

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION:
LAND ADJACENT TO STOKE ROAD
WATER EATON, BLETCHLEY
MILTON KEYNES**

on behalf of
RPS Planning, Transport and Environment
on behalf of Lovell Partnerships Ltd for English Partnerships



by
Alastair J Hancock

May 2006

ASC: 742/WES/02

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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	WES	<i>Project no:</i>	742
<i>MKC Event No:</i>	1005		
<i>County:</i>	Milton Keynes Unitary Authority		
<i>Town:</i>	Bletchley		
<i>District:</i>	Water Eaton		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Bletchley CP		
<i>NGR:</i>	SP 8818 3271 (centre)		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	3500 sq m		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Pasture		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Residential development		
<i>Extent of development:</i>	c.3.5 hectares		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	04/01381/OUT		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	5 th December 2005 - 5 th January 2006		
<i>Client:</i>	Lovell Partnerships Ltd for English Partnerships c/o RPS Planning, Transport & Environment Mallams Court 18 Milton Park Abingdon Oxon OX14 4RP		
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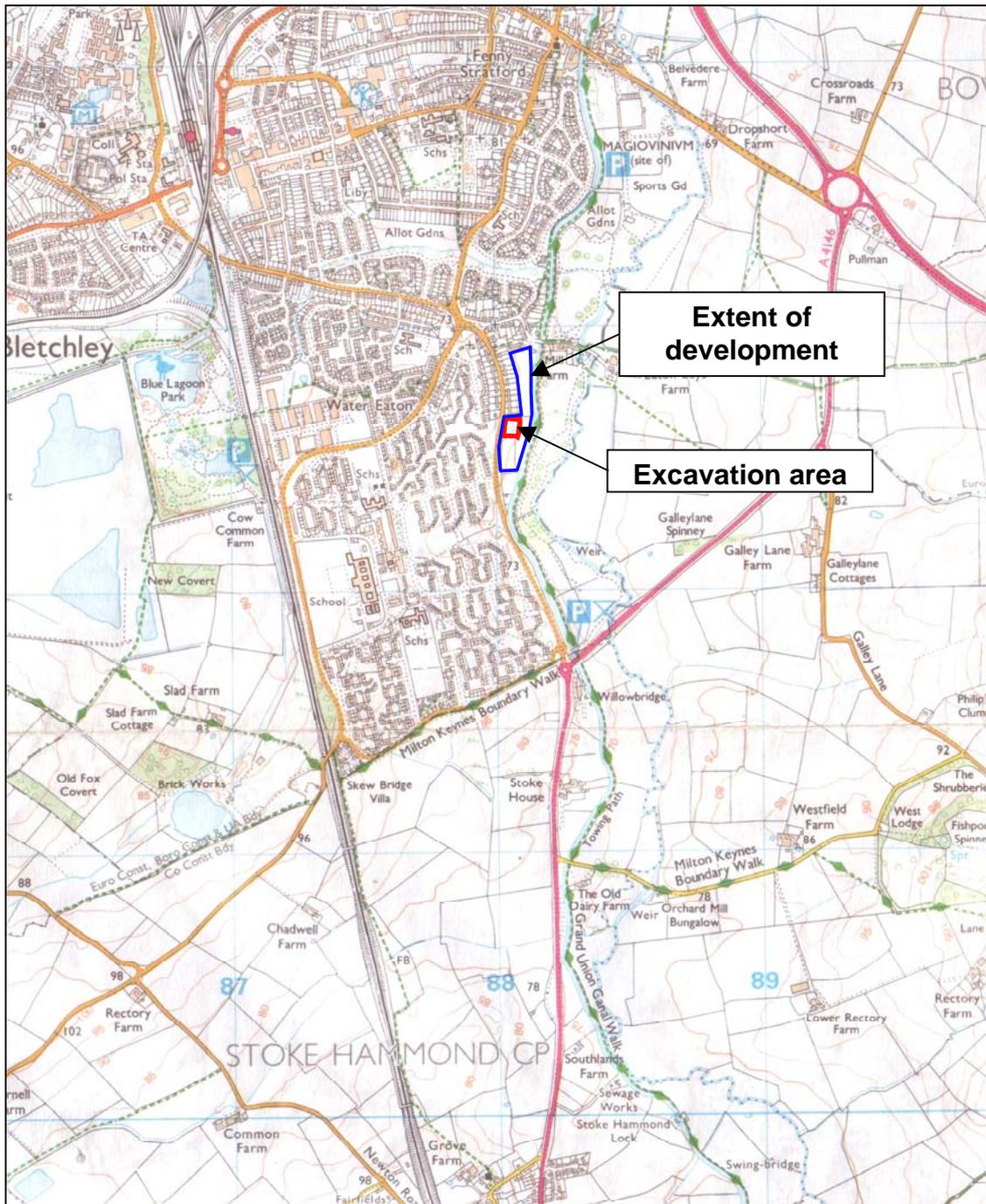


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During December 2005 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd undertook archaeological excavation of a 3500 sq m area at land adjacent to Stoke Road, Water Eaton, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. The excavation followed a program of evaluation which had located ditches and pits containing mid Saxon pot sherds.

Removal of the topsoil revealed ditches, gullies, pits, post holes and one sunken featured building which defined the position of fenced boundaries, structures, an enclosure and an appended field system. The assemblage of pot sherds recovered from excavated features was small but suggests that the majority of the archaeological features may date to the mid Saxon period.

The recovered finds, excavated archaeological features and environmental evidence appear to identify the location of a short lived farmstead occupied during the 8th – 9th centuries.

1. Introduction

1.1 In December 2006 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an excavation at land off Stoke Road, Water Eaton, Bletchley, Milton Keynes (NGR SP 8805 3260: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by *RPS Planning, Transport and Environment* on behalf of their clients *Lovell Partnerships Ltd* for *English Partnerships*. The work was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Hancock 2005), and a brief (PS/537/2/A/C 1413) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Milton Keynes Council*, by their archaeological advisor, *Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer* (MKCAO).

1.2 *Planning Background*

Archaeological fieldwork culminating in the excavation detailed within this report has been required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the construction of housing. Outline planning permission (app. No. 04/1381/OUT) for development of the site was granted in 2004.

1.3 *Reason for Work*

Archaeological evaluation of the development area was completed by ASC in 2004/2005 (Hancock 2005). The evaluation was undertaken to fulfil a condition imposed by MKCAO (Giggins 2004), which required that any areas of archaeological significance were established. The evaluation revealed mid Saxon archaeological features that suggested settlement activity and excavation was subsequently required by MKCAO as the “*density of development does not allow the option of preserving the site in situ*” (Giggins, 2005).

1.4 *Location and Extent*

The proposed development is located in Water Eaton, Bletchley, in the unitary authority of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1). It lies to the south-east of the town, adjacent to the Grand Union Canal and encompasses a parcel of land c.3.5 hectares in area, centred on NGR SP 8818 3271. The development area is bordered to the west by Stoke Road and to the east by the Grand Union Canal, north of the

development area is Mill Road, and to the south lies the site of a demolished detached bungalow, where a car park and footbridge across the canal have recently been constructed. The latter site was the subject of a negative archaeological evaluation by ASC in 2004 (Hancock 2004). The excavation encompassed 3500 sq m of the development area (Fig 2), centred over a concentration of archaeological features revealed by evaluation trench 17 at NGR SP 8805 3261.

1.5 ***Geology & Topography***

The soils of the development area comprise the *Bishampton 2 Association*; namely fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils that exhibit some slight seasonal waterlogging and overlie river terrace gravels of the river Ouzel (Soil Survey 1983, 572t). The western extremity of the development area adjacent to Stoke Road lies at an elevation of *c.*76m OD and descends west-east towards the Grand Union Canal by a maximum of *c.*3.0m. The land was down to rough pasture during the excavation although a number of mature trees were growing adjacent to the canal. Pronounced ridge and furrow cultivation strips were present, and were aligned east - west across the site.

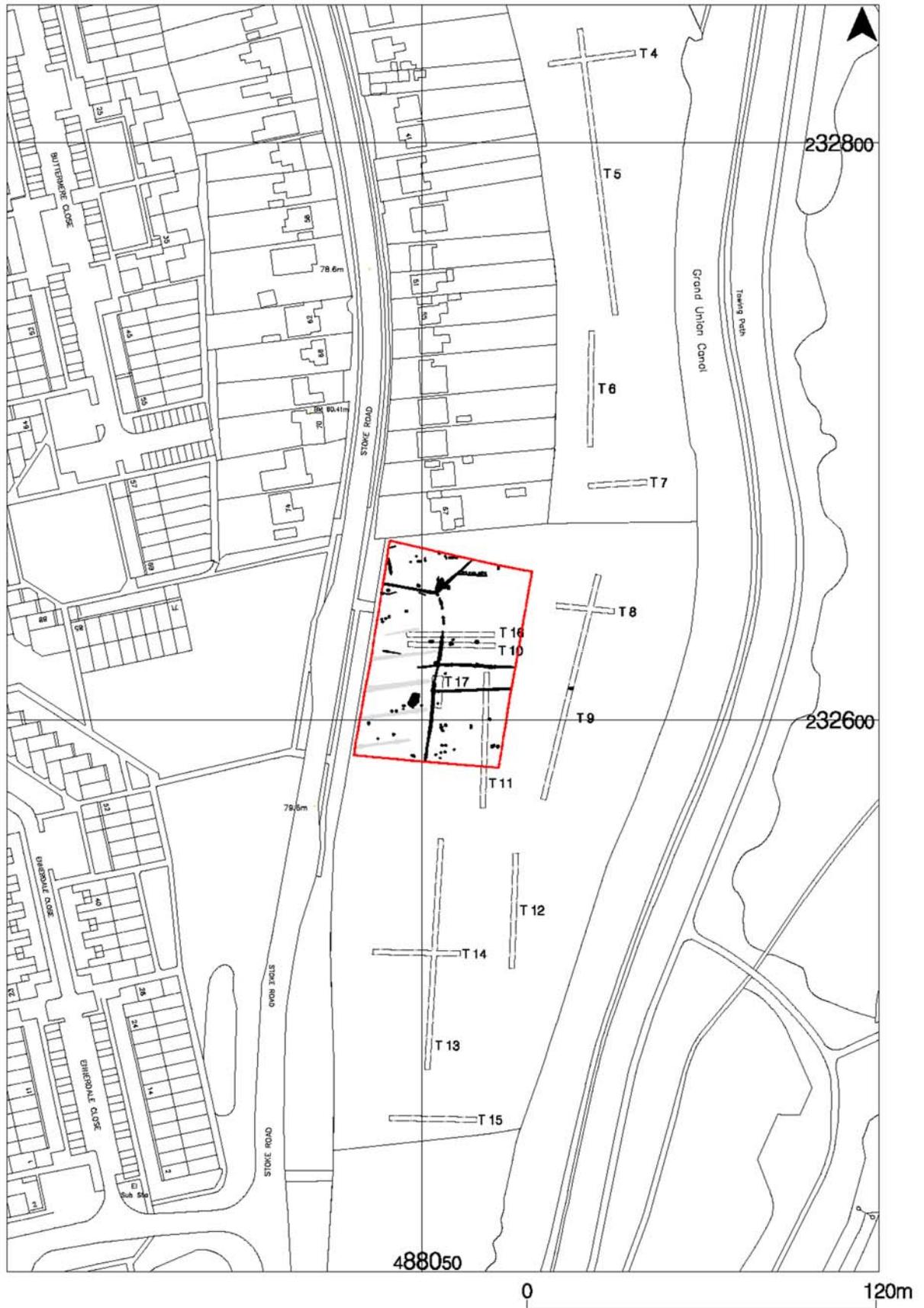


Figure 2: Location of excavation area, archaeological features and evaluation trenches (1:2000)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 5.1), the aims of the excavation were to provide information on the early development of the settlement of Water Eaton by:

- establishing size and form of archaeological features.
- establishing the date range of the features.
- establishing the range of flora, fauna and husbandry within the site.
- evaluating the significance of the site in the historic development of Water Eaton.
- Investigating any evidence for occupational activity and trade.

2.2 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 6), which required:

- Preparation of a detailed project design, for approval by MKCAO before commencing work on site.
- Removal of topsoil and overburden from the 3500 sq m area shown in Fig. 2 by suitable excavating plant fitted with a toothless bucket, working under archaeological direction.
- Sample excavation and recording of any archaeological features present, in accordance with guidelines set out in section 6.5 of the Brief.
- Sampling of suitable deposits/residues and features for specialist analysis in accordance with agreed strategies.
- Excavation and recording of any human remains in accordance with IFA Technical Paper 13.
- Conservation, storage and analysis of finds following approved methods.
- A contingency for excavation of 500 sq m.
- Preparation of a report and project archive.
- A review of the significance of the recovered data and assessment of the value of further analysis and subsequent publication.

The detailed methodology employed by ASC to achieve the above is described in Sections 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 *et seq* of the project design.

2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.4 Constraints

None was encountered during fieldwork although the excavation was delayed until environmental specialists dealt with an active badger set located in the western boundary of the development area adjacent to Stoke Road.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Introduction

The Bletchley area is of considerable archaeological and historical importance. The development area is located c.1.3km to the southwest of the Roman town of *Magiovinium* and a number of archaeological sites of other periods are known to exist within the surrounding area.

3.2 Prehistoric (before 600BC)

Artefacts and features of this period have not been recorded in the immediate area of the site although disparate prehistoric finds are known from the Ouzel valley.

3.3 Iron Age (600BC-AD43)

Late Iron Age settlement is known from the Lakes Estate, Bletchley (CAS no. 303500000) and near Mill Farm, to the northeast of the site. Further settlement has been recorded at Saffron Gardens c.1km north of the site. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from a field on the east side of Stoke Road, immediately north of the site (CAS 305501001).

3.4 Romano-British (AD43-c.450)

The area was within the territory of the *Catuvellauni* and of considerable importance during the Romano-British period. A major road from London to the West Midlands, now known as *Watling Street*, was constructed in the 1st Century. A fort established shortly after the Conquest guarded the point where Watling Street crossed the River Ouzel, c.1.3km north of the site. The fort attracted settlement, which developed into the small town of *Magiovinium* (Neal 1987). In the immediate vicinity of the site finds of this period have been discovered at SP 8798 3298, 8793 3247, 8805 3225 and 8802 3271. Sherds of coarse pottery and Samian ware have been recovered during dredging of the adjacent stretch of the Grand Union Canal

3.5 Saxon (c. AD450-1066)

The evidence for activity throughout this period is relatively good in the Milton Keynes area (Croft and Mynard 1993, 15-18). Saxon settlements were located during excavation at Pennyland and Hartigans (Williams 1993) and finds, for example, at Great Linford Church (Mynard and Zeepvat 1992), Bancroft (Williams and Zeepvat 1994), Tattenhoe (Parkhouse and Smith 1994) and Milton Keynes village (Parkhouse *et al* 1996) also indicate Saxon settlement.

The closest early-mid Saxon settlement evidence has been excavated at Caldecotte (Zeepvat *et al.* 1996), Wavendon Gate (Williams *et al.* 1996), and Fenny Lock (Ford and Taylor 2001). Settlement is also indicated by mid Saxon features and burials discovered during excavation at the deserted medieval village of Westbury (Ivens *et al.* 1995). Inhumation burials attributed to the Saxon period were discovered cut into the floors of Romano-British buildings at *Magiovinium* during the 1950's, although the finds included forty 3rd – 4th century coins (Neal 1987) and attribution of a definite Saxon date for these burials appears uncertain.

Archaeological evidence suggests that there is often discontinuity between the locations of mid and late Saxon settlement and thus indicates that a shift in settlement pattern may have occurred toward the end of mid Saxon period (*e.g.* Croft and Mynard 1993). The populations of dispersed mid Saxon farmsteads appear to have nucleated to form the core of villages eventually recorded by the Domesday Survey. The exact impetus for settlement reorganisation and associated change in land use is uncertain although growth of a more rigidly hierarchical society and concomitant reorganisation of the rural landscape into estates containing planned settlement and open field systems is often postulated.

The evidence for Saxon activity in the Milton Keynes area may be good relative to the rest of the midlands, yet bias in the known distribution of early-mid Saxon sites is undoubtedly present as a consequence of high levels of archaeological activity in certain areas of the Unitary Authority. It is also very likely that the known distribution of late Saxon settlements will have been skewed by incorporation of extant village cores into the modern conurbation of Milton Keynes without significant disturbance (Zeepvat 1991).

Early-mid Saxon activity had not been discovered in the immediate vicinity of the development area prior to the evaluation carried out by ASC although a late Saxon settlement is unequivocally present at Water Eaton, *c.*500m northeast of the site.

3.5 Medieval (AD1066-1500)

The late Saxon settlement is recorded in the Domesday Survey (1086) as *Etone*, which was held by Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances and amongst the holdings listed are a water mill. The population recorded in the entry is high, indicating that Etone may have formerly contained a number of dispersed settlements, that later nucleated into the settlements of Bletchley Church, Far Bletchley and Water Eaton (Croft & Mynard 1993, 54). Earthworks located on the west bank of the Ouzel, north of Water Eaton Mill, suggest the position of the medieval village of Etone (*ibid*). Extant ridge and furrow covered the development area at the time of excavation and illustrate that it fell within the open fields of Etone during this period. As noted in the evaluation brief (Giggins 2004) an early bridging point of the Ouzel lies *c.*300m northeast of the site at the mill.

3.6 Post-Medieval (AD1500-1900)

The survival of pronounced ridge and furrow indicates that the site has been subject to pastoral agricultural use since inclosure. Settlement at Water Eaton declined in the post-medieval period after the manor was demolished by Arthur, Lord Grey de Wilton, lord of Bletchley and Whaddon, and all re-useable materials were taken to Whaddon to build his new house (Croft & Mynard 1993, 54.).

The site is bounded to the east by the Grand Union Canal. This was opened in 1797 as the *Grand Junction Canal*, which extended as far as Fenny Stratford and was a major impetus to the economic development of Bletchley. The works associated with the canal truncated the ridge and furrow. The site is shown on the Bletchley tithe map (1813), as one large parcel of land, which included the modern residential development on the east side of Stoke Road.

4. Results (see Fig 3 for location of sections and Fig's 4, 5, 6 and 7 for section drawings)

- 4.1 The machine cleaned natural strata was heterogeneous: mid yellowish brown sandy clay was encountered across all parts of the site although it was almost completely overlain by deposits of mid brownish red gravelly sand at the southern third of the site.
- 4.2 Initial inspection of the cleaned surface of the excavation area indicated that archaeological features containing complex deep stratigraphy were not present. Ditches, small pits and post settings were visible, although it was apparent that the deep furrows of the medieval ploughing had truncated, and in all likelihood totally removed, some of the archaeological features.
- 4.3 Sufficient of each identified feature was excavated to fulfil the requirements of the brief, and establish its character and date. Where appropriate, mainly from the bases of ditches, environmental samples were taken. Each excavated feature was recorded in detail and Figure 2 shows the relative position of all features.
- 4.4 An oval pit [214] was the earliest identified feature. The pit was 1.7m x 1.0m x 0.2m deep, and its sides sloped moderately and broke gradually to a flat base. The pit fill (215) consisted of a mid brownish grey clayey silt which contained abundant burnt stone and charcoal. A bulk sample taken from the fill of the pit showed that other types of environmental/economic evidence were largely absent. Recovery of unabraded flint tempered pot sherds from the fill of the pit suggest that it infilled during the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.
- 4.5 The fill (199) of post hole [198] contained two Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pot sherds, which could date this feature. Pot sherds of similar date were also recovered from a section [148] through ditch 1000 located immediately adjacent to pit [214]. This pottery is residual as an abraded Romano-British pot sherd was also recovered from the same fill.
- 4.6 A small number of Romano-British pot sherds were recovered from other features distributed across the site. The majority of these features are dated by other finds to later periods and the RB pot sherds were thus incorporated into their fills as residual material.
- 4.7 A single RB pot sherd recovered from oval pit/deposit [149] and another RB sherd recovered from post hole [125] may date these features to the RB period although both sherds are abraded and probably residual.
- 4.7 Four ditches (Group contexts 1000, 1001, 1002 and 1003) were evident cut into the machine cleaned surface of the excavation area. The dateable finds recovered from the ditches, their alignments and stratigraphical relationships suggest that they comprise the southeastern corner of a possible enclosure and appended boundary/drainage system, which were extant during the mid Saxon period.

