THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Manor Farm Extension, Kempsford, Gloucestershire

Phase 1

Archaeological Recording Action

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: KEG07/152 SU 1676 9835

Manor Farm Extension, Kempsford, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Recording Action (Phase 1)

for Aggregate Industries Limited

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code KEG 07/152

Summary

Site name: Manor Farm, Extension, Kempsford, Gloucestershire, Phase 1

Grid reference: SU 1676 9835

Site activity: Archaeological recording action

Date and duration of project: 23rd May 2017 to 24th August 2018

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: KEG 07/152

Area of site: *c.* 12.5ha

Summary of results: This area of the site mostly contained the remains of post-medieval field systems with three layouts represented. However two undated features, a segmented ditch and a curvilinear gully, are forms of deposit mostly associated with the Iron Age. No artefacts earlier than post-medieval times were recorded anywhere on the site.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 08.05.19

Steve Preston ✓ 08.05.19

Phase 1, Manor Farm, Kempsford, Extension, Gloucestershire An Archaeological Recording Action

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 07/152c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out in advance of gravel extraction on land known as Phase 1, Manor Farm, Kempsford, Extension, Gloucestershire (SU 1676 9835) (Fig. 1). The site comprised a sub-rectangular-shaped plot of land covering *c*. 12.5ha within a much larger overall quarry complex.

Model condition 55 from circular 11/95 has been attached to planning permission (13/0097/CWMAJM) for mineral extraction on the site, as guided by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and Gloucestershire County Council's policies on archaeology. This condition (8) relates to archaeology and requires a programme of archaeological recording in advance of extraction as the site is considered to have high archaeological potential. The specification for the fieldwork was approved by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer with Gloucestershire County Council, in order to satisfy the archaeological condition placed on the planning permission.

This report deals with the latest in a series of investigations within the overall quarry, previously recorded as Manor Farm, and the site code for this phase of the work is KEG07/152. Kyle Beaverstock supervised this phase of the fieldwork between 23rd May 2017 and 24th August 2018. The archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd but it is anticipated that it will be deposited at Corinium Museum, Cirencester in due course.

The quarry is located between the villages of Kempsford and Whelford to the east of RAF Fairford (Fig. 1). The area within the site referred to as Phase 1 lies in the north-eastern corner of the site complex (Fig. 2), and is at an average height of c. 75m above Ordnance Datum. The Thames flows past some 2km to the south, with the Coln around 0.6km to the north-east. The underlying geology is mapped as first terrace gravels (BGS 1974), which were observed during previous fieldwork.

Archaeological background

The Upper Thames valley is regarded as being archaeologically rich with a wealth of evidence of prehistoric, Roman and later settlement and land use (eg Booth *et al.* 2007; Lambrick *et al.* 2009). Features at the Manor

Farm site (the previously quarried area immediately to the south of the current site) were first identified from aerial photography (OAU 1991). The cropmarks on the quarry site included linear features on at least three alignments. A subsequent evaluation (OAU 1991) revealed the presence of archaeological deposits in the adjacent areas and concluded that these were likely to be field boundaries and enclosures of Roman date. Subsequent investigations to the south then revealed an extensive and well ordered patterns of land division comprising field boundaries and trackways, with evidence of development of the pattern over time, in a clear stratigraphic sequence. Boundaries on parts of the area investigated were of Roman date, but the majority, in terms of area, were of post-medieval date. Curiously, no settlement deposits of any period were revealed despite the extensive contiguous areas examined (Booth and Stansbie 2007; Cass *et al.* 2017).

Excavations at Top Road, Kempsford (Platt 2017), approximately 1.7km to the south-west uncovered an extensive, multi-phased site which included Iron Age ditches, Roman burials and a Saxon hall. At Stubbs Farm, to the south, excavation revealed a rectangular enclosure and a sub-circular enclosure (Cromarty *et al.* 2007) that consisted of a complex of ditches including a circular enclosure some 50m across, whose date is uncertain but is believed to be Iron Age but still in use until the early Roman period. A Roman double-ditched quasi-rectangular enclosure of similar proportions cut across the circular enclosure. The dating evidence points towards the 2nd century AD, and is unlikely to have extended into the later Roman period.

Evidence for Iron Age and Roman occupation has also been recorded in the wider area, at sites such as Lechlade (Boyle *et al.* 1998), Somerford Keynes, Whelford Bowmoor, Thornhill Farm and Claydon Pike (Miles *et al.* 2007). Extensive Iron Age and Roman occupation has also been excavated at Horcott to the north-west (Pine and Preston 2004; Hayden *et al.* 2017).

The area of the extension to the quarry was subject to desk-based assessment (Hopkins 2008) and field evaluation (Taylor 2012) which demonstrated the presence of numerous ditches, similar to the features from the excavated area to the south, postholes and perhaps pits, almost all of which were undated, or post-medieval where finds were recovered.

Results

The excavation of phase 1 covered an area to the north-west of the site and included a narrow conveyor belt strip between phases 2 and 3 to the south-west. (Fig. 2: Pl. 1). The complete area was stripped to the top of the natural geology as shown in Pl. 2-4. Topsoil and overburden were removed by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the constant supervision of an archaeologist.

A number of ditches were uncovered over the course of the excavation, the majority of which proved to be post-medieval in origin with some containing ceramic water pipes while others contained fragments of glass and iron farm tools. However, the post-medieval ditch system appears to have at least three alignments suggesting two main phases of development, not all of which are recorded on historic maps (Fig. 14). The majority of these appear to match some of the post-medieval ditch systems from previous excavations to the south. A segmented ditch, curvilinear gully and an undated boundary ditch were also uncovered.

Post-Medieval Field System 1

This system which includes ditches 436, 10010, 10012, 10013 and 10015 is roughly on a north-west to south-east alignment. Although most of the relationships were uncertain the relationship between ditches 10010 and 10004 show that this ditch system was clearly cut by a second later field system. These ditches contained some post-medieval debris including glass and iron farming implements. These ditches are also on the same alignment as some from the excavated areas to the south, which were also identified as post-medieval.

Ditch 10010 measured 2.05m wide and 0.35m deep, on a north-west to south-east alignment and parallel to ditch 436 which measured 1.58m wide and 0.45m deep, these ditches were c.98m long; the northern line replacing the southern. At the point examined here, the two were separate but the relationship was established in the evaluation at slots 9/10. These ditches almost certainly are the same as 43/44 and 141/142 recorded in the evaluation and continuing across the conveyor belt strip here (not excavated in this phase of work: Fig. 7), although by the time they reached this point, the recut seems to have passed to the southern side.

Ditch 10012 which was a re-cut of 10015 measured between 1.38 and 3.2m wide and 0.2 and 0.5m, it was aligned southwest to northeast and ran for c.100m. Ditch 10015 was heavily truncated by re-cut 10012, therefore no accurate measurements could be ascertained. Ditch 10013 appears to be an offshoot of ditches 10012 or 10015, their exact relationship could not be established however they do appear to be contemporary. The ditch measured between 1.69 and 1.7m wide and 0.23 and 0.25m deep and ran along a southeast to northwest alignment for c. 28m long.

