

Land off Pinewoods Road Kingston Bagpuize Oxfordshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report Test Pit Survey



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***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
TEST PIT SURVEY*****CONTENTS**

Summary	3
1 Introduction.....	3
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	3
1.2 Geology and topography.....	3
1.3 Archaeological and historical background	4
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	6
2 Evaluation Aims	6
3 Evaluation Methodology.....	6
3.1 Scope of fieldwork.....	6
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording	7
3.3 Finds.....	7
3.4 Presentation of results.....	7
4 Results: General.....	7
4.1 Soils and ground conditions.....	7
4.2 Distribution of archaeological finds and deposits	7
5 Results: Descriptions	8
5.1 Description of deposits	8
6 results: finds.....	11
The pottery.....	11
6.2 The flint	11
6.3 Other finds	13
7 Discussion And Interpretation	13
7.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	13
7.2 Overall interpretation.....	14
8 overall interpretation.....	15
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory.....	16
Appendix 2 Pottery assessment/ spot dating	23
Appendix 3 Worked flint.....	24
Appendix 4 Bibliography and references	1
Appendix 5 Summary of Site Details	1

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
 Fig. 2 Location of Test pits
 Fig. 3 Area 1, field 2, test pits 1 to 4, sections 1 to 4
 Fig. 4 Area 2, field 2, test pits 5 to 10, sections 5 to 10
 Fig. 5 Area 2, field 2, test pits 11 to 13 and 19 to 22, sections 11 to 17
 Fig. 6 Area 3, field 3, test pits 14 to 18, sections 18 to 22

SUMMARY

During February 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation that comprised test pits and sieving on land off Pinewoods Road, Kingston Bagpuize Oxfordshire (NGR SU 3850 9850) on behalf of Hanson Aggregates Ltd. This exercise followed on from fieldwalking undertaken in January 2006, and, in general terms, the test pitting results mirrored the distributions seen in the fieldwalking plots. The test pit evaluation revealed worked flint, mainly to the north-east of Field 2, although no significant concentrations of activity were identified. Manuring scatters of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date were also observed, principally in Field 3 in the north of the area, although post-medieval finds were more widespread. Two layers which could represent archaeological features were found in test pits to the south of Field 3.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In February 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation comprising the hand excavation of 22 test pits on land at the proposed development site off Pinewoods Road, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was requested by Hanson Aggregate Limited (HAL) in respect of a planning application for the extraction of sand, and was prompted by the results of a fieldwalking survey undertaken over the site by OA in January 2006 (OA 2006).
- 1.1.3 A brief for the archaeological evaluation was issued by the Oxford County Archaeological Services (OCAS). OA subsequently produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which was agreed by Hugh Coddington, the OCC Deputy Archaeological Officer.
- 1.1.4 The results of the fieldwalking (OA 2006) influenced the location of the test pits.
- 1.1.5 The development site is situated at NGR; SU 3850 9850 and is 28.3 hectares in area.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is situated on the plateau of the Corallian Ridge (Upper Jurassic) which is composed of Corallian Bed sand and silts (BGS 253, 1971).
- 1.2.2 The proposed development site, which consists of a strip of arable land is situated to the north of the A420, west of Pinewoods Road and west of Longworth parish boundary SU 3850 9850 (centre of site). The northern limit of the site lies slightly to the south of Hinton Road.

1.2.3 The site lies on a gentle slope from north (c 96 m OD) to south (c 86 m OD). And to the north the land also undulates slightly. The overall distance south to north of the site is c 1.1 km.

1.2.4 The site is currently used as arable farmland and had been ploughed and left to weather in advance of fieldwalking.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk base study by OA (OA June 2004). The site itself has produced limited archaeological evidence. However a brief summary directly and indirectly relating to the site is reproduced below.

1.3.2 Mesolithic period

1.3.3 Mesolithic material has been recovered from fields in the surrounding area, for example Tubney to the north-east of the site (Bradley and Hey 1993).

1.3.4 No flint of this date had been recognised from the development area.

1.3.5 Neolithic period

1.3.6 Evidence of Neolithic settlement is sparse in this area of Oxfordshire.

1.3.7 Several finds of Neolithic flint have been noted within the study area, including some material from fieldwalking on the south edge of the field undertaken in advance of the Kingston Bagpuize bypass (OAU 1992b).

1.3.8 Bronze Age

1.3.9 Settlement in Oxfordshire appears to have been expanding through the Bronze Age, although the evidence still largely derives from burial sites.

1.3.10 There are no recorded Bronze Age settlements within the site or broader area, nor evidence of other intense activity. However, there are recorded findspots of Bronze Age artefacts within in the broader area. Bronze Age flint and pottery is recorded c 600 m north of the site. Bronze Age metal axe-heads and pottery are recorded c 50 m west of the site (NMR 16238)

1.3.11 Iron Age

1.3.12 The general pattern of Iron Age activity in this region appears to be primarily pastoral exploitation of the valley floodplain, with more intensive arable farming on higher ground. The site lies c 1.8 km to the north-east of the Cherbury Camp, a valley-fort of the Iron Age which may have exercised some control of the resources of the broader region.

1.3.13 There is a record of a rare Iron Age coin found c 150 m west of the site.

1.3.14 **Roman**

- 1.3.15 The landscape in the Roman period would probably have been similar to that of the later Iron Age, though with more intensive land use, and would have consisted of small farmsteads set in enclosures with mixed field systems and trackways. This pattern of land use is likely to have been spread over both the floodplain and the higher ground on which the site is located.
- 1.3.16 It has been suggested that a Roman villa of the 3rd to 4th century AD existed near Kingston Bagpuize, in which case the site is very likely to have stood in an area of intensive farming activity.
- 1.3.17 There are three recorded archaeological findspots close to the site that include Roman pottery, *c* 600 m to the north-east, *c* 200 m to the west and between *c* 50-150 m to the east. A similar scatter of Roman pottery was also found on the south edge of the site during evaluation of the Kingston Bagpuize bypass. It was suggested that these finds represent manuring scatters rather than deposits indicating foci of activity.

Medieval

1.3.18 *Early medieval*

- 1.3.19 A settlement is known to have existed in the parish in the 9th century, and it is likely that this was in the same general location as the historic core of the current village of Longworth, *c* 600 m to the north of the site.
- 1.3.20 The study area has produced several finds relating to the early medieval period.
- 1.3.21 A metal brooch was found *c* 500 m to the north-east of the site. Early medieval pottery and an Anglian coin were found *c* 600 m north-west of the site

1.3.22 *Later medieval*

- 1.3.23 The site lies within the parish of Longworth which was recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. At this time the site lay *c* 600 m to the south-west of Longworth and is thought to have been open farmland.

