THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Neolithic and Bronze Age pits, and a Late Iron Age linear ditch at Salisbury Road, Hungerford, West Berkshire

An Archaeological Excavation

by Steve Ford

Site Code: SRH11/124

(SU3370 6745)

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for Bewley Homes

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August 2021

Summary

Site name: Land off Salisbury Road, Hungerford, West Berkshire

Grid reference: SU3370 6745

Site activity: Field Evaluation

Date and duration of project: June 2020

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: SRH11/124

Area of site: *c*. 1.7 ha

Summary of results: The fieldwork revealed a low density of prehistoric features dispersed widely across the site, as predicted by the results of the prior geophysical survey and evaluation trenching. Extensive overburden stripping during the development groundworks monitored as a watching brief, broadly supported this conclusion but did reveal additional deposits, most notably an Early Neolithic pit rich in artefacts. The fieldwork investigated a small cluster of earlier Neolithic pits along with three isolated pits of similar date, a cluster of Late Neolithic pits, Bronze Age activity and a linear ditch of Late Iron Age date. The prehistoric chronology is supported by radiocarbon dates. The survival of mollusc shells provided information on the palaeoenvironment in the Early Neolithic and from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period up to the present day. A notable find was the recovery of a Roman iron lamp from the linear ditch.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with West Berkshire Museum in due course, with accession code NEBYM:2020.16

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Neolithic and Bronze Age pits and a Late Iron Age linear ditch at Salisbury Road, Hungerford, West Berkshire

by Steve Ford

with contributions by Aidan Colyer, Cristina Mateos, Matilda Holmes, Mark Robinson and Richard Tabor

Report 11/124e

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out on land off Salisbury Road, Hungerford, West Berkshire (SU3370 6745) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Geoff Wilde of Bewley Homes, Inhurst House, Brimpton Road, Baughurst, RG26 5JJ.

Planning permission (16/03061/OUTMAJ)) has been granted by West Berkshire Council for the construction of new housing on a 4.68 hectare plot of land. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits being damaged or destroyed by the development, a programme of archaeological work had been requested in order to inform the planning process with regards to potential archaeological implications, in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Council's policies on archaeology. Following an earlier desktop study (Ford 2011; 2016), the whole of the overall development site was subject to a geophysical survey (Constable 2016) followed by evaluation trenching carried out in two phases (Ford 2019a; 2020). This report concerns the follow-up excavation which was required based on the results of the earlier fieldwork.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Sarah Orr, archaeological officer for West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford, Richard Dewhurst and Jamie Williams between 12th and 20th June 2020, and the site code SRH11/124. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site comprises an elongated parcel of abandoned grassland located immediately to the south of the suburbs of Hungerford (Fig. 1). The site is more or less flat and lies at a height of *c*. 130m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as chalk and clay-with flints (BGS 2006) Most areas were located on Clay with Flints but this rarely comprised a thickness of more than 0.25m above the Upper Chalk.

Archaeological background

Although the site is located beyond the historic core of Hungerford town (Astill 1978), it lies on the margins of the Kennet Valley in a region considered as being archaeologically rich. The Kennet Valley is best known for the dense concentration of Mesolithic sites between Hungerford and Thatcham (Barton and Froom 1986; Froom 2012; Wymer 1962; Healy *et al*. 1992). The upper reaches of the Kennet are also renowned for the cluster of Neolithic ceremonial and burial monuments in the environs of Avebury some 20km upstream (Piggott 1962; Smith 1965a; Whittle 1997). In the context of the findings described below, mention needs to be made of the valley floor causewayed enclosure at Crofton 6km along the river Dun (which joins the Kennet at Hungerford) (Lobb 1995) and the long barrow on Coombe Gibbett 6km to the south (Ashbee 1970, 164).

Closer to the site, recent excavations have taken place on the valley floor in the Charnham suburb. One site revealed multi-period from the Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Early Saxon and Medieval periods, along with two sherds of Early Neolithic pottery (Ford 2002). Subsequent fieldwork revealed Late Neolithic and further Early Saxon deposits (Ford 2019b). The first excavation at Charnham Lane was also notable for the provision of a long radiocarbon dated palynological sequence providing environmental information from the Mesolithic through to Roman times and beyond (Keith-Lucas in Ford 2002).

A modest number of finds of prehistoric date are recorded for the immediate environs with a collection of Mesolithic flints recorded 500m to the north, an Iron Age site 500m to the north-west (Rutland and Greeenaway 1969, 37), and a circular cropmark less than 100m to the south-west of the site visible from the air which may be of archaeological origin, such as a large levelled round barrow. A watching brief during works at the school just beyond the eastern end of the site revealed only a few struck flints (Saunders 1995).

One distinctive monument of the Wessex chalklands, including the Berkshire Downs, are the linear earthworks of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and early Saxon dates. The monuments on the Berkshire Downs have been intensively studied (Ford 1982; 1981-2), as have the more complex systems of Salisbury Plain (Bradley et al. 1994) and more selectively, the Early Saxon Wansdyke (Green 1971; Fowler 2001). Such monuments though are so far unrecorded for the chalkland block to the south of Hungerford, despite extensive aerial survey (Ford 1991; NMP 1994).

The evaluation

The evaluation of the site comprised geophysical survey of the whole of the two fields in which the site lies, followed by trenching of the site in two phases. The geophysical survey revealed a number of anomalies comprising a long linear anomaly (ditch) and a number of maculae (likely clay/chalk pits or solution hollows). The trenching consisted of 55 trenches, each nominally of 25m length and 1.8m wide (Fig. 2). This revealed a relatively modest range of archaeological deposits. The trenching confirmed the presence of the linear ditch and indicated that it was probably of Late Iron Age or early Roman date. Maculae examined were relatively shallow but wide pits of post-medieval origin, perhaps clay pits. Three locations revealed deposits of archaeological interest. A trench to the east (Area D) revealed a single small pit of Early Neolithic date. A trench to the centre (Area B) revealed three pits thought at the time to be of probable Bronze Age date (but see below) densely backfilled with fire-cracked sarsen. A trench to the west (Area A) revealed a large slab of Bronze Age pottery in a shallow cut. The trenches in the western portion of the site produced a relative density of struck flint of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

On the basis of these results, it was proposed to excavate four areas (Fig. 2), three nominally of 20x20m extent to examine the areas containing two Bronze Age deposits and the Neolithic pit, with a smaller trench to re-investigate the linear ditch. The significant features from the evaluation are included in the site description below.

Objectives and methodology

The general objectives of the project were to:

- excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas highlighted above and threatened by development;
- produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site;
- establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc.; and to
- produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

Specific research objectives aimed to address the following questions:

- What is the nature of the two areas of Bronze Age activity on the site? Do these represent small scale occupation ?
- What is the nature of the earlier Neolithic activity on the site?
- What is the chronology of the linear ditch on the site?
- What is the palaeoenvironmental setting of the area as evidenced by molluscan analysis from the linear ditch up until it was infilled?

Topsoil was to be removed under continuous archaeological supervision by a mechanical digger fitted with a toothless bucket to expose the uppermost surface of archaeological deposits. Where appropriate and necessary, hand cleaning of the stripped surface was to take place and all archaeological features were to be planned and sectioned as a minimum objective. Subsequent excavation was to be to an agreed sampling fraction depending on the nature and significance of the feature or deposit. In the event, all the discrete features (pits) were fully excavated after half-sectioning.

Results

Three of the areas (B, C, D) were stripped of topsoil by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket to expose the natural geology. The fourth area (A) had already been stripped of topsoil without archaeological supervision, fortunately to more or less the correct level, but a deep cut for the new road inserted could not be monitored. The un-truncated areas were then re-stripped (skimmed). Appendix 1 summarizes all of the features from the excavation and the relevant (non-modern) features from the evaluations.

Area A (Figs 3 and 6; Pls 1–3)

This area comprised 460 sq m on the west side of the site. Area A contained three features, one of Earlier Neolithic date and the others of Bronze Age date, along with a few struck flints.

Pit 301 was 0.65m across and 0.15m deep with a bowl-shaped profile and a brown sandy clay fill with some flint pieces (Pl. 1). It contained four sherds of Early Neolithic pottery, 8 struck flints, 5g of burnt flint and a few flecks of burnt bone. A modest amount of charcoal of oak and Pomoideae was recovered but no other plant remains.

Pit 4 was found during the evaluation. It was 0.25m across but only 0.08m deep with a shallow bowl-shaped profile and a brown sandy clay fill. It was notable for containing the substantial remains of a collapsed Late Bronze Age jar (92 sherds)(Pl. 2).

Pit 300 was 0.3m across and only 0.04m deep with a shallow bowl-shaped profile and a brown sandy clay fill (Pl. 3). It contained 42 sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery, a tested flint nodule and 10g of burnt flint.

Area B (Figs 4 and 6; Pls 4–6)

This area covered 360 sq m to the centre north of the site. Two further pits were revealed to add to the three found during the evaluation. They were all cut into the clay-with- flints natural geology and all of similar size and infill with burnt sarsen (sandstone). All were fully excavated.

Pit 3 was 1.05m across and 0.22m deep with a flat-based profile (Pl. 4). It contained two fills (55, 56). The lower fill (55) was a dark brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks and some fragments of burnt sandstone. The upper fill (56) was also a brown sandy clay with a little charcoal but was mostly comprised of burnt sandstone fragments. There was no artefactual dating evidence but a charcoal sample from fill 55 returned a radiocarbon date of 2475-2273 cal BC (UBA-43260) in the late Neolithic.

Pit 1 was 1.03m across and 0.35m deep with a bowl shaped profile (Pl. 5). It also contained two fills (50, 51). The lower fill (50) was a dark brown sandy clay with oak charcoal flecks and some fragments of burnt sandstone. The upper fill (51) was also a brown sandy clay with a little oak charcoal but was mostly comprised of burnt sandstone fragments. A single sherd of possible Middle Bronze Age pottery came from lower fill 50.

Pit 2 was 1.14m across and 0.31m deep with a shallow bowl shaped profile. It also contained two fills (52, 53). The lower fill (52) was a dark brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks and some fragments of burnt sandstone. The upper fill (53) was also a brown sandy clay with a little charcoal but was mostly comprised of burnt sandstone fragments. There was no dating evidence but its similarity to pit 1 might suggest they are likely to be contemporary (Pl. 6).

Pit 600 was oval in plan 1.0x 0.85m across and 0.38m deep. It contained a brown-black silty clay with dense (70%) fragmented burnt sandstone with some *Pomoideae* charcoal. There was no dating evidence.

Pit 601 was oval in plan 1.0x 0.7m across and 0.36m deep. It contained a brown-black silty clay with dense (70%) fragmented burnt sandstone with *Pomoideae* charcoal; again there was no dating evidence.

Area C (Figs 2, 6 and 7; Pls 7–10)

The stripping of this area was intended only to enable a trench to be located across the linear ditch. However, it unexpectedly also revealed pit 400. The area was of irregular shape, 101 sq m in extent with the underlying geology being chalk.

<u>Pit 400</u>

Pit 400 was 1.2m in diameter and 0.55m deep, with a deep bowl-shaped profile. It contained six distinct fills (Pl. 7), all of which appear to be deliberate infill, originating from the eastern side, but with no evidence of placement except perhaps the pottery vessel in the very top fill. The fills alternated between rubbly soil and charcoal-rich soil, yet all layers contained a prodigious volume of artefacts, with 501 sherds, 350 bones and 1919 struck flints (including flint chips) and a bone pin. The flintwork contains a full range of material from finished objects, broken finished objects, numerous used and unused tools, knapping debris including core fragments and flint spalls, and a hammerstone, and unusually, numerous tested nodules - sometimes quite small cortical lumps with just 1 or 2 removals present.

The lower fill (455) was mostly a chalk rubble with some flint pieces within a light grey brown silty clay. It contained pottery, animal bone, struck flint and some charred plant remains. Overlying fill 454 was a dark brown/black clayey silt (453) with a moderate amount of chalk rubble with some flint pieces and more finds. Overlying fill 453 was a soft reddish brown silty clay with a few chalk or flint pieces. It again contained finds. Overlying fill 452 was a soft dark brown–black silty clay with few chalk or flint pieces. It contained pottery, animal bone, and a large volume of struck flint and some charred plant remains. A bone sample from this deposit returned a radiocarbon date of 3659-3528 cal BC (UBA-43259). Overlying fill 451 was a dark reddish brown silty clay with frequent chalk and flint pieces with more finds including a bone pin.

The final fill (450) was a brown- black silty clay with few chalk or flint pieces but again contained pottery, animal bone, struck flint and some charred plant remains. It notably contained a small badly preserved pottery vessel, 100mm in diameter (Pl. 8).

The various fills were sampled separately (Appendix 5). Four of the fills contained charcoal of oak, two of those also had hazel and one fill (452) had oak, hazel and *Pomoideae* charcoal, a moderate numbers of wheat seeds, and some crab apple remains. Fill 451 also had cereal grains including wheat, and three fills provided modest numbers of hazel nut shells.

It has a long been a point of discussion that the infill of many Neolithic pits was not simply rubbish disposal but comprised some form of symbolic act with material deposited often being a mixture of pristine prestige artefacts, and ordinary tools along with outright waste and food refuse. Further, such material could be carefully placed in a complex layered arrangement (Thomas 1999; Garrow *et al*. 2006). It is no surprise therefore that the density and composition of artefacts and the distinctive layering within pit 400 displays these characteristics of deliberate deposition though the significance of this is not now easy for us to interpret.

<u>Ditch 500 (Figs 2 and 7; Pls 9–10)</u>

This ditch was traced by geophysical survey across the fields containing the development site for at least 520m. The full extent of the ditch beyond the site is not known. Despite extensive aerial photographic coverage of the environs of the site, it has not been previously recorded. From the geophysical plan, the ditch was not perfectly linear and had several small wobbles and kinks - presumably gang junctions (fig. 2). Topographically the ditch straddles a wide ridge between two streams and perhaps a length of 600-700m would effectively block access to north or south. There were no obvious gaps or causeways within the site. It was investigated during the evaluation by slots 5 and 6 and one further slot in the excavation (500).

The ditch was revealed to be *c*. 4m wide at the top with a v-shaped profile (apart from the weathering cone) and a depth of 1.5m. The ditch profile was similar at all three locations investigated but the stratigraphy varied and between six and nine layers were noted. Using the section of slot 6 as an example (Fig. 8), the bottom layer (73) was predominantly chalk rubble and typical of a primary silt formed from erosion of the ditch sides. The layers above comprised finer deposits more typical of secondary silting and comprised chalky lenses (69, 71) with stone-free lenses in between (70, 72). At a height of 0.5m above these layers, the ditch infill stabilized with a nearly level horizon with few stones or chalk fragments (67, 68). This layer contained a few sheep/goat bones and a tooth along with 32 struck flints. Further stability, perhaps for many decades, is evidenced by layer 66 which is a stone free turfline, 0.2m thick. This layer contained a single sherd of early Roman samian pottery. Above this further infilling (65) contains chalk pellets and is likely to be a ploughwash. This layer contained a small sherd of Bronze Age pottery and another of post-medieval date along with animal bone and 13 struck flints.

The other two sections (5, 500) initially show a similar sequence but the upper fills include chalky pellets and appear to show infill towards the top due to nearby ploughing.

The dating of the ditch is provided by the recovery of a small number of Roman sherds and, most unusually a Roman lamp. None of the datable finds come from the base of the ditch but from the stabilised (or stabilising) fills above the primary fill. The lamp is of a type in use in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. It is suggested that the ditch was dug in the Late Iron Age but not much earlier than the introduction of samian pottery to the country on account that the ditch had partially silted up but only so far that the Roman finds were included in the lower fills.

Area D (Figs 5 and 6; Pl. 11)

This trench comprised an area of 270 sq m slightly smaller than intended due to the creation of a root protection zone to the north of the site. Four pits were revealed, all cut into the clay-with-flints natural geology. All were fully excavated.

Pit 1e, originally found during the evaluation, was circular in plan, 0.65m across with steep sides and a flat base. It was 0.12m deep with a single fill (53) of dark brown clayey silt, charcoal, rare burnt flint, four struck flints and 15 sherds of Early Neolithic pottery. The whole feature was soil sampled (24L) and this recovered a modest volume of charcoal of hazel with some *Pomoideae* and oak but no seeds nor nut shells.

Pit 100 was oval in plan, 0.64m by 0.4m, with a lop-sided bowl-shaped profile. It was 0.15m deep with a single fill (150) of dark brown sandy clay with flint pieces and two sarsen lumps along with charcoal, some burnt flint, struck flints and 95 pottery sherds of Early Neolithic date. A soil sample recovered a modest volume of charcoal of oak and hazel, with single seeds of wheat and crab apple and a quantity of hazel nut shells.

Pit 101 was oval in plan 0.6m by 054m with a shallow bowl-shaped profile. It was 0.1m deep with a single fill (151) of dark brown sandy clay with flint pieces, along with charcoal, some burnt flint and struck flint. A soil sample recovered a modest volume of oak and some hazel charcoal, hazel nut cases, but no other seeds. A sample of hazel nut case returned a radiocarbon date of 3632-3499 cal BC (UBA-43257).

Pit 102 was 0.5m in diameter with a deep bowl-shaped profile. It was 0.10m deep with a single fill (151) of dark brown sandy clay with flint pieces, a large sarsen lump (Pl. 11), charcoal, some burnt flint, struck flints and 258 sherds of pottery of Early Neolithic date. Much of the pottery lay on the eastern side. A soil sample recovered a modest volume of charcoal of oak with some hazel and *Pomoideae*, along with hazel nut cases and a single wheat seed. A sample of hazel nut case returned a radiocarbon date of 3631-3376 cal BC (UBA-43258), statistically indistinguishable from pit 101.

Watching brief (Figs 2 and 6; Pl. 12)

It had been intended that the fieldwork described here was to take place just prior to the groundworks for the development. However, the two components overlapped and extensive stripping of overburden took place with archaeological monitoring. In particular the areas to the north-west were stripped more or less to the archaeologically relevant levels, and pit 300 in Area A was discovered in this way. Similarly, the main East-West spine road was stripped cleanly and revealed a further two small deposits of interest. Areas to the south-east and east were not stripped as cleanly or were over-stripped by *c*. 0.2m and any shallow features there could have been removed without trace, but the lower parts of any deeper features such as the linear ditch or Neolithic pit 400 would have survived and could have been observed, but none was.