Post-Medieval Field System 2

This system which includes ditches 10003, 10004, 10005, 10006, 10008 and 10009 is also on a north-west to south-east alignment although it is more northerly. Although some of the ditches cross, they are connected to and respected by each other suggesting a contemporary relationship. These in combination create a field system incorporating numerous drains (Fig. 14).

Ditch 10003 measured between 2 and 2.43m wide and 0.6 and 0.79m deep and on a north-west to south-east alignment for c.290m and contained a ceramic water pipe. Ditch 10004 measured between 0.76–1.65m wide and between 0.5–0.66m deep and extended for c.245m from south to north before turning towards the north-east for a further 40m. At slot 516, 10004 was cut by 517 (10005), but they appear to be part of the same system.

Ditch 10005 extended for c.260m along a south-east to north-west alignment. It measured between 0.97–1.38m wide and 0.12–0.24m deep. Ditch 10006 measured 0.94m wide, 0.14m deep and 20m long. It is most likely an earlier cut of ditch 10005 of which it has a similar alignment but more westerly in the northern area of the site. Ditch 10008 was on a north to south alignment and measured between 1.87–2.1m wide, and 0.55m to 0.88m deep. This ditch contained a small fragment of clay pipe dated to the 17th or 18th century. Parallel to this was ditch 10009, between 0.7–1.1m wide and 0.11–0.25m deep. Both were traced for *c*.150m and most likely represent two phases in of the same field system: ditch 1009 was only intermittently visible.

Segmented Ditch (10002)

In the south-western corner of the site was segmented ditch 10002. It was a relatively large ditch that consisted of an uneven and sporadic number of segments on a north-east to south-west alignment not matched by any of the other ditches. Each segment measured between 1.2–2.1m wide and 0.22–0.62m deep and they varied in length from 2m to 20m. Although no datable evidence was found segmented ditches are often dated to the Iron Age. They are commonly used as boundary ditches, dividing land for different uses. Although their exact nature is not well understood, it is supposed that they are designed to provide a clear demarcation without creating a barrier. Similar features, on a slightly different alignment, had been recorded in the Manor Farm excavation to the south (Cass *et al.* 2017, figs 4.2 and 8.1), also poorly dated but at the bottom of the stratigraphic sequence and thus plausibly Iron Age.

Curvilinear Gully (10014)

In the north-eastern area of the site was a curvilinear feature 10014, orientated roughly north-east to south-west. It measured from 0.34–0.62m wide and 0.04–0.28m deep and 21.7m long. It appeared to be more oval than circular but only a partial circuit survived. No datable evidence was found despite ample sampling however its form suggests a possible prehistoric origin but without further evidence it would be impossible to confirm. These gullies are usually associated with the Bronze Age/Iron Age and usually form the bounds of structures such as roundhouses or shelters. However, a number of similar features of Post-Medieval date were found on the excavations of the quarry to the south (Cass *et al.* 2017, fig. 2.4).

Other undated Ditches

In the south-west corner is what appears to be an undated ditch (10000) running north to south up to the post medieval ditch 10010 and a further ditch (10001) running east to west also terminating at the post medieval ditch. Although a re-cut for both ditches does appear to terminate on the edge of the post-medieval ditch the earlier cut of both the north-south and east west ditches appear to bend towards the northwest in roughly the same direction as the post-medieval ditch. This suggests that the original cut may have formed an earlier field system before being re-cut and then truncated by 10010.

Ditch 10007 ran for c.172m on a northeast to southwest and was between 0.5 and 0.7m wide and 0.23 and 0.24m deep. On its eastern side the ditch had an extremely ephemeral gully which comes out perpendicular to the ditch for 2m before turning at a right angle and heading north east forming a small rectangular pen or paddock.

Ditch 538 was a thin ditch that measured 0.68m wide 0.0.5m deep and ran southeast to northwest for c. 20m before being truncated by ditch 541. Ditch 541 ran from the southeast to northwest for c.115m and measured 1m wide and 0.5m deep. The ditch contained a ceramic water pipe at its base. Ditch 626 was 1.1m wide and c.0.5m deep. It ran southeast to northwest for c. 98m and clearly truncated ditch 541 and contained a ceramic water pipe. Ditch 10011 ran for c.47m along a roughly northwest to southeast before petering out. The ditch measured 0.35 and 0.4m wide 0.15 and 0.2m deep.

Finds

Metalwork by Lizzi Lewins

Six ferrous objects were recovered, all of post-Medieval date. Three were nails which varied in length from 41mm – 84mm, of which two were square headed with the third too corroded to identify. A fragment of plate or strapping was recovered from ditch 507 and measured 58mm long and 36mm wide. A hook was recovered from ditch 535, it was 123mm long, 8mm wide and had a forked end. A sickle blade was recovered from ditch 509, it was 386mm long and the tang was intact.

Clay Pipe by Genni Elliott

A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem was recovered from ditch 602 (fill 763) weighing 3g. The borehole measures 7/64" which as a guide suggests a date in the mid-17th century – early 18th century, though this is very tentative without any more diagnostic fragments.

Macrobotanical plant material and charcoal by Jo Pine

Twenty-three bulk soil samples were processed from features excavated during the fieldwork. They were 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 crop/weed seeds or charcoal were present in any of the samples.

Animal Bone by Lizzi Lewins

A small assemblage of animal bone weighing 10817g was recovered, but 10682g of this was accounted for by a single horse burial probably of recent date, complete apart from the skull. The remaining six fragments recovered from two ditch slots (444 and 510) comprised a badly abraded partial cattle tooth, a worn incisor from a horse and a badly abraded metapodials shaft from a large mammal (cattle, horse). No further analysis was possible.

Conclusions

The deposits revealed in this phase of recording action mostly consisted of post-medieval ditches, some of which are most likely to be continuations from those recorded in the excavations to the south. Two features, however are possibly of more archaeological interest. Segmented Ditch 10002 did not contain any datable evidence but its form is commonly recorded for the Iron Age where they were used as boundary or field ditches and which, like pit alignments, clearly divide the land into zones but without creating impassable barriers. Also, curvilinear gully 10014 which again did not contain any datable material is a type often found to be a distinctive feature of Iron Age occupation, and less so Bronze Age burial. This suggests that there may be some prehistoric peripheral agricultural remains present.

The post-medieval field systems point to episodes of landscape organization and reorganization subsequent to the use of medieval open fields (though it is not known if the latter apply here) but before detailed mapping took place in the 19th century. None of the boundaries here are recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1876 (Hopkins 2008, fig 3). However, several appear to correspond well with boundaries on the Kempsford enclosure map of 1802, namely ditch 10004 and less certainly, ditches 10008 and 10009, 10012 and 10013.