1.3.24 **Post-medieval**

- 1.3.25 The settlement pattern of the earlier post-medieval period is unlikely to have been significantly different to that first recorded on the Longworth parish map of 1846. This shows the site as enclosed farmland.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Andrew Duncan of Hanson Aggregates Ltd for his help, and Hugh Coddington, the Deputy County Archaeologist for Oxford County Archaeological Services for his help and advice.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To assess flint scatters recovered in fieldwalking by examining relative quantities of flint within the modern ploughsoil.
- 2.1.2 To evaluate whether important archaeological evidence survives only within the ploughsoil.
- 2.1.3 To determine within the limits of the survey the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- 2.1.4 To make available the results of the investigation and to aid production of an appropriate methodology for future work.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of 22 hand-excavated test pits each measuring 0.5 m x 0.5 m square (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.2 Test pits were targeted at areas where flint concentrations were identified during the fieldwalking survey (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.3 The position of 18 test pits was agreed with the OCC Deputy Archaeological Officer, Hugh Coddington, with an additional provision for five test pits to answer specific questions arising during the test pitting process. In the event, 22 pits were excavated.
- 3.1.4 There were three areas of test-pitting: the first to the south of Field 2; the second to the middle and to the north-east of Field 2 and the third area had test pits dotted across Field 3. The test pits in the south of Field 2 were dug to assess a possible scatter in this area, or to test whether these finds resulted from ploughing down the slope up to the field boundary. The pits in the north-east of Field 2 were to evaluate the most dense scatter of Mesolithic flint found in fieldwalking (OA 2006). Pits in Field 3 were positioned to assess a more dispersed scatter of flint.
- 3.1.5 As the test-pitting to the south of Field 2 was unproductive, two provisional test pits allocated to this area were excavated in the north-east of Field 2. A third provisional test pit in the north of Field 3 was not excavated due to the limited archaeological remains in Test pit 18. Other provisional test pits were excavated in their original suggested position.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The test-pits were set out on the National Grid (NGR), using the same series of pegs used for the fieldwalking survey.
- 3.2.2 The test pits were excavated by hand in spits of 0.10 m and the soil from each spit was sieved through a 5 mm mesh.
- 3.2.3 Contexts and all artefacts (finds by class) were recorded on OA Test Pit Record Forms.
- 3.2.4 A section from each test pit was drawn at a scale of 1:20 and a photographic record that consisted of colour slide and black and white print film was taken. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson 1992).

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the test-pit excavation and sieving, and these were bagged by context and by spit.

3.4 Presentation of results

- 3.4.1 This report outlines the significant findings from each area in Field 2 and 3. These have been broken down into: Area 1, the south of Field 2; Area 2, the centre and north-east of Field 2; and Area 3, Field 3. These areas are described in Section 5, along with tables of the depth of each spit, deposit and the top of the natural geology. An inventory of all finds and contexts (which includes measurements not presented within the text) is provided in Appendices 1, 2 and in Tables 1, 2 and 3 of Section 5. A section of each test pit is illustrated, with all finds recovered shown (Figs 3, 4, 5 and 6).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The topsoil varied in depth from 0.22 m to 0.42 m and comprised loose/soft to compact mid-brown, slightly grey and yellowish sandy silt. The subsoil was between 0.10 m to 0.33 m in depth and varied from a friable/compact mid-brown orange to light yellowish silty sand with clay patches.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological finds and deposits

- 4.2.1 The test-pitting and sieving evaluation revealed artefactual remains in nearly all of the areas. In Area 1 very few finds were encountered, in Area 2 mainly flint finds were recovered and in Area 3 quantities of pottery and other finds were detected. In Test pit 6 a quarry pit was located and in Test pits 14 and 15 deposits were identified which might suggest the presence of sub-surface features.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Area 1 Test pits 1 to 4

- 5.1.1 Area 1, located towards the south end of Field 2, contained four test pits (Figs 2 and 3). Test pits 2 and 4 were positioned close to the field boundary and were set a 100 m apart. Test pits 1 and 3 were positioned 100 m apart and 40 m north of Test pits 2 and 4 respectively.
- 5.1.2 See below (Table 1) for depths of deposits in Area 1.
- 5.1.3 The underlying geology was reached within all four of the test pits and varied in depth from 0.45 m to 0.63 m below the present surface.
- 5.1.4 In Test pits 2 and 4, a compact yellowish-orange silt sand, a tree/root disturbed natural overlay the natural sandy silt geology which could be associated with the field boundary. Overlying this layer was a compact mid-orange brown to light yellow silty sand subsoil which was also seen in Test pits 1 and 3 which may be colluvial in origin. Capping all these test pits was a loose/soft to compact mid-brown to slightly grey sandy silt ploughsoil.
- 5.1.5 Finds were recovered from the topsoil/ploughsoil of Test pits 1 and 2, including flint, a sherd of post-medieval pottery and an iron nail. The flint included a scraper of Bronze Age date from within the first spit of Test pit 1.
- 5.1.6 Table 1 for depths of deposits in area 1.

Test pit	Topsoil	Subsoil	Root disturbed natural	Quarry infill	Top of natural from present surface
1	0.33	0.15			0.45
2	0.28	0.25	0.12		0.65
3	0.35	0.11			0.46
4	0.25	0.23	0.15		0.63

Area 2 Test pits 5 to 13 and 19 to 22

- 5.1.7 Area 2, in the middle to the north-east of Field 2, comprised Test pits 5 to 13 and 19 to 22 (Fig. 2, 4 and 5). They lay on the plateau in the north-east corner of the field and the slope down from it.
- 5.1.8 See below (Table 2) for depths of deposits in Area 2.
- 5.1.9 The underlying geology, which was a compact light-yellowish orange silty sand, was reached in all but one test pit, 6. In Test pits 8, 10, 19, 20, 21 and 22 the natural was

extremely disturbed by tree and root action but no finds were retrieved from these deposits.

