

# birmingham archaeology

Oakgrove, Milton Keynes

An Archaeological Evaluation  
2006

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**Oakgrove, Milton Keynes**  
**An Archaeological Evaluation 2006**

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**OAKGROVE, MILTON KEYNES**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006.**

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## SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation of land at Oakgrove, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire (centred on NGR SP 880 387) was commissioned by White Green Young Consulting Limited on behalf of English Partnerships. The work was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology in April 2006. Sixteen trenches were excavated to locate and identify any archaeological remains that could be affected by the proposed development.*

*An earlier desk-based assessment conducted by Birmingham Archaeology in 2003 (Nichol 2003) concluded that whilst much of the site had been subject to quarrying and subsequent landfill, the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits outside the quarry boundary was good. Previous archaeological work conducted during quarrying in the 1970s and 1980s located evidence of settlement and activity dated to the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Saxon periods to the east of the current site. Subsequent evaluation, prior to this phase of work, determined that the northern and western extents of these settlements was unclear.*

*The recent evaluation confirmed that settlement proper did not extend onto the river terrace (beyond the extent of the quarry in this area). Early features included a pit and gully, which could not be firmly dated; the flints that they contained were a mixed assemblage representing a background scatter of material. The pit may be evidence of clay extraction on the site. Later features included medieval ridge and furrow and stone-lined field drains, as well as Post-medieval pits.*

**OAKGROVE, MILTON KEYNES:**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2006.**  
**EVENT NUMBER 985**

<b>Event No.</b>	985	<b>Planning App. No</b>	06/01678/OUT
<b>Town</b>	Milton Keynes	<b>Client</b>	White Young Green
<b>Site Name</b>	Middleton and Oakgrove	<b>Project No.</b>	1315
<b>Parish</b>	Middleton	<b>Dates of work</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2006
<b>NGR</b>	SP 880 387	<b>Museum Accession No.</b>	2005.98

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background to the project**

Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by White Green Young Consulting Limited, on behalf of English Partnerships to undertake a programme of trial trenching as part of the consideration of a planning application for a proposed development involving the construction of 1,700 new dwellings and associated infrastructure including community and retail facilities.

This report outlines the results of a field evaluation carried out during April 2006, and has been prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IFA 2001).

Previous stages of archaeological work comprised a desk-based assessment undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology (Nichol, 2003), and geophysical survey, undertaken by Stratascan in July 2004 (Donaldson 2004).

The evaluation conformed to a brief produced by the Archaeological Officer for Milton Keynes Council (Giggins 2005), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Nichol 2005), which was approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to implementation, in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990).

### **1.2 Location and geology**

The proposed development area lies on the eastern edge of Milton Keynes, (centred on NGR SP 880 387), and covers approximately 51 hectares, which includes 26 hectares of developable land. The site is bounded to the north and east by Milton Keynes Village, Chaffron Way to the south, and the River Ouzel, and Ouzel Valley Park, to the west. (Figs 1 and 2).

Much of the region is overlain by glacial boulder clays, with both glacial and alluvial gravel deposits found in the Ouse and Ouzel valleys (Zeepvat 1993, 49). The site sits on the eastern bank of the Ouzel, with Middleton on a slight rise overlooking the valley, and Oakgrove

partially occupying the floodplain and adjacent river terrace. Several episodes of alleviation are known to have taken place in the vicinity of the River Ouzel.

The present character of the site is open fields crisscrossed with pathways.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The site is situated in the parish of Middleton, which was recorded by the Domesday Survey as Mideltone, latterly becoming Milton and then incorporating Keynes, from the de Keynes family, who were Lords of the Manor. The area is known to be rich in historic remains, and there is evidence for early settlement in the vicinity of the site. Roman metalwork and pottery have been recovered from the northern part of the adjacent Monkston Park, suggesting that there was a Roman settlement nearby.

Much of the land in the area around Oakgrove was quarried during gravel extraction, with the site subsequently being used for inert landfill. However, archaeological work conducted during the quarrying activity identified archaeological deposits dated from the Iron Age onwards. An assessment of the historic sources (Nichol 2003) suggested that there were potential areas of archaeological survival around the periphery of the proposed development area where quarrying had not taken place. These had the potential to contain archaeological deposits dating from the Iron Age, Roman and Early-Middle Saxon periods as well as the medieval and Post-medieval periods.

## **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The principle aim of the evaluation was to determine the character, state of preservation and the potential significance of any buried remains, in order to inform further potential archaeological mitigation. The evaluation also aimed to investigate anomalies highlighted by geophysical survey, and to identify the precise extent of previous quarrying and landfill activity.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Fieldwork**

The proposed development area covers approximately 51 hectares. A total of 16 trenches were excavated across the site measuring 50m x 2m, which provided a 5% sample of the total area (Fig. 3).

Trenches were located to be regularly spaced over the whole area, but were especially targeted at areas where geophysical survey had identified possible features, and areas around the edge of the gravel quarry/landfill site. In some instances the trench locations were altered slightly, in consultation with the local planning archaeologist, to avoid newt fences and modern drains and ditches.

All topsoil and modern overburden was removed using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator. The turf and 0.1m of topsoil was removed using a toothed bucket and laid to one side as part of the newt mitigation strategy. The remaining topsoil and layers of alluvium were removed with a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision, down to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil. Subsequent cleaning and excavation was by hand.

All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Features were planned at a scale of 1:20 and 1:50, and sections were drawn through all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. A comprehensive written record was maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* context and feature cards. Written records and scale plans were supplemented by photographs using colour print and colour slide photography.

Thirty litre soil samples were taken from datable archaeological features for the recovery of charred plant remains, and flint microliths. The environmental sampling policy followed guidelines contained in the Birmingham Archaeology Guide to On-Site Environmental Sampling, in consultation with Dominique de Moulin, Regional Environmental Adviser for English Heritage. Recovered finds were cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work was undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds conformed to guidance contained within 'A strategy for the care and investigation of finds' published by English Heritage.

The full site archive includes all artefactual and ecofactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991), the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC, 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). All relevant local procedures for the deposition of archives will be upheld (Buckinghamshire County Museum Service (version 1.1 7 May 1998)).

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

Detailed summaries of the 16 individual trenches are presented in Appendix 1 and full details are available in the project archive. In the following sections both feature (cut) and context numbers are highlighted in bold. The following sections describe the archaeological results by group, and a representative selection of trench plans and sections are illustrated.