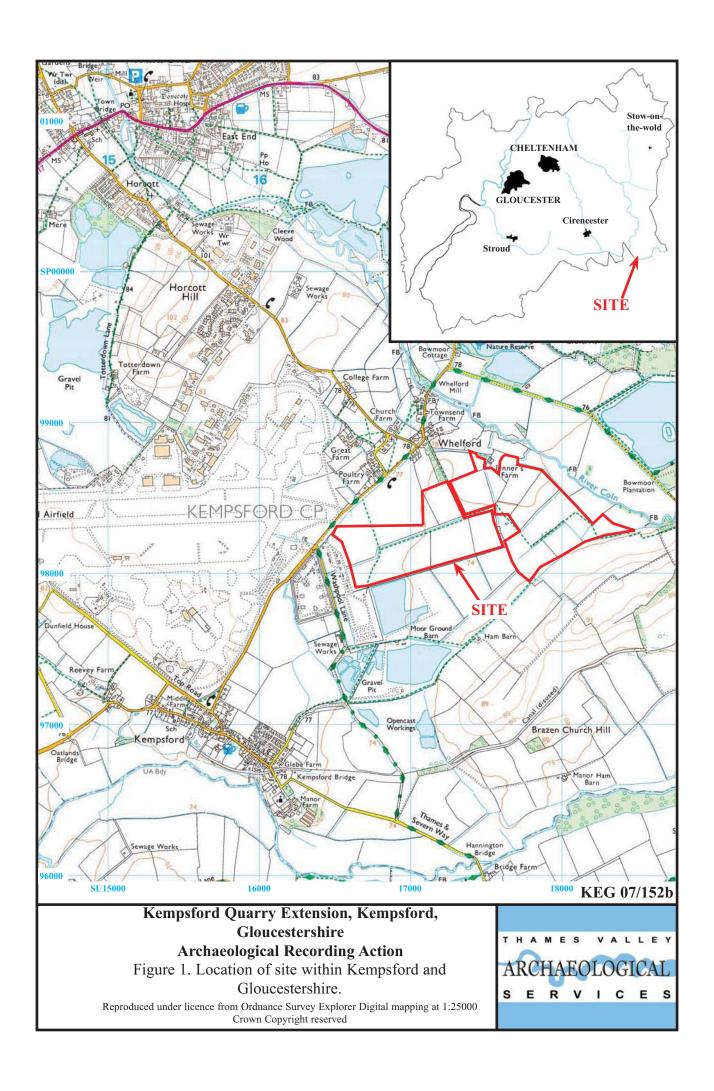
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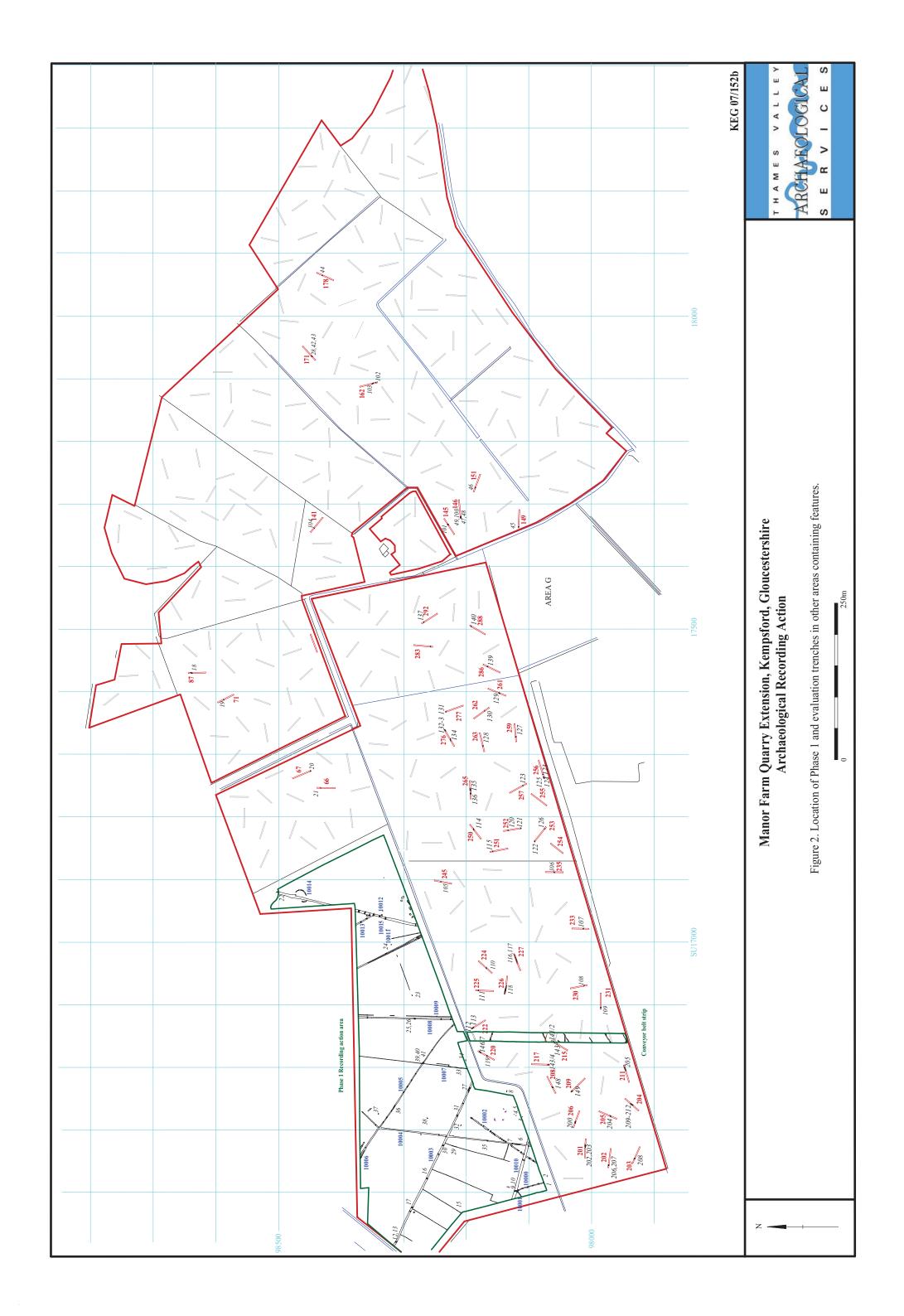
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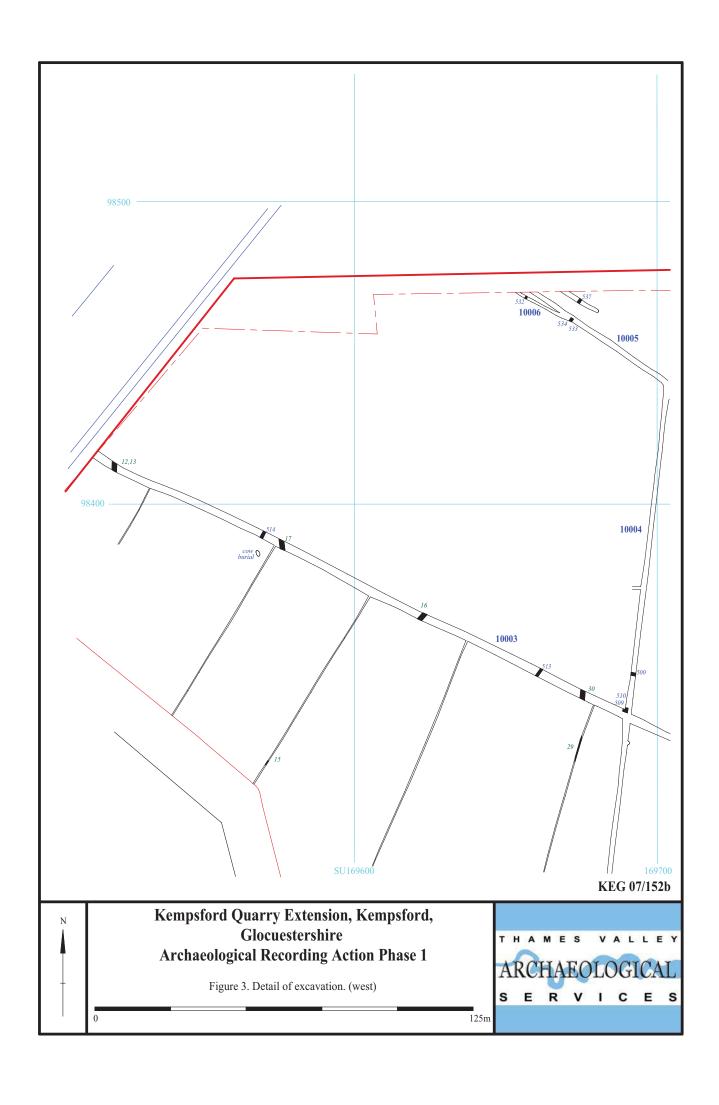
APPENDIX 1: Feature catalogue