4.8 Ditch 1000

- 4.8.1 Eight sections were excavated across the southern and eastern sides of a possible enclosure ditch (1000), located at the northwestern corner of the opened area. The unbroken WNW-ESE returning SW-NE aligned ditch had moderately sloping sides breaking sharply to a slightly concave base (*e.g.* Plates 4 and 5). Parts of the u shaped ditch had been heavily truncated by the ridge and furrow although the least damaged sections were *c.*1.0m wide and *c.*0.5m deep. Unabraded sherds of mid Saxon Maxey ware and Ipswich ware were recovered from sections across the homogenous mid brownish grey clayey silt ditch fill and suggest that the enclosure fell out of use and the ditch infilled during the mid Saxon period.
- 4.8.2 Evidence of a bank formed from the upcast of the ditch was not observed within the enclosure or the fill of the ditch.
- 4.8.3 The base of a later plough furrow had truncated ditch 1000 [251] where it met the northern limit of excavation and only the basal 0.05m of the ditch survived. The topography of the site indicates that the ditch may have been relatively shallow in this area when extant and the amount of damage caused by the ridge and furrow is thus unclear. A furrow also truncated the ditch [99] where it met the western limit of excavation although the basal 0.15m of the ditch survived below the clayey sand fill at the base of the furrow.
- 4.8.4 Environmental sample 11 was taken from the fill of the enclosure ditch, and shows that fills (143, 146) contained frequent comminuted charcoal, a small amount of ferrous smithing slag, a small fragment of glass and two fragments of wheat chaff.
- 4.8.5 A shallow (≤ 0.2 m) ovoid spread of brownish grey clayey silt, (group context 1007) lay within and adjacent to the return of the ditch (*e.g.* Plates 1 and 2). The western margin of this deposit was delimited by N-S aligned shallow (≤ 0.14 m) gully 1006.
- 4.8.6 A gravel layer (247) at the base of 1007 may have been deposited to consolidate the floor of a structure or enclosed area. However, the clayey deposit (157) partially overlying (247) may have been undisturbed natural that was overcut by the excavator and the anthropogenic origin of the gravel deposit is uncertain.
- 4.8.7 A possible slot/posthole [249] was located between ditch 1000 and floor deposit 1007, although its clean sandy fill may suggest that it was geomorphological or the result of bioturbation. Other postholes and structural evidence were absent in the area of the floor deposit. Initial hypothesis proposed that deposit 1007 may have accumulated on the floor of an animal pen/stall. This suggestion remains conjectural due to the lack of structural components and evidence suggesting animal trampling.
- 4.8.8 Section 8 was excavated across ditch 1000 and floor deposit 1007, and may suggest that the ditch was recut [144]. However, the recut is identified only

tentatively as the observed variance in the ditch fills was minimal, and nearby sections (3, 7 and 9), across ditch 1000 contained no further evidence of recutting.

- 4.8.9 Seventeen shallow ($\leq 0.1\text{m}$), sub-circular/ovoid mid brownish grey clayey silt filled postholes were located within the enclosure (*e.g.* Plate 6). Grouping of the postholes could indicate the locations of two rectilinear structures, although truncation, proximity to the northern limit of excavation, and the likely removal of other postholes by the ridge and furrow makes definitive interpretation of these features problematic.
- 4.8.10 An alternative interpretation of the shallow postholes, which lacked post packing and post pipes, may suggest that the posts could not have supported significant weight and may have been inserted as the uprights of relatively temporary structures or fencing. A single abraded Romano-British pot sherd was recovered from posthole [125], although this find is probably residual.
- 4.8.11 Sections were excavated across a shallow ($\leq 0.05\text{m}$) concave gully [51], and two slightly deeper (0.2m) concave parallel gullies [21] (Plate 7), which were located within the enclosure. Dateable material was not recovered from these features although the mid brownish grey clayey silt fills were indistinguishable from those of archaeological features described in previous sections. Investigation of the northern and southern extremities of the two parallel gullies showed that both ends of the feature had been totally removed by furrows.
- 4.8.12 Extremely shallow ($\leq 0.01\text{m}$) E-W aligned gully 1008 [83] lay external to the enclosure ditch and butted the SW-NE aligned arm of it (Plate 8). An abraded segment of the raised lip of a Romano-British tegula roofing tile was recovered from the surface of its mid brownish grey clayey silt fill. The western terminal end of gully 1008 was rounded and shallowed to respect the position of the enclosure ditch. The eastern end of the gully was also rounded but shallowed gradually to the surface and its full extent may have been truncated by a furrow. The relationship of the gully and ditch 1000 illustrates that the gully was contemporary with, or later than, the suggested mid Saxon enclosure and thus confirms that the fragment of tegula is residual.
- 4.8.13 A line of eight postholes was located immediately north of gully 1008 and mirrored its orientation. Post pipes or packing were absent except in post hole [67] which contained two discoidal fired clay loom weights that may have been reused as packing for a post (Plate 9). The form and fabric of the two weights are analogous to Saxon loomweights discovered at Pennylands (Williams, 1993, 123).
- 4.8.14 A N-S orientated shallow concave gully [81] lay perpendicular to and four metres northeast of gully 1008. The gully extended beyond the northern limit of excavation and was filled with a dark orangeish brown clayey silt fill. Finds were not recovered from the fill of this feature.

4.9 Ditch 1001

- 4.9.1 Ten sections were excavated across north-south aligned boundary/drainage ditch 1001 (*e.g.* Plates 10 and 12). The full extent of the ditch was not confirmed as it continued beyond the southern limit of the excavation. The northern third of the ditch was shallow, *e.g.* [11], and possibly obliterated by furrows at three points.
- 4.9.2 Evidence of a bank formed from the upcast of ditch 1001 was not observed in the fill of the ditch.
- 4.9.3 A very shallow ($\leq 0.01\text{m}$) slightly concave channel led off the external corner of suggested enclosure ditch 1000 in the direction of the nearest section [07] excavated across ditch 1001. Unfortunately, it was impossible to establish a relationship between the ditches as a furrow obliterated the shallow channel a short distance from the ditch 1000.
- 4.9.4 The deepest recorded section [63] across ditch 1001 descended to 0.5m below the stripped surface. At this point the ditch was 1.0m wide and had moderately sloping concave sides breaking indiscernibly to a slightly concave base. The fill of all the sections excavated across ditch 1001 were homogeneous mid brownish grey clayey silts. Sherds of early/mid Saxon hand built ware and mid Saxon Maxey ware were recovered from four of the sections excavated across it.
- 4.9.5 An environmental sample taken from the fill (64) of the deepest section [64] across ditch 1001 showed that abundant comminuted charcoal, occasional cereal grains (wheat, barley, oat) and one residual waste flint flake were incorporated into this fill.
- 4.9.6 Initial inspection of the area between parallel ditches 1002 and 1003 indicated that a break in ditch 1001 was present. Hand cleaning of this area subsequently suggested that the ditch was unbroken, and section [49] proved that it was continuous and ran truncated yet unbroken below the clayey sand fill of a furrow.
- 4.9.7 Ditch 1001 was cut by pit [89], which also cut shallow concave gully 1004 (Plate 11). The gully and pit were located at the western side of ditch 1001 directly opposite ditch 1002. The pit had steep sides breaking sharply to a slightly concave base and was filled by a mid brownish grey clayey silt within which was a lens of darker clayey silt containing large amounts of charcoal. One sherd of early/middle Saxon hand built ware was recovered from the upper fill (92) of the pit.
- 4.9.8 A bulk environmental sample taken from the fills of pit [89] contained one piece of ferrous smithing slag, abundant comminuted charcoal, occasional cereal grains (wheat, barley, oat) and bones of cattle, pig, goat/sheep. A small assemblage of snail shells indicates that the local environment was open, possibly damp, grassland while the pit was infilling

- 4.9.9 The eastern end of gully 1004 was rounded and shallowed to terminate next to ditch 1001, therefore respecting its position. The western end of the gully was also rounded but was extremely shallow and may have been truncated by a furrow.
- 4.9.8 The stratigraphic relationship of the gully, ditch and pit illustrates that the gully was contemporary with, or later than the ditch and that both of these features had infilled before being cut by the pit.

4.10 Ditches 1002 and 1003

- 4.10.1 Two parallel ditches were located on the crest of adjacent ridges, *c.* 7.7m apart. The ditches ran eastward from ditch 1001 and continued beyond the eastern limit of excavation.
- 4.10.2 Evidence of banks formed from the upcast from ditches 1002 and 1003 was not observed in the fills of these features.
- 4.10.3 Ditches 1002 (Plate 13) and 1003 (Plate 14) possessed rounded western ends terminating next to and respecting ditch 1001 (*e.g.* Plate 12). Ditch 1002 was *c.* 0.9m wide and ditch 1003 was *c.* 0.7m wide. The maximum recorded depths of both ditches was *c.* 0.35m although both grew very shallow (*c.* 0.05m) as they neared ditch 1001.
- 4.10.4 The deeper sections across both ditches, [57] and [279], were characterised by moderately sloping sides with gradual/indiscernible breaks to slightly concave bases. The fill of both ditches was a mid brownish grey clayey silt.
- 4.10.5 Ditch 1002 was not observed in the evaluation trenches and it is thought that it was located in the unexcavated area between evaluation trenches 10, 11 and 17. It was also absent from N-S orientated evaluation Trench 9 and it may be truncated, terminate or alter direction a short distance beyond the eastern edge of excavation. The base of the ditch [55] near to the edge of excavation was 0.14m below the stripped surface and termination or truncation seems the most likely explanation.
- 4.10.6 Environmental sample 9 from the fill (58) of ditch 1002 contained evidence of ferrous metalworking. Smithing slag was present, as was hammerscale, including a single spheroidal example. Occasional wheat grains, plus cattle, pig and sheep/goat bones were also recovered.
- 4.10.7 Analysis of environmental sample 6 from the fill (48) of ditch 1003 showed that it also contained hammerscale, occasional cereal grains (wheat, barley, oats), plus bones from cattle, pig, sheep/goat and a house mouse, a species that is synonymous with settlements.
- 4.10.8 Dateable material was not recovered from the fill of ditch 1002. Sherds of early/mid Saxon and mid Saxon pottery were recovered from the fill of ditch 1003.

- 4.10.9 Ditch 1002 mirrors the orientation of ditch 1003 and respects ditch 1001, it is therefore probable that the two ditches are contemporary and were open during or shortly after the mid Saxon period.

4.11 Sunken Featured Building 1005 and Nearby Features

- 4.11.1 Sunken featured building (SFB) 1005 was located south of gully 1004 and west of ditch 1001 in the southern third of the excavation area (Plate 16). The floorplan of the SFB was sub-rectangular and its longest axis was aligned SW-NE. The recorded dimensions of the SFB were 4.6m x 3m, although it is unclear whether this is its full extent as it was damaged by medieval furrows at its southwestern and northeastern ends.
- 4.11.2 The SFB had been dug through natural gravelly sand into the underlying clay, its sides sloped gently then broke indiscernibly to a flat, level base. Two fills were evident: an upper mid greyish brown clayey silt had accumulated upon a primary fill of sub-angular/angular gravel. The primary fill appeared to be a deliberate deposit of material designed to consolidate the floor of the structure.
- 4.11.3 The combined fills of the SFB survived to a depth of only 0.15m below the machine cleaned surface and it appears probable that the SFB was substantially truncated by subsequent agricultural activity (Plate 17).
- 4.11.4 Four shallow post holes were discovered in the southern half of the SFB, (*e.g.* Plate 15). Post pipes or packing were not evident in the fills of these features. The bases of post holes [186], [188], [190] were 0.1m, and [194] was 0.15m, below the stripped surface. All were sub-circular in plan, and had steep sides breaking sharply to concave bases.
- 4.11.5 Full excavation of the SFB did not reveal any other internal features and artefacts or other dateable materials were not recovered from its fills.
- 4.11.6 An alignment of three, WSW-ESE aligned, sub-circular post/stake holes [201, 203, 205] located immediately south of the SFB suggest the position of a fenceline possibly associated with it. All three had shallow concave profiles less than 0.1m deep. No finds were recovered from these features.
- 4.11.7 Two slightly larger sub circular post holes/pits [198, 200] lay east of and on the same alignment as post/stake holes [201, 203, 205] and may have formed part of the suggested fenceline. Post hole/pit [198] was shallow and had irregular gradual/steep sides breaking sharply to an irregular slightly convex base. Post hole [200] had a steep southern side and gradually sloping northern side, which broke sharply halfway down to descend steeply to the flat base of a post pipe. A stone at the northern side of the fill of [200] may have acted as post packing.
- 4.11.8 Two unabraded LBA/EIA pot sherds were recovered from the fill of post hole/pit [198] and may indicate that this feature is earlier than the suggested Saxon fenceline. No finds were recovered from the fill of post hole/pit [200].

- 4.11.9 A shallow post hole/pit [207] was located slightly west of the southern end of the SFB and north of the suggested fenceline. The western side of the post hole sloped gradually without discernible break to an irregular convex base. In contrast, the eastern side descended steeply and broke sharply to the base. No finds were recovered from this feature.

4.12 Gullies and Slots

- 4.12.1 Curvilinear gully [103] was aligned E-W and the deepest recorded section across it descended to a depth of 0.15m below the stripped surface. It broke sharply from the surface and its sides descended gradually/moderately without discernible break to a concave base. The western end of the gully had been partially truncated by a furrow, but extended beyond the western edge of the excavation area. The eastern end shallowed to the surface and was ultimately removed by a furrow. Dateable finds were not recovered from its mottled grey/orange brown clayey silt fill.
- 4.12.2 Linear gully [212] was aligned WNW-ESE and the deepest recorded section across it descended to a depth of 0.05m below the machined surface. It broke gradually from the surface and had a shallow concave profile. The ends of the gully shallowed to the surface and were truncated by furrows. Dateable finds were not recovered from its mottled grey/orange brown clayey silt fill.
- 4.12.3 The fills of gullies [103] and [212] were almost indistinguishable and may suggest that the two shallow features were originally part of one gully that was truncated by the later ridge and furrow.
- 4.12.4 A shallow NW-SE aligned linear gully [216] lay 22m south of the proposed enclosure ditch. Its steep sides broke sharply from the surface then broke sharply to a slightly concave base 0.05m below the stripped surface. Its relationship with other archaeological features is unclear although its fill was a mid brownish grey clayey silt similar to that found in many of the archaeological features. A sherd of 19th century pottery was recovered from the fill and the antiquity of this feature is consequently uncertain.
- 4.12.5 Two N-S aligned slots [19, 41] were located in the southeastern quadrant of the excavated area, east of ditch 1001 and south of ditch 1003. The slots were ovoid in plan, had shallow concave profiles, 0.14m and 0.05m deep respectively, and significant truncation has probably occurred to both. The fill of [19] was a mid brownish grey clayey silt and the fill of [41] was a mid brownish orange silty sand. No finds were discovered in the fills of these features.

4.13 *The Pits*

- 4.13.1 A small pit [168] was located 3.5m north of gully [103]. It was sub-circular in plan and its steep sides broke sharply from the surface and broke sharply to a slightly concave base. The maximum depth of the pit below the stripped surface was 0.15m. The fill contained a greater proportion of sand but was otherwise similar to the mottled grey/orange brown clayey silt fill of gullies [103] and [212]. Dateable finds were not recovered from the fill of the pit.
- 4.13.2 Oval feature [210] was located 7.2m southeast of gully [103] and may have formed the base of a pit. It broke gradually from the surface and had a shallow 0.07m deep concave profile filled with mid brownish orange clayey silt. Finds were not recovered from its fill.
- 4.13.3 Two, c.1.3m diameter, sub-circular pits [268, 271] were identified in evaluation trench 10. Pit [268] lay 10.8m east of ditch 1001 and 7.0m north of ditch 1002. It broke sharply to near vertical sides undercut in places, then broke sharply to a broad uneven base 0.65m below the stripped surface. It contained a primary fill of dark grey clayey silt and a secondary fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay. Finds were not recovered from either fill. Pit [271] lay 7.4m west of pit [254]. It broke sharply to near vertical sides and sharply to a broad, slightly concave base 0.28m below the stripped surface. It contained a fill of mid brownish grey clayey silt. One sherd of early/mid Saxon hand built ware was recovered from its fill.
- 4.13.4 The excavation revealed a smaller (c.0.63 dia) sub-circular pit [133] located 0.5m NE of pit [271]. It broke sharply to moderately sloping sides without perceptible break to a slightly concave base 0.18m below the stripped surface. It was filled with a homogeneous mid brownish grey clayey silt and resting on the base of the feature was a large stone that may have acted as post packing. Finds were not recovered from the fill.
- 4.13.5 Sub-rectangular pit [25] was located southwest of SFB 1005. The pit had a sharp break from top and near vertical sides breaking sharply to a flat base that deepened slightly to 0.35m and became concave at its northern side. A homogeneous mid brownish grey clayey silt filled the pit. No finds were recovered from the fill.
- 4.13.6 Oval pit [29] was located south of SFB 1005. The pit had a sharp break from top and near vertical sides breaking sharply to a flat base 0.18m below the stripped surface. A blackish brown silty clay containing frequent charcoal flecks and a lens of burnt material filled the pit. Finds were not recovered from the fill.
- 4.13.7 Sub-circular pit [45] was located 3.6m south of ditch 1003 and 0.9m east of ditch 1001. It had a sharp break to steep sides and a sharp break to a flat base 0.07m below the stripped surface. Its fill was a dark brownish black clayey sand with frequent charcoal inclusions and no finds were recovered from it.

- 4.13.8 Sub-circular pit [39] was 9.4m south of ditch 1003. It broke sharply to steep sides and sharply to a flat base 0.13m below the stripped surface. It was filled with a mid greyish brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered from the fill of this feature.
- 4.13.9 Two adjacent ovoid pits [31, 33] were located at the southeast of the opened area. Pit [31] had a sharp break from the top and steep sides breaking sharply to a slightly concave base 0.23 m below the stripped surface. Pit [33] had a sharp break and gradually sloping sides with a gentle break to a slightly concave base 0.08m below the stripped surface. The fill of both pits was a mid greyish brown sandy silt and finds were not recovered from either.