### 5.2 Summary of archaeological features and deposits

Sixteen trenches were excavated. Archaeological features were found in nine of the trenches. The principle dated features and deposits were:

- A pit and a ditch, undated, but containing flints of the prehistoric period
- Medieval ridge and furrow
- Two pits dated to the post-medieval period
- Evidence of the extent of the quarrying and subsequent landfill

In addition to these features a number of undated features without finds were also identified, as were several features determined not to be of archaeological origin. These latter features are listed in Appendix 1 and are not described here.

Trenches 4, 11, 12 and 16 were located to target areas that had undergone geophysical survey. The anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, particularly in the area of Trench 16, were determined to be of geological origin. This was in keeping with the mixed nature of the natural subsoil identified across the site as a whole.



### 5.3 Topsoil

Approximately 0.2m to 0.4m of topsoil was present over the whole of the site, although this was deeper in some areas (See Appendix 1 for depths in individual trenches). In many of the trenches this sealed layers of alluvium that also varied in depth, though generally this was deeper at the western extent of the site on the river terrace. In the trenches to the north of the site (14 and 16) the topsoil lay directly over clean sand and gravel subsoil, suggesting quite heavy modern truncation in these areas.

### 5.4 Modern

Trenches 12 and 13 were determined to be wholly within the extent of the quarry, and the edge of the quarry itself could be identified in Trenches 3, 10 and 15. The more shallow depth of topsoil and the disturbed nature of the natural subsoil in Trenches 14 and 16 was indicative of scouring, and landscaping on the periphery of the quarry. Several parallel linear features were sampled in Trench 14 (including **14003** and **14005**) and were determined to be machine tracks. The natural subsoil was also disturbed and truncated in places within Trenches 11 and 15, again possibly indicative of activity along the edge of the quarry.

In addition to the quarry and landfill activity, modern drainage was identified in Trenches 1 and 3. In Trench 1 this was represented by a steep cut (**1004**), aligned roughly east-west, which was filled with mixed topsoil and blue clay (**1005**) that extended across the whole trench and was likely to have come from the creation or scouring of the modern ditch immediately to the south of the trench. This cut (**1004**) truncated the two post-medieval pits (**1002** and **1006**). In Trench 3 a similar drainage ditch was identified truncating the stone-lined drain (**3004**). The full width and depth of these ditches was not ascertained during the evaluation.

### 5.5 Post-medieval

Two large pits (**1002** and **1006**), were identified at the western end of Trench 1 (Fig. 3). The westernmost pit (**1002**) was shallow and roughly sub-circular. It was 1.7m in diameter, 0.25m deep with moderately sloping sides and a bowl-shaped base. The fill (**1003**) comprised a dark brown sandy silt that contained fragments of brick and tile. Pit **1006** was oval in shape, 3.6m long, 1.6m wide and 0.55m deep with steep sloping sides and a bowl-shaped profile. The fill (**1007**) was a mid yellow-brown silty sand that also contained fragments of brick and tile. A land drain on a similar alignment to the stone lined land drain was identified in Trench 11 further to the west (**1110**). Ceramic land-drains aligned roughly east-west were also identified in Trenches 2, 4 and 5.

### 5.6 Medieval

Evidence of ridge and furrow was identified in Trench 11 (**1104**, Fig 3). Further possible evidence of ridge and furrow was visible in the section of Trench 15, though this was more ephemeral in character. A single sherd of medieval pottery, spot dated to the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century (Stephanie Rátkai pers. comm.), was collected during cleaning of the southern part of Trench 16 (**16000**). A stone-lined drain (Plate 2 below), aligned roughly northwest-southeast (**10007** and **1108**), was identified running through both Trench 10 and 11, and may be Medieval in date. Another stone-lined land drain (**3004**) was present at the western end of Trench 3 aligned roughly east-west.



Plate 2. Stone land drain 10007 in Trench 10

### 5.7 Undated

A pit (6005) and a narrow ditch/gully (6008), containing worked flint, were identified at the northwestern end of Trench 6 (Plate 1 below, and Fig. 4). The pit (6005) was approximately 1.2m in diameter, 0.7m deep with steep sides and a bowl-shaped profile. It contained two distinct fills, the lower fill (6007) was yellow green-grey sandy clay, and the upper fill (6006) was a dark brown clay-sand. Worked flint was recovered from the upper fill (6006). The pit itself was located in an area where the natural subsoil changed from gravel to clay, and may be associated with early clay extraction on the site. Adjacent to the pit was the terminus of a narrow gully (6008/6009). This feature continued under the edge of the excavation, and was 0.5m wide and 0.27m deep with an irregular profile, it was aligned roughly north-south.



Plate 1. Pit 6005 and gully 6008

Thirteen pieces of flint were collected from the upper fill of the pit (**6006**), five of which were Mesolithic. Eight pieces of flint were collected from the fill of the gully (**6009**), one of which could be dated to the Mesolithic period. However, the presence of modern rootlets and weed seeds from environmental samples taken from the fills of the pit suggest that the features may be much more modern than the finds assemblage suggests.

Several small, undated pits were identified in Trenches 4, 9, 15 and 16. The pit in Trench 4 (**4003**, Fig. 3) was approximately 0.9m in diameter and 0.2m deep with shallow sides, a slightly asymmetric profile and a bowl-shaped base. The fill (**4004**) was light grey sandy silt. Adjacent to this pit was a posthole (**4007**), measuring 0.35m in diameter and 0.2m deep, with steep sides and a U-shaped base. It was filled with a grey silty sand (**4008**). In Trench 9 two sub-circular features were excavated (**9002** and **9004**, Plate 3, and Fig. 3), though the irregular base and profile of **9002** suggests that it was a tree-bole.



Plate 3. Undated pit 9004 in Trench 9

The pit in Trench 15 (**15007**, Plate 4 and Fig. 3) was 1.3m in diameter and 0.23m deep with steep sides and a bowl-shaped base, and was filled by a light grey sandy silt and gravel (**15008**). This fill contained degraded bone, one flint flake, and visible charcoal flecks, but no datable material.



Plate 4. Pit 15007

A further pit (**16004**, Fig 3) was identified in the section of the southern end of Trench 16. This pit was 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. The fill (16005) was dark brown-yellow sand.

