THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Land west of New Road, Pyle Hill, Newbury, West Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Anne-Michelle Huvig

Site Code: NRG19/185

(SU 4849 6557)

Land west of New Road, Pyle Hill, Newbury, West Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Rivar Ltd

By Pierre-Damien Manisse and Anne-Michelle Huvig

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code NRG 19/185

August 2020

Summary

Site name: Land west of New Road, Pyle Hill, Newbury, West Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 4849 6557

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 13th - 21th July 2020

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Pierre-Damien Manisse and Anne-Michelle Huvig

Site code: NRG 19/185

Area of site: 1.75 ha

Monuments identified: Bronze Age ditch, pits, postholes and possibly cremation. Medieval pit and gullies.

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed archaeological deposits spread widely across the site ranging from the Early Bronze Age Later Bronze Age and Medieval periods. Two of the post holes contained some cremated bones but these were not certainly human. The anomalies observed during the geophysical survey were confirmed. One was a Post-Medieval ditch in the north of the site (Trenches 15 and 17) with several parallel gullies south of it. The other was an enclosure ditch with a possible terminus in trench 11 and a section in trench 3: these two ditch segments, however, produced differing dating evidence, one Bronze Age and the other medieval. Other linear features of smaller dimensions were observed in various trenches (4-8). A few pits were also present (trenches 1, 7, 9, 14).

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course with accession number NEWBY:2019.54.

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Land west of New Road, Pyle Hill, Newbury, West Berkshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

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Report 19/185b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out in a field west of New Road, Pyle Hill, Newbury, West Berkshire (SU 4849 6557) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James Bull on behalf of Rivar Ltd, West Mills, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 5HG.

Planning permission (18/00529/FULEXT) has been granted by West Berkshire Council for a residential development on the site, subject to a condition which pertains to archaeology. It specified the need of a programme of archaeological investigation prior to any groundworks. This was in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Council's policies on archaeology. This is the second phase of the process to determine the presence or absence, extent character, quality and date of any archaeological remains that could be affected by the redevelopment of the area, following an initial geophysical survey (Beaverstock 2020).

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Sarah Orr of West Berkshire Archaeological Service. This second stage took the form of a programme of trial trenching, based on the result of which further work might be required. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Anne-Michelle Huvig assisted by Camila Carvalho and Maisie Foster, between 13th and 21st July 2020. The site code is NRG 19/185. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum, Newbury in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in West Berkshire, on the south-eastern outskirts of Newbury, and north-west of Greenham village, on a remnant of common land on the southern slope of the Kennet Valley, with the river *c.*1.5km to the north (Fig. 1). It lies between 119 and 121m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology as recorded on maps is Silchester Gravel drift (Sixth terrace gravel), over London Clay (BGS 2006). The current land use at the time of the fieldwork was grassland.

Archaeological background

The potential of the site stems from its location in the archaeologically rich Kennet Valley. This is a particularly rich and well-studied landscape of prehistoric sites and finds, with material ranging from the Mesolithic on the valley floor, through Bronze Age settlement, especially east of Newbury (Pine 2010a), and Roman agricultural communities close to the Bath Road (Ermin Street) (Margary 1955, 121; route 41a). The Speen suburb of Newbury is thought to have developed from a small Roman settlement, and there are also Roman settlement remains in Thatcham (Fitzpatrick *et al*. 1995; Pine 2010b). The specific potential of the site is limited to nearby findspots in the HER, with Roman coins being found across the west of the site on several different occasions (Taylor 2016). An evaluation was carried out by TVAS on a parcel of land 0.5km to the west (Manisse 2018) where a low density of features was revealed (Roman or Medieval field boundaries). The site is close to the historic core of Greenham, which had at least late Saxon origins, as it was mentioned in *Domesday Book* (Williams and Martin 2012). The listed parish church of St Mary stands less than a couple of hundred metres to the north-east. A medieval manor is suspected somewhere to the east.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or paleoenvironmental deposits within the area of development, without disturbing their integrity. Specifically, research aims were:

> to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
> to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
> to determine if any geophysical anomalies are of archaeological origin;
> to determine if any components of the Late Saxon or Medieval settlement are present on the site and if so, assist in advancing knowledge of the topography of the medieval settlement;
> If any settlement remains are present, are they abandoned in late medieval times (perhaps due to the Black Death or similar epidemics), or did they continue into post-medieval times only to falter due to changing economic pressures?

It was proposed that a total of 17 trenches, each 25-27m long and 1.8-2m wide would be opened. They would be dug by a JCB-type or 360º machine fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Any encountered archaeological feature would be cleaned by hand, sufficiently excavated and sampled to satisfy the above aims, without compromising the integrity of any features that would be better investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. Spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

All the 17 intended evaluation trenches were opened as planned, except that Trenches 7 and 11, had to be shifted slightly away from a number of trees. The conditions of observation were considered to be fair. Fieldwork was undertaken with good light but the soil was very dry and dusty.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths, orientation and a description of stratigraphy is given in Appendix 1. All the trenches displayed the same basic stratigraphy. The top horizon was a 0.18-0.25m topsoil, a mid-brownish grey loamy silt. Below was a 0.20m thick subsoil, a mid-brownish grey silty sand/sandy silt with common pebbles/gravels inclusions, more like a transitory layer between the topsoil and the geology. Two different geological horizons were, however, encountered: the more widespread was (52), a medium compacted sandy white gravels/pebbles deposit. This was present in all trenches except Trenches 1 and 3 where a firm orange-brown clay with varied density of gravels/pebbles, rare natural flints, and patches of light-yellow silt with occasional pebbles-gravels inclusions (55) was seen. Similarly, most of the features' infills were homogeneous throughout the site, a medium compacted mid grey silt with frequent gravels or pebbles. Unless different, the fill descriptions are therefore not repeated below.

Trench 1

This trench was 27.05m long and 0.60m deep orientated W-E. Topsoil was 0.25m thick and overlaid a 0.20m thick subsoil above the natural gravel geology. Two N-S land drains were noted as well as what was interpreted as a furrow at the east end, due to its breadth about 4m wide and 0.42m deep with an upper layer of mid grey silty gravels and a lower fill with fewer and smaller inclusions. A single feature was visible in this trench, pit 19. It was >1.35 x 2.70m for a depth of 0.25m. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Three fills were identified. Basal fill (75) was a firm orange-brown with light grey patches of clay with very rare charcoal flecks. Fill (74) was only seen against the south side. It was a firm mid light grey to mid brownish grey sand with clay patches. It was overlaid by upper fill (73), a firm mid grey-brown clayey silt with common small pebbles and gravels. Fill (73) yielded 21 Late Bronze Age sherds with a fragment of fired clay from (74).

Trench 2

This trench was 25.60m long and 0.30-0.50m deep. It was orientated WNW-ESE. Topsoil was 0.18m thick and overlaid a 0.20m thick subsoil above gravel natural geology. It contained a Late Bronze Age post hole, 1, and a Late Bronze Age pit, 2. Posthole 1 was sub-circular, measuring 0.40 x 0.35m for a depth of 0.17m. It had an irregular base and generally steep sides. Fill (53) yielded a single Late Bronze Age sherd. Pit 2 was possibly sub-

circular (it extended beyond the baulk) with moderate sides and a slightly rounded base. It was 1.10m wide by at least 0.65m long. The fill (54) yielded 12 Late Bronze Age sherds.

Trench 3

This trench was 26.20m long and 0.35-0.95m deep. It was orientated W-E. Topsoil was 0.25m thick and overlaid a 0.20m thick subsoil above gravel natural geology. The maximum depth of this trench at the west end is likely to be due to the presence of a furrow or modern disturbance. Single feature was identified, ditch 3. It was truncated by a N-S land drain on its east side. It was t 2.74m wide and 0.26m deep and corresponds with a linear geophysical anomaly. It had a lower fill, (56), a very compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks and occasional pebbles/gravels containing seven Late Bronze Age sherds. The upper fill (57) was a very compact mid brownish grey silt with common pebbles/gravel.

Trench 4

This trench was 26.90m long and 0.45m deep. It was orientated SE-NW. Topsoil was 0.20-0.25m thick and overlaid a 0.20m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. A ditch and three possible post holes were recorded. Ditch (or gully) 34 was aligned WNW-ESE. It was 0.46m wide and 0.19m deep It's fill (90) contained nine medieval potsherds. Posthole 33 was near circular, 0.36 x 0.38m and 0.14m deep. It had a single sterile fill (89). Posthole 35, was 0.25 x 0.26m and was 0.13m deep. It had a single sterile fill (91). Post hole 36 was 0.27 x 0.28m and 0.13m deep.) It had a single fill (92). which contained a single Medieval sherd and fragment of Post-Medieval brick/tile.