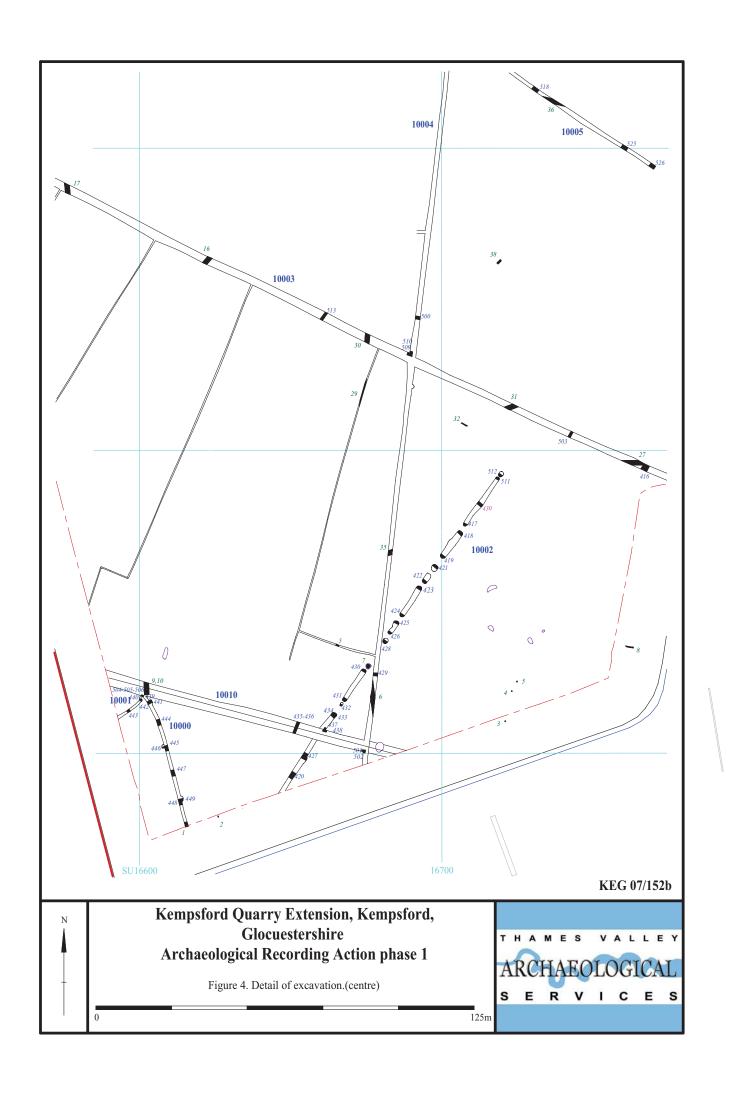
Cut	Fill (s)	Group	Туре	Dating evidence
	772		Layer	
	773		Silt Patch	
400	780		Spread	
400	450 451		Ditch Ditch	
402	452		Gully	
403	453		Ditch	
404	454		Ditch	
405	455-8		Gully terminus	
406	457	10003?	Ditch	
407	458	10003?	Ditch	
408	459	10003.	Gully terminus	
409	460		Gully	
410	461		Ditch	
411	462		Ditch	
412	463		Ditch	
413	464	10003?	Ditch	
414	465	10003?	Ditch	
415	466		Ditch	
416	467	10003	Ditch	
417	468	10002	Ditch terminus	
418	469-70	10002	Ditch	
419	471-2	10002	Ditch	
420	485-8	10002	Ditch	
421	473-4	10002	Ditch terminus	
422	475-6	10002	Ditch	
423	477-8	10002	Ditch	
424	479-80	10002	Ditch	
425	481-2	10002	Ditch	
426	483-4	10002	Ditch terminus	
427	489-90	10002	Ditch	
428	491-2	10002	Ditch	
429	493	10004	Modern ditch	
430	494-6	10002	Ditch terminus	
431	497-8	10002	Ditch terminus	
432	499		Pit	
433	550-2		Ditch terminus	
434	553	10002	Ditch terminus	
435	554	10010	ditch	
436	555-6	10010	ditch	
437	557	10002	ditch	
438	558	10010	Ditch	
439	560		Ditch terminus	
440	561	10001	Gully	
441	562		Ditch terminus	
442	563	10000	Ditch	
443	564		Ditch	
443	564	10001	Ditch	
444	565	10000	Ditch	
445	566-7	10000	Treebole	
446	568		Ditch	
447	569-70		Ditch	
448	570-1		Ditch	
449	572-3	1	Pit	
500	574-6	10004	Ditch	
501	577	10010	Ditch	
502	578-9	10004	Ditch	
503	580-5	10003	Ditch	
504	586	10010	Gully	
505	587	10010	Ditch	
506	588	10000	Ditch	
507	589-90		Ditch	Iron fragment; nail
508	591-2		Ditch	
509	593-4	10003	Ditch	Sickle blade; nail
510	595	10004	Ditch	
511	596-7	10002	Ditch	
512	598-9		Ditch	
513	650-6		Ditch	The second secon

