

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Middle to Late Iron Age occupation at Crossways, Reading
Road, Shiplake, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological excavation

by Beth Tucker

Site Code: CSO23/32

(SU 7700 7989)

Middle to Late Iron Age Occupation at Crossways, Reading Road, Shiplake, Oxfordshire

**An Archaeological Excavation
for Westbourne Homes**

by Beth Tucker

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CSO 23/32

February 2024

Summary

Site name: Crossways, Reading Road, Shiplake, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 7700 7989

Site activity: Archaeological Excavation

Date and duration of project: 12th June to 8th August 2023

Project coordinator: David Sanchez

Site supervisor: Maisie Foster

Site code: CSO 23/32

Area of site: 0.4ha

Summary of results: The excavation revealed a wide spread of prehistoric pits and a ring gully. Dating evidence and indeed finds of any sort were very scarce and although it is likely that the site saw sporadic use through several periods (Mesolithic, Bronze Age and possibly Roman), the main occupation appears reasonably consistently to contain pottery from the middle to late Iron Age. A radiocarbon date will help to confirm this. Many of the pits were exceptionally deep but a simple explanation as wells is difficult to sustain, as none appeared to reach the watertable, and the river Thames is in any case close enough that water would have been easily obtainable without the effort of such deep excavation.

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

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Middle to Late Iron Age Occupation at Crossways, Reading Road, Shiplake, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Excavation

by Beth Tucker

with contributions by Danielle Milbank, Cristina Mateos Leal, Steve Ford, Ceri Falys,
Rosalind McKenna, and Sophie Peng

Report 23/32b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field excavation carried out at Crossways, Reading Road, Shiplake, Oxfordshire (SU 7700 7978) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Dan East of Westbourne Homes, Farthings Barn, Ashridgewood Business Park, Warren House Rd, Wokingham RG40 5RD.

Planning permission (APP P21/S4616/FUL) has been gained on appeal (APP/Q3115/W/22/3297007) from South Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of 11 homes and associated services. Two conditions (8 and 9) have been attached to the consent relating to archaeology and so, due to a number of archaeological deposits recorded during the archaeological evaluation further fieldwork in the form of an area excavation is required. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) and the District Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Steven Weaver, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council, the archaeological adviser to the District. The fieldwork was undertaken by Maisie Foster, Rachel Hunt, Kyle Beaverstock, Camila Carvalho, Sophie Peng, Beth Tucker, Natasha Cobden, Richard Dewhurst, Molly Larkby, Emily Gibson, Harriet Wright and Carissa Madden from the 12th of June until the 8th of August and the site code is CSO23/32. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museum Services and Archaeology Data Services in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north-western edge of the village of Lower Shiplake, approximately 750m west of the River Thames and 8.5km north-east of Reading (Fig. 1). The site consists of a relatively flat parcel of grassland bordered by trees, a residential property occupies the field to the south with open fields to the north and west, the A4155 is located immediately to the east. The site lies at a height of approximately 45m above Ordnance Datum

(aOD), the underlying geology is mapped as Taplow Gravel (BGS 2000) which was observed across the entire excavation area.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been summarised in a brief provided for the project by Mr Richard Oram, Lead Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Oram 2020). The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the Thames Valley, an archaeological rich area which boasts a number of archaeological sites spanning a range of periods identified through mineral extraction and aerial photography (Benson and Miles 1975; Booth et al 2007; Lambrick and Robinson 2009). Various findspots of Palaeolithic handaxes, Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork have been recorded in the wider area. During pipe laying to the south-west of the site a number of cremation burials and undated ditches were identified and to the north-east a series of wattle-lined Iron Age pits were recorded. Also to the north-east of the site is a Roman villa at the village of Harspden and a 6th century Saxon cemetery. Aerial photography has identified a number of undated enclosures and other linear features to the south-west, however, an evaluation to the north and a watching brief to the south adjacent to Tower House revealed nothing of archaeological interest (Taylor 2021). Recent fieldwork to the south west at Sonning Quarry has also revealed a Middle Iron Age enclosure and Roman occupation (Williams, 2021; Taylor and Colyer 2024),

Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation of the site comprised of ten trenches, each c.20m long and 1.6m wide (Foster 2023). A range of features including pits, postholes and gullies were identified, although finds were sparse with only a small amount of struck flint and Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age pottery recovered. The results of the evaluation were thought to represent an occupation site, possibly a ‘dispersed open settlement’ typical of Thames Valley later Bronze Age/earlier Iron Age settlements (cf Lambrick and Robinson, 2009, 94-9). A brief description of the archaeological features recorded during the evaluation is detailed below.

Trench 1

Pit 1 and pit 8, were recorded in the north-east end of trench 1, neither of these shallow pits contained finds.

Trench 2

Trench 2 contained a single pit towards the centre of the trench. Pit 9 was a deep circular pit with multiple fills from which no finds were recovered.

Trench 3

The third trench contained two features, pit 3 at 2.5m from the north-west end of the trench and posthole 14 at 6.8m from the north-west end of the trench. Pit 3 was a large shallow pit which produced two Bronze Age sherds and six struck flints. Posthole 14 was an irregular shaped feature which contained no finds.

Trench 4

Two Iron Age sherds and three struck flints were recovered from the single feature recorded in trench 4. Pit 2 was a 1m wide and 1.4m deep circular pit which contained one fill.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was extended at the north end of the trench which revealed pit 11 and gully 12. Pit 11 was a circular pit measuring 0.59m deep. One struck flint was recovered. Gully 12 was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east; this shallow gully produced no finds.

Trench 6

Ditch 15, pit 16 and gully 19 were identified in trench 6. Ditch 15 and gully 19 contained no finds whereas pit 16 produced a single struck flint.

Trench 7

Trench 7 contained the most dense concentration of archaeology across the evaluation site. Four features were recorded in this trench: gully terminus 4, pit 5, gully 6 and pit 7. The only feature to produce finds (just a single Iron Age sherd) was pit 7, this circular pit towards the west end of the trench had a slight undercutting bell-shape in profile. Only a small segment of gully 4 was visible in the trench and it was unclear whether this feature and gully 6 were actually of archaeological origin: they may perhaps have been natural silt patches. Pit 5 was a large but shallow pit which contained no finds.

Trench 9

Towards the centre of trench 9 were gully terminus 13 and pit 10. Gully terminus 13 was a small shallow linear feature aligned roughly north-south, pit 10 on the other hand was a very large feature measuring 1.5m in diameter and 1.52m deep. Neither feature produced any finds.

Trench 10

A single linear feature aligned east-west was recorded in this trench. Gully 17 contained a single mid reddish-orange sandy-silt fill from which no finds were recovered.

Objectives and methodology

Based on the result of the archaeological evaluation a full area strip was requested by the planning archaeologist. The excavation works aimed to excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the area

threatened by the proposed development and produce relative and absolute dating and to establish the character of these deposits and features in order to produce information on the economy and local environment. The specific research aims of the project were to answer the following questions:

When was the site first utilised and when was it abandoned?

What is the nature and extent of the Bronze Age/Iron Age settlement on site?

Do the deposits represent just a single site or are there several occupation areas with re-use of the broadly same location over many years?

Is the settlement or parts of it enclosed or unenclosed?

Is the settlement linked to any formal land organisation?

Topsoil and subsoil was removed using a 360° machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision to fully expose the archaeologically relevant level. Isolated discrete features such as pits and postholes were to be half sectioned as a minimum, if this failed to produce sufficient finds to provide secure dating evidence then full excavation was to be undertaken after relevant recording had been completed. Linear features such as ditches and gullies were to be sampled up to 20% of their length or 10m, whichever was greater, in 1-3m wide slots which were to include all intersections and termini. Any deposits related to funerary/ritual activities (burials and cremation deposits) and domestic/industrial activities (walls, postholes, floors, middens, walls, hearths, ring gullies etc) were to be fully excavated. Sampling strategy was to be confirmed by the planning archaeologist following a site visit with relevant changes made if necessary. Where appropriate relevant environmental sampling will take place according to Historic England guidance (HE 2015). A metal detector was to be used to enhance the recovery of metal finds and spoil heaps were to be monitored throughout the course of the works on site. All fieldwork undertaken will adhere to the CIfA's standard and guidance for archaeological excavation (CIfA 2020).

Results

The full excavation area (0.4ha) was successfully stripped of any overburden down to the mid brownish-red sandy-silt gravel natural geology (Fig. 2; Pls 9–12). The fieldwork confirmed the nature of the archaeological deposits as expected from the evaluation recorded a moderate volume of cut features distributed widely across the site. The majority of the features recorded consisted of pits and potential wells of varying sizes, although a small number of postholes, ditches and gullies were also identified including a ring gully. A few features of

possible Bronze Age date and Roman date were uncovered, but most of the features dated to the Middle and Late Iron Age. A summary of the features recorded on site is given in appendix 1.

A total of 69 pits were recorded on site, the fills, dimensions, form and dating evidence of these features is detailed in Tables 1 and 2. No clear pattern has emerged regarding the location of these pits except for an intercutting cluster (Fig. 4) (Pl. 7). The contents of the pits was unremarkable and surprisingly few artefacts were recorded. Many of these, especially those of durable flint were likely to be residual. Some of the pits were substantial - wide and or deep and could have functioned as storage pits (Figs 5 and 6). Other narrow but deep pits were more similar to wells, though there was no evidence other than depth to support this interpretation.