4.14 Post Holes

- 4.14.1 A group of five post holes were located *c.*7.0m south of gully [103]. All were sub-circular in plan. Post hole [170] broke sharply to steep sides and sharply to a slightly concave base 0.17m below the stripped surface. Post hole [180] had a shallow concave 0.1m deep profile. Post hole [172] had a tubular profile that broke sharply to near vertical sides and sharply to a flat base 0.22m below the stripped surface. Post hole [177] and [174] had conical profiles, 0.17m and 0.16m deep respectively.
- 4.14.2 The composition of the fills of the five post holes varied. The fill of post hole [172] was a mid greyish brown clayey silt and the fill of [180] was a brownish black silty clay. Post holes [170, 174 and 177] were filled with slight variations of orangeish brown clays. Post holes [174] and [177] contained secondary fills that could suggest that the posts were deliberately removed prior to these features silting. A coherent structural plan could not be identified from the relative positions of the postholes although their proximity suggests an association. Finds were not recovered from these features.
- 4.14.3 Two post holes [275, 277], located 15.7m south of enclosure ditch 1000 and 2.5m west of ditch 1001, were revealed by evaluation trench 10. Post hole [277] was ovoid in plan, had a sharp break at top and steep sides without a perceptible break to a concave base 0.08m below the stripped surface. Sub-rectangular post hole [275] had a sharp break at top and steep sides without a perceptible break to a broad slightly concave base that was also 0.08m below the stripped surface. Finds were not recovered from the fills of these features.
- 4.14.4 Post holes [218] and [222] were located *c.*12m north of the southern excavation limit and *c.*16m west of ditch 1001. Post hole [218] was ovoid in plan breaking sharply from the top to moderately sloping sides that broke imperceptibly to a slightly concave base 0.15m below the stripped surface. Post hole [222] was sub-circular breaking sharply from the top to moderately sloping sides which broke imperceptibly to a slightly concave base 0.10m below the stripped surface. The fill of both was a mid brownish grey clayey silt and dateable artefacts were not recovered.
- 4.14.5 Post hole [131] was the only archaeological feature lying between ditches 1002 and 1003. It had a moderate break to gradually sloping sides that broke

gradually to a flat base. The fill was a dark brownish grey clayey silt and no finds were recovered from it.

- 4.14.6 Post hole [129] was located immediately southeast of shallow oval slot [19]. It had a sharp break from the surface and a conical profile with a slightly concave base 0.17m below the stripped surface. It was filled with a mid brownish grey clayey silt and no finds were recovered from it.
- 4.14.7 Post hole [43] was located 1.0m east of shallow oval slot [19]. It was shallow with a moderate break to moderately sloping sides without a discernible break to a concave base. The fill of this feature was a mid brownish orange silty sand and no finds were recovered from it. Its profile and clean sandy fill suggest that this suggested post hole could equally be a natural feature.
- 4.14.8 Two adjacent post holes [35, 37] were located 0.9m east of pits [31, 33]. The post holes broke sharply to steep sides and sharply to concave bases, respectively 0.08m and 0.12m below the stripped surface. The fill of both postholes was a mid greyish brown sandy silt and finds were not recovered.
- 4.14.9 A group of six shallow post holes [111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121], (*e.g.* Plate 18), was situated *c.*4.6m east of ditch 1001 and just inside the southern limit of excavation. The bases of all were less than 0.2m below the machined surface. The post holes may suggest the position of a structure although truncation, proximity to the southern limit of excavation, and the likely removal of other postholes by the ridge and furrow makes definitive interpretation of these features problematic. A further possible post hole [123] lies 2.7m east of the group and may be associated with them. However it had a very shallow concave profile and its archaeological origin is uncertain. No finds were recovered from these features.

4.15 *Furrows*

- 4.15.1 Parallel linear features, *c.*1.0m wide and WSW-ENE aligned, were visible on the machine cleaned surfaces of five successive ridges at the west of the excavation area. The linear features did not extend east of ditch 1001 and ran at a slight diagonal to the extant ridges where these field strips began to veer left to form the distinctive reverse “S” turn of ridge and furrow ploughed with oxen during the medieval period.
- 4.15.2 Shallow (≤ 0.1 m) concave profiles and sandy fills characterised the excavated slots through the features. Romano-British pot sherds were recovered from slots [184], [196] and [242] and 12th century pot sherds from slots [23] and [184]. The dateable finds, linear parallel orientation and shallow nature of these features suggest that they are 12th century (*terminus post quem*) plough furrows containing residual Roman-British pot sherds.
- 4.15.3 The full spatial extent of these agricultural features may have been obliterated by the later ridge and furrow. The shallow eastern ends of each of the five furrows terminated on the southern side of an open field ridge and when

projected eastward would have continued along the line of the deep open field furrows.

- 4.15.4 An alternative interpretation could suggest that ditch 1001, although probably infilled by the 10th/11th century, still constituted an active 12th century boundary that was respected by the ploughing regime that created the five furrows.
- 4.15.5 No definitive indication that ditch 1001 was an extant boundary during, or later, than the 12th century was noted during the excavation. On the balance of evidence it is thought that the five furrows predate the later ridge and furrow that consequently must have been created during the 13th – 16th centuries.



Plate 1: Plan shot of enclosure ditch 1000 and floor deposit 1007, facing northeast



Plate 2: Section across enclosure ditch 1000 [238], floor deposit 1007 [234] and gully 1006 [236] with pits [150] and [214] at top right, facing northeast.



Plate 3: Sections across enclosure ditch 1000, floor deposit 1007 and gully 1006 with pits [214] and [150] in foreground, facing northwest



Plate 4: Section [148] across enclosure ditch 1000 showing possible recut [144], facing northeast



Plate 5: Ditch 1000 [09], facing east-southeast



Plate 6: Post/stake holes [158], [160] and [162], facing north



Plate 7: Section across parallel gullies [21], facing north-northeast



Plate 8: Gully 1008 [83], facing east



Plate 9: Post/stake holes [65] and [67], facing north



Plate 10: Ditch 1001 [15], facing north-northeast



Plate 11: Ditch 1001 [87] and pit [89], facing south



Plate 12: Sections [63] and [49] across Ditch 1001 and terminal end of ditch 1003 [61], facing north



Plate 13: Ditch 1002 [57]



Plate 14: Ditch 1003 [279]



Plate 15: Sunken featured building 1005 with post hole [190] in foreground, facing north-northeast



Plate 16: Sunken featured building 1005, facing south-southwest



Plate 17: Sunken featured building 1005, facing west-northwest



Plate 18: Post/stake hole [115]

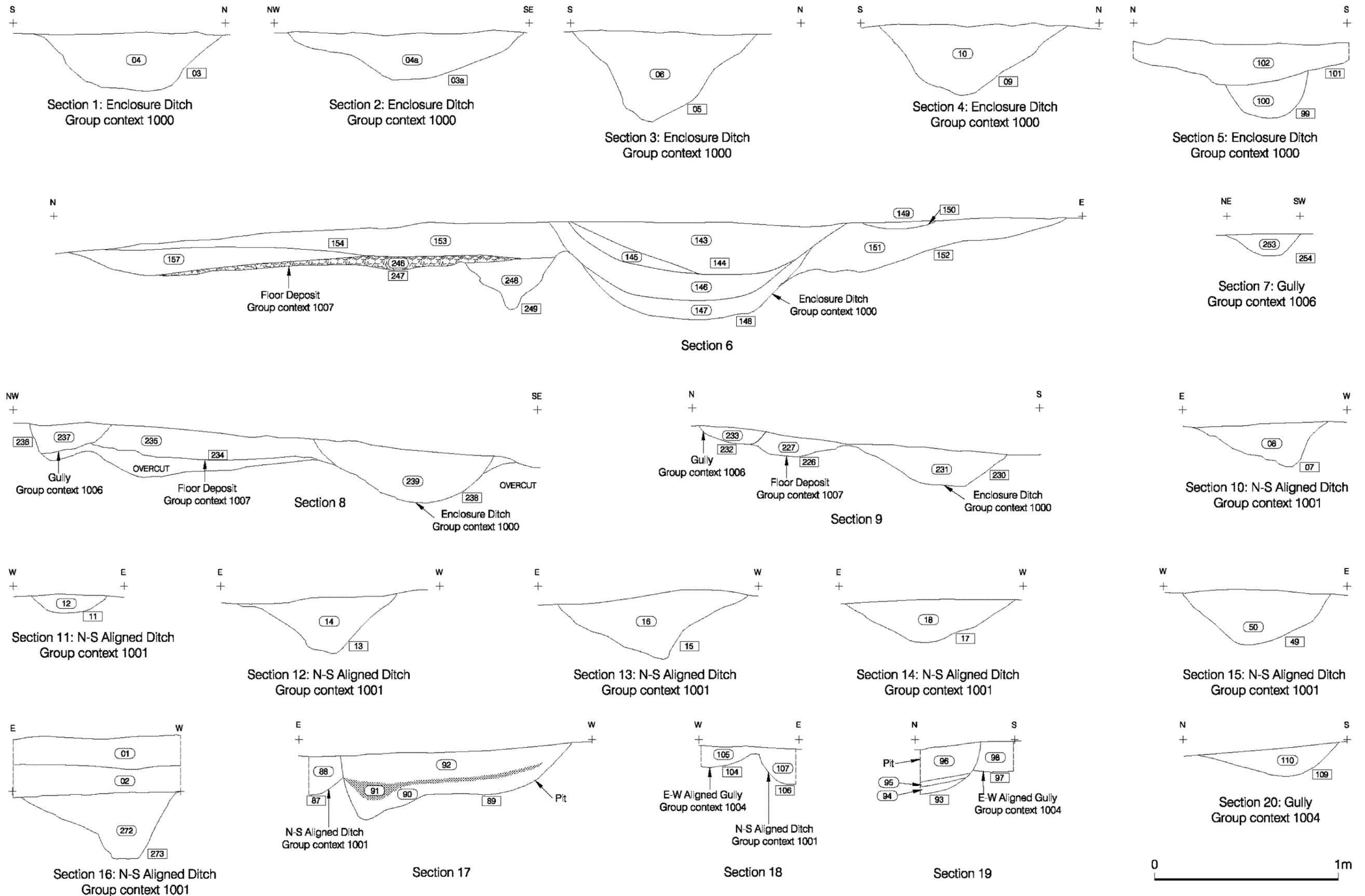


Figure 4: Excavated sections (a)

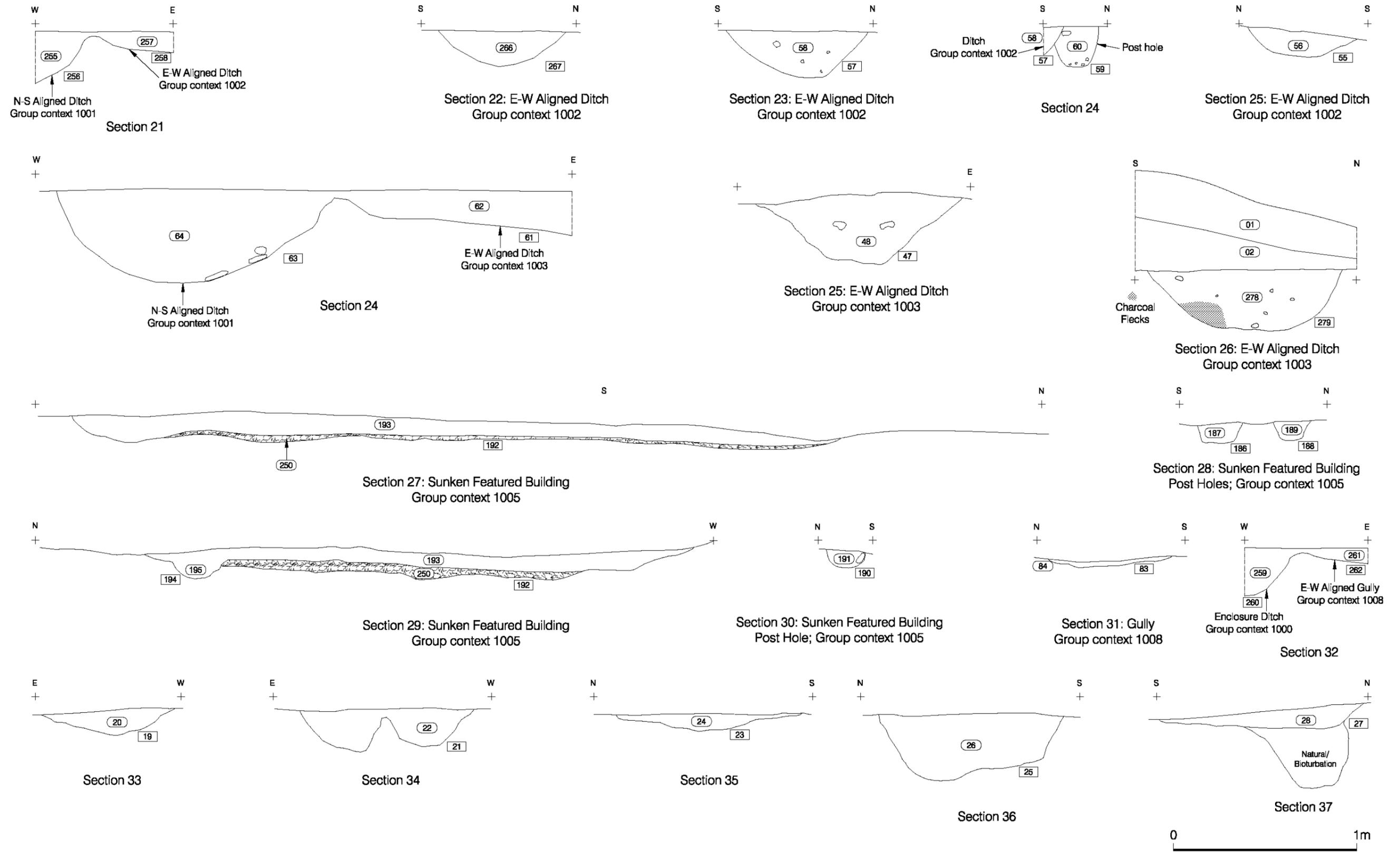


Figure 5: Excavated sections (b)

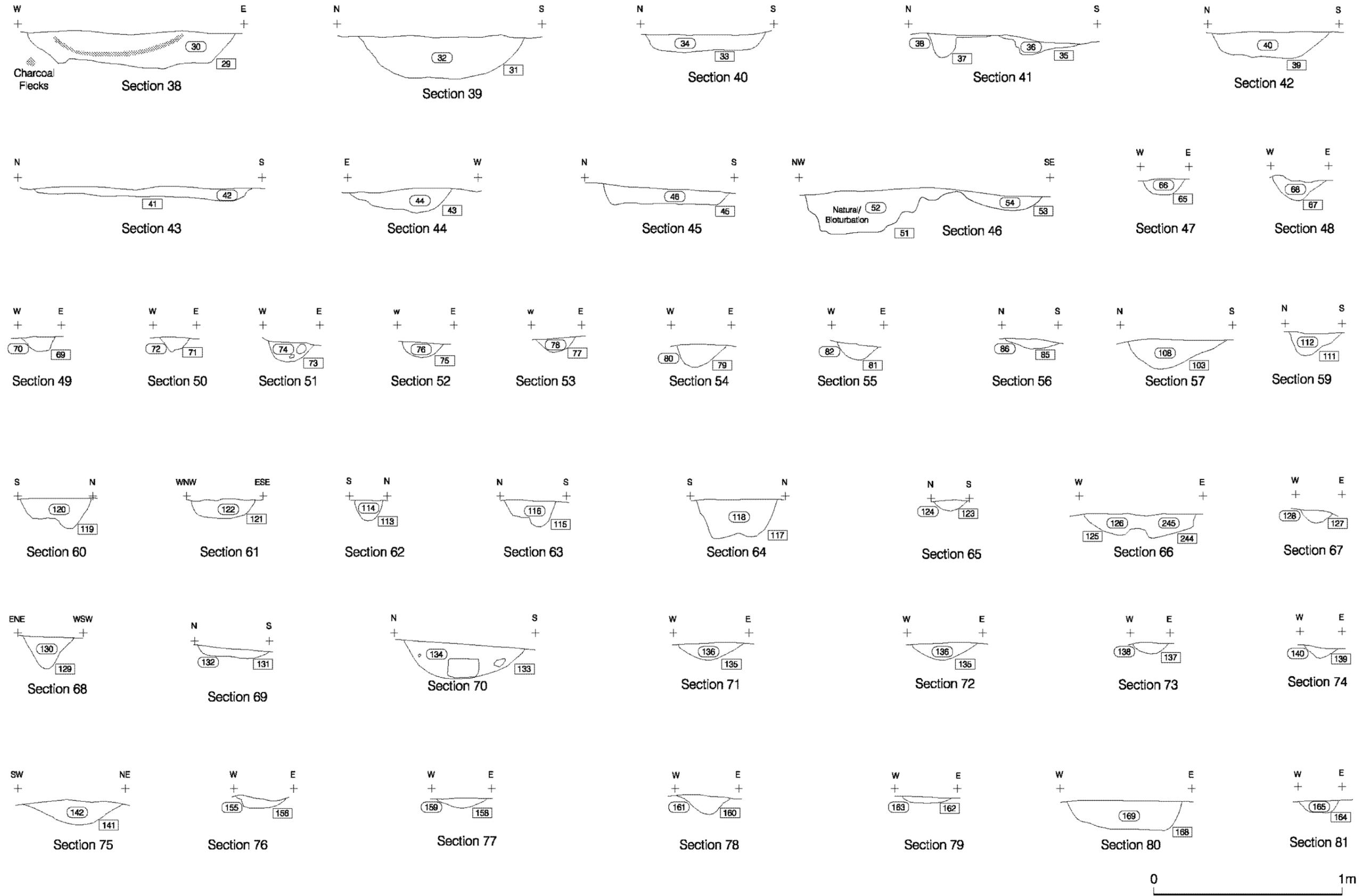


Figure 6: Excavated sections (c)

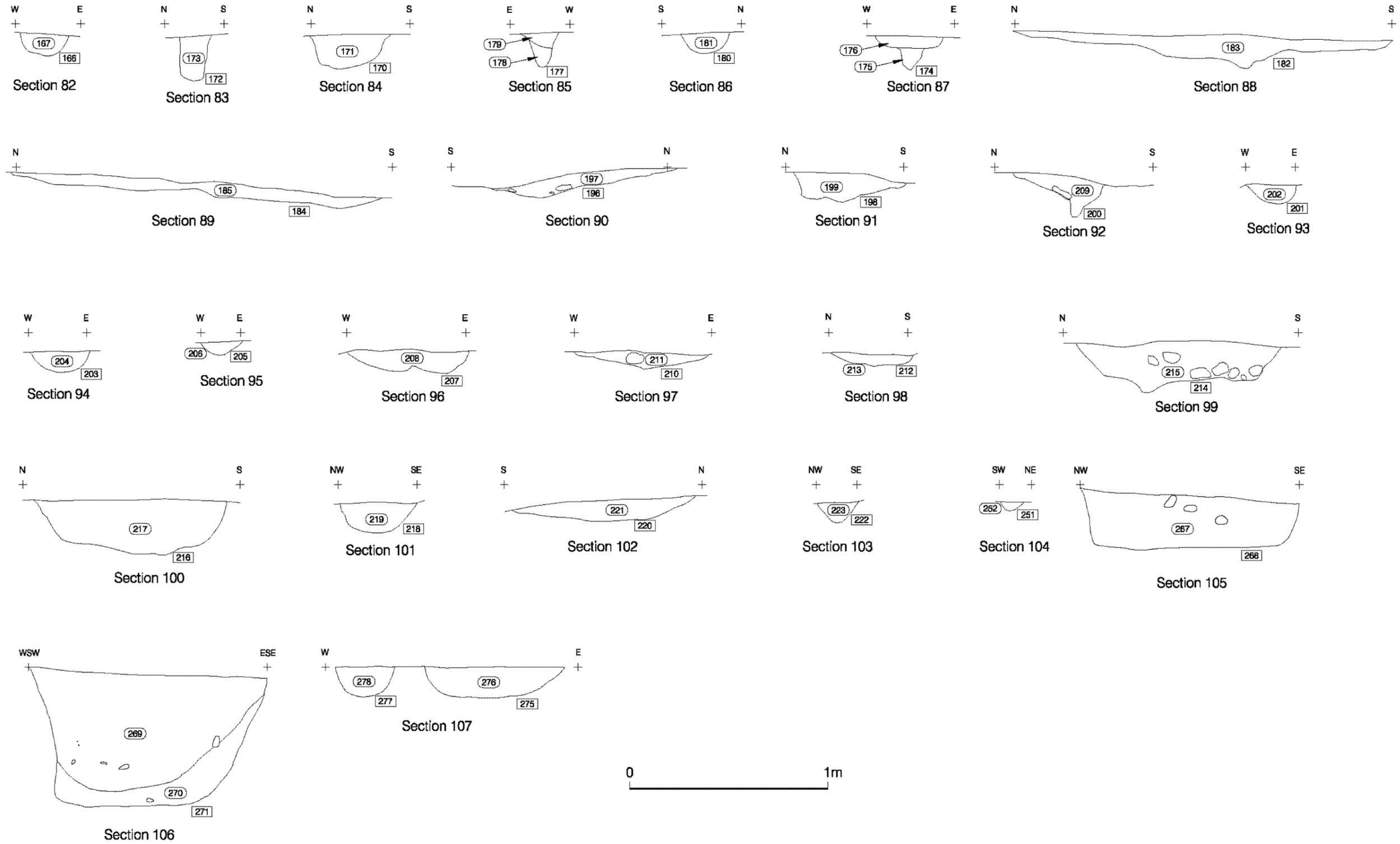


Figure 7: Excavated sections (d)

5. The Finds

5.1 Lithic

A retouched flint flake was recovered from the fill (274) of posthole [275] during the evaluation. The flake was small (40mm x 30mm) dark brown and irregularly shaped. Cortex was present along the proximal edge and one lateral margin. The cortical surface was used as the striking platform and a pronounced bulb of percussion with bulbar scar was evident at the proximal end on the ventral side. The dorsal surface exhibited scars indicating three previous flake removals. The flake was steeply retouched along one lateral margin and the distal end. It is probably residual and appears to be a core rejuvenation / preparation flake that has been retouched for use as a scraper.