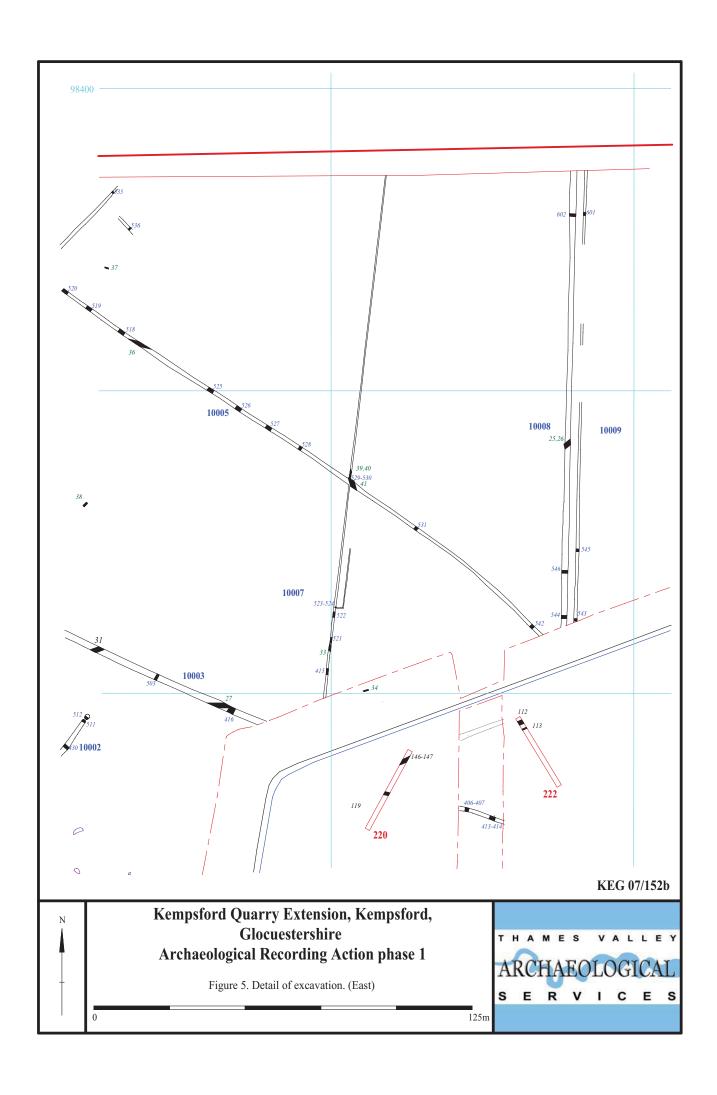
Cut	Fill (s)	Group	Туре	Dating evidence
514	657-63	10003	Ditch	
515	664-5		Animal burial	nail
516	673,75		Ditch	
517	674		Ditch	
518	666	10005	Ditch	
519	667	10005	Ditch	
520	668	10005	Ditch	
521	669-70	10003	Gully	
522	670		Gully	
523	671		Gully	nail
524	672			IIdII
		10005	Gully	
525	676	10005	Ditch	
526	677	10005	Ditch	
527	678	10005	Ditch	
528	679	10005	Ditch	
529	680	10005	Ditch	
530	681		Gully	
531	682	10005	Ditch	
532	683	10006	Ditch	
533	684	10006	Ditch	nail
534	685	10006	Ditch	
535	686-7		Ditch	Iron hook
536	688		Ditch	
537	689		Gully	
538	690		Ditch	
539	691	10011	Gully	
540	692		Ditch	nail
541	693,697-8		Ditch	nail
542	694	10005	Ditch	
543	695, 699	10009	Ditch	
544	696, 750-1		Ditch	
545	752	10009	Ditch	
546	753	10008	Ditch	
546	758-61		Ditch	
547	754	10011	Gully	
548	755		Gully	
549	756	10011	Gully	
600	757	10011	Gully	
601	762	10009	Gully	
602	763-5	10008	Ditch	Clay pipe stem; nail
603	766	10013	Ditch	City pipe stein, nun
604	767	10015	Ditch	
605	768	10013	Ditch	
606	769	10012		
607	770	10013	Ditch Ditch	
	770			
608		10012	Ditch	
609	774	10015	Gully	
610	775-6	10015	Ditch	
611	777	10012	Ditch	
612	778	10015	Ditch	.,
613	779	10012	Ditch	nail
614	781		Ditch	
615	782		Ditch	
616	783	10012	Ditch	Nail; horseshoe
617	784	10014	Curvilinear Gully	
618	785	10014	Curvilinear Gully	
619	786	10014	Curvilinear Gully	
620	787	10014	Curvilinear Gully	
621	788	10014	Curvilinear Gully	
622	789	10014	Curvilinear Gully	
	790	10014	Curvilinear Gully	
623	/ 20			
623 624	790	10014	Curvilinear Gully	