- 5.1.10 Overlying the natural in Test pits 5, 7, 10 and 11 was a compact mid-orange brown yellowish silty sand with occasional inclusions of clay and this was interpreted as being a hillwash/colluvium. Only a single struck flint flake and a small circular stone object was retrieved from this deposit, from within Test pit 10.
- 5.1.11 A subsoil of friable to compact mid-orange brown to light-yellowish silty sand was located in all test pits except 6 and this layer overlay the colluvium, root-disturbed natural or the natural silty sand geology. Few finds came from this deposit: 11 flints, only one of which (a Mesolithic blade-like flake) was diagnostic and two sherds of post-medieval pottery.
- 5.1.12 In Test pit 6, a compact mid-yellowish brown silty sand with clay patches and inclusions of sandstone, tile and brick was interpreted as infilling of a post-medieval quarry pit. On the present field surface, debris of brick, stone and tile associated with the quarry pit was observed in the vicinity.
- 5.1.13 Sealing all these test pits was a layer of loose/soft to compact mid-brown, slightly grey-orange sandy silt topsoil. This layer contained finds, that included a quantity of flint, post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipe, glass and ceramic building material. The flint that could be dated, ranged from Mesolithic to Neolithic and Bronze Age. It included ten diagnostic Mesolithic and Mesolithic/early Neolithic pieces (Test pits 7, 8, 10, 12 and 22) and a scraper (Test pit 6) and a backed knife (Test pit 13), both of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date.
- 5.1.14 Table 2 for depths of deposits in Area 2.

Test pit	Top Soil	Subs oil	Layer / Deposit	Colluvium	Root disturbed Natural	Quarry infill	Top of natural from present surface
5	0.3	0.18		0.5			0.97
6	0.35					0.7	Not reached
7	0.28	0.24		0.51			1.03
8	0.3	0.12			0.28		0.7
9	0.27	0.22					0.49
10	0.22	0.13		0.5	0.08		0.85
11	0.36	0.15		0.4			0.91
12	0.32	0.33					0.65
13	0.3	0.15					0.45
19	0.3	0.1			0.05		0.45
20	0.38	0.2			0.18		0.6
21	0.3	0.17			0.12		0.47
22	0.35	0.25			0.1		0.6

Area 3 Test pits 14 to 18

- 5.1.15 Area 3, to the north of the proposed development site, consisted of two pairs and a single test pit, numbered from 14 to 18 (Figs 2 and 6).
- 5.1.16 See below (Table 3) for depth of deposits in Area 3.
- 5.1.17 Test pits 14 and 15 were situated on the plateau to the south-east of Field 3, and were spaced 40 m apart.
- 5.1.18 In both these test pits the underlying natural was a compact light-yellowish orange silty sand. However, in Test pit 15 this was slightly disturbed by root and tree action. As in Area 2, no finds were recovered from this layer.
- 5.1.19 The natural in Test pits 14 and 15 was overlain by a deposit of friable to compact dark-to mid-orange brown silty sand that was interpreted as a layer or feature fill. From this deposit, two sherds of Roman (Test pit 15) and one sherd of medieval pottery (Test pit 14) were recovered.
- 5.1.20 Sealing the latter deposit was a layer of friable to compact mid-orange brown to light-yellowish silty sand subsoil, and this in turn was capped by a loose/soft to compact mid-brown to slightly grey sandy silt topsoil. The subsoil yielded three sherds of pottery (Roman, medieval and post-medieval) and one flint. More material came from the modern ploughsoil: two Mesolithic blade-like flakes, six undiagnostic struck flints, four sherds of pottery (Roman, medieval and post-medieval), a fragment of iron slag and clay tobacco pipe were retrieved.
- 5.1.21 Test pits 16 and 17 were positioned near the middle of Field 3 on a gentle slope.
- 5.1.22 The underlying geology was reached at between 0.6 m and 0.78 m and in Test pit 17 the natural was disturbed by root and tree action. No finds were recovered from the latter deposit.
- 5.1.23 The natural silty sand was overlain by a friable to compact mid-orange brown silty sand, subsoil and from this layer a Roman and a medieval sherd were collected. Capping this layer was a layer of loose/soft to compact mid-brown to slightly grey sandy silt topsoil. An number of finds, comprising eight worked flints, seven sherds of pottery of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date, and a small amount of glass, ceramic building material and clay tobacco pipe of post-medieval date, were collected from the topsoil.
- 5.1.24 A single test pit (18) was located to the north of Field 3 and the underlying geology was reached at a depth of 0.59 m below the present surface.
- 5.1.25 Overlying the natural geology was a friable to compact mid yellowish-brown silty sand subsoil that contained a sherd of medieval pottery. This layer was sealed by a layer of loose/soft to compact mid brown slightly grey sandy silt topsoil. The topsoil contained finds of medieval and post-medieval pottery and a piece of flint and glass.

5.1.26 Table 3 for depths of deposits in Area 3.

Test pit	Top soil	Subs oil	Layer / Deposit	Colluvium	Root disturbed Natural	Quarry infill	Top of natural from present surface
14	0.22	0.2	0.2				0.62
15	0.31	0.14	0.2		0.23		0.88
16	0.28	0.32					0.6
17	0.42	0.28			0.08		0.78
18	0.29	0.3					0.59

6 RESULTS: FINDS

6.1 The pottery

By Paul Blinkhorn

6.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 29 sherds with a total weight of 131 g. It comprised a mixture of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval wares, with the medieval and earlier material all very abraded, all of it redeposited in later contexts. The medieval sherds were all very small, and appear typical of a manuring scatter rather than stratified pottery which has been deposited during settlement activity.

6.1.2 The post-Roman pottery was recorded utilising the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994).

6.1.3 See Appendix 2 for more detail of the pottery assemblage.

6.2 The flint

By Kate Cramp

6.2.1 Introduction

6.2.2 A total of 53 struck flints were recovered from 18 test pits in Fields 2 and 3 (Test pits 1-2, 5-8, 10-18 and 20-22). One piece (2 g) of burnt unworked flint was recovered from Test pits 2, while Test pits 6, 7, 9, 10, 15 and 22 each contained one piece of natural flint. A further 13 pieces of struck flint were recovered from unstratified contexts during the evaluation, bringing the total assemblage size to 66 pieces (Appendix 3, Table 1). In varying quantities, the flintwork appears to span the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.

6.2.3 *Condition and raw material*

6.2.4 The condition and degree of cortication are both highly variable. The stained and abraded cortex present on several pieces suggests the use of a secondary flint source, perhaps gravel or similar deposits.

6.2.5 *Provenance*

6.2.6 Compared to the quantity of flint recovered during fieldwalking (367 pieces), very little material was recovered during the test pitting, with most pits producing one or two pieces. The largest quantities came from Test pits 10, 15 and 22, which each produced seven pieces. In terms of its general horizontal distribution, the majority of flint came from the plateau area in Field 2. The assemblage is shown by test pit and by spit in Appendix 3, Table 3. Most of the flintwork came from the topsoil and from the interface between the topsoil and the subsoil.