Trench 5

This trench was 26.80m long and 0.40m deep. It was orientated SE-NW. Topsoil was 0.20m thick and overlaid a 0.20m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. A ditch and pit were recorded. Ditch 28 was 1.35m wide and 0.35m deep aligned NNE-SSW. It was not recorded by the geophysical survey s, and its identification as an archaeological feature is still questionable. It had irregular sides,with a rounded base. The fill (84) was sterile. Pit 29 was 0.90 x 0.60m and was about 0.32m deep. It's single fill (85) yielded ten Late Bronze Age sherds.

Trench 6

This trench was 27.25m long and 0.30-0.40m deep. It was orientated SW-NE. Topsoil was 0.20m thick and overlaid a 0.10-0.20m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. Three features were noted,. a ditch, posthole and pit or gully terminal.

Ditch 31 was not recorded as a geophysical anomaly. It was 0.58m wide and 0.17m deep aligned N-S. It's single fill (87) contained no dating evidence. Posthole 30 was 0.42 x 0.48m across and 0.13m deep. It's single fill (86) contained no dating evidence. Pit 32 was 0.55m wide and at least 0.60m long. It was 0.30m deep. It had a deep bowl profile. Its fill (88) contained eight Late Bronze Age potsherds.

Trench 7

This trench was 23.30m long and 0.40m deep. It was orientated SSW-NNE. Topsoil was 0.20m thick and overlaid a 0.20m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. It contained a gully, ditch and pit, none of which were identified by the geophysical survey. Gully 39 was c. 0.45m wide and 0.08m deep aligned NE-SW. The single fill (95) contained no dating evidence. The relationship between gully and ditch was unclear. Ditch 38 was 1.20m wide and at least 0.11m deep, aligned SSE-NNW. The single fill (94) contained no dating evidence. Pit 37 was 0.80m in diameter and 0.22m in depth with steep sides and a flattish bottom. It had a deep bowl profile. Its fill (93) contained no dating evidence.

Trench 8

This trench was 27.80m long and 0.46-0.50m deep. It was orientated SSE-NNW. Topsoil was 0.20m thick and overlaid a 0.20m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. Three features were noted.

Gully 15 was up to 0.30m wide and 0.12m deep with a concave profile. It was aligned W-E..It's single fill, (69) contained no dating evidence. Ditch 14 was 0.95m wide and 0.35m deep orientated W-E. It's single fill, (89) contained two sherds of Medieval pottery. Pit 16 was 0.60m in diameter and 0.27m deep. It had very steep sides and a concave base. It's single fill, (70) contained four sherds, one of medieval date and three of Late Bronze Age date.

Trench 9

This trench was 27.80m long and 0.54m max deep. It was orientated SW-NE. Topsoil was 0.20m thick and overlaid a 0.20m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. A post hole and two pits were revealed.

Pit 4 was only partially visible in the trench. It was 0.80m x >0.55m across and only 0.10m deep. It's single fill, (58) contained one Late Bronze Age sherd. Pit 5 was oval in plan, 0.70 x 0.45m and 0.18m deep. It's

fill (59) was sterile. It was noticeably different from the other features on the site with a darker colour which *might* indicate it is not of archaeological origin. Posthole 6 was 0.50m in diameter and 0.20m in depth. It's fill (60) was sterile.

Trench 10

This trench was 26.60m long and 0.38m deep. It was orientated S-N. Topsoil was 0.20m thick and overlaid a 0.18m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. Three post holes were revealed

Posthole 11 was 0.35 x 0.28m and 0.18m deep. It had a bowl shape profile. It's fill (65) contained two sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery. Posthole 12 was 0.46 x 0.42m and 0.33m deep with quite steep sides and a rounded base. It's fill (66) contained two Late Bronze Age sherds. Posthole 13 was 0.44 x 0.38m and 0.15m deep. It had moderate to steep sides and a slightly rounded base. It's fill (67) contained two Late Bronze Age sherds.

Trench 11

This trench was 22.30m long and 0.46m deep. It was orientated E-W. Topsoil was 0.20m thick and overlaid a 0.26m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. It's position was moved slightly from intended due area of woodland/scrub. A ditch and posthole were revealed. The ditch seems to correspond to a geophysical anomaly.

Ditch 18 was 0.66m across and 0.38m deep. It had steep sides and a rounded base. It's fill (72) consisted of very frequent unsorted gravels and pebbles in a yellowish grey silt matrix and contained three struck flints . Post hole 17 was 0.28m in diameter and 0.11m deep. It had moderate to steep sides and a flat base. It's fill (71) was sterile.

Trench 12

This trench was 27.80m long and 0.44m deep. It was orientated SW-NE. Topsoil was 0.22m thick and overlaid a 0.18m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 13

This trench was 26m long and 0.42m deep. It was orientated W-E. Topsoil was 0.20m thick and overlaid a 0.20m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. Five post holes were revealed. A few other patches of discolouration were investigated buy deemed to be of natural origin.

Posthole 20 was 0.40 x 0.33m and 0.16m deep. It had near vertical sides and a flattish base. It's fill (76) was sterile. Posthole 21 had a diameter of 0.34m and a depth of 0.20m. It had steep to near vertical sides and a rounded base. It's fill (77) contained a single Late Bronze Age sherd.

Posthole 22 was 0.16 x 0.20m and only 0.06m deep. It's fill (78) contained three Late Bronze Age sherds.

Posthole 23 was 0.30 x 0.26m and 0.13m deep with a concave profile was assumed. It's fill (79) was sterile.

Posthole 24 was 0.35 x 0.36m. It was 0.20m deep with near vertical sides and a rounded base. It's fill (80) contained a single Medieval sherd.

Trench 14

This trench was 25.60m long and 0.50m deep. It was orientated W-E. Topsoil was 0.20m thick and overlaid a 0.15-0.20m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. Three features were revealed.

Posthole 8 was 0.31 x 0.42m and was 0.19m deep. with steep sides and a rounded base. It's fill (62) was sterile. Posthole 9 was only half visible in the trench It was 0.46m x >0.27m and was 0.23m deep. It had near vertical sides and a flattish base. It's fill (63) contained burnt clay fragments but no dating evidence. Pit 10 was 1.06 x 0.87m and 0.28m deep with .a flat base and steep sides. It's fill (64) contained one Medieval sherd and nine Late Bronze Age sherds.

Trench 15

This trench was 26.10m long and 0.45m deep. It was orientated WSW-ENE. Topsoil was 0.20m thick and overlaid a 0.20m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. Four linear features were revealed and all shared an E-W alignment and might be connected to those features seen in trenches 16 or 17.

Gully 40 terminated in the trench 15. It was 0.55m wide and 0.14m deep with flat base and steep sides. It's fill (96) was sterile. It might continue as gully 41, after a gap of about 1.4m. Gully 42 was 0.20m wide and just 0.05m deep. It's fill (98) was sterile. Ditch 43 was 0.75-0.80m wide and about 0.30m deep with a v-shaped profile. Its fill, (99), was much more silty with pebbles and gravel compare to the other deposits encountered. It contained 2 Post-medieval sherds, a brick fragment and a clay pipe stem. Ditch 44 was not investigated

Trench 16

This trench was 27.90m long and 0.50m deep. It was orientated S-N. Topsoil was 0.22m thick and overlaid a 0.20m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. Three features were revealed.

Pit 26 was 1.45 x 0.72m and 0.30m deep. It had steep sides and a reduced flattish base. It's fill (82) contained one Medieval sherd and a flint flake. Gully (25) was 0.30m wide and only 0.09m deep aligned E-W. It had gentle slope and a flattish base. It's fill (81) was sterile. Gully 27, was 0.35m wide and 0.08m deep It had gentle slope and a flattish base. It's fill (83) was sterile.

Trench 17

This trench was 27.50m long and 0.40m deep. It was orientated SW-NE. Topsoil was 0.20m thick and overlaid a 0.20m thick subsoil directly above natural gravel geology. Thirteen features were revealed.