In addition to the undated pits, a northeast-southwest aligned ditch was identified at the southern end of Trench 9 (**9022**, Fig 3). This ditch was approximately 1.3m wide and 0.25m deep and had vertical sides and a flat base. The fill (**9023**) was mid brown sandy silt with some gravel inclusions. Two possible gullies (**7003** and **8002**) were identified in Trenches 7 and 8, they were narrow, shallow and quite irregular, and were possibly not of archaeological origin.

## 5.8 Subsoil (natural)

The natural subsoil was reached at varying heights across the site (See Appendix 1). It consisted primarily of yellow sandy gravels mixed with red brown alluvial deposits and medium to large pockets of blue boulder clay.

## 6 ARTEFACTS

### 6.1 The Flint by Lawrence Barfield

A total of 22 pieces of worked flint was collected both by hand and from bulk samples taken for heavy residue analysis. These represent material from both the Mesolithic and Neolithic to Early Bronze Age periods.

The six Mesolithic pieces mostly had a white patination and related to fine bladelet preparation, including 'blade' preparation of the platform spur.

The post Mesolithic material include a large flake from nodule decortication (core rough out), blade-like flakes and core trimming flakes, produced mainly by a hard hammer technique. However, these cannot be closely dated.

Raw material included flint with relatively fresh cortex and pieces made on flint with orange gravel-stained rolled cortex.

The flint from features **6005** (Contexts **6006** and **6007**) and **6008** (Context **6009**) although containing items which may be Mesolithic in date, are clearly very mixed assemblages of different types of flint and technology that do not resemble an assemblage that might be considered contemporary with any specific period of occupation. These flint assemblages have much more the appearance of a background scatter of material rather than of being from a cut feature.

#### Catalogue

15008	-	1 flake <i>recovered by hand</i>
6006		3 pieces (one Mesolithic) <i>recovered from environmental residue</i>
6006		10 pieces (four Mesolithic) <i>recovered by hand</i>
6009		8 pieces (one Mesolithic) <i>recovered by hand</i>

## 6.2 The pottery by Stephanie Rátkai

A single fragment of pottery was recovered by hand from context **16000** during the evaluation, which was spot-dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century on the basis that it did not contain shelly inclusions.

## 6.3 The animal bone

The only animal bone collected from the site was from Pit **15007**, however, it was too fragmentary and degraded for identification or analysis to be possible.

## 7 ARCHAEOBOTANICAL REMAINS

Archaeobotanical samples were collected from deposits during the excavation of probable prehistoric features in order to recover environmental remains. These samples were assessed to determine:

- if plant remains were present and of interpretable value.
- if the plant remains provide information about deposition of charred material at the site.
- if the plant remains provide information about the surrounding environment.

Three were identified for analysis based upon the significance of the archaeological context sampled.

### 7.1 Charred Plant by Pam Grinter

#### *Method*

Samples were 30 L in volume. Environmental officers at Birmingham Archaeology used water flotation to process samples. The flots and heavy residues were sieved to 500µm. Flots were scanned by the author under a low-power microscope at a magnification of x15. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for indigenous taxa.

#### *Results*

Table 1 (below) presents the results from the Oakgrove flots. Charred plant remains were absent from the samples. One flot (sample 3, context **15008**,) contained very small quantities of charcoal. The flots also contained many modern root and *Chenopodium* spp. seeds.

#### *Conclusions*

Although the possible prehistoric features at Oakgrove were sampled for charred plant remains, the assemblages generated were poor and not of interpretable value which is not uncommon at prehistoric sites. It is not recommended that any further analysis is undertaken.

Sample	Trench	Feature	Context	Context Type	Bone	Charcoal	Mollusc Or Marine Shell	Charred Plant Remains Observed (Flot only)			Further Analysis	Comments on Flot (N.B. The term 'charred plant remains' excludes charcoal)
								Grain	Chaff	Weed/ Wild		
1	6	6005	6006	Pit	-	-	-	-	-	-	NO	100% of flot scanned. Modern weed seeds and roots present. ASSESSED AS POOR.
2	6	6005	6007	Pit	-	-	-	-	-	-	NO	100% of flot scanned. Modern weed seeds and roots present. ASSESSED AS POOR.
3	15	15007	15008	Pit	-	+	-	-	-	-	NO	100% of flot scanned. Modern weed seeds and roots present. ASSESSED AS POOR.

**Table 1: Assessment results for charred plant remains from prehistoric features, Oakgrove, Milton Keynes**

## 8 DISCUSSION

The results of the evaluation revealed that the extent of quarrying and subsequent landfill activity was not as extensive as previously thought. Although the archaeological results were ephemeral, and several features could not be securely date, taken in context with previous work in the area, they contribute to our understanding of the landscape use and settlement pattern of the area as a whole.

Evaluation to the north of the quarry (at MK330) was more extensive, and comprised an evaluation by trial trench of approximately 30 hectares to the north of the quarry site (Zeepvat in Williams 1993, 188). The results of this evaluation correlate well, with the majority of archaeological features identified during the evaluation of MK330 being located above the 64.5m contour. The majority of trenches in the southwestern part of the earlier evaluation (i.e. those immediately to the north of the site reported upon here) were devoid of archaeological features and deposits. Archaeological deposits that were identified comprised a medieval stone-lined land drain, and aceramic shallow ditches or gullies (Zeepvat in Williams

1993, 188). These features were very similar in both form and distribution to the archaeological features and deposits identified during the most recent phase of work.

The overall pattern of activity identified is therefore one of settlement being concentrated on the higher ground to the east of the proposed development area, which did not extend on to the flood plain of the river. This phase of work concurs with the findings from earlier evaluations that have shown that topsoil alluvial deposits became substantially deeper closer to the river, and it is likely that flooding prevented these areas from being habitable for any length of time. The majority of anomalies identified across the site during geophysical analysis were found to be of periglacial origin.

