

Shinfield Glebe, Shinfield, Reading, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for the Diocese of Oxford**

by Danielle Milbank
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code SGS09/22

June 2009

Summary

Site name: Shinfield Glebe, Shinfield, Reading, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 72600 68300

Site activity: Field Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 8th–25th June 2009

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Danielle Milbank

Site code: SGS 09/22

Area of site: c. 9 ha

Summary of results: One principal area of high archaeological potential was identified in the south east portion of the site comprising a cluster of medieval deposits interpreted as an area of medieval occupation. A lesser area of interest comprised that where an undated cremation burial was recorded but otherwise in a zone devoid of any archaeological features. Several trenches dispersed across the proposal site revealed ditches/gullies which were variously of Roman (possible) medieval, or post-medieval date (but some were undated), and which are considered to represent field boundaries in these periods.

Trenching generally in the vicinity of the pond or possible moat, did not reveal many deposits of archaeological interest suggesting that this feature was not a focus for dense medieval activity beyond its boundaries.

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

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Shinfield Glebe, Shinfield, Reading, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Danielle Milbank

Report 09/22b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out Shinfield Glebe, Shinfield, Reading, Berkshire (SU 7260 6830) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned Ms Jo Emmett of Hives Planning, 46 Queen's Road, Reading, RG1 4AU, on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. A desk-based assessment has shown that there is a strong possibility of significant archaeological deposits on the site, and more detailed information from a field evaluation will inform an appropriate strategy to mitigate the effects of development on archaeology.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and Wokingham Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Mary O'Donoghue, Archaeological Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, who advise Wokingham Borough Council on matters relating to archaeology.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Danielle Milbank, Natasha Bennett, Susan Colley, Aiden Colyer and Henrietta Longdon between 8th and 25th June 2009, and the site code is SGS 09/22. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located immediately to the west of the historic core of Shinfield, 3km south of Reading town centre (Fig. 1). The site currently consists of five fields used for pasturing horses and cattle, separated by hedges. A 'moat' is present on the southern boundary of the site and currently consists of at least one water-filled sunken pit in a wooded area (Fig. 2). The site is bordered to the north-west and north-east by lanes, to the east by Church Lane Farm and to the south-east by a modern housing development. The development area is centred on SU 7260 6837. The site is located on London Clay (BGS 1946). It is at a height of approximately 50m above Ordnance Datum and slopes gently down to the north-west. Topographically the site lies on the eastern valley side of the Foudry Brook, which drains into the Kennet to the north. The site covers approximately 9ha.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Hopkins 2009). In summary the site lies adjacent to the historic core of Shinfield, within a broad area where a modest range of archaeological finds and sites are known. Results from various surveys from the air (eg Gates 1975) and latterly by fieldwalking (Ford 1997) have added considerably to our knowledge of the archaeology of this area, and concluded that generally, the London Clay geology (on which the site is located) was not much favoured for early settlement, but certainly cannot be entirely written off. The site probably lies on the margins of the medieval settlement, but from cartographic sources does not appear to have been developed in more recent times. A feature in the south-east part of the site has been shown on maps as a 'moated site', and may represent a manor or hunting lodge complex. However, it is also possible that this feature may be the remains of a post-medieval clay pit. Due to the relatively large size of the plot of land, it may be considered likely to have moderate, generalized, potential for remains of almost any period.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. The specific research aims of the project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any deposits associated with the medieval village are present;
- to determine whether the feature regarded as a possible moat has adjacent medieval deposits; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

It was proposed to dig seventy-two trenches, each 30m long and 2m wide (c. 5% of the proposed development area). The trenches were located to provide a stratified random coverage of the site area, with two modifications. These were the preferential targeting of the areas adjacent to the possible moat, and areas adjacent to the road network to the north and east of the site. This was based on the assumption that these lanes are possibly of medieval origin and that contemporary occupation deposits could be sited adjacent to them (Ford 1997, 31–2). A contingency of 100m of trench was included should this be required to clarify findings made in the initial evaluation.

Results

Seventy six trenches were eventually excavated (Fig. 3). The trenches were excavated by 360⁰-type machine fitted with a 2.10m wide toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. They were hand

cleaned where necessary, and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds. The trenches were excavated in the position and to the lengths intended, with only minor alterations agreed in consultation, with the monitor, as a result of overhead power cables and trees on the site. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. A table of feature details is included as Appendix 2

In summary, the trenches ranged in depth from 0.39m to 0.65m, and in length from 10.80m to 41.45m, though the majority were *c.*30m. Typically, topsoil 0.16m to 0.25m thick overlay a slightly orange grey, friable silty clay subsoil, which was typically 0.15m thick. However, in some trenches at the west and south-west part of the site the subsoil layer was very thin (0.03m). The subsoil overlay the natural mottled orange and grey clay geology, with flint gravel inclusions and occasional gravel patches encountered in some trenches at the south and west of the site, and slightly sandy clay in several trenches at the south. The majority of trenches contained nothing of archaeological interest and are not further described (details are in Appendix 1). Sixteen trenches contained features or possible features of interest (Fig. 4) as follows:

Trench 5 (Figs 5, 7 and 8)

This trench was aligned SE–NW, and was 31.60m long. Here, topsoil 0.12m thick overlay the subsoil (0.27m thick), which in turn overlay the mottled orange/grey clay geology. At the south-east end, a ditch (41) was encountered, irregular in plan but aligned roughly north-south, which was 0.60m wide and 0.35m deep. It did not contain any dating evidence.

At the north-west end, a shallow pit (1) was excavated, which was only 0.07m deep and 1.50m long and 1.0m wide. This was infilled with an orange brown silty clay (50) which contained a fragment of peg tile, and is of medieval or later date.

Trench 9 (Figs 5 and 7; Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned SW–NE, and was 27.00m long and 0.48m deep. Topsoil 0.16m thick overlay subsoil 0.20m thick, which overlay orange/grey clay natural geology with occasional gravel inclusions. A slot was excavated through a gully (2), which was aligned SE–NW which was 0.50m wide and 0.14m deep, with a concave base. It was infilled with grey/orange silty clay and occasional flint gravel which contained two fragments of tile which cannot be closely dated.

Trench 13

This trench was aligned roughly north–south, and was 25.10m long and 0.45m deep. Topsoil 0.17m thick overlay subsoil 0.15m thick, which overlay orange/grey clay natural geology. A possible feature was investigated in this trench, which appeared to be a curving gully (3,4). A further trench (73) was excavated to the west and parallel to trench 13, a slot (5) here showed that these were features of possible natural origin.

Trench 24 (Figs 5 and 7; Pls 2 and 3)

This trench was aligned SE–NW, was 0.42m deep and 32.60m long. Here, topsoil 0.29m thick overlay subsoil 0.07m thick. This in turn overlay the orange/grey clay geology, with several features cutting the clay.

A linear feature was excavated in this trench, which comprised a ditch terminal (7) 0.86m wide and 0.28m deep. The sides were steep and the base concave, and it was observed at the south-west side of the trench. It was infilled with firm, pale yellow/grey sandy clay with frequent charcoal inclusions (56). A small fragment of animal bone (6g) and two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit.

A recut (8) was observed, which truncated the terminus fill 56 from the south-west side of the trench, and extended beyond the terminus end of 7 and beyond the north-east side of the trench. This was aligned north-south and was infilled with 57, which comprised dark grey slightly silty clay with occasional large and frequent small flint gravel inclusions, and frequent charcoal. The ditch recut contained 49 sherds of medieval pottery, two tile fragments and a brick fragment. Burnt flint weighing a total of 1903g was recovered from this deposit. A soil sample was processed for finds and environmental evidence, which contained a further 834g of burnt flint and 40+ small reddish burnt clay fragments (253g).

Ditch recut 8 also truncated a shallow pit (10), which was 0.50m wide in section, 0.08m deep, and 1.09m long in plan. The infilling deposit (59) was friable, pale grey and red sandy clay with very frequent (c.80%) fired clay debris. A soil sample was processed for finds and dating evidence, and contained fragments of reddish burnt clay (29g).

To the north-west, ditch 23 was excavated, which was aligned north-south, parallel to 8/7, with irregular sides and a concave base. It was 0.92m wide and 0.36m deep, and was infilled with 75, which comprised firm, slightly brown/grey silty clay. This contained occasional small flint gravel inclusions and an iron arrowhead of medieval date.

Trench 25 (Figs 5 and 8)

This trench was aligned north-south and was 25.3m long and 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.18m thick, which overlay subsoil 0.26m thick. This in turn overlay the natural orange/grey clay, with occasional gravel patches.

At the south-west end, a shallow pit (39) was excavated. The sides were shallow sloping and the base concave. It was infilled with 91, which was firm grey/brown clay. No datable finds were recovered.

Trench 26 (Figs 5, 7 and 8)

This trench was aligned SW–NE and was 29.0m long and 0.39m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil 0.18m thick, which overlay 0.13m thick subsoil. This in turn overlay patchy orange/grey natural clay. Several postholes and two linear features were observed, truncating the clay.

At the south-west end, a slot was excavated through a shallow ditch (6), which was aligned SE–NW. This was 0.72m wide and 0.10m deep, with irregular, shallow sides and a concave base, and was infilled with deposit 55, a firm, dark orange grey slightly silty clay with occasional flint gravel inclusions. No datable finds were recovered.