Gully, 45, was 0.18m wide and 0.09m deep aligned East-West. Its relationship with pit 46 was unclear. It's fill (153) was sterile. Gully 46 was 0.36m wide and 0.12m deep. It had a concave profile. It's fill (154) contained 4 LBA sherds. Gully 47 was 0.23m wide and 0.11m deep. It had moderate to steep sides and a shallow concave profile. It's fill (154) was sterile. It had moderate sloping sides s and a flattish base. It's fill (151) was sterile. Ditches 104 and 105 was unexcavated but corresponded with a linear geophysical anomaly.

Pit 7 was 0.30m in diameter but only 0.05m deep. It's single fill (61) contained a substantial portion of an Early Bronze Age collared urn along with 16g of burnt bone. It is likely to be a pyre-related deposit. Pit 46 was 0.68 by >0.40m and 0.27m deep with irregular sides and base. It's single fill (152) contained four Late Bronze Age sherds. Pi 48 was 0.34 x 0.40m and 0.12m deep.

Posthole 49 was 0.38m across and c.0.14m deep. It had a flattish base and steep sides. It's fill (155) was sterile. Posthole 100 was 0.40 x 0.43m and 0.14m deep. It had a flattish base and steep sides. It's fill (156) was sterile. Pothole 101 was , 0.33 x 0.54m and 0.15m deep. It had a slightly rounded base and moderate to steep sides. It's fill (157) was sterile. Posthole 102 was 0.40 x 0.41m and a concave profile. It's fill (158) was sterile. Posthole 103 was 0.45 x 0.32m and 0.17m deep with steep sides and a flattish base. It's fill (159) contained twelve Late Bronze Age sherds and a few flecks of burnt bone.

Finds

The collared urn by Richard Tabor

A total of 14 refitting sherds weighing 306g were recorded from a single Early Bronze Age Collared Urn in pit 7 (Pl. 16). The sherds were allocated to a fabric group based on the material, size and sorting of the principal inclusions and recorded in accordance with guidelines for the recording and analysis of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 2010).

The urn has been described according to the detailed classification of vessel part traits (given in parenthesis below) set out by Ian Longworth (1984, 5-10). It has a slightly everted tapering rounded rim with a straight internal bevel (21), below which it is weakly concave, with a slight interior ridge forming the seat of the collar. The collar exterior is strongly concave (D), forming a pronounced overhang above the straight, angled neck (F) which is set on a slightly ridged or cordoned shoulder (C). The decoration comprises: twisted cord in two rows on the rim bevel and in long, near vertical lines on the collar; and a single row of weakly-executed impressed horseshoe motifs on the cordon. It is unclear how the horseshoes were executed. The lower wall curves inwards gradually towards the simple angled base (A). It is in a friable, grey, slightly micaceous, fabric with buff red exterior and buff red to grey interior surfaces including common fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm) and rare medium/coarse (<4mm) mainly sub-rounded grog, rare to sparse fine (<1mm) reddish brown iron oxides and rarely fine/medium (<0.5mm) to medium (<1mm) sub-rounded quartz. The exterior surface retains much of a smoothed slip. The urn is 169mm high with external rim and base radii of respectively 65mm and 35mm. The external radius is 68mm at the base of the collar and 64mm on the slight ridge or cordon on the shoulder. In general, the wall is 8mm thick.

The vessel form and decoration is typical of Longworth's form II of the collared Urn Secondary Series South Eastern Style, hence lacks the Peterborough ware derived traits of the Primary Series (Longworth 1984, 21, 38; fig. 31). It is likely to date from the first quarter of the 2nd millennium BC.

Later Bronze Age and later Pottery by Jane Timby

The archaeological evaluation resulted in the recovery of an assemblage of 122 sherds weighing *c* 1052 g largely dating to the later Prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods. This excludes a collared urn reported on separately (Tabor above). The assemblage was analyzed broadly following the guidelines outlined in Barclay *et al*. (2016). Prehistoric wares were sorted macroscopically into fabrics following PCRG (1997) guidelines with letters denoting the main inclusions present. The sorted assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight

for each recorded context. Rims were additionally coded to general form and measured for the estimation of vessel equivalents (EVE) (cf. Orton *et al.* 1993). Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces where identified. Evidence of use or modification was noted. The quantified data was entered onto an MS Excel spread-sheet a copy of which is deposited with the site archive.

The condition of the material was variable with a moderately low overall average sherd size of 8.6 g. Surface finishes were well preserved. Pottery was recovered from 24 cuts most of which are pits, post-holes or gullies and two ditches. The quantity of pottery per feature is thus low. The pot report was written in the absence of any site matrix or narrative.

Early prehistoric?

A single small oxidised sherd with a poorly consolidated clay matrix characterised by irregular voids may date to the earlier prehistoric period. The sherd occurred alongside Later Bronze Age sherds in pit [2].

Later Prehistoric pottery

Most of the pottery recovered, some 98 sherds, weighing *c* 803 g and with 0.15 EVE's dates to the Later Bronze Age. There are very few featured sherds to allow much detailed refinement of date with just three rim-sherds. A total nine fabrics have been defined for the assemblage which fall into three main groups: sandy (SA1-5), sandy with flint (SAFL1-3) and sandy with burnt out organic inclusions (SAOR).

Sandy
SA1: mainly oxidised or brown wares with a fine sandy matrix and few macroscopically visible inclusions.
SA2: oxidised ware containing glauconitic sandy and rare angular flint.
SA3: fine grey micaceous ware.
SA4: iron-rich, fine sandy clay with rare flint.
SA5: iron rich clay with a sparse scatter of ill-sorted, rounded quartz sand.

Sandy with flint
SAFL1: fabric as SA1 with a sparse scatter of fine, calcined flint less than 1 mm.
SAFL2: fabric as SA1 but with a sparse scatter of slightly coarser flint up to 1-1.5 mm in size.
SAFL3: glauconitic sandy with sparse fine, angular, calcined flint.

Sandy with organic
SAOR: sandy ware with a sparse ill-sorted scatter of rounded quartz sandy (less than 1 mm) and sparse linear voids from organic inclusions.

Forms

The three vessel rims include a plain-walled jar from posthole [11]; a round bodied jar or bowl from pit [29] (Fig. 00.1) and a slightly biconical jar with a finger-tipped rim and upper body from pit [19] (Fig. 00.2). Further sherds with finger-depressions were recovered from posthole [22]. Most of the sherds have a plain or scraped finish but at two sherds are burnished, one internally and one gives the appearance of scratch marking. A sherd from pit [2] has a pre-firing hole through the wall of the vessel.

Summary

The pottery appears to date to the later Bronze Age and can be paralleled with several other similar assemblages from the area including nearby Reading Business Park / Green Park (Hall and Bradley 1992; Morris 2004); Aldermaston (Bradley 1980); Pingewood (Bradley 1987) and Burghfield (Mepham 1992).

Medieval

Seventeen sherds of medieval date are present. The largest group of nine sherds came from gully [34]. Other sherds were associated with ditch [14], gully [41] and postholes [24], [26] and [36]. Two sherds were recovered from pits [10] and [16] alongside LBA pottery.

Three fabrics are present a dense sandy ware with flint (Newbury fabric A/ Kennett Valley ware); a sandy ware with calcareous voids (Newbury B) and a grey or oxidised sandy ware (Newbury C) (Vince 1997). Most of the sherds are from plain cooking pots/jars but one piece from pit [34] is decorated with vertical and wavy-line combing and it probably from a pitcher. In terms of date the group appears to span the 12th-13th centuries.

Post-medieval

Five sherds of glazed earthenware of post-medieval date were recovered from ditches [36] and [104].

Ceramic building material

Two pieces of ceramic building material weighing 134 g were recovered from ditch [104] and posthole [36]. The former piece shows traces of a glaze suggesting it is a roof tile from a building of some status.

Burnt Bones by Ceri Falys

A small quantity of burnt bone was recovered from two features (cuts 7 and 103). A total of 23 fragments of burnt bone were present for analysis, weighing 16.5g (Appendix 5). All bone was uniformly buff-white in colour and generally well preserved, with dense textures and a moderate degree of fragmentation. The observed colouring of the bone indicated the organic components within the bone had been fully oxidized by the burning process (producing a buff-white colour), which has been accomplished by exposing the bone to temperatures in excess 600^{o}C (Holden *et al.* 1995a, b).

Osteological analysis was not able to be identify any bones to species or even to distinguish any as human or animal, due to the overall small size and non-descript appearance, although three pieces of bone from cut 7 (61) were midshaft portions of a tibia.