## 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**APPENDIX 1  
TABLE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**



Trench Number	Strat. Number	Type	Assoc. Strat No.	Description	Width/Length/Depth	Findings
1 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned NE-SW, NGR 487805E/238614N – 487847E/238640N Height AOD: NE End Top 64.49m SW End Top 63.23m						
1	1001	Layer		Topsoil –mid brown sandy silt with some gravel, mixed with blue clay and disturbed in places	D-0.7m-0.9m	
1	1002	Cut	1003	Pit – irregular in plan, moderate sloping sides, bowl-shaped base	W-1.7m L-1.53- D-0.25m	
1	1003	Fill	1002	Dark brown sandy silt		Post-medieval tile and brick fragments NK
1	1004	Cut	1005	Modern drainage ditch – steep sides not fully excavated	Max. exposed W-0.6 L-6.8m D-0.7m	
1	1005	Fill	1004	Mixed blue clay and topsoil		
1	1006	Cut	1007	Pit – sub-circular, steep sides, flattish base	W-1.6m L-3.6m D-0.55m	Post-medieval tile and brick fragments NK
1	1007	Fill	1006	Mid yellow brown silty sand		
1	1008	Cut	1009	Root activity – irregular in plan and profile	W-0.2m L-1.8m D-0.05m	
1	1009	Fill	1008	Mid yellow brown silty sand		
1	1010	-	-	Undulation in natural filled with topsoil		
1	1011	-	-	Undulation in natural filled with topsoil		
1	1012	Natural		Dark orange and yellow sand and gravel		
2 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned NW-SE, NGR 487831E/238611N – 487862E/238574N Height AOD: NW End Top 64.01 SE End Top 64.08						
2	2000	Layer		Topsoil – Mid brown sandy silt with some gravel	D – 0.5m throughout trench	

Trench Number	Strat. Number	Type	Assoc. Strat No.	Description	Width/Length/Depth	Findings
2	2001	Layer		Subsoil – Alluvial deposits, mid red brown sandy silt with gravel	D – Varies between 0.5m at NW end of trench, to 0.2m at SE end	
2	2002	Natural		Yellow sand and gravel with bands of silt and pockets of blue clay		
2	2003	Cut	-	Cut for land drain aligned approx. E-W	W-0.5m D- Not excavated	
3 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned NE-SW, NGR 487845E/238555N – 487884E/238586N (with a break for new fence) Height AOD: SW End Top 63.47m NE End Top 63.05m						
3	3001	Layer		Topsoil – Grey brown clay sand with gravel	D – 0.1m	
3	3002	Layer		Subsoil – Grey brown clay sand, similar to topsoil but with more clay	D-0.1-0.3m	
3	3003	Natural		Mottled orange grey sand with gravel		
3	3004	Cut	3005	Drain – Modern drain that truncates stone lined drain		
3	3005	Fill	3004	Mixed blue clay with topsoil		
3	3006	Layer		Very mixed redeposited blue clay and yellow gravel landfill deposit	Not excavated	
4 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned NW-SE, NGR 487879E/238563N – 487916E/238528N Height AOD: NW End Top 62.62m SE End Top 62.75m						
4	4000	Layer		Topsoil – Mid grey brown sandy silt with gravel	D-0.3m to 0.4m	
4	4001	Layer		Subsoil – Red orange brown silty sand with some gravel inclusions	D-0.2m	

Trench Number	Strat. Number	Type	Assoc. Strat No.	Description	Width/Length/Depth	Findings
4	4002	Natural		Yellow brown sand with pea gravel and bands of blue and orange silt		
4	4003	Cut	4004	Pit – Sub-circular with shallow sides and slightly asymmetric bowl-shaped profile	W-0.96m L-0.8m D-0.2m	
4	4004	Fill	4003	Light grey sandy silt with occasional stones		
4	4005	Cut	4006	Land Drain – Vertical sides, ceramic land drain at base, aligned E-W	W-0.6m D-0.5m	
4	4006	Fill	4005	Mixed redeposited natural, grey gravel and topsoil		
4	4007	Cut	4008	Post-hole – Small circular post-hole, steep sides and U-shaped profile	W-0.35m L-0.35m D-0.2m	
4	4008	Fill	4007	Grey silty sand with occasional stones		
<p>5 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned NW-SE, NGR 487885E/238513N – 487921E/238483N  Height AOD: NW End Top 61.86m SE End Top 61.88m</p>						
5	5000	Layer		Topsoil – Mid brown sandy silt with some gravel	D-0.5m - 0.6m	
5	5001	Layer		Subsoil – Red brown sandy silt	D-0.1m - 0.65m	
5	5002	Natural		Light brown silty sandy gravel alluvial deposit		
5	5003	Cut	5004	Land drain – Aligned roughly E-W, vertical sides with ceramic drain at base	W-0.47m D-0.3m	
5	5004	Fill	5003	Mid brown sandy silt with gravel		Post-medieval tile NK

Trench Number	Strat. Number	Type	Assoc. Strat No.	Description	Width/Length/Depth	Findings
6 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned WNW-ESE, NGR 487925E/238489N – 487973E/238475N Height AOD: WNW End Top 62.00m ESE End Top 62.97m						
6	6001	Layer		Topsoil – Dark brown grey sandy silt with some gravel	D-0.17m	
6	6002	Layer		Subsoil – Light brown grey sandy silt with gravel	D-0.33m	
6	6003	Layer		Alluvial deposits – Mid brown grey sandy clay	D-0.5m	
6	6004	Natural		Yellow brown sandy clay with patches of red brown sandy clay and gravel		
6	6005	Cut	6006, 6007	Pit – Sub-circular with steep sides and bowl shaped profile	W-1.2m L-1.2m D-0.7m	
6	6006	Fill	6005	Dark brown clay sand with gravel upper fill of pit	D-0.3m	Flint –13 pieces, of which 5 Mesolithic. 10 of these recovered by hand, 3 pieces recovered from environmental residues. One tiny fragment pottery undated recovered by hand
6	6007	Fill	6005	Yellow green sandy clay, lower fill of pit	D-0.3m to 0.6m	
6	6008	Cut	6009	Ditch/gully – Terminus, aligned roughly N-S, possibly curvilinear, steep sides and irregular profile	W-0.5m L- 1.0m D-0.27	
6	6009	Fill	6008	Dark red brown silty clay with few stones		Flint – 8 pieces, of which 1 Mesolithic recovered by hand