A shallow, irregular-sided gully 19 was also recorded on the same alignment, which was 0.25m wide and 0.05m deep and infilled with deposit 68. No finds or dating evidence were recovered.

A total of 11 postholes were also recorded in this trench (13–18, 20, 21, 36–8) which ranged from 0.20m to 0.45m in diameter, and from 0.07m to 0.20m in depth, with the majority *c.*0.30m in diameter and *c.*0.15m deep. The sides were fairly steep (with the exception of shallower postholes 36, 37 and 38) and the bases concave. All were infilled with firm, mottled blue/grey and brown/grey clay, with varying quantities of charcoal present and occasional gravel inclusions. Samples of the infilling deposits of all postholes were processed for finds and environmental evidence. Uniformly black and slightly soft and degraded burnt clay was recovered from postholes 16 (73g); 17 (7g); 20 (28g) and 21 (39g), with a single reddish burnt clay fragment weighing 6g recovered from a sample taken from 21 (72). The postholes were not evenly spaced and their positions did not indicate whether they might represent fence lines and/or a possible structure. No artefactual dating evidence was recovered from any of these postholes.

Trench 27 (Figs 5 and 7)

This trench was aligned SW–NE, and was 27.30m long and 0.44m deep. Here, topsoil 0.18m thick overlay subsoil 0.17m thick, which in turn overlay natural mottled orange/grey clay. A slot was excavated though feature

11, which was a shallow, irregular ditch 0.10m deep and 0.72m wide, and aligned roughly east-west. This was infilled with 60 (mottled orange/brown and grey clay) which contained two sherds of medieval pottery.

Trench 30 (Figs 5 and 7)

This trench was 33.90m long and 0.66m deep, and was aligned WSW–ENE. Topsoil 0.25m overlay subsoil 0.35m thick, which in turn overlay orange/grey clay geology. Aligned SW–NE, a narrow gully (12) was recorded, which was v-shaped in profile and 0.30m wide and 0.15m deep. This was infilled with orange/grey silty clay but contained no finds or dating evidence.

Trench 34 (Figs 5 and 7)

This was aligned SSE–NNW, and was 32.50m long and 0.42m deep, and topsoil 0.19m thick overlay subsoil 0.17m thick. This overlay the orange/grey clay geology.

An irregular ditch (22) aligned SW–NE was excavated, which was 0.48m deep and 0.80m wide. This was infilled with two deposits (73 and 74), and a soil sample of the lower (74) was processed for finds and environmental evidence. A tile fragment (18g) and 6g of burnt flint were recovered from 73 and 74 respectively.

A broad ditch (40) was excavated at the north-west end of the trench. This was also aligned south-north, and was 1.8m wide and 0.60m deep. It was infilled with deposits 92 (orange/brown silty clay), and 93 (brown/grey silty clay). Deposit 92 contained 16 brick and tile fragments (167g) and two sherds of pottery, one medieval and probably residual, and one broadly post-medieval, the latter which dates the ditch to the post-medieval period.

Trench 36 (Figs 6 and 7)

This trench was aligned north-south, and was 29.80m long and 0.50m deep. Here, topsoil 0.24m thick overlay subsoil which was 0.10m thick. This overlay orange/grey clay geology.

A shallow small pit or posthole (24) was excavated, which was oval in plan, 0.16m wide and 0.50m long, and 0.16m deep. It was infilled with 76, slightly bluish/grey sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and flint gravel inclusions. No datable finds were recovered.

Trench 40 (Figs 6 and 8)

This was aligned east-west and was 29.50m long and 0.45m deep. Topsoil 0.13m thick overlay subsoil 0.27m thick, which in turn overlay mottled orange/grey slightly sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions and patches. A gully (31) was recorded, which was aligned SW–NE, and was 0.60m wide and 0.15m deep with

sloping sides and a flat base. This was infilled with firm, mottled orange and pale grey slightly sandy clay (83), which did not contain any finds or dating evidence.

Trench 42 (Figs 6 and 8)

This was aligned SW–NE and was 21.40m long and 0.53m deep, and topsoil 0.24m thick overlay subsoil 0.18m thick. This in turn overlay natural mottled orange/grey clay and sand with moderate gravel inclusions and patches. A ditch (29) was recorded, aligned SE–NW, which was 1.12m wide and 0.23m deep, with sloping sides and a flattish base. It was truncated by a modern field drain and the infilling deposit was mottled mid to pale orange grey clay with no inclusions or finds.

Trench 43 (Figs 6 and 8; Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned SE–NW and was 29.60m long and 0.40m deep. Topsoil 0.19m thick overlay subsoil 0.14m thick, which in turn overlay the mottled orange grey sandy clay geology, with occasional gravel inclusions.

A ditch (25) was recorded in this trench, which was aligned SW–NE and was 0.96m wide and 0.44m deep, with a v-shaped profile. The infilling deposit (77) was firm, mottled pale grey and orange sandy clay with occasional gravel, truncated by a modern field drain, and it contained two sherds of abraded Roman pottery.

Trench 47 (Figs 6 and 8)

Trench 47 was aligned SSE–NNW, and was 31.70m long and 0.52m deep. Here, topsoil 0.15m thick overlay subsoil 0.20m thick, which overlay the natural grey/orange clay with occasional gravel inclusions. A feature (32) was excavated in this trench as a possible pit, which was 1.60m wide and 0.20m deep, with uneven sides and an undulating base. It did not contain any finds or dating evidence and is likely to be a natural feature (tree bole).

Trench 53

This was aligned SW–NE and was 28.00m long and 0.49m deep. Topsoil 0.11m thick overlay subsoil (0.22m thick) which overlay orange grey clay geology.

Two slots (34 and 35) were excavated through a gully aligned SW–NE, which was uneven and varied from 0.68m to 1.28m in width and 0.07m to 0.24m deep. It was infilled deposit 86/87 which did not contain any finds or dating evidence.

Trench 65 (Figs 6 and 8), Plate 4

This trench was aligned WSW–ENE, and was 31.30m long and 0.50m deep. Topsoil 0.22m thick overlay subsoil 0.25m thick, which in turn overlay orange grey/clay geology with occasional gravel inclusions.

A cremation burial was encountered in this trench (33). It was oval in plan, 0.41m (north-south) and 0.28m (east-west) and 0.09m deep. It was excavated in 5 spits of 0.02m, and 100% of the infilling deposit was sampled and processed. In summary, it was found to contain burnt human bone representing an adult (possibly male) individual but no artefactual dating evidence.

A further three trenches (74, 75 and 76) were excavated adjacent to the north side of Trench 65 in order to clarify whether this was an isolated cremation burial deposit or part of a larger cremation cemetery. As a result of the stand-off zone around the oak trees at the field margin, extra trenching could not be carried out to the south of trench 13. Trenches 74, 75 and 76 did not contain any further burnt pits or indeed any other features.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 61 sherds with a total weight of 366g. The assemblage was largely medieval, apart from three Roman sherds, possibly all residual, and two small fragments of early post-medieval material.

The following fabric types were noted:

MSW: *Medieval Sandy ware*. Dense sub-rounded white and clear quartz up to 0.5 mm, rare flint fragments up to 2mm. 11th–14th century? 14 sherds, 291g

NAB: *Newbury 'A/B' ware*. Late 11th – late 14th century (Mephams 1997, 51-2). A range of sand-, flint- and limestone-tempered wares. Sparse to moderate limestone up to 2mm, rounded white or clear quartz up to 0.5mm, angular fragments of white, grey or black flint. Jars bowls and pitchers.

NAC: *Newbury 'C' ware* (Mephams 1997, 52-4). Sandy ware. All the sherd from here are from the decorated tripod pitchers in Mephams's Fabric 21 sub-group, and are likely to be of late 11th – early 12th century date.

M40: *'M40' type ware*. ?Late 11th – 14th century (Hinton 1973). Hard, flint and limestone unglazed ware, with a possible kiln sources at Camley Gardens near Maidenhead (Pike, 1965) and Denham in Buckinghamshire (op. cit. Mellor 1994, 86). Known at numerous sites in south Oxfordshire and Berkshire. 1 sherd, 18g.

GRE: *Post-medieval Redwares*. Mid 16th – late 18th century. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. Probably manufactured at a number of local centres. 24 sherds, 659g.

BOR: *Border Ware* (Pearce 1988). Mid 16th – 18th century. Fine, white, slightly sandy earthenware in a range of utilitarian forms, usually with a yellow, green or brown glaze.

In addition, three sherds of somewhat abraded Roman greyware (42g) were noted. Two occurred in a context (77) which did not produce any later pottery, but they are so small and abraded that they are very likely to be residual. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3.

The range of post-Roman pottery types is typical of sites in the Reading and Newbury area of the Thames Valley and its tributaries, and can be paralleled at a number of sites (eg. Mephams 1997; Blinkhorn 2005, 173). The wares present here suggest that the medieval activity was limited to the early part of the period, probably the 11th - early 12th centuries. The fact that glazed Ashampstead ware is entirely absent, despite being a common find at sites of the 12th century and later in the area (Mephams and Heaton, 1995) offers a fairly secure *terminus ante quem* for this chronology. There appears to have been low-level activity at the site in the mid 16th – 17th centuries, evidence by the presence of the sherds of GRE and Border ware.