6.2.7 *The assemblage*

6.2.8 The assemblage is in variable condition and appears to be of mixed date, although Mesolithic flintwork is well represented. Several potentially Mesolithic (or perhaps earlier Neolithic) blades were identified in the assemblage. These came from Test pits 7, 8, 10, 12, 15 and 22, and showed a fairly variable vertical distribution (Table 2). As might be expected from a ploughsoil context, these were generally in a worn and damaged condition. A small number of potentially Mesolithic pieces were also identified in unstratified material collected from the modern surface surrounding the pits during the test pitting exercise, coming mostly from Field 2. These pieces represent an accomplished blade-based industry, involving with the use of platform edge abrasion and careful removal using soft-hammer percussion.

6.2.9 The retouched component, consisting of a total of nine tools, is dominated by simple edge-retouched flakes. Three scrapers were noted. One of these (602) has been finely retouched on a re-used blank and probably dates to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. The date of the blank is unknown, but the presence of platform edge abrasion and dorsal blade scars might suggest a Mesolithic origin. The other scraper is much heavier and cruder in form, and probably represents a Bronze Age piece.

6.2.10 The retouched blade from Test pit 7, spit 703 may represent a broken microlith. This piece displays inverse retouch on the right-hand and direct retouch on the left-hand edge. The proximal end is broken (in antiquity), but it seems that the retouch would have converged at a point at the end. An identifiable microlith, consisting of a scalene microtriangle (Jacobi 1978), was previously recovered during fieldwalking at the site (KBLOPR 05).

6.2.11 The backed knife from the topsoil in Test pit 13 has been abruptly retouched on a secondary flake; the right-hand edge displays invasive, inverse retouch. This piece probably dates to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age period. Two examples were

previously recovered during fieldwalking, along with two early Bronze Age barbed-and-tanged arrowheads.

6.2.12 *Discussion*

6.2.13 While the test pits have failed to locate any substantial scatters preserved in the subsoil, they have nonetheless revealed a presence in the Mesolithic period. It is unclear, however, whether these pieces belong to the same phase of occupation or whether they represent an accretion of several phases. The thin scattering of Mesolithic flints is more likely to reflect brief visits by a few individuals than anything like the size of a base camp described by Mellars (1976). Future archaeological investigations might yield more material allowing the date and interpretation to be refined, although the small quantities so far recovered suggest that an adequate sample size may not be reached without extensive excavation.

6.2.14 No further work is recommended on the flint assemblage itself, although it will be referenced in relation to any further material recovered during future work. A publication report will need to be prepared in due course, combining the results of previous phases of work and including the results of future investigations at the site. It may be necessary to illustrate a small selection of flints, c five pieces, to demonstrate the types present and the technologies employed.

6.3 **Other finds**

6.3.1 Other finds included a small quantity of post-medieval glass, clay tobacco pipe, slag, a nail and ceramic building material.

7 **DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

7.1 **Reliability of field investigation**

7.1.1 The test pits were well positioned to investigate possible concentrations of flint identified in the previous fieldwalking survey. The spacing between the pits (40 m) would mean that small clusters of activity may not be picked up, although, given the well-worked character of the ploughsoil, tight clustering seems unlikely, at least in the modern ploughsoil.

7.1.2 The soil was sandy and friable and comparatively easy to sieve. The 5 mm mesh size will have recovered very small artefacts. Although debitage from the production of small Mesolithic tools can be missed at this size, it is unlikely that much of this type of material would be present without larger pieces also being found.

7.1.3 Test pits are a poor mechanism for detecting sub-surface archaeological features where these are not previously known (Hey and Lacey 2001), but can reveal such contexts by chance.

7.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

- 7.2.1 The test-pitting exercise showed that the quantities of finds in the soil differ across the evaluation area. There were very few finds in the south of Field 2 (Area 1), supporting the hypothesis that surface material had been ploughed down the slope against the field boundary. A moderate number of finds came from test pits in the centre and north-east of Field 2 (Area 2) and a larger and more varied assemblage derived from Field 3 (Area 3).
- 7.2.2 Flint was found throughout the evaluation area, although only one piece was found in Area 1 in the south, and one in the northernmost pit (18). Most material came from the higher plateau in the north-east of Field 2 and the south of Field 3 (mainly in Test pits 10, 22 and 15, which each produced seven flints), but even here the quantities were not great and the distribution was not even. Fourteen pieces of Mesolithic and Mesolithic/early Neolithic diagnostic flint was found in Test pits 7, 8, 10, 12, 22 and 15; no pit yielded more than three diagnostic pieces of this period. Thus, the quantities of flint recovered from test pits matched that of the fieldwalking distributions, but nowhere suggested greater concentrations, whether on the surface or at deeper levels within the soil profile.
- 7.2.3 The vast majority of pottery found came from Area 3, Field 3. All Roman pottery (eight sherds) came from this area, with some sherds coming from the subsoil, some from the ploughsoil and two from a possible feature or layer in Test pit 15. Medieval pottery was also mainly recovered from Field 3, with just two sherds coming from Test pit 22 in the north of Field 2. Pottery of this date was found in the topsoil and subsoil and one sherd came from a possible feature or layer in Test pit 14. Post-medieval pottery was more widespread, but mainly found in the modern ploughsoil. Thus, the densities and dates of pottery found in test pitting mirrored the distributions found in fieldwalking (OA 2006, figs 7-9).
- 7.2.4 The distribution of other finds was very similar to that of post-medieval pottery, except in Test pit 6, where a concentration of post-medieval material, especially ceramic building material, suggests a backfilled quarry.

Significance

- 7.2.5 The results of the test pits confirm the concentrations of the surface finds collected during fieldwalking, but did not identify any areas of greater significance.
- 7.2.6 More Mesolithic flint was recovered in the test pitting, but few diagnostic pieces were present and no obvious concentrations were identified, either in the topsoil or lower down the soil profile. Activity of this period was clearly present but quantities of flints are too small to indicate its character or the frequency of visits to the site.
- 7.2.7 It may be significant that the small Kingston Bagpuize assemblage appears to be of late Mesolithic date in contrast to the much larger early Mesolithic assemblage examined at

Tubney Wood, 2 km to the north-east of the proposed development site (Bradley and Hey 1991). Later Mesolithic sites do appear to be smaller in size, but whether this represents smaller groups, shorter visits or different kinds of activities is uncertain.