Trench Number	Strat. Number	Type	Assoc. Strat No.	Description	Width/Length/Depth	Findings
7 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned E-W, NGR 487957E/238446N – 488005E/238446N Height AOD: E End Top 62.46m W End Top 61.30m						
7	7000	Layer		Topsoil – Mid brown sandy silt with gravel, with brick rubble	D – 0.3m to 1.3m	
7	7001	Natural		Yellow gravel with red brown sandy silt		
7	7002	Cut	7003	Gully – Linear, aligned NW – SE, steep sides, U-shaped profile	W-0.4m D-0.2m	
7	7003	Fill	7002	Mid brown sandy silt with some gravel		
8 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned NE-SW, NGR 488015E/238449N – 488053E/238480N Height AOD: NE End Top 64.22m SW End Top 62.50m						
8	8000	Layer		Topsoil – mid brown sandy silt with gravel, with brick rubble	D-0.6m	
8	8001	Natural		Red brown sandy silt with gravel		
8	8002	Cut	8003	Gully – Irregular in plan, aligned roughly N-S, steep sides and U-shaped base	W-0.23m D-0.1m	
8	8003	Fill	8002	Mid brown sandy silt with gravel		
9 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned NW-SE (with a break for drain and newt fence), NGR 488010E/238526N – 488056E/238488N Height AOD: NW End Top 63.77m SE End Top 64.05m						
9 (N)	9001	Layer		Topsoil – Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	D-0.4m	
9 (N)	9002	Cut	9003	Irregular cut in plan and profile, determined to be a tree-bole	Not fully exc	
9 (N)	9003	Fill	9002	Mid brown sandy silt		
9 (N)	9004	Cut	9005	Pit – Circular in plan, steep sides and bowl-shaped profile	L-1.1m W-1.1m D-0.4m	
9 (N)	9005	Fill	9004	Orange brown clay sand with some gravel		

Trench Number	Strat. Number	Type	Assoc. Strat No.	Description	Width/Length/Depth	Findings
9 (N)	9006	Natural		Dark orange yellow sand and gravel		
9 (S)	9020	Layer		Topsoil – Light brown sandy silt with some gravel	D-0.5m	
9 (S)	9021	Natural		Red brown sandy silt and gravel		
9 (S)	9022	Cut	9023	Ditch – Linear aligned NE-SW, vertical sides and flattish base	W-1.3m D-0.25m	
9 (S)	9023	Fill	9022	Mid brown sandy silt with gravel		
10 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned N-S, NGR 487978E/238488N – 487982E/238538N Height AOD: N End Top 63.40m S End Top 63.39m						
10	10001	Layer		Topsoil – Mid yellow brown sandy silt	D-0.25m	
10	10002	Cut	10003	Cut at edge of quarry/landfill	D-not excavated, spans whole trench	
10	10003	Fill	10002	Mixed dark brown silty sand and gravel		
10	10004	Natural		Dark orange yellow sand and gravel with lenses of clay		
10	10005	Cut	10006	Root disturbance – aligned E-W, irregular in plan	W-0.25m D-0.3m	
10	10006	Fill	10005	Mid yellow brown silty sand		
10	10007	Cut	10008	Land drain – aligned NW-SE, vertical sides	W-0.4m D-0.2m	
10	10008	Fill	10007	Stone lining of irregular limestone blocks and silt fill of land drain		
10	10009	Cut	10010	Root disturbance/possible pit – roughly subcircular/irregular in plan, steep sides, bowl-shaped profile	W-0.90m L-0.75m D-0.17m	
10	10010	Fill	10009	Whitish grey sandy silt		
10	10011	Cut	10012	Tree bole – Irregular in plan, bowl shaped in profile	W-0.9m L-0.9m D-varied	

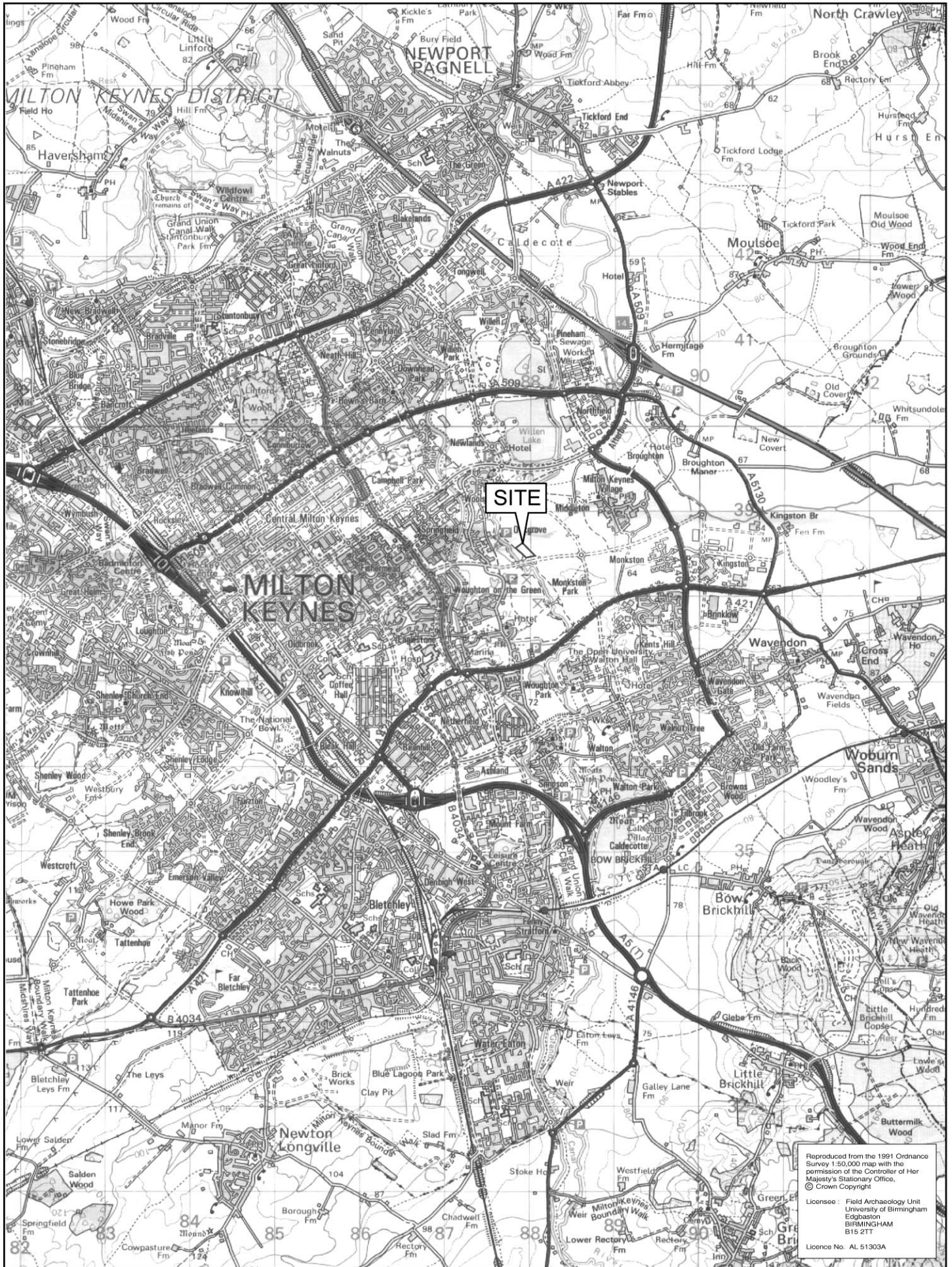
Trench Number	Strat. Number	Type	Assoc. Strat No.	Description	Width/Length/Depth	Finds
10	10012	Fill	10011	Mixed orange grey sandy silt with gravel		
<p>11 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned NE-SW (with a break for newt fence), NGR 487920E/238513N – 487952E/238552N Height AOD: NE End Top 63.37m SW End Top 62.38m</p>						
11	1101	Layer		Topsoil – Dark grey brown clay sand with some gravel	D-0.2m-0.4m	
11	1102	Layer		Subsoil – Mid brown silty sand with some gravel	D-0.3m-0.4m	
11	1103	Natural		Mixed orange and yellow silty sand with gravel and patches of blue clay		
11	1104	Cut	1105	Furrow – Shallow linear aligned roughly E-W, bowl shaped profile	W-0.3m D-0.1m	
11	1105	Fill	1104	Light grey brown clay sand		
11	1106	Cut	1107	Tree root – sub circular in plan, irregular in profile	W-0.3m L-0.3m D-0.2m	
11	1107	Fill	1106	Orange brown sand with some gravel		
11	1108	Cut	1109	Land drain – visible in section, same as 10007 in Trench 10	W-0.4m D-0.2m	
11	1109	Fill	1108	Irregular limestone blocks and light grey brown clay sand		
11	1110	Cut	1111	Gully/land drain – aligned roughly NW-SE, shallow sides, U-shaped profile	W-0.55m L-2.5m D-0.15m	
11	1111	Fill	1110	Light brown grey silty sand mottled with orange patches and occasional gravel		
<p>12 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned approximately E-W, NGR 487962E/238568N – 487912E/238574N Height AOD: E End Top 63.61m W End Top 63.68m</p>						
12	12001	Layer		Topsoil – Light yellow brown sandy silt with some small stones	D-0.1m	