Flints by Steve Ford

A small collection of five stuck flints were recovered during the fieldwork as detailed in Appendix 4 The collection comprised; a broken flake, a spall (piece less than 20x20mm) and two scrapers all made from the local flint gravel. However, the notable piece was the tapering butt end of well worked flint axe made on a piece of grey slightly mottled flint. The surviving length was 80mm and width of 35mm, with a thickness of 9mm. There was no indication of any polish. The piece was well made with straight edges with small invasive flaking across the whole of both surfaces. It is considered that the piece is an axe or adze, perhaps for more delicate woodworking assuming that about 50% of the tool is present. There is a small possibility that the piece is not an axe but is from a flint dagger. With the exception of the flaked axe which is of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, none of the other flintwork is closely datable other than to a broad Mesolithic-Bronze Age period.

.Macrobotanical plant material and charcoal by Elspeth St. John-Brooks

Bulk soil samples were taken from a variety of features including gullies, ditches, pits and postholes. A total of 34 samples were wet-sieved using standard processing methods through a 5mm mesh and air dried. The flots were examined under a hand lens (x8) and low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 and x40. Just one charred plant macrofossil was found in sample 33 from a posthole, this was identified as an indeterminate cereal grain (Appendix 7). Microcharcoal was found present in all the samples in varying degrees with fragments >0.5cm found in a total of 18 of the samples. These fragments have the size and structure that would allow species identification, the larger fragments look to be either ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) or oak (*Quercus*) however no detailed analysis has been undertaken, the largest and most numerous fragments were found in sample 33 from a posthole (Appendix 6).

Conclusion

The evaluation revealed three distinct phases of activity on the site occupation, in the Bronze Age and medieval and later times. The earliest activity is represented by Early Bronze Age pit 7 which contained a collared urn and a small amount (16g) of burnt bone which cannot even be identified as human. The feature cannot be described as a cremation burial but is related with the fill containing some pyre debris. The unstratified flaked axe could belong to this phase or earlier.

The majority of the Bronze Age material recovered from the site dated to the later Bronze Age, with nothing specifically to indicate any Middle Bronze Age activity on the site. The Late Bronze Age features are mainly post holes and pits although there is a single ditch in trench 3. Further Late Bronze Age pottery is present as residual material in Medieval features. These deposits quite clearly indicate the presence of an occupation site

and which is likely to be a dispersed open settlement, characteristic of the period with several other recorded in the Kennet Valley (eg Bradley et al.1980) .The trenching confirmed fairly closely, the results of the geophysical survey with a three sided linear anomaly now seeming to be a small enclosure of Late Bronze Age date (Fig. 8).

The proposal site lies close to the historic core of Greenham with the parish church nearby so the presence of a medieval phase of activity is no surprise. The deposits consists of gullies/ditches, pits and posthole and indicate components of the medieval settlement with confirmation that some of the geophysical linear anomalies belong to an enclosure system of this date (Fig. 8).

The site is therefore considered to have high archaeological potential.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	27.05	1.60	0.60	Topsoil 0-0.25m; Subsoil 0.25-0.45m; Natural geology 0.45m+. pit 19
2	25.60	1.60	0.30 to 0.50	Topsoil 0-0.28m; Subsoil 0.28-0.36m; Natural Geology 0.36m+. posthole 1, pit 2
3	26.20	1.60	0.35 to 0.95	Topsoil 0-0.20m; Subsoil 0.20-0.30m; Natural Geology 0.3m+. ditch 3
4	26.90	1.60	0.45	Topsoil 0-0.24m; Subsoil 0.24-0.44m; Natural Geology 0.44m+. postholes 33-35-36, gully34
5	26.80	1.60	0.40	Topsoil 0-0.20m; Subsoil 0.20-0.40m; Natural Geology 0.40m+. ditch 28, pit 29
6	28	1.60	0.40	Topsoil 0-0.20m; Subsoil 0.20-0.40m; Natural Geology 0.40m+. posthole 30, pit 32, gully 31
7	23.30	1.60	0.40	Topsoil 0-0.20m; Subsoil 0.20-0.40m; Natural Geology 0.40m+. pit 37, ditch 38, gully 39
8	27.80	1.60	0.50	Topsoil 0-0.20m; Subsoil 0.20-0.40m; Natural Geology 0.40m+. ditch 14, gully 15, pit 16
9	27.80	1.60	0.54	Topsoil 0-0.20m; Subsoil 0.20-0.40m; Natural Geology 0.40m+. pits 4-5, posthole 6
10	26.60	1.60	0.38	Topsoil 0-0.20m; Subsoil 0.20-0.38m; Natural Geology 0.38m+. postholes 11-12-13
11	22.30	1.60	0.46	Topsoil 0-0.20m; Subsoil 0.20-0.36m; Natural Geology 0.36m+. posthole 17, ditch terminus 18
12	27.80	1.60	0.44	Topsoil 0-0.22m; Subsoil 0.22-0.42m; Natural Geology 0.42m+.
13	26	1.60	0.42	Topsoil 0-0.20m; Subsoil 0.2-0.40m; Natural Geology 0.40m+. postholes 20 to 24
14	25.60	1.60	0.50	Topsoil 0-0.20m; Subsoil 0.20-0.35m; Natural Geology 0.35m+. postholes 8-9, pit 10
15	26.10	1.60	0.45	Topsoil 0-0.20m; Subsoil 0.20-0.40m; Natural Geology 0.40m+. gully terminus 40-41, gully/ploughmark 42, ditch-unex 44, ditch 43 recut of 44
16	27.90	1.60	0.50	Topsoil 0-0.22m; Subsoil 0.22-0.42m; Natural Geology 0.42m+. gullies 25-27, pit 26
17	27.50	1.60	0.40	Topsoil 0-0.20m; Subsoil 0.20-0.40m; Natural Geology 0.40m+. posthole (cremation?) 7, gullies 45,47, Pit 46, postholes 48-49-100 to 103, ditches (unexc) 104-105

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	*Cut*	*Fill (s)*	*Type*	*Date*	*Dating evidence*
2	1	53	Posthole	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
2	2	54	Pit	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
3	3	56, 57	Ditch	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
9	4	58	Pit	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
9	5	59	Pit		*Non archaeological?*
9	6	60	Posthole		
17	7	61	Pit – cremation?	Early Bronze Age	Collared Urn
14	8	62	Posthole		
14	9	63	Posthole		
14	10	64	Pit	Medieval	Pottery (Bronze Age pottery residual?)
10	11	65	Posthole	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
10	12	66	Posthole	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
10	13	67	Posthole	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
8	14	68	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery
8	15	69	Gully		
8	16	70	Pit	Medieval	Pottery (Bronze Age pottery residual)
11	17	71	Posthole		
11	18	72	Ditch	Late Bronze Age	By association
1	19	73–75	Pit	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
13	20	76	Posthole		
13	21	77	Posthole	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
13	22	78	Posthole	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
13	23	79	Posthole		
13	24	80	Posthole	Medieval	Pottery
16	25	81	Gully		
16	26	82	Pit		
16	27	83	Gully		
5	28	84	Ditch		
5	29	85	Pit	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
6	30	86	Posthole		
6	31	87	Gully		
6	32	88	Pit	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
4	33	89	Posthole		
4	34	90	Gully	Medieval	Pottery
4	35	91	Posthole		
4	36	92	Posthole	Post Medieval	Brick/tile (Medieval pottery residual)
7	37	93	Pit		
7	38	94	Ditch		
7	39	95	Gully		
15	40	96	Gully		
15	41	97	Gully	Medieval	Pottery
15	42	98	Gully/ploughmark?		
15	43	99	ditch	Post Medieval	Pottery
15	44	150	Ditch		
17	45	151	Gully		
17	46	152	Pit	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
17	47	153	Gully		
17	48	154	Pit		
17	49	155	Posthole		
17	100	156	Posthole		
17	101	157	Posthole		
17	102	158	Posthole		
17	103	159	Posthole	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
17	104	160	Ditch	Post Medieval	Tile and pottery
17	105	161	Ditch	Not dug	

APPENDIX 3: Pottery Catalogue (except Collared Urn)