- 7.2.8 The presence of flint from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods may be significant because remains of this date are rare within this area. The collection of the flint artefacts from both the present field surface and test pits in and around the north-east of Field 2 and south-east of Field 3, on the plateau, may indicate that features which have been truncated by ploughing lie within this area.
- 7.2.9 Two deposits in the south of Field 3, suggested a layer or feature fill beneath the subsoil. That in Test pit 15 yielded two sherds of Roman pottery, and that in Test pit 14, one sherd of medieval pottery.
- 7.2.10 The distribution and the condition of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery in the evaluation strongly indicated manuring scatters. Field 3, to the north, yielded much more pottery than the rest of the site. The results suggest that manuring in the north of the area began in the Roman period and continues to the present day. Ploughing appears to have become more widespread in the post-medieval period, with finds of this date having been recovered from all parts of the evaluation area.
- 7.2.11 The test-pit evaluation has highlighted the difficult issue of the correct level at which to machine excavate in order to recognise the archaeological horizon/s. The hand-excavated test pits have indicated a series of approximate depths across the site:
- 0.5 m in the north of Field 3
 - between 0.7 m to 0.6 m to the middle and sloping up to the south-east of Field 3
 - 0.65 m to 0.5 m from the middle to the north-east of the field
 - 0.45 m to the south of Field 2.

8 OVERALL INTERPRETATION

- 8.1.1 A small amount of late Mesolithic was located which suggests limited activity in this area at that period.
- 8.1.2 The presence of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts suggests features of this date within the site.
- 8.1.3 Activity of other periods appear to be represented by the manuring of arable fields, although there is some potential for the presence of Roman and medieval features, for example field boundary ditches.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Test Pit	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./ wt	Date
1								
	101	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint Pottery Nail	1 1 2	BA PM PM
	102	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	103	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	104	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	105	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
2								
	201	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	202	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	1	
	203	Spit		0.1	Topsoil/ subsoil	Flint	1	Meso / Neo
	204	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	205	Spit		0.1	Subsoil / tree disturbed natural	-		
	206	Spit		0.1	Tree disturbed natural sand	-		
3								
	301	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	302	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	303	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	304	Spit		0.1	Topsoil / subsoil	-		
	305	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
4								
	401	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	402	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	403	Spit		0.1	Topsoil / subsoil	-		
	404	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	405	Spit		0.1	Subsoil / disturbed natural	-		
	406	Spit		0.1	Disturbed natural sand	-		

Test Pit	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./wt	Date
5								
	501	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	502	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	1	
	503	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	1	
	504	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	Flint	1	
	505	Spit		0.1	Subsoil / Colluvium	-		
	506	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		
	507	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		
	508	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		
	509	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		
	510	Spit		0.1	Colluvium / natural sand	-		
6								
	601	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	1	
	602	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint Tile/cbm	2 1	Neo/ EBA PM
	603	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	604	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint Tile/cbm	1 1	PM
	605	Spit		0.1	Quarry infill	Pottery Brick/cbm	4 1	PM PM
	606	Spit		0.1	Quarry infill	Tile/cbm	1	PM
	607	Spit		0.1	Quarry infill	-		
	608	Spit		0.1	Quarry infill	-		
	609	Spit		0.1	Quarry infill	-		
	610	Spit		0.1	Quarry infill	-		
	611	Spit		0.1	Quarry infill	Brick / Tile	2	PM
7								
	701	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Pottery Claypipe	1 1	PM PM
	702	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Claypipe	1	PM
	703	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	2	Meso

Test Pit	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./wt	Date
	704	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	Flint	1	
	705	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	706	Spit		0.1	Subsoil / Colluvium	-		
	707	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		
	708	Spit		0.1	Colluvium			
	709	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		
	710	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		
	711	Spit		0.1	Colluvium / natural sand	-		
8								
	801	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	2	Meso / Neo
	802	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	803	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	804	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	805	Spit		0.1	Root disturbed natural	-		
	806	Spit		0.1	Root disturbed natural	-		
	807	Spit		0.1	Root disturbed natural sand	-		
9								
	901	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Pottery Claypipe	1 1	PM PM
	902	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	903	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	904	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	905	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	906	Spit		0.1	Root disturbed natural sand	-		
10								
	1001	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint Claypipe	1 2	Meso PM
	1002	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	2	
	1003	Spit		0.1	Topsoil / subsoil	-		
	1004	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	Flint	3	Ix Meso
	1005	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		

Test Pit	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./wt	Date
	1006	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	Stone ball object Flint	1 1	PM
	1007	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		
	1008	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		
	1009	Spit		0.1	Colluvium / natural sand	-		
11								
	1101	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	1	
	1102	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	1103	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	1104	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	1	
	1105	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	Flint	1	
	1106	Spit		0.1	Subsoil / colluvium	-		
	1107	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		
	1108	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		
	1109	Spit		0.1	Colluvium / natural sand	-		
12								
	1201	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	2	Meso / Neo
	1202	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	1203	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	1204	Spit		0.1	Topsoil / subsoil	-		
	1205	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	1206	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	1207	Spit		0.1	Subsoil / natural sand	-		
13								
	1301	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	2	Neo / EBA
	1302	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	1303	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	1304	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	Flint	1	
	1305	Spit		0.1	Subsoil / colluvium	-		
	1306	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		
	1307	Spit		0.1	Colluvium	-		

Test Pit	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./wt	Date
	1308	Spit		0.1	Disturbed natural sand	-		
	1309	Spit		0.1	Natural sand	-		
14								
	1401	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Pottery Flint Claypipe	2 2 1	PM PM
	1402	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Pottery	1	Roman
	1403	Spit		0.1	Topsoil / subsoil	-		
	1404	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	Pottery	2	Roman / 11th C
	1405	Spit		0.1	Layer / deposit	-		
	1406	Spit		0.1	Layer / deposit	Pottery	1	11th C
15								
	1501	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Pottery Flint	1 4	Roman
	1502	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Slag	1	PM
	1503	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	2	Meso
	1504	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	Pottery Flint	1 1	PM
	1505	Spit		0.1	Subsoil / layer / deposit	-		
	1506	Spit		0.1	Layer / deposit	Pottery	2	Roman
	1507	Spit		0.1	Layer / deposit come disturbed natural	-		
	1508	Spit		0.1	Disturbed natural sand	-		
	1509	Spit		0.1	Disturbed natural sand	-		
16								
	1601	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Pottery Flint Glass	1 2 1	11th C PM
	1602	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Pottery	1	11th C
	1603	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint Tile/cbm	1 2	 PM
	1604	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	1605	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		