The medieval pottery comprises largely plain body sherds, other than a fairly large rimsherd from a jar in Newbury A/B ware, two body sherds of M40 ware with scoring, a typical trait of the tradition, and the four sherds of Newbury 'C' ware, which are from a single tripod pitcher with incised cordons and rouletted applied strips. All the other medieval sherds appear to be from jars. This pattern is typical of the early medieval period, with jugs usually somewhat scarce at that time.

Brick/Tile by Danielle Milbank

A total of 26 fragments of ceramic building material were recovered during the evaluation, weighing a total of 1024g. They were retrieved from 5 separate contexts. The majority of the fragments were tile, but were not dateable. A single peg tile fragment was recovered from pit 1 (50), which was broadly of medieval or post-medieval date. The ceramic building material recovered is summarised in Appendix 4.

Metalwork by Danielle Milbank

A single item of metalwork was recovered from ditch 23 (deposit 75). This was a small iron arrowhead which weighed 7g and was fairly corroded. Its square-section suggests a medieval date but it cannot be particularly closely dated.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

Two pieces of animal bone were recovered from two contexts. A sample of deposit 63 (posthole 14) contained a small fragment (2g) of sheep/goat tooth. A small (6g) fragment of a long bone from an unidentified mammal was recovered from ditch terminus 7 (56).

Human Bone by Ceri Falys

A single human cremation burial was excavated from context 33 (85). The remains were whole-earth recovered in a series five of 0.02m spits. During the post-excavation processing, this was floated and wet-sieved to a 1mm mesh size, with all burnt bone and other associated residues separated for further analysis. The burnt bone was sorted using a sieve stack of 10mm, 5mm, and 2mm mesh sizes, and subsequently weighed. For ease of sorting, the remains were considered in terms of those over the size of 10mm and 5mm, and those under 5mm. The relative weights of these categories (i.e. 10mm, 5mm and smaller than 5mm) were recorded along with the maximum fragment size and colour of the bone (Appendix 5). The degree of bone fragmentation can be inferred by the weight of bone in each category when compared to the fragment size. The majority of bone was larger than 10mm, with a maximum fragment size of 48mm.

All bone was subjected to analysis following the procedures suggested by Brickley and McKinley (2004) and Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). The minimum number of individuals (MNI) represented within the deposit was determined to be one, due to the lack of duplication of the same skeletal element, and the absence of age-related differences in the development of teeth and/or skeletal elements.

A total of 709g of burnt human bone was present. The condition of the remains was generally poor, with a worn and chalky in appearance. The bone was completely oxidized (i.e. white in colour), indicating an efficient cremation process. This demonstrates the skeleton was subjected to fire for an adequate time, sufficient temperature and oxygen supply for the organic components of the bone to be oxidized.

Initial analysis divided fragments into five main areas of the body: cranial, axial, upper limb, lower limb and long bone (unidentifiable to specific limb). A more detailed identification of fragments to specific skeletal element and side was also attempted, where possible. The most frequently identified fragments were portions of the cranial vault, tooth roots, phalanges of the fingers. Fragments of long bone shafts, primarily the humerus, tibia and fibula were also common.

Skeletal age at death was assessed based on a very limited number of observations present, and resulted in a general age classification. This individual was determined to be an adult, due the presence of a maxillary third molar root (wisdom tooth), and all identifiable elements were fully mature (i.e. all epiphyses were completely fused). A more specific age range cannot be suggested. The sex of skeletal individuals is commonly determined through the observation of sexually dimorphic aspects of the skull and pelvis. As no fragments from the pelvis

were identified in any context, a selection of cranial and mandibular traits suggested the individual was possibly male. No evidence of pathological alterations or non-metric traits was identified.

In summary, the burnt bone recovered from context 33 (85) represents a cremation burial of an adult, possibly male individual, with no observable pathological alterations or non-metric traits.

Charred plant remains by Jo Pine

Twenty samples totalling 230 litres were floated onto a 0.25mm mesh, dried and scanned under a binocular microscope. The resultant flots were scanned for the presence of charred seeds and charcoal and the environmental potential of each sample was assessed (Appendix 6).

The majority of the samples were from features which were undated or poorly so. However, cereal and seed seeds were present in a number of samples albeit in low numbers. Charcoal was well represented with the majority of the fragments being over the 2mm threshold. The environmental potential of the site is there given as moderate to high given that the majority of samples contained material suitable for further analysis and this bodes well if further work is to take place on the site, given more dating evidence may likely be recovered.

Conclusion

The evaluation confirmed that the topsoil and subsoil stratigraphy was consistent across the site, and archaeologically relevant levels were present and intact. Gravel-filled field drains were present and in two instances truncated archaeological features, but otherwise there was no significant modern disturbance. Overall, there appear to be four main phases of activity on the site: a possible prehistoric or Roman phase, represented by the cremation burial; Roman activity represented by three small sherds of abraded pottery; an early medieval phase which comprises the majority of the features securely dated by recovered pottery, and early post medieval activity, possibly late 16th century in date.

The cremation burial is not associated with any artefacts and is currently undated. It could be of prehistoric or Roman date. It appears to be isolated (though not all adjacent areas have been examined), with no other cremation burials or deposits containing pyre debris nearby. Similar (and undated) burials are episodically encountered on occasion in both evaluation and excavation trenches with their isolated status confirmed for the latter (cf Taylor forthcoming).

The remaining features in fields 1, 3, 4 and 5 were widely distributed but very sparse, and largely comprised undated and medieval/post-medieval ditches and gullies, all of which were shallow and cut into the natural clay geology. They are likely to represent former field boundaries or enclosures. One ditch was only dated by two small abraded sherds of Roman pottery. They are possibly residual finds, but if not, then the site also contains at least one Roman field boundary.

By way of contrast, the features in field 2, in the south-east part of the site, appear to represent medieval occupation activity, most likely in the early part of that period but with a further possible phase in early post-medieval times. This medieval activity is likely to represent a farm, with ditches and gullies marking land division or paddocks for animal husbandry, and the postholes, though undated, perhaps forming parts of structures. In a wider setting, the location of these features can either be regarded as indicating an extension to the core area of medieval Shinfield village, or, are slightly removed from this historic core, with their location determined by their position adjacent to Church Lane implying a medieval (or earlier) origin for the latter.

Trenching generally in the vicinity of the pond or possible moat, did not reveal many deposits of archaeological interest (and one of these is possibly of Roman date) suggesting that this feature was not a focus for dense medieval beyond its boundaries.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	23.00	2.10	0.40	0-0.08m topsoil; 0.08m-0.32m light orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.32m+ orange grey clay natural geology.
2	31.00	2.10	0.44	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.37m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.37m+ orange grey clay natural geology
3	20.00	2.10	0.52	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m-0.44m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.44m+ orange grey clay natural geology
4	32.10	2.10	0.47	0-0.08m topsoil; 0.08m-0.38m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.38m+ orange grey clay natural geology
5	31.60	2.10	0.48	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m- 0.39m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.39m+ orange grey clay natural geology, Features 1, 41
6	31.50	2.10	0.55	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.45m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.45m+ orange grey clay natural geology
7	22.70	2.10	0.55	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.50m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.50m+ orange grey clay natural geology
8	20.50	2.10	0.44	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.38m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.38m+ orange grey clay natural geology
9	27.00	2.10	0.48	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.36m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.36m+ orange grey clay with occasional gravel natural geology, Feature 2 [Plate 1]
10	32.50	2.10	0.52	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.42m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.42m+ orange grey clay with occasional gravel natural geology
11	21.40	2.10	0.47	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.40m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.40m+ orange grey clay with occasional gravel natural geology
12	41.45	2.10	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.40m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.40m+ orange grey clay with occasional gravel natural geology
13	25.10	2.10	0.45	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.32m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.32m+ orange grey clay natural geology
14	32.50	2.10	0.42	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.38m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.38m+ orange grey clay natural geology
15	23.40	2.10	0.43	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.34m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.34m+ orange grey clay with occasional gravel natural geology
16	33.50	2.10	0.40	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.29m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.29m+ orange grey clay natural geology
17	33.60	2.10	0.50	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.40m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.40m+ orange grey clay natural geology
18	31.90	2.10	0.42	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.32m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.32m+ orange grey clay with occasional gravel natural geology
19	30.10	2.10	0.40	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.31m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.31m+ orange grey clay with occasional gravel natural geology
20	32.60	2.10	0.41	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.31m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.31m+ orange grey clay natural geology
21	40.50	2.10	0.42	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.32m orange grey silt clay; 0.32m+ orange grey clay natural geology
22	30.30	2.10	0.5	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.33m orange grey silt clay; 0.33m+ orange grey clay natural geology
23	32.90	2.10	0.42	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.33m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.33m+ orange grey clay natural geology
24	32.60	2.10	0.42	0-0.29m topsoil; 0.29m-0.36m slightly clay topsoil, mixed horizon; 0.36m+ grey orange clay natural geology, Features 7, 8, 10, 23 [Plates 2, 3]
25	24.20	2.10	0.58	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.44m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.44m+ orange grey clay with occasional gravel natural geology Feature 39
26	29.10	2.10	0.39	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.31m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.31m+ orange grey clay natural geology, Features 6, 13–21, 36–8
27	27.30	2.10	0.44	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.35m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.35m+ orange grey clay natural geology, Feature 11
28	32.30	2.10	0.55	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m-0.5m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.5m+ orange grey clay natural geology
29	10.80	2.10	0.60	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.52m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.52m+ orange grey clay natural geology
30	33.90	2.10	0.66	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.60m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.60m+ orange grey silt clay natural geology, Feature 12
31	21.90	2.10	0.56	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.46m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.46m+ orange grey clay natural geology
32	28.80	2.10	0.48	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.47m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.47m+ orange grey clay natural geology
33	25.00	2.10	0.50	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.40m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.40m+ orange grey clay natural geology
34	32.50	2.10	0.42	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19-0.36m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.36m+ orange grey clay natural geology, Features 22, 40