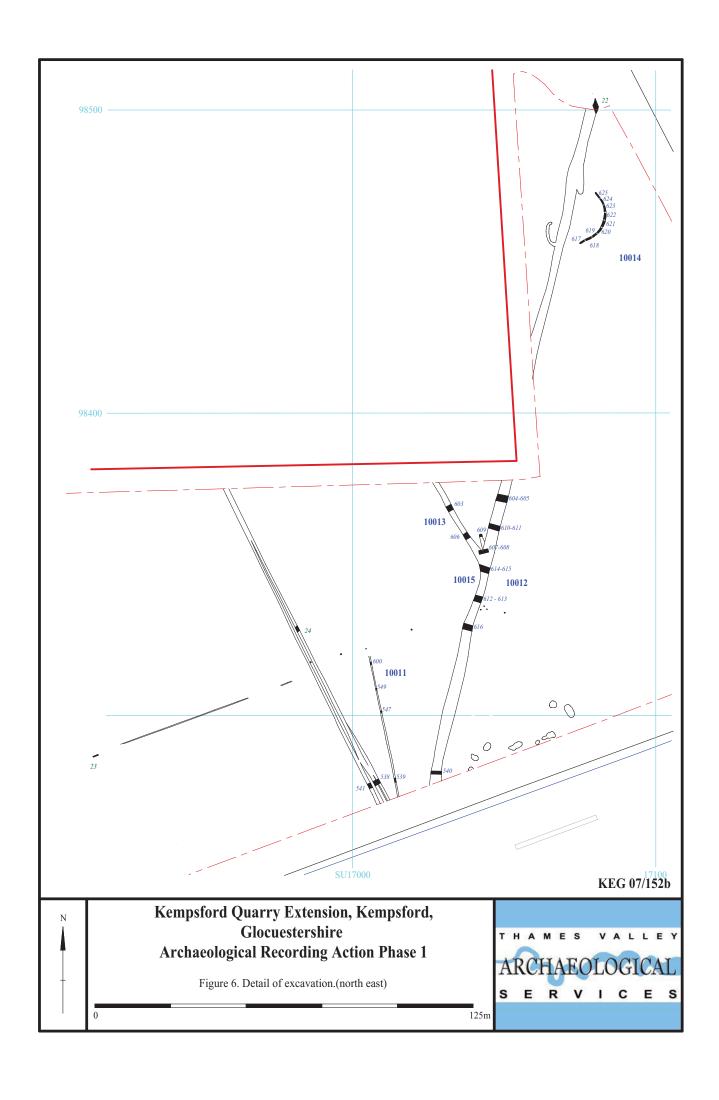


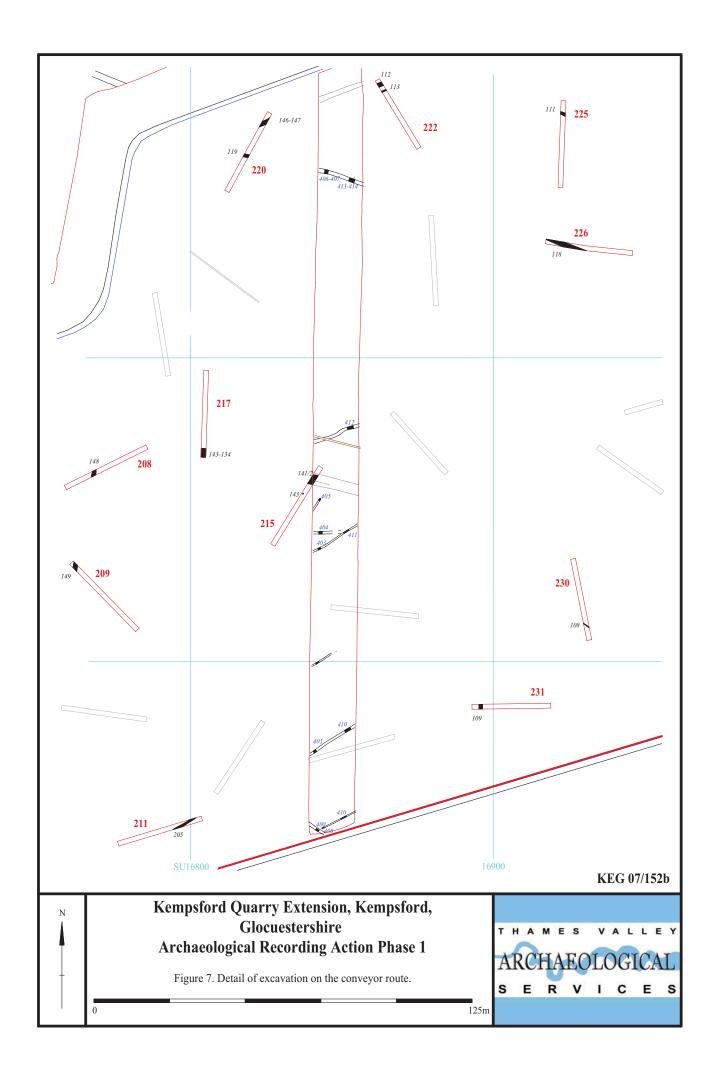


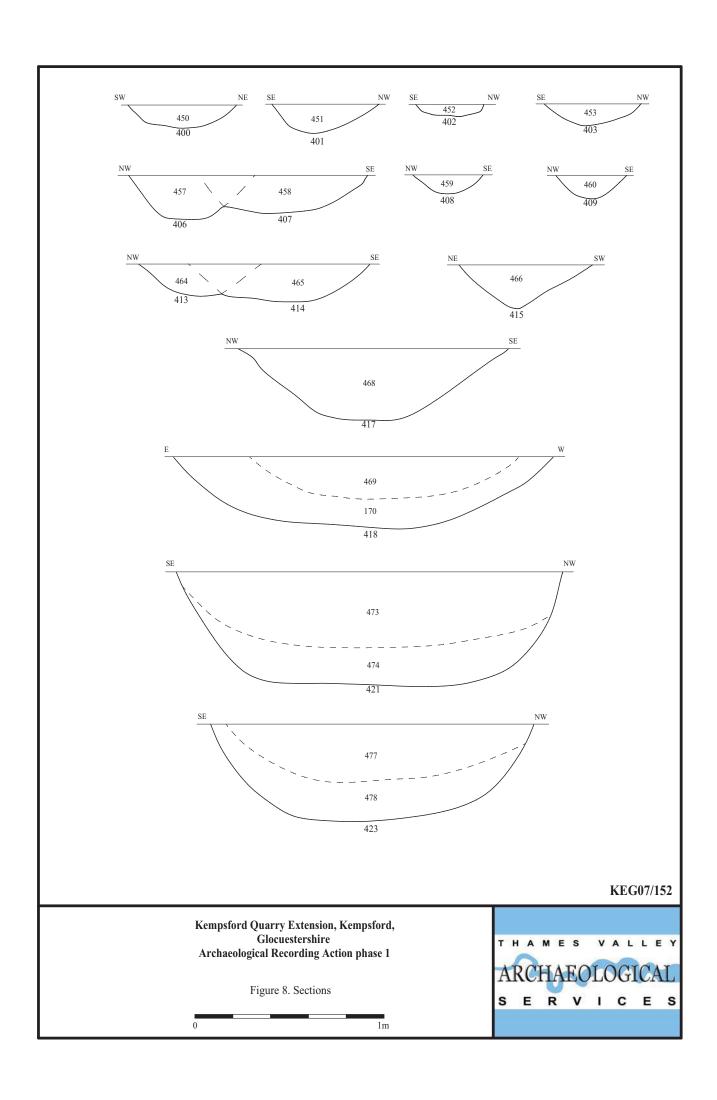


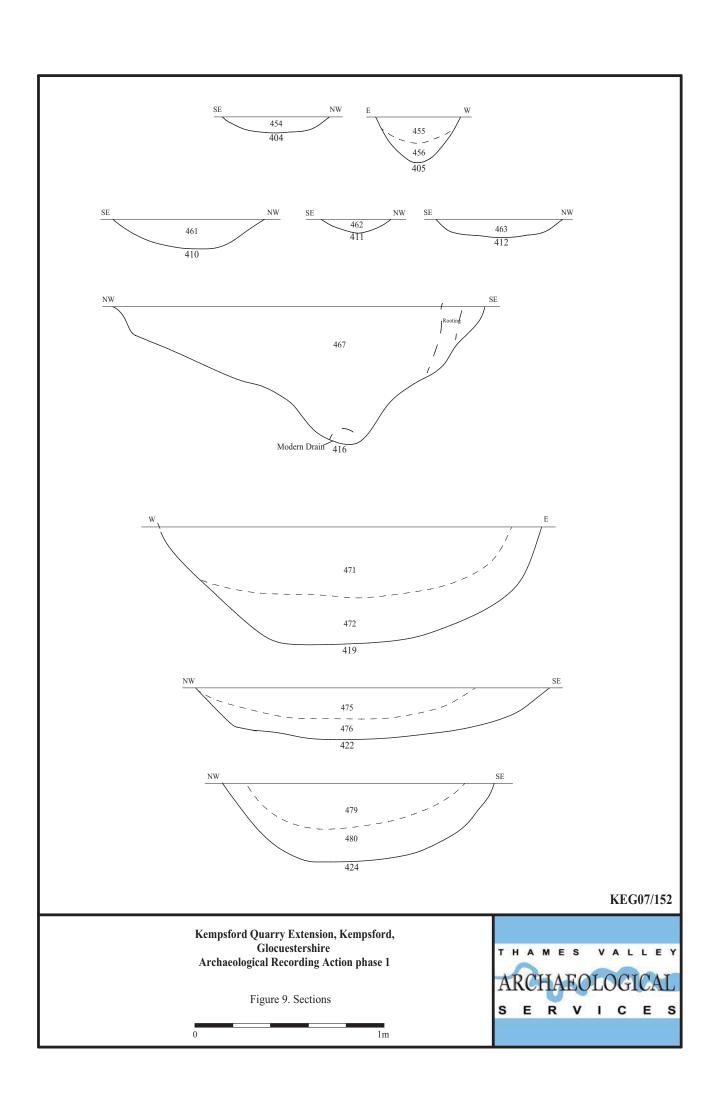


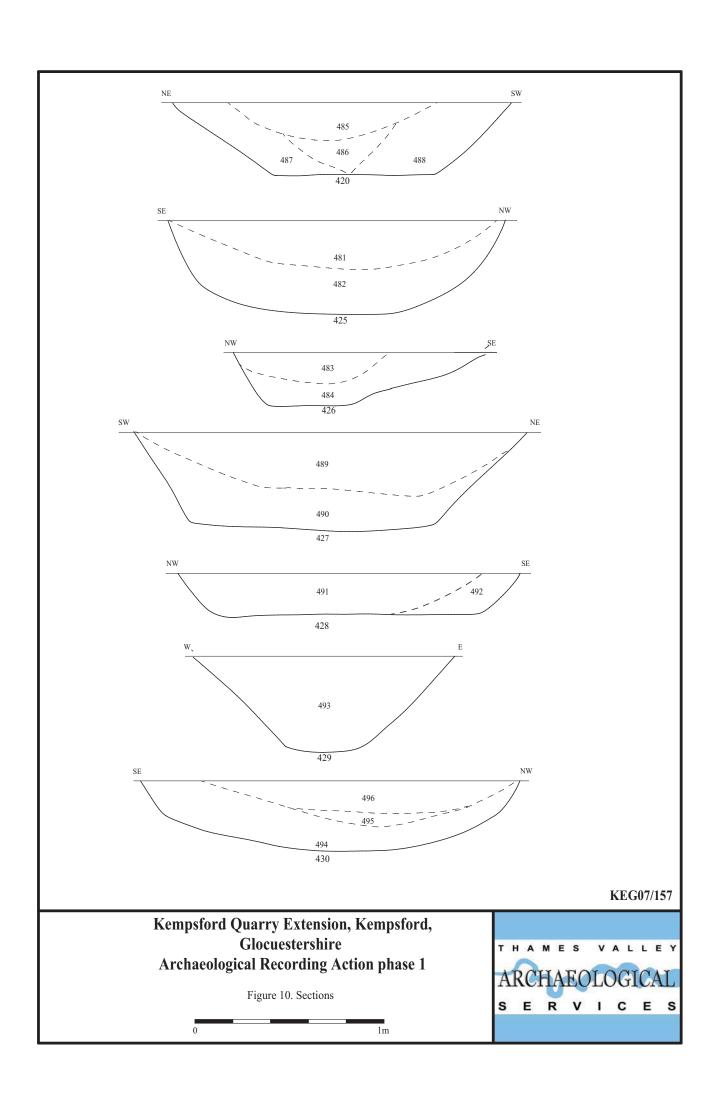


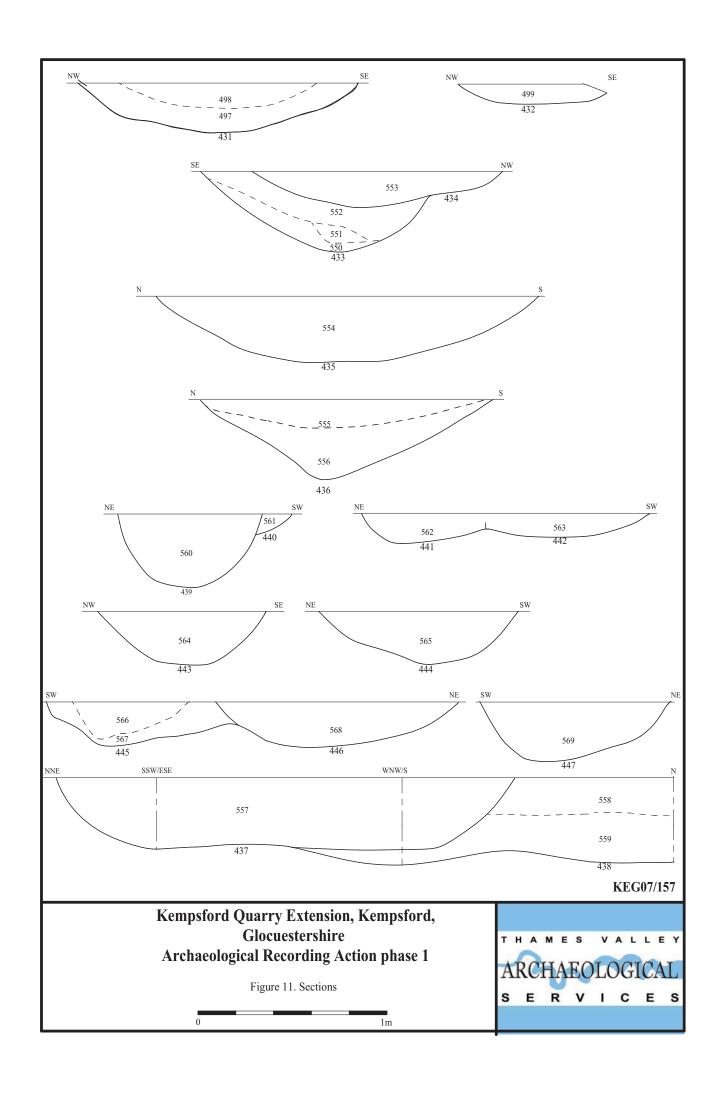


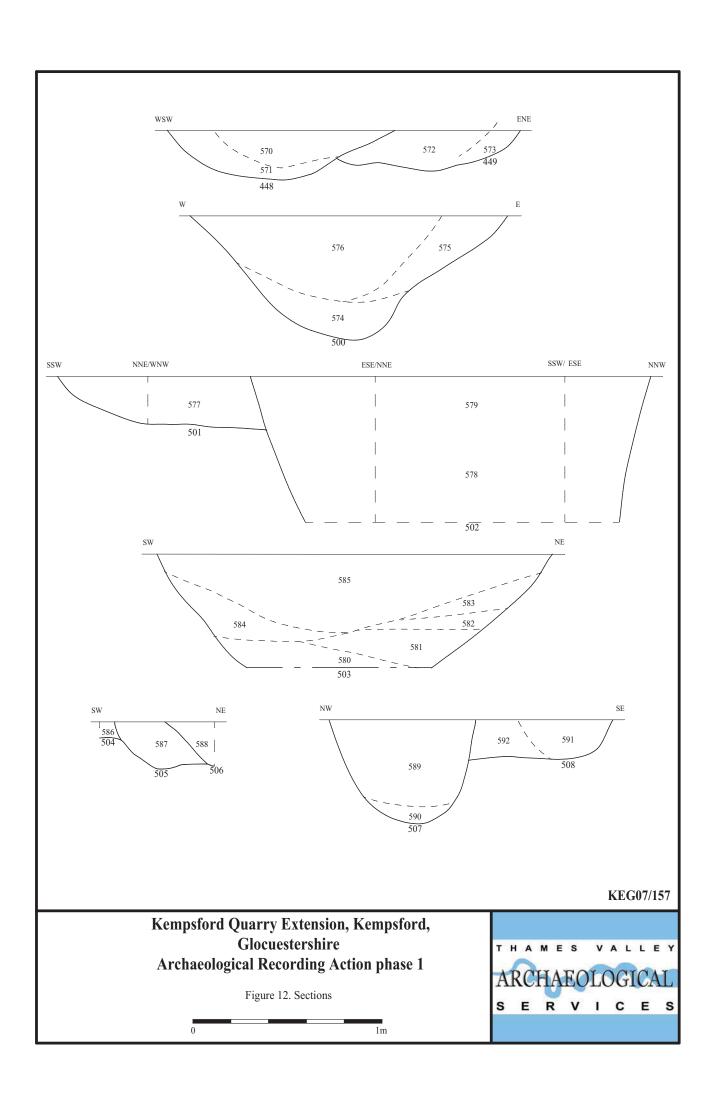


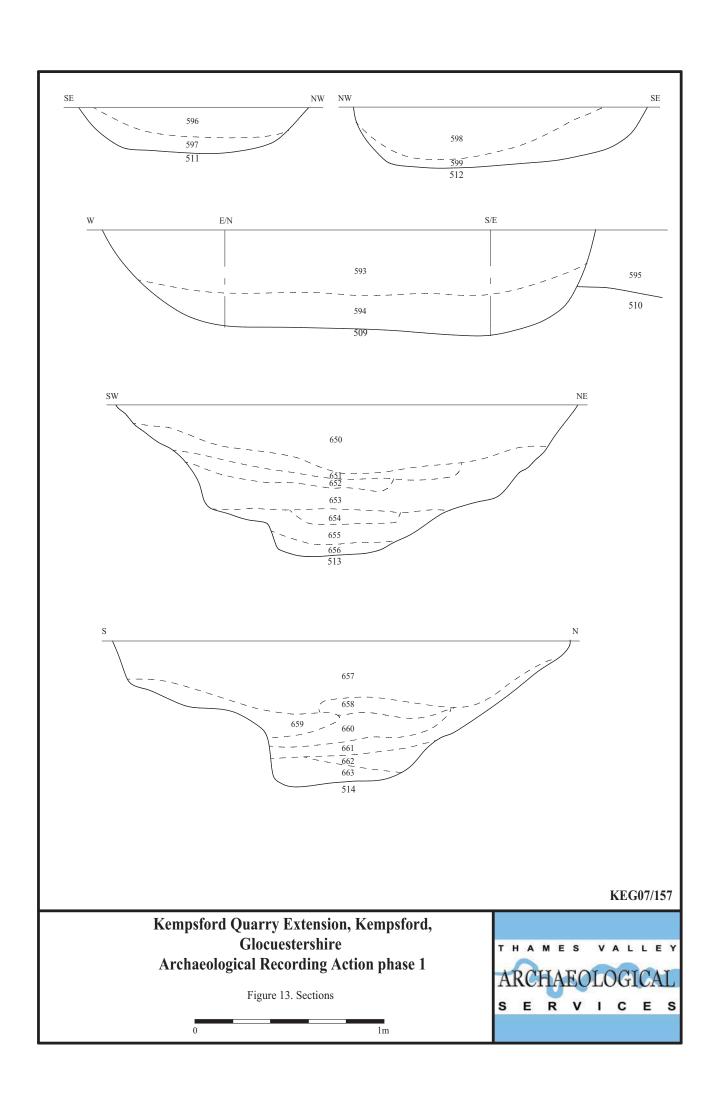