Test Pit	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./wt	Date
17	1606	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	1701	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Pottery Claypipe	2 1	12th C / PM PM
	1702	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Pottery Flint	2 1	Roman / 11th C
	1703	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Pottery Flint Glass	1 1 1	11th C PM
	1704	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	2	
	1705	Spit		0.1	Topsoil / subsoil	Pottery	2	Roman / 13thC
	1706	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	1707	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	1708	Spit		0.1	Subsoil / disturbed natural sand	-		
	18							
	1801	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Pottery Glass	2 1	14th C / PM PM
	1802	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	1	
	1803	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Pottery	2	14th C / PM
	1804	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	Pottery	1	11thC
	1805	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	1806	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	19							
	1901	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Claypipe	1	PM
	1902	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Glass	1	PM
	1903	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	1904	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	1905	Spit		0.1	Subsoil / disturbed natural sand	-		
	20							
	2001	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		

Test Pit	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./wt	Date
	2002	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	2003	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	2004	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	2005	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	Flint	2	
	2006	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	2007	Spit		0.1	Subsoil / disturbed natural sand	-		
	2008	Spit		0.1	Root disturbed natural sand	-		
21								
	2101	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	2102	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	-		
	2103	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	1	
	2104	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	2105	Spit		0.1	Subsoil / disturbed natural sand	-		
	2106	Spit		0.1	Root disturbed natural sand	-		
22								
	2201	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	3	2 x Meso
	2202	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Flint	2	1 x Meso
	2203	Spit		0.1	Topsoil	Claypipe	1	PM
	2204	Spit		0.1	Topsoil / subsoil	Flint	1	
	2205	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	Pottery Flint	2 1	11th C
	2206	Spit		0.1	Subsoil	-		
	2207	Spit		0.1	Root disturbed natural sand	-		

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT/ SPOT DATING

Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 29 sherds with a total weight of 131 g. It comprised a mixture of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval wares, with the medieval and earlier material all very abraded, and much of it redeposited in later contexts. The medieval sherds were all very small, and appear typical of a manuring scatter rather than stratified pottery which has been deposited during settlement activity.

The post-Roman pottery was recorded utilising the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXBF: *North-East Wiltshire Ware*, AD1050 – 1400. 8 sherds, 21 g.

OXY: *Medieval Oxford ware*, AD1075 – 1350. 3 sherds, 4 g.

OXAM: *Brill/Boarstall ware*, AD1200 – 1600. 1 sherd, 3 g.

OXDR: *Red Earthenwares*, 1550+. 2 sherds, 16 g.

WHEW: *Mass-produced white earthenwares*, mid 19th - 20th C. 7 sherds, 33 g.

In addition, eight sherds (54 g) of Romano-British wares were also noted. 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*.

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

	RB		OXBF		OXY		OXAM		OXDR		WHEW		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
101									1	4			M16thC
701											1	5	19thC
901									1	12			M16thC
1401											2	6	19thC
1402	1	15											RB??
1404	1	4	1	3									M11thC?
1406					1	2							L11thC?
1501	1	2											RB??
1504											1	1	19thC
1506	2	19											RB??
1601	1	1											RB??
1602			1	3									M11thC?
1701			1	3							1	6	19thC
1702	1	3	1	2									M11thC?
1703					1	1							L11thC?
1705	1	10					1	3					13thC
1801			1	3							1	13	19thC
1803			1	3							1	2	19thC
1804			1	2									M11thC?
2205			1	2	1	1							L11thC
Total	8	54	8	21	3	4	1	3	2	16	7	33	

APPENDIX 3 WORKED FLINT

Table 1: The flint assemblage from the test pit evaluation at Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire (KBLOPR 06).

Category:	Field 2															Field 2 total:	Field 3					Field 3 total:	Total:
	U/S	TP 1	TP 2	TP 5	TP 6	TP 7	TP 8	TP 10	TP 11	TP 12	TP 13	TP 20	TP 21	TP 22	U/S		TP 14	TP 15	TP 16	TP 17	TP 18		
Flake Blade Bladelet Bladeflake Unclassifiable waste Chip Single platform blade core Multi-platform flake core Retouched flake Retouched blade End scraper Side scraper End-and-side scraper Backed knife Struck flint total: No. of burnt struck flints: No. of broken struck flints: No. of burnt unworked flints: Weight (g) of burnt unworked flints:	1			2	1	1		4	3		1	1		4	6	2	3	1	3		15	32	
							1	1						1	1	1					1	5	
	1		1		1			1			2			2		1		3			4	2	
							1	1					1							1	1	11	
												1										3	
	1														1							1	
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Table 2: Possible Mesolithic flints from Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire.

Category:	Field:	Field 2										Field 2 total:	Field 3 U/S	Field 3 total:	Total:	
	Test pit:	U/S	TP 7	TP 8	TP 10	TP 12	TP 22									
	Spt:						1	4	1	2						
Flake			1								1			1		
Blade		1		1							1	1		5		
Bladeflake		1		1				1			2	2		9		
Single platform blade core		1										1		1		
Retouched blade			1									1		1		
Total:		3	2	2		1	2	1	1	2	1	14	1	2	3	17

Table 3: The flint assemblage by test pit and by spit from the evaluation at Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire (KBLOPR 06).

Category:	Field:		Field 2										Field 3										Total:	
	U/S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	20	21	22	U/S	14	15	16	17		18
Test pit:																								
Spit:																								
Flake	1																							
Blade																								
Bladelet																								
Bladelike flake	1																							
Unclassifiable waste																								
Chip																								
Single platform blade core	1																							
Multi-platform flake core																								
Retouched flake	1																							
Retouched blade																								
End scraper	1																							
Side scraper																								
End-and-side scraper																								
Backed knife																								
Total:	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
No. of burnt struck flints:	1																							66
No. of broken struck flints:	2																							11
No. of burnt unworked flints:		1																						37
Weight (g) of burnt unworked flints:		2																						3