5.2 Pottery

A detailed description of the pottery is provided in Appendix 2. The following summary includes the pot sherds recovered during the evaluation:

5.2.1 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age

Eight sherds were recovered from pit [214], two sherds from post hole [198] and two sherds from enclosure ditch 1000 [148]. All of the sherds were tempered with frequent or moderate angular flint, which is atypical for pottery of LBA/EIA date in the Milton Keynes area but is known from examples in Bedfordshire (*e.g.* La Niece and Slowikowski 1999).

The majority of the sherds from pit [214] are undiagnostic although differences in their fabrics suggests that two vessels may be present. One finely tapered rim and one flat base sherd may be from the same vessel. The majority of the sherds are unabraded suggesting a *terminus post quem* for the pit.

Two small body sherds from posthole [198] are undiagnostic, although both have a red-orange external surface, black interior surface, a dark grey/black core and could originate from the same vessel. The sherds are small but unabraded and could suggest a *terminus post quem* for this feature.

Two slightly abraded conjoining sherds recovered from a fill (143) of ditch [148] originate from the flat base of a single vessel. The fabric of the sherds is coarse, has frequent flint temper and has a light orange/red-orange/dark brown exterior surface, dark brown interior surface and a dark brown/black core. The sherds were recovered along with a small fragment of soft pink grogged Romano-British pottery and are therefore residual.

5.2.2 Romano-British

A total of nine sherds dating from this period was identified in the assemblage.

An abraded and non diagnostic body sherd with red-orange external surfaces and buff core approximating Milton Keynes Fabric 1 (Marney 1989) was

recovered from the fill (06) of the suggested enclosure ditch 1000. It is extremely coarse with numerous voids indicating combustion of organic grog during firing. Mid Saxon Ipswich ware was recovered from the same fill and this potsherd is residual. The fabric is not a classic example of fabric 1 and a Romano-British date is tentatively attributed

A non diagnostic body sherd of coarse shell tempered ware was recovered from the fill (64) of ditch 1001. A body sherd of similar fabric was also recovered from the fill (126) of post hole [125]. The sherds have black/dark brown exteriors and black cores consistent with Milton Keynes Fabric 1 (*ibid*). Recovery of later mid Saxon pottery from ditch 1001 illustrates that this sherd is residual. The sherd from the posthole is abraded and probably residual.

A sherd from a flat based vessel was recovered from the fill (149) of pit/deposit [150]. It has mid brown external surfaces and a coarse black core containing infrequent siliceous inclusions. It is tentatively attributed to Milton Keynes Fabric 1a (*ibid*), and may be residual.

One abraded sherd of greyware was recovered from the fill (185) of furrow [184]. It has mid/dark grey external surfaces and a red-brown core consistent with Milton Keynes Fabric 28d (*ibid*). The sherd of greyware is residual as a sherd of 12th century pottery was recovered from the same feature.

Four non diagnostic shell tempered body sherds with red-orange exteriors and mid grey cores consistent with Milton Keynes Fabric 1a (*ibid*) were recovered from the fill (243) of furrow [242]. The pot sherds probably came from a single vessel and are residual.

5.2.3 Early/Mid Saxon

Four sherds of undecorated early/mid Saxon handbuilt ware were recovered from excavated features. This type of pottery was used between c.450 – 850 AD and it is impossible to further refine its dating. A sherd of handbuilt pottery was recovered from a fill of ditch 1001 (18) and another handbuilt sherd was recovered from ditch 1003 (48). Mid Saxon Maxey ware, which is generally dated c.650-850AD, was also recovered from the fills of these ditches and thus refines the dating of these features. A sherd of handbuilt pottery was recovered from pit [89] and another from pit [268], the two sherds are relatively unabraded and provide a *termini post quem* for these features.

Fifteen sherds of mid Saxon Maxey ware provide a 9th century *termini post quem* for ditches 1000, 1001, 1003 . The fifteen sherds include five which conjoin and seven which were recovered during the evaluation. The sherds are generally large (50mm x 50mm +) and unabraded. Six are rimsherds and five of these possess lugs that may have been used to aid suspension of the pottery vessel over a fire.

A single unabraded sherd from the base of a mid Saxon Ipswich ware vessel was recovered from a fill (06) of enclosure ditch 1000. This type of Saxon

pottery is dated 8th - 9th centuries at sites outside East Anglia (Blinkhorn, forthcoming) and further refines the *termini post quem* of this ditch.

5.2.4 Modern

A single sherd of 19th century pottery with an orange siliceous fabric and red slip coating on its external surface was recovered from the fill (217) of gully [216]. The fill of this feature appeared identical to the brownish grey clayey silt filling many of the archaeological features although the presence of a sherd of modern pottery brings its antiquity into question.

5.3 Tile

Six fragments of fired clay tile and one fragment of limestone tile were recovered during the evaluation/excavation and are described below:

- A 170mm x 140mm and 30mm thick abraded fragment of Romano-British *Bessalis*, *Pedalis* or *Lydion* hypocaust tile was recovered from the surface of ditch 1003 during the evaluation. It has a red-orange oxidised surface with a reduced dark grey core that approximates to Milton Keynes Fabric 2 (R.J. Zeepvat, 1987).
- 90mm x 75mm and 15mm thick fragment of RB tile exhibiting slight curvature (*imbrex?*) and an orange oxidised outer fabric with a reduced dark grey core approximating Milton Keynes Fabric 2 (*ibid*). Recovered from enclosure ditch 1000 fill (04).
- 115mm x 90mm and 12mm thick fragment of sandy calcareous limestone roofing tile with possible nail hole along one broken edge. Recovered from enclosure ditch 1000 fill (08).
- 90mm x 70mm and 15mm thick fragment of RB shell tempered tile (*imbrex?*) with red-orange surface and buff core consistent with Milton Keynes Fabric 1 (*ibid*). Recovered from fill (40) of pit/posthole [39].
- 110mm x 50mm and 25mm thick fragment of the raised flange of a *tegula*. The fabric is shell tempered with red-orange surface and buff core consistent with Milton Keynes Fabric 1 (*ibid*). Recovered from the surface of the fill (84) of gully 1008.
- 70mm x 70mm and 22mm thick fragment of RB shell tempered tile (*tegula?*) with pale orange surface and buff core consistent with Milton Keynes Fabric 1 (*ibid*). Recovered from fill (16) of ditch 1001.
- 70mm x 50mm and 14mm thick fragment of RB tile exhibiting slight curvature (*imbrex?*) and an orange oxidised outer fabric with a reduced dark grey core consistent with Milton Keynes Fabric 2 (*ibid*). Recovered from fill (197) of furrow [196].

5.4 Loomweights

The following discussion uses the classification system of Hurst (1959). Using this classificatory system an “intermediate” weight has a clay ring of greater diameter than the diameter of the central perforation

One complete intermediate, one fragmented but near complete intermediate and a small fragment of a discoidal loomweight were recovered from the fill (68) of posthole [67]. It is unclear whether the small fragment is part of the near complete example or came from another loomweight.

The external diameter of the complete loomweight is 115mm, the diameter of the central hole is 43mm and its weight is 377g. The external diameter of the near complete loomweight is 115mm, the diameter of the central hole is 38mm and its weight is 237g. The complete weight has a “D” shaped cross section while the near complete weight has a more circular cross section. The loomweights are made of poorly fired coarse clay with oxidised buff/red-orange/brown exteriors and the damaged example has a black core

The complete example just falls within the 375-550g range given by Miles (1986, Fiche 5) for weights in the Ashmolean Museums collections.

The form of the weights is analogous to Saxon loomweights discovered during excavations at Pennyland (Williams 1993:121-123) and suggests that they may date to the mid-Saxon period. Lack of supporting dateable material and the possibility of localised variation in such everyday objects makes attribution of a mid-Saxon date tentative .

5.5 Amorphous Fired Clay

A small 20mm x 10mm nodule of heated sandy clay weighing 8g and containing numerous charcoal inclusions was recovered from the fill (58) of ditch 1002.

A larger 80mm x 50mm nodule of burnt clay weighing 94g was recovered from the fill (149) of pit/deposit [150].

The two nodules probably derived from hearths or were formed by accidental burning of clay due to domestic activity.

6. The Environmental Evidence

6.1 Introduction

A program of bulk environmental sampling was carried out during the excavation. A sub-sample from securely dated features was selected and subsequently sent to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for assessment. The following sections list the material recovered from the samples and summarise the conclusions of the environmental assessment.

6.2 Pottery

A small number of pot sherds was recovered from all six samples. The limited size and undiagnostic form of the sherds makes the value of further analysis of this material moot. The greatest quantity of sherds was present in samples taken from pit [89] and suggested enclosure ditch 1000 [148].

6.3 Glass

A small fragment of glass was present in the sample from suggested enclosure ditch 1000 [148]. It has a greenish hue and contains gaseous vesicles. The mid Saxon date of the suggested enclosure ditch and the physical properties of the glass suggest that it is ancient.

6.4 Charcoal

Charcoal was present in all of the bulk samples although particularly abundant in the fills of ditch 1001 [63], suggested enclosure ditch 1000 [148] and pits [89] and [214]. The charcoal is small and fragmentary and the value of further analysis is uncertain.

6.5 Technological Residues

A small quantity of magnetised sediment, ironstone and slag was recovered from the samples and a small amount of hammerscale was present in ditch 1003 [47]. Smithing slag and the greatest concentration of hammerscale, including a single spheroidal example, was present in ditch 1002 [57]. The presence of hammerscale indicates that metalworking was taking place. Further analysis of this small assemblage is unlikely to provide significant useful information.

6.6 Charred Plant Material

A small amount of charred plant material was present in all six samples. The majority of the charred material consisted of cereal grains. Traces of barley and oats are present although wheat, (bread wheat?) predominates. A few weed seeds and two fragments of chaff from a glume wheat species were also recovered. The overall preservation of the charred plant material was poor and identification to species level proved problematic.

6.7 Molluscs

A small assemblage of snail and slug remains was recovered from four of the samples. The identified taxa suggest an open, possibly slightly damp, grassland environment.

6.8 Animal Bone

Animal bone was recovered by hand excavation and further fragmentary animal bone was present in the bulk samples. Quantitative analysis of this material was not carried out, yet species identification indicates that cattle then sheep/goat were the predominant species. The sheep/goat bones appear to derive from adults and the cattle bones suggest that immature and adult animals are present. Cut marks and dog gnawing are evident on a small number of the bones.

A limited assemblage of pig bones suggests that this species may have played a minor role in the occupants diet. The remains of a house mouse, a species synonymous with settlements supports the suggestion that structures were present and a fragment of oyster shell could show indirect trading with coastal centres.

The natural fauna of the area is indicated by recovery of the bones of shrew, small bird, frog or toad and snake.

7. Conclusions

7.1 Confidence rating

The confidence rating for the recognition of archaeological features and deposits is moderate/good. Winter sun and the heterogeneous clayey/sandy nature of the natural slightly hampered fieldwork yet the weather was generally kind and the fills of archaeological features usually distinct from the natural. The following sections discuss the excavated features by suggested period.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 Prehistoric

Eight Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pot sherds were recovered from the fill of pit [214] and two LBA/EIA pot sherds were recovered from the fill of post hole/pit [198]. The pot sherds are relatively unabraded and may date these features. A sample was taken from the fill of pit [214] for environmental analysis and results show that the amount of material suitable for such analysis is particularly sparse relative to other examined environmental samples. The contrast between the poor environmental results from pit [214] and better results from other features could support attribution of a different date to the pit.

Two residual sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fill (143) of ditch 1000, which is given a mid Saxon *termini post quem* by other pot sherds. The LBA/EIA pot sherds from ditch 1000 were recovered at a point immediately adjacent to pit [214] and it is suggested that they may have been deposited in the ditch after being disturbed from the fill of the pit.

Other than demonstrating presence of LBA/EIA activity, it is difficult to draw significant conclusions from the small number of features containing prehistoric pottery.

7.2.2 Romano-British

A small assemblage of Romano-British pot sherds and fragments of tile was recovered. The majority of the Romano-British pottery and tile is abraded and incorporated into the fills of features dated by later pot sherds to the Saxon period.

One post hole could date to the Romano-British period although the recovered pot sherd is abraded and more likely incorporated into a later feature. Interestingly, 38% of the assemblage is structural material; whether this indicates the presence of an RB building in the immediate vicinity or collection and curation of objects from Magiovinium by the Saxon population is unclear.

7.2.3 Saxon

The Saxon features were more extensive than suggested by the results of the evaluation and suggest the presence of the shallow enclosure ditch and appended shallow boundary/drainage ditches of a mid Saxon farmstead. The excavated features had few discernible stratigraphic relationships, and much of the excavated Saxon pottery cannot be closely dated within the period, thus definitive phasing of the Saxon features has not been possible.

A tentatively identified recut [144] of suggested enclosure ditch 1000 could indicate maintenance of the ditch after material slumped into it from a possible internal structural feature (Floor Deposit 1007). However, the recut of the ditch was not observed in nearby sections and its presence remains equivocal. A pit [89] containing early/mid Saxon hand built pot sherds cuts mid Saxon boundary/drainage ditch 1001 and gully 1004 and provides the only definitive evidence of continuity during the Saxon period.

A small assemblage of Saxon pottery was recovered from ditches 1000, 1001, 1003 and pits [89] and [268]. The broad date range attributable to the early/mid Saxon hand built wares illustrates that the ditches could have infilled between 450-850 AD. The presence of unabraded mid Saxon Maxey ware suggests that this range may be refined to 650-850 AD and one sherd of unabraded mid Saxon Ipswich ware, dateable to 725-850 AD outside East Anglia, indicates that potential enclosure ditch 1000 may have infilled during the late 8th or 9th century. The presence of Ipswich ware could suggest a high status site but the form of the excavated features and overall artefactual assemblage would not support this conclusion.

The location of two rectilinear post built structures is suggested by two concentrations of shallow post/stake holes within the area bounded by possible enclosure ditch 1000. The definitive floorplans of other post built structures have not been discerned although other groups of postholes indicate that further structures were probably present. The majority of post holes are extremely shallow and lack evidence of post packing, which suggests that any post built structures were probably flimsily built and only intended for short term use.

Sunken featured building (SFB) 1005 is the only unequivocal structural feature. The SFB had been damaged by later ploughing although its basal 0.15m remained intact. Four shallow post holes were spread around its southern margin and its floor had been consolidated with sub-angular gravel. Dating evidence was not recovered from its fill although its form is sufficiently distinctive to place it within the Saxon period.

A small amount of hammerscale was recovered from the fills of ditches 1002 and 1003. The presence of hammerscale and small amounts of smelting slag confirms that limited iron working was occurring. The recovery of two clay loomweights illustrates that weaving was also taking place. Analysis of environmental samples and excavated animal bone indicates that the farmstead was located in open grassland and may have had a pastoral economy.

The Saxon farmstead at Water Eaton enhances the known distribution of mid Saxon settlement within the boundary of Milton Keynes Unitary Authority. The proximity of the farmstead to the River Ouzel is analogous to the early/mid Saxon pattern of paired occupation sites with a focus on small streams as suggested by results of the Raunds Project. The absence of late Saxon artefacts could support a hypothesis suggesting that the farmstead was abandoned after a relatively short period of use when its occupants relocated to the expanding settlement of Water Eaton during the later decades of the mid Saxon period.

7.2.4 Medieval

At the time of excavation extant ridge and furrow of a medieval open field system covered the site and overlay earlier plough scars containing 12th century pottery. The 12th century (*terminus post quem*) date of the earlier plough scars indicates a 13th – 16th century date for the extant ridge and furrow

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The excavation team consisted of Nick Crank BSc AIFA, Calli Rouse BA PIFA, Martin Cuthbert BA, Teresa Hawtin BA, MSc PIFA and the author.

9. Archive

9.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Sample records
9. Site record drawings
10. List of photographs/slides
11. Colour slides
12. B/W prints & negatives
13. Original specialist reports and supporting information
14. CDRom with copies of all digital files.