Trench Number	Strat. Number	Type	Assoc. Strat No.	Description	Width/Length/Depth	Finds
12	12002	Layer		Subsoil – mixed yellow brown silty sand with stones, levelling layer	D-0.3m	
12	12003	Fill		Mixed deposit of sterile orange brown sand silt with gravel and large amounts of blue clay, very disturbed redeposited natural	Not excavated – within quarry/landfill	
12	12004	Fill	12005	Gravel comprising small stones		
12	12005	Cut	12004	Land drain – plastic pipe with gravel infill of cut, aligned NW-SE	W-0.15m	
<p>13 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned approximately E-W, NGR 487891E/238606N – 487940E/238616N Height AOD: E End Top 63.39m W End Top 63.25m</p>						
13	13001	Layer		Topsoil – light yellow brown sandy silt with some small stones	D-0.1m	
13	13002	Layer		Subsoil – mid brown silty sand with small stones, levelling layer	D-0.5m	
13	13003	Fill		Mixed brown silty sand with grey clay and stones landfill deposit	Not excavated – within quarry/landfill	
13	13004	Fill	13005	Gravel comprising small stones		
13	13005	Cut	13004	Land drain – modern aligned NE-SW	W-0.1m	
<p>14 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned NW-SE, NGR 487911E/238648N – 487875E/238685N Height AOD: NW End Top 64.65m SE End Top 65.38m</p>						
14	14000	Layer		Topsoil – grey brown silty sand with some gravel	D-0.55m	
14	14001	Natural		Mixed yellow sand and gravel with patches of blue clay		



Trench Number	Strat. Number	Type	Assoc. Strat No.	Description	Width/Length/Depth	Findings
14	14002	Layer		Redeposited blue clay from scouring of modern drain to the south, present at southern end of trench only	D-0.3m max	
14	14003	Cut	14004	Gully – one of a series visible, determined to be associated with modern activity at the edge of the quarry/landfill	W-0.44m D-0.08m	
14	14004	Fill	14003	Brown silty sand similar to topsoil		
14	14005	Cut	14006	Gully – one of a series visible, determined to be associated with modern activity at the edge of the quarry/landfill	W-0.32 D-0.04m	
14	14006	Fill	14005	Brown silty sand similar to topsoil		
<p>15 Summary – 50m x 2m aligned ENE-WSW, NGR 487862E/238607N – 487906E/238631N  Height AOD: ENE End Top 63.32m WSW End Top 62.97m</p>						
15	15001	Layer		Topsoil – mid brown yellow silty sand	D-0.2m	
15	15002	Layer	15004	Mixed dark yellow brown silty sand and gravel landfill deposit	Not excavated	
15	15003	Natural		Mid orange yellow clay sand and gravel		
15	15004	Cut	15002	Cut for quarry visible in plan in middle of trench	Not excavated	
15	15005	Cut	15006	Land drain – modern, aligned NW – SE	W-0.10m	
15	15006	Fill	15005	Gravel comprising small stones		
15	15007	Cut	15008	Pit – sub circular, steep sides, bowl-shaped profile	W-1.13m L-1.3m D-0.23	
15	15008	Fill	15007	Whitish grey silty sand with gravel		Very degraded bone and charcoal, 1 flint flake recovered by hand