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
35	27.50	2.10	0.40	0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.33m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.33m+ orange grey clay natural geology
36	29.80	2.10	0.50	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.34m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.34m+ orange grey clay natural geology ,Feature 24
37	29.10	2.10	0.39	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16-0.30m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.30m+ orange grey clay natural geology
38	27.50	2.10	0.46	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.40m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.40m+ orange grey clay natural
39	27.40	2.10	0.43	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.34m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.34m+ orange grey clay natural geology
40	29.50	2.10	0.45	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13-0.40m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.40m+ orange grey clay sand with moderate to frequent gravel natural geology, Feature 31
41	32.70	2.10	0.42	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.35m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.35m+ orange grey clay sand with moderate to frequent gravel natural geology
42	21.40	2.10	0.53	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.42m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.42m+orange grey clay sand with moderate to frequent gravel natural geology, Features 28 and 29
43	29.60	2.10	0.40	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19-0.33m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.33m+ orange grey sand clay with moderate to frequent gravel natural geology, Features 25–7 [Plate 4]
44	29.80	2.10	0.45	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.38m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.38m+ orange grey clay silt sand with occasional to moderate gravel natural geology
45	25.20	2.10	0.54	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.38m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.38m+ grey orange silt clay with occasional gravel natural geology
46	27.50	2.10	0.42	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.48m orange silt clay subsoil; 0.48m+ grey orange silty clay with occasional gravel natural geology
47	31.70	2.10	0.52	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.45m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.45m+ grey orange silt clay with occasional gravel natural geology, Feature 32
48	31.20	2.10	0.45	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.35m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.35m+ orange grey clay natural geology
49	30.20	2.10	0.50	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14-0.38m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.38m+ orange grey clay natural geology
50	30.10	2.10	0.52	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.29m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.29m+ orange grey clay natural geology
51	26.90	2.10	0.38	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12-0.23m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.23m+ orange grey clay natural geology
52	24.40	2.10	0.39	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14-0.31m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.31m+ orange grey clay natural geology
53	28.00	2.10	0.49	0-0.11m topsoil; 0.11-0.33m orange grey silt clay with moderate chalk inclusions subsoil; 0.33m+ orange grey clay natural geology, Features 34–35
54	30.00	2.10	0.39	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16-0.22m orange grey silt clay with moderate chalk inclusions subsoil; 0.22m+ orange grey clay natural geology
55	29.90	2.10	0.48	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.41m orange grey silt clay with moderate chalk inclusions subsoil; 0.41m+ orange grey clay natural geology
56	33.60	2.10	0.40	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14-0.29m orange grey silt clay with moderate chalk inclusions subsoil; 0.29m+ orange grey clay natural geology
57	29.20	2.10	0.46	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.31m orange grey silt clay with moderate chalk inclusions subsoil; 0.31m+ orange grey clay natural geology
58	30.60	2.10	0.45	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16-0.25m orange grey silt clay with moderate chalk inclusions subsoil; 0.25m+ orange grey clay with moderate chalk natural geology
59	33.10	2.10	0.50	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.40m orange grey silt clay with moderate chalk inclusions subsoil; 0.40m+ orange grey clay with moderate chalk natural geology
60	33.20	2.10	0.47	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.35m orange grey silt clay with occasional chalk inclusions subsoil; 0.35m+ orange grey clay natural geology
61	30.20	2.10	0.43	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.33m orange grey silt clay with occasional chalk inclusions subsoil; 0.33m+ grey orange clay natural geology
62	30.10	2.10	0.40	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16-0.30m orange grey silt clay with occasional to moderate chalk inclusions subsoil; 0.30m+ orange grey clay natural geology
63	28.90	2.10	0.49	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.38m orange grey silt clay with occasional chalk inclusions subsoil; 0.38m+ orange grey clay natural geology
64	30.50	2.10	0.48	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19-0.39m orange grey silt clay with occasional to moderate chalk inclusions subsoil; 0.39m+ orange grey clay with occasional gravel natural geology
65	31.30	2.10	0.50	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.47m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.47m+ orange grey clay with occasional gravel natural geology, Feature 33
66	32.10	2.10	0.40	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.31m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.31m+ orange grey clay natural geology
67	22.00	2.10	0.42	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14-0.32m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.32m+ orange grey clay natural geology
68	28.70	2.10	0.38	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.29m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.29m+ orange grey clay natural geology

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
69	22.00	2.10	0.50	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.30m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.30m+ orange grey clay natural geology
70	30.50	2.10	0.42	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12-0.38m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.38m+ orange grey clay with occasional sandy gravel natural geology
71	30.70	2.10	0.50	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13-0.43m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.43m+ orange grey clay with occasional gravel and sand natural geology
72	34.40	2.10	0.40	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12-0.38m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.38m+ orange grey clay with occasional sand and gravel natural geology
73	4.90	2.10	0.20	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.45m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.45m+ orange grey clay natural geology, Feature 5
74	6.50	2.10	0.39	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.30m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.30m+ orange grey clay natural geology
75	6.70	2.10	0.38	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.31m orange grey silt clay subsoil; 0.31m+ orange grey clay natural geology
76	7.00	2.10	0.39	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.30m orange grey silt clay subsoil;0.30m+ orange grey clay natural geology

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
5	1	50	Pit	Medieval or later	Peg tile
9	2	51	Gully	Medieval or later	Tile
26	6	55	Ditch	Undated	
24	7	56	Ditch terminal	Medieval (Early?)	Pottery
24	8	57	Ditch	Medieval (Early?)	Pottery
24	10	59	Pit	Undated	
27	11	60	Ditch	Medieval (Early?)	Pottery
30	12	61	Gully	Undated	
26	13	62	Posthole	Undated	
26	14	63	Posthole	Undated	
26	15	64	Posthole	Undated	
26	16	65	Posthole	Undated	
26	17	66	Posthole	Undated	
26	18	67	Posthole	Undated	
26	19	68	Gully terminal	Undated	
26	20	69	Posthole	Undated	
26	21	70, 7, 72	Posthole	Undated	
34	22	73, 74	Ditch	Medieval or later	Tile
24	23	75	Ditch	Undated	
36	24	88	Pit/Posthole	Undated	
43	25	77	Gully	Roman?	Pottery (abraded)
43	27	79	Gully	Undated	
42	28	80	Gully	Undated	
42	29	81	Ditch	Undated	
40	31	83	Ditch	Undated	
47	32	84	Pit/ tree bole	Undated	
65	33	85	Cremation	Undated	
53	34	86	Gully	Undated	
53	35	87	Gully	Undated	
26	36	88	Posthole	Undated	
26	37	89	Posthole	Undated	
26	38	90	Posthole	Undated	
34	40	92, 93	Ditch	16th century	Pottery
5	41	94	Gully	Undated	

APPENDIX 3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Roman</i>		<i>NAB</i>		<i>MSW</i>		<i>M40</i>		<i>NEWC</i>		<i>GRE</i>		<i>BOR</i>	
			<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>
	7	56			1	7	1	4								
	8	57			29	152	15	84	2	10	4	20				
	11	60					2	2								
	25	77	2	2												
	40	92					1	12					1	6		
24		U/S					1	16								
31		U/S	1	40											1	11
		Total	3	42	30	159	20	118	2	10	4	20	1	6	1	11

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of ceramic building materials