Pit 200 was oval in plan, 0.42m x 0.3m and 0.13m deep with a deep bowl-shaped profile. It had a single brown silty clay fill with flint pieces, some charcoal, 5g of burnt flint, some fired clay and 10 sherds of Early Neolithic pottery.

Pit 201 had a diameter of 0.22m and was only 0.04m deep, slightly truncated by the machining. It had a single brown silty clay fill with flint pieces and some oak charcoal only.

Feature 202 was 0.15m wide and at least 0.3m long and 0.04m deep. It had an irregular base and sides with a charcoal-rich fill It is considered to be a burnt-out root.

Pit 203 was oval in plan, 0.44m x 0.34m, and 0.1m deep with a bowl-shaped profile. It had a single brown silty clay fill with flint pieces and some charcoal only.

Finds

Pottery by Richard Tabor

The prehistoric pottery collection, from excavation and evaluations combined, comprised 1169 sherds weighing 8232g. Despite the low mean sherd weight of 7g it included substantial diagnostic sherds. The bulk of the pottery was demonstrably earlier Neolithic and some undated sherds may have been so. Other sherds are likely to have dated from the middle Bronze Age, late Bronze Age to early Iron Age and possible late Iron Age to Roman.

The sherds were allocated to fabric groups based on the material, size and sorting of the principal inclusions. Vessel forms were grouped also by characteristic profiles, where reconstruction was possible, or by rim or other diagnostic features, including surface treatments in accordance with guidelines for the recording and analysis of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 2010).

Early Neolithic

The early Neolithic pottery is derived from a minimum of 18 vessels: two from pit 1e; five from pit 102; and eleven from pit 400 (Appendix 2, Table A2.1). It is dominated by well-fired, moderately hard to hard, often glauconitic quartz fabrics including varying amounts and grades of flint. Minor fabrics were tempered with quartz with a partially dissolved calcareous material, flint without visible quartz, and two grog tempered fabrics. The grade of flint compares well with that incorporated into sandy and quartz fabrics in sherds from early Neolithic pits south-west of Ipsden and at Benson (both near Wallingford, Oxfordshire). Glauconitic sand was recorded in one fabric from Ipsden whilst a minority fabric at Benson included shell (Edwards *et al.* 2005, table 6; Timby 2004, 145). Shelly fabrics dominated the assemblage from Abingdon causewayed enclosure but glauconitic sand, flint and argillaceous grains were noted, although not within a single mixture (Case and Whittle 1982, 27; Williams 1982, 35). At Benson a fabric including grog or clay pellets could not be closely dated (Timby 2005, 145).

F1 (medium) Friable, pale grey to pink silty fabric with pink surfaces including poorly-sorted common to abundant fine (<1mm), sparse to moderate medium (<2mm) and sparse coarse (<8mm) burnt sub-angular flint.

QF1 (medium) Moderately hard, grey micaceous fabric with grey surfaces including abundant very fine (<0.2mm) to sparse fine (<0.5mm), some dark, probably glauconitic, sub-rounded quartz, poorly-sorted common fine (<1mm), sparse medium (<2mm) and rare to sparse coarse (<6mm) burnt sub-angular flint and sparse medium (<2mm) dark grey to red argillaceous pellets.

QF2 (medium) Moderately hard, grey micaceous fabric with grey surfaces including abundant very fine (<0.2mm) to sparse fine (<0.5mm), some dark, probably glauconitic, sub-rounded quartz, poorly-sorted sparse fine (<1mm), sparse medium (<2mm), rare to sparse medium (<2mm) and rare medium/coarse (<3mm) to very coarse (<10mm) burnt sub-angular flint.

QF3 (medium) Moderately hard, grey micaceous fabric with grey surfaces including abundant very fine (<0.2mm) to sparse fine (<0.5mm), some dark, probably glauconitic, sub-rounded quartz, poorly-sorted sparse fine (<1mm), sparse medium (<2mm), rare to sparse medium (<2mm) and rare medium/coarse (<3mm) to very coarse (<10mm) burnt sub-angular flint and sparse medium (<2mm) dark grey to red argillaceous pellets.

fQ1 (medium) Moderately hard, oxidised red, slightly micaceous fabric with buff red surfaces including abundant very fine (<0.2mm) to fine (<0.5mm) and rare medium (<1mm) sub-rounded quartz, rare fine (<1mm) to coarse (<8mm) burnt sub-angular flint and rare to sparse fine (<1mm) iron oxides.

fQ2 (medium) Moderately soft, grey micaceous silty sand fabric with buff brown grey exterior and grey to buff red interior surfaces including rare fine (<1mm) to medium/coarse (<3mm) burnt sub-angular flint and rare to sparse fine (<1mm) iron oxides.

fQ3 (medium) Moderately hard, oxidised red, slightly micaceous fabric with buff red surfaces with slipped interior including abundant very fine (<0.2mm) to fine (<0.5mm) and rare medium (<1mm) sub-rounded quartz, rare fine (<1mm) to coarse (<8mm) burnt sub-angular flint and rare to sparse fine (<1mm) iron oxides.

G1 (medium) Moderately hard, dark grey/black fabric with reddish brown to dark grey/black surfaces including moderately-sorted common fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm) and sparse to moderate medium/coarse (<4mm) grog.

G2 (medium) Friable, dark brownish grey/black fabric with dark brown to dark grey/black surfaces including moderate to common fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm) grog or argillaceous clay pellets and moderate to common very fine (<0.2mm) sub-rounded glauconitic quartz.

GF1 (medium) Moderately hard, dark grey fabric with dark grey surfaces including moderately well-sorted abundant fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm) and sparse medium/coarse (<3mm) sub-rounded grog, moderate to common fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm) and rarely medium/coarse (<3mm) burnt sub-angular flint. Surfaces may be smoothed.

cQ1 (medium) Moderately hard, grey micaceous fabric with buff orangey red surfaces including abundant very fine (<0.2mm), sparse fine (<0.5mm) and rarely medium, some dark, probably glauconitic, sub-rounded quartz and spare fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm), rare to sparse coarse (<8mm) semi-dissolved calcareous material and rare to sparse fine (<1mm) iron oxides.

The early Neolithic pottery forms have been classified according to the tripartite scheme developed for Windmill Hill (Smith 1965b): open bowls for which the maximum outer diameter is at the rim (A); neutral bowls for which the rim diameter is equal to the maximum body diameter (B); and closed bowls for which the maximum diameter occurs on the main body of the vessel (C). The groups are subdivided according to whether they are carinated (1), uncarinated (2), 'S'-profiled (3) or where carination cannot be determined (0). Rims are classed in three tiers according to the dominant aspect of their physical form; the attitude of the rim in relation to vertical; and the finish of the rim. The rim form classes are: A - simple; B - rolled-over; C - outwardly expanded; D – expanded; E - T-shaped (there were no examples of inwardly extended rims). The attitudes of the rims in relation to vertical are: 1 - out-turned; 2 - upright; 3 - inturned. The finishes of the rims were: a - rounded; b - tapered; c - flattened. X has been used where the vessel or rim form cannot be determined. Only rims and upper profiles were reconstructed but further restoration would be possible. The pottery is presented grouped by feature (Table A2.2).

Pit 400

Pit 400 yielded the largest group with 501 sherds (5407g) identified to fabric from a minimum of eleven vessels. A further 116 sherds (92g) have been treated as undated as their small size make diagnosis of fabric unreliable (Table A2.4). The group comprises six open bowls, a shallow neutral bowl, three closed bowls and a closed cup. At least four of the open bowls appear to have straight sides (Fig. 8: V1-4). The profile of a fifth is insufficient for determination and a sixth with a nearly upright rim has a clear inward turn 20mm below the rim top (Fig. 8: V5 and 6). The simplest form terminates in a tapering round rim but it is distinguished by a comparatively rare example of a post-firing drilled perforation (Fig. 8: V1). The other rims are more elaborate. Three have locally outwardly rolled rims, two of which are rounded and one flattened. Both interior and exterior surfaces of the vessels with rounded rims (Fig. 8: V2 and 3) are smoothed and the exterior only of the flattened rim (Fig. 8: V4). The rim of the first of the three has a rounded convex internal bevel. The smoothing on its exterior was executed with clearly discernible multi-directional finger-dragging. Both of the remaining open bowl rim tops have oblique markings. One has sharply incised lines with no evidence for markings on the neck (Fig. 8: V5). The markings on the other take the form of shallow, 2mm wide grooves which have a burnished appearance (Fig. 8: V6). There is a row of four similarly executed, upright, 3-4mm wide grooves on the neck exterior. Two widely spaced lines on a detached body sherd imply that every second neck groove continued downwards. There appear to be two more crudely executed steeply slanting grooves on the neck interior. The two sherds have very similar fabrics and finishes but they are difficult to reconcile as parts of one vessel. There are traces of a reddish brown slip on the interior which appears to be a feature particularly associated with its fQ3 fabric. Both of the two neutral bowls identified from the pit have upright rims below which are strong inward curves. One has a shallow, dish-like profile below a flattened rim (Fig. 8: V7) and the other a deeper, rounded profile below a rounded, locally outwardly rolled rim (not illustrated). The three closed vessels contrast strongly with each other. A medium large ovoid bowl with an upright, rounded, locally outwardly rolled rim has a smoothed exterior rusticated with all-over broad, shallow finger-dabs (Fig. 8: V10). A cup is also globular but has an incurved, simple, slightly rounded rim (Fig. 8: V9). The third may also be a cup but is represented solely by a small, everted, tapering rounded rim over a deeply constricted concave neck with a 4mm thick wall, (Fig. 8: V8).

Pit 102 yielded 258 sherds (871g) from a minimum of five vessels, four of which were in fabric QF1. The exception was a very small, flared, tapering, outwardly expanded, flattened rim from an open bowl in fabric GF1. The exterior and interior surfaces appeared to be smoothed (Fig. 8: V11). The only other open bowl also had smoothed surfaces and a comparatively elaborate T-rim formed by outward and inward rolling. It had a straight, slanting, bevelled outer edge and the flattened rim top was marked with oblique incisions (Fig. 8: V12).

There were two closed bowls. Two rims amongst 86 badly abraded sherds from a single vessel were in such poor condition that only their rounded finishes were noted (not illustrated). The second had an inturned, nearly straight but slightly undulating upper body from with an expanded, flattened rim turned outwards sharply (Fig. 8: V13). The rim diameter of *c*. 300mm was the greatest from the site (Table A2.3) and the lowest surviving part of the profile indicate that it would have had a broad girth. Too little survived to establish the vessel form of an upright rim with a similar sharply angled, expanded, flattened rim (Fig. 8: V14).

A minimum of two vessels appears to be represented in pit 1. A small, incurved, rounded rim sherd is probably from a closed bowl but it is of very limited diagnostic potential. Four wall sherds with thicknesses of 4-5mm might equally belong to it or to five joining sherds making up the upper profile of a moderately long-necked closed S-profile bowl (Fig. 8: V15). The upright rim was flattened with what appeared to be an applied strip on its outer edge giving it the impression of having a roll. It was set over a short/medium concave neck emphasised by a broad, shallow groove falling to a rounded shoulder with an applied slightly upwardly tilted imperforate horizontal lug. The profile was rounded below the lug.

A small, tapering rounded rim of indeterminate attitude in QF1 from 301 is probably early Neolithic also. A similar date cannot be excluded for two sherds in fabric GF1 from in or near ditch 500 (553). One was an undistinctive 8mm thick body sherd. The other was an outwardly expanded, flattened rim set on a short concave neck over a fairly straight inturned upper body (Fig. 8: S1). The wall was only 4mm thick with a smoothed exterior. The well-dated rim in the same fabric from 102 (Fig. 8: V11) was also thin walled. However, S1 is harder and the flint appears better sorted so the possibility that it is a late Bronze Age fine ware cannot be excluded.

The nearest known potentially contemporary site is the causewayed enclosure at Crofton, 9km south-west of Salisbury Road but it lacks direct dating evidence and there are doubts about its membership of the class (Oswald et al. 2001, 72-3, fig. 4.21). Ready comparisons occur in the Kennet Valley at Windmill Hill (25km west) and at greater distances in the Thames Valley at Staines causewayed enclosure (69km east) and, in arc to the north-east, Abingdon (33km), Ipsden and Benson (respectively at distances of 33km, 34km and 36km). The assemblages from Windmill Hill and Staines are made up from vessels in multiple styles. Both have elements of South-Western and Decorated Bowl although the latter is prevalent in the Staines assemblage with straight upper profiled flaring open bowls strongly represented (Smith 1965b; Robertson-MacKay 1987, figs. 39 and 40). At Abingdon straight-sided open, neutral and, less frequently, closed bowls were often associated with angular, overhanging rims. The angularity of the outwardly expanded, flattened rims of V14 and V13 in particular conform to Abingdon's 'A3 angular, overhanging' rim type as it occurs on neutral and closed bowls (Case and Whittle 1982, 28-9, figs. 17 and 19, nos. 42, 58 and 74). The rims from Benson were not as strongly articulated on vessels with otherwise similar profiles but the illustrated angle of a slightly undulating wall from a closed bowl with an outwardly expanded rim is very similar to V13 (Timby 2004, 146, fig. 10, 19). There are also close analogies from Abingdon with the rounded interior convex bevel of V2's flaring rim, the heavy and slight rolls of V3 and V4 and the externally bevelled, weakly T-form rim with incised lines on top, V12 (Case and Whittle 1982, 28-9, fig. 17, nos. 35, 38, 39). The profile of the latter from Abingdon has a girth cordon and a handle (Case and Whittle 1982, 28-9, fig. 15, 12). The incised lines do not extend from the rim top onto the bevel in either case. Perpendicular lines such as those on the rim top of V14 are rare at Abingdon but occur on overhanging, flat and everted rounded rims (Case and Whittle 1982, figs. 15 and 17, nos. 16 and 33). The probable use of fingernails to execute slightly slanting lines on the neck of the same sherd is also unusual (Case and Whittle 1982, table 7). The extension of vertical or near vertical lines on the neck, often in the closely set form of fluting, is rare at Abingdon and to a lesser extent at Staines but well-represented on a variety of forms at Windmill Hill (Robertson-MacKay 1987, figs. 47 and 49; Smith 1965b, fig. 26). However, it is unusual for the motif to be associated with the vessel form implied by the inward curve of V6.

The ovoid upper profile of V10 is very similar to that of a deep lugged bowl from Windmill Hill (Smith 1965b, fig. 20, P90). It is not a common form in Decorated Bowl assemblages but stands apart from comparable South-Western vessels due to its strength of line, in contrast to more typical slack or baggy profiles, and the care invested in its surface treatment. Plain closed globular cups or small bowls similar to V9 are poor indicators of stylistic affiliation as they are a routine feature of most earlier Neolithic assemblages in southern Britain from Carn Brea in Penwith to Hurst Fen, Norfolk, although they are a notable absence from Kilverstone, also Norfolk (Smith 1981, fig. 71, P113; Clark 1960, fig. 22, P32-4; Knight 2006). No close parallel has been found for the shallow-profiled neutral V7.

Lugs are a well-established feature of early Neolithic pottery in southern Britain, at Windmill Hill most commonly associated with closed S-profiles but usually with short necks (Smith 1965b, figs. 20, 22, 23, P94, P97 P105, P130). The single illustrated example with a longer neck has an out-turned rim (Smith 1965b, fig. 23, 126). Lugs were very rare at Staines and there none demonstrably associated with longer-necked S-profiles (Robertson-MacKay 1987, 45). The only lugged bowl from Ipsden is S-profiled but short-necked (Edwards et al. 2005, fig. 19, 6). At Abingdon S-profiles were rare but there is a single lugged long-necked example (Case and Whittle 1982, fig. 15). Lugs occurred fairly frequently on open, neutral and globular closed bowls at that site

(Case and Whittle 1982, figs. 14, 15, 17, 18, 19). In general longer-necked S-profiles are a South-Western trait so that it might be argued from very limited data that pit 1 reflects regional affinities or relationships differing from those represented by pits 102 and 400.

Parallel, fairly regular horizontal grooves occur on the interior of wall sherds from Maiden Castle and possibly Milsoms Corner but a more rustic example from a neutral bowl at Staines is closer to the wall sherd from pit 400 (Fig. 8: S2; Cleal 1991, fig. 142, 19; Tabor 2018, 22, fig. 7, 11; Robertson-Mackay 1987, fig. 19, P26). Post-firing drilled holes for modification or repair rather than ornament are fairly rare in the period but have been noted on broadly related open bowls at Ipsden, Staines and elsewhere (Edwards *et al.* 2005, fig. 19, 4; Robertson-Mackay 1987, fig. 39, P33, P37).

The pottery from pits 102 and 400 appears to be the southernmost example of a stylistic group which includes the assemblages from Abingdon, Ipsden and Benson. It might be argued that although the style is well-represented at Staines its assemblage it shares with Windmill Hill a plurality of styles. The range of fabrics in the Abingdon style reflects local sourcing and/or production at various places in south Oxfordshire and west Berkshire and the style or its products went further afield. However, there is little evidence for reciprocity.

Dating for Decorated and South-Western Bowl pottery shows that the styles were broadly concurrent. Modelling suggests that Decorated Bowl circulated in south-central England from 3770-3670 cal BC to 3335-3245 cal BC at 95% probability. The comparable range for the full distribution of South-Western Bowl is from 3810-3600 cal BC to 3340-3275 cal BC at 95% probability (Bayliss *et al.* 2011, 766 and 768). The Decorated Bowl style is an amalgam of related styles, notably those of Mildenhall and Abingdon (Knight 2006; Case and Whittle 1982). In this instance pits clear 400 and 102 have strong affinity with the latter. A programme of carbon dating implies that the inner and outer ditches of Abingdon's causewayed enclosure were excavated, remodelled and deposits had formed and stabilised within them within a timespan from the mid-37th century to the mid-36th century cal BC (Healy *et al.* 2011, 418-20). A commensurate range of dates was obtained from one of the pits at Benson, although the pottery from it was not as closely analogous as profiles from other pits, and Ipsden (Pine and Ford 2004, 171-2; Timby 2004, 146, fig. 10. Nos. 3-7; Timby *et al*. 2005, 229).