Trench Number	Strat. Number	Type	Assoc. Strat No.	Description	Width/Length/Depth	Findings
16 Summary – Total of 50m x 2m in 2 parts, aligned NNW-SSE, NGR 487864E/238641N – 487852E/238484N and 487866E/238620N – 487865E/238627N Height AOD: NNW End Top 64.56m SSE End Top 63.23m						
16 (S)	16001	Layer		Topsoil – light yellow brown sandy silt	D-0.25m	1 fragment pottery dated 14 <sup>th</sup> –15 <sup>th</sup> century recovered by hand
16 (S)	16002	Layer		Subsoil - Mid yellow brown silty sand with some gravel, possibly disturbed natural layer	D-0.12m	
16 (S)	16003	Natural		Yellow gravelly sand		
16 (S)	16004	Cut	16005	Pit visible in section, moderate sides and irregular profile	W-2.0m D-0.30m	
16 (S)	16005	Fill	16004	Dark brown yellow sand		
16 (N)	16010	Layer		Topsoil –Mid grey brown sandy silt with gravel	D-0.2m to 0.4m	
16 (N)	16011	Natural		Yellow sand and gravel with large irregular pockets of silt		
16 (N)	16012	Cut	16013	Possible pit – sub-circular in plan, irregular in profile, determined not to be of archaeological origin	W-1.0m D-0.15m	
16 (N)	16013	Fill	16012	Dark yellow orange sandy gravel		
16 (N)	16014	Cut	16015	Irregular feature, determined to be change in natural		
16 (N)	16015	Fill	16014	Grey white sandy silt		