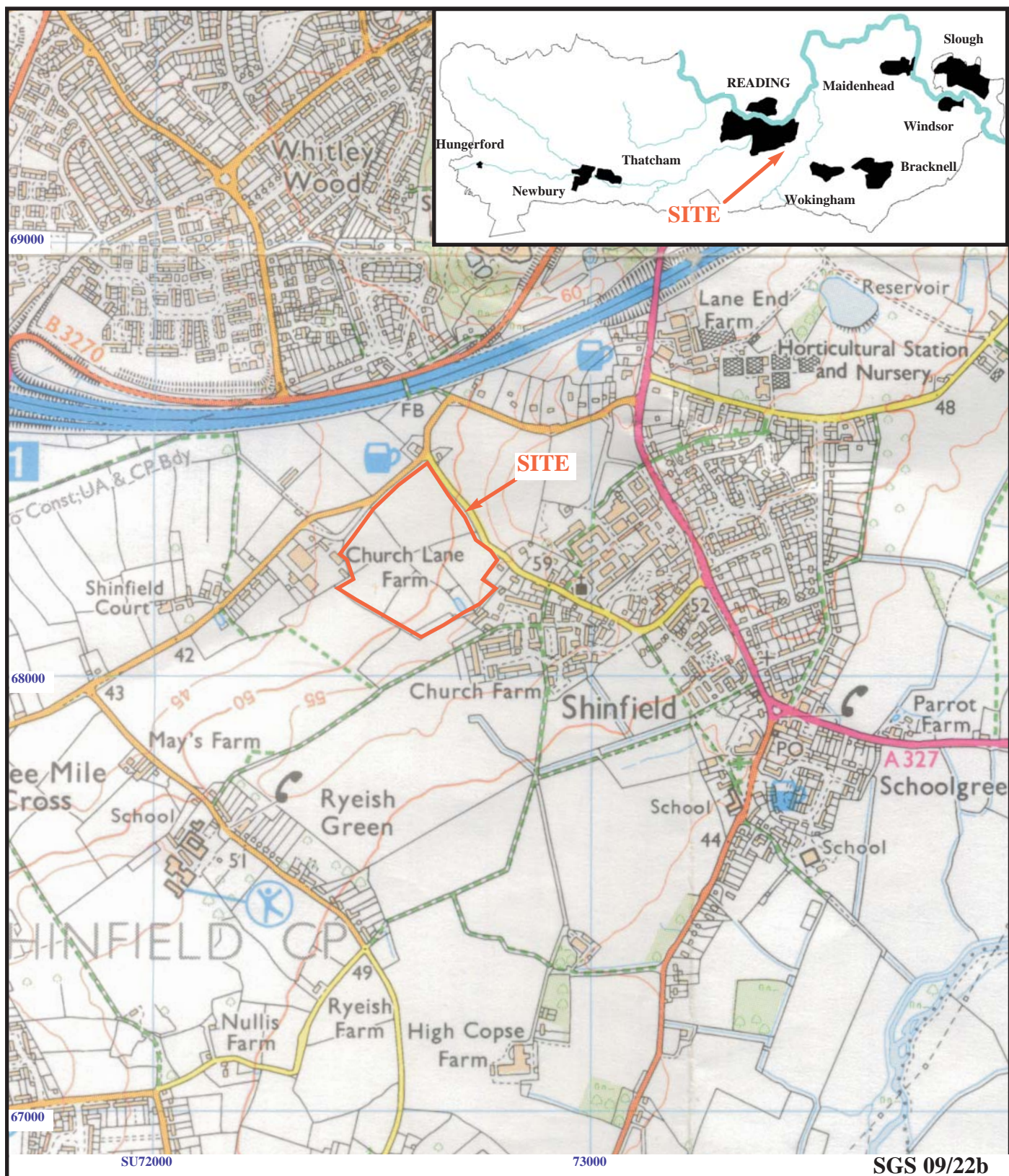
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	50	5	Pit	4	150	Tile, incl. 1 x peg tile
2	51	9	Gully	2	124	Tile
8	57	24	Ditch recut	3	565	2x tile, 1 x brick
22	73	34	Ditch	1	18	Tile
40	92	34	Ditch	16	167	Tile

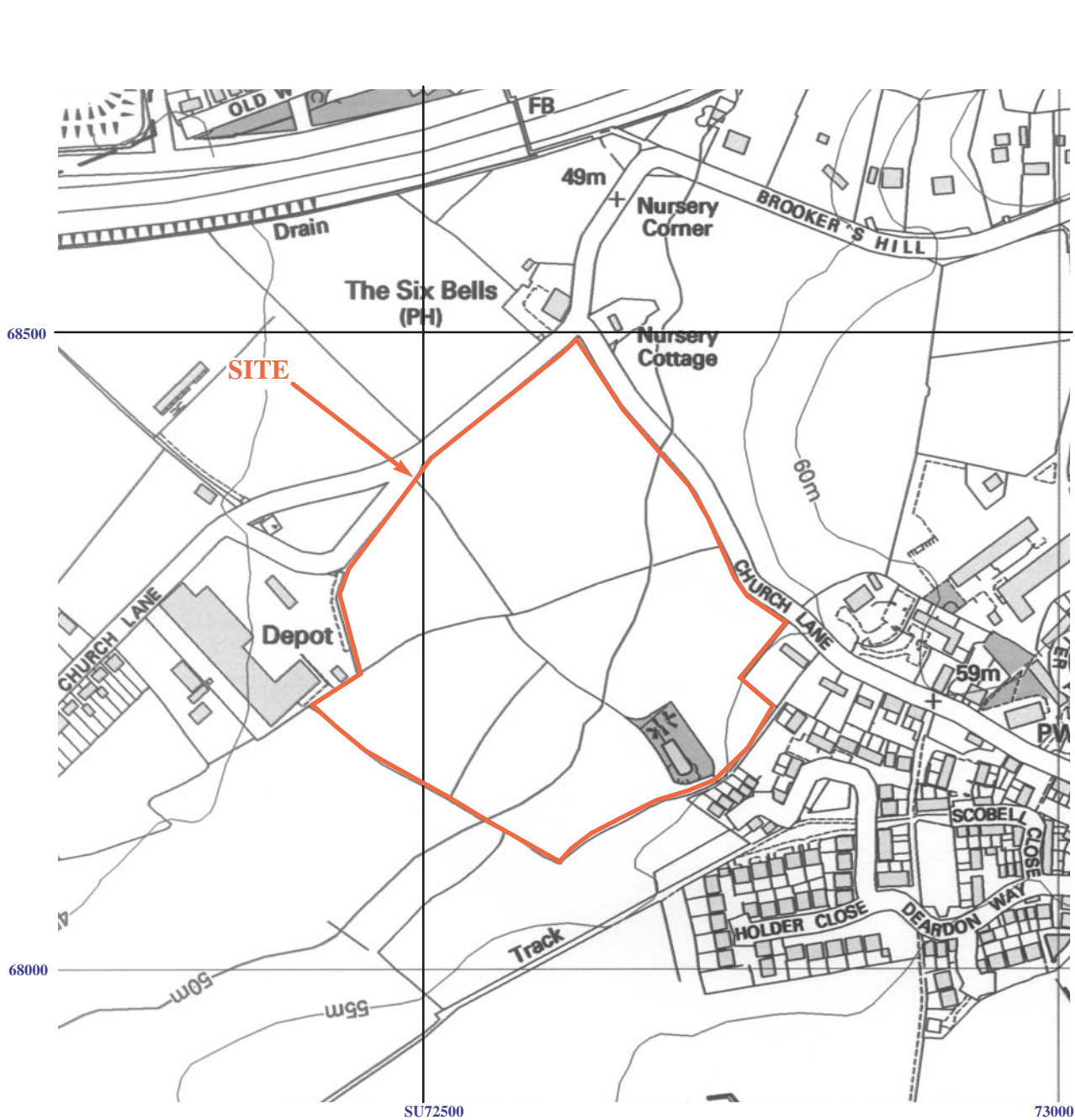
APPENDIX 5: Summary of burnt human remains in context 33 (85) <16>

<i>Bone Colour</i>	<i>Max Frag Size (mm)</i>	<i>Total Human (g)</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>10mm</i>		<i>5mm</i>		<i><5mm</i>	
					(g)	(%)	(g)	(%)	(g)	(%)
White	48	709	Adult	M??	314	44.3	201	28.3	194	27.4

APPENDIX 6: Charred plant remains

Cut	Deposit	Type	Area	Sample No	cereal	weed seeds	Charcoal	Potential
8	57	Ditch recut	Tr24	3			Moderate	Moderate
10	59	Pit	Tr24	4 Y		Y	Moderate	High
22	74	Ditch	Tr34	5				Low
13	62	Posthole	Tr26	6 Y			Frequent	High
14	63	Posthole	Tr26	7			Moderate	Mod
15	64	Posthole	Tr26	8 Y		Y	Frequent	High
16	65	Posthole	Tr26	9		Y	Occasional	Mod
17	66	Posthole	Tr26	10		Y	Moderate	Moderate
18	67	Posthole	Tr26	11			Occasional	Low
19	68	Gully	Tr26	12				Low
20	69	Posthole	Tr26	13		Y	Frequent	High
21	70	Posthole	Tr26	14		Y	Frequent	High
21	72	Posthole	Tr26	15		Y	Frequent	High
33	85	Burnt pit	Tr65	16			Moderate	Moderate
35	87	Gully slot	Tr53	17				Low
25	77	Gully	Tr43	18			Occasional	Low
31	83	Ditch	Tr40	19			Rare	Low
36	88	Posthole	Tr26	20		Y	Frequent	High
37	89	Posthole	Tr26	21 Y			Frequent	High
38	90	Posthole	Tr26	22			Rare	Low





SGS 09/22b

**Shinfield Glebe, Church Lane,
Shinfield, Berkshire, 2009
Archaeological evaluation**

Figure 2. Location of site off Church Lane.