Table 1: Summary of pits

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Diameter or Length/width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Comment</i>
20	80	1.54/1.41	0.9	Steep-sided, irregular base	1 struck flint
22	83	1.29/0.7	0.3	Shallow bowl-shaped	4 struck flints
23	84	0.4/0.98	0.3	Bowl-shaped	1 struck flint
24	85	0.87/0.4	0.2	Shallow sides	
25	86	1.6/0.95	0.4	Bowl-shaped	2 Bronze Age sherds, 1 struck flint
26	87-8	1.1/1.05	0.65	Beehive	1 struck flint
27	89	2.0/1.16	0.25	Irregular	2 struck flints. Possibly a tree hole
30	96	1.22/0.89	0.35	Bowl-shaped	
31	97	1.05/0.86	0.45	Steep-sided, flat-based	Hazel nut shell and cereal grain
33	99, 150	1.64/>0.49	0.87	Deep bowl-shaped	[Pl. 1]
34	151-3	2.7/1.8	0.86	Deep bowl-shaped	[Pl. 1]
35	1.3/>0.77	0.5	0.5	Bowl-shaped	[Pl. 1]
37	156	1.4/1.25	0.35	Shallow-sided, flat-based	8 MIA sherds
38	157-9, 169	0.9	0.67	Cylindrical	11 MIA sherds, animal bone, burnt flint, iron handle, fired clay, possibly witchert, possibly medieval tile.
39	160	1.1/>0.55	0.12	Shallow bowl-shaped	Fired clay
42	167	0.7	0.12	Moderate-sided, flat-based	[Pl. 5]
43	168	0.8	0.18	Moderate-sided, flat-based	3 struck flints [Pl. 5]
46	172, 189	1.2/1.1	1.0	Undercut sides, irregular base	3 struck flints and burnt flint
48	174	2.1/0.98	0.52	Moderate-sided, flat-based	
49	175	1.96/1.0	0.68	Steep-sided, flat-based	1 struck flint and animal bone, Brick/tile
100	176	1.0/>0.5	0.28	Shallow bowl-shaped	1 struck flint and burnt flint [Pl. 7]
101	177	1.3/1.18	0.5	Bowl-shaped	[Pl. 7]
102	178	0.9/>0.52	0.48	Bowl-shaped	2 struck flints. [Pl. 7]
103	179	0.8/>0.48	0.41	Bowl-shaped	1 struck flint and burnt flint [Pl. 7]
104	180	0.9/>0.33	0.28	Shallow bowl-shaped	[Pl. 7]
105	181-2	1.3	0.7	Vertical-sided, flat-based	[Pl. 7]
106	183	>0.8	0.46	Bowl-shaped	
109	194	0.8/0.54	0.24	Shallow bowl-shaped	
111	199, 250-2	1.6	1.29	Vertical and undercut-sides, concave-base	3 struck flints and burnt flint. Salix charcoal
112	253	0.9/0.8	0.21	Shallow bowl-shaped	1 struck flint
113	257-260	1.58/1.3	1.3	Vertical and undercut sides, flat-based	17 BA sherds, 8 struck flints and burnt flint [Pl. 2]
118	270-1	0.66/0.46	0.2	Shallow bowl-shaped	15 MIA sherds; burnt flint, Fired clay, oak charcoal
120	273	0.99/0.7	0.25	Shallow bowl-shaped	.
121	274-5	>0.46/>0.36	0.75	Vertical and undercut sides, flat-based	1 struck flint.
122	276	1.6	0.25	Vertical and undercut-sides, concave-base	1 LIA sherd; burnt flint
123	277	1.3	0.7	Vertical-sided, flat-based	
124	278-9, 282	0.84/>0.6	0.98	Vertical-sided, flat-based	5 M-LIA sherds, burnt flint
126	284	>1.0/0.89	0.5	Cylindrical	1 BA sherd 2 MIA sherds
127	285	>0.4/0.55	0.25	Vertical-sided, concave-based	5 BA sherds, 1 M-LIA sherd, 1 struck flint
128	286-7	0.83/>0.8	0.54	Vertical and undercut sides, irregular-base	
131	289	>1.28/1.01	0.43	Shallow bowl-shaped	
132	290	>1.6/1.58	0.39	Shallow bowl-shaped	
135	353	>0.6/>0.5	0.38	Bowl-shaped	
136	354	>0.7/>0.37	0.4	Bowl-shaped	

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Diameter or Length/width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Comment</i>
137	355-6	>1.1/>0.98	0.5	Bowl-shaped	2 struck flints.
138	364	0.6	0.27	Steep-sided, flat-based	1 LIA sherd
139	365	>0.4	0.36	Bowl-shaped	
143	369	1/0.68	0.26	Moderate-sided, flat-based	
144	370	>0.57/>0.54	0.28	Bowl-shaped	
145	371	>0.46/>0.34	0.33	Bowl-shaped	1 struck flint
149	375-7	0.8/0.73	0.82	Vertical-sided, concave-based	1 Roman sherd, 1 struck flint and burnt flint, Brick/tile, iron nails [Pl. 3]
200	378-81	1.4/0.9	0.88	Vertical and undercut-sides, irregular-based	6 struck flints
202	383-4	0.64	0.23	Moderate-sided, flat-based	Oak charcoal
203	385	0.59	0.15	Shallow bowl-shaped	
205	387	1.04/0.92	0.46	Moderate-sided, irregular-based	
206	388	1.06/0.87	0.38	Moderate-sided, flat-based	Burnt flint
207	389	0.55	0.27	Steep-sided, irregular-based	
208	390	0.84/0.54	0.18	Moderate-sided, flat-based	
209	391	0.71	0.34	Bowl-shaped	
210	394	1/0.9	0.25	Shallow bowl-shaped	
211	395	0.7	0.18	Shallow bowl-shaped	
212	392	1.27/>0.48	0.4	Steep-sided, flat-based	3 BA sherds, 1 struck flint
216	453-5	0.8	0.7	Vertical and undercut sides, irregular-based	2 struck flints. brick/tile
217	456	0.95/0.9	0.39	Bowl-shaped	
218	457	0.84/0.74	0.34	Bowl-shaped	
219	459-60	0.83	1.21	Cylinder	1 Late Roman sherd
223	463	1.04/0.86	0.32	Shallow-sided, flat-based	7 unid. sherds, 2 struck flints and burnt flint, Oak charcoal
225	468-9	0.89	0.93	Cylinder	1 M-LIA sherd, 8 struck flints, brick/tile
228	476-8	1.2/1	1.2	Irregular undercut-sides, irregular-based	2 struck flints

There were twelve features of considerable depth encountered, as detailed in Table 2 (Fig. 6). While it is impossible to confirm the function of all of these large features, it should be considered that at least some of these were initially excavated as wells and may have subsequently used for rubbish disposal. However, very few finds were recorded unless they were used to dispose of organic material which has subsequently rotted away. An alternative is that the features were simply abandoned and were mainly backfilled through natural processes.

Table 2: Summary of the larger pits

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Diameter or Length/width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Comment</i>
21	81-2, 93-4	1.29/0.65	1.77	Steep-sided, irregular base	2 BA sherds, 2 M-LIA sherds, 12 struck flints, burnt flint,; cereal seed, oak charcoal
29	91-2, 95, 479	1.45/1.3	2.06	Steep-sided, flat-based	1 M-LIA sherd burnt flint, 9 struck flints
41	162-6	1.13/1.02	1.66	Steep, undercut sides, concave-base	1 MIA sherd, 5 struck flints, Brick/tile
107	184-8, 480, 483	1.4/1.3	2.45	Vertical and undercut sides, concave-base	
108	190-3	1.51	2.14	Cylindrical	Burnt flint
110	195-8, 254-6	1.5/1.4	1.93	Vertical and undercut sides, concave-base	8 struck flints
117	267-9, 280	1.77	1.85	Near vertical sides, concave base	
130	291-9, 350	1.9/1.6	2.07	Vertical and undercut sides, concave base	7 struck flints and burnt flint
133	256, 261, 281, 357-63, 481-2	1.59	3.73	Vertical and undercut sides, base not reached	3 BA sherds, 5 MIA sherds, 2 LIA sherds, 9 struck flints and burnt flint. Base not reached
215	398-9, 450-2	1.3/1.16	2.09	Vertical and undercut sides, concave base	7 LIA sherds; 4 struck flints [Pl. 4]
222	464-6	1.15/0.95	1.48	Steep-sided, concave-based	Brick/tile
227	471-5	1.2/1.01	1.42	Steep, undercut sides, irregular base	6 struck flints and burnt flint

Ring gully 1001 (Figs 3 and 5; Pl. 8)

This ring gully was excavated in six slots (115, 119, 125, 134, 201, 204). It comprised two gully segments forming approximately 45% of a circular feature 12.4m in diameter, the two segments measuring 5.5m and 9.4m long. A gap on the east side of 3.4m may have formed an entrance. The bowl-shaped profile of the gully was between 0.4m to 0.6m wide and between 0.16m to 0.3m deep. With the exception of slot (134) which contained two fills, a dark greyish-brown sandy-silt (352) overlain by a mid brownish-grey sandy-silt (351), ring gully 1001 was filled with a single mid greyish-brown sandy-silt (264, 272, 283, 351, 382, 386). Finds recovered include: 22 M-LIA sherds, some cow tooth fragments, a struck flint and burnt flint. The gully was also found to cut M-LIA pit 118 and was cut by pit 135. Charcoal from slot 125 9fill 283) has been submitted to the Chrono Centre at Queen's University Belfast for radiocarbon dating (UBA 53239): the result is pending.

Linear features

Ditch 32

Ditch 32 was excavated in one terminal slot, it had a shallow bowl-shaped form and contained a single fill (98), a mid greyish-brown silty-sand from which three Bronze Age sherds, five struck flints and burnt flint were recovered. The full length and function of this north-west to south-east aligned ditch was unclear as only 3.4m was visible within the excavation area.

Ditch 44 (Pl. 6)

This north-east to south-west aligned ditch was excavated by a single terminal slot which revealed it was 1.08m wide and 0.23m deep. Only 1.68m visible in the excavation area. It had a shallow bowl-shaped in profile and contained a single dark greyish-brown clayey-silt (170) from which 2 M-LIA sherds were recovered. This ditch cut the M-LIA dated gully 1000.

Gully 129

Gully 129 was aligned roughly east-west with a shallow bowl-shaped profile and a mid brownish-grey silty-sand fill (288). Its full length was unclear as it continued under the baulk, it was at least 0.93m long, 0.8m wide and 0.27m deep. Gully 129 cut pit 128. No finds were recovered.

Gully 1000

Gully 1000 was a linear feature with a 90° bend, it was at least 11.4m long and aligned north-west to south-east before turning and continuing under the baulk. It was between 0.23m to 0.65m wide and 0.09m to 0.16m deep with a bowl-shaped profile (Fig. 5). It was excavated in four slots, (12, 36, 40, 45) (Pl. 6). It contained a single

mid greyish-brown silty-sand fill (66, 155, 161, 171) from which, a BA sherd, 4 MIA sherds and a Roman sherd, and burnt flint was recovered. In addition it cut the undated pit 39 and was cut by M-LIA ditch 44.

Isolated postholes

Posthole 224

This circular steep-sided, concave-based posthole also contained no finds. It was 0.29m in diameter and 0.18m deep, it was filled with a mid reddish-brown silty-sand (467).

Posthole 226

With steep sides and a concave base the sub-circular posthole 226 was up to 0.35m across with a depth of 0.18m. It contained one reddish-brown silty-sand fill (470) from which no finds were obtained.

Finds

Pottery by Cristina Mateos Leal

The archaeological work *resulted in the recovery of* 142 sherds, weighing c. 560g, dating to Bronze Age, Middle to Late Iron Age and Roman period. Pottery was recovered from twenty-nine individual cuts, six of which belong to *gullies 1000 and 1001, as well as* sixteen pits and three wells. The distribution of sherds was very uneven ranging from single pieces to a maximum of twenty-nine sherds from gully terminus 134. The sherds are quite abraded with an overall average weight of 3.9g from negative features. There were a few instances of multiple sherds from single vessels.