APPENDIX 4 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: KBLOPR 06

Site code: KBLOPR EV

Grid reference: SU 3850 9850

Type of evaluation: Test-pitting and sieving evaluation

Date and duration of project: 8-15 February 2006, 6 Days

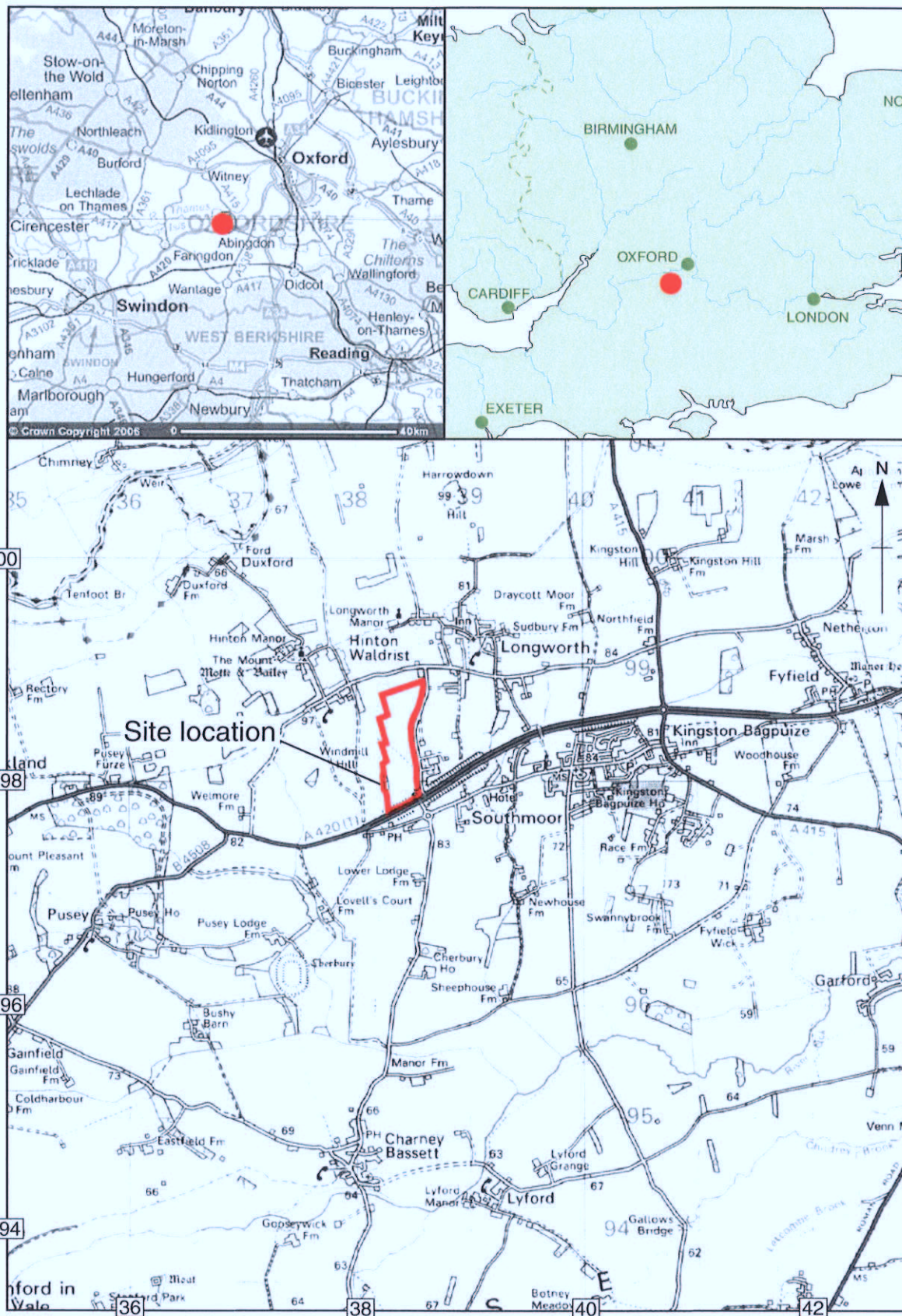
Area of site: 28.3 hectares

Summary of results: The test-pitting and sieving evaluation revealed predominately flint artefacts, dated to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, and a small quantity of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery. Other finds, small in number, consisted of clay tobacco pipe, ceramic building material, a few sherds of glass and a lump of slag and an iron nail, all of post-medieval date.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXMS 2005.144

Illustrations

- Fig 1 Site Location
- Fig 2 Location of Test pits
- Fig 3 Area 1, field 2, test pits 1 to 4, sections 1 to 4
- Fig 4 Area 2, field 2, test pits 5 to 10, sections 5 to 10
- Fig.5 Area 2, field 2, test pits 11 to 13 and 19 to 22, sections 11 to 17
- Fig 6 Area 3, field 3, test pits 14 to 18, sections 18 to 22