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THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

Shinfield Glebe, Church Lane, Shinfield, Berkshire, 2009

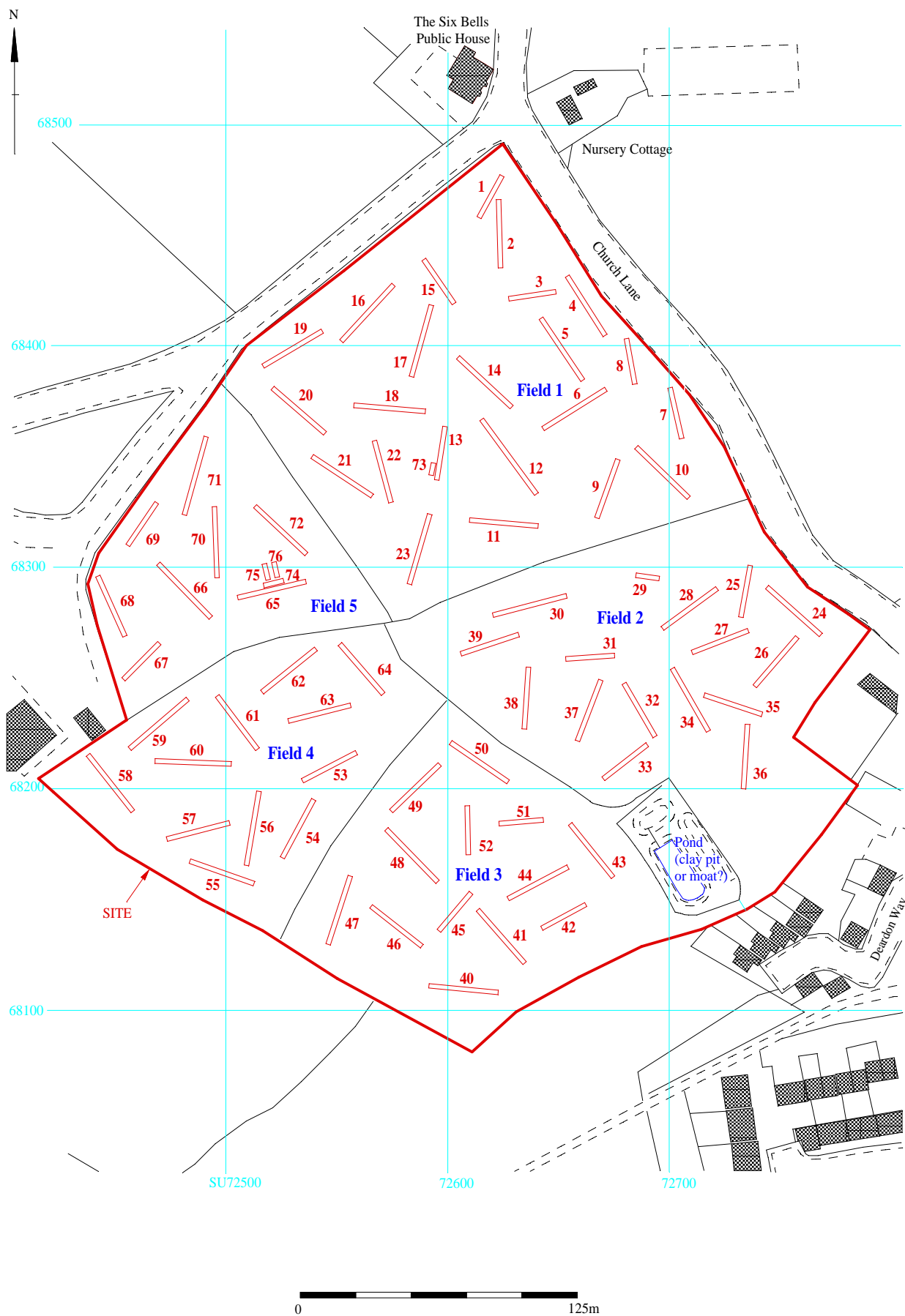


Figure 3. Location of trenches.

Shinfield Glebe, Church Lane, Shinfield, Berkshire, 2009

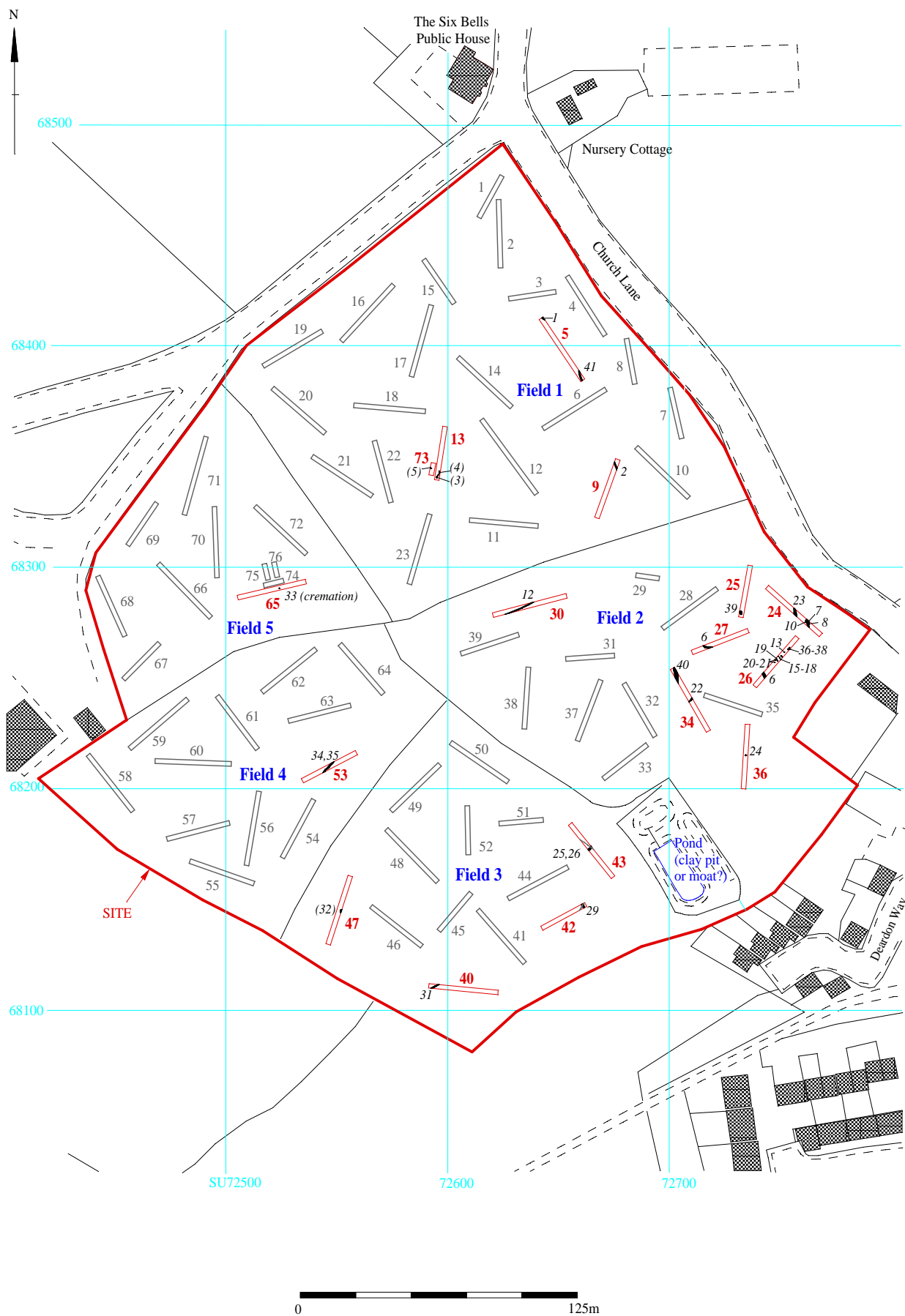


Figure 4. Location of features (doubtful ones on brackets).