<u>Undated and later than early Neolithic</u>

The remaining sherds included at least two fabrics, the vesicular V1 and the grog and quartz fabric, QG2, which also may be early Neolithic (Table A2.4). The friable texture of Q1, a fabric which might otherwise be much later, would allow it to be of similar date. Thick, flat, basal fragments in quartz and flint fabric QF4 most probably date to the middle Bronze Age. The 7mm wall thickness and moderately good sorting of flint grits of four joining surfaces sherds in fabric F3 are consistent with a late Bronze Age date although an earlier date cannot be excluded. As has been noted a thin-walled rim sherd, S1, might date either to the early Neolithic or the late Bronze Age.

Undated fabrics

V1 (medium) Friable, grey silty, vesicular fabric with abundant very fine (<0.5mm), sparse fine (<1mm) to rare medium (<2mm) spheroid voids. Voids probably due to loss of calcareous material, possible oolite.

QG1 (medium) Friable, dark grey/black fabric with buff red exterior and dark grey/black interior surfaces including moderately-sorted common fine (<1mm) and rare coarse (<2mm) sub-rounded quartz and moderate fine to medium (<2mm) and sparsely medium coarse (<3mm) sub-angular and sub-rounded grog and rare incidental coarse sub-angular burnt flint (<5mm).

QG2 (medium) Moderately hard grey, slightly micaceous silty sand fabric including common very fine (<0.2mm) to sparse fine (<0.5mm) sub-rounded, probably glauconitic, quartz and moderate fine to medium (<2mm) and rarely medium/coarse (<3mm) mainly sub-rounded grog and rare to sparse fine (<1mm) iron oxides.

Q1 (medium) Friable, dark grey/black to red fabric with buff red surfaces including abundant fine (<0.5mm), rare to sparse medium (<1mm) and rare medium/coarse (<1.5mm) mainly sub-rounded quartz.

Middle Bronze Age

QF4 (medium) Moderately hard, slightly micaceous grey fabric with buff red exterior and grey interior surfaces including abundant very fine (<0.2mm) and rare to sparse fine (<0.5mm) sub-rounded quartz, sparse to moderate fine (<1mm), sparse medium (<2mm) and rare to sparse medium/coarse (<3mm) burnt sub-angular flint and rare to sparse fine (<1mm) iron oxides.

Late Bronze Age / early Iron Age

F2 (medium) Moderately hard, grey fabric with buff brown surfaces including moderately well-sorted abundant fine (<1mm) and sparse medium (<2mm) burnt sub-angular flint.

F3 (medium) Moderately hard, grey sandy fabric with grey surfaces including moderately well-sorted moderate fine (<1mm), sparse medium (<2mm) and rare to sparse coarse (<6mm) burnt sub-angular flint.

F4 (medium) Moderately hard, grey fabric with buff brown to grey surfaces including moderately well-sorted abundant fine (<1mm) and poorly sorted sparse medium (<2mm) and rare to patchily sparse coarse (<4mm) burnt sub-angular flint.

Catalogue of illustrated vessels (Fig. 8)

V1 [400] (454) QF3. Form: A2. Rim: A1b. Flared, tapering rounded with post-firing perforation. Wall thickness: 9mm.

V2 [400] (452) QF2. Form: A2. Rim: B1a. Flared, rounded, outwardly turned with slight roll and interior rounded convex bevel set on out-turned straight wall. Smoothed surfaces with multi-directional finger dragging on exterior and fine, closely-set roughly horizontal drag-lines on interior. Rim radius: 125mm. Wall thickness: 9-10mm. Open bowl.

V3 [400] (452) QF1. Form: A2. Rim: B1a. Flared, rounded, outwardly rolled. Smoothed surfaces. Rim radius: 95mm. Wall thickness: 10mm. Open bowl.

V4 [400] (451) QF1. Form: A2. Rim: B1c. Flared, flattened, outwardly rolled. Smoothed exterior. Rim radius: 105mm. Wall thickness: 9mm. Open bowl.

V5 [400] (454) QF2. Form: A2. Rim: C1a. Flared, rounded, outwardly expanded with oblique lines on top. Wall thickness: 7mm. Open bowl.

V6 [400] (451) fQ3. Form: A2. Rim: C2c. Flared, flattened, outwardly expanded with 2mm wide oblique shallow grooves on top, 3mm wide upright grooves on the neck and slanting 3mm wide grooves on the neck interior. A wall sherd with probably upright 3mm wide grooves is likely to be from the same vessel. Reddish brown slip covering interior. Wall thickness: 7mm. Open bowl.

V7 [400] (452) QF2. Form: B2. Rim: A2c. Shallow. Smoothed exterior. Rim radius: 110mm. Wall thickness: 9mm. Neutral bowl.

V8 [400] (450-5) QF2. Form: C2. Rim: A1b. Everted, tapering rounded over constricted concave neck. Wall thickness: 4mm. Closed bowl.

V9 [400] (450) fQ2. Form: C2. Rim: A3a. Profile of globular cup with incurved, simple, slightly rounded rim. Rim radius: 47mm. Wall thickness: 9mm. Closed cup.

V10 [400] (452) QF2. Form: C2. Rim: B1a. Upper profile. Upright, rounded, locally outwardly rolled rim. Ovoid body. Burnished, finger-dabbed exterior. Rim radius: 120mm. Wall thickness: 9-10mm. Closed bowl.

V11 [102] (152) GF1. Form: A0. Rim: C1c. Outwardly expanded, flattened. Smoothed surfaces. Wall thickness: 6mm. Open bowl.

V12 [102] (152) QF1. Form: A2. Rim: E1c. Outwardly and inwardly rolled T-form with exterior bevel. Oblique incisions on rim top. Smoothed surfaces. Rim radius: 120mm. Wall thickness: 8mm. Open bowl.

V13 [102] (152) QF1. Form: C2. Rim: C3c. Inturned, outwardly expanded, flattened with upper body profile undulating slightly from straight. Rim radius: 150mm. Wall thickness: 10mm. Closed bowl.

V14 [102] (152) QF1. Form: X2. Rim: C2c. Fairly angular outward expansion, flattened. Traces of perpendicular incisions or impressions on rim top, row of sharp linear impressions, possibly fingernail, on neck exterior. Wall thickness: 8mm.

V15 [1] (53) QF1. Form: C3. Rim: D2c. S-profiled, upright flattened, thickened. Wall thickness: 5mm. Closed bowl.

S1 [500] (553) GF1. Form: C2. Rim: B2c. Rim radius: 95mm. Wall thickness: 4mm.Closed bowl.

S2 [400] (451) QF2. Interior of lower body. Deep, sharply tooled grooves, roughly horizontal but with very oblique overlaps and not convergent. Wall thickness: 11mm.

S3 [400] (452) QF2. Profile of coil junction showing interior smear. Wall thickness: 11mm.

<u>Vessels not illustrated</u>

V16 [102] (152) QF1. Form: C2. Rim: X0a. Closed bowl.

V17 [400] (452) QF3. Form: B2. Rim: B2a. Rim. Upright, rounded, locally outwardly rolled. Rounded body. Rim radius: 70mm. Wall thickness: 7-9mm. Neutral bowl.

V18 [1] (53) QF1. Form: C2. Rim: A3a. Closed bowl.

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A substantial collection of struck flint (2352) was recovered during from the fieldwork from stratified contexts as detailed in Appendix 3, Table A3.1. A further 3 flints were unstratified and 127 flints recovered during the evaluation. Most flintwork came from three Neolithic pits 100, 102 and 400 and these were subject to detailed metrical analysis. Slot 6 across the linear ditch also produced 45 clearly residual struck flints. The flint used appears largely if not wholly to be derived from the immediate vicinity of the site, with both clay-with-flint and material direct from the chalk being available close to the surface. Some frost-cracked nodules, and some of quite small size were used, indicating no particular preference to use top quality flint that would also have been readily available nearby. Very few items were patinated.

<u>Neolithic Assemblage descriptions</u>

Pit 1e contained just four struck flints none of which were retouched.

Pit 100 contained 149 struck flints with 6 serrated flakes/blades and one bevelled flake. One of the serrated flakes displayed use gloss along one edge.

Pit 101 contained just 17 struck flints, none of which were retouched.

Pit 102 contained 258 flints, with a low number of retouched pieces comprising a leaf-shaped arrowhead, serrated flake and a scraper.

Pit 301 contained just eight struck flints, none of which were retouched.

Pit 400 as a whole contained 2009 flints including 4 leaf-shaped arrowheads, a laurel leaf (Pl. 13), 31 serrated flakes, 19 bevelled flakes, a notched flake, 3 invasively retouched pieces, 2 scrapers and 2 choppers(?). There were 1297 flakes and blades, 563 spalls, 37 cores and 34 core fragments and tested nodules. Of the total, 23 had been burnt. Nine of the flakes had been utilised though the distinction between these and some of the bevelled or serrated pieces was not marked. The retouched component comprised 5.2% of the total of flakes, cores and retouched pieces, which is a modest proportion (Healy 1983, 21) and probably reflects the inclusion of much knapping and nodule testing debris in the assemblage.

Other Assemblage descriptions

Some 25 flints were recovered from ditch slot 500, and 45 from evaluation slot 6 across the same ditch. Middle Bronze Age pit 300 contained a single tested nodule. Some 127 flints came from the spoilheaps of the trenches during the two evaluation exercises.

Metrical analysis

The purpose of the following analysis was to characterize the nature of the Neolithic lithic assemblages metrically, both to define the chronological attributes and to determine the broad range of flint-using activities that may have taken place. A total of 155 flakes from pit 102, and 445 flakes from pit 400 (fill 452),were subject to the analysis. The intact flakes were measured following the method of Saville (1980) and the broken flakes after Ford (1987). These figures can be compared with the summarized data from other stratified assemblages (Ford 1987) and a number of sites studied subsequently using the same methodology. The metrical data for two assemblages are presented in Tables A3.2, A3.3 and A3.5. The data includes both sieved and hand collected material.

Pit 400 (452)

Length:Breadth ratio. For the intact flakes, some 17.9% of the flakes exceeded a Length:Breadth ratio of 2:1 (Table A3.2). When these figures are combined with the data for the broken flakes (Table A3.4) the blade-like component represents 31.2% of the total. In terms of chronology, this figure is well within the range of assemblages of earlier Neolithic date, which corresponds well with the radiocarbon date. Few of the pieces in the assemblage are markedly blade-like yet it is clear that this assemblage is longer and thinner than is typical of later Neolithic or Bronze Age assemblages.

Cortex remaining. The proportion of all flakes retaining more than 2/3 of the original cortex (Table A3.4) is low with a figure of 13% and is typical of settlement-associated activity rather than quarry debris. This might reflect the use of large nodules with proportionally fewer flakes being cortical.

Functional analysis. An assessment of the functional capability of the assemblage was made as in Ford (1987) Unlike microwear study, this assessment was not intended to detail what specific pieces were used for, nor what activities took place but is a measure of the overall origin of the assemblage. The combined total of waste flakes at 20% is fairly typical of a domestic assemblage, but clearly includes the use of nodules retaining cortex (i.e. not pre-dressed). There are a good number of cores, tested nodules, core fragments and spalls to indicate that the assemblage includes knapping and procurement debris. The figure for all cutting flakes is high at 33.3% corresponding with domestic use. (Table A3.4).

Pit 102 (152)

Length:Breadth ratio. For the intact flakes, some 19.8% of the flakes exceeded a Length:Breadth ratio of 2:1 (Table A3.5), which would be a typically earlier Neolithic proportion, but when these figures are combined with the data for the broken flakes (Table A3.6) the blade-like component drops to 12.9% of the total, with very few 'narrow flakes' in the broken component. In terms of chronology, this figure is only just within the range of assemblages of earlier Neolithic date and, could pass for one of later date. Few of the pieces in the assemblage are markedly blade-like and at a casual glance the assemblage is not obviously of Earlier Neolithic date.

Cortex remaining. The proportion of all flakes retaining more than 2/3 of the original cortex (TableA3.6 is high with a figure of 20.6% and implies a considerable component of procurement compared to purely settlement-associated activity without the use of imported, cortex free dressed nodules.

Functional analysis. The combined total of waste flakes at 34.8% is also high and includes the use of nodules retaining cortex. The figure for all cutting flakes at 18.8% is at best modest and again could indicate a significant proportion of procurement activity being represented. (Table A3.6). Just three retouched pieces were recovered.

Metalwork by Aidan Colyer

The only metal find from the excavation was a ferrous Roman lamp from deposit (554) in ditch 500 (Pl. 14). The object as a whole is 97mm in width, 134mm in length, and 135mm in height. The internal diameter of the body is 85mm with the nozzle base being 35mm in diameter. The depth of the body is 18mm.

The lamp is in a good state of preservation although the hanging section is degraded with only the section directly connected to the lamp being intact. The rear base of the hanging bar has a small protrusion which suggested some form of handle as there is a second similar nodule on the base of the bowl section.

As is typical with iron lamps there is no decoration. This was initially used as a reason to categorise these lamps as practical objects of the lower end of Roman society but Eckardt (2000) expands on the evidence to show that this may not be the case.

The lamp from Hungerford is of a standard style and is the most common type of ferrous open lamp and likely to date from the 1st or 2nd century AD. The wider context of the site places it at the northern end of the downs and c.30km north-north-west of Silchester, and c.20km south-west of Cirencester. The site is close to the route of Ermin Way allowing easy connection to the wider Roman network in Britain. This location is on the edge of the main concentration of this style (Eckardt 2000, fig. 4b). From the data available the discovery of this piece in the deposit in a ditch on a rural site is relatively rare (Eckardt 2000) as they are more common in a military context or within graves.

Animal Bone by Matilda Holmes

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from Early Neolithic pit 400 and Late Iron Age/ early Roman ditch 500 (Appendix 4). Only the former is described in detail. The early Neolithic assemblage is dominated by pig remains, which is unusual for the period, but is consistent with the deposition of domestic waste.

Methodology

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

Tooth wear and eruption were recorded using guidelines from Grant (1982) and Payne (1973), as were bone fusion, metrical data (von den Driesch 1976), anatomy, side, zone (Serjeantson 1996) and any evidence of pathological changes, butchery (Lauwerier 1988) and working. The condition of bones was noted on a scale of 0-5, where 0 is fresh bone and 5, the bone is falling apart (Behrensmeyer in Lyman 1994, 355). Other taphonomic factors were also recorded, including the incidence of burning, gnawing, recent breakage and refitted fragments. A number of sieved samples were collected but because of the highly fragmentary nature of such samples a selective process was undertaken, whereby fragments were recorded only if they could be identified to species and/ or element, or showed signs of taphonomic processes.

Bones were only included in analysis if they came from features that could be securely dated. Quantification of taxa and elements used a count of all fragments (NISP – number of identified specimens). Mortality profiles were constructed based on tooth eruption and wear of mandibles (Grant 1982; Jones and Sadler 2012) and bone fusion (O'Connor 2003). Pigs were sexed on the basis of canine morphology (Schmid 1972).

Taphonomy and Condition

Bones were generally in fair to good condition (Table A4.1), though highly fragmentary. Some evidence for recent breakage, loose teeth and refitted fragments indicates that they were friable upon excavation. However, there was very little evidence of canid gnawing, which suggests that they were buried soon after deposition. Few butchery marks were observed, which is not unusual in assemblages of this date, where butchery was carried out using stone tools that can leave more ambiguous marks than the metal choppers of later butchers.

A few burnt and calcined fragments were recovered alongside unburnt material (Table A4.1), which implies a mixing of hearth deposits with rubbish from other origins. Further groups of calcined bone were recovered from the samples, only context 452 producing a large group of c.45 cremated bones, including a small fragment of cattle astragalus.

Early Neolithic pit 400

Pigs were recorded in greatest numbers, followed by cattle and sheep/ goat, with occasional finds of other taxa including a canid canine, deer antler fragment and frog/ toad bones (Table A4.2). The latter was most likely not part of the intentional fill of the pit, though its presence implies a source of open water in the vicinity. The antler fragment could not be identified to taxon; it had been burnt and showed no signs of working. It is not clear if the canid tooth was from a fox or domestic dog. None of the cattle or pig bones were large enough to have come from aurochs or wild boar.

The absence of birds, fish and wild mammals is the norm for domestic assemblages of this date, where livestock provided the meat requirements of the population, and it is likely that the wild realm was considered taboo, or had special significance (Serjeantson 2011, 94). Relatively high numbers of pigs in both the NISP and MNI data (Tables A4.2 and A4.3) is unusual, as it is more common for cattle to be recovered in greatest proportions on early Neolithic sites, and pigs in the later period (Serjeantson 2011, 15). However, this is a small sample of fewer than 100 identified bones from a single feature, so too much emphasis should not be given to exact species proportions.

The anatomical elements recovered came from all parts of the body for all taxa (Table A4.3), indicating that animals were culled, processed and consumed on site, and the resulting bone waste dumped together.

A small amount of mortality data was recorded. The porous bones of calves, lambs and piglets were present and the mandible of a calf at wear stage B was also recovered, all of which suggest that the site was inhabited during the spring or early summer. The evidence from long bone fusion indicates that cattle were culled as juvenile and young adult animals, but some were kept into adulthood. Sheep and pigs were all culled before reaching maturity, most as subadults (Table A4.4), although the maxilla of a pig with the M3 coming into wear was a young adult. Three second phalanges exhibited pathologies consistent with the use of cattle for traction (Bartosiewicz *et al.* 1997), including proximal and distal exostoses, proximal lipping and eburnation, which indicates that some cattle were used for hauling, loading and/ or ploughing.