The assemblage was sorted macroscopically into fabric groups based on the principal inclusions present in the clay, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. Codes follow those recommended in Pottery Standard (PCRG 1997; 2016) where letters are used to denote the main inclusions. Known or traded Roman wares are coded with reference to the National Roman fabric reference series (Tomber and Dore 1998). The entire assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. Freshly broken sherds were counted as single pieces where joins could be made. In addition, rims were measured for diameter and percentage present for the estimation of vessel equivalents (EVE) (Orton *et al.* 1993) and identified to broad form. Evidence of use in the form of residues was noted. An MS Excel spreadsheet is deposited with the archive.

Table 3: Pottery fabrics

	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No %</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>Wt%</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>EVE %</i>
Bronze Age								
Flint	FL/1	Coarse flint-tempered ware	10	23.81	29	30.85	0	0.00
	FL/2	Medium flint-tempered ware	4	9.52	24	25.53	0	0.00
	FL/3	Fine flint-tempered ware	6	14.29	12	12.77	0	0.00

	FL/4	Soft flint-tempered ware	2	4.76	5	5.32	0	0.00
	FL/99	Indeterminate flint ware	19	45.24	22	23.40	0	0.00
	OR	Organic ware	1	2.38	2	2.13	0	0.00
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>100.00</i>		
Middle Iron Age-Late Iron Age								
Sand	SaGY	Coarse grey sandy ware	4	4.12	11	2.49	0	0.00
	SaOX	Fine oxidized sandy ware	3	3.09	1	0.23	0	0.00
	Sa	Medium sandy ware	1	1.03	18	4.08	5.5	17.08
	Sa/99	Indeterminate sandy ware	10	10.31	5	1.13	0	0.00
Sand&Organic	SaOR/1	Sandy medium organic ware	70	72.16	351	79.59	21.2	65.84
	SaOR/2	Sandy coarse organic ware	2	2.06	4	0.91	0	0.00
Shell&Grog	GRSH	Shelly grog-tempered ware	2	2.06	23	5.22	5.5	17.08
Grog	GR/1	Grey grog-ware	4	4.12	27	6.12	0	0.00
	GR/2	Oxidized grog-ware	1	1.03	1	0.23	0	0.00
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>441</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>32.2</i>	<i>100.00</i>
Roman								
	OXF RS	Oxford Red-slipped ware	1	33.33	1	4.00	0	0.00
	BSWW	White sandy ware with black surface	1	33.33	4	16.00	0	0.00
	SaOXSJ	Oxidized coarse sandy ware storage jars	1	33.33	20	80.00	0	0.00
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.00</i>
		Total	142		560			

Bronze Age pottery

The Bronze Age, or at least generally early prehistoric, assemblage amounts to 42 sherds weighing 94g and accounts for 29.8% of the whole assemblage by sherd count. No diagnostic sherds were recorded. Two fabric groups have been distinguished: flint-tempered and organic.

Description fabrics and forms

Flint

FL/1, coarse, fairly, hard, grey flint-tempered ware with brown outer surface. Handmade. Very common poorly sorted crushed angular calcined flint (1-4mm), spare poorly sorted red ore (1mm) and common elongate voids (2mm). No featured sherds.

FL/2, medium, fairly, hard, oxidised flint-tempered ware. Moderate moderately sorted black iron (0.5mm), spare poorly sorted red ore (2mm), very common poorly sorted crushed angular calcined flint (3-9mm), common poorly sorted quartz (1-2mm) and common elongate voids (2mm). Handmade. Smooth surfaces. No featured sherds.

FL/3, fine, medium, flint-tempered ware with variable firing. Very common poorly sorted crushed angular calcined flint (1-2mm) and common elongate voids (2mm). Burnished surfaces. Handmade. Thin walls. No featured sherds.

FL/4, coarse, soft, grey flint-tempered ware. Common poorly sorted crushed angular calcined flint (1-4mm), common elongate voids (2mm) and sparse poorly sorted red iron (4-9mm). No featured sherds. Handmade. This fabric could be Bronze Age or even Early Prehistoric.

FL/99, coarse indeterminate flint-tempered ware. This fabric could be Bronze Age or even Early Prehistoric.

Organic

OR, coarse, soft grey organic ware with brown outer surface. Common linear voids, indicating vegetable temper. No featured sherds. This fabric could be Bronze Age or even Early Prehistoric.

Chronology, site distribution and discussion

Table 4: Early Prehistoric/Bronze Age pottery occurrence by number of sherds per context by fabric type

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>FL/1</i>	<i>FL/2</i>	<i>FL/3</i>	<i>F/L4</i>	<i>FL99</i>	<i>OR</i>
21	81						1	
21	82		1					
25	86		2					
28	90						5	
32	98		1	2				
40	161	1000		1				
113	257							1

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>FL/1</i>	<i>FL/2</i>	<i>FL/3</i>	<i>F/L4</i>	<i>FL99</i>	<i>OR</i>
113	258						10	
113	259		6					
126	284				1			
127	285				5			
133	359			1				
133	482					2		
212	392						3	

The assemblage produced small undiagnostic plain body sherds difficult to date on ceramic grounds other than a Bronze Age period. The flint-tempered wares are characteristic of the Bronze Age on other sites of this area of the Thames Valley (Morris, 2004, 58; Barclay, 2010, 16-7), but FL/4, FL/99 and OR could be Bronze Age or earlier prehistoric (Neolithic). The pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 4

Well 133 produced nine sherds. The presence of a possible Early prehistoric ware (FL/4) at the very bottom of the sequence (deposit 482) means that the well was probably open by this time and then fill up during the Bronze Age and the mid-late Iron Age, due the presence of pottery from both periods, included flint-tempered ware (FL/2), a weakly-shouldered bowl (Sa) and grog-tempered wares (GR/1 and GR/2) from deposit (363).

Middle-Late Iron Age pottery

The later prehistoric assemblage amounts to 97 sherds weighing 441g. Most of this appears to date to Middle-Late Iron Age. It accounts for 68% of the whole assemblage by sherd count. Two main fabric groups have been distinguished: grog-tempered and sandy wares. Overall, the number of diagnostic sherds is very low.

Description fabrics and forms

Sand

SaGY, coarse, hard, grey, sandy ware. Common to abundant frequency of well-sorted, rounded, quartz sand (1mm) and spare black iron (0.5mm). Handmade. No featured sherds. Late Iron Age fabric.

SaOX, fine, hard oxidized sandy ware with dark brown/dark grey surfaces. Abundant well-sorted sand quartz (1mm); rare elongate voids (6mm) and moderate well-sorted black iron (1mm). No featured sherds. Late Iron Age fabric.

Sa, medium, hard grey sandy tempered ware with brown surfaces. Common to abundant moderately sorted quartz (1mm), spare elongate voids (1mm), spare rounded voids (1mm), spare poorly sorted black iron (0.5mm) and rare flint (1mm). Handmade. One jar recorded. Middle Iron Age fabric.

Sa/99, indeterminate sandy ware. Probably Late Iron Age fabric.

Sand and organic

SaOR/1, medium, medium sandy organic ware with variable firing. Moderate, well-sorted quartz sand (0.5mm); common elongate well-sorted voids (2mm), common well-sorted white mica (0.5mm), common to abundant black iron (0.5mm), rare red ore (2mm) and rare sub-angular flint (1mm). Handmade. Burnished and smooth surfaces. One bowl a globular jar and two barrel-shaped vessels recorded.

SaOR/2, coarse, soft organic ware with grey core and brown surfaces. Abundant moderately sorted elongate voids (4mm); sparse to moderate, poorly sorted quartz sand (0.5mm); sparse poorly sorted red iron (1mm) and spare white mica (0.5mm). Handmade. No featured sherds.

Shell and grog

GRSH, medium, soft shelly grog-tempered ware with variable firing. Rare quartz sand (<1mm); common poorly sorted red ore (2-4mm); sparse poorly sorted rounded voids inclusion (up to 1-2mm); common poorly sorted grog/clay pellets (1-2mm); common poorly sorted plate-like voids (1mm) and common poorly sorted shell (1-2mm). Handmade. Smoothed surfaced. Two bowls identified.

Grog

GR/1, fine, soft grog-tempered grey ware. Spare poorly sorted black iron (0.5mm); common well-sorted quartz sand (1mm); sub-rounded grog/clay pellets (0.5mm); common rounded voids (up to 2mm); sparse elongate voids (1mm) and spare well-sorted white mica (0.5mm). Thin walls. Handmade. Burnished surfaces. No featured sherds. Late Iron Age fabric.

GR/2, fine. Same as GR/1 but oxidized ware. No featured sherds. Late Iron Age fabric.

Chronology and site distribution

Most of the assemblage comprises small undiagnostic body sherds. Further sherds occur as residual pieces in the Bronze Age deposit in pits 21 and 127.

Gully 1000 produced three pottery fragments. One from Bronze Age period (FL/2), another dated Middle-Late Iron Age (SaOR/1) and the last one dated to the Roman period (BSWW)

Pit 37 produced seven sherds. The barrel-shaped vessel and a bowl in fabric SaOR/1 date to the Middle Iron Age.

Pit 38 produced eleven sherds. The barrel-shaped vessel (SaOR/1) and a globular jar with upstanding bead rim in (GRSH) dated it to the Middle Iron Age.

Pit 118 produced twelve sherds. The globular jar with upstanding bead rim in (SaOR/1) dated it to the Middle Iron Age.

Pit 126 produced three sherds. The weakly shoulder jar (SaOR/1) dated it to the Middle Iron Age. The Bronze Age fragment (FL/3) is considered as intrusion.

Several features produced are difficult to date on ceramic grounds other than Middle-Late Iron Age due to small undiagnostic body sherds, likely Middle Iron Age due to have the same type of wares as the previous features already mention. These include gully 1001; pits 122, 124, 138, 223 and 225; and well 29.

Well 215 produced seven sherds. The fabrics identified (GR/1, SaGY and SaOX) suggest a Late Iron Age date. Pits 41 and 122 have one single sherd each, but the fabric (SaGY) in both cases point to Late Iron Age date as well.

Discussion

The assemblage dates to the middle to late Iron Age with a dominance of sandy organic wares, accounting for 72.9% followed by the sandy wares (SaGY, SaOX and Sa) at 8.3% (sherd count) and the grog-tempered wares (GR/1 and GR/2) at 5.2%. Overall, the number of diagnostic sherds present is very low but the first group does include globular bowls, barrel-shaped vessels, globular jars with upstanding rim and weakly-shouldered jars. The

only featured sherds identified in the sandy wares is a weakly-shouldered jar (Sa). The shelly sandy grog-tempered ware (GRSH) account by count 2% of the assemblage. It has one globular jar with upstanding rim with a burnished arc decoration. The use of the shell is not common and decoration surfaces was scarce amongst the Middle Iron Age but are not rare in similar assemblages (Mephram 1997, 50; Barclay 2010, 18).