9.2 The archive will be deposited with *Buckinghamshire County Museum*, accession number 2006.15.

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Appendix 1: Excavation Summary Tables

Context Register

Context	Type	Description
01	Layer	Topsoil. Mid reddish brown humic silt. Occasional small sub-rounded pebble inclusions.
02	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt. Frequent small sub-rounded pebble and sub-angular stone inclusions
03	Ditch	Cut at return of enclosure ditch. Sharp break from top, moderately sloping sides breaking sharply to flat base. (Part of 1000).
04	Fill	Fill of [03]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
05	Ditch	SW-NE cut of enclosure ditch. Sharp break from top, moderately sloping sides indiscernible break to concave base. (Part of 1000).
06	Fill	Fill of [05]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded pebble and sub-angular stone inclusions.
07	Ditch	Cut of N-S boundary/drainage ditch. Gradual break from top, gradual/moderately sloping sides without discernible break to concave base. Truncated by later ploughing. (Part of 1001).
08	Fill	Fill of [07]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
09	Ditch	Cut of E-W aligned part of enclosure ditch. Sharp break from top, moderately sloping sides indiscernible break to concave base. (Part of 1000).
10	Fill	Fill of [09]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded pebble and sub-angular flint inclusions.
11	Ditch	Cut of N-S boundary/drainage ditch. Moderate break from top, gradual/moderately sloping sides without discernible break to concave base. Severely truncated by later ploughing. (Part of 1001).
12	Fill	Fill of [11]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
13	Ditch	Cut of N-S boundary/drainage ditch. Moderate break from top, moderate/steeply sloping sides with sharp break to uneven/convex base. Truncated by later ploughing. (Part of 1001).
14	Fill	Fill of [13]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
15	Ditch	Cut of N-S boundary/drainage ditch. Asymmetric, moderate break from top, gradual slope on E, moderate/steeply sloping W side with sharp break to slightly concave base. (Part of 1001).
16	Fill	Fill of [15]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded pebble and sub-angular stone inclusions.
17	Ditch	Cut of N-S boundary/drainage ditch. Moderate break from top, gradually sloping sides without discernible break to slightly concave base. (Part of 1001).
18	Fill	Fill of [17]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
19	Gully/slot	Short segment of slot ?. Shallow break from top, gradual slope to sides without discernible break to concave base. Shallow – possibly truncated ?
20	Fill	Fill of [19]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
21	Slot	Cut of two parallel slots. Moderate break from top to moderately sloping sides, concave bases divided by central ridge. Truncated at NW and SE ends by later furrows. No evidence of recut therefore two slots may be contemporary ?
22	Fill	Fill of [21]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
23	Furrow	Gradual break from top to very gradually sloping sides without discernible break to broad concave base.
24	Fill	Fill of [23]. Mid reddish brown silty sand. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
25	Pit	Sharp break from top, steep sides breaking sharply to flat light brownish yellow clay base. Sub-rectangular in plan.
26	Fill	Fill of [25]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional (some heat cracked ?) sub-rounded cobble and sub-angular flint inclusions.
27	Furrow	Gradual break from top, gradually sloping sides without discernible break to flat base.
28	Fill	Fill of [27]. Mid orangeish brown clayey sand. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions. Sand filled natural
29	Pit	Sharp break from top, steep sides breaking sharply to flat light brownish yellow clay base. Sub-oval in plan.
30	Fill	Fill of [29]. Blackish brown silty clay. Frequent charcoal inclusions. Occasional (some heat cracked ?) sub-rounded cobble and sub-angular flint inclusions.
31	Pit/posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides breaking sharply to slightly concave mid reddish brown sandy base. Sub-oval in plan.
32	Fill	Fill of [31]. Mid brownish grey sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
33	Pit/posthole	Sharp break from top, gradually sloping sides breaking gradually to slightly concave mid reddish brown sandy base. Sub-oval in plan.
34	Fill	Fill of [31]. Mid brownish grey sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
35	Posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides with deep concave base.
36	Fill	Fill of [35]. Mid greyish brown sandy silt.
37	Posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides with deep concave base.
38	Fill	Fill of [37]. Mid greyish brown sandy silt.
39	Pit/posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides with sharp break to flat base.
40	Fill	Fill of [39]. Mid greyish brown sandy silt.
41	Gully/slot	Very shallow, concave profile
42	Fill	Fill of [41]. Mid brownish orange silty sand.
43	Posthole	Moderate break from top, moderate sides without discernible break to concave base.
44	Fill	Fill of [43]. Mid brownish orange silty sand.
45	Pit	Sharp break from top, steep sides with sharp break to flat base.

46	Fill	Fill of [45]. Dark brownish black clayey sand. Frequent charcoal fragment inclusions.
47	Ditch	Cut of E-W boundary/drainage ditch. Sharp break from top, moderately sloping sides with gradual break to slightly concave base. (Part of 1003).
48	Fill	Fill of [47]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
49	Ditch	Cut of N-S boundary/drainage ditch. Sharp break from top, moderately sloping sides with gradual break to slightly concave base. (Part of 1001)
50	Fill	Fill of [49]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
51	Gully/slot	Moderate break from top, gradually sloping sides without discernible break to concave base. Shallow.
52	Fill	Fill of [51]. Mid brownish grey sandy silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
53	Natural ?	Natural feature ? Sharp break from top, irregularly sloping sides with sharp break to uneven base.
54	Fill	Fill of [54]. Mid reddish brown silty sand. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
55	Ditch	Cut of E-W boundary/drainage ditch. Moderate break from top, gradually sloping sides without discernible break to concave base. Truncated by later ploughing. (Part of 1003).
56	Fill	Fill of [55]. Mid brownish grey silty clay. Occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions.
57	Ditch	Cut of E-W boundary/drainage ditch. Moderate break from top, gradually sloping sides without discernible break to concave base. Truncated by later ploughing. (Part of 1002). Cuts [59].
58	Fill	Fill of [57]. Mid brownish grey silty clay. Occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions.
59	Posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides with sharp break to slightly concave base. Cut by [57].
60	Fill	Fill of [59]. Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions.
61	Ditch	Cut of E-W boundary/drainage ditch. Sharp break from top, Shallow and concave terminal end of ditch. (Part of 1003). Buts ditch [63].
62	Fill	Fill of [61]. Mid brownish grey silty clay. Occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions.
63	Ditch	Cut of N-S boundary/drainage ditch. Sharp break from top, moderately sloping concave sides without discernible break to slightly concave base. (Part of 1001).
64	Fill	Fill of [63]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions. Large stones against eastern side of ditch at point where it butts ditch [61].
65	Posthole	Sharp break from top, gradual/steep sides without obvious break to slightly concave base.
66	Fill	Fill of [65]. Mid brownish orange clayey sand.
67	Posthole	Sharp break from top, gradual/steep sides without obvious break to slightly concave base.
68	Fill	Fill of [67]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
69	Posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides without obvious break to slightly concave base.
70	Fill	Fill of [69]. Mid brownish orange clayey sand.
71	Posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides without obvious break to pointed concave base.
72	Fill	Fill of [71]. Mid brownish orange clayey sand.
73	Posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides without obvious break to concave base.
74	Fill	Fill of [73]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
75	Posthole	Sharp break from top, gradual sides without obvious break to concave base.
76	Fill	Fill of [75]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
77	Posthole	Sharp break from top, moderate sides without obvious break to concave base.
78	Fill	Fill of [77]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
79	Posthole	Sharp break from top, gradual/moderate sides without obvious break to concave base.
80	Fill	Fill of [80]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
81	Gully/slot	Sharp break from top, gradual/moderate sides without obvious break to concave base.
82	Fill	Fill of [81]. Dark orangeish brown clayey silt. Occasional rounded pebble and flint inclusions
83	Gully/slot	Gradual break from top. Very shallow slightly concave profile.
84	Fill	Fill of [83]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional rounded pebble and angular flint inclusions
85	Posthole/slot	Gradual break from top, shallow concave profile.
86	Fill	Fill of [85]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
87	Ditch	Cut of N-S boundary/drainage ditch. Sharp break from top, moderately sloping concave sides without discernible break to slightly concave base. (Part of 1001). Cut by pit [89].
88	Fill	Fill of [87]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
89	Pit	Cut of oval pit. Sharp break from top with steep sides breaking sharply to slightly concave base.
90	Fill	Primary fill of [89]. Mid brownish grey silty clay. Occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone , charcoal fleck inclusions.
91	Fill	Secondary fill of [89]. Dark brownish black clayey silt. Moderate burnt angular, sub-rounded stone and frequent charcoal inclusions.
92	Fill	Tertiary fill of [89]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Moderate sub-rounded stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.
93	Pit	Same as [89]. Cuts gully/slot [97].
94	Fill	Same as [90]
95	Fill	Same as [91]
96	Fill	Same as [92]
97	Gully/slot	Sharp break from top, moderate concave sides without discernible break to slightly concave base. Cut by [93]. Part of [1004].
98	Fill	Fill of [97]. Mid reddish brown clayey silt. Moderate sub-angular small – medium sized stone and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.
99	Ditch	Cut of E-W aligned part of enclosure ditch. Sharp break from top, moderately sloping sides with moderate break to concave base. (Part of 1000). Truncated by [101].
100	Fill	Fill of [99]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
101	Furrow	Not fully excavated. Slightly concave base. Truncates [99].

102	Fill	Fill of [101]. Mid orangeish brown clayey sand.
103	Gully/slot	Sharp break from top, moderate/gradually sloping sides without discernible break to concave base. Filled by [108].
104	Gully/slot	Sharp break from top, moderately sloping concave sides without discernible break to slightly concave base. (Part of 1004). Buts [106].
105	Fill	Fill of [104]. Mid reddish brown clayey silt. Moderate sub-angular small – medium sized stone and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.
106	Ditch	Cut of N-S boundary/drainage ditch. Sharp break from top, steeply sloping concave sides without discernible break to slightly concave base. (Part of 1001). Butted by [104].
107	Fill	Fill of [106]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
108	Fill	Fill of [103]. Mottled grey/orange brown clayey silty.
109	Gully/slot	Gradual break from top, shallow sides without discernible break to concave base. Part of [1004].
110	Fill	Fill of [109]. Mid reddish brown clayey silt. Moderate sub-angular small – medium sized stone and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.
111	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, gradual/moderate sloping sides without discernible break to concave base.
112	Fill	Fill of [111]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.
113	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, steeply sloping sides without discernible break to concave base.
114	Fill	Fill of [113]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.
115	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, steeply sloping sides with step on north side breaking to concave base.
116	Fill	Fill of [115]. Mid orangeish brown sandy silt.
117	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, steeply sloping sides with sharp break to convex base.
118	Fill	Fill of [117]. Mid orangeish brown sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.
119	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, steeply sloping sides with step on south side breaking to concave base.
120	Fill	Fill of [119]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.
121	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, steeply sloping sides breaking to slightly concave base.
122	Fill	Fill of [121]. Mid orangeish brown sandy silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
123	Posthole	Moderate break from surface, gradually sloping sides breaking to slightly concave base.
124	Fill	Fill of [123]. Mid orangeish brown sandy silt.
125	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, steeply sloping sides without discernible break to convex base.
126	Fill	Fill of [125]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small angular flint inclusions.
127	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, shallow inverted cone in profile.
128	Fill	Fill of [127]. Mid orangeish brown silty/sandy clay.
129	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, inverted cone in profile.
130	Fill	Fill of [129]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional sub-angular stone inclusions.
131	Posthole	Moderate break from surface, gradually sloping sides breaking gradually to flat base.
132	Fill	Fill of [131]. Dark brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
133	Pit/posthole	Sharp break from surface, moderately sloping sides without discernible break to slightly concave base
134	Fill	Fill of [133]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Moderate sub-angular stone and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. Large stone resting on base; possible post packing ?
135	Posthole	Gradual break from top, shallow concave profile.
136	Fill	Fill of [135]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
137	Posthole	Moderate break from surface. Very shallow concave profile.
138	Fill	Fill of [137]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
139	Posthole	Moderate break from surface. Very shallow concave profile.
140	Fill	Fill of [139]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
141	Pit/posthole	Moderate break from surface. Gradual slope on sides. Shallow concave profile.
142	Fill	Fill of [141]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
143	Fill	Quaternary Fill of [148]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional sub-angular stone and charcoal fleck inclusions
144	Not used	
145	Fill	Tertiary (?) fill of [148]. Mottled reddish/orange mid grey silty clay
146	Fill	Secondary (?) fill of [148]. Orange/grey mottled silty clay.
147	Fill	Primary fill of [148]. Mid yellowish brown sandy clay. Possibly overcut and may be a natural deposit. Same as (151) ?
148	Ditch	Sharp break from surface, steep sides with gradual break to slightly concave base. Cuts [152] and [154] ?
149	Deposit/fill	Fill of [150]. Greyish black sandy silt with moderate heat affected stone and frequent charcoal inclusions.
150	Pit/Deposit ?	Gradual break from top, shallow concave profile. Unclear whether cut or interface.
151	Deposit/fill	Fill of [152]. Mid yellowish brown sandy clay. No inclusions. Could be re-deposited natural although this may be a natural layer that has been overcut. Same as (147) ?
152	Ditch ?	Gradual break from surface with gradual slope on eastern side, base and western side truncated by [148] ?. As the archaeological origin of its fill is uncertain, it may be an interface between two natural deposits. Cut by [148].
153	Deposit/fill	Fill of [154]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional sub-angular stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.
154	Stall/pen	Gradual break from surface with shallowly sloping side and gradual break to flat base. Unclear whether this is a cut or just base of area eroded by animal trampling.
155	Fill	Fill of [156]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small charcoal fleck inclusions.

156	Posthole	Moderate break from surface, shallow concave profile.
157	Deposit/fill	Fill of [247]. Mid yellowish brown sandy clay. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions. Could be re-deposited natural although this may be a natural layer that has been overcut.
158	Posthole	Moderate break from surface, shallow concave profile.
159	Fill	Fill of [158]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
160	Posthole	Moderate break from surface, moderate sloping sides without discernible break to concave base.
161	Fill	Fill of [160]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small charcoal fleck inclusions.
162	Posthole	Gradual Moderate break from surface, shallow concave profile. break from surface, shallow concave profile.
163	Fill	Fill of [162]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
164	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, steep sides with moderate break to slightly concave base.
165	Fill	Fill of [164]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small charcoal fleck inclusions.
166	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, steep sides with moderate break to slightly concave base.
167	Fill	Fill of [166]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small charcoal fleck inclusions.
168	Pit/posthole	Sharp break from surface with steep sides and sharp break to slightly concave base.
169	Fill	Fill of [168]. Mottled grey/orange brown sandy/clayey silt
170	Posthole	Sharp break from surface with steep sides and sharp break to slightly concave base.
171	Fill	Fill of [170]. Mid brownish/orange silty clay. Occasional rounded stone inclusions.
172	Posthole	Sharp break from surface with vertical sides and sharp break to slightly concave base.
173	Fill	Fill of [172]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional rounded stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.
174	Posthole	Sharp break from surface with irregular sides and inverted conical base.
175	Fill	Primary fill of [174]. Light greyish orange sandy/silty clay. Occasional rounded stone inclusions.
176	Fill	Secondary fill of [174]. Mid brownish orange clayey silt. Occasional sub-angular flint inclusions.
177	Posthole	Sharp break from surface with steep sides and sharp break to slightly concave base.
178	Fill	Primary fill of [177]. Mid orangeish brown sandy clay. Occasional rounded stone inclusions.
179	Fill	Secondary fill of [177]. Dark brownish orange silty clay. Occasional rounded stone inclusions.
180	Posthole	Sharp break from surface with steep sides and indiscernible break to concave base.
181	Fill	Fill of [180]. Brownish black silty clay. Occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.
182	Furrow	Gradual break from surface, shallow sides with indiscernible break to irregular slightly concave base.
183	Fill	Fill of [182]. Mid orangeish brown clayey sand. Occasional sub-angular flint and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
184	Furrow	Gradual break from surface, shallow sides with indiscernible break to irregular largely flat base.
185	Fill	Fill of [184]. Mid orangeish brown clayey sand.. Occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions.
186	Posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides breaking sharply to flat base. Cuts [192].
187	Fill	Fill of [186]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt.
188	Posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides breaking sharply to slightly concave base. Cuts [192].
189	Fill	Fill of [188]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt.
190	Posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides breaking gradually to flat base. Cuts [192].
191	Fill	Fill of [190]. Light orangeish brown silty sand.
192	Sunken featured building	North facing section. Gradual break from top, gradually sloping sides without discernible break to flat base. Cut by [186], [188], [190] and [194].
193	Fill	Fill of [192]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions. Above (250).
194	Posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides breaking sharply to flat base. Cuts [192].
195	Fill	Fill of [194]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt.
196	Furrow	Gradual break from surface, gradually sloping sides without discernible break to shallow slightly concave base.
197	Fill	Fill of [196]. Mid reddish brown silty sand. Occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions.
198	Posthole	Sharp break from top, steep sides breaking sharply to slightly concave base.
199	Fill	Fill of [198]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions.
200	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, gradual/steep N side and steep S side with sharp break to flat base.
201	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, gradual/steep sides without discernible break to slightly concave base.
202	Fill	Fill of [201]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
203	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, moderately sloping sides without discernible break to slightly concave base.
204	Fill	Fill of [203]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
205	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, shallow concave profile
206	Fill	Fill of [205]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
207	Pit ?	Moderate break from surface, moderately sloping sides without discernible break to irregular slightly convex base.
208	Fill	Fill of [207]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
209	Fill	Fill of [200]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
210	Pit	Gradual break from surface, shallow concave profile.
211	Fill	Fill of [210]. Mid brownish orange clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
212	Slot/gully	Gradual break from surface, shallow concave profile.
213	Fill	Fill of [212]. Mottled grey/orange brown clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
214	Pit	Sharp break from surface, moderately sloping sides with gradual break to flat base.
215	Fill	Fill of [214]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Moderate sub-angular (burnt ?) stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.
216	Slot/gully	Sharp break from surface, steep/moderate sides breaking sharply to shallow concave base.
217	Fill	Fill of [216]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.