In summary, the early Neolithic assemblage is consistent with this being a domestic setting, where beef, pork and lamb was consumed. There are no aurochs bones, and the single fragment of antler need not imply that hunting, as it may have been shed, again suggesting that this was the result of waste deposition from domestic activities. Most of the animals consumed were young, presumably bred for meat, although older cattle were also present that would have been important for traction. The presence of perinates further indicates that cattle, sheep/ goats and pigs were bred close by.

Late Iron Age/ early Roman

A few cattle (skull, vertebra and tooth fragment) and sheep (humerus) remains were recorded (Table A4.2). The sample is too small for further analysis.

Worked bone by Cristina Mateos

A single worked bone was recovered from pit 400 (451), a pin or needle (39mm length, weighing 1g) with oval section of 3mm of thickness. Highly polished, only the point end is preserved so it is difficult to say if it was a pin or a needle. The fracture is old, so maybe the item was broken and discarded.

Charred plant remains by Mark Robinson

Sixteen bulk samples, totalling 294 litres, were taken for flotation to recover carbonised plant remains from seven early Neolithic, one late Neolithic and three undated pits. Large quantities of charcoal were found and seeds were present in most of the early Neolithic pits. The seeds were all appropriate to Neolithic contexts and seeds of free-threshing wheat, a frequent contaminant of prehistoric contexts, were absent.

The samples were floated in water onto a 0.25mm mesh and the dried flots were sorted under a binocular microscope for charcoal and seeds. A representative range of charcoal was broken transversely enabling the *Quercus* sp. charcoal to be identified. Other charcoal was broken in the appropriate plane and identified using high-power incident-light microscopy. Seeds were identified at magnifications of up to x 50 under a binocular microscope. Results are given in Appendix 5, Tables A5.1 and A5.22.

<u>Charcoal</u>

Charcoal was present in all seven of the early Neolithic pits with very high concentrations in Pits 102 and 200 (Table A5.1). *Quercus* sp. (oak) predominated in most although *Corylus avellana* (hazel) was more abundant than oak charcoal in Pit 1e. The only other wood represented by charcoal from the early Neolithic pits was Pomoideae indet. (hawthorn, apple etc). The only charcoal from the late Neolithic Pit 1 was of *Quercus* sp. In contrast to the Neolithic pits, which all contained oak charcoal, the only charcoal from the undated pits was of Pomoideae indet. In addition to charcoal being recovered from Pits 600 and 601, the presence of charcoal was noted by the excavators in a third undated pit, Pit 203. None was found in the flot, any charcoal had presumably disintegrated during the flotation process.

<u>Seeds etc</u>

Carbonised seeds were found from four of the early Neolithic pits, 100, 101, 102 and 400 (Table A5.2). The most abundant remains were fragments of hazel nut shell (*Corylus avellana*), which was present in all the samples to contain seeds. All but Pit 101 also contained grain of *Triticum dicoccum* (emmer wheat) although chaff was absent. Pits 100 and 400 each contained a segment of *Malus sylvestris* endocarp (crab apple core) and in addition there was a seed probably of crab apple from Pit 400. No other species of seed was identified and all the less closely identified grain could have been from emmer wheat. Carbonised remains other than charcoal were absent from the late Neolithic and undated pits.

<u>Discussion</u>

The assemblages from the early Neolithic pits very much fit into the pattern which might be expected for a site of this period in the region. Woodland trees, oak and hazel, predominated amongst the charcoal but there was also the presence of charcoal of hawthorn or apple, more light-demanding trees or shrubs. The food-plant remains comprised both gathered wild plants (hazel nuts and crab-apples) and cultivated cereals (emmer wheat.) The hazel nut shell fragments outnumbered the cereal grains as tends to be the case for Neolithic sites (Robinson

2000). The results showed the exploitation of both woodland and cleared areas. The late Neolithic pit gave results for charcoal similar to those shown by some of the early Neolithic samples. However, the undated pits did not fall into the pattern shown by the Neolithic samples, the only charcoal from them being hawthorn or apple type. These pits were possibly more recent.

Land Snails by Mark Robinson

Mollusc shell preservation on the site was generally good so a series of samples was taken from the fills of early Neolithic pit 400, and a column of samples divided at 0.05 m intervals was taken through the fills of ditch 500 (Pl. 15). One kilogram of each sample was broken up in water and washed over a 0.25mm mesh which recovered most shells. The heavy residue was wet-sieved through a stack of sieves to 0.5mm. Coarse fractions were discarded after checking for shell fragments. The dried flots plus fine residues were sorted under a binocular microscope for molluscan remains. The shells found were identified at magnifications of up to x50. Results are given in Appendix 6, Table A6.1 for the early Neolithic pit 400, and Table A6.2 for the late Iron Age ditch 500, the nomenclature following Anderson (2005). The results are shown as a percentage for each taxon of total individuals identified from each sample.

Pit 400 (Table A6.1)

The lowest fill, 455, was chalk rubble and clay which contained few shells. Most were of shade-loving species such as *Discus rotundatus* and *Aegopinella nitidula* but there were a couple of shells of *Vallonia costata*, a snail which, although most usually occurring in open habitats, can be found in low numbers in woodland.

The overlying context, 454, was a soil layer with a much higher concentration of shells. All were from taxa which require shady conditions or can live in both open and shaded habitats. Most numerous was *Discus rotundatus*, at 38.0% of the total, followed by *Oxychilus cellarius*, at 24.0%, both woodland species which occur under fallen logs or amongst leaf litter. The third snail that was particularly abundant, at 21.8% of the total, was *Trochulus hispidus*, a species which occurs in a wide range of terrestrial habitats. Other species of shaded habitats included *Carychium tridentatum*, *Clausilia bidentata* and *Aegopinella nitidula* but none comprised more than 7% of the total. The high percentage of *Trochulus hispidus* possibly reflected moist surface conditions in the pit but none of the taxa identified is restricted to damp habitats.

Further up the sequence of fills was 452, a clay soil layer with twice the concentration of Context 454. Again species of shady habitats predominated, with the percentage of *D. rotundatus* rising to 54.4% while the percentage of *O. cellarius* fell to 12.4. There was a similar range of other species of shaded habitats as for Context 454 but again their percentages were low. However, a small group of molluscs of open habitats was also present, with three species, *Vallonia costata*, *V. excentrica* and *Vertigo pygmaea* comprising 2.6% of the total snails. It has already been mentioned that *V. costata* does sometimes have a presence in woodland, the other two are obligate species of open habitats such as grassland.

The uppermost fill of the pit, 450, was a clay soil with few shells. The majority were species of shaded habits, with *D. rotundatus* the most numerous, but there were a couple of individuals of *V. costata*.

Interpretation

The first problem of interpretation is whether the shells in the samples represent the molluscan fauna living in and around the pit during the period of human activity on the site in the early Neolithic or whether they were derived from the use, to backfill the pit, of deposits through which the pit had been dug. Context 455, from the bottom of the pit, did indeed appear to have been material originally dug out of the pit which had experienced little weathering or mixing. However, Contexts 454 and 452, the only two which contained high concentrations of shells, even if they included some material from the upcast out of the pit, appeared to have been soil layers which accumulated from slow weathering processes. The snails from these two contexts are therefore regarded as providing information on contemporaneous conditions. A second point for consideration is that the two most abundant taxa, *Discus rotundatus* and *Oxychilus cellarius*, flourish in the interstices of rock rubble as well as in woodland. This possibility can easily be dismissed as Contexts 454 and 452 were not rubbly deposits.

The snail assemblages suggested the environs of the pit to have largely been woodland. However, the proportion of *Carychium tridentatum*, at 3.9% for Context 454 and 1.1% for Context 452, was rather low for a woodland fauna. This species is particularly vulnerable to disturbance from heavy grazing or human activity. The digging of the pit and presumably other aspects of the early Neolithic presence on the site would probably have been sufficient to make conditions less favourable for *C. tridentatum*. A small open-country element was noted amongst the snails from Context 453. It would have taken time for these species, such as *Vertigo pygmaea* and *Vallonia excentrica*, to colonise a newly-created clearing and further time for their populations to expand. It is thought very likely that the early Neolithic activity was occurring in a newly-created clearing surrounded by woodland rather than woodland which had experienced disturbance but only limited opening of the tree canopy.

Linear Ditch 500 (Table A6.2)

The molluscan sequence from Ditch 500 can largely be divided on the basis of the layers filling it. The lowest layer, Context 555, from 1.38 to 1.15m depth, was a primary silt of chalk debris which had eroded from the sides. Snail numbers were low but rose from 4 in the bottom sample to 26 in the top sample from this layer. The shells were mostly of the three open-country species: *Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia excentrica*.

The concentration of shells increased to over 100 per sample in Context 554 from 1.15 to 0.75m depth. It comprised a colluvial accumulation of soil with small chalk fragments. Open-country snails predominated in the lower half of Context 554, the above three species being joined by *Vallonia costata* and *Vertigo pygmaea*. Some changes to the open-country fauna occurred up the profile: *Helicella itala* declined from around 10% of the total in each sample from 1.15 - 0.85m to below 4% from 0.85 - 0.75m. *Pupilla muscorum* declined from 17.1% in the sample from 1.10 - 1.15m to 1.0% in 0.75 - 0.80m. *Vallonia excentrica* fell from 55.2% at 1.10 - 1.15m to 5.8% in 0.75 - 0.80m. *V. costata* peaked at 33.9% in the sample from 1.00 - 1.05m but thereafter declined up the profile. Against this decline in snails of open habitats was the appearance and rise in species of shaded habitats. Most prominent of these was *Carychium tridentatum*, which rose to 24.3% of the individuals in the sample from 0.75 - 0.80m depth. However, this snail can find the humid shade it requires in tall herbaceous vegetation including long grass as well as from scrub or woodland. The other shade-loving species included *Clausilia bidentata*, *Aegopinella nitidula*, *Oxychilus cellarius*, *Punctum pygmaeum* and *Acanthinula aculeata* although none attained a value over 10% in any of the samples from Context 554.

Context 553 extended from 0.75 to 0.55m depth and comprised similar material to Context 554. The first three samples each contained around 300 shells and their preservation was good, but preservation had declined in the sample from 0.55 - 0.60m and the number of shells had dropped to 112. The proportion of shade-loving molluscs continued to rise and the value for *Carychium tridentatum* reached 50.3% in the sample from 0.60 - 0.65m. Likewise the proportion of the open-country species continued to decline up the sequence, from 10.0% at 0.70 - 0.75m to 5.4% at 0.55 - 0.60m. *Vallonia excentrica* and *Vertigo pygmaea* were the only members of this category from the uppermost sample of Context 553.

The preservation of shells was poor in Context 552, a soil layer with few chalk fragments which extended from 0.55 to 0.40m depth. There was a substantial decline in the number of shells with only a single identifiable fragment, from the robust shell of *Cepaea* sp., in the sample from 0.45 - 0.50m. The only shells in the lowest sample, 0.50 - 0.55m, were fragments of shade-loving taxa and snails which can live in shady habitats. However, the few shells from the uppermost sample of this context were species which were also identified from Context 551, the layer above.

Context 551, from 0.40 to 0.15m depth and Context 550, from 0.15m to the modern ground surface represented ploughsoil which had accumulated in the top of the ditch. Shell numbers were low, declining to 4 in the uppermost sample. The majority of the snails were species which can tolerate the disturbance of cultivation, including *Trochulus hispidus* and *T. striolatus* which together made up around 40 - 50% of shells in most of the samples from these layers. The open-country snail *Vallonia excentrica*, which can flourish under conditions of cultivation, was also well represented. However, *Carychium tridentatum*, which has already been noted as being intolerant of mechanical disturbance and requiring the shade of tall herbaceous vegetation or woodland, was abundant in all but the sample from 0.15 - 0.20m in Context 551, reaching over 30% of the snails in some of the samples from this context. The snails from Contexts 551 and 550 provide some evidence for the date of this part of the sequence. The spread of *T. striolatus* into habitats created by human activity occurs in the Roman and medieval periods. The snail *Candidula gigaxii*, which was represented by an individual from 0.05 - 0.10m, is regarded as a medieval introduction to Britain.

Interpretation

During the late Iron Age, the ditch presented an environment of bare chalk rubble which was gradually being colonised by snails of exposed habitats (Context 555). At the start of the Roman period (Context 554), the silting slowed and a fauna of open grassland developed in the ditch.

By a depth of about 0.95m, the vegetation in the ditch was becoming taller, enabling *Carychium tridentatum* to flourish and other species of shaded habitats were becoming more abundant. By perhaps the mid Roman period (Context 553) conditions in the ditch had become very shaded and it is possible there was some scrub growing in it. However, a small open-country element remained to the fauna. One interpretation for this would be that there was a boundary hedge alongside the ditch which, as it became wider, completely shaded the ditch. The open-country snails therefore reflected the wider environment beyond the ditch and any hedge. The chalk fragments in both Contexts 554 and 553 showed that erosion was continuing to bring sediment into the ditch. While it is possible that this material was derived from the upcast alongside the ditch, the angle of repose is very shallow at the top of Context 553, suggesting ploughing could have assisted natural erosive processes.

Context 552 was probably a soil which formed, perhaps during the late Roman or Anglo-Saxon period, once sedimentation into the ditch ceased. With no further input of chalk fragments, the decay of leaf litter resulted in soil acidification and hence destruction of shells. The shells in the uppermost sample of Context 552, 0.40 - 0.45m, were probably from the interface with Context 551.

Any woodland or scrub on the site was removed in the medieval or post-medieval period and cultivation resulted in the ditch being filled with the ploughsoil of Contexts 551 and 550. However, although the general environment was arable, there was probably a field edge or boundary alongside the former ditch with less-disturbed tall herbaceous vegetation where *Carychium tridentatum* flourished.

Radiocarbon Dating

Four samples of charcoal, bone and hazel nut shells were submitted to the Chrono lab at Queen's University, Belfast, for AMS radiocarbon dating (Appendix 7). methodology are in the archive; in summary the lab considered the results reliable. The laboratory calibrated the results with Calib rev 7, used in conjunction with Stuiver and Reimer (1993), with data from Intcal 13.14c (Reimer *et al.* 2020). The plot of the calibrated results (Chart 1) used Oxcal v4.4.4 (Bronk Ramsey 2021, also with data from Reimer *et al*. 2020). The two calibrations produce results that differ only by a single year in each case.

Conclusions

Early Neolithic

The discovery of an Early Neolithic pit during the initial evaluation was most unexpected. Such features are difficult to discover due to the improbability of encountering low density features less than 1m across by traditional evaluation trenching, even when higher sample sizes of 5% or more of site area are used. This discouraging observation is further diminished by the lack of expectation of such sites in the Kennet valley. The valley is one of the better studied regions of the country and was one of the earliest to receive an archaeological response due to the demands of development in the1970s (Lobb 1985) and lying within a pilot study area prior to the adoption of PPG16 (1990). The valley benefits from gravel terraces suitable for cropmark formation (Gates 1975), extensive systematic fieldwalking (Lobb and Rose 1996; Ford 1978), monitoring of gravel extraction both on the lower terraces (e.g. Bradley *et al*. 1980; Bradley and Richards 1979; BUFAU 1998) as well as the higher terraces (e.g. Lobb *et al.* 1990; Collard *et al.* 2006) and the detailed work of Roy Froom which located numerous Mesolithic sites (Froom 2012). Yet this work has largely failed to reveal Neolithic settlement nor monuments. Similarly, even after the PPG16-inspired response, numerous subsequent trial trench evaluations and area excavations have likewise failed to reveal extensive or numerous Early Neolithic sites. Thus after 40 years or more of study, a 40km stretch of the valley from Reading to the Wiltshire border boasts just two leaf-shaped arrowheads, a pit containing Ebbsfleet Ware at Turnpike School (Pine 2010, 4), one containing Peterborough Ware at Enborne Gate Farm (TNDFC 1935) (perhaps later Neolithic), a cropmark of a doubtful *cursus* monument, and just six finds spots of Neolithic pottery. The only item in any numbers are flint and stone axes which can, and probably do, belong more to the later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age than the Earlier Neolithic.

The position has barely changed since the last overview (Dils and Yates 2012) and contrasts with that for the surrounding chalklands, the gravel terraces of the Thames and the headwaters of the Kennet at Avebury.

The distribution pattern described above was observed more than 30 years ago (Ford 1991) and the subsequent observations (or lack of) have simply reinforced the pattern. The speculation at that time was that the dense Mesolithic settlement of the valley indicated a stable economy such as based on seasonal fishing and storage with no need to adopt new measures. The existence of successful stable, sedentary hunter/ gatherer/ fisher societies has parallels in the ethnographic literature (Watanabe 1968). Archaeologically, comparison could be made with the people of hunter/ gatherer/ fishers of the *Ertebolle* culture in Denmark who despite adopting pottery from contact with Neolithic settlers nevertheless continued their hunter/ gatherer/ fisher subsistence base until a change in the salinity of the Baltic (and thus fish and shellfish habitats) forced an economic change (Rowley-Conwy 1981). Regrettably, there are still no data to test such an hypothesis in the Kennet Valley. It is perhaps ironic that the latest finding of Earlier Neolithic deposits is actually located on the valley edge and not the valley floor.

The siting and size of pit 400 on a chalky part of the site was particularly rewarding in that this allowed for accumulation and preservation of a sizable faunal and molluscan assemblage. The other pits located on the clay substrate contained no bone nor snail shells and in any event were too small to fit in much bone.

The pit 400 faunal assemblage is notable for its high proportion of pig bones, a feature usually more typical of the later Neolithic (Sergeantson 2011, fig 2.4). As well known, pigs are woodland foragers. The assemblage does include open country grazers, cattle and sheep, with cattle here being the main provider of meat weight, but the pigs do indicate the local presence of woodland. The charred food-plant remains recovered from the early Neolithic pits are typical of the period and comprised both gathered wild plants (hazel nuts and crab-apples) alongside cultivated cereals, namely emmer wheat, with the latter indicating the presence of cleared and ploughed land. Analysis of the land snails has confirmed this view of the local environment with a significant woodland component but with the presence of some open country species. This would support the notion that in the early Neolithic the site lay within a recently made woodland clearing.