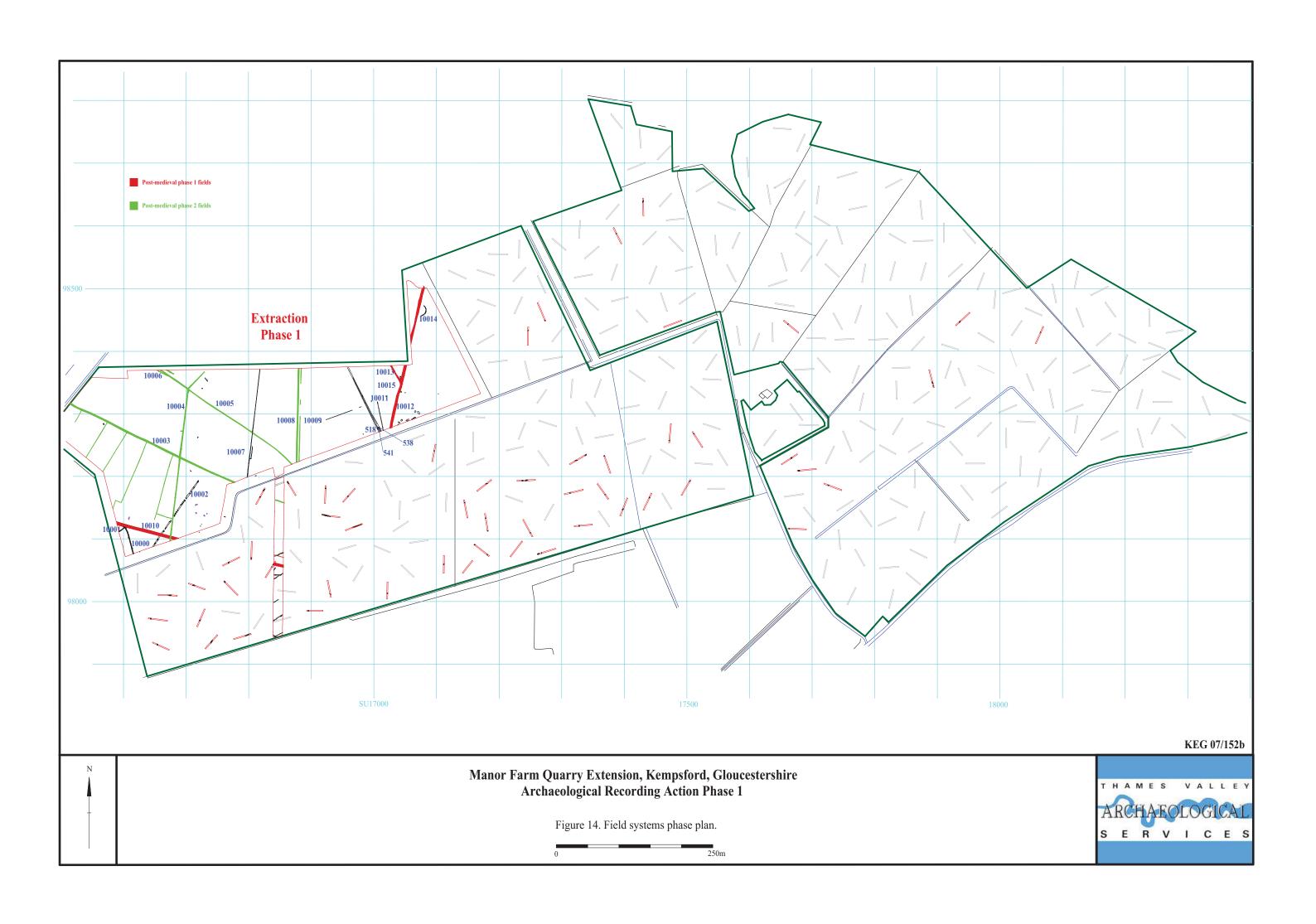














KEG 07/152

Manor Farm Quarry Extension, Kempsford, Gloucestershire Archaeological Recording Action

Plate 1. Aerial photograph of phase 1 works, looking west with Whelford village on right hand side

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Plate 2. Conveyor strip, looking north, Scales: 2m and 'm.



Plate 3. Ditch 10003, looking north west.



Plate 4. Parallel drains, looking south.

KEG 07/152b

Kempsford Quarry, Kempsford, Gloucestershire Archaeological Recording Action Plates 2 - 4.



TIME CHART

Calendar Years

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