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Fig.1

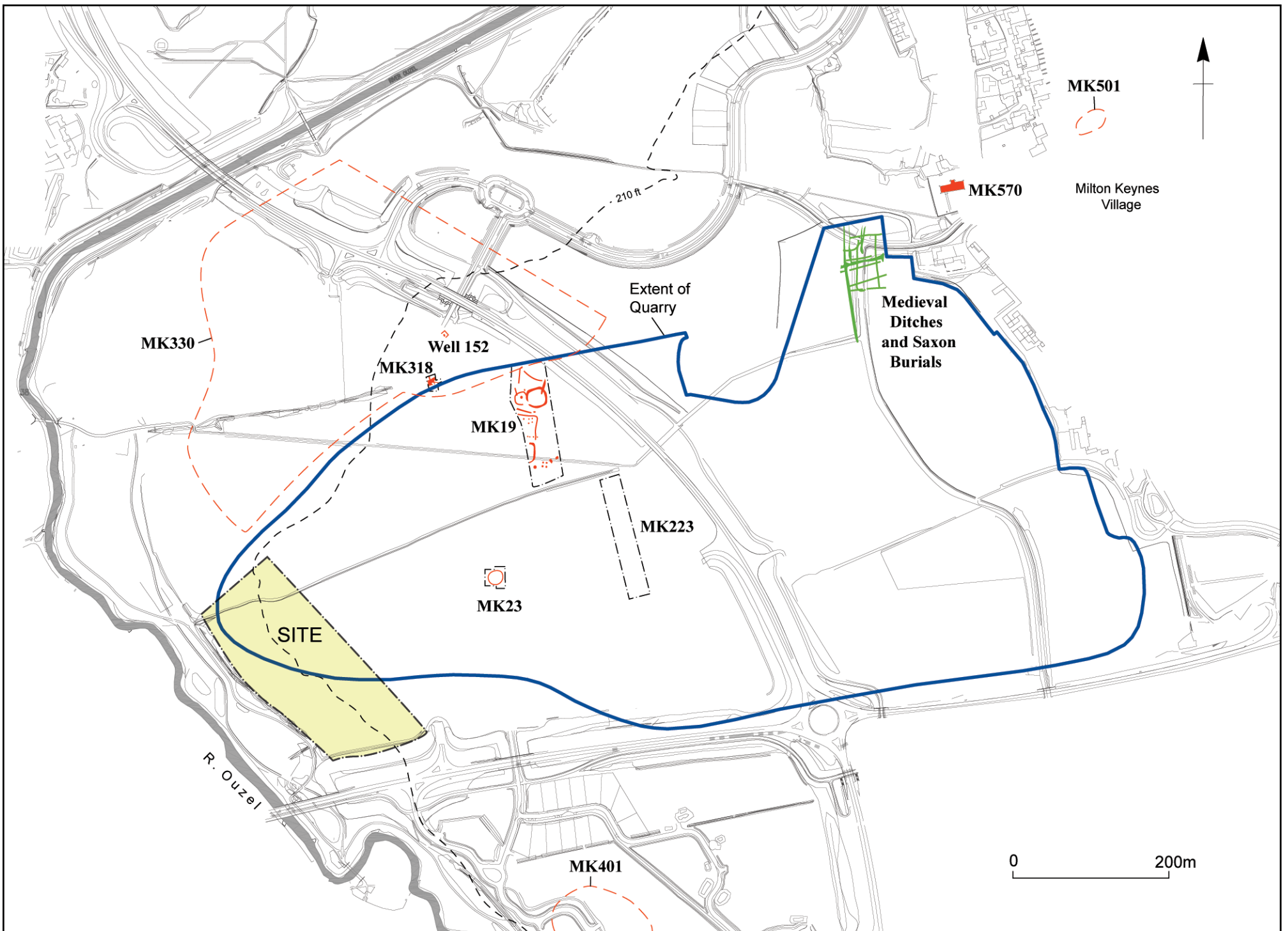


Fig.2

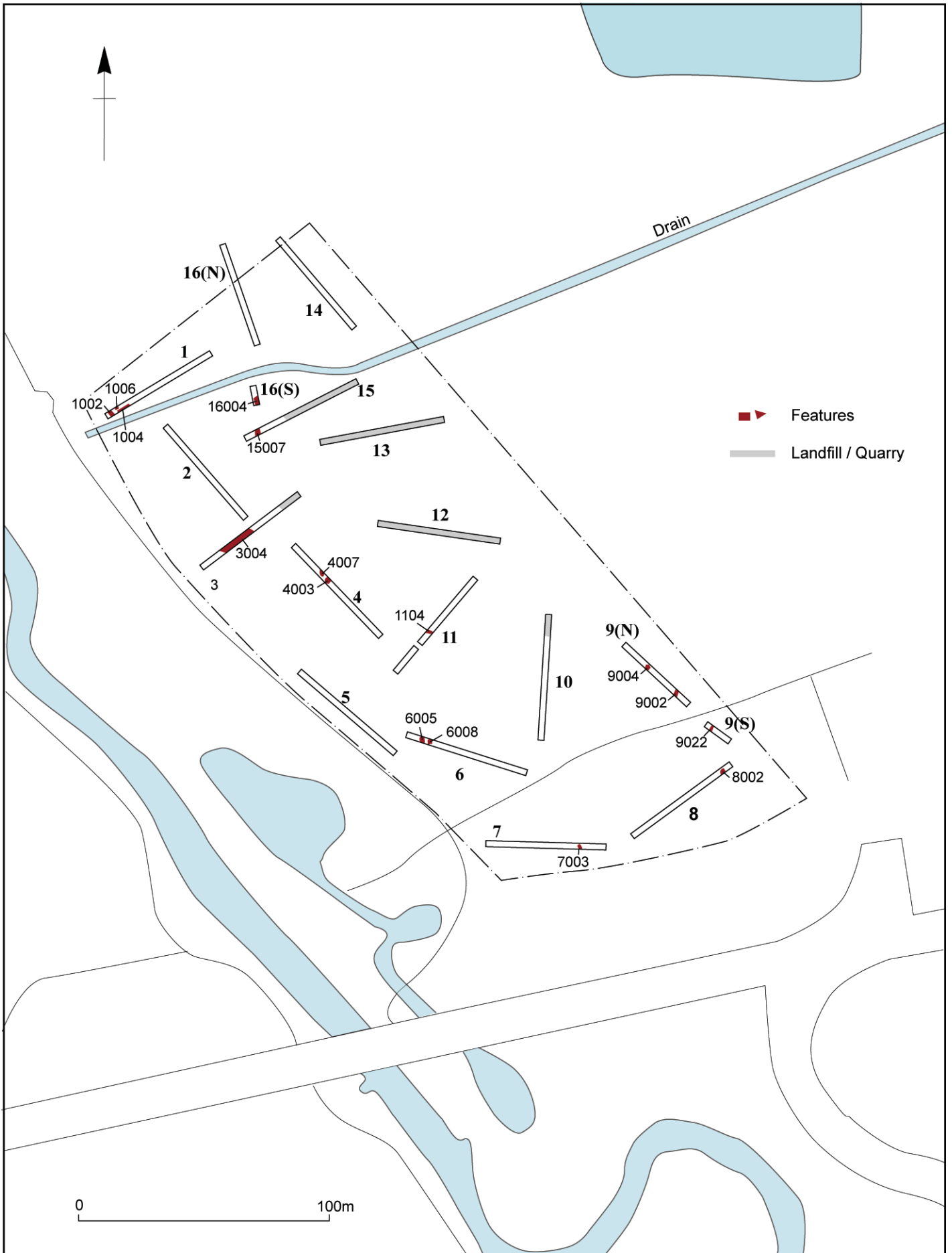


Fig.3

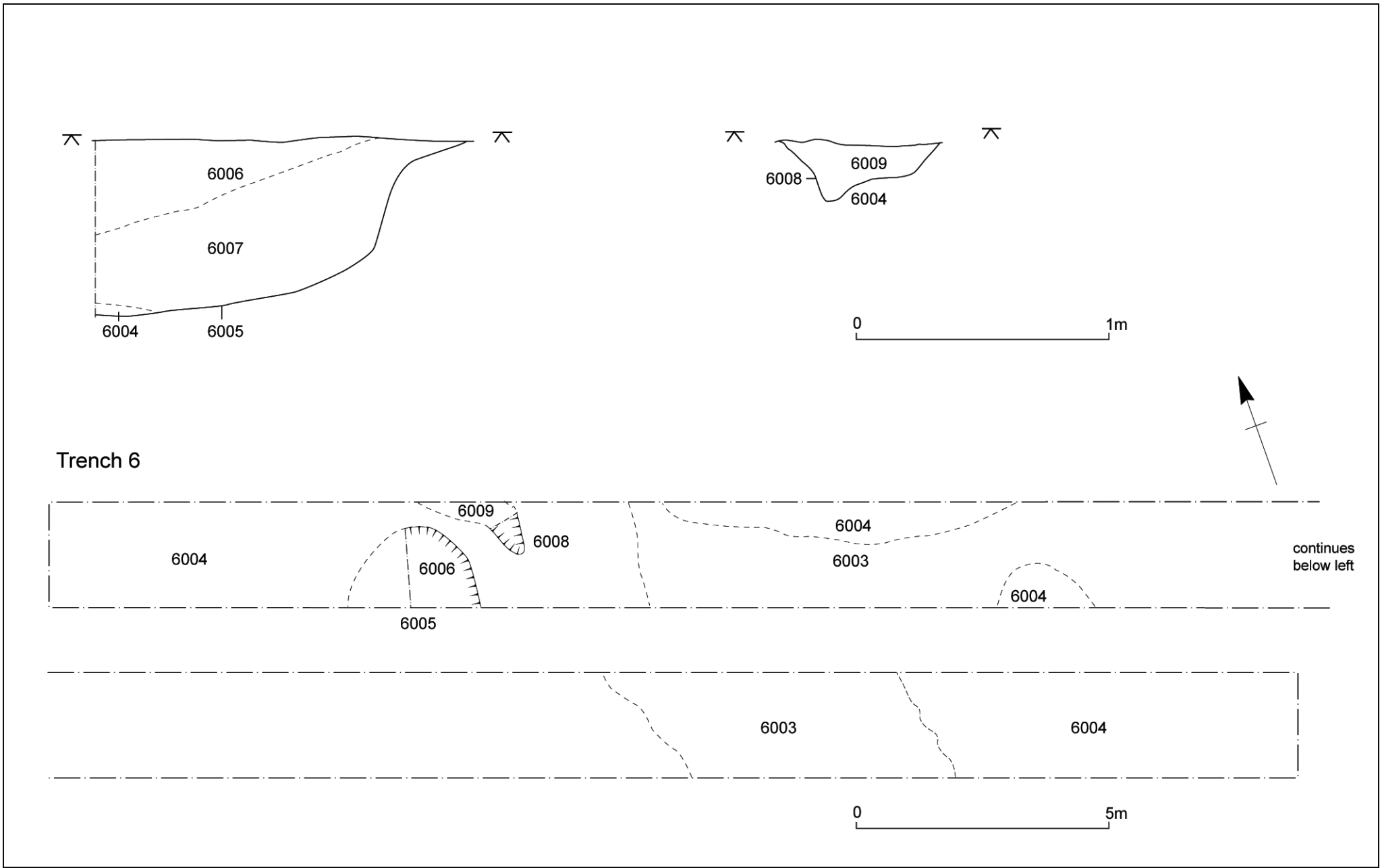


Fig.4