Trench	*Cut*	*Cxt*	*Type*	*Fabric*	*Form*	*Wt*	*No*	*Rim*	*Diam*	*Eve*	*Comment*	*Date*
2	1	53	posth	SAFL1		6	1	0	0	0		LBA
2	2	54	pit	OXCA		5	1	0	0	0	?Epreh; poorlt consolidated	?Epreh
2	2	54	pit	SA1		16	3	0	0	0	4=3 fresh break	LBA
2	2	54	pit	SAFL1		1	1	0	0	0	<2>	LBA
2	2	54	pit	SAFL1		20	3	0	0	0	X1 pre-firing hole	LBA
2	2	54	pit	SAFL1		20	4	0	0	0	x1 internal burnish	LBA
3	3	56	ditch	SA1		22	4	0	0	0		LBA
3	3	56	ditch	SA1		14	3	0	0	0		LBA
9	4	58	pit	SAFL2		8	1	0	0	0	sl coarser flint 1-1.5 mm	LBA
14	10	64	pit	MEDSY	jar	9	0	1	20	7	sooted ext	Med
14	10	64	pit	SA1		1	1	0	0	0	<6>	LBA
14	10	64	pit	SA2		41	2	0	0	0	glaucon sand; oxid, rare flint	LBA
14	10	64	pit	SAFL1		46	3	0	0	0	as SA1 plus fine flint	LBA
14	10	64	pit	SAOR		42	3	0	0	0	ill-sort sparse sand with organic	LBA
10	11	65	posth	SA4	jar	16	1	1	14	7	vertically walled; Fe rich occ fl, lumpy	LBA
10	12	66	posth	SAFL1		6	1	0	0	0	black	LBA
10	12	66	posth	SAFL3		20	1	0	0	0	glauconitic	LBA
10	13	67	posth	SA1		9	2	0	0	0		LBA
8	14	68	ditch	MEDSAFL		10	1	1	0	2		Med
8	16	70	pit	MEDSAFL		13	1	0	0	0		Med
8	16	70	pit	SA1		27	2	0	0	0		LBA
8	16	70	pit	SAFL1		1	1	0	0	0		LBA
1	19	73	pit	SAFL1		124	20	1	22	3	* 1 vess finger-tip rim and body	LBA
1	19	74	pit	FC/POT		3	1	0	0	0		nd
13	21	77	posth	SA3		2	1	0	0	0	with rare organic; x1 surf	LBA
13	22	78	posth	SAFL1		27	3	0	0	0	finger dep around girth	LBA
13	24	80	posth	MEDSAFL		10	1	0	0	0		Med
16	26	72	pit	MEDSAFL		21	1	0	0	0		Med
5	29	86	pit	SA1	base	114	1	0	0	0	oxfsy; 3=1 base; vertic scraped	LBA
5	29	86	pit	SA1	jar	50	6	1	18	5	*	LBA
5	29	86	pit	SA3		9	2	0	0	0	gyfmic	LBA
6	32	88	pit	SA5		85	8	0	0	0	fe-rich, ill-s qutz > 1 mm rare flint	LBA
4	34	90	gully	MEDSACA	jar	37	3	2	0	0		Med
4	34	90	gully	MEDOXFSY		6	1	0	0	0	hm	Med
4	34	90	gully	MEDSACA		18	0	1	0	0	vertic & wavy combed - pitcher?	Med
4	34	90	gully	MEDSY		31	2	0	0	0		Med
4	36	92	posth	CBM		30	1	0	0	0		Pmed
4	36	92	posth	MEDSAFL		1	1	0	0	0		Med
15	41	97	gully	MEDSAFL		16	1	0	0	0	<25>	Med
15	43	99	ditch	PMGL		43	2	0	0	0		Pmed
17	46	152	pit	SAFL1		11	2	0	0	0		LBA
17	46	152	pit	SAFL1		10	2	0	0	0	<28>	LBA
17	103	159	posth	SA3		3	1	0	0	0		LBA
17	103	159	posth	SAFL1		50	11	0	0	0	eburn	LBA
17	104	160	ditch	CBM		104	1	0	0	0	glazed	Pmed
17	104	160	ditch	PMGRE		27	3	1	0	0		Pmed
8	us	us	us	SAOR		4	1	0	0	0		LBA

APPENDIX 4: Struck Flint

Trench	*Cut*	*Fill*	*Type*
2		51	Flaked axe (broken)
11	18	72	Spall; 2 Scrapers
16	26	82	Flake

APPENDIX 5: Inventory of burnt bone

Cut	*Deposit*	*No. of Frags*	Wt (g)	*Max frag size (mm)*	*Colour*	*Comments*
7	61	21	16	37.1	buff-white	tibia midshaft fragments, indeterminate species
103	159	2	0.5	15.5	buff-white	unidentified

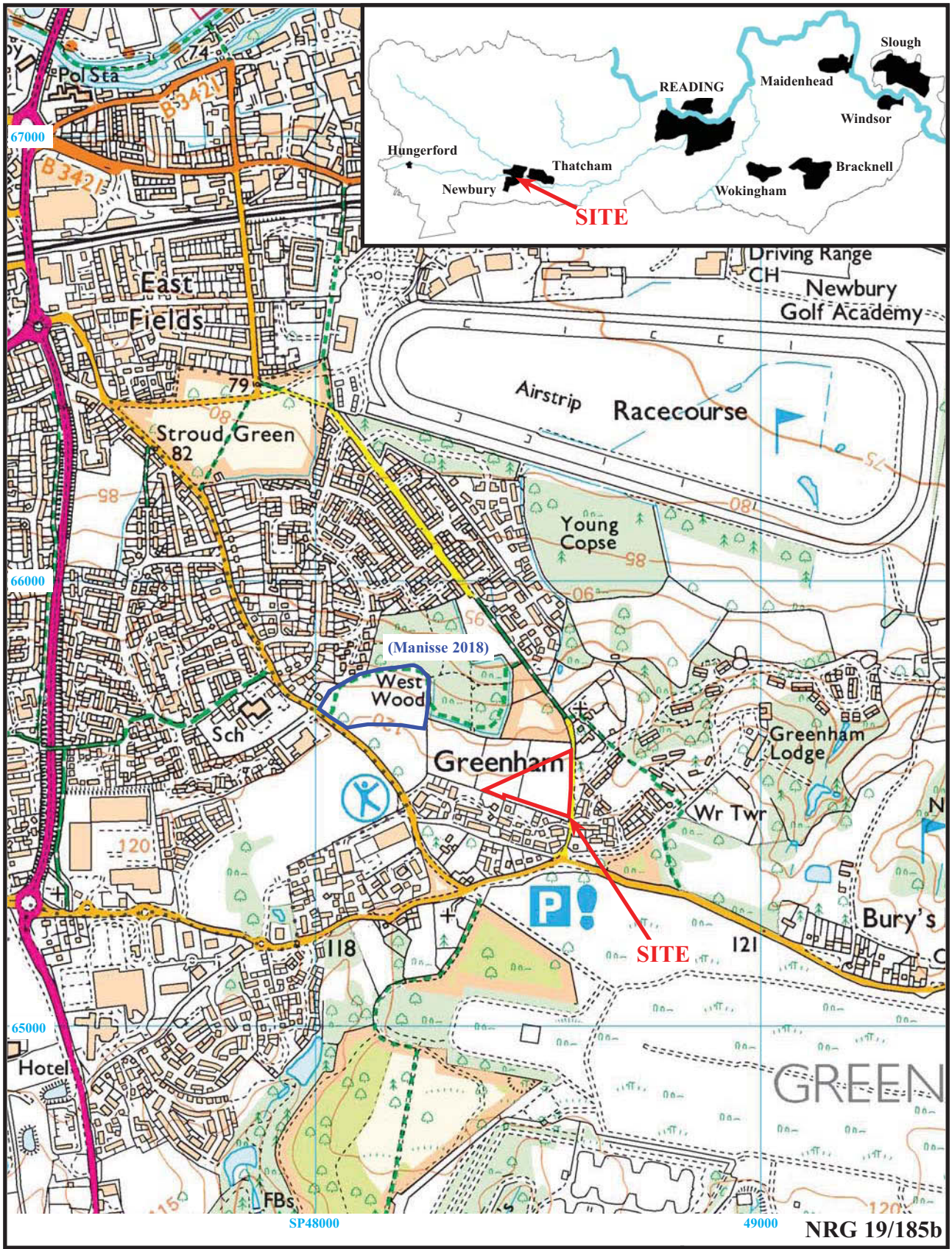
APPENDIX 6: Charcoal

Sample	1	2	3	6	7	9	10	12
Cut	1	2	3	9	10	15	16	19
Deposit	53	54	56	63	64	69	70	74
Feature Type	Posthole	Pit	Ditch	Pit	Posthole	Gully	Pit	Pit
No. frags	24	20	22	40	4	2	54	13
Max. size (mm)	15	12	12	10	10	10	17	5

Sample .	15	17	19	21	24	28	29	33	34
Cut	24	26	29	33	40	46	48	102	103
Deposit	80	82	85	89	96	152	152	158	159
Feature Type	Posthole	Pit	Pit	Posthole	Gully	Pit	Gully	Posthole	Posthole
No. frags	10	15	48	6	2	9	2	92	4
Max. size (mm)	07	05	15	6	5	5	6	23	5

APPENDIX 7: Charred plant remains

Sample	33
Cut	102
Deposit	158
Feature Type	Posthole
Indeterminate Cereal	1



Land west of New Road, Pyle Hill, Greenham, Newbury, West Berkshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site within Greenham, Newbury and West Berkshire.