Shinfield Glebe, Church Lane, Shinfield, Berkshire, 2009

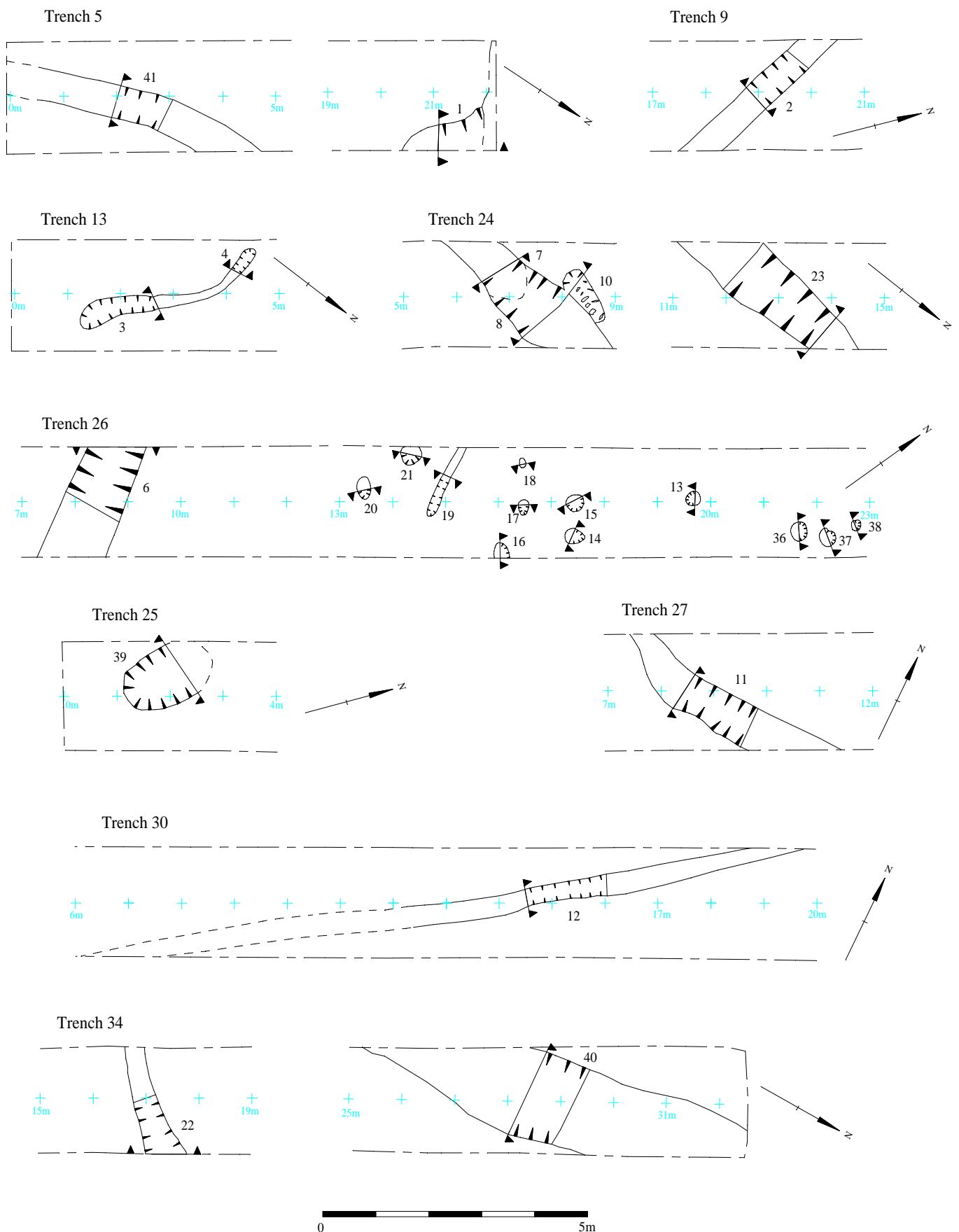


Figure 5. Detail of trenches.

Shinfield Glebe, Church Lane, Shinfield, Berkshire, 2009

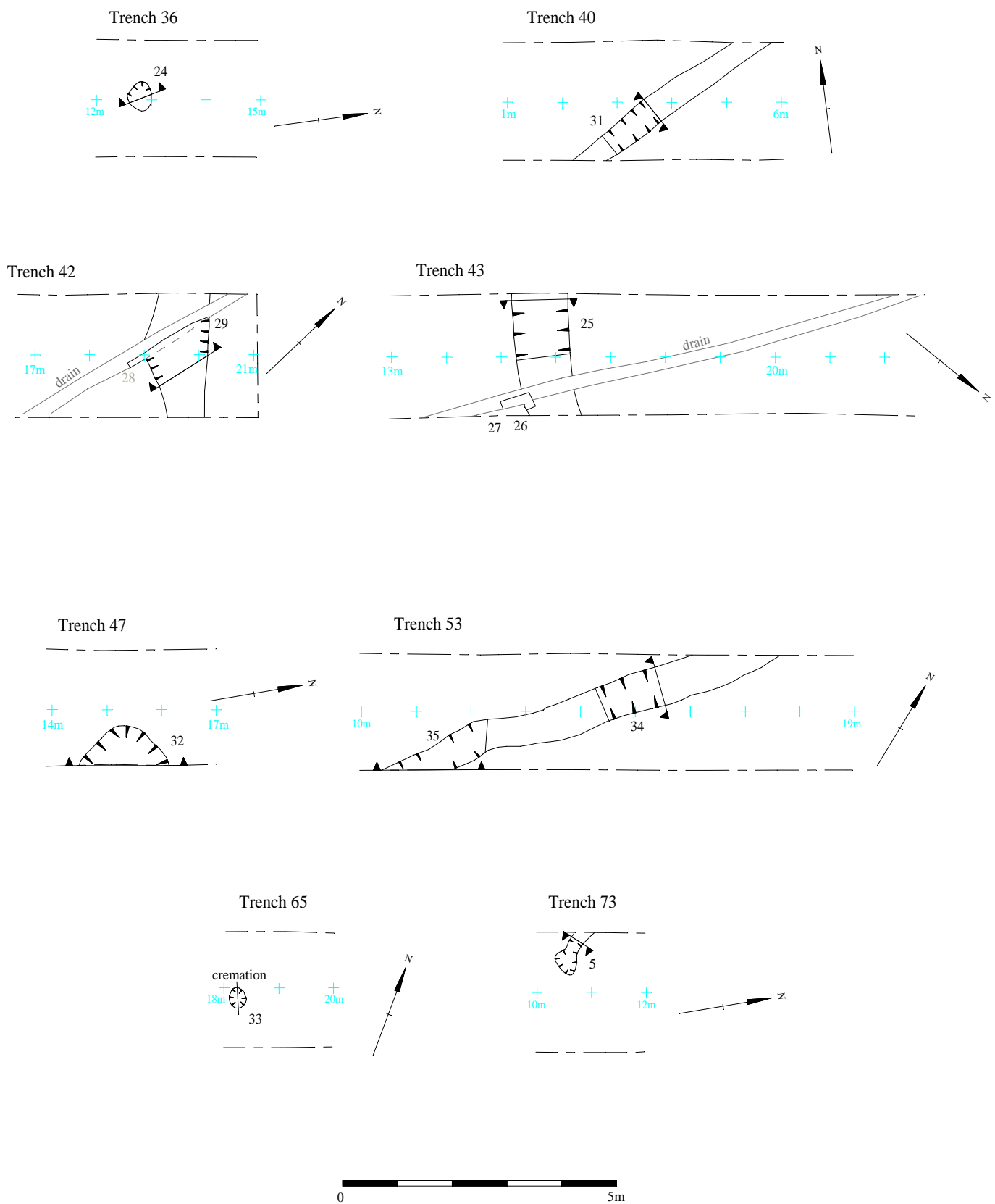


Figure 6. Detail of trenches (continued).

Shinfield Glebe, Church Lane, Shinfield, Berkshire, 2009

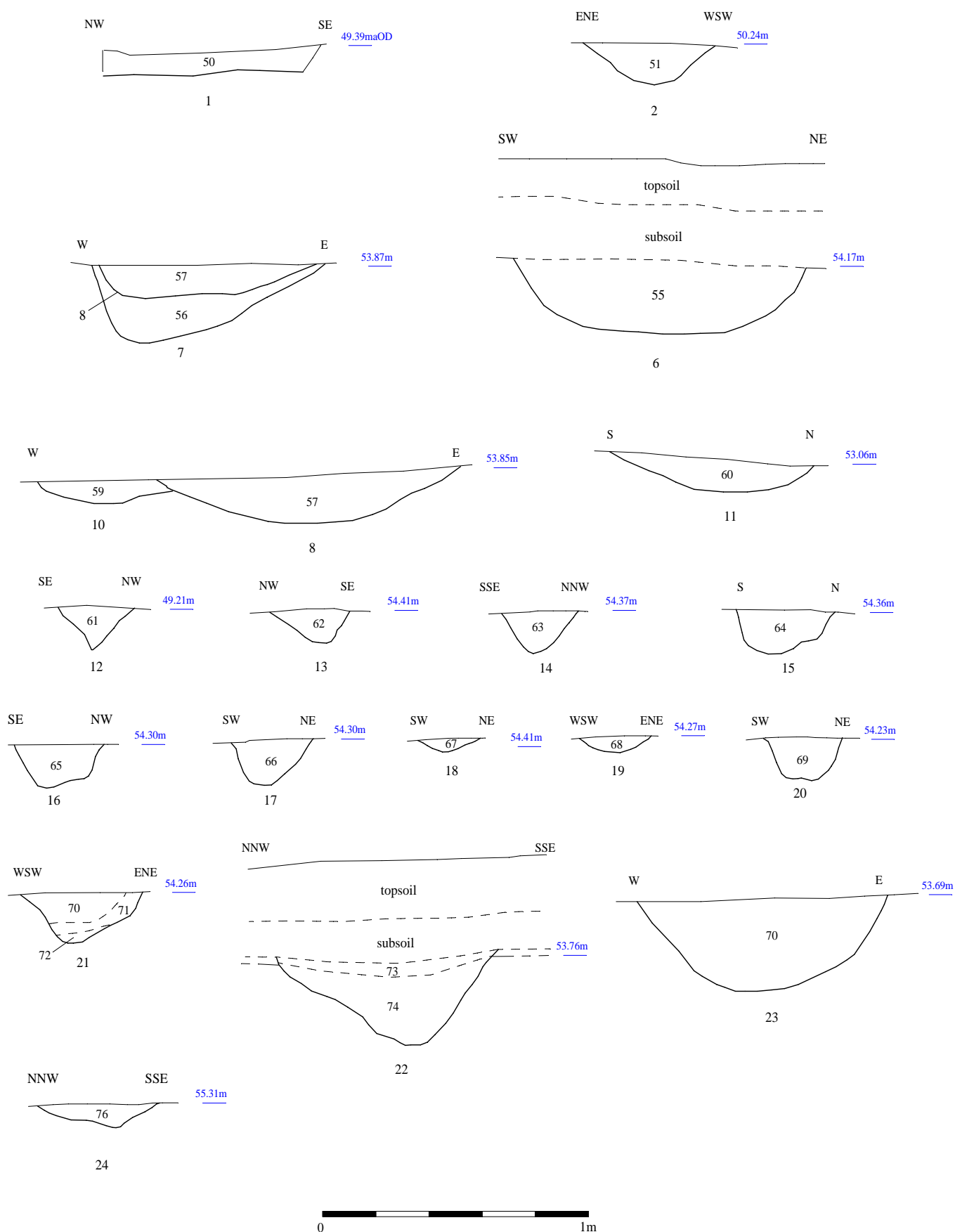


Figure 7 Sections.