218	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, moderately sloping sides without discernible break to slightly concave base.
219	Fill	Fill of [218]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
220	Furrow	Gradual break from surface, shallow sides with indiscernible break to slightly concave base.
221	Fill	Fill of [220]. Mid orangeish brown clayey sand.. Occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions.
222	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, moderately sloping sides without discernible break to slightly concave base.
223	Fill	Fill of [222]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
224	Furrow	Gradual break from surface, shallow sides with indiscernible break to slightly concave base. <i>Not Drawn.</i>
225	Fill	Fill of [220]. Mid orangeish brown clayey sand.. Occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions.
226	Stall/pen	Truncated at NW side by [232]. Gradual break from surface, gradually sloping SE side without discernible break to slightly concave base. Same as [154], and [234].
227	Deposit/fill	Fill of [226]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional sub-angular stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.
228	Ditch	Sharp break from surface, moderate slope to sides without discernible break to concave base. Cuts [234] ?. Same as [144] and [230].
229	Fill	Fill of [228]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
230	Ditch	Sharp break from surface, moderate slope to sides without discernible break to concave base. Cuts [234] ?. Same as [144] and [230].
231	Fill	Fill of [230]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
232	Slot/gully	Moderate break from surface to moderately sloping sides with moderate break to concave base. Cuts [226] ?
233	Fill	Fill of [232]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
234	Stall/pen	Truncated at NW side by [236] and by [228] at the SE. Flat base. Same as [154] and [226].
235	Deposit/fill	Fill of [234]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional sub-angular stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.
236	Slot/gully	Sharp break from surface to steeply sloping sides with sharp break to slightly concave base. Cuts [234] ?
237	Fill	Fill of [236]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
238	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, moderately sloping sides with moderate break to slightly concave base.
239	Fill	Fill of [238]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
240	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, steeply sloping sides with sharp break to slightly convex base.
241	Fill	Fill of [238]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
242	Furrow	Gradual break from surface, shallow sides with indiscernible break to slightly concave base. <i>Not Drawn.</i>
243	Fill	Fill of [242]. Mid orangeish brown clayey sand.. Occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions.
244	Posthole	Sharp break from surface, gradual/moderately sloping sides without discernible break to pointed concave base.
245	Fill	Fill of [244]. Mid brownish grey clayey sand. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
246	Deposit/fill	Fill of [247]. Angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel. Floor of animal pen ? No apparent organic content - could be a natural deposit overcut by excavator.
247	Cut ?	Animal pen/stall ? Unclear whether this is the base of an archaeological feature or the natural interface between two natural deposits.
248	Fill	Fill of [249]. Mid yellowish brown clayey sand.
249	Posthole /natural ?	Sharp break from surface, steep sides with slight step on western side without discernible break to concave base. Unclear whether post/stakehole or natural channel.
250	Fill	Primary fill of sunken featured building [192]. Sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel.
251	Posthole	Shallow concave profile
252	Fill	Fill of [251]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt.
253	Fill	Fill of [254]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.
254	Gully/slot	Sharp break from surface to moderately sloping sides without break to concave base.
255	Fill	Fill of [256]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
256	Ditch	<i>Half section through ditch 1001.</i> Sharp break from top. Steep slightly concave side. Not excavated to base.
257	Fill	Fill of [258]. Mid brownish grey silty clay. Occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions
258	Ditch	<i>Half section through terminal end of ditch 1002.</i> Sharp break from top. Shallow concave profile.
259	Fill	Fill of [260]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded pebble and sub-angular stone inclusions.
260	Ditch	<i>Half section through SW-NE cut of enclosure ditch.</i> Sharp break from top, moderately sloping side. Not excavated to base. (Part of 1000).
261	Fill	Fill of [262]. Mid brownish grey silty clay. Occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions.
262	Gully/slot	<i>Half section through terminal end of ditch 1003.</i> Sharp break from top. Shallow concave profile.
263	Fill	Fill of [264]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Occasional small sub-rounded pebble and sub-angular stone inclusions.
264	Ditch	Section through SW-NE cut of enclosure ditch. Sharp break from top. Shallow concave profile. (Part of 1000). Section not drawn – less than 0.05m deep.

Context numbers of features excavated during the evaluation		
Context	Type	Description
265	Fill	Fill of [266]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Finds = One sherd of middle Saxon Maxey ware.
266	Ditch	<i>Eval context number [902]</i> . Parallel sides aligned E – W, sharp break from top, moderate to steeply sloping sides, gradual break to wide slightly concave base. Part of 1002 ?
267	Fill	Fill of [268]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
268	Pit	<i>Eval context number [1002]</i> . Sub circular. Sharp break from top. Steep, near vertical sides with sharp break onto broad, slightly concave base.
269	Fill	Secondary fill of [271]. Mid yellowish brown silty clay.
270	Fill	Primary fill of [271]. Dark grey clayey silt.
271	Pit	<i>Eval context number [1005]</i> . Sub circular. Sharp break from top. Steep, near vertical sides, undercut in places with sharp break onto uneven base.
272	Fill	Fill of [273]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Finds = four sherds of middle Saxon Maxey ware and five fragments of animal bone
273	Ditch	<i>Eval context number [1007]</i> . Parallel sides aligned N – S. Asymmetric profile, both sides have a sharp break from top. Western side is steep, gradual eastern side breaking sharply to steep side, both sides break sharply to a flat base – forms “ankle breaker” slot at base of ditch. Part of 1001.
274	Fill	Fill of [275]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
275	Posthole	<i>Eval context number [1009]</i> . Sharp break at top onto steep sides, gradual break onto broad, slightly concave base
276	Fill	Fill of [277] mid brownish grey clayey silt.
277	Posthole	<i>Eval context number [1011]</i> . Sharp break at top, steep sides, imperceptible break onto concave base
278	Fill	Fill of [279]. Mid brownish grey clayey silt.
279	Ditch	<i>Eval context number [1102]</i> . Parallel sides aligned E – W, sharp break from top, moderate to steeply sloping sides, gradual break to wide slightly concave base. Part of 1002.
Group No.		
1000	Ditch	E-W and N-S aligned enclosure ditch. Excavated segments [03], [03a], [05], [09], [99], [144], recut [148], [230], [239]
1001	Ditch	North-south aligned ditch. Excavated segments [04], [07], [11], [13] [15], [17], [49], [63], [87], [106], [261]
1002	Ditch	East-west aligned ditch. Excavated segments [55], [57], [267]
1003	Ditch	East-west aligned ditch. Excavated segments [47], [254]
1004	Gully	East-west aligned gully. Excavated segment [97], [104], [109]
1005	Structure	Sunken featured building. Cut of SFB [192], post holes [186], [188], [190], [194]
1006	Gully	North-south aligned gully. Excavated segments [232], [236], [*]
1007	Floor Deposit	Floor of structure ?. Excavated segments [154], [226], [234] and [247] – maybe overcut natural boundary
1008	Gully	East-west aligned gully. Excavated segment [83], [262].

Section Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Contexts
1	01	1:10	[03], (04)
1	02	1:10	[03a], (04a)
1	03	1:10	[05], (06)
1	04	1:10	[07], (08)
1	05	1:10	[09], (10)
1	06	1:10	[11], (12)
1	07	1:10	[13], (14)
1	08	1:10	[15], (16)
1	09	1:10	[17], (18)
1	10	1:10	[19], (20)
1	11	1:10	[21], (22)
1	12	1:10	[23], (24)
1	13	1:10	[25], (26)
1	14	1:10	[27], (28) and [245], (244)
1	15	1:10	[29], (30)
1	16	1:10	[31], (32)
1	17	1:10	[33], (34)
1	18	1:10	[35], (36), [37], (38)
1	19	1:10	[39], (40)
1	20	1:10	[41], (42)
1	21	1:10	[43], (44)
1	22	1:10	[45], (46)
1	23	1:10	[47], (48)
1	24	1:10	[49], (50)
1	25	1:10	[51], (52) and [53], (54)
1	26	1:10	[55], (56)
1	27	1:10	[57], (58)

1	28	1:10	[57, (58) and [59], (60)
1	29	1:10	[61], (62) and [63], (64)
1	30	1:10	[87], (88) and [89], (90), (91), (92)
1	31	1:10	[93], (94), (95), (96) and [97], (98)
1	32	1:10	[104], (105) and [106], [107]
1	33	1:10	[109], (110)
2	34	1:10	[65], (66)
2	35	1:10	[67], (68)
2	36	1:10	[69], (70)
2	37	1:10	[71], (72)
2	38	1:10	[73], (74)
2	39	1:10	[75], [76]
2	40	1:10	[77], (78)
2	41	1:10	[79], (80)
2	42	1:10	[81], (82)
2	43	1:10	[83], (84)
2	44	1:10	[85], (86)
2	45	1:10	[99], (100) and [101], (102)
2	46	1:10	[103], (108)
2	47	1:10	[125], (126)
2	48	1:10	[244], (245)
2	49	1:10	[127], (128)
1	50	1:10	[111], (112)
1	51	1:10	[113], (114)
1	52	1:10	[115], (116)
1	53	1:10	[117], (118)
1	54	1:10	[119], (120)
1	55	1:10	[121], (122)
1	56	1:10	[123], (124)
1	57	1:10	[129], (130)
1	58	1:10	[131], (132)
1	59	1:10	[133], (134)
2	60	1:10	[135], (136)
2	61	1:10	[137], (138)
2	62	1:10	[139], (140)
2	63	1:10	[141], (142)
3	64	1:10	(143), [144], (145), (146), (147), [148], (149), [150], (151), [152], (153), [154], (157), (246), [247], (248), [249]
2	65	1:10	[?],
2	66	1:10	[156], (157)
2	67	1:10	[158], (159)
2	68	1:10	[160], (161)
2	69	1:10	[162], (163)
2	70	1:10	[164], (165)
2	71	1:10	[166], (167)
2	72	1:10	[168], (169)
2	73	1:10	[170], (171)
2	74	1:10	[172], (173)
2	75	1:10	[174], (175), (176)
2	76	1:10	[177], (178), (179)
2	77	1:10	[180], (181)
2	78	1:10	[182], (183)
3	79	1:10	[184], (185)
3	80	1:10	[192], (250), (193) and [194], (195)
3	81	1:10	[186], (187) and [188], (189)
3	82	1:10	[190], (191)
3	83	1:10	[196], (197)
3	84	1:10	[198], (199)
3	85	1:10	[200], (209)
2	86	1:10	[205], (206)
2	87	1:10	[207], (208)
2	88	1:10	[201], (202)
2	89	1:10	[203], (204)
	90 Not Used		
3	91	1:10	[210], (211)
3	92	1:10	[212], (213)
3	93	1:10	[214], (215)

3	94	1:10	[218], (219)
3	95	1:10	[220], (221)
3	96	1:10	[222], (223)
3	97	1:10	[216], (217)
3	98	1:10	[226], (227), [230], (231), [232], (233)
3	99	1:10	[228], (229), [234], (235) [236], (237)
3	100	1:10	[236], (237)
3	101	1:10	[240], (241)
3	102	1:10	[238], (239)
3	103	1:10	[192], (250), (193)

Bulk Finds Register

Context	Pottery		Bone		Flint No.	Shell Wt(g)	Stone No.	Other	
	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)				Type	No/Wt(g)
04	1	171	6	119				Roof tile frag	1
06	3	103	13	379					
08	1	2	8	91		2		Roof tile frag	1
10			3	58					
14			7	129			1		
16	10	598	4	43		17			
18	3	47	10	187	2				
20	1	4	1	5					
22			3	133					
24	1	5							
26			6	67					
40	1	134							
48	2	33	2	192					
50			3	104					
56			1	27					
58			4	78				Burnt Clay	1
64	1	8	9	281					
68								Clay Loom Weight	1 whole, + 5 frags
82					4				82
84	1	157	1	135					84
88			4	14					88
92	2	20	6	40		2			92
96			1	18					96
98			4	115					98
100	1	51							100
107			12	152					107
108			4	275					108
110			2	11					110
126	1	7	1	7					126
143	3	67	1	9			1		143
149	1	15	1	8			3		149
185	2	19							185
197	1	66							197
199	2	8							199
215	8	95							215
217	1	2	3	94					217
243	4	23							243

Sample Register

Sample No	Context No	Sample Type	Quantity
1	(91)	Bulk sample of charcoal rich lens	10 litres
2	(26)	Bulk sample of pit fill	20 litres
3	(30)	Bulk sample of charcoal rich pit fill	10 litres
4	(193)	Bulk sample of fill of SFB	30 litres
5	(46)	Bulk sample of charcoal rich pit fill	10 litres
6	(48)	Bulk sample of fill of ditch 1003	30 litres
7	(64)	Bulk sample of fill of ditch 1001	30 litres
8	(90)	Bulk sample of pit fill	30 litres
9	(58)	Bulk sample of fill of ditch 1002	30 litres
10	(215)	Bulk sample of pit fill	30 litres
11	(143)	Bulk sample of fill of ditch 1000	30 litres
12	(153)	Bulk sample of floor deposit 1007	30 litres
13	(149)	Bulk sample of charcoal rich pit fill	10 litre

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Stoke Road, Water Eaton, Bletchley, Milton Keynes				SITE 742/WES:
Shot	B&W	Slide	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	✓	Furrow [27]
2	✓	✓	✓	Furrow [27]
3	✓	✓	✓	Pit [29]
4	✓	✓	✓	Pit [29]
5	✓	✓	✓	Ditch [17]
6	✓	✓	✓	Ditch [17]
7	✓	✓	✓	Pit [31]
8	✓	✓	✓	Pit [31]
9	✓	✓	✓	Pit [33]
10	✓	✓	✓	Pit [33]
11	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [35] and [37]
12	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [35] and [37]
13	✓	✓	✓	Pit (natural?) [43]
14	✓	✓	✓	Pit (natural?) [43]
15	✓	✓	✓	Gully [19]
16	✓	✓	✓	Gully [19]
17	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1001 [15]
18	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1001 [15]
19	✓	✓	✓	Pit [25]
20	✓	✓	✓	Pit [25]
21	✓	✓	✓	Furrow [23]
22	✓	✓	✓	Furrow [23]
23	✓	✓	✓	Pit [45]
24	✓	✓	✓	Pit [45]
25	✓	✓	✓	Double Parallel Ditch [21]
26	✓	✓	✓	Double Parallel Ditch [21]
27	✓	✓	✓	Double Parallel Ditch [21]
28	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [05]
29	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [05]
30	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [03a]
31	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [03a]
32	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [03]
33	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [03]
34	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000[03]
35	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [03]
36	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [03]
37	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [65] and [67]
38	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [65] and [67]
39	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [69] and [71]
40	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [69] and [71]
41	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [73]
42	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [73]
43	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [75]
45	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [75]
46	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [77and [79]
47	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [77and [79]
48	✓	✓	✓	Gully [83]

49	✓	✓	✓	Gully [83]
50	✓	✓	✓	Gully [81]
51	✓	✓	✓	Gully [81]
52	✓	✓	✓	Ditch [99] and furrow [101]
53	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [99] and furrow [101]
54	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [99] and furrow [101]
55	✓	✓	✓	Gully [103]
56	✓	✓	✓	Gully [103]
57	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1002 [55]
58	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1002 [57]
59	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [59]
60	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [59]
61	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1002 [57]
62	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1003 [61] and ditch 1001 [63]
63	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1003 [61] and ditch 1001 [63]
64	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1001 [87] and pit [89]
65	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1001 [87] and pit [89]
66	✓	✓	✓	Pit [93] and gully 1004 [97]
67	✓	✓	✓	Pit [93] and gully 1004 [97]
68	✓	✓	✓	Gully 1004 [104] and ditch 1001 [106]
69	✓	✓	✓	Gully 1004 [104] and ditch 1001 [106]
70	✓	✓	✓	Gully 1004 [109]
71	✓	✓	✓	Gully 1004 [109]
72	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [111]
73	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [113]
74	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [115]
75	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [117]
76	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [119]
77	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [121]
78	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [123]
79	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [129]
80	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [131]
81	✓	✓	✓	Pit [133]
82	✓	✓	✓	Pit [85]
83	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [125], [127] and [135]
84	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [137] and [139]
85	✓	✓	✓	Pit [141]
86	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [155] and [147]
87	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [158], [160] and [162]
88	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [166]
89	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [164]
90	✓	✓	✓	Posthole [168]
91	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [170]
92	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [172]
93	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [174]
94	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [180]
95	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [177]
96	✓	✓	✓	Furrow [182]
97	✓	✓	✓	Furrow [184]
98	✓	✓	✓	Post holes [186] and [188]
99	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [190]

100	✓	✓	✓	Sunken Featured Building 1005 [192]
101	✓	✓	✓	Sunken Featured Building 1005 [192] and posthole [194]
102	✓	✓	✓	Furrow [196]
103	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [207]
104	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [207]
105	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [205]
106	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [201]
107	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [203]
108	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [203]
109	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [200]
110	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [198]
111	✓	✓	✓	Furrow [220]
112	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [218]
113	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [218]
114	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [222]
115	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [222]
116	✓	✓	✓	General shot of Gully 1006, floor deposit 1007 and ditch 1000 facing NE
117	✓	✓	✓	General shot of Gully 1006, floor deposit 1007 and ditch 1000 facing NE
118	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [238]
119	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [238]
120	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [148]
121	✓	✓	✓	Floor deposit 1006 [247]
122	✓	✓	✓	Gully [216]
123	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [198]
124	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [200]
125	✓	✓	✓	General shot of Gully 1006, floor deposit 1007 and ditch 1000 from NE
126	✓	✓	✓	General shot of Gully 1006, floor deposit 1007 and ditch 1000 from NE
127	✓	✓	✓	General shot of Gully 1006, floor deposit 1007 and ditch 1000 from NW
128	✓	✓	✓	General shot of Gully 1006, floor deposit 1007 and ditch 1000 from NW
129	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [230]
130	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [230]
131	✓	✓	✓	Gully 1006 [232]
132	✓	✓	✓	Floor deposit 1007 [234]
133	✓	✓	✓	Ditch 1000 [148]
134	✓	✓	✓	Floor deposit 1007 [247]
135	✓	✓	✓	Gully 1006 [236]
136	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [238]
137	✓	✓	✓	Post hole [240]
138	✓	✓	✓	General shot of sunken featured building 1005 from E
139	✓	✓	✓	General shot of sunken featured building 1005 from W
140	✓	✓	✓	Shot of SFB 1005 [192], east facing section
141	✓	✓	✓	Shot of SFB 1005 [192] and post hole [194], north facing section
142	✓	✓	✓	Shot of SFB 1005 [192], south facing section
143	✓	✓	✓	Shot of SFB 1005 [192], west facing section

Appendix 3: Specialist Reports

Pottery from Evaluation: Stoke Road, Water Eaton, Bucks (Ref: 629/WES)

Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 7 sherds with a total weight of 356g. It was all early/middle or middle Saxon, and indicates that there was Anglo-Saxon occupation at the site during the period AD650 – 850, and possibly earlier.

Fabric

The following fabric types were noted:

Early-middle Saxon Hand-Built Wares

Sandstone. Sub-angular lumps of sandstone up to 2mm, some with ferrous cement, free quartz grains up to 1mm, rare to sparse sub-rounded calcareous material up to 2mm. One sherd, 17g

Middle Saxon

Maxey-type Ware. Exact chronology uncertain, but generally dated c. AD650-850 (eg. Hurst 1976). Wet-hand finished, reddish-orange to black surfaces. Soft to fairly hard, with abundant fossil shell platelets up to 10mm. Vessels usually straight sided bowls with upright, triangular, rim-mounted pierced lugs. Six sherds, 339g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

The early/middle Saxon handmade sherd is in a fabric which is typical of pottery of that date in the Milton Keynes region, and can be paralleled at a number of sites, such as Pennyland (Blinkhorn 1994). The fact that it is undecorated means that it can only be broadly dated, to within the early or middle Saxon periods (c AD450 – 850).

The same can be said of the Maxey ware. Only a single sherd was noted at Pennyland, but it has been noted in quantity at a number of sites in Buckinghamshire, such as Chicheley (Farley 1980). It is a reliable indicator of middle Saxon activity, but can only be broadly dated to within the middle Saxon period (c AD 650 – 850). Three large rimsherds were noted here, all of which had the bar-lugs which are characteristic of the tradition in the region.

The sherds are all in good condition and largely unabraded, suggesting that they are primary deposits.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	E/MS		Maxey		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	
265			1	138	MS
267	1	17			E/MS
272			4	70	MS
Ditch 1001			1	131	MS
Total	1	17	6	339	

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Pottery from Excavation: Stoke Road, Water Eaton, Bucks (Ref: 742/WES)**Paul Blinkhorn**

The pottery assemblage comprised 29 sherds with a total weight of 1,117g. It consisted of a mixture of prehistoric, Romano-British, middle Saxon and medieval wares.

Prehistoric

Twelve sherds with a total weight of 166g were noted. They were all in a fabric which contained white and black angular flint temper up to 3mm, along with sparse subrounded calcareous material. No feature sherds were noted other than two bases with flat profiles.

The flint temper is very untypical of prehistoric pottery in the Milton Keynes area. All the Bronze age and Iron Age material from Pennylands (Williams 1993) and Bancroft (Williams and Zeepvat 1994) was in shell-tempered fabrics. Flint tempered fabrics such as this one are known in Bedfordshire as a whole, from sites such as the Bunyan Centre site in Bedford. (eg La Niece and Slowikowski 1999, 21). They are generally Neolithic or late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age, and the available evidence indicates that the late date range is appropriate for the pottery from this site.