These data can be added to those from the radiocarbon dated palynological sequence recovered from Charnham Lane to enhance a view of the development of the local environment. Unusually for peat deposits in the Kennet Valley, the Charnham Lane sequence spanned the Mesolithic through to the Iron Age (Keith Lucas in Ford 2002). The data from pit 400 suggest that in-roads into woodland clearance did not take place until well into the mid 4th millennium, contrasting with other areas of the Wessex chalklands where much earlier clearance had taken place. The pollen data are more informative and more widely applicable and indicate that it was not until the Bronze Age that the local woodland cover was seriously disrupted. Together these suggest that the environs of Hungerford were not extensively cleared and, by implication settled, until well into the 2nd millennium BC.

Although the radiocarbon dates from pits 101 and 102 are almost identical, the statistical uncertainty inherent in the method would allow them to be precisely contemporary or as much as three centuries apart. Pit 400 appears to be a century earlier but again, within a range that would allow all three to be contemporary. With pit 400 separated from 101 and 102 by some 350m, precise contemporaneity seems unlikely, but the close physical proximity of the latter two need not necessarily argue the reverse, as the repeated use of the same locality for similar purposes at long intervals over centuries in prehistory is well attested (Barton *et al*. 1995; Garrow *et al*. 2006; Jones 2013; Simmonds 2014; and many more examples).

Late Neolithic

The programme of radiocarbon dating unexpectedly revealed that one of the other poorly dated pits, and by association several similar neighbouring pits, initially thought to be of Bronze Age date, was of Late Neolithic date (Pit 3). The group of pits to which it belonged had been dated to the Middle Bronze Age based on a single small, flint gritted pottery sherd. Whilst the pits contained almost no artefacts, the group had been backfilled by burnt stone, unusually in this case in that the stone was fragmentary sarsen and not, as typical for this region, burnt flint. It is not known if this difference has a particular significance. Regrettably, the pits contained no faunal remains, no charred plant remains other than charcoal, and no snail shells, and thus no information on the economy or prevailing environment. The form of Later Neolithic settlement is no better understood than for the Earlier Neolithic with fewer distinctive monuments. For the Kennet valley there are a small number of isolated pits, with one containing Peterborough Ware at Enborne Gate Farm (TNDFC 1935) a few scraps of Grooved Ware pottery, and some six distinctive late Neolithic arrowhead forms (along with three barbed and tanged forms), but now there are also scatters of flintwork identified by fieldwalking that are most likely to represent later Neolithic settlement (Lobb and Rose 1987; Ford 1978).

Recent fieldwork at Charnham Lane, Hungerford recorded Late Neolithic occupation comprising a small number of pits and postholes, a spread of artefacts and, unusually, some gullies (Ford 2019b). Two charcoal samples returned dates of 2586-2457 and 2576-2435 cal BC (UBA25176-7), which are noticeably later than the pits here. As here, no economic data was recovered.

Later Bronze Age

It has long been recognised that for southern England much pre-Iron Age occupation, and indeed the smallest Iron Age occupation sites, leave at best only ephemeral below-ground traces and are often recognisable only as artefact scatters in topsoil and subsoil contexts. This sweeping statement is still regarded as valid for the Mesolithic, Neolithic and the earlier part of the Bronze Age, but becomes less applicable to the Middle Bronze Age (MBA) and mostly not applicable to the Late Bronze Age (LBA), when occupation sites can been defined by enclosures, houses, four-post structures, rubbish pits, fences, etc and include land division (Davies 2018). However, the large scale fieldwork carried out in recent decades has persistently observed the presence of seemingly isolated, low density or dispersed features of MBA, LBA or Early Iron Age date that have survived later ploughing. Recent regional examples of these types of site, also supported by radiocarbon chronology, are to be found at eg Park Lane, Charvil(Taylor 2018a), Bearwood Park, Sindlesham (Taylor 2018b) and George Green Quarry, Wexham (Platt *et al.* 2021). At Colnbrook, Benson, Terminal 5 Heathrow and Abingdon (Taylor *et al*. 2012; Taylor 2021; Lewis *et al*. 2006; Booth and Simmonds 2009) the large areas of organised field systems originating in the MBA are only associated with ephemeral traces of contemporary occupation comprising small numbers of pits and postholes.

At Hungerford, the traces of LBA activity are represented by a few shallow features that barely penetrated the subsoil along with a spread of struck flints, some of which may be contemporary. It is suggested therefore that the fieldwork here has also recorded traces of a component of the LBA settlement pattern which is now represented only by ephemeral features.

Late Iron Age/Roman

Apart from a few sherds of Roman pottery, likely to be indicative of the manuring of farmland from an as yet unlocated settlement site, the only feature belonging to this period is the linear ditch.

<u>The linear ditch</u>

The ditch was identified by the geophysical survey and after ground proofing of its character and chronology, the ditch can be traced for at least 500m extending to both east and west of the development site. The land drops away to west and east to small water courses and from this perspective, the site is superficially similar to the cross-ridge dykes common on the Wessex chalklands (Fowler 1964) albeit the example here is considerably longer. The chalklands of Wessex are notable for the presence of linear earthworks. Similar linear ditches to here, albeit smaller but longer and of Later Bronze Age date have been studied on the Berkshire Downs to the north (Ford 1981-2; Lock 2007).

To the south west, the pattern of linear ditches can be far more complex, perhaps indicative of a greater time depth of their use with many changes of organisation represented (Bradley *et al.* 1994). A more comparable example to Salisbury Road may be the Aldworth-Streatley Grim's Ditch which is of comparable size and is of Roman date (Ford 1981-2) and possibly Hug Ditch at Lambourn Woodlands (undated).

Linear ditches and related monuments such as pit alignments or even walls, are landscape features interpreted as defining boundaries. They are widely, if not ubiquitously encountered across Britain and contrast with similar features whose primary purpose is for drainage, definition of enclosures, defensive strong points (e.g. the Chichester entrenchments (Bradley 1971)) or simple fields. There are a few examples of earlier Neolithic date such as the link between Hambledon Hill and the Steepleton complex (Mercer and Healy 2008), large numbers of Bronze Age and Iron Age date, but rather fewer demonstrably of Roman and Saxon date. Large numbers of ditched boundaries used to define contemporary parishes are likely to originate in Late Saxon/Medieval times.

Whilst they can all be considered as boundaries their functions vary between administration (e.g. parish and even county boundaries), property ownership, land access rights and varying scales of political organisation. Short cross-ridge dykes, as locally on Greenham Common (O'Neill and Peake 1943) suggest a simple ordering of local grazing rights. Distinctive pit alignments may be an alternative way of defining ownership (with several known examples subsequently being re-defined by ditches: Cass *et al*. 2015) but those with wide-spaced pits are porous boundaries and may have a secondary function of allowing rights to cross a neighbour's property, such as a need to drive stock to water. The very long boundaries are almost certainly of political significance. It has been suggested that the LBA ditches on the Berkshire Downs reflect two tiers of community organisation: a lower tier defining valley-based territories, with a second tier distinguishing the Berkshire Downs/North Wessex from the Vale of White Horse/ Upper Thames Valley (Barrett 1980; Ford, 1981-2; Ford 1982). For the later Iron Age the scale of organisation can be more extensive. At the western end of the Chilterns lies the long, large South Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch (Hinchliffe 1975; Cromarty *et al*. 2006) and at the eastern end of the Chiltern Hills lies a further series of dykes all considered to represent large scale definition of Iron Age territory (Bryant and Burleigh 1995) but distinct from the likely defensive dykes surrounding *oppida* (Lambrick *et al*. 2009, 367) or radiating from the latter (Creighton with Fry 2016, chapt. 10). The upper limit of boundary construction is represented by the massive and long earthworks such as Wansdyke and Offas Dyke (Green 1971; Fowler 2000; Fox 1955) used to define the boundaries of states or kingdoms.

There is little, if any, evidence that individual properties or even larger estates are defined by ditched or other types of boundary in this period, though eventually this does take place with the development of Medieval deer parks and the Post-medieval emparkment of the land surrounding country mansions. The long linear nature of our Salisbury Road ditch seems ill-fitted to be regarded as such a boundary. Rather, it is considered as defining the boundary of the territory of one or more communities settled on the chalk plateau from those settled in the Kennet Valley.

The final comment about the excavation of the linear ditch is the information provided about the nature and development of the local environment recovered from analysis of the land snails accumulating in its long sequence of fills since its construction. The ditch was dug in a largely open environment, hardly a surprise as ditch digging in a woodland setting is most impractical. Once the primary fills of the ditch had formed, the fills stabilised indicative of grassland within the ditch, by early Roman times. It is not clear if the surrounding open environment was also grassland but there is an extended time of soil formation for which there is no evidence for infill by ploughsoil. Whilst some 'woodland' snails can thrive in the damp overgrown conditions of an infilling ditch, the fauna recovered always include open country species to suggest that the wider environs of the ditch always remained open since construction. Subsequently, probably in later Roman or Saxon times, a thick, stone- (and snail-) free soil formed with no indication of infill by ploughsoil. Whilst an absence of some snail shells for this horizon may be due to acidification, worm sorting will also have moved some shells down to the layer below and as the latter still retain open country species, the likelihood is that an open environment was maintained. Subsequently and presumably in medieval and into Post-medieval times, ploughing took place up to and eventually over the ditch.

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Appendix 1: Catalogue of excavated features

Area	*Cut*	*Deposit*	*Type*	*Date*	*Dating evidence*
B	1	50–51	Pit	Middle Bronze Age	Pottery
D	1e	53	Pit	Early Neolithic	Pottery
B	2	52–3	Pit	Middle Bronze Age?	Association
B	3	55–6	Pit	Late Neolithic 2475-2273 cal BC	Radiocarbon UBA-43260
A	4	57	Pit	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
TR5	5	58–64	Ditch	LIA-Roman	Association
TR13	6	65–73	Ditch	LIA-Roman	Pottery
D	100	150	Pit	Early Neolithic	Pottery
D	101	151	Pit	Early Neolithic 3632-3499 cal BC	Pottery, flint, radiocarbon (UBA-43257)
D	102	152	Pit	Early Neolithic 3631-3376 cal BC	Pottery, flint, radiocarbon (UBA-43258)
WB	200	250	Pit	Early Neolithic	Pottery
WB	201	251	Posthole		
WB	202	252	Posthole		
WB	203	253	Pit		
A	300	350	Pit	Middle Bronze Age	Pottery
A	301	351	Pit	Early Neolithic	Pottery
C	400	450–5	Pit	Early Neolithic 3659-3528 cal BC	Pottery, flint, radiocarbon (UBA-43259)
	500	550–5	Ditch	LIA-Roman	Pottery, lamp
B	600	650	Pit		
B	601	651	Pit		

APPENDIX 2: Pottery

Table A2.1. Distribution of early Neolithic pottery by cut and deposit (weight in g)

		F1		**QF1**		**QF2**		**QF3**		**fQ1**		**fQ2**		**fQ3**		**G1**		**G2**		**GF1**		**cQ1**		**Q1**		**Total**		
cut	*fill*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*mean*
1	50			4	8											4	4									8	12	1.5
1e	53			15	50																					15	50	3.3
100	150			63	70											1	9							13	16.0	77	95	1.2
102	152			157	756											96	103			5	12					258	871	3.4
200	250			10	5																					10	5	0.5
300	350			1	6																					1	6	6.0
301	351			4	4																					4	4	1.0
400	450	2	4			14	311	3	17	3	22	8	53													30	407	13.6
400	451	6	38	3	132	59	623	10	75	3	22			2	21											83	911	11.0
400	452			2	92	132	2202	59	302					2	44							11	39			206	2679	13.0
400	453					10	186	1	16	19	194			1	27			39	37							70	460	6.6
400	454					20	429	5	36	4	17			2	14											31	496	16.0
400	450-5					70	389					1	13	10	52											81	454	5.6
500	551			4	5																					4	5	1.3
500	553																			2	13					2	13	6.5
	1B																	2	2							2	2	1.0
		8	42	263	1128	305	4140	78	446	29	255	9	66	17	158	101	116	41	39	7	25	11	39	13	16.0	869	6454	7.4

Table A2.2. Attributes of early Neolithic vessels

						Rim top (lines)		*Neck*		*Body*	*Lug*
cut	*Vessel*	*Fabric*	*Form*	*Rim*	*Surface treatment*	*Perp*	*Obliq*	*Vert lines*	*Fingertip*	*?Vert lines*	*Imperforate*
1e	V18	QF1	C2	A3a							
	V15	QF1	C3	D2c							yes
102	V11	GF1	A0	C1c	Both smoothed						
	V12	QF1	A2	E1c	Both smoothed		yes				
	V13	QF1	C2	C3c	Smoothed exterior						
	V16	QF1	C2	X0a							
	V14	QF1	X2	C2c		yes			yes		
400	V1	QF3	A2	A1b							
	V2	QF2	A2	B1a	Both smoothed						
	V3	QF1	A2	B1a	Both smoothed						
	V4	QF1	A2	B1c	Smoothed exterior						
	V5	QF2	A2	C1a			yes				
	V6	fQ3	A2	C2c	Smoothed, internal slip		yes	yes		yes	
	V7	QF2	B2	A2c	Smoothed exterior						
	V8	QF2	C2	A1b							
	V9	fQ2	C2	A3a							
	V10	QF2	C2	B1a	Rustic smoothed						
	V17	QF3	B2	B2a							

Table A2.3. Relationship of bowl forms to rim diameter (in mm)

Vessel form	*No of vessels*	*% of vessels*	*<?*	*<120*	*<200*	*<260*	*<320*
A2	7	41.2	3		1	3	
A0	1	5.9	1				
B2	1	5.9			1	1	
C2	6	35.3	4	1		1	1
C3	1	5.9	1				
X2	1	5.9	1				
		% of measurable rims		11.1	22.2	55.6	11.1

Table A2.4. Distribution of undated and post-early Neolithic pottery by cut and deposit (weight in g)

		Neo-BA						**MBA**		**LBA-EIA**		**Undated**				
		V1		**QG1**		**QG2**		**QF4**		**F2, F3, F4**		**UN**		**Total**		
cut	*fill*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*no*	*wt*	*mean*
	U/S									3	2.0					
	U/S									3	0.5					
	U/S									5	5.0					
1	50			1	5											
4	57									92	1349					
6	68									1	1.5					
100	150	13	7.0											13	7.0	1.8
300	350							42	261.0					42	261.0	6.2
400	450											10	6.0	10	6.0	0.6
400	452											106	86.0	106	86.0	0.8
57N	55E					2	3.0							2	3.0	1.5
57N	56E											3	1.0	3	1.0	0.3
59N	58N									4	38.0			4	38.0	9.5
		13	7.0	1	5	2	3.0	42	261.0	108	1396	119	93.0	193	418.0	2.2

APPENDIX 3: Struck flint

Table A3.1: Catalogue of struck flint

Cut	Fill	Intact flakes	Intact blades	Broken flakes	Broken blade	Poss. broken blade	Spall	Core	Tested nodule	Core fragment	
1e	50	1		1b			1			1	
100	150	42 (1p)	3	38	1		53	4	3	5	4 serr (1 gloss), 1 Bv
101	151	3	2	3	1		8				
102	152	83	5	63	2		87	6		2	6 serr, leaf, scraper
300	350								1		
301	351		1p	3			4				
400	450	28 (1b, 4u)	5 (1u)	10 (4b, 1u, 1ret)			28	2			laurel leaf
400	451	89	28	54	24		110	2			scraper; 4 serr; 4 Bv
400	452	268	53	152(5b)	24	14	279	3	3	7	3 leaf; 13 serr; 1 Bv; chopper; NF
400	453	46	11	19	6		3		2		Leaf; 6 serr; Bv on natural flake
400	454	66	5	35 (5b)	3	2	41	2		1	5 serr chopper NF; Bv; Unfin arrowhead? IRF
400	455	6	2	2			2				serr
400	450-5	157 (2b 3u)	25 (1b)	84 (5b)	8		98	6	7	6 (1b)	9 serr 3 scraper; 1 Bv
500	550			1							
500	552	10		3		1			1		
500	553	3		3							
500	554	1									
500	U/S			1pat							
500	U/S						1pat				

p- patinated; u- utilised; b- burnt; Bv- bevelled edge flake; TN- Tested nodule; CF = Core fragment; NF- Notched flake

leaf- leaf-shaped arrowhead; IRF- invasively retouched flake; serr- serrated flake or blade

Table A3.2 Intact flakes pit 400 (452)

Intact flakes: length breadth classes				
Blades	**Blade-like**	**Flakes**	**Squat**	**Total**
>5:2	**>2:1<5:2**	**>1:1<2:1**	**<=1:1**	
51	53	145	36	285
17.9%	18.6%	50.9%	12.6%	

Thickness mean (mm)	Standard deviation
5.7	3.2

Intact flakes: remaining cortex			
<1/3 cortex	**>1/3<2/3 cortex**	**>2/3 cortex**	**Total**
190	56	39	285
66.7%	19.6%	13.7%	

Intact flakes: function				
Waste	**Other**	**Cutting**	**Awl**	**Total**
59	110	99	17	285
20.7%	38.6%	34.7%	6.0%	

Intact flakes: size (length in mm)				
L:B ratio < 1.5				
<30mm	**>=30<50mm**	**>=50<70mm**	**>70mm**	**Total**
49	49	11	0	109
45.0%	45.0%	10.1%	0.0%	

Table A3.3 Broken flakes pit 400 (452)

Broken flakes: shape			
Broken blade	**Possible broken blade**	**Broken flake**	**Total**
21	14	125	160
13.1%	8.8%	78.1%	

Broken flakes: remaining cortex			
<1/3 cortex	**>1/3<2/3 cortex**	**>2/3 cortex**	**Total**
126	14	20	160
78.8%	8.8%	12.5%	

Broken flakes: function				
Waste	**Other**	**Cutting**	**Awl**	**Total**
59	50	49	2	160
36.9%	31.2%	30.6%	1.2%	

Table A3.4 All Intact and broken flakes pit 400 (452)

All flakes: length breadth classes				
Blades	**Blade-like**	**Flakes**	**Squat**	**Total**
>5:2	**>2:1<5:2**	**>1:1<2:1**	**<=1:1**	
86	53	270	36	445
19.3%	11.9%	60.7%	8.1%	