All the types of vessels and fabrics mentioned are common during the Middle Iron Age in the Thames Valley (Mephram 1997, 50; Barclay 2010, 18; Booth 2011, 362-3, 398, fig. 14.6). The rest of the sandy (SaGY and SaOX) and the grog-tempered wares (GR/1 and GR/2) do not have any featured sherds, but similar fabrics are associated with the Late Iron Age (Mephram 1997, 51; Barclay 2010, 18, Biddulph 2010, 21).

Roman pottery

The Roman assemblage amounts to just 3 sherds weighing 25g (2.2% of the whole assemblage by sherd count). There are no featured sherds.

Description fabrics and associated forms

Local wares

Oxon Red-slipped ware (OXF RS). No featured sherds.

Unsorted wares

This group includes oxidized sandy wares that are probably from local production sources:

SaOXSJ: Oxidized coarse sandy ware storage jars. Moderate well-sorted rounded quartz sand (1mm), moderate well sorted black iron (0.5mm) and sparse moderately sorted red ore (0.5mm). Handmade. Smooth surfaces. No featured sherds.

BSWW: White coarse sandy ware with black outer surface. Medium sandy ware with abundant frequency of well-sorted quartz sand (1mm); rare black iron (0.5-1mm) and sparse white mica (0.5mm). No featured sherd

Chronology, site distribution and discussion

Gully 1000 produced one Roman sherd (BSWW). Pit 149 produced one sherd from a storage jar (SaOXSJ). Both local wares (SaOXSJ and BSWW) were in use throughout the 1st to 4th century but due to the absence of diagnostic sherds only a generic chronology of Roman period can be determined. Pit 219 can be considered as more specifically Late Roman due to the recorded of the late fabric Oxford red-slipped ware (OXF RS). The presence of the storage jar (SaOXSJ) indicates a utilitarian domestic activity.

Catalogue of illustrated pottery (Fig. 7)

1. SaOR, Pit 37 (156), Bowl with bead rim.
2. SaOR, Pit 37 (156), Barrel-shaped vessel.
3. SaSH, Pit 38 (159), Globular jar with upstanding bead rim.
4. Sa, Well 133 (363), weakly-shouldered bowl.

Metalwork by Sophie Peng

Two ferrous metal objects were recovered.

The first is a handle, likely from a bucket, from pit 38 (fill 159). One end was broken *in situ* but still recoverable. Both ends appear to be closed, oval loops..

The other is a nail from pit 149 (fill 377). It has a unidentifiable head and is rectangular in section, which suggests it was hand forged thus rendering it undatable as this technology has persisted over time.

Fired clay by Danielle Milbank

Some 106 fragments of fired clay weighing 607g, were distributed in small quantities across a range of contexts, and were generally highly fragmented (Appendix 3). The material was examined under x10 magnification.

Material in two main fabric types was recovered from pit 38 (158 and 159). These comprise five pieces in a slightly weak and friable sandy fabric, with frequent fine and medium-sized voids, and a dark red colour, and the remainder in a friable, weak chalk or limestone rich fabric in a pale pink white colour. The material has no distinguishing characteristics and is not datable, although the five pieces are suggestive of very abraded brick (possibly medieval) and may represent intrusive finds.

The remainder of the fabric is in a medium to soft fine clay with very sparse fine sand inclusions, and very occasional small angular burnt flint inclusions, and is overall unevenly fired at a fairly low temperature, in an orange-red to red-brown colour. This material, recovered from ditch 44 (170), well 108 (191), pit 118 (270), gully 1001, slots 134 (351) and 204 (386), is extremely fragmented, and has no diagnostic features which enable identification nor dating. They may represent fragmented daub or other fired clay material.

A total of 201 pieces of a chalk material was recovered from pit 38 (158), which are recorded as plaster but appear to represent a mixed chalk material possibly representing wychert (sometimes spelt witchert), a form of cob walling used in the medieval and post-medieval periods, usually within the vale of Aylesbury area but with some examples seen in Oxfordshire.

It is proposed to retain the material, though of the contexts with a substantial number of small fragments, only a sub-sample may be retained, in line with recipient museum's guidelines.

Ceramic building material by Danielle Milbank

Brick and tile weighing 1.094kg (85 fragments) was recovered from eight contexts (Appendix 4). These were examined under x10 magnification.

A proportion of the material comprised small fragments which could not be readily dated. Pieces of uncertain date and form were recovered from gully 1000, slot 40 (161), and pit 223 (463) (a mid grey red fabric, possibly Roman in date). Pit 225 (468) contained a single piece of tile 14mm thick, in a fine slightly soft dense orange clay fabric, which is of ambiguous but possibly Roman date.

Well 41 (deposit 163) contained a piece of tile in a fine hard fabric with sparse sandy inclusions and a mid red colour, with grey banding suggestive of fluctuations in oxygen during firing. The form is fairly neat and the thickness is 14mm, and it is likely to be of medieval date. Deposit 166 in the same well (41) contained two pieces of tile in a dense, hard fabric with frequent fine to medium sand and sparse 2mm groggy inclusions. The thickness is 13mm to 16mm and the form fairly uneven, with a rough finish and the edge of the tile slightly thickened. The fabric and form are suggestive of a roof tile of medieval date.

Pit 49 (175) contained three pieces of tile: one in a fine, slightly sandy fabric with sparse groggy inclusions, and a light red surface colour with pale grey core, alongside a piece of tile with a likely Roman date; and two pieces of likely medieval date, one with a small amount of splashed glaze in a pale greenish colour.

A piece of roof tile with a circular peg hole, in a hard sandy dark red fabric, and a further small piece in this fabric, were recovered from pit 149 (377), alongside a piece of tile in a characteristic Roman fabric.

A piece of tile was recovered from the surface of pit 216, again of likely medieval or possible early post-medieval date, with a circular peg hole. However, it may represent a subsoil find rather than a secure deposit.

Summary

The ceramic building material comprises a modest range of material, which represent domestic forms of tile from the Roman and medieval periods. It is proposed to retain all of the material.

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A modest total of 196 struck flints were recovered during the excavation phase of the project with a further 16 recovered during the evaluation. The collection is summarised in Table 3 and detailed in Appendix 5. The raw material is mostly obtained from the local gravel but some flint direct from the nearby chalk is also present. Just one piece is bluish/white patinated.

A number of the retouched pieces indicate a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date (polished axe and serrated flake). Similarly, a few narrow flakes appear to be genuine, deliberately produced, blades using a soft hammer and are most probably of Mesolithic date. However, these are few in number and the remaining narrow flakes are more likely to be accidental by-products of flint knapping in later periods. Relatively few of the flakes would

appear to have been produced using a soft hammer. As such it is thought that the collection as a whole is of later Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age date.

Many of the features on the site produced some struck flint but usually only in small numbers. Given the relative large size of many of these features, none appear to have been used to dump waste lithic material in and there is a distinct possibility that all of the flint in these features is residual. Pit 21 produced the highest number of struck flints totalling just 12 pieces with pit 225 producing 8 pieces. Despite sieving, only a few spalls, tested nodules and core fragments were recovered implying extensive flint knapping had not taken place.

Polished flint axe (pit 227, 474)

The complete axehead recovered from pit 227 was made from flint and was 81mm long, up to 56mm wide and 25mm thick. It flared outwards markedly towards the blade end with a narrow squared off butt. The piece was complete but had originally been more extensively polished and had been mostly roughly reflaked to leave only the blade end polished. The latter had some damage either from use or subsequently.

Table 3: Summary of struck flint from excavation and evaluation

<i>Type</i>	<i>Number (excavation)</i>	<i>Number (evaluation)</i>
Flakes	139	14
Narrow flakes (blades)	13	-
Spalls	27	2
Cores	3	-
Core fragment	2	-
Tested nodule	1	-
Scrapers	9	-
Serrated flake	1	-
Polished flint axe	1	-

Burnt flint by Beth Tucker

An assemblage of burnt flint weighing 3274g was recovered from a total of 25 contexts on site (Appendix 6). Generally only small quantities were recovered from each context (under 300g), though pit 118 (270) contained a more substantial amount at 1720g making up over 50% of the burnt flint assemblage recovered from the site.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from pits 38 (159) and 49 (175) and gully terminus 134 (351). Weighing 61g, a total of 18 pieces of bone were present for analysis (Appendix 7). Overall, the bone was well preserved, with the cortical bone surfaces displayed little damage. However, a moderate degree of fragmentation was present.

A non-descript fragment of long bone shaft, and a small portion of tooth crown could not be identified. One cow is represented by fragments of teeth (molars) and one juvenile individual by the left side of a mandible.

With erupting deciduous dentition and diffuse active new bone formation along the ramus/ascending ramus, the element is likely from a foetal/infant animal. Based on the pointed-appearance of the crowns emerging from the alveolar bone, it could have been a bovid or cervid animal, such as sheep/goat, deer, or cow.

No further information could be retrieved from the fragments of animal bone.

Macrobotanical plant material and charcoal by Rosalind McKenna

Twenty bulk soil samples (with seven hand collected samples) were taken during the course of the fieldwork typically of between 16 and 40L where the feature size permitted. The samples were floated and sieved using a 0.25mm mesh. The flots from the samples were examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x12 and x40. For charcoal, where samples did not contain 100 identifiable fragments, all fragments were studied and recorded, for larger assemblages a random selection of 100 fragments was analysed. Identification was made using the wood identification guides of Schweingruber (1978) and Hather (2000). Taxa identified only to genus cannot be identified more closely due to a lack of defining characteristics in charcoal material.

A total of eleven samples as well as seven charcoal samples are the basis of this investigation. The preservation of the charred remains was poor to fair. The cereal grains were puffed and distorted, and some of the charcoal remains were affected by vitrification. Charred plant macrofossils were present in just two of the samples, both containing small quantities of indeterminate cereal grains (Appendix 8 Table 8A-1).

Hazel nut shell fragments were present within one sample.

Charcoal fragments were present in the majority of the samples. The preservation of the charcoal fragments ranged from poor to good. The majority of the fragments were too small to enable successful fracturing that reveals identifying morphological characteristics. Identifiable remains were however present in five sieved samples, and five hand-picked samples (Appendix 8 Table 8A-1). Oak (*Quercus*) was noted in seven samples and Willow / Poplar (*Salix/Populus*) in three. No sample contained both woods. It is possible that these were the preferred fuel woods obtained from a local environment containing a broader choice of species.

Summary

The deposits from which the samples derive, probably represent the intentional deposition or accumulation of domestic waste associated with fires. The remains show the utilisation of indeterminate cereal grains, together

with hazel nut shell fragments. However, as the assemblages were so small, other than to state their presence within the samples, little of further interpretative value can be gained.