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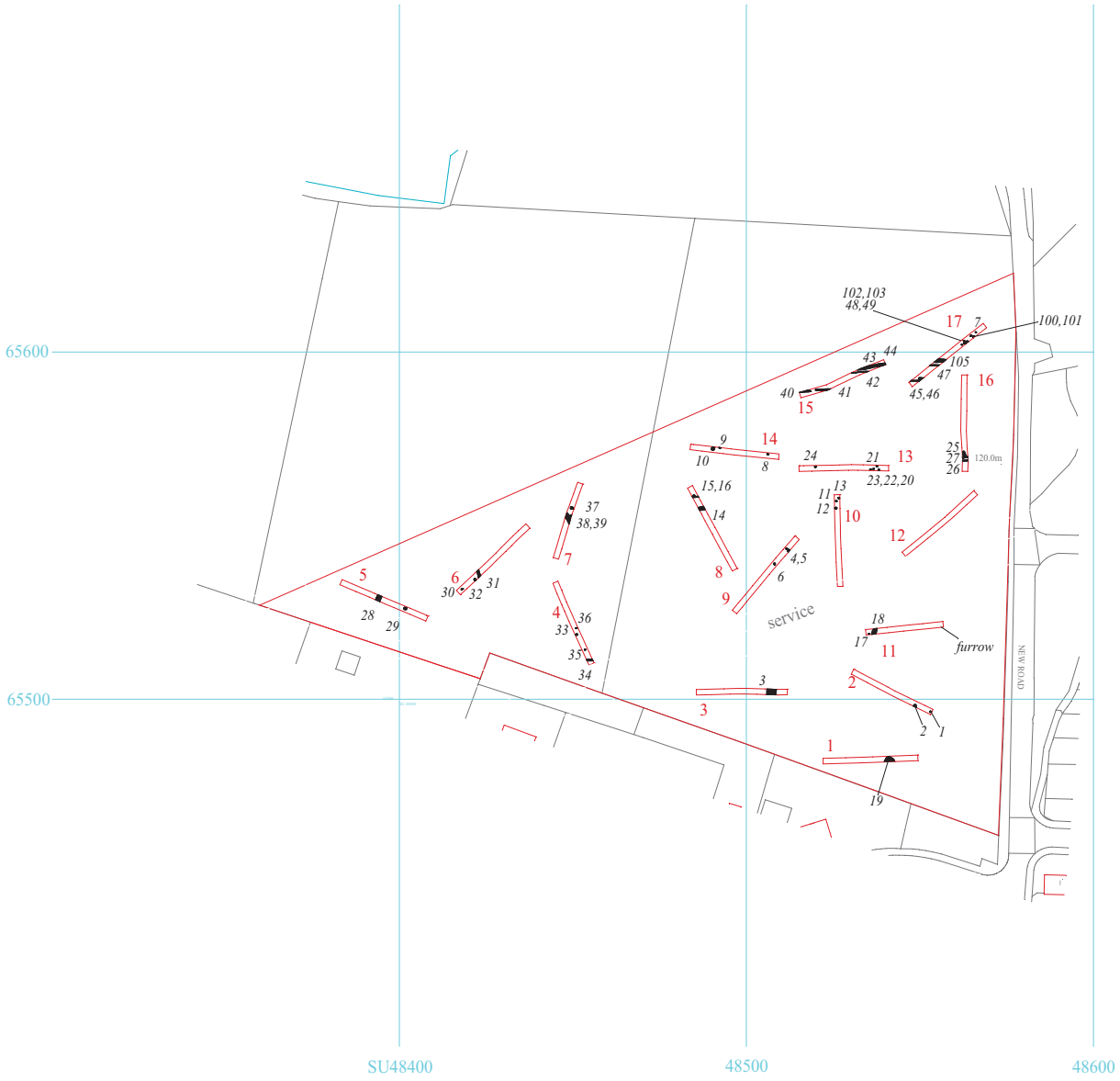

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Figure 2. Location of trenches and features..

0 100m

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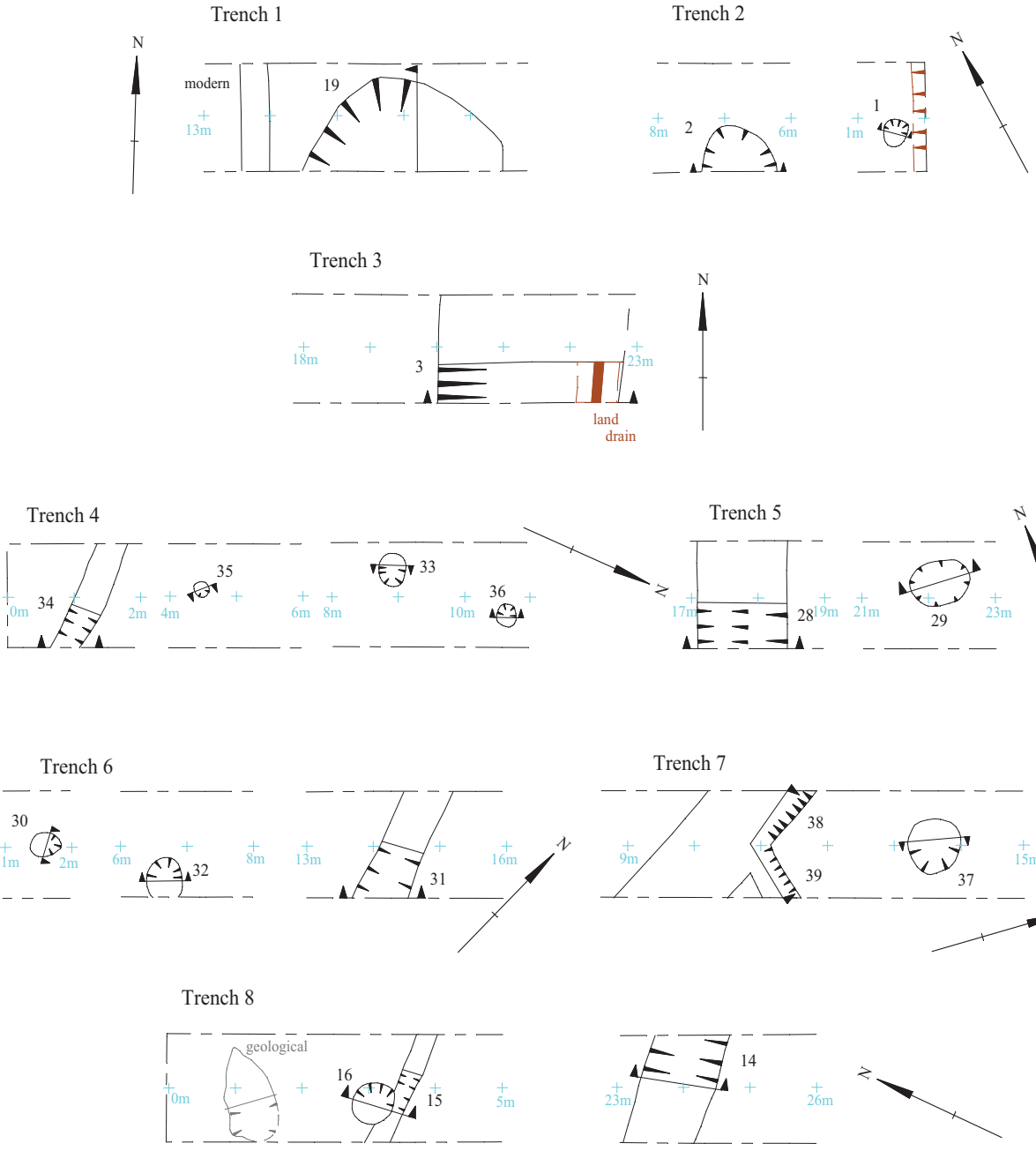

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Land west of New Road, Pyle Hill, Greenham, Newbury, West Berkshire, 2020 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 3. Detail of trenches.