All flakes: remaining cortex			
<1/3 cortex	**>1/3<2/3 cortex**	**>2/3 cortex**	**Total**
316	70	59	445
71.0%	15.7%	13.3%	

All flakes: function				
Waste	**Other**	**Cutting**	**Awl**	**Total**
118	160	148	19	445
26.5%	36.0%	33.3%	4.3%	

Table A3.5 SRH11-124 102-152 merge

Intact flakes: length breadth classes				
Blades	**Blade-like**	**Flakes**	**Squat**	**Total**
>5:2	**>2:1<5:2**	**>1:1<2:1**	**<=1:1**	
5	11	41	24	81
6.2%	13.6%	50.6%	29.6%	

Thickness mean (mm)	Standard deviation
5.2	3.3

Intact flakes: remaining cortex			
<1/3 cortex	**>1/3<2/3 cortex**	**>2/3 cortex**	**Total**
50	13	18	81
61.7%	16.0%	22.2%	

Intact flakes: function				
Waste	**Other**	**Cutting**	**Awl**	**Total**
19	37	19	6	81
23.5%	45.7%	23.5%	7.4%	

Intact flakes: size (length in mm) L:B ratio < 1.5				
<30mm	**>=30<50mm**	**>=50<70mm**	**>70mm**	**Total**
27	17	2	0	46
58.7%	37.0%	4.3%	0.0%	

Broken flakes: shape			
Broken blade	**Possible broken blade**	**Broken flake**	**Total**
1	3	70	74
1.4%	4.1%	94.6%	

Broken flakes: remaining cortex			
<1/3 cortex	**>1/3<2/3 cortex**	**>2/3 cortex**	**Total**
52	8	14	74
70.3%	10.8%	18.9%	

Broken flakes: function				
Waste	**Other**	**Cutting**	**Awl**	**Total**
35	29	9	1	74
47.3%	39.2%	12.2%	1.4%	

Table A3.6 SRH11-124 102-152 merged sieved and non-sieved

All flakes: length breadth classes				
Blades	**Blade-like**	**Flakes**	**Squat**	**Total**
>5:2	**>2:1<5:2**	**>1:1<2:1**	**<=1:1**	
9	11	111	24	155
5.8%	7.1%	71.6%	15.5%	

All flakes: remaining cortex			
<1/3 cortex	**>1/3<2/3 cortex**	**>2/3 cortex**	**Total**
102	21	32	155
65.8%	13.5%	20.6%	

All flakes: function				
Waste	**Other**	**Cutting**	**Awl**	**Total**
54	66	28	7	155
34.8%	42.6%	18.1%	4.5%	

APPENDIX 4: Animal bone

Table A4.1: Condition and taphonomic factors affecting the hand-collected assemblage identified to taxa and/ or element. Teeth included where stated

Condition	*Early Neolithic*	*LIA/ER*
Fresh		
Very good		
Good	34	2
Fair	47	
Poor		1
Very poor		
Total	81	3
Refit	19=8	10=1
Fresh break	9	2
Gnawed		
Loose mandibular teeth*	1	
Teeth in mandibles*		
Butchery	4	
Burning**	7	

*deciduous and permanent 4th premolar and molars
**includes unidentified fragments

Table A4.2: Species representation (NISP) of hand collected and sieved assemblage

Taxa	*Early Neolithic*	*LIA/ER*
Cattle	31	3
sheep/ goat	20	
Sheep		1
Pig	40	
Canid	1	
Deer	1	
Frog/ toad	2	
Total identified	95	4
Unidentified mammal	51	1
Large mammal	83	2
Medium mammal	121	
Total	350	7

Table A4.3: Species representation by anatomical element (NISP), and the Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) present. Hand collected and sieved bones

Element	*Cattle*	*Sheep/ goat*	*Pig*
Zygomatic	1		
Hyoid	1		
Maxilla with teeth			1
Loose maxillary tooth	1	2	4
Mandible with teeth			1
Loose mandibular tooth	3		3
1st cervical vertebra			1
Thoracic vertebra		1	
Caudal vertebra	1		
Scapula			1
Humerus	1	1	
Radius	3		5
Ulna	2		4
Femur	1	4	3
Tibia	6	7	
Fibula			5
Calcaneus		1	1
Astragalus	1		
Tarsal			1
Metacarpal	2		
Metatarsal	2	2	1
Metapodial	1	1	2
Lateral metapodial			5
1st phalanx		1	1
2nd phalanx	4		
3rd phalanx	1		
Lateral phalanx			1
Total	31	20	40
MNI	1	1	2

Table A4.4: Fusion data for the major domesticates. U= unfused; F= fused

	Cattle		*Sheep/ goat*		*Pig*	
	U	*F*	*U*	*F*	*U*	*F*
Neonatal		1	1			2
Early	1	4		1	1	3
Intermediate	1	1	1		1	
Late					1	
Final		2	2			
Total	2	8	4	1	3	5

APPENDIX 5: Environmental remains

Table A5.1: Charcoal

Cut	Context	Sample	Volume (litres)	Pomoideae.	*Corylus avellana*	*Quercus sp.*
				hawthorn, apple etc.	hazel	oak
Early Neolithic						
1e	53	8	24	+	+++	+
100	150	10	16	-	+	+++
101	151	17	16	-	+	+++
102	152	11	40	+	+	++++
200	250	12	8	-	-	++++
301	351	14	16	-	+	++
400	450	2	24	-	-	++
400	451	3	35	-	-	++
400	452	4	16	++	++	++
400	453	5	35	-	+	+
Late Neolithic						
1	50	9	10	-	-	++
Undated						
600	650	15	8	++	-	-
601	651	16	8	++	-	-

+ present, ++ some, +++ much, ++++ very much

Table A5.2: Carbonised Plant Remains

	Cut	100	101	102	400	400	400
	Context	150	151	152	450	451	452
	Sample	10	17	11	2	3	4
	Volume (l.)	16	16	40	35	16	35
CEREAL GRAIN							
Triticum dicoccum	emmer wheat	1	-	1	-	8	21
Triticum sp.	wheat	-	-	-	-	1	2
cereal indet.		1	-	-	-	2	6
FRUIT REMAINS							
Malus sylvestris - endocarp	crab apple	1	-	-	-	-	1
cf. *Malus sylvestris* - seed	crab apple	-	-	-	-	-	1
NUT SHELL FRAGMENTS							
Corylus avellana	hazel	24	50	84	3	3	16

Appendix 6: Mollusca

Table A6.1: Land Snails from the Neolithic pit, 400

	Percentage of Total Individuals			
Context	**455**	**454**	**452**	**450**
Sample	7	6	4	2
Pomatias elegans (Müll.)	-	-	0.4	-
Carychium tridentatum (Race)	8	3.9	1.1	-
Clausilia bidentata Ström	8	7.0	4.2	-
Cochlodina laminata (Mont.)	-	0.8	-	-
Cochlicopa sp.	-	4.7	3.5	-
Discus rotundatus (Müll.)	25	38.0	54.4	27
Arianta arbustorum (L.)	-	0.8	-	-
Cepaea nemoralis (L.)	-	0.8	-	9
Cepaea sp.	-	0.8	0.4	-
Trochulus hispidus (L.)	-	21.8	16.6	9
T. striolatus (Pfeif.)	8	-	-	-
Lauria cylindracea (da Cost.)	-	0.8	-	-
Aegopinella pura (Ald.)	-	-	0.4	-
A. nitidula (Drap.)	33	5.4	3.2	18
Oxychilus cellarius (Müll.)	-	24.0	12.4	9
Vitrea sp.	-	1.6	0.7	9
Punctum pygmaeum (Drap.)	-	-	0.4	-
Vallonia costata (Müll.)	17	-	1.1	18
V. excentrica Sterki	-	-	1.1	-
Vertigo pygmaea (Drap.)	-	-	0.4	-
Total Individuals	12	129	283	11

Table A6.2: Land Snails from Linear Ditch 500

	Percentage of Total Individuals											
Context	**555**				**554**							
Depth	1.30-1.38	1.25-1.30	1.20-1.25	1.15-1.20	1.10-1.15	1.05-1.10	1.00-1.05	0.95-1.00	0.90-0.95	0.85-0.90	0.80-0.85	0.75-0.80
Pomatias elegans (Müll.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	-
Carychium tridentatum (Risso)	-	-	8	-	1.9	-	0.8	1.6	10.8	23.1	17.1	24.3
Clausilia bidentata Ström	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	1.6	4.9
Cochlodina laminata (Mont.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0
Cochlicopa sp.	-	-	-	-	1.9	4.3	4.1	1.6	1.8	3.8	1.6	3.9
Discus rotundatus (Müll.)	-	17	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	-	-	-	1.0
Arianta arbustorum (L.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cepaea nemoralis (L.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	1.8	-	0.8	-
Cepaea sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	-	3.1	7.3	4.8
Helicigona lapicida (L.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Candidula gigaxii (Pfeif.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Helicella itala (L.)	25	-	33	31	10.5	9.2	13.2	13.0	9.0	9.2	2.4	3.9
Trochulus hispidus (L.)	-	-	-	-	1.0	1.4	-	4.8	10.8	11.5	35.5	10.7
T. striolatus (Pfeif.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agriolimacidae or Limacidae indet.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	1.0
Aegopinella pura (Ald.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	-
A. nitidula (Drap.)	-	-	-	4	-	1.4	2.5	3.2	9.9	6.9	6.5	6.8
Nesovitrea hammonis (Ström.)	-	-	-	-	1.0	2.1	6.6	9.7	4.5	9.2	4.8	-
Oxychilus cellarius (Müll.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0
Vitrea sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.9
Punctum pygmaeum (Drap.)	-	-	8	4	2.9	5.7	5.0	6.5	8.1	4.6	3.2	1.9
Pupilla muscorum L.	50	50	25	27	17.1	16.3	5.9	7.3	5.4	0.8	0.8	1.0
Acanthinula aculeata (Müll.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	8.7
Vallonia costata (Müll.)	25	17	-	-	4.8	11.8	33.9	23.4	18.9	14.6	8.1	9.7
V. excentrica Sterki	-	17	25	31	55.2	42.5	19.0	19.4	13.5	7.7	2.4	5.8
Vertigo pygmaea (Drap.)	-	-	-	4	3.8	-	7.4	5.6	4.5	3.1	3.2	1.0
Vitrina pellucida (Müll.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Individuals	4	6	12	26	105	141	121	124	111	130	124	103

Table A6.2 continued: Land Snails from Linear Ditch 500

	Percentage of Total Individuals														
Context	**553**				**552**			**551**					**550**		
Depth	0.70-0.75	0.65-0.70	0.60 0.65	0.55-0.60	0.50-0.55	0.45-0.50	0.40-0.45	0.35-0.40	0.30-0.35	0.25-0.30	0.20-0.25	0.15-0.20	0.10-0.15	0.05-0.10	0-0.05
Pomatias elegans (Müll.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carychium tridentatum (Risso)	34.6	48.1	50.3	38.4	-	-	45	16	19.4	30.6	32	-	6	8	-
Clausilia bidentata Ström	3.9	4.7	5.8	6.3	10	-	9	-	1.6	1.6	-	-	-	-	-
Cochlodina laminata (Mont.)	-	-	-	2.7	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cochlicopa sp.	3.1	1.6	2.1	1.8	-	-	-	3	3.2	4.8	-	-	-	-	-
Discus rotundatus (Müll.)	0.3	0.3	2.1	11.6	-	-	-	5	4.8	1.6	6	5	3	-	-
Arianta arbustorum (L.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cepaea nemoralis (L.)	1.0	-	-	4.5	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cepaea sp.	-	0.9	1.0	-	20	100	9	5	-	1.6	-	5	3	6	25
Helicigona lapicida (L.)	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Candidula gigaxii (Pfeif.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Helicella itala (L.)	-	-	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Trochulus hispidus (L.)	14.0	7.2	12.6	8.9	20	-	-	37	29.0	17.7	26	29	15	11	25
T. striolatus (Pfeif.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	16	19.0	21.3	12	38	21	6	25
Agriolimacidae or Limacidae indet.	-	-	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	-	-	-
Aegopinella pura (Ald.)	4.2	10.4	4.1	2.7	-	-	-	5	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
A. nitidula (Drap.)	12.7	9.7	5.8	9.8	10	-	-	5	3.2	1.6	6	10	-	6	-
Nesovitrea hammonis (Ström.)	2.0	2.5	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	1.6	-	-	-	-	-
Oxychilus cellarius (Müll.)	1.8	2.5	2.7	5.4	10	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Vitrea sp.	2.6	1.9	2.7	2.7	-	-	-	-	3.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Punctum pygmaeum (Drap.)	0.7	0.3	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	1.6	-	6	-	-	-	-
Pupilla muscorum L.	-	0.3	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Acanthinula aculeata (Müll.)	6.8	4.1	3.4	0.9	-	-	-	-	1.6	1.6	-	5	-	-	-
Vallonia costata (Müll.)	1.6	1.3	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	3	-	-
V. excentrica Sterki	1.6	3.1	2.4	2.7	-	-	18	5	6.5	11.3	6	10	32	50	-
Vertigo pygmaea (Drap.)	1.0	0.9	0.3	1.8	-	-	-	-	1.6	1.6	-	-	12	11	25
Vitrina pellucida (Müll.)	-	-	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Individuals	307	318	292	112	10	1	11	38	62	61	34	21	34	18	4

APPENDIX 7: Radiocarbon dating (probability quoted as relative area under the curve at 2-sigma, most probable date **highlighted**)

Lab ID	*Cut*	*Fill*	*Material*	*Radiocarbon Age (BP)*	*F14C*	*Calibrated Age (BC)*	*Probability (%)*
UBA-43257	Pit 101	151	Hazel nut case	4741±29	0.5542±0.0020	**3632-3548**	**56.2**
						3545-3499	**22.2**
						3433-3379	21.6
UBA-43258	Pit 102	152	Hazel nut case	4729±36	0.5551±0.0025	**3631-3552**	**39.3**
						3541-3493	**23.1**
						3460-3376	**37.6**
UBA-43259	Pit 400	452	Bone	4848±39	0.5469±0.0026	3706-3673	12.4
						3659-3596	**48.6**
						3592-3528	**38.9**
UBA-43260	Pit 3	55	Charcoal	3898±48	0.6156±0.0037	2557-2542	1.1
						2489-2481	0.6
						2475-2273	**89.9**
						2257-2205	8.4

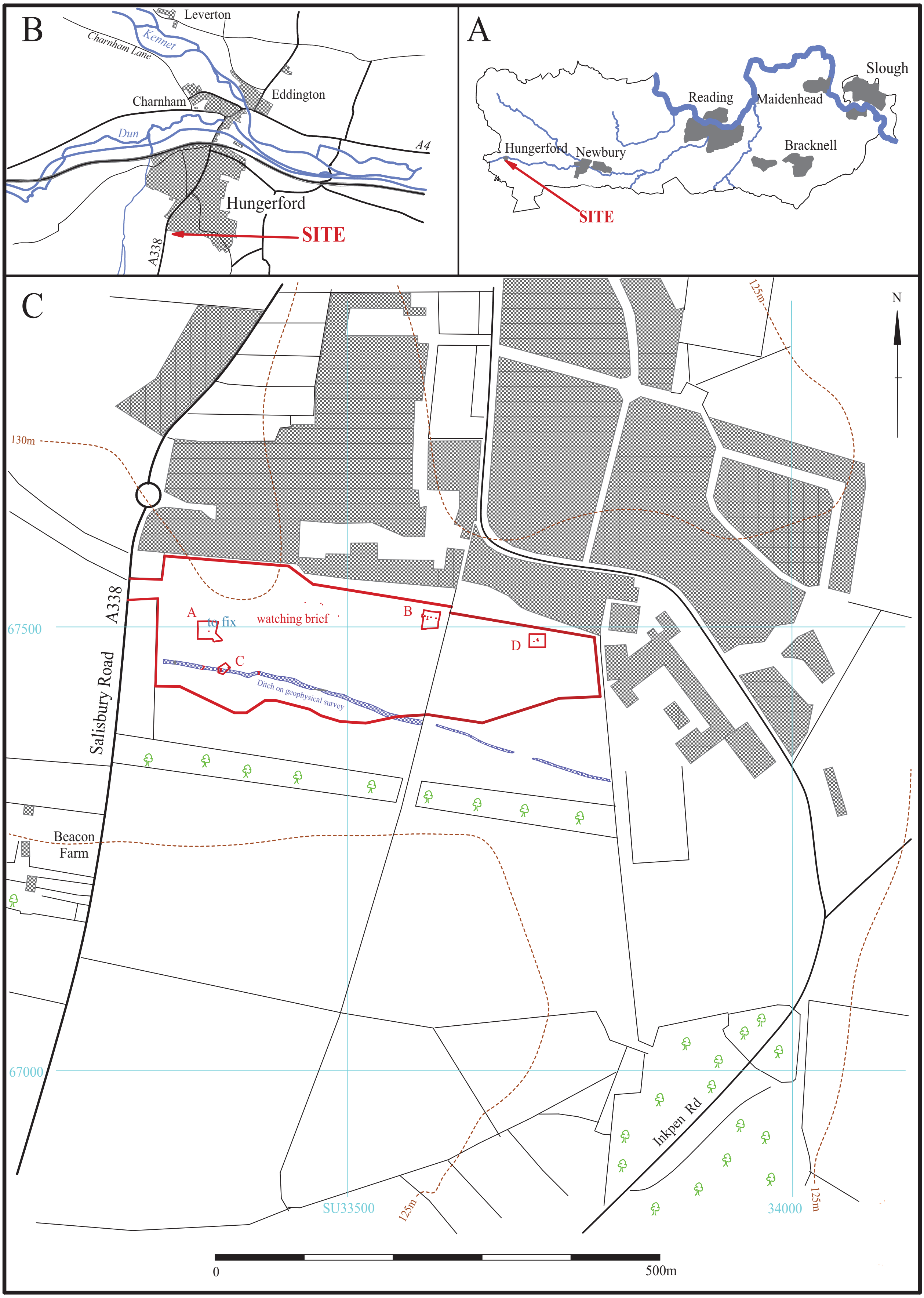

Figure 1. Location of site in Berkshire (A); within Hungerford (B) and locally off Salisbury Road (C).