Conclusion

A dispersed group of pits littered the site at Crossways, with very little sign of other occupation features, other than a partial ring gully and three small linear features on the limit of the excavation area. Sites with a number of poorly dated storage pits are not uncommon across the Middle Thames Valley with a growing number of these sites found in recent years, for example, Copyhold Farm Quarry, Hermitage (Beaverstock *et al* 2022); Reading Business Park (Moore and Jennings 1992); and Reading Golf Club, Caversham (Ford 2024). Further afield a dense Iron Age pit cluster at Chineham Park School,. Basingstoke produced very few artefact (Taylor, 2018), ‘Dating these sites is particularly difficult given their finds-poor nature, though dates ranging from the Bronze Age through to the Iron Age have been suggested (Fig. 8).

The pits recorded at Reading Business Park were undated shallow ‘scoops’ interpreted as grain storage pits associated with the late Bronze Age settlement (Moore and Jennings 1992). Though this interpretation initially suffered some sceptical scrutiny, the discovery of further sites of a similar nature in the area suggested that these unenclosed sites were more common than first realised. At Reading Golf Club, a few well dated Middle Bronze Age pits implied a Middle Bronze Age date for the rest of the undated pits in the area (Ford 2024). A Bronze Age date however, does not seem plausible for the site at Crossways given the amount of Iron Age pottery retrieved from these features (although Bronze age pottery is also present, it is in tiny quantities except for pit 113 with 17 sherds). Instead, a parallel should perhaps be drawn with the Iron Age site at Copyhold Farm. As with Crossways, a number of deep, steep to vertical-sided features were recorded from which very little artefactual material was recovered (Beaverstock *et al.* 2022). The function of the pits at Copyhold Farm remained unclear, though it would seem reasonable to suggest that the pits were used for storage and/or for disposing of organic waste which has not preserved in the archaeological record.

The function of the pits encountered at Crossways is also elusive, environmental sampling returned almost no charred plant remains calling into question whether the features were used as grain storage pits. On the other hand, poor recovery of pottery, waste flint, animal bone and fire debris in the lower fills also restricts the ability to argue the pits were primarily used as waste pits. With the excessive depth of some of these pits (the deepest reaching at least 3.73m deep with the full depth not reached) it could be feasible to argue that at least the deepest of them were used as wells, however, during the summertime excavation works the water table was never

encountered and the close proximity of the River Thames (around 750m to the east) also casts some doubt on this theory.

A common theme witnessed at Crossways was the majority of finds recovered from the pits were collected from the upper fills. This could suggest that the infilling of the pits was a natural event with the exception of the upper fills which were rapidly deposited to close the features, possibly at a much later date. The finds recovered from these upper fills belong to a wide range of time periods (from the Mesolithic to the late Roman period) and were likely stray or residual artefacts which unintentionally fell into the open pits. While this does not aid in dating the features, it does allow a suggestion of at worst a late Roman *terminus ante quem* for the features. (An exception is pit 38, all of whose finds came from the middle fill (159), but this contains material from a mixture of periods and is possibly as late as medieval, unrelated to the rest of the site.)

Two segments of a ring gully (1001) were observed towards the south-east of the site. These segmented gullies likely represent either a poorly preserved roundhouse or part of a circular enclosure. Finds recovered suggest a middle to late Iron Age date. Given the arguments above, it is hard to say for certain that this feature was contemporary with the pits on site, though most of the datable pits appear (at face value based on finds) to be of this period. The fact that the two gully segments were found to both cut a middle Iron Age pit and be cut by a small number of (undated) pits would suggest that the site was subject to multiple phases of activity. Ring gully features are a common occurrence in the Thames Valley, with a range of settlements from single roundhouses to more densely populated multiphase complexes recorded. Excavations at Wetstone bridge revealed a multiphase Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age settlement, it was found that at points multiple roundhouses were occupied on the site at a time, though at other times only a single roundhouse would have been in use (Beaverstock 2020). It was suggested that these single stand alone structures may have been seasonally occupied, this too seems to be a reasonable argument for the limited occupation at Crossways. It should also be noted however, that only a small area was stripped for archaeological investigation at Crossways, it is highly possible that further settlement activity could be present in the immediate area.

The site adds to the corpus of small Middle and Late Iron Age sites for the region which consist of just one or two houses without surrounding enclosure, and few other features as at Staff College Bracknell (Lowe et al. 2013) or Matthews Green Farm, Wokingham (Ford 2017). It is though the presence of the dispersed spread of pits that is peculiar to Crossways.

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APPENDIX 1: Feature details

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Phase/date</i>	<i>Comment (Dating by pottery)</i>
1	52		Pit	-	-
2	53		Pit	Late Iron Age	struck flint
3	54		Pit	Bronze Age	struck flint
4	55		<i>Natural feature</i>	-	
5	56		Pit	-	
6	57		<i>Silt patch</i>	-	
7	58		Pit	Late Iron Age	
8	59		Pit	-	
9	60-3		Pit	Late Iron Age?	Form
10	64		Pit	Prehistoric	Struck flint
11	65		Pit	Prehistoric	Struck flint
12	66	1000	Gully	M-LIA	By Association
13	67		<i>Natural feature</i>	-	
14	68		Posthole	-	
15	69		<i>Silt patch</i>	-	
16	70		Pit	Prehistoric	Struck flint
17	71		<i>Natural feature</i>	-	
18	72		<i>Void</i>	-	
19	73		<i>Silt patch</i>	-	
20	80		Pit	-	
21	81-2, 93-4		Pit/well	M-LIA	BA pot
22	83		Pit	-	
23	84		Pit	-	
24	85		Pit	-	
25	86		Pit	BA	
26	87-8		Pit	-	
27	89		<i>Pit/tree bole</i>	-	
28	90		<i>Tree bole</i>		BA pot
29	91, 92, 95, 479		Well	M-LIA	
30	96		Pit	-	
31	97		Pit	-	
32	98		Ditch terminus	BA	
33	99, 150		Pit	-	
34	151-3		Pit	-	
35	154		Pit	-	
36	155	1000	Gully terminus	M-LIA	By Association
37	156		Pit	MIA	
38	157-9, 169		Pit	MIA	
39	160		Pit	-	
40	161	1000	Gully	MIA	BApot
41	162-6		Pit/well	LIA	M-LIA pot
42	167		Pit	-	
43	168		Pit	-	
44	170		Ditch terminus	M-LIA	
45	171	1000	Gully	M-LIA	By Association; Roman pot
46	172, 189		Pit	-	
47	173		Pit	-	
48	174		Pit	-	
49	175		Pit	-	
100	176		Pit	-	
101	177		Pit	-	
102	178		Pit	-	
103	179		Pit	-	
104	180		Pit	-	
105	181-2		Pit	-	
106	183		Pit	-	
107	184-8, 480, 483		Well	-	
108	190-3		Well	-	
109	194		Pit	-	
110	195-8, 254-6		Well	-	
111	199, 250-1, 252		Pit	-	
112	253		Pit	-	
113	257-60		Pit	BA	
114	262, 263		<i>Tree hole</i>	-	
115	264	1001	Gully terminus	-	
116	265-6		<i>Pit/tree bole</i>	-	

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Phase/date</i>	<i>Comment (Dating by pottery)</i>
117	267-9,280		Pit/well	-	
118	270-1		Pit	MIA	
119	272	1001	Gully terminus	M-LIA	
120	273		Pit	-	
121	274-5		Pit	-	
122	276		Pit	LIA	
123	277		Pit	-	
124	278-9,282		Pit	M-LIA	
125	283	1001	Gully	M-LIA	
126	284		Pit	MIA	BA pot
127	285		Pit	M-LIA	BA pot
128	286, 287		Pit	-	
129	288		Gully terminus	-	
130	291-99, 350		Well	-	
131	289-90		Pit	-	
132	290		Pit	-	
133	256, 261, 281, 357-63, 481-2		Well?	M-LIA	BA pot
134	351-2	1001	Gully terminus	M-LIA	
135	353		Pit	-	
136	354		Pit	-	
137	355-6		Pit	-	
138	364		Pit	LIA?	
139	365		Pit	-	
140	366		<i>Silt patch</i>		
141	367		<i>Silt patch</i>		
142	368		Pit	-	
143	369		Pit	-	
144	370		Pit	-	
145	371		Pit	-	
146	372		Possible pit	-	
147	373		Possible gully	-	
148	374		Possible pit	-	
149	375-7		Pit	Roman	
200	378-81		Pit	-	
201	382	1001	Gully terminus	-	
202	383-4		Pit	-	
203	385		Pit	-	
204	386	1001	Gully	M-LIA	
205	387		Pit	-	
206	388		Pit	-	
207	389		Pit	-	
208	390		Pit	-	
209	391		Pit	-	
210	394		Pit	-	
211	395		Pit	-	
212	392		Pit	BA	
213	393		Pit	-	
214	396, 397		<i>Rooting</i>		
215	398-9, 450-2		Well?	LIA	
216	453-5		Pit	-	
217	456		Pit	-	
218	457-8		Pit	-	
219	459-60		Pit	Late Roman	
220	461		Pit	-	
221	462		Pit	-	
222	464-6		Pit/well	-	
223	463		Pit	-	Indet. pot
224	467		Posthole	-	
225	468-9		Pit	M-LIA	
226	470		Posthole	-	
227	471-5		Pit	-	
228	476-8		Pit	-	

APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of pottery by context

<i>Cu</i>	<i>De-</i>	<i>Grou</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>FType</i>	<i>Form Name</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Ri</i>	<i>Dia</i>	<i>Eve</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>CP</i>
<i>t</i>	<i>posit</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>FL/2</i>	<i>Gully</i>			<i>o</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>m</i>			
40	161	1000	P1	FL/2	Gully		1	1	0	0	0	very poor preserved burnished inner surface, smooth outer surface worm	BA
40	161	1000	P1	SaOR/1	Gully		16	4	0	0	0	poor preservation, burnished outer surface, ?same vessel as	MIA
45	171	1000	P1	BSWW	Gully		4	1	0	0	0	poor preservation, burnished outer surface, ?same vessel as	R
119	272	1001	X2	SaOR/1	Gully term	Pedestal base	7	2	0	50	17.5	the body sherds and rim	MIA-LJA
119	272	1001	P1	SaOR/1	Gully term		43	9	0	0	0	burnished outer surface	MIA-LJA
119	272	1001	X6	SaOR/1	Gully term	straight concave pedestal base with pinched out at the circumference	42	2	0	68	32.5	residue inner surface	MIA-LJA
125	283	1001	P1	SaOR/1	Pit		9	1	0	0	0	worn	MIA-LJA
134	351	1001	P1	SaOR/1	Gully term		4	2	0	0	0	poor preservation	MIA-LJA
134	352	1001	P1	SaOR/2	Gully term		4	2	0	0	0	poor preservation	MIA-LJA
204	386	1001	P1	SaOR/1	Gully		8	4	0	0	0	poor preservation	MIA-LJA
21	82	Pit	P1	FL/1	Pit		8	1	0	0	0	poor preservation	BA
21	81	Pit	P1	FL/99	Pit		1	1	0	0	0	crumb	BA
21	81	Pit	P1	SaOR/1	Pit		11	2	0	0	0	smooth surfaces	MIA-LJA
25	86	Pit	X	FL/1	Pit	Flat base	7	2	0	0	0	residues inner surface	BA
28	90	Tree bole	P1	FL/99	Pit		4	5	0	0	0	crumbs	BA
29	95	Well	P1	SaOR/1	Pit		1	1	0	0	0	very smooth surfaces	MIA-LJA
32	98	Ditch term	P1	FL/1	Pit		9	1	0	0	0	smooth inner surface	BA
32	98	Ditch term	P1	FL/2	Pit		22	2	0	0	0	very smooth surfaces, one very worn.	BA
37	156	Pit	B2b	SaOR/1	Pit	Bowl with bead rim	19	1	1	150	7.5	Burnished both surfaces	MIA
37	156	Pit	V3	SaOR/1	Pit	Barrel-shaped vessel	21	1	1	140	6	Burnished both surfaces	MIA
37	156	Pit	P1	SaOR/1	Pit		46	5	1	0	0	Burnished both surfaces, some worn	MIA
38	159	Pit	P1	SaOR/1	Pit		59	8	0	0	0	Burnished surfaces	MIA
38	159	Pit	V3	SaOR/1	Pit	Barrel-shaped vessel	9	1	1	180	6.5	Burnished surfaces	MIA
38	159	Pit	J105	GRSH	Pit	Globular jar with upstanding bead rim	23	2	1	140	5.5	Burnished surfaces, burnished are in the top of the body	MIA
41	166	Pit/well	P1	SaGY	Pit		3	1	0	0	0	poor preservation	LJA
44	170	Gully term	P1	SaOR/1	Pit		1	2	0	0	0	smooth surfaces, worn	MIA-LJA
113	259	Pit	P1	FL/1	Pit		5	6	0	0	0	poor preservation	BA
113	258	Pit	P1	FL/99	Pit		12	10	0	0	0	crumbs	BA
113	257	Pit	P1	OR	Pit		2	1	0	0	0	poor preservation	BA
118	270	Pit	P1	SaOR/1	Pit		8	8	0	0	0	poor preservation, burnished outer surface, ?same vessel as the rim and base	MIA
118	270	Pit	J150	SaOR/1	Pit	Globular jar with upstanding bead rim	8	3	3	0	1.2	poor preservation, burnished outer surface, ? same vessel as	MIA
118	270	Pit	X2	SaOR/1	Pit	Pedestal base	3	1	0	50	17.5	the body sherds and base	MIA
122	276	Pit	Xa	SaGY	Pit	Flate base	4	1	0	0	0.1	poor preservation, burnished outer surface	LJA
124	278	Pit	Xa	SaOR/1	Pit	Flate base	9	5	0	90	12.5	smooth surface, poor preserva-	MIA-LJA

<i>Cu</i>	<i>De- posit</i>	<i>Grou- p</i>	<i>FType</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>For- m</i>	<i>Form Name</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>N o</i>	<i>Ri m</i>	<i>Dia m</i>	<i>Eye</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>CP</i>
126	284		Pit	FL/3	P1		1	1	0	0	0	smooth surface	BA
126	284		Pit	SaOR/1	P1		1	1	0	0	0	burnished surfaces	MIA
126	284		Pit	SaOR/1	P1	weakly shoulder	1	1	0	0	0	burnished surfaces	MIA
127	285		Pit	FL/3	P1		11	5	0	0	0	burnished surfaces	BA
127	285		Pit	SaOR/1	P1		14	1	0	0	0	burnished surfaces	MIA-LIA
133	359		Well	FL/2	P1		1	1	0	0	0	very poor conditions	BA
133	482		Well	FL/4	P1		5	2	0	0	0	poor preservation	EP/BA
133	363		Well	GR/1	P1		26	1	0	0	0	Burnished surfaces	LIA
133	363		Well	GR/2	P1	Neck	1	1	0	0	0	very smooth surfaces	LIA
133	361		Well	SaOR/1	P1		7	3	0	0	0	burnished surfaces	MIA-LIA
133	363		Well	Sa	B25	weakly-shouldered bowl upstanding bead rim	18	1	1	120	5.5	worn	MIA
138	364		Pit	Sa/99	P1		1	3	0	0	0	crumbs	LAI
149	376		Pit	SaOXSJ	P1	storage jar	20	1	0	0	0	smooth surfaces	R
212	392		Pit	FL/99	P1		5	3	0	0	0	crumbs	EP/BA
215	452		Well	GR/1	P1		1	3	0	0	0	poor preservation	LIA
215	452		Well	SaGY	P1		4	1	0	0	0	poor preservation	LIA
215	452		Well	SaOX	P1		1	3	0	0	0	poor preservation	LIA
219	459		Pit	OXF RS	P1		1	1	0	0	0	poor preservation	3/4C
223	463		Pit	Sa/99	P1		4	7	0	0	0	crumbs	Ind
225	468		Pit	SaOR/1	P1		1	1	0	0	0	burnish inner surface	MIA-LIA

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of fired clay

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Feat Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
38	159		Pit	71	487
39	160		Pit	4	16
44	170		Gully/ditch terminus	3	10
108	191		Pit	12	45
118	270		Pit	6	22
134	351	1001	Gully terminus	10	37

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of ceramic building material

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Feat Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
40	161	1000	Gully	2	31
41	163		Pit/well	1	41
41	166		Pit/well	2	177
49	175		Pit	3	116
149	377		Pit	3	166
216	453		Pit	1	37
225	468		Pit	2	33

APPENDIX 5: Struck flint

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Feat Type</i>	<i>Intact Flake</i>	<i>Intact Blade</i>	<i>Broken Flake</i>	<i>Broken Blade</i>	<i>P.Broken Blade</i>	<i>Spall</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Other</i>
	51	Subsoil	15	3	30			5	2	4 Scrapers
20	80	Pit						1		
21	81	Pit	2		1			2		
21	82	Pit	1		4			1		core fragment
22	83	Pit		1	2			1		
23	84	Pit			1(rolled?)					
25	86	Pit	1(u)							
26	88	Pit	1							
27	89	Pit	2							
28	90	Tree hole	1		2					
29	91	Well			3			1		
29	95	Well		1	1					
32	98	Ditch terminus	2		2					Scraper
41	163	Pit/well			2					Scraper
41	165	Pit/well	1							
41	166	Pit/well			1					
43	168	Pit	2		1					
46	172	Pit	1		2					
49	175	Pit						1		
100	176	Pit			1					
102	178	Pit	2							
103	179	Pit			1					
110	196	Well			1					
110	197	Well	1						1	
110	198	Well	2		2					core frag.
111	252	Pit	1		2					
112	253	Pit			1					
113	257	Pit	3		1			2		
113	260	Pit	1							Scraper
114	263	Pit		3				1		
115	264	Gully terminus	1							
121	275	Pit	1							
124	278	Pit			1					
127	285	Pit			1					
130	291	Well	3		1					Scraper
130	292	Well					1	1		
137	355	Pit	2							
133	360	Well	1							
133	361	Well	1		1					serrated flake
133	362	Well				1		1		
133	363	Well	1					2		
140	366	Gully slot		1						
141	367	Silt patch			1					
145	371	Pit	1							
148	374	Tree hole	1							
149	376	Pit		1						
200	381	Pit	2		2			1		Tested Nodule
212	392	Pit			1					
215	398	Well	1							
215	399	Well	1							
215	450	Well		1						
215	451	Well								Scraper
216	455	Pit	2							
223	463	Pit						2		
225	468	Pit	2					5		
225	469	Pit	1							
227	473	Pit	2							
227	474	Pit	1							Pol flint axe
227	475	Pit			2					
228	476	Pit	1		1					
29	479	Well	1(u)		2					

APPENDIX 6: Quantification of Burnt flint by context

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Feat Type</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
21	82		Pit	7
32	98		Ditch terminus	7
38	159		Pit	55
40	161	1000	Gully slot	15
46	172		Pit	24
49	175		Pit	289
103	179		Pit	16
108	191		Pit	45
111	251		Pit	6
111	252		Pit	112
113	257		Pit	192
113	258		Pit	42
114	263		Pit	8
118	270		Pit	1720
119	272	1001	Gully terminus	57
130	292		Well	156
133	361		Well	45
133	363		Well	62
149	376		Pit	18
149	377		Pit	41
206	388		Pit	30
223	463		Pit	215
227	473		Pit	11
227	475		Pit	99
29	479		Well	2

APPENDIX 7: Animal bone

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>No Frags</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Cow</i>	<i>Juvenile</i>	<i>Unident</i>	<i>Comments</i>
38	159	2	6	-	1	1	“ <u>Small</u> ”: mandible (left side – developing deciduous dentition - juvenile); non-descript lbsf
49	175	1	4	-	-	1	Tooth fragment
134	351	15	51	15	-	-	Highly fragmented teeth

APPENDIX 8: Environmental remains

Table A8. 1: Plant Macrofossils

<i>Sample</i>	11	12
<i>Feature</i>	21	31
<i>Context</i>	82	97
<i>Feature Type</i>	Pit	Pit
<i>Phase</i>	Bronze Age	-
<i>Corylus avellana</i> Hazel nut shell frag.	-	1
Indeterminate Cereal	1	1

Table A8.2a: Charcoal (flots)

	<i>Sample</i>	11	15	19	24	25
	<i>Feature</i>	21	38	118	202	223
	<i>Context</i>	82	159	270	383	463
	<i>Feature Type</i>	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit
	<i>Phase</i>	Bronze Age	Middle Iron Age	Middle Iron Age	-	-
	No. frags	12	53	2	100+	300+
	Max. size (mm)	11	9	17	14	28
<i>Salix / Populus</i>	Willow / Poplar	-	4	-	-	-
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	2	-	2	18	100
	Indeterminate	10	49	-	82	-

Table A8.2b: Charcoal (hand-picked)

	<i>Feature</i>	103	125	133	133	228
	<i>Context</i>	191	283	361	362	476
	<i>Feature Type</i>	Pit	Pit	Well	Well	Pit
	<i>Phase</i>		M-L Iron Age	M-L Iron Age	Middle Iron Age	
	No. frags	3	100+	3	4	15
	Max. size (mm)	12	17	19	11	12
<i>Salix / Populus</i>	Willow / Poplar	-	-	2	3	
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	3	100	-	-	4
	Indeterminate	-	-	1	1	11