0 5m

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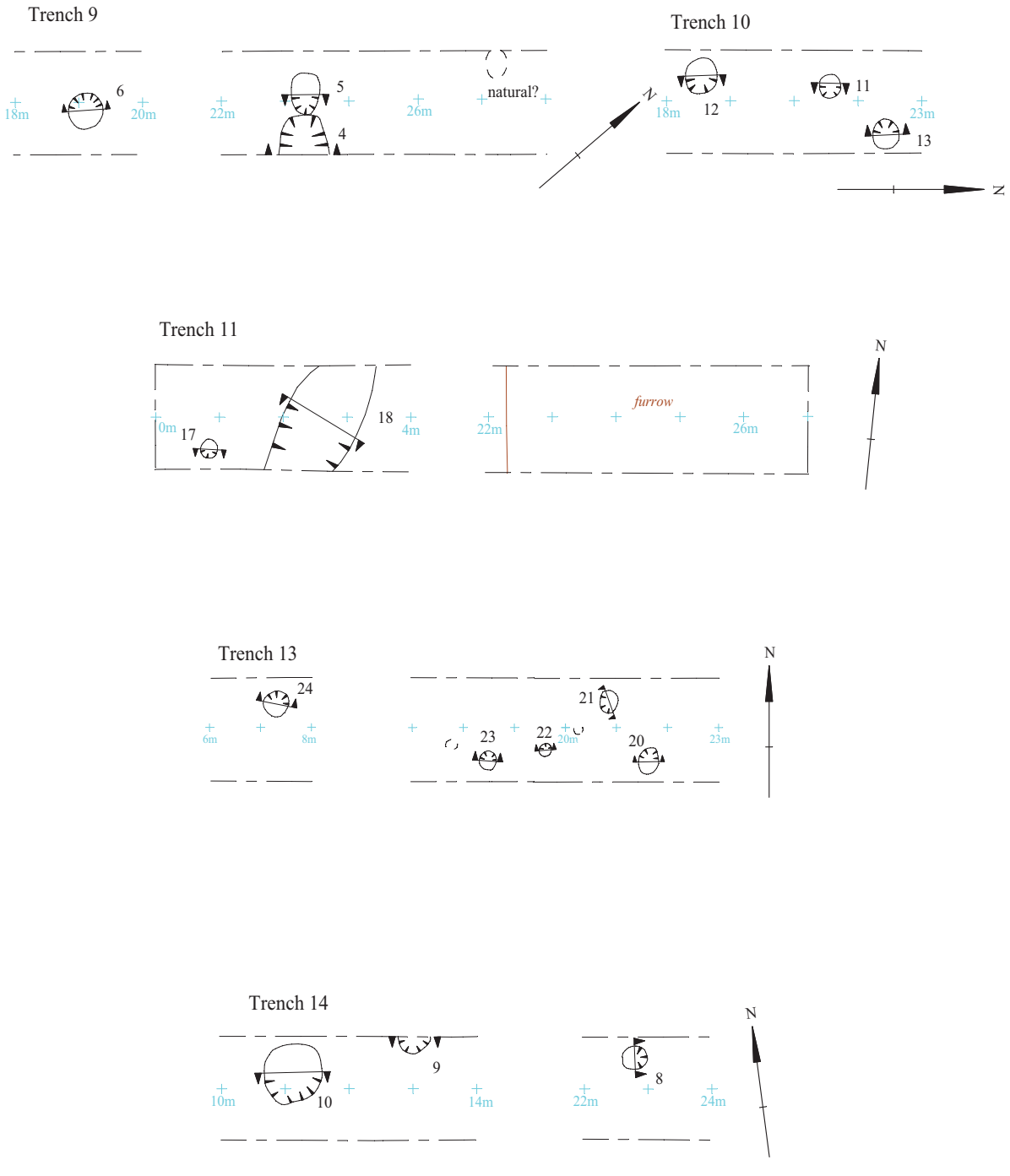

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Land west of New Road, Pyle Hill, Greenham, Newbury, West Berkshire, 2020 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Detail of trenches.

0 5m

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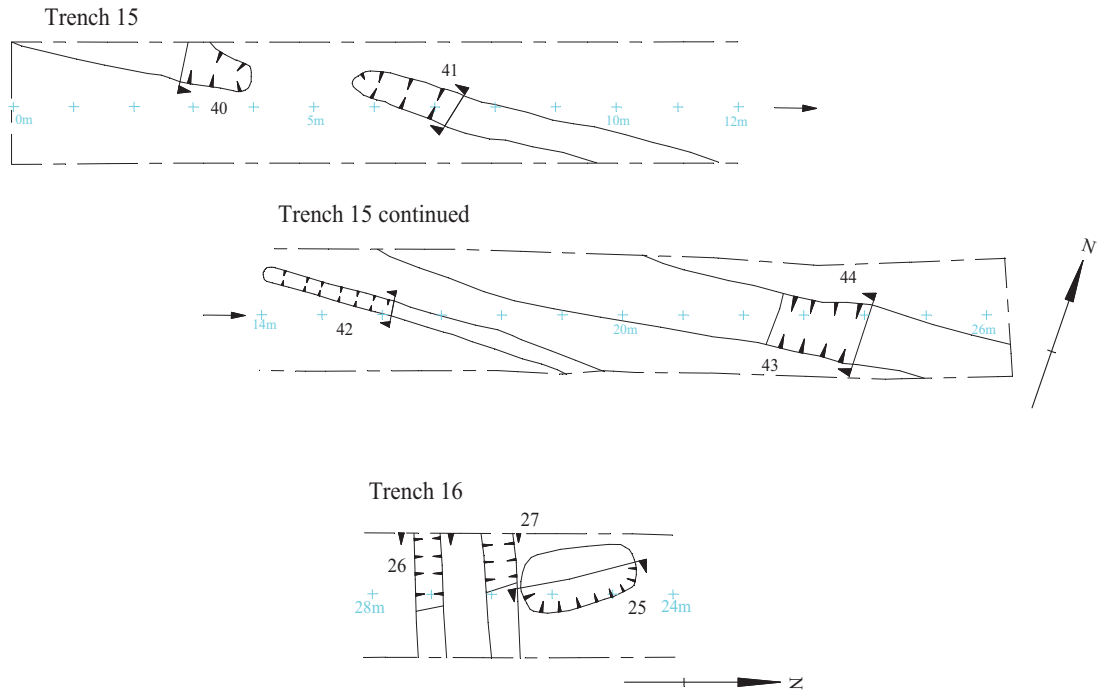

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Land west of New Road, Pyle Hill, Greenham, Newbury, West Berkshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 5. Detail of trenches.