Romano-British

A small assemblage of Romano-British pottery occurred. It was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (Marney 1989)

Fabric 1a, Shelly ware, 1st – 4th centuries AD. 5 sherds, 88g.

Fabric 2a, Clay pellets, later 2nd – 4th century AD. 1 sherd, 65g.

Fabric 28, Local Greyware, 2nd century AD. 1 sherd, 5g.

The fabrics are all very common finds in the Milton Keynes region. Four large fragments of tile were also noted.

Early/Middle Saxon hand-built wares

Three sherds were noted, as follows:

F1: Dense fine sub-angular quartz < 0.5mm. 2 sherds, 48g.

F2: Sparse to moderate sub-angular quartz up to 1mm. 1 sherd, 10g.

The range of early-middle Saxon fabrics is typical of that noted at other sites in the area, such as Pennyland (Blinkhorn 1993). A sherd of hand-built pottery, with a sandstone temper, was also noted during the evaluation stage of this site. It is again typical of the region. It is impossible to date the assemblage other than to within the early to middle Saxon period. Generally, the Anglo-Saxons ceased decorating pottery in the early part of the 7th century (Myres 1977), but such wares were rare even when they were used. It is possible therefore that the undecorated hand-built pottery may date to any time between AD450 and 850, especially as the sherd of Ipswich ware and the Maxey ware shows that there was middle Saxon activity at the site.

Loom Weights

Two loom-weights were present, one complete, weighing 377g, and one near-complete, weighing 237g. Both were in the same fabric, which was fairly smooth with few visible inclusions except for very rare angular flint up to 10mm.

Middle Saxon

The following fabrics were noted:

Maxey-type Ware. Exact chronology uncertain, but generally dated c. AD650-850 (eg. Hurst 1976). Wet-hand finished, reddish-orange to black surfaces. Soft to fairly hard, with abundant fossil shell platelets up to 10mm. Vessels usually straight sided bowls with upright, triangular, rim-mounted pierced lugs. 8 sherds, 548g.

Ipswich Ware: Middle Saxon, slow-wheel made ware, manufactured exclusively in the eponymous Suffolk wic. The material had a currency of AD 725x740 - mid 9th century at sites outside East Anglia (Blinkhorn forthcoming). There are two main fabric types, although individual vessels which do not conform to these groups also occur. 1 sherd, 67g.

The assemblage of Maxey ware is in addition to the six sherds (339g) noted at the evaluation stage. The assemblage from this phase of the excavation included a large fragment of a the rim from a bar-lug vessel which is typical of the tradition.

The sherd of Ipswich ware is worthy of note. It is one of a small number of finds of such pottery in the Milton Keynes area, with the biggest group coming from Pennyland (Blinkhorn 1993). Small assemblages have also been noted at Walton Lodge, Wolverton Turn (Blinkhorn forthcoming b) and Westbury-by-Shenley (Hurman and Ivens 1995, 240). It shows that a number of settlements in the area were linked into the trade routes of the emporium at Ipswich. This site, with its extensive field boundaries, has parallels with Pennyland, and it may be that it represents an outlier of another example of a possible stock-rearing centre which was producing meat in sufficient quantities for trade (Blinkhorn 1999)

Medieval

The medieval pottery was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeepvat 1992; Zeepvat et al. 1994), as follows:

MC1: *Shelly Coarseware*. AD1100-1400. 2 sherds, 18g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown on the next page in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Contxt	LBA		RB 1a		RB 2a		RB 28		EMS1		EMS2		IPS		MAX		MC1		19th		Date	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt		
6			1	34									1	67								MS
16														5	469							MS
18									1	41					1	6						MS
24																	1	5				12thC
48										1	10				1	22						MS
64			1	8																		RB
92									1	7												E/MS
100															1	51						MS
126			1	7																		RB
143	2	64			1	2																RB
149			1	16																		RB
185							1	5										1	13			12thC
197					1	65																RB
199	2	8																				LBA
215	8	94																				LBA
217																				1	2	19thC
243			1	23																		RB
Total	7	166	5	88	1	65	1	5	2	48	1	10	1	67	8	548	2	18	1	2		

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Environmental Assessment: Stoke Road, Water Eaton, Bucks – (Ref: 742/WES)**Introduction**

During an excavation conducted by Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd at Stoke Road, Water Eaton, a number of bulk soil samples were taken for environmental analysis. Eight of these samples were selected and submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment (Table 1). Seven of the samples are dated to the early to mid or middle Saxon period, and one derives from a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pit.

Table 1. Water Eaton – 742/WES. List of selected for archaeobotanical study.

Sample no.	Context	Sample vol. l.	Sample wt. kg	Description	Pot date
1	91	3	4	Charcoal lens within pit [89?]	<i>Early Saxon?</i>
4	193	25	33	Fill of sunken feature building	<i>Early Saxon?</i>
6	48	29	29	Fill of ditch [47]	<i>Early-mid Saxon?</i>
7	64	29	29	Fill of ditch intersection [63]	<i>Early-mid Saxon?</i>
8	90	28	28	Fill of pit [89]	<i>Early-mid Saxon?</i>
9	58	29.5	29.5	Fill of ditch [57]	<i>Early-mid Saxon?</i>
10	215	20	22	Fill of pit [214]	<i>Late BA – EIA?</i>
11	143	30	30	Fill of ditch [150]	<i>Early-mid Saxon?</i>

Methods

The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both the residues and flots were dried and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flots was measured and the volume and weight of the residue recorded. A total of 193.5 litres of soil was processed in this way.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill and a count made of the number of flakes or spheroids of hammerscale collected. The residue was then discarded. The flot of each sample was studied using x10 magnifications and the presence of environmental finds (i.e. snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The flots were then bagged and along with the finds from the sorted residue, constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2 and 3.

Results

The samples washed down to leave residues comprising of gravel, angular flint, rounded pebbles, rounded chalk, limestone, sandstone, ironstone, sediment concretions and coarse sand. The archaeological finds include small quantities of magnetised sediment and ironstone with hammerscale noted in two samples (samples 6 and 9). Small amounts of slag have also been recovered from five samples and smithing slag together with the greatest concentration of hammerscale and a single spheroidal hammerscale were present in sample 9 (Table 3), from ditch 1002.

A total of twenty-eight sherds of pottery were retrieved from the samples, the greatest quantity originating from the fills of pit [89] and ditch [148]. A small fragment of glass was also recovered from the fill of ditch [148], which may be ancient glass since it is full of bubbles and greenish in hue.

In terms of the environmental remains, the six samples yielded a total of 278 grammes of animal bone, which seems to be concentrated in the fills of ditch [47] and to a lesser degree ditch [57] and pit [89]. The assemblage

includes fragments of cattle, pig, sheep, sheep/goat and fish that probably derived from domestic refuse, and house mouse, shrew, small bird, frog or toad and snake from the natural fauna of the area. Terrestrial snails were present in three of the samples and the identified taxa, particularly from pit [89], include *Vallonia pulchella*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *Vertigo pygmaea* and *Trichia hispida*, suggesting an open grassland environment, *V. pulchella* perhaps indicating a somewhat damp grassland.

Charred plant remains are present in small amounts in all eight samples (Table 2) and primarily consist of cereal grains, with a few weed seeds in five flots and two fragments of wheat chaff of a glume wheat species recovered from the fill of ditch [148] (sample 11). The overall preservation of the charred plant remains is generally poor which will impede further identification, particularly of the cereal grains, which are abraded and distorted in many instances. The cereals identified are predominantly wheat (*Triticum* spp.), several grains of which appear to display similar morphological characteristics to that of bread wheat (*T. aestivum* Schiem.). Traces of both barley (*Hordeum* spp.) and possible oat (cf. *Avena* spp.) are also present in three flots (Table 4), although the state of preservation of the grains prevented taking the identifications to species on this occasion.

Table 2. Water Eaton - 742/WES. Identified charred botanical remains from the samples

	Provisional date	LBA/EIA	Early-middle Saxon						
	Context	215	143	64	90	58	91	193	48
	Sample	10	11	7	8	9	1	4	6
	Vol. soil (l)	20	30	29	28	29.5	3	25	29
	Flot vol. (ml)	5.5	6	20	30	6	50	3	6
Cereal									
<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>aestivum</i> sl.	cf. bread-type wheat		5						4
<i>Triticum</i> spp.	wheat spp.		10		7	2			6
cf. <i>Triticum</i> spp.	cf wheat spp.	1		7					
<i>Hordeum</i> spp.	barley				3				
cf <i>Hordeum</i> sp.	cf. barley			2			1		1
<i>Avena</i> sp.	oats			1					
cf <i>Avena</i> sp.	cf. oats			2	2				2
indet. cereal			3	5	8	3	1	4	8
indet. frags			7	7	11	4	1		4
Chaff									
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	wheat glume base		1						
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	indet.wheat		1						
Weeds									
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	buttercup family								1
<i>Chenopodium</i> spp.	goosefoot		7						
Chenopodiaceae	goosefoot family				1		29		
<i>Atriplex</i> spp.	orache						15		
<i>Polygonum</i> sp.	knotgrass		2						
<i>Rumex</i> spp.	docks						3		
<i>Malva</i> sp(p).	mallow				2		6		
Leguminosae	small legume					2			2
Umbelliferae	umbellifer		1						
cf. <i>Plantago</i> / <i>Sherardia</i> sp.	plantain/madder?								1
<i>Galium</i> sp.	bedstraw				1				
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	stinking mayweed		1				7		
Compositae	daisy family								1
cf. <i>Carex</i> sp.	cf. sedge						1		
Gramineae indet.	small grass			1	3		1	1	
indet.			1	2	2		5	1	

The suites of weed species identified in the flots provide limited ecological information, and in most cases are represented by no more than two seeds. Comminuted charcoal is ubiquitous, appearing to be particularly abundant in the fills of ditches [63] and [148] as well as pits [89] and [214] and may provide some material suitable for further analysis, although no fragments >6.7mm have been recovered.

Each of the six flots contain large amounts of uncharred plant vegetative material in the form of roots, along with small quantities of seeds with species including knotgrass (*Polygonum* spp.), carrot family (Umbelliferae), thistle (*Carduus/Cirsium* spp.) and a small number of seeds not formally identified. These, together with remains of insects, have been treated as intrusive contaminants.

Table 3. Water Eaton - 742/WES. Archaeological finds from the processed samples.

samp	cont	vol. In l.	residue vol. in ml	pot *	mag-netic wt. g.	ham'r-scale no.	slag wt.g	glass wt.g	flint No.	fired earth wt. g.	bone wt g.	comment
1	91	3	550	2/1	2				5		1	5x burnt flints, 23g.
4	193	25	5000		2							
6	48	29	3000	3/31	2	1	4				111	fuel ash slag?
7	64	29	4000	3/31	2				1	<1	15	flint waste flake?
8	90	28	3750	7/6	4		P				84	1x slag in mag-netic component.
9	58	29.5	3500	?1/<1	2	12	<1				59	1x spheroid h'scale, smithing slag.
10	215	20	5500	4/3	1							
11	143	30	5000	8/5	2		1	<1			8	smithing slag?, 1x ancient glass?

Table 4. Water Eaton – 742/WES. Environmental finds from the processed samples.

samp	cont	vol. in l.	flot vol in ml.	char-coal \$	char'd grain *	char'd chaff *	char'd seed *	snail *	fish bone wt.g	egg shell wt.g	comment
1	91	3	50	5/5	1		3	1/1			barley?, goosefoot family, orache, dock, mallow, stinking mayweed, sedge?, grass family, <i>V. pygmaea</i>
4	193	25	3	0/2	1		1				Cereal frags, grass family.
6	48	29	6	4/5	2		1	1/1			Wheat, barley?, oat?, buttercup type?, legume, small leguminous seed, plantain?, daisy family, slug, cattle, pig, sheep, sheep/ goat, house mouse, shrew, frog/toad.
7	64	29	20	5/5	2		1	2/1		<1	Wheat, barley, oat, grass, slug, indet. mammal bone, large frog/toad, bird.
8	90	28	30	5/5	2		1	2/2			Wheat, barley, oat, goosefoot family, bedstraw, mallow, grass, slugs, <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>V. pulchella</i> ., <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> , cattle, pig, sheep/ goat, vole, frog/toad, water vole or rat?
9	58	29.5	6	3/5	1		1	1/1			Wheat, small leguminous seed, <i>Cecilioides</i> sp., <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , cattle, pig, sheep/goat, rodent.
10	215	20	5.5	5/4	1						Wheat?
11	143	30	6	5/5	2	1	2		<1		Wheat, wheat chaff, goosefoot, knotgrass, carrot family, stinking mayweed, sheep/goat, burnt indet. bone, indet. fish, rodent, frog/toad, snake.

Excavated animal bone

A small collection of 86 bone fragments (Table 5) were recovered by hand during the excavations, several of which were themselves fragmented. The assemblage has been identified and catalogued (Appendix). Cattle dominate in this small assemblage with sheep or goat bones next in abundance. Interestingly there is a single horn core fragment from a male goat from context [04], but the remainder of the small ungulate bones appear to be sheep. The dog mandible from context [64] indicates a large robust dog. Other species identified include horse, pig, chicken and oyster shell. The latter indicating some trading, perhaps indirectly through Oxford, with coastal centres.

Table 5. Number of fragments of each identified species in the hand collected bone and shell.

species	frag. nos
Horse	4
Cattle	30
Cattle size	16
Goat	1
Sheep/goat	16
Sheep size	4
Pig	9
Dog	1
Chicken	1
Unidentified	2
Oyster shell	2
Total	86

The sheep bones tend to indicate that the remains derive from adult animals although one fragment of immature metacarpus is present. The cattle fragments indicate both immature and adult animals are represented in the assemblage.

A few bones show evidence of butchery in the form of knife cuts and chop marks and several bones have been gnawed by dogs.

Discussion

The earliest feature represented by the samples is a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pit [214]. This is particularly sparse both in artefacts and ecofacts yielding a single possible wheat grain, which may be residual, along with a moderate quantity of comminuted charcoal and four fragments of pottery.

The apparent concentration of hammerscale from the fill of ditch [57], together with the very tiny amount of ?smithing slag in this feature and sample 11, suggests that iron smithing may have taken place on the farmstead.

An open grassland environment is suggested by the small snail assemblages and this is not inconsistent with the small vertebrate fauna. The presence of the remains of a house mouse, which are synonymous with settlements, supports the theory that the site has settlement on it.

Despite the generalised cereal identifications, the cereals recovered appear to be consistent with the phase of activity, as hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) and bread wheat are amongst the principal crops during the Saxon and Medieval periods (Greig 1991), with domesticated oats (*Avena sativa* L.) also emerging as an important crop from the Saxon period onwards. The cultivation of glume wheats such as spelt and emmer peters out by the Saxon period and the traces of glume wheat chaff may suggest some continuity from Roman times, although some residual material from earlier deposits cannot be ruled out for these samples.

Conclusion

The finds from the middle Saxon samples in general reflect occupation debris with some industrial activity, but the prehistoric pit fill was largely devoid of material except pottery and its function remains unclear. The plant remains do not suggest any of the earlier stages of crop processing but rather the processed material being consumed or prepared for consumption on the site.

The very limited snail assemblages suggest an open grassland habitat around the sampled ditches.

Interpreting the possible function of the sampled features, as well as addressing issues relating to subsistence strategies employed by the inhabitants of the farmstead and characterising the local environment, is beyond the scope of the archaeobotanical assemblages from all the flots within the assessment group.

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APPENDIX: Environmental Assessment: Stoke Road, Water Eaton, Bucks – (Ref: 742/WES)**THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTANCY****Key to codes used in the cataloguing of animal bones and marine shells****SPECIES:**

SPECIES CODE			SPECIES CODE	
MAN	human		DOVE	Dove species
EQU	Horse		FER	Feral dove
EQSZ	Horse size		PART	Partridge
BOS	Cattle		SWAN?	Swan?
BOSL	Cattle-large		WOOD	Woodcock
CSZ	cattle size		CURL	Curlew
SUS	Pig		WADE	wader
OVCA	sheep or goat		CROK	Crow or rook
OVI	Sheep		CORV	Crow or rook
CAP	Goat		JACK	Jackdaw
SSZ	sheep size		OWL	Owl indet.
FEL	Cat		BUZZ	Buzzard
CAN	Dog		GULL	Gull sp.
AUR	Aurochs			
AUR?	Aurochs?		TURD	Turdidae
CER	red deer		BIRD	Identifiable but not id'd
DAM	Fallow deer		PASS	Passerine
CLS	roe deer		LBIRD	Large bird
LEP	Hare		UNIB	Bird indet
ORC	Rabbit			
LAG	Lagomorph		FROG	Frog
CARN	Carnivore		FRTO	Frog or toad
FOX	Fox			
POLE	Polecat/ferret			
WEA	weasel		GAD	Gadid, cod family
BADG	Badger		LING	Ling
SEAL	seal		HADD	Haddock
SQU?	Squirrel?		RAY	ray
BEAV	Beaver		FISH	Fish
ROD	Rodent		UNIF	Fish indet
RAT	Rat			
AGR	Field vole		OYS	oyster
ARV	Water vole		COK	Cockle
MUS	House mouse		MUSS	Common Mussel
SORA	Common shrew		WHELK	Common whelk
MOLE	Mole		HEL	Helix aspersa
SMA	Small mammal		HELIX	Helix sp.
UNI	Unknown		HELN	Helix nemoralis
			SNAIL	snail
CHIK	Chicken			
CHKZ	Chicken size		FOSS	Fossil bone
GOOS	Goose, dom			
GOOS?	Goose, dom.?			
GSSZ	Goose size			
GSSP	Goose species			
GOSZ	Goose, poss. Wild			
DUCK	Duck, domestic sp.			
DUCK?	Duck?			
DKSP	Duck species			
DSP	Duck species indet			
MALL	Duck, dom.			
TURK	Turkey			

BONE ELEMENT:

BONE CODE		BONE CODE	
SKEL	skeleton	SCP	scapula
SKL	skull	HUM	humerus
ANT	antler	RAD	radius
ANT?	antler?	ULN	ulna
ATT	antler tine	RUL	radius and ulna
HC	horn core	C/T	carpus/tarsus
TEMP	temporal	C23	carpus 2+3
FRNT	frontal	CAR	carpus
PET	petrous	CPA	accessory carpal
PAR	parietal	CPI	intermediate carpal
OCIP	occipital	CPR	radial carpal
ZYG	zygomatic	CPU	ulnal carpal
NAS	nasal	MTC	metacarpus
PMX	premaxilla	MC1-5	metacarpus 1-5
MAN	mandible	MTP	metapodial
MNT	mandibular tooth	MPL	lateral metapodial
DLI	deciduous lower incisor	INN	innominate
DLPM1-4	deciduous lower premolar 1-4	ILM	ilium
LI	lower incisor (and 1-3)	PUB	pubis
LC	lower canine	ISH	ischium
LPM1-LPM4	lower premolar 1-4	FEM	femur
LM1-LM3	lower molar 1 - molar 3	PAT	patella
MAX	maxilla	TIB	tibia
DUI	deciduous upper incisor	FIB	fibula
UI	upper incisor (1-3)	LML	lateral malleolus
UC	upper canine	AST	astragalus
DUPM	deciduous upper premolar	CAL	calcaneum
DUPM1-4	deciduous upper premolar 1-4	CQ	centroquartal
UPM1-UPM4	upper premolar 1-4	TAR3	tarsus 3
UM1-UM3	upper molar 1 - molar 3	T4	tarsus 4
MXT	maxillary tooth	TAR	tarsus
TTH	indeterminate tooth	MTT	metatarsus
INC	incisor	MT1-5	metatarsus 1-5
HYD	hyoid	MTL	lateral metatarsus
ATL	atlas	SES	sesamoid
AXI	axis	PH1	1st phalanx
CEV	cervical vertebra (and 3-7)	PH2	2nd phalanx
TRV	thoracic vertebra (and 1-13)	PH3	3rd phalanx
LMV	lumbar vertebra	PHL	lateral phalanx
SAC	sacrum	LBF	long bone
CDV	caudal vertebra	UNI	unidentified
VER	vertebra		
STN	sternum	CLV	clavicle
CC	costal cartilage	COR	coracoid
RIB1	first rib (2 etc)	CMP	carpo-metacarpus
RIB	rib	CMC	carpo-metacarpus
		WPH1-3	wing phalanges 1-3
URO	urostyle	WPH	wing phalanx
		LSA	lumbosacrale
DENT	dentary		
CLEI	cleithrum		
RAY	fin ray		
SHELL	shell		
UV	upper valve		
VAL	valve		

NUMBER: number of fragments in the entry

SIDE: W - whole L - left side R - right side F - fragment

FUSION: records the fused/unfused condition of the epiphyses

P - proximal; D - distal; E - acetabulum; N - unfused; F - fused; C - cranial; A - posterior

ZONES: records the part of the bone present.