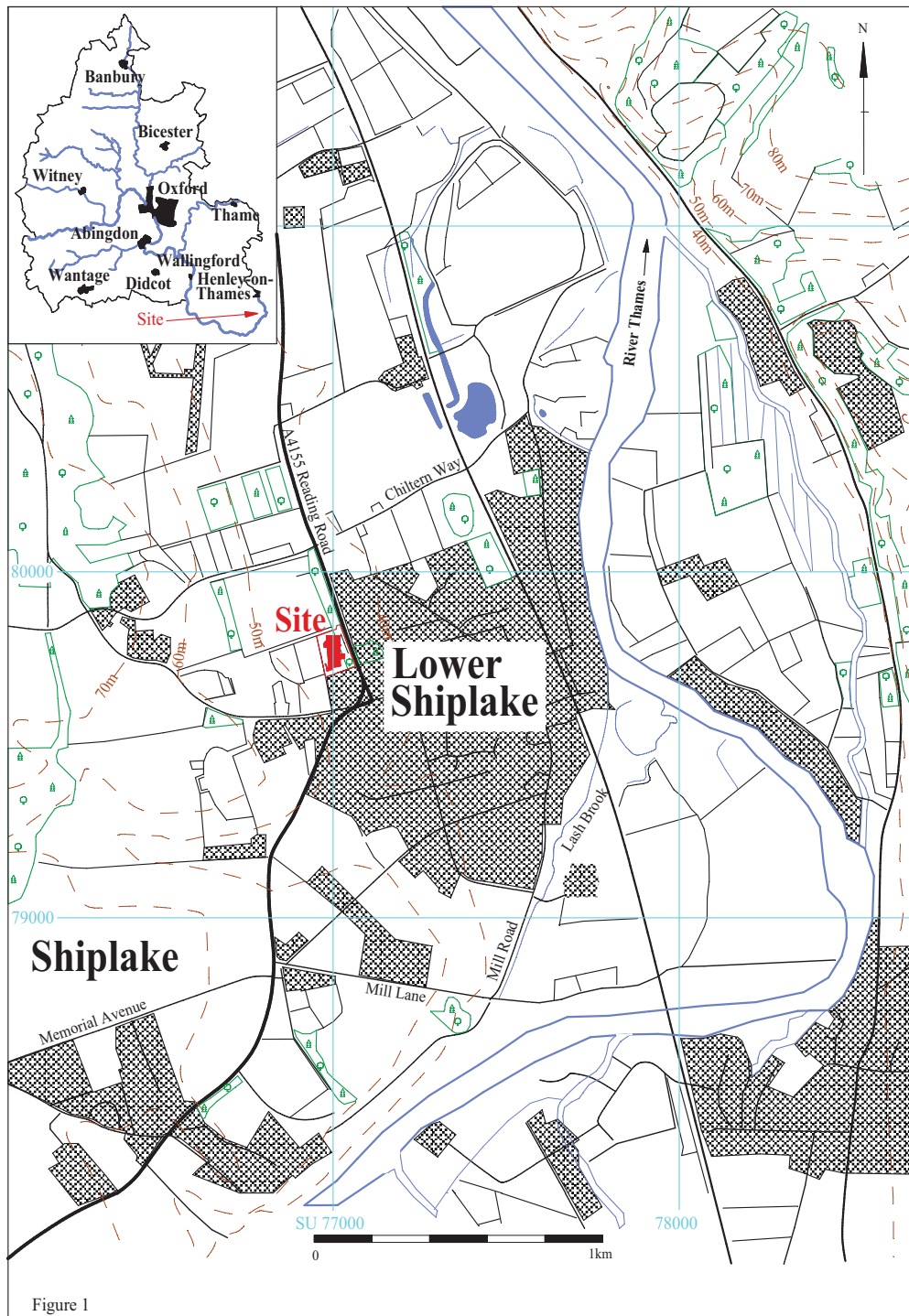


Figure 1

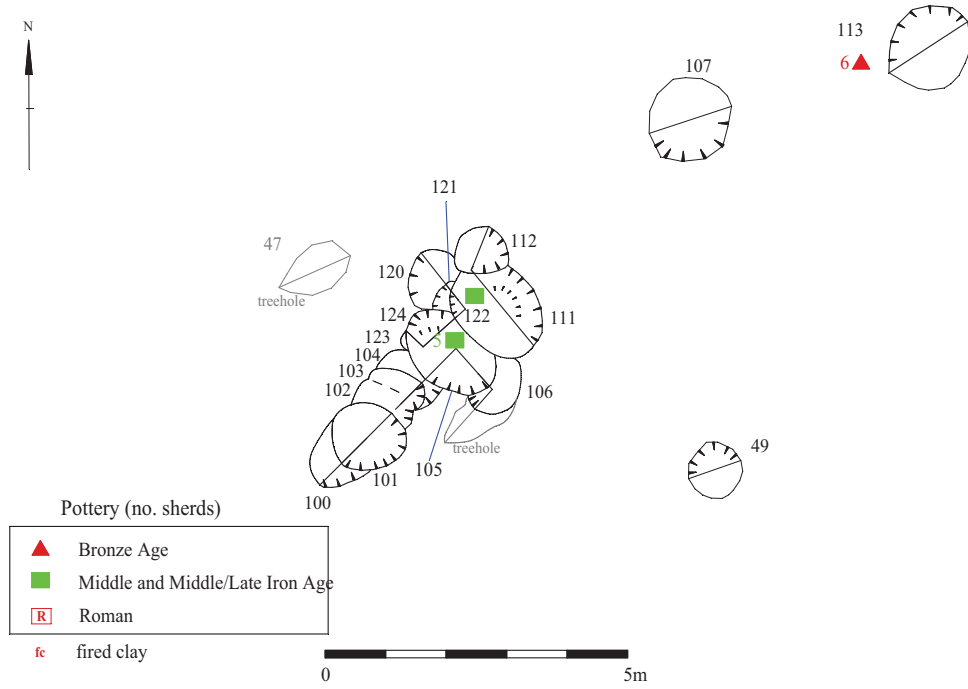
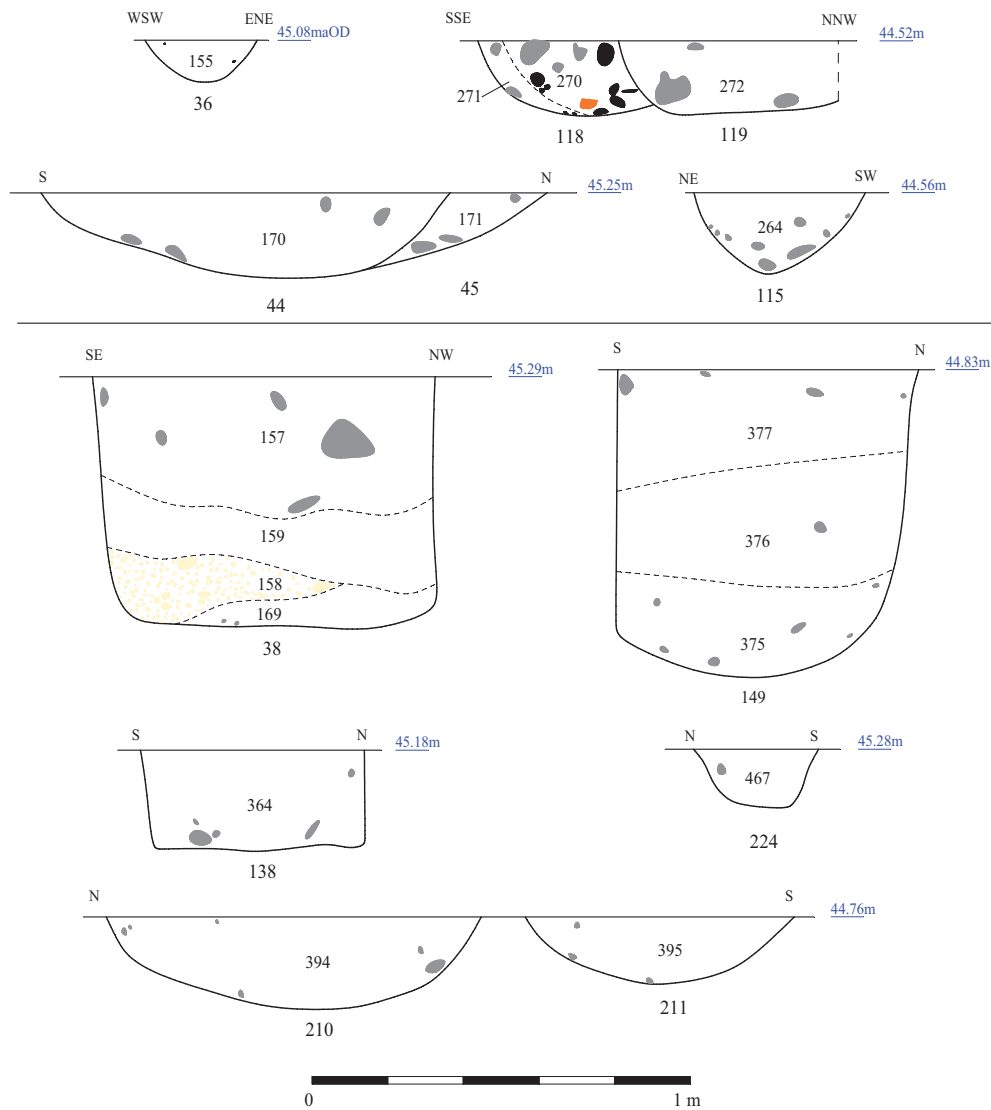
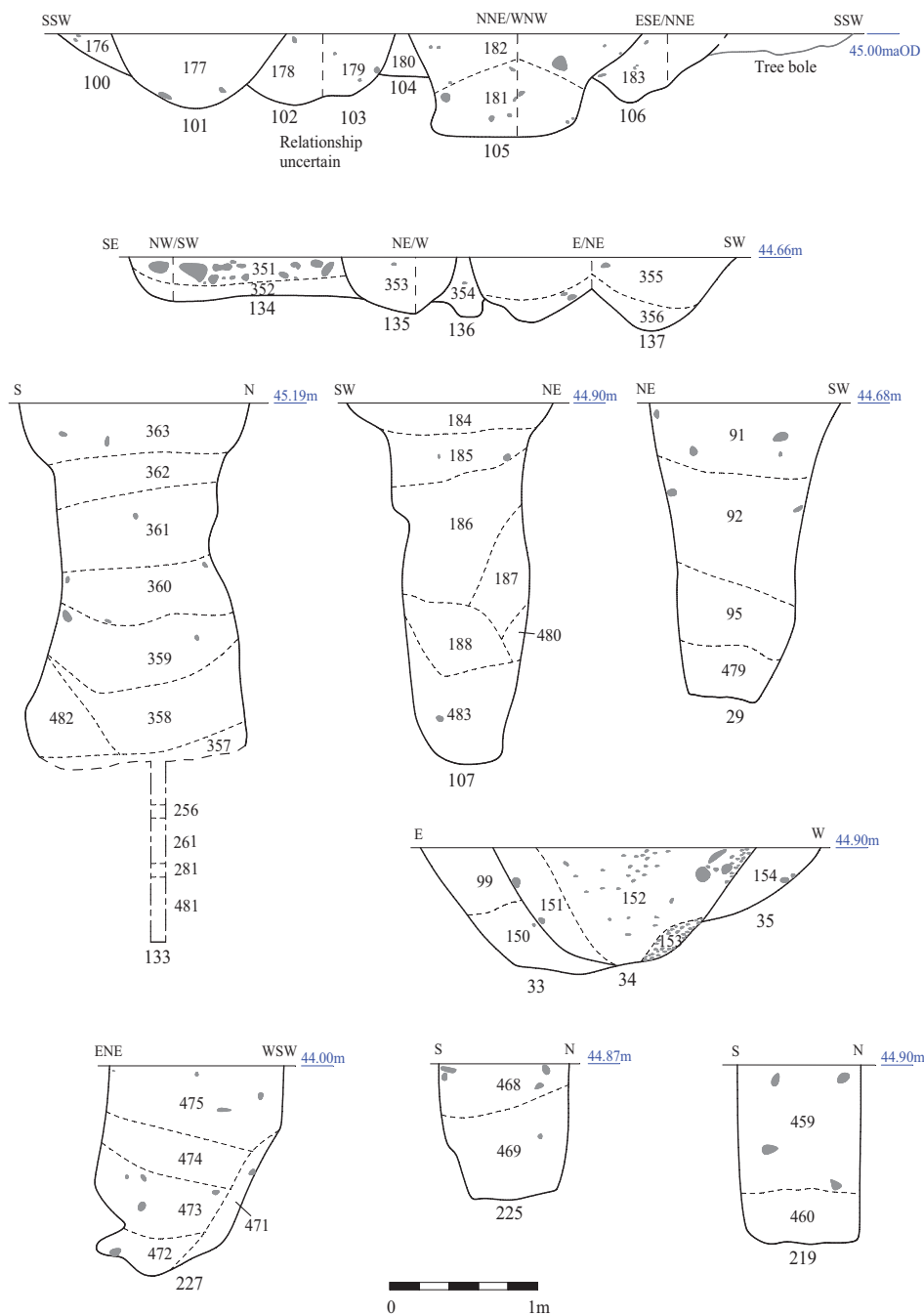