0 5m

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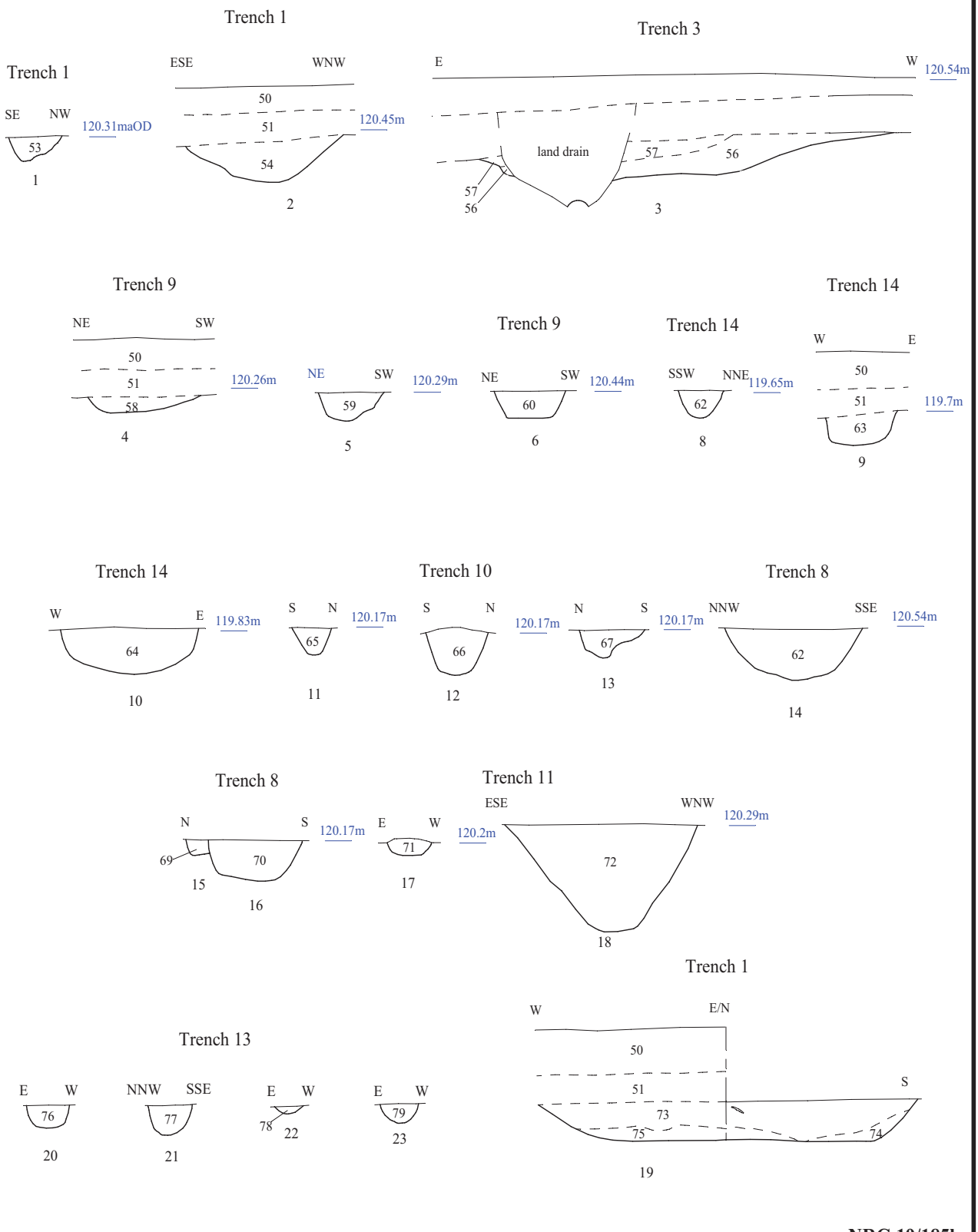

Land west of New Road, Pyle Hill, Greenham, Newbury, West Berkshire, 2020 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 6. Sections.

0 1m

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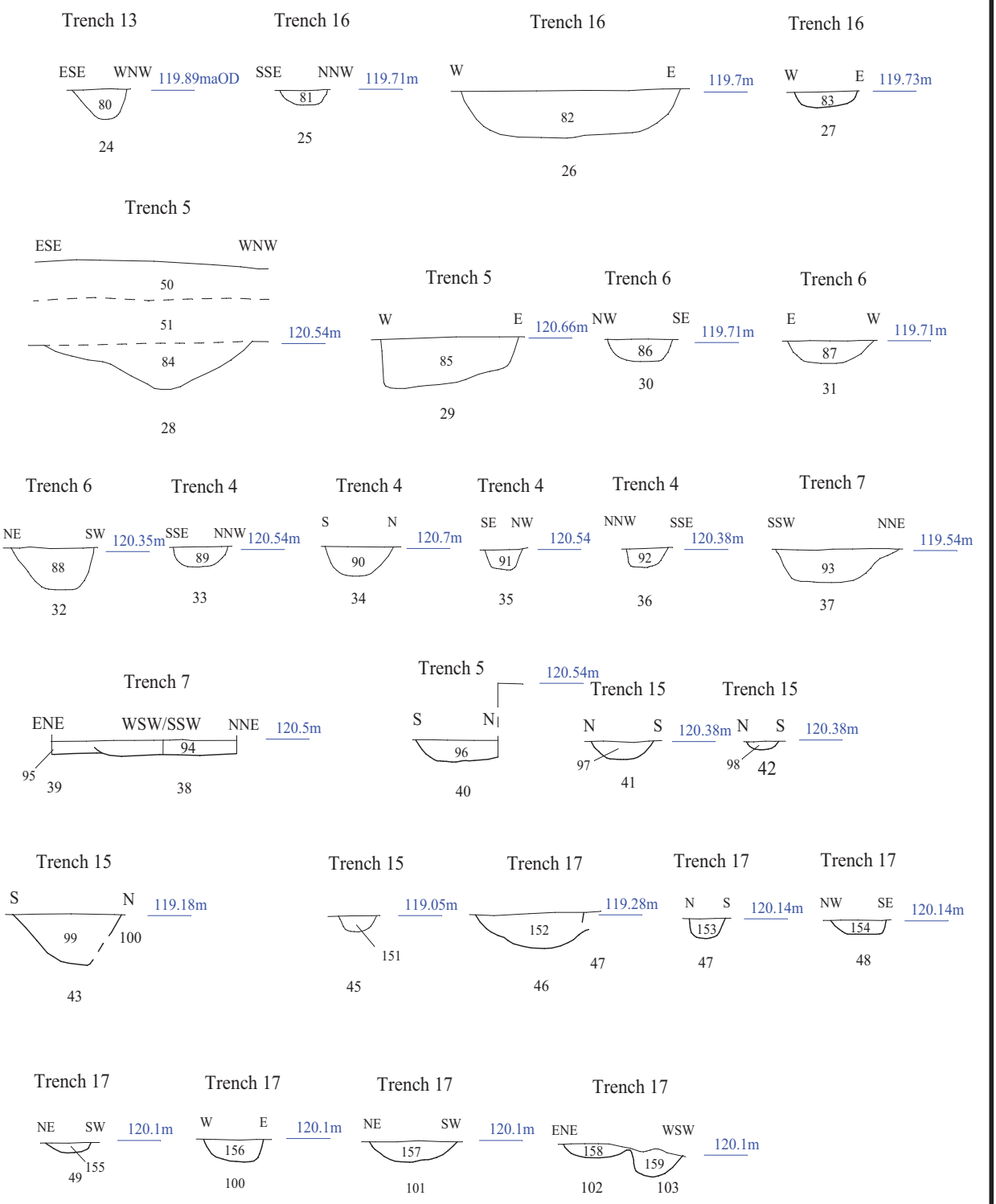

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Figure 7. Sections.

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Figure 8. Location of features compared to geophysical anomalies.

0 100m

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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking East,
Scales: 2x1m.

Plate 2. Trench 3, looking North East, Ditch 3.
Scales: 2x1m and 0.5m.

Plate 3. Trench 14, looking West,
Scales: 2x1m.

Plate 4. Trench 14, looking North,
Scales: 1m and 0.3m

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Land west of New Road, Pyle Hill,
Greenham, Newbury, West Berkshire, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 to 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 9, looking South East, Pit 5.
Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

Plate 6. Trench 14, looking North, Pit 10.
Scales: 0.5m and 0.2m.

Plate 7. Trench 8, looking East, Ditch 14.
Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

Plate 8. Trench 1, looking South, Pit 19.
Scales: 2x1m.

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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 to 8.

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Plate 9. Trench 17, looking North, Posthole 100.
Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

Plate 10. Trench 15, looking West, Ditch 43.
Scales: 1m and 0.2m.

Plate 11. Trench 17, looking South, Postholes 102-3.
Scales: 0.5m, 0.2m and 0.1m.

Plate 12. Trench 17, looking East, Gully 47.
Scales: 0.2 and 0.1m

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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 9 to 12.

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Plate 13. Trench 17, looking West, Posthole 45.
Scales: 0.2m and 0.1m.

Plate 14. Trench 17, looking East, Pit 46, Gully 45.
Scales: 1m, 0.2m and 0.1m.

Plate 15. Trench 17, looking South East, Pit 101.
Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

Plate 16. Collared Urn from pit 7
Scale: 0.1m.

Land west of New Road, Pyle Hill,
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 13 to 16.

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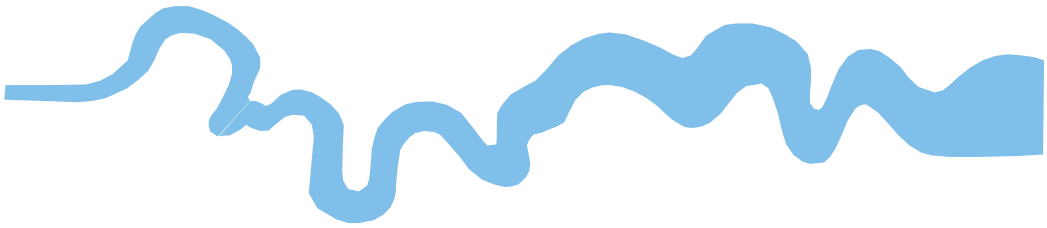
TIME CHART

	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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