The key to each zone on each bone is on the next page.

BUTCHERY: records whether a bone has been chopped (CH), cut (KN), worked (W), burnt (C)

GNAWING: records if a bone has been gnawed by dogs (DG), cats (FEL) or rodents (RG)

TOOTH WEAR:

Codes are those used in Grant, A. 1982 The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic animals, in B.Wilson, C.Grigson and S.Payne (eds) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from Archaeological sites*, 91-108.

Teeth are labelled as follows in the tooth wear column:

Deciduous	Permanent
f ldpm2/dupm2	F lpm2/upm2
g ldpm3/dupm3	G lpm3/upm4
h ldpm4/dupm4	H lpm4/upm4
	I lm1/um1
	J lm2/um2
	K lm3/um3

MEASUREMENTS:

Any measurements are those listed in A.Von den Driesch (1976) *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Peabody Museum, Harvard, USA.

Some measurements have been taken on juveniles. Measurements marked L1 are the greatest length of long bones lacking one unfused epiphysis – the measurement being taken from the epiphyseal junction. Measurements marked L2 are the greatest length of the long bones between epiphyseal junctions when both epiphyses are unfused.

PATHOLOGICAL:

A 'P' indicates that the bone fragment carries a pathology

COMMENTS:

This may include a short description of the fragments, any pathologies, butchery or gnawing evidence

PRESERVATION:

records the condition of the bone in the following manner

- 1- enamel only surviving
- 2- bone very severely pitted and thinned, tending to break up; teeth with surface erosion and loss of cementum and dentine
- 3- surface pitting and erosion of bone, some loss of cementum and dentine on teeth
- 4- surface of bone intact, loss of organic component, material chalky, calcined or burnt
- 5- bone in good condition, probably with some organic component

ZONES - codes used to define the zones on each bone.

SKULL	1. paraoccipital process	METACARPUS	1. medial facet of proximal articulation, MC3
	2. occipal condyle		2. lateral facet of proximal articulation, MC4
	3. intercornual protuberance		3. medial distal condyle, MC3
	4. external acoustic meatus		4. lateral distal condyle, MC4
	5. frontal sinus		5. anterior distal groove and foramen
	6. ectorbitale		6. medial or lateral distal condyle
	7. entorbitale		
	8. temporal articular facet		FIRST PHALANX
9. facial tuber		2. distal articular facet	
0. infraorbital foramen			
MANDIBL E	1. Symphyseal surface	INNOMINATE	1. tuber coxae
	2. diastema		2. tuber sacrale + scar
	3. lateral diastemal foramen		3. body of ilium with dorso-medial foramen
	4. coronoid process		4. iliopubic eminence
	5. condylar process		5. acetabular fossa
	6. angle		6. symphyseal branch of pubis
	7. anterior dorsal ascending ramus posterior M3		7. body of ischium
	8. mandibular foramen		8. ischial tuberosity
		9. depression for medial tendon of rectus femoris	
VERTEBR A	1. spine	FEMUR	1. head
	2. anterior central epiphysis		2. trochanter major
	3. posterior central epiphysis		3. trochanter minor
	4. centrum		4. supracondyloid fossa
	5. neural arch		5. distal medial condyle
SCAPULA	1. supraglenoid tubercle		6. lateral distal condyle
	2. glenoid cavity		7. distal trochlea
	3. origin of the distal spine		
	4. tuber of spine	TIBIA	1. proximal medial condyle
	5. posterior of neck with foramen		2. proximal lateral condyle
	6. cranial angle of blade		3. intercondylar eminence
	7. caudal angle of blade		4. proximal posterior nutrient foramen
HUMERUS	1. head		5. medial malleolus
	2. greater tubercle		6. lateral aspect of distal articulation
	3. lesser tubercle		7. distal pre-epiphyseal portion of the diaphysis
	4. intertuberal groove	CALCANEUM	1. calcaneal tuber
	5. deltoid tuberosity		2. sustentaculum tali
	6. dorsal angle of olecranon fossa		3. processus anterior
	7. capitulum		
RADIUS	8. trochlea	METATARSUS	1. medial facet of proximal articulation, MT3.
	9. coronoid fossa		2. lateral facet of proximal articulation, MT4
	0. teres tubercle		3. medial distal condyle, MT3
	1. medial half of proximal epiphysis		4. lateral distal condyle, MT4
	2. lateral half of proximal epiphysis		5. anterior distal groove and foramen
	3. posterior proximal ulna scar and foramen		6. medial or lateral distal condyle
	4. medial half of distal epiphysis		
	5. lateral half of distal epiphysis		
6. distal shaft immediately above distal epiphysis			
ULNA	1. olecranon tuberosity		
	2. trochlear notch- semilunaris		
	3. lateral coronoid process		
	4. distal epiphysis		

Archive catalogue of animal bone from Stoke Road, Water Eaton – 742 WES

site	cont	species	bone	no.	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	path	comment	preservation
742WES	04	CAP	HC	1	R		1						TIP CORE-POROUS- MALE	4
742WES	04	CSZ	RIB	1	F								MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT- 3 PIECES	4
742WES	04	EQU	INN	1	L	EF	459						MEDIAL HALF ACETAB- 2 PIECES-LARGE	4
742WES	06	BOS	MAN	1	R		123457			J12K8		P	FRAGMENTED RAMUS-VERY LARGE ABCESS BELOW PREMOLARS-TUBERCULOSIS?-9 PIECES	4
742WES	06	CSZ	RIB	1	F								MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	06	CSZ	TRV	1	F								POST FRAG BASE OF SPINE	4
742WES	06	SUS	MAN	1	R		123			DH10I14			ANT HALF HORI RAMUS WITH SYMPHYSIS- 2 PIECES	4
742WES	08	BOS	MAN	1	R		13						SYMPHYSEAL FRAGMENT	4
742WES	08	BOS	MAN	1	R								FRAGMENT WITH PM ALVEOLI-POSS SAME MANDIBLE AS ABOVE	4
742WES	08	BOS	UPM4	1	L					H12			COMPLETE	4
742WES	08	CSZ	LBF	1	F				DG				SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	08	OVCA	RAD	1	L	PF	1						SPLIT PROX END	4
742WES	08	OVCA	TIB	1	L	DF	567				Bd-25.8 Dd-20.5 SD-13.2		DISTAL THIRD	4
742WES	08	OVCA	TIB	1	L								MIDSHAFT	4
742WES	08	SUS	FIB	1	F								MIDSHAFT	4
742WES	10	OVCA	FEM	1	F								SPLIT SHAFT	4
742WES	10	OVCA	MAN	1	L		67			GH14I17J14K13			RAMUS WITH TOOTH ROW	4
742WES	10	SSZ	RIB	1	F								DISTAL AND MIDSHAFT	4
742WES	107	BOS	SKL	1	L		9			H12I15J14K11			9 PIECES-MAXILLA	4
742WES	107	SSZ	RIB	1	F								DISTAL SHAFT- 2 PIECES-PIG?	4
742WES	107	SSZ	RIB	1	R			CH					PROX SHAFT-HEAD CHOPPED OFF	4
742WES	108	BOS	MAN	1	L		247			J16K15			PART HORI RAMUS AND CONDYLE- 4 PIEWCES	4
742WES	110	OVCA	LM2	1	L					J11			COMPLETE	4
742WES	110	OVCA	RAD	1	R				DG				DISTAL SHAFT-DISTAL CHEWED	4
742WES	126	OVCA	UM2	1	L					J12			COMPLETE	4
742WES	14	BOS	MAN	1	L		123	CH					SYMPHYSIS AND DIASTEMA-CHOPPED THRU SYMPHYSIS	4
742WES	14	BOS	MTT	1	L		12		DG				PROX HALF-PROX END CHEWED - 3 PIECES	4
742WES	14	CSZ	RIB	1	R				DG				PROX SHAFT-PROX END CHEWED	4
742WES	14	OVCA	MTC	1	F	DN							SPLIT SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	14	OVCA	RAD	1	R		3		DG				SHAFT-DISTAL END CHEWED	4
742WES	143	CSZ	UNI	1	F								INDET	4
742WES	157	BOS	SKL	1	F								SUPRAORBITAL FRAG OF FRONTAL	4
742WES	16	CSZ	LBF	1	F				DG				SHAFT FRAGMENT-POROUS-CHEWED-LARGE	4
742WES	16	OYS	SHEL L	1	F									4
742WES	16	SSZ	HUM	1	L								SPLIT SHAFT FRAGMENT	4

site	cont	species	bone	no.	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	path	comment	preservation
742WES	16	SUS	SCP	1	R								PART CAUDAL MARGIN OF BLADE	4
742WES	18	BOS	MAN	1	L		45						DORSAL HALF ASCENDING RAMUS0- 3 PIECES	4
742WES	18	BOS	MTC	1	F				DG				DISTAL SHAFT FRAGMENT-DISTAL END CHEWED	4
742WES	18	BOS	SKL	1	F								PALATAL FRAGMENT	4
742WES	18	EQU	CAL	1	L	PN	23		DG				PROX EPI LOST-WELL CHEWED	4
742WES	18	EQU	SKL	1	F								BASI-OCCIPITAL- 2 PIECES	4
742WES	18	OVCA	LM2	1	L					J12			COMPLETE	4
742WES	18	SUS	HUM	1	R	DF	69		DG				DISTAL END-CONDYLES CHEWED OFF	4
742WES	20	CSZ	LBF	1	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	217	BOS	INN	1	L								SPLIT ILIAL SHAFT	4
742WES	217	OVCA	MAN	1	L		1237			GH14IJ15K14		P	RAMUS WITH TOOTH ROW-M1 BROKEN/MALFORMED LEADING TO BONE GROWTH AND BAD OCCULUSI	4
742WES	217	SUS	RAD	1	F				DG				DISTAL SHAFT- DISTAL END CHEWED	4
742WES	22	BOS	CAL	1	L		23		DG				PROX END CHEWED OFF	4
742WES	22	EQU	PH1	1	W	PF	12		DG				COMPLETE-CHEWED	4
742WES	22	SUS	MAN	1	L		6						ANGLE	4
742WES	26	CSZ	RIB	2	F								MIDSHAFT FRAGMENTS	4
742WES	26	CSZ	RIB	1	F								MIDSHAFT- 3 PIECES	4
742WES	26	OVCA	HUM	1	L	DF	6789				BT-32.4		DISTAL HALF	4
742WES	48	BOS	FEM	1	F				DG				ANT MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT- PROX CHEWED	4
742WES	48	BOS	MTC	1	L	DF	12345		DG				PROX END SLIGHTLY DAMAGED- BOTH ENDS CHEWED	4
742WES	50	BOS	SCP	1	L		345						DISTAL BALDE WITH NECK AND PART GLENOID- 2 PIECES	4
742WES	50	BOS	TIB	1	F								POST MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	56	BOS	FEM	1	R				DG				DISTAL SHAFT FRAGMENT-DISTAL END CHEWED	4
742WES	58	BOS	CEV	1	F	CNAN	145		DG				CENTRUM AND ARCH-CHEWED	4
742WES	58	CSZ	LBF	1	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	58	UNI	UNI	2	F								INDET	4
742WES	64	BOS	FEM	1	F		4						DISTAL SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	64	BOS	INN	1	R	EF	5	CH					ACETAB-MALE?-POST CHOPPED	4
742WES	64	BOS	RAD	1	L	DF	6		DG				DISTAL END OF SHAFT-ARTIC BROKEN/CHEWED OFF	4
742WES	64	CAN	MAN	1	R		1237						HORI RAMUS- 2 PIECES-WITH CANINE-LARGE DOG	4
742WES	64	CSZ	LBF	1	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	64	OVCA	MTT	1	R		12						PROX END	4
742WES	64	OVCA	SCP	1	R	DF	1235						GLENOID NECK AND DISTAL BLADE	4
742WES	64	SUS	INN	1	L	EF	45						ACETAB	4
742WES	84	BOS	INN	1	L	EF	39	KN					ILIAL SHAFT AND PART ACETAB-CUT MARKS AROUND ACETAB	4
742WES	88	CSZ	LBF	1	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT- 3 PIECES	4
742WES	88	CSZ	RIB	1	F				DG				MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT- HORSE?	4
742WES	92	BOS	ULN	1	F								PROX MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	92	CHIK	ULN	1	F								MIDSHAFT	4

site	cont	species	bone	no.	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	path	comment	preservation
742WES	92	CSZ	HUM	1	F								PROX SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	92	OVCA	RAD	1	F								SPLIT SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	92	OYS	SHEL L	1	F								UPPER VALVE FRAGMENT	4
742WES	92	SUS	FEM	1	F								SPLIT MIDSHAFT	4
742WES	92	SUS	SCP	1	F		4						PART OF SPINE	4
742WES	96	BOS	HUM	1	R								PROX SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	98	BOS	LMV	1	F		4						PART NEURAL ARCH WITH POST ZYGA	4
742WES	98	BOS	MTC	1	R		12						PROX THIRD	4
742WES	98	BOS	PH1	1	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
742WES	98	BOS	TRV	1	F		4						BASE OF SPINE	4

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	Stoke Road, Water Eaton, Bletchley, Mi9lton Keynes					
Short Description:	Excavation of features discovered during evaluation work confirms the presence of mid Saxon ditches, gullies, pits and postholes indicating the presence of a farmstead of this period					
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	DBA	FW	Geophys	Survey	Bldg Rec	Post-Exc
	WB	Strip&Rec	Trenching	Test pits	Exc	Other
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None		Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)		Geophys.Trial trenching	
Current land use:	Arable		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		Unknown	
Monument type:	Farmstead		Monument period:		mid Saxon	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Mid Saxon Maxey and Ipswich ware pot sherds					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Milton Keynes Unitary Authority	OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		SP 8818 3271		
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Area east of Stoke Road, Water Eaton, Bletchley, Milton Keynes					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	3500 sq m		Height OD: (metres)		c.75m	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	B. Giggins		Project design originator:		A. Hancock	
Project Manager:	B. Zeervat		Director/Supervisor:		A. Hancock	
Sponsor / funding body:	Lovell Partnerships Ltd for English Partnerships					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:			End date:			
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	Buck's County Museum		Pottery, animal bone, photo negatives			
Paper:	Buck's County Museum		Project design, excavation report, context sheets, photo record, sample record			
Digital:	Buck's County Museum		Photos, pd, exc report, site plans, section drawings			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						
Title:	Archaeological Excavation Land adj Stoke Road, Water Eaton, Bletchley, Milton Keynes					
Serial title & volume:	Unpublished					
Author(s):	A. Hancock					
Page nos	1 - 64		Date:		4 th May 2006	

Appendix 5: Significance, Potential and Publication Proposals

Introduction

In line with the methodology (Section 2.2) set out in the project design (Hancock 2005) this appendix examines the significance of the recovered data and assesses the value of further analysis and subsequent publication.

Archaeological Significance

The excavation at Water Eaton revealed truncated ditches, pits and post holes of a small rural settlement. A sunken featured building was the only definitively identified structure. A small assemblage of pot sherds (1030g) dates settlement ditches to the mid Saxon period. Analysis of animal bone and bulk environmental samples suggests that grassland surrounded the settlement which may have had a largely pastoral economy. Ephemeral evidence of weaving (two loomweights), ferrous metal working (smithing microslags) and consumption of cereal crops was also identified.

The results of the excavation indicate that the mid Saxon settlement may have been relatively short lived. The recovered data supports the hypothesis that suggests nucleation of dispersed settlements during the concluding decades of the mid Saxon period and appreciably enhances knowledge of the early development of Water Eaton.

Statement of Potential

- *Pottery*

The recovered pottery assemblage provides the principal evidence for dating the archaeological features examined during the excavation. The assemblage is small and further work is unlikely to significantly enhance specialist, county or regional research objectives. Further analysis is not proposed.

- *Animal Bone*

The animal bone assemblage is limited and of restricted value in comparison with much larger assemblages recovered from other Saxon settlements. Further analysis is not proposed.

- *Environmental Samples*

Initial analysis of bulk samples suggests that environmental evidence is limited or poorly preserved. It is unlikely that significantly greater insight would be gathered from further work. Further analysis is not proposed.

- *Other Finds*

The excavation produced an insignificant quantity of other finds (ferrous smithing slag, loomweights etc), none of which are of particular significance in interpreting the site, or pursuing wider academic objectives. Further detailed study of these finds is not proposed.

Conclusions and Publication Proposals

The excavation has enhanced the known distribution of settlement sites of the mid Saxon period. The results may support the hypothesis proposing nucleation of isolated mid Saxon farmsteads into larger settlements which eventually formed the core of villages recorded in the Domesday Survey. The site has county wide significance and submission of an abridged version of the excavation report for publication in Records of Buckinghamshire is envisaged. The publication text should not exceed six pages and will include:

- ***Summary & Introduction***

This section will present the general background to the project, and a non-technical summary.

- ***Site Description***

The topography and geology of the area will be described, with particular reference to the site and its immediate environs.

Illustrations: 1 map showing the site and its environs.

- ***Archaeological Background***

Previous archaeological Saxon discoveries in the surrounding area will be described.

Illustrations: None.

- ***Methodology***

The methodologies employed for the excavation will be described. Any conventions used in the following descriptive text will be defined. *Illustrations:* None.

- ***Archaeological Evidence***

The excavated area will be described in this section. *Illustrations:* Text supported by plans, section drawings and photographs as appropriate.

- ***Pottery***

Detailed description of the pottery assemblage will appear in Appendix 1.

Illustrations: None

- ***Other Finds***

Few non-ceramic finds were recovered from the excavation. Brief listing of relevant information will be prepared for those categories represented. *Illustrations:* None

- ***Environmental Evidence***

The environmental evidence will be described. *Illustrations:* None

- ***Discussion and Conclusions***

- ***Bibliography***