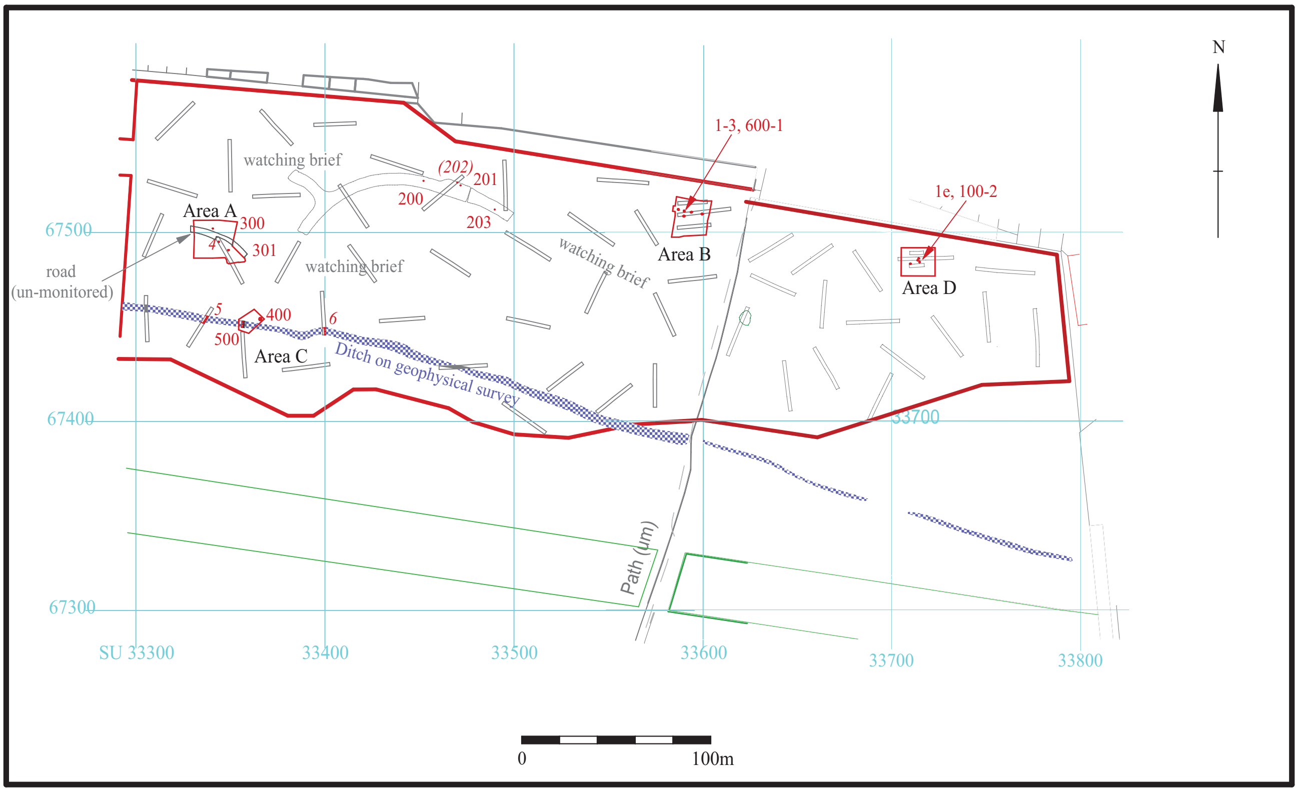

Figure 2. Locatio of excavation areas and watching brief within the overall site and in relation to evaluation trenches

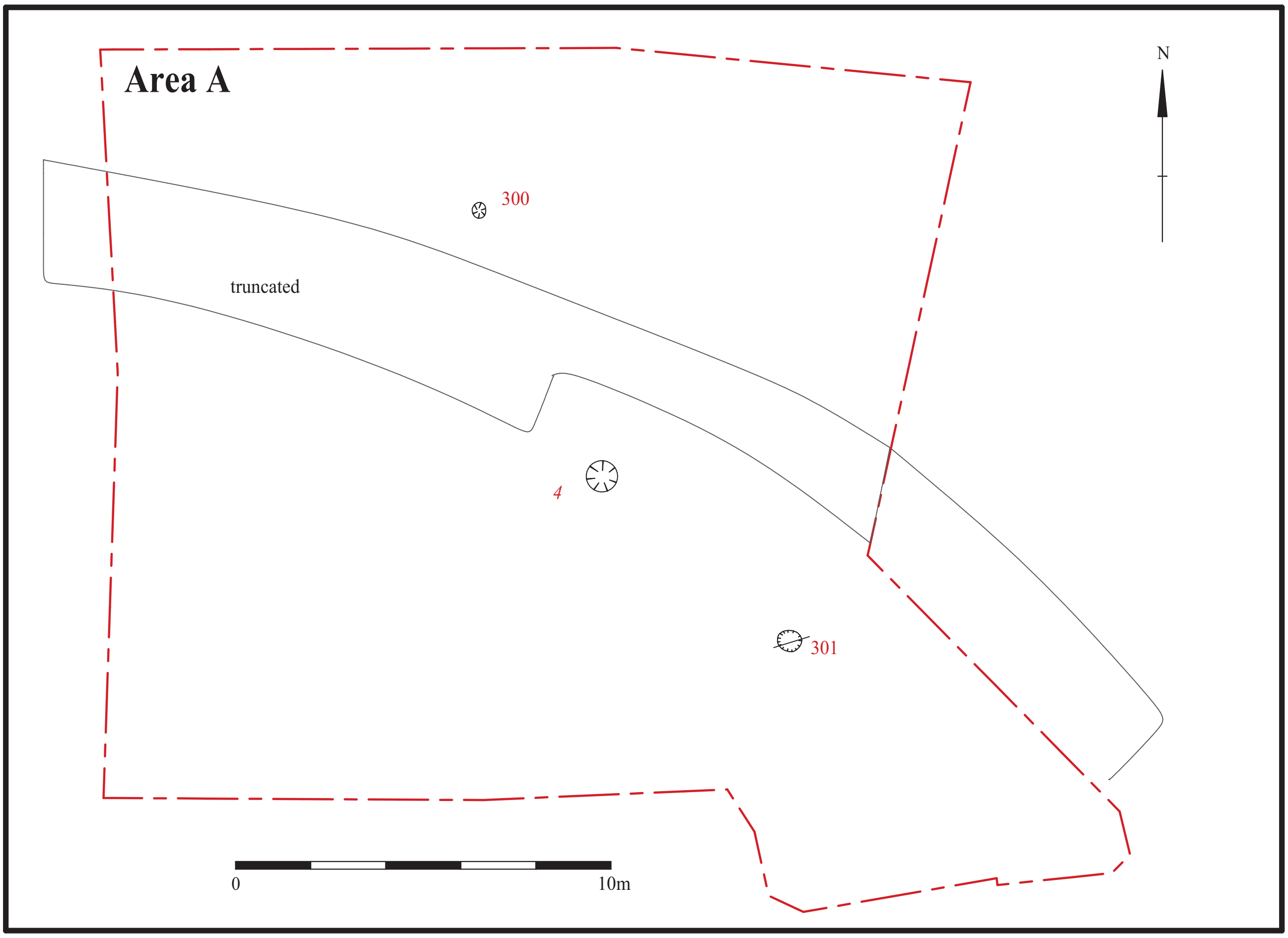

Figure 3. Area A

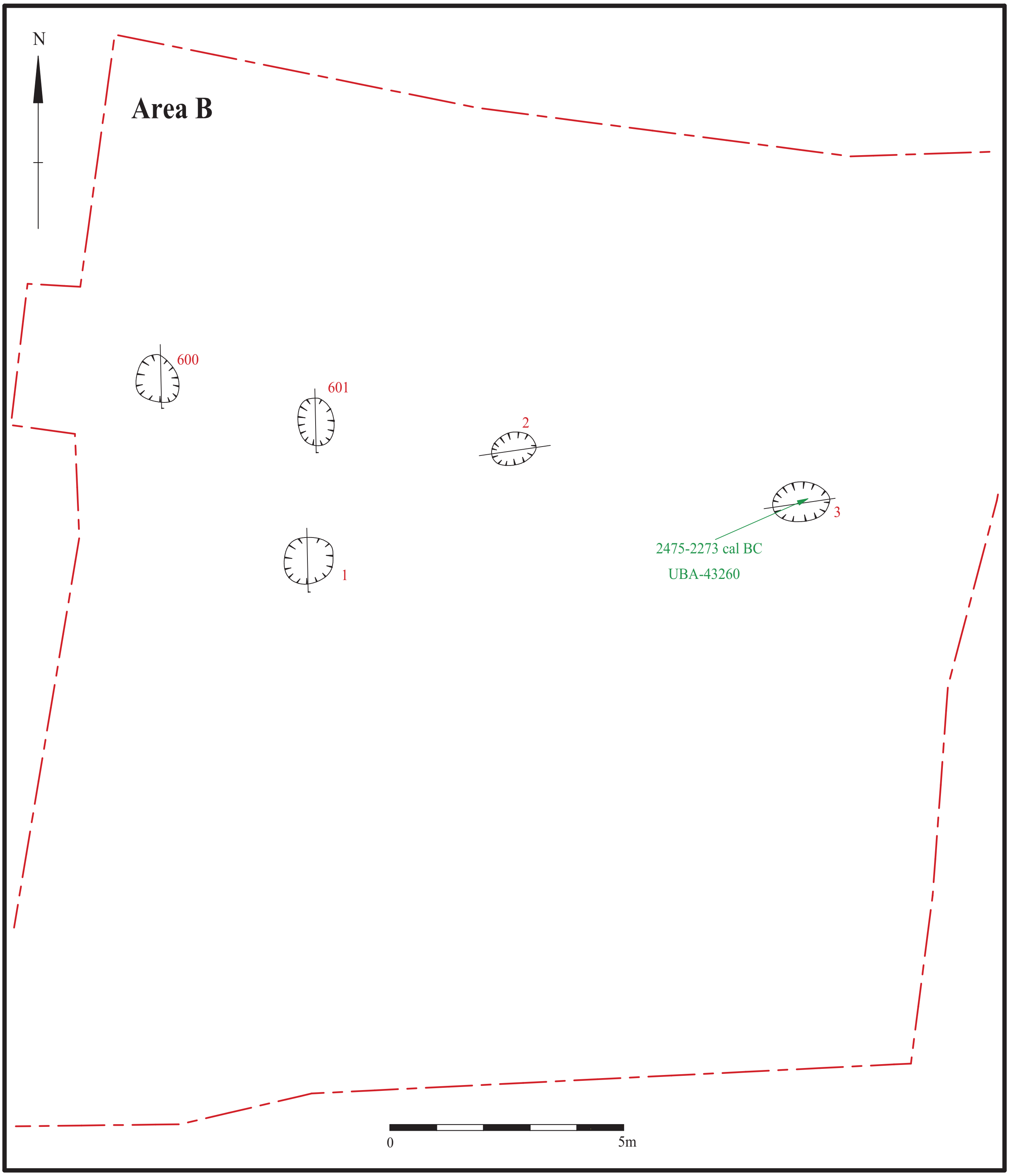

Figure 4. Area B

Area B

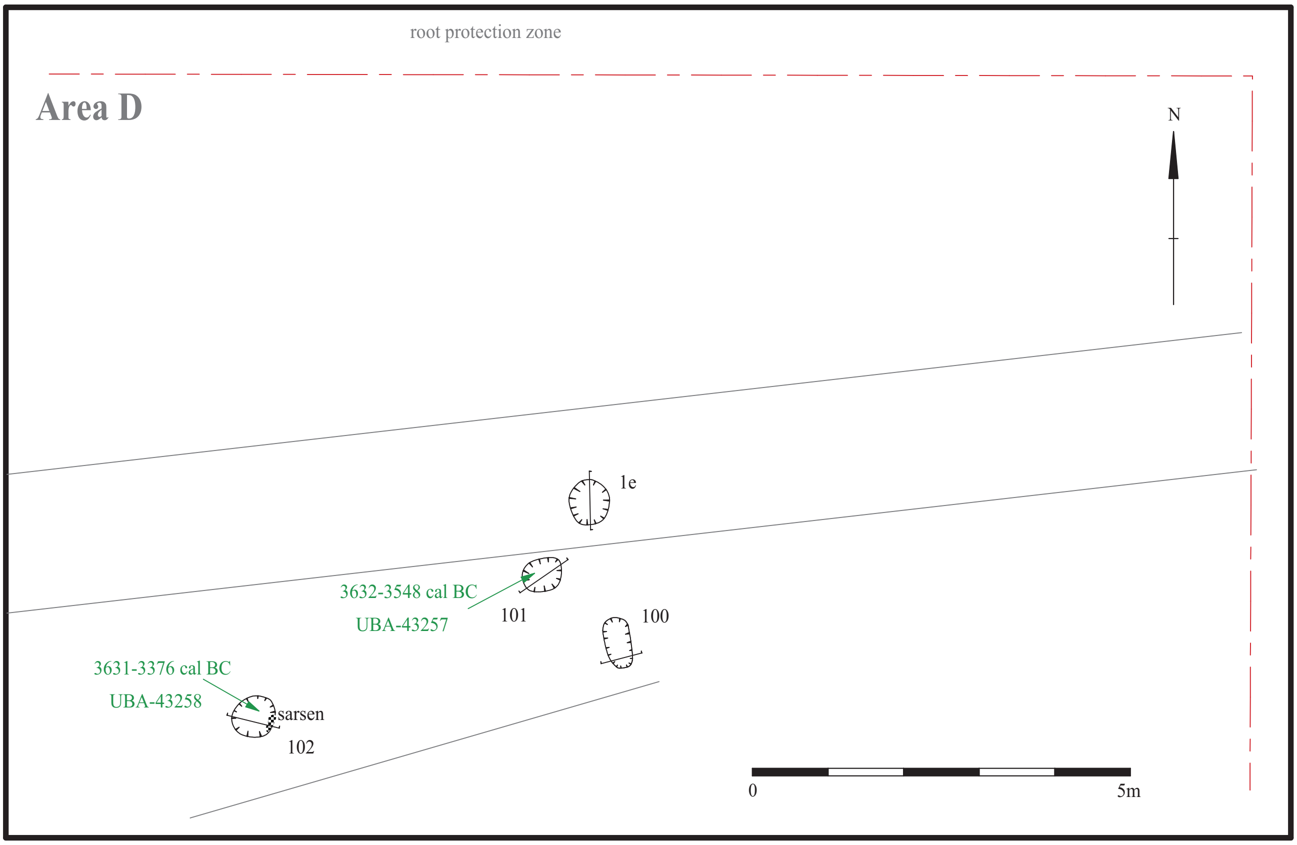

Figure 5. Area D

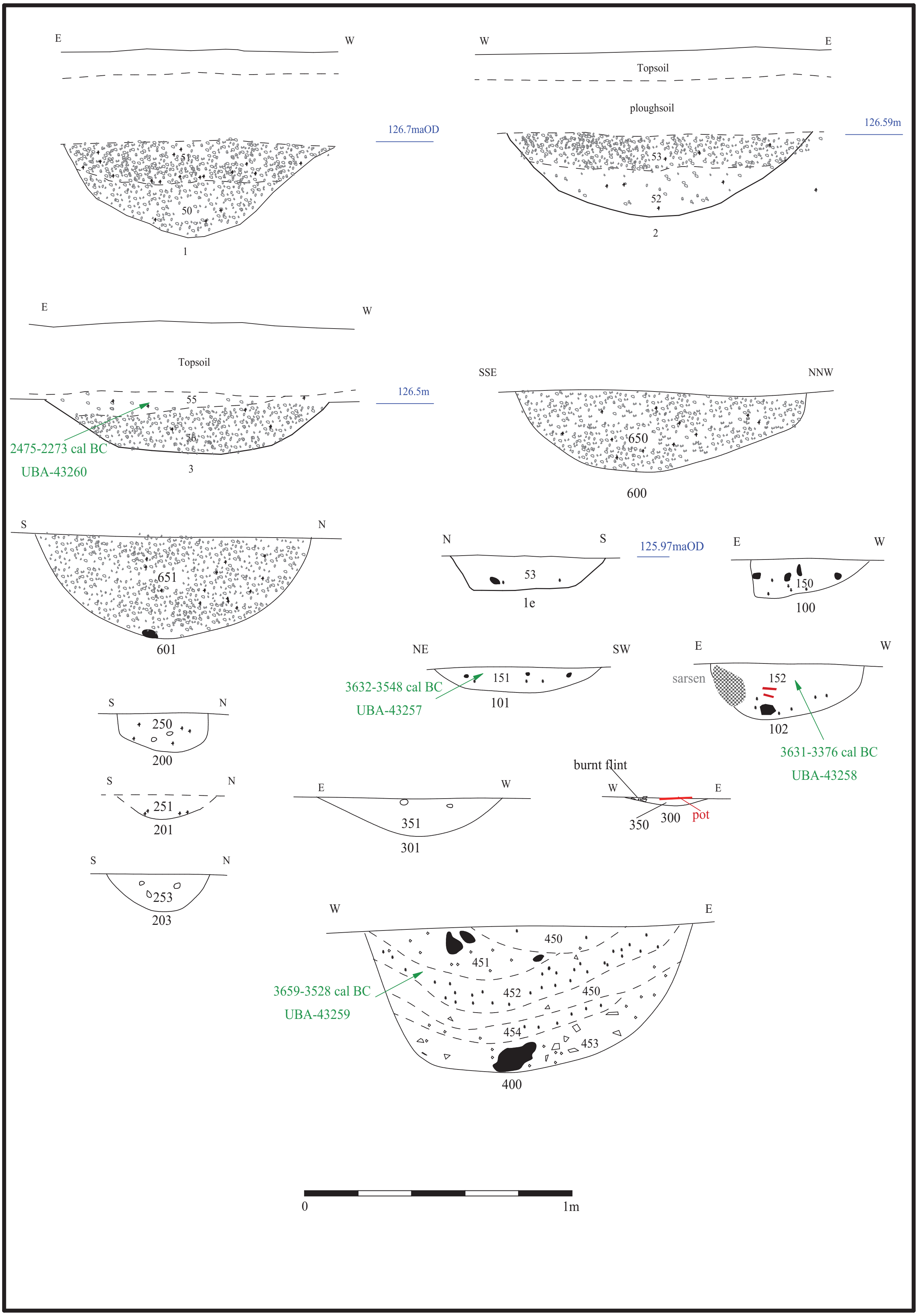

Figure 6. Sections of pits.