Shinfield Glebe, Church Lane, Shinfield, Berkshire, 2009

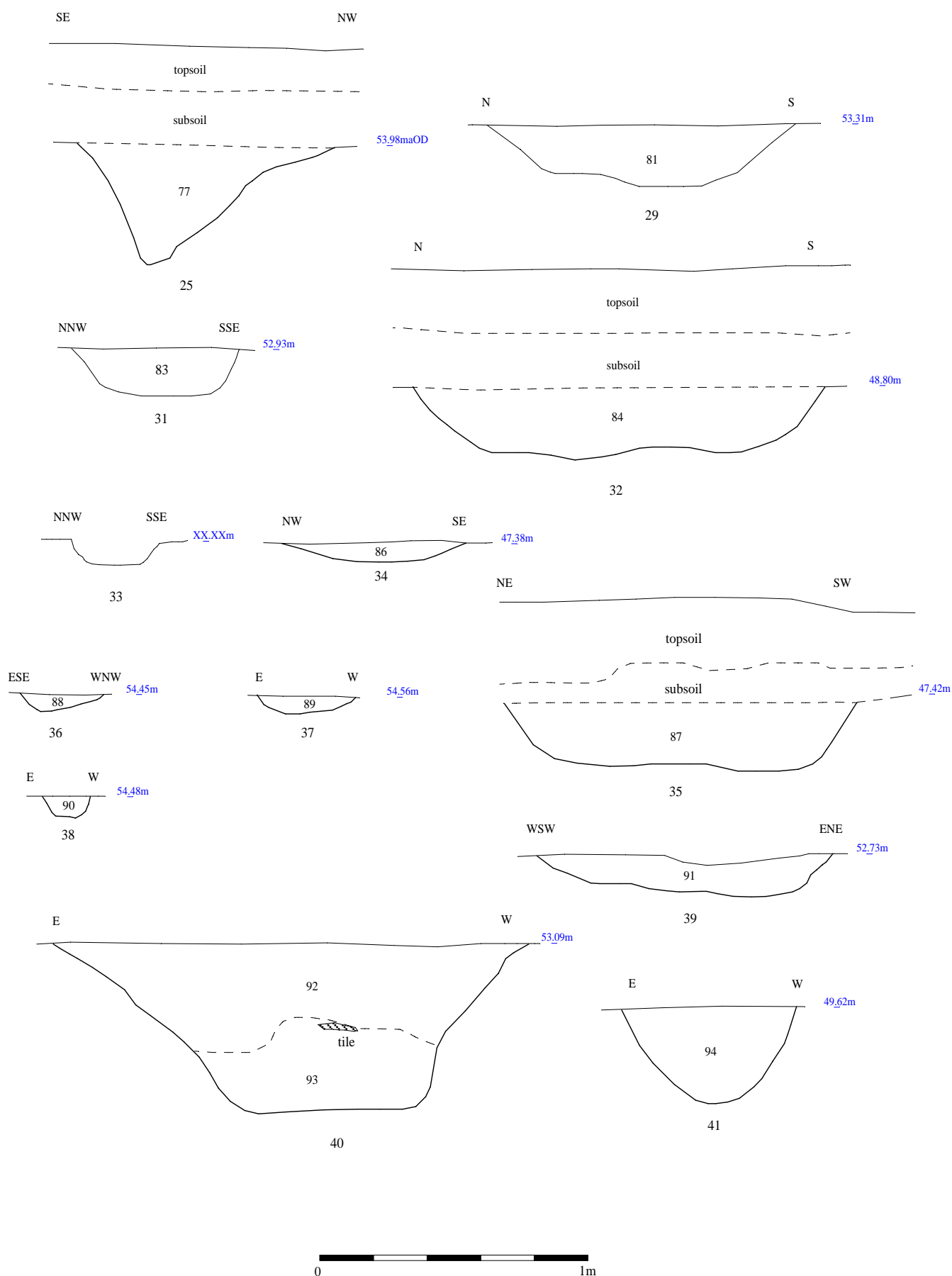


Figure 8. Sections (continued).

Shinfiled Glebe, Church Lane, Shinfield, Berkshire, 2009

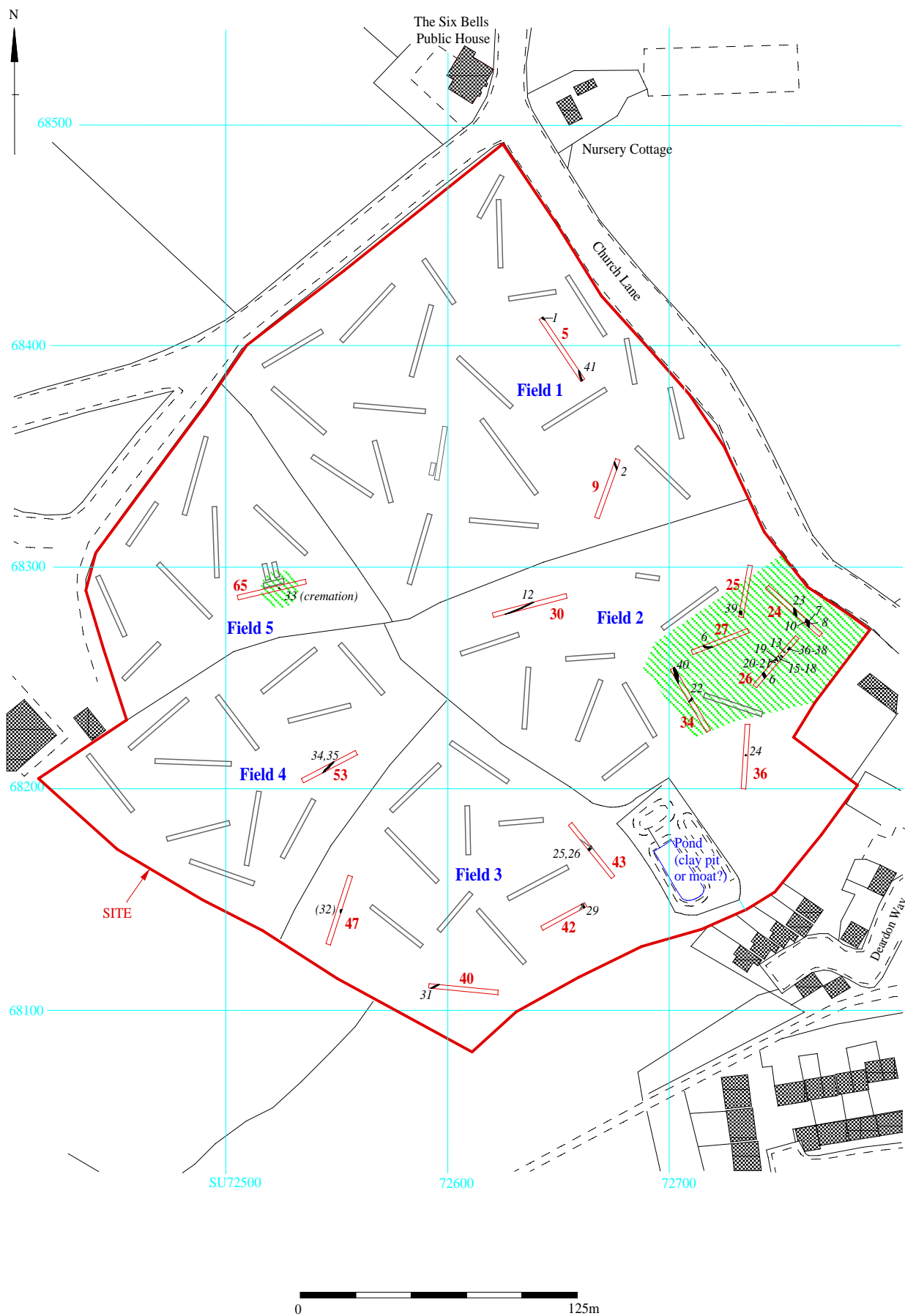


Figure 9. Areas of potential



Plate 1. Trench 9, looking north east, scales: 2m, 1m and 0.1m.



Plate 2. Trench 24, looking north west, scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 3. Trench 24, features 9 and 10, looking north, scales: 1m, 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 4. Trench 65, cremation deposit 33 (post-excitation), looking north, scales: 1m and 0.5m.