Figure 4 Pit group





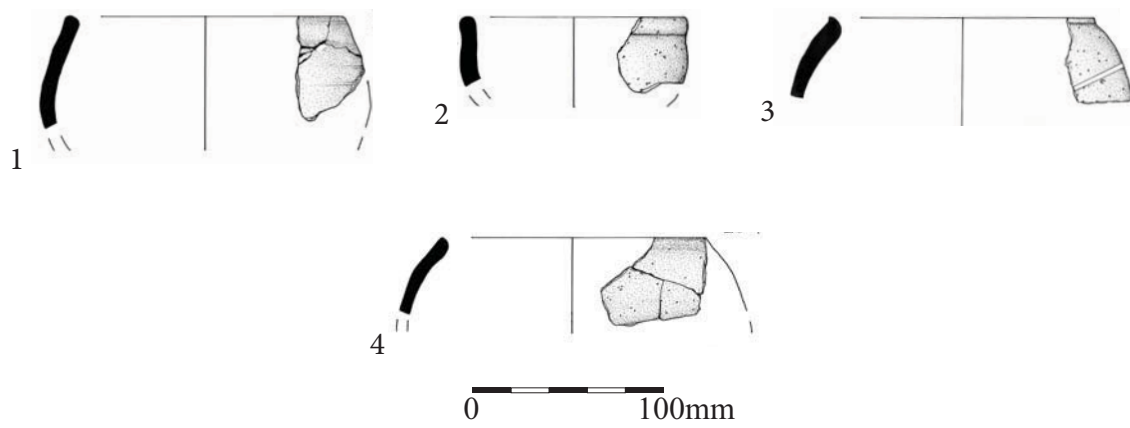


Figure 7 Iron Age pottery



Figure 8 Phase plan



Plate 1. Pits 33, 34 and 35, looking south.
Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Pit 113, looking south-east.
Scales: 2m and 1m.

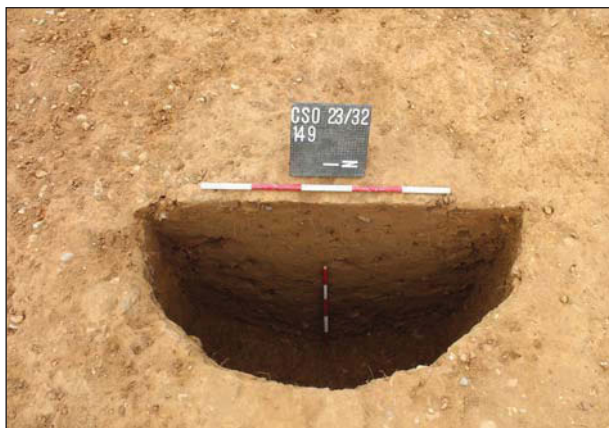


Plate 3. Pit 149, looking west, Scales: 2 x 0.5m.



Plate 4. Pit 215, looking north-west.
Scales: 2 x 1m.

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Shiplake, Oxfordshire, 2024
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 1 - 4.**

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Plate 5. Subject, looking north-west.
Scales: 0.5m, 0.3m and 2 x 0.1m.



Plate 6. Ditch terminus 44 and ditch slot 45, looking west-north-west. Scales: 1m, 0.2m and 0.1m.



Plate 7. Pit cluster 100-105, looking north.
Scales: 2m, 0.5m, 0.3m, 0.2m and 2 x 0.1m.



Plate 8. Ring gully slot 125, looking south-east.
Scales: 0.5m and 0.2m.

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Archaeological Excavation
Plates 5-8.**

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Plate 9. General site shot, looking south-west.



Plate 10. Working shot, looking south-east.



Plate 11. Working shot, looking south-west.



Plate 12. Working shot, looking west.

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**Prehistoric pits at Crossways, Reading Road,
Shiplake, Oxfordshire, 2024
Archaeological Excavation
Plates 9-12.**

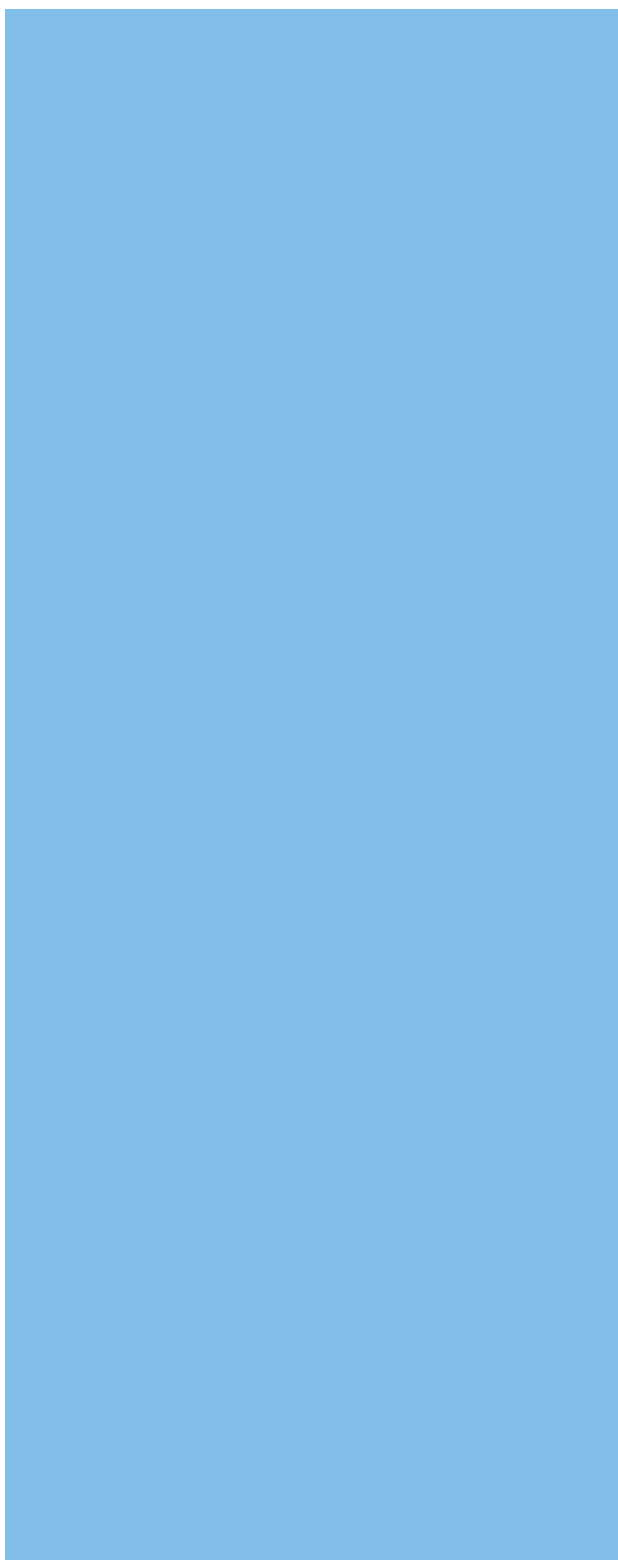
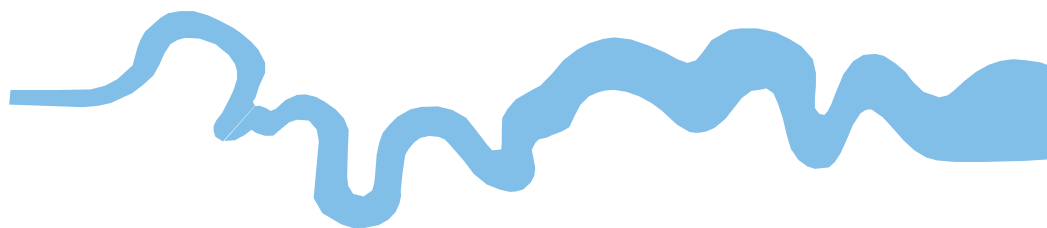
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TIME CHART

Calendar Years

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





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