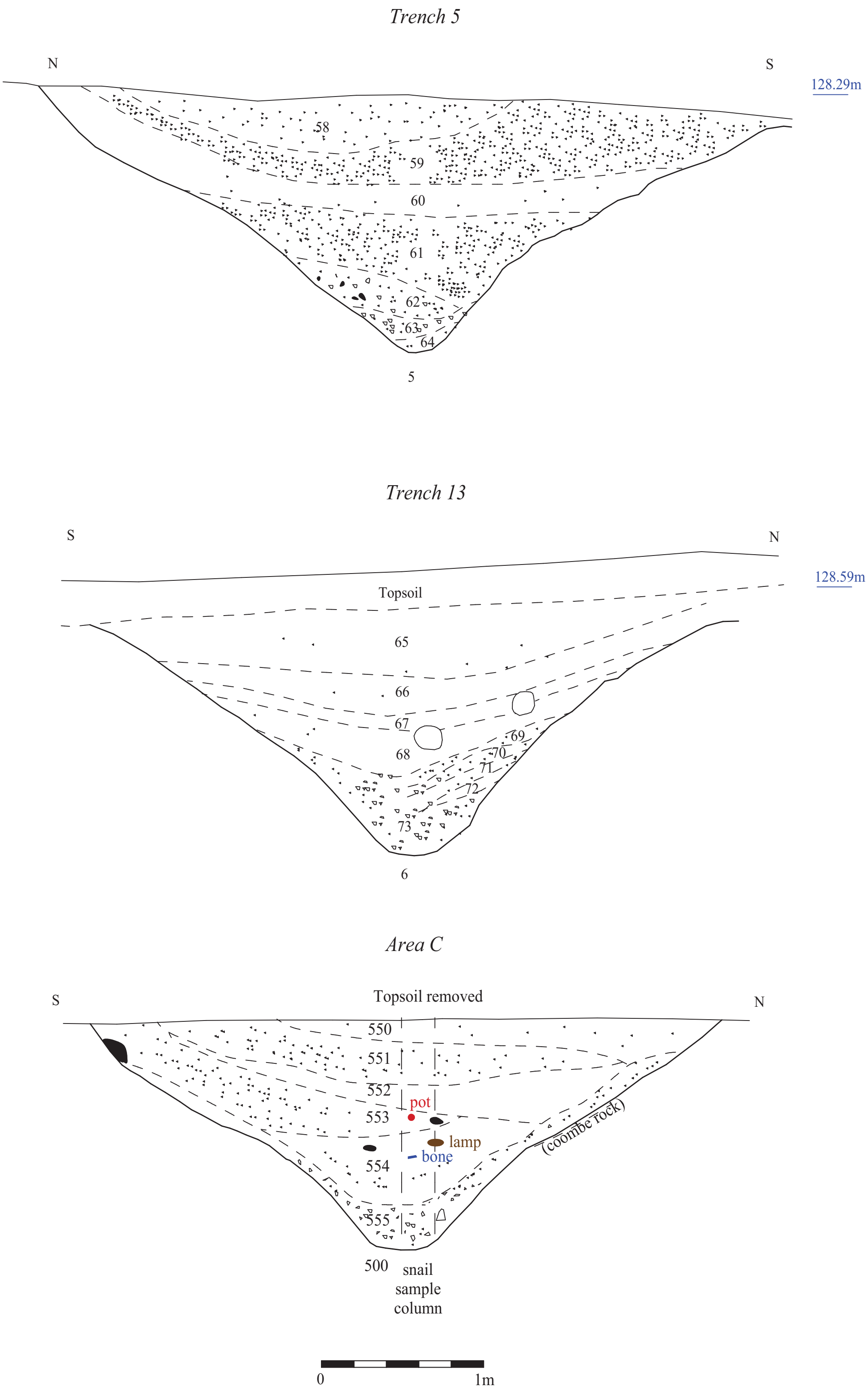

Figure 7. Linear ditch sections.

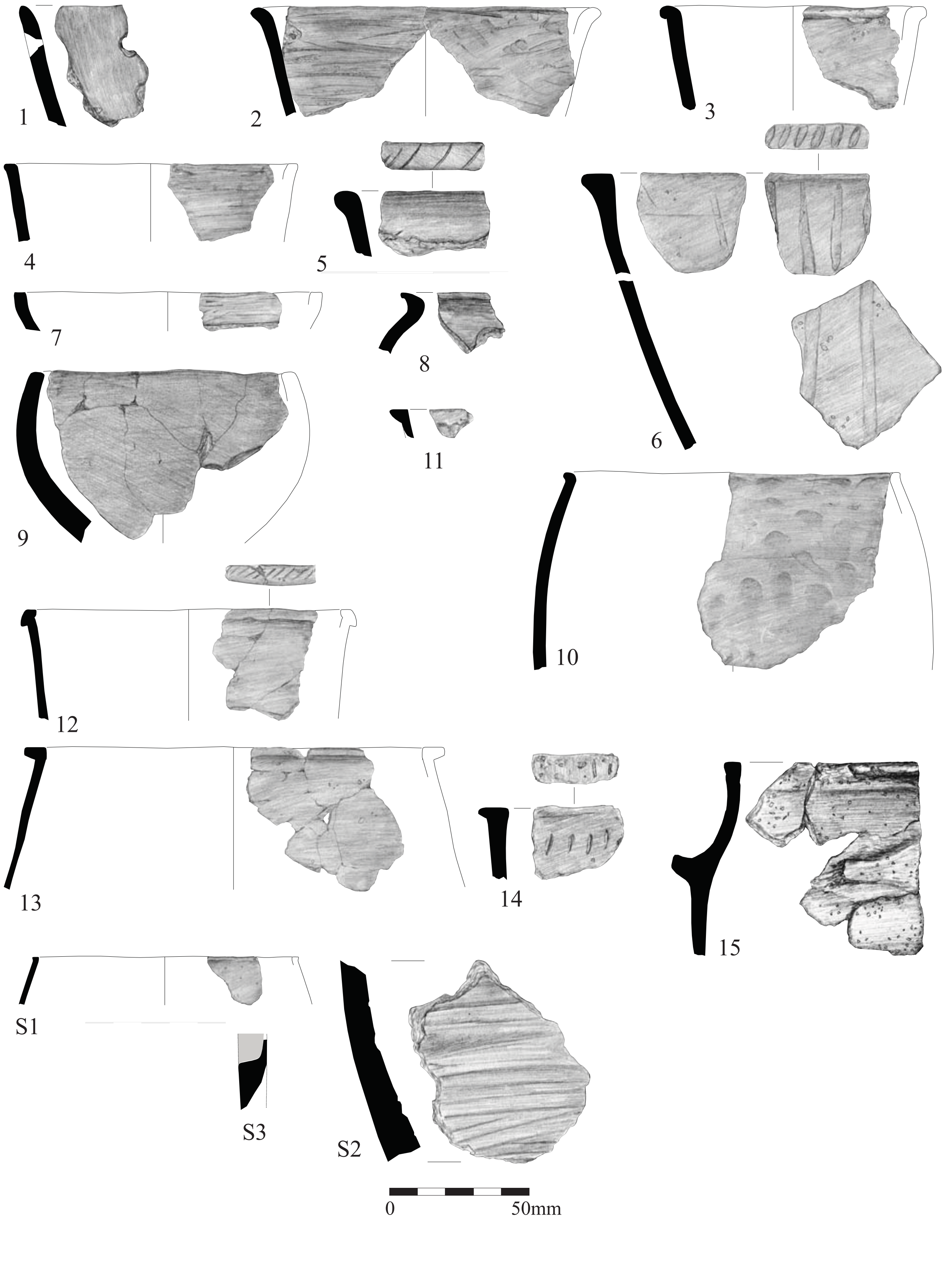

Figure 8. Pottery (see text for details).

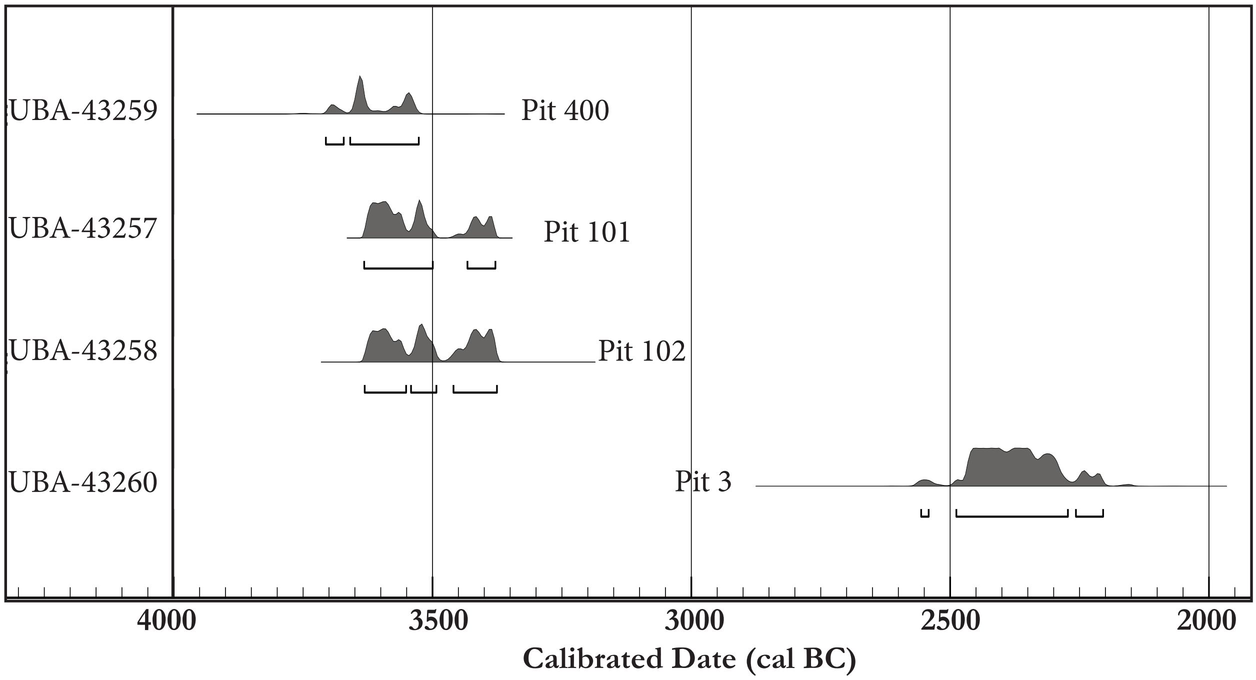

Chart 1. Plots of radiocarbon calibrations using OxCal 4.4.4 (Bronk Ramsey 2021) (data from Appendix 7)

Plate 1. Early Neolithic pit 301, looking north, Scales: horizontal 0.5m; vertical 0.1m.

Plate 2. Evaluation trench 6, pit 4 with pottery *in situ*, looking north west, Scale: 0.1m.

SRH 11/124d

Land off Salisbury Road,
Hungerford, West Berkshire, 2020
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plate 3. Middle Bronze Age pit 300 before excavation, looking west, Scales: 0.5m, 0.1m.

Plate 4. Evaluation trench 34, late Neolithic pit 3, looking south, Scales: 2 x 0.5m.

SRH 11/124d

Land off Salisbury Road,
Hungerford, West Berkshire, 2020
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 3 and 4.

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Plate 5. Evaluation trench 34, Middle Bronze Age pit 1, looking north-east, Scales: 2 x 0.5m.

Plate 6. Evaluation trench 34, undated (Bronze Age?) pit 2, looking south, Scales: 2 x 0.5m.

SRH 11/124d

Land off Salisbury Road,
Hungerford, West Berkshire, 2020
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 5 and 6.

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Plate 7. Early Neolithic pit 400, looking north, Scales: 1m, 0.5m.

Plate 8. Pottery in deposit 450 (pit 400), north to top, Scales: 2 x 0.1m.

SRH 11/124d

Land off Salisbury Road,
Hungerford, West Berkshire, 2020
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 7 and 8.

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Plate 9. Linear ditch cut 5, looking north-east, Scales: 2m, 0.5m.

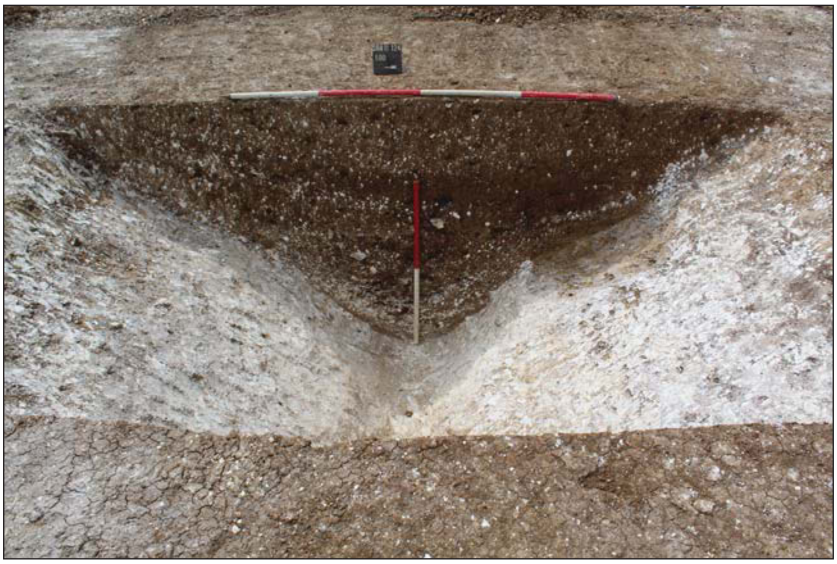

Plate 10. Linear ditch cut 500, looking west, Scales: 2m, 1m.

SRH 11/124d

Land off Salisbury Road,
Hungerford, West Berkshire, 2020
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 9 and 10.

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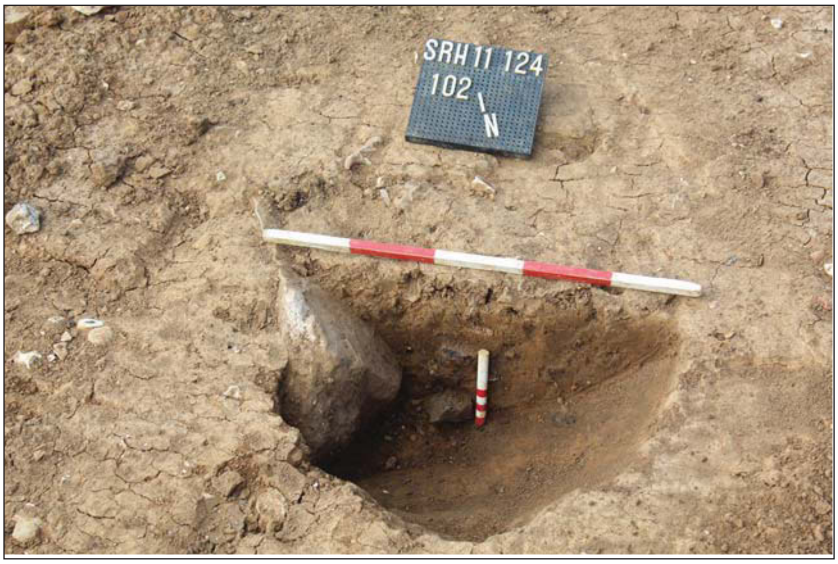

Plate 11. Early Neolithic pit 102 mid-excavation showing sarsen block, looking south-west,
Scales: 0.5m, 0.1m.

Plate 12. Watching brief general view with pit 200 in foreground, looking north-west,
Scales: 0.5m, 0.1m.

SRH 11/124d

Land off Salisbury Road,
Hungerford, West Berkshire, 2020
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 11 and 12.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plate 13. Laurel leaf from Early Neolithic pit 400, Scale of cm.

Plate 14. Roman iron lamp from ditch 500 Scales: 0.1m.

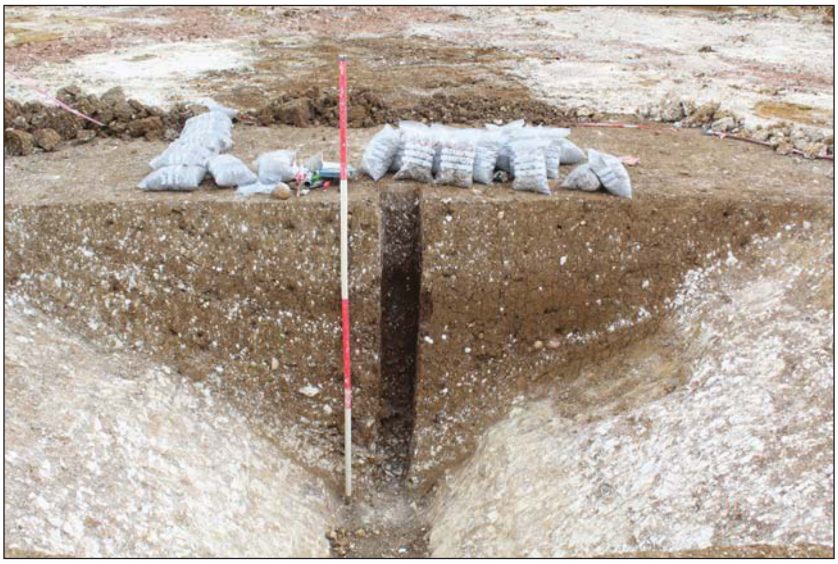

Plate 15. Location of column sample from ditch 500, Scale: 2m.

SRH 11/124d

Land off Salisbury Road,
Hungerford, West Berkshire, 2020
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 13 - 15.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC

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