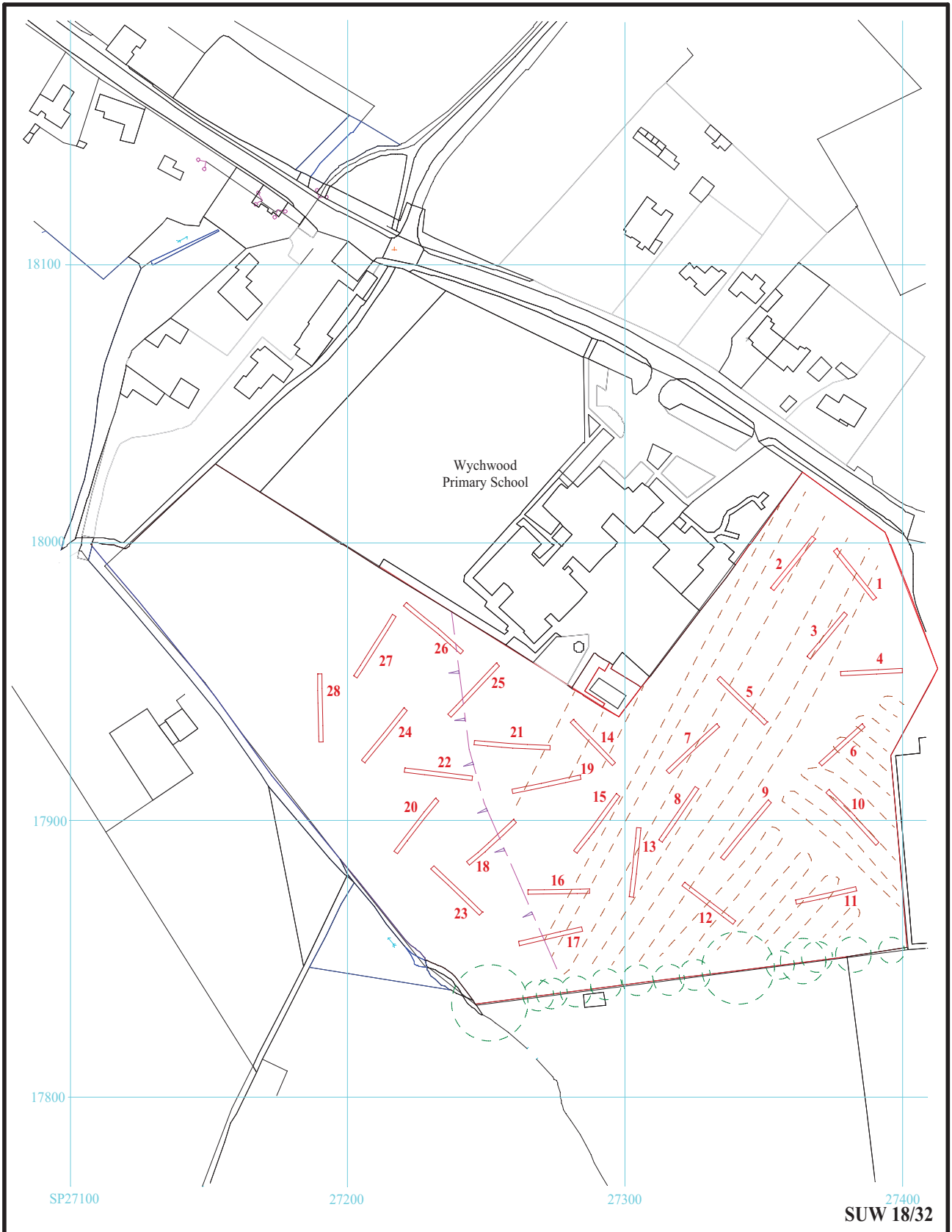


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Figure 6. Sections.





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Figure 7. Location of trenches and ridge and furrow



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Plate 1. Trench 6, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2x1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 7, looking south south west, Scales: horizontal 2x1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 9, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2x1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 13, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2x1m.

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Plates 3 and 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 5, ditch 5, looking south west, Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 6. Trench 6, pit 3, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 0.1m.

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Plates 5 and 6.**

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Plate 7. Trench 7, pit 6, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 0.1m.



Plate 8. Trench 7, pit 11, looking south east, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 7 and 8.**

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Plate 9. Trench 9, ditch 10, looking east, Scales: 1m.



Plate 10. Trench 13, features 15 and 16 looking north, Scales: 1m, 0.5m and 0.1m.

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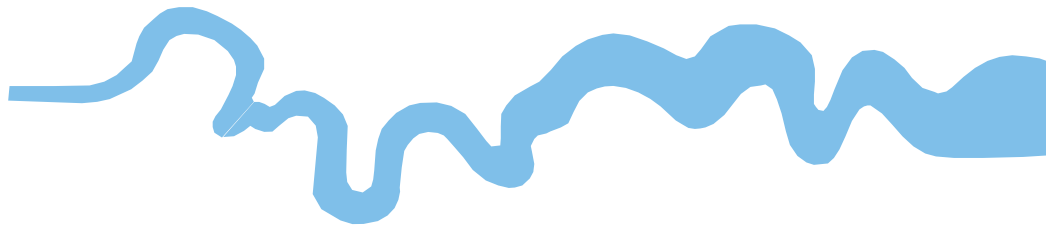
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Plates 9 and 10.**

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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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