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Figure 1: Site location

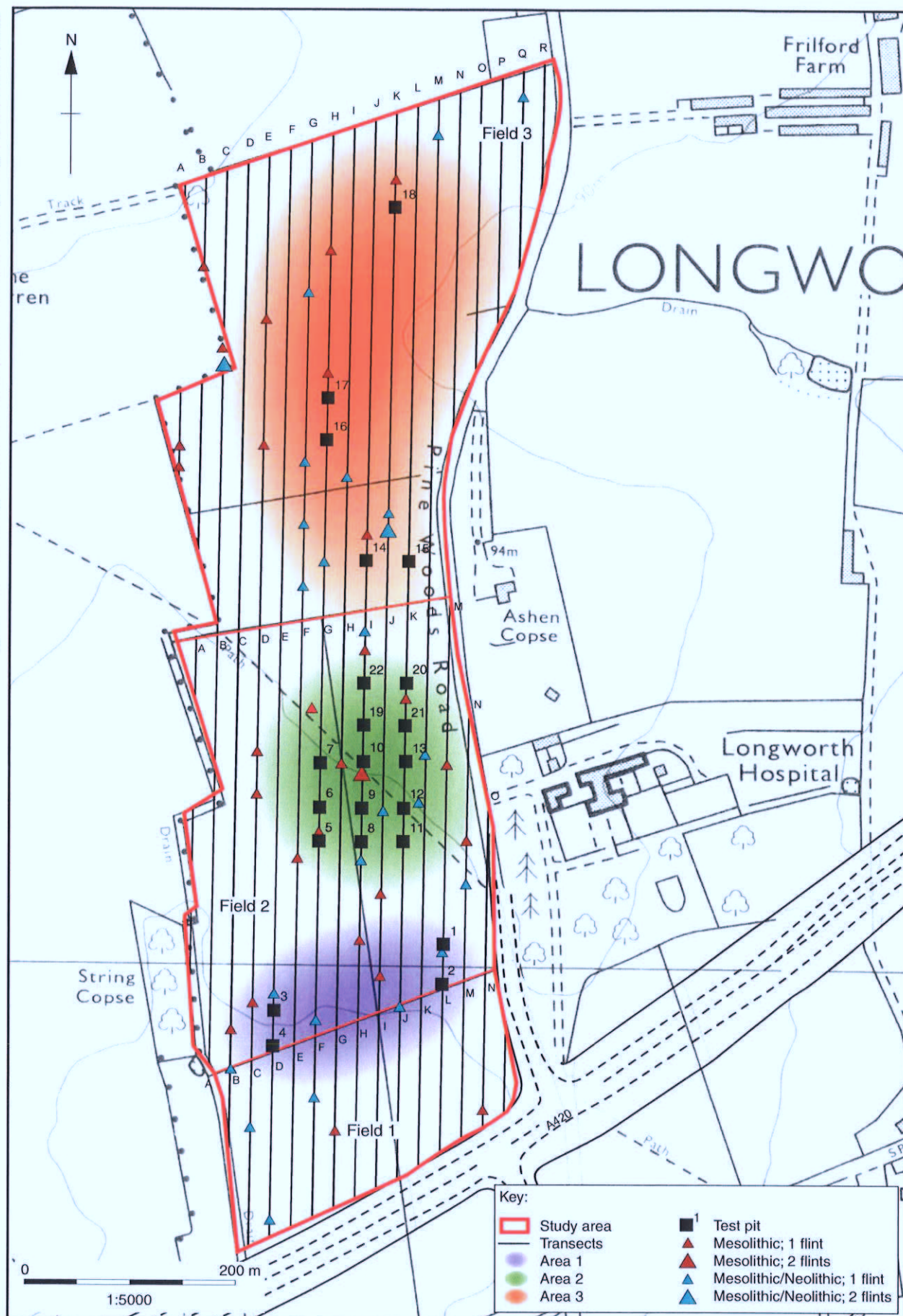
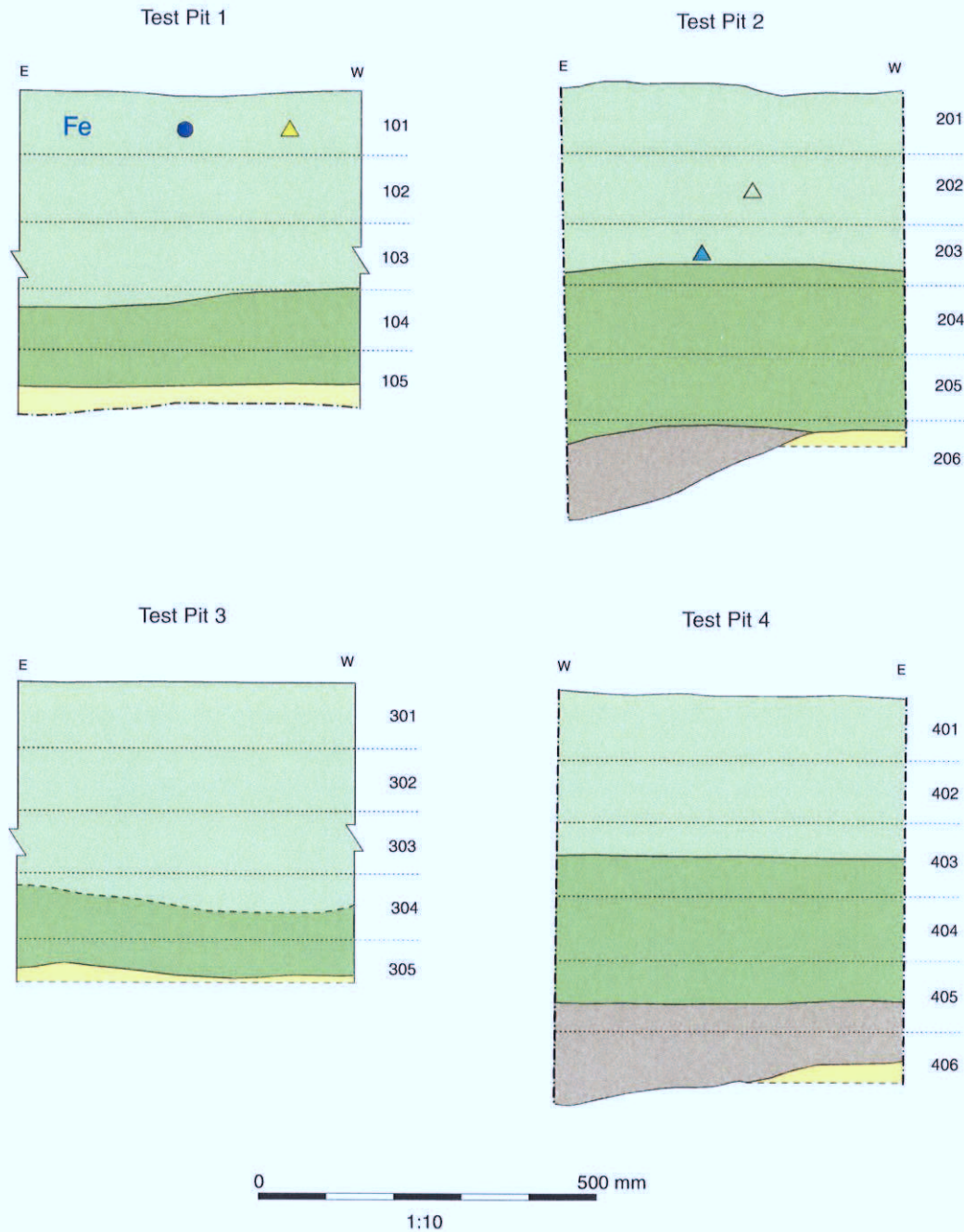


Figure 2: Test pit location



Key:			
△ Flint	Fe Nail	Mesolithic	Topsoil
○ Pottery	⬡ Ceramic building material	Mesolithic/Neolithic	Subsoil
⌣ Clay tobacco pipe	⊙ Circular stone object	Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	Layer/deposit
□ Glass	⌢ Sandstone	Bronze Age	Colluvium
⬢ Slag	⌢ Brick	Roman	Root-disturbed natural
	⌢ Tile	Medieval	Natural sand
		Post-Medieval	Quarry infilling
		Undiagnostic (no fill colour)	

Figure 3: Area 1 Field 2, test pits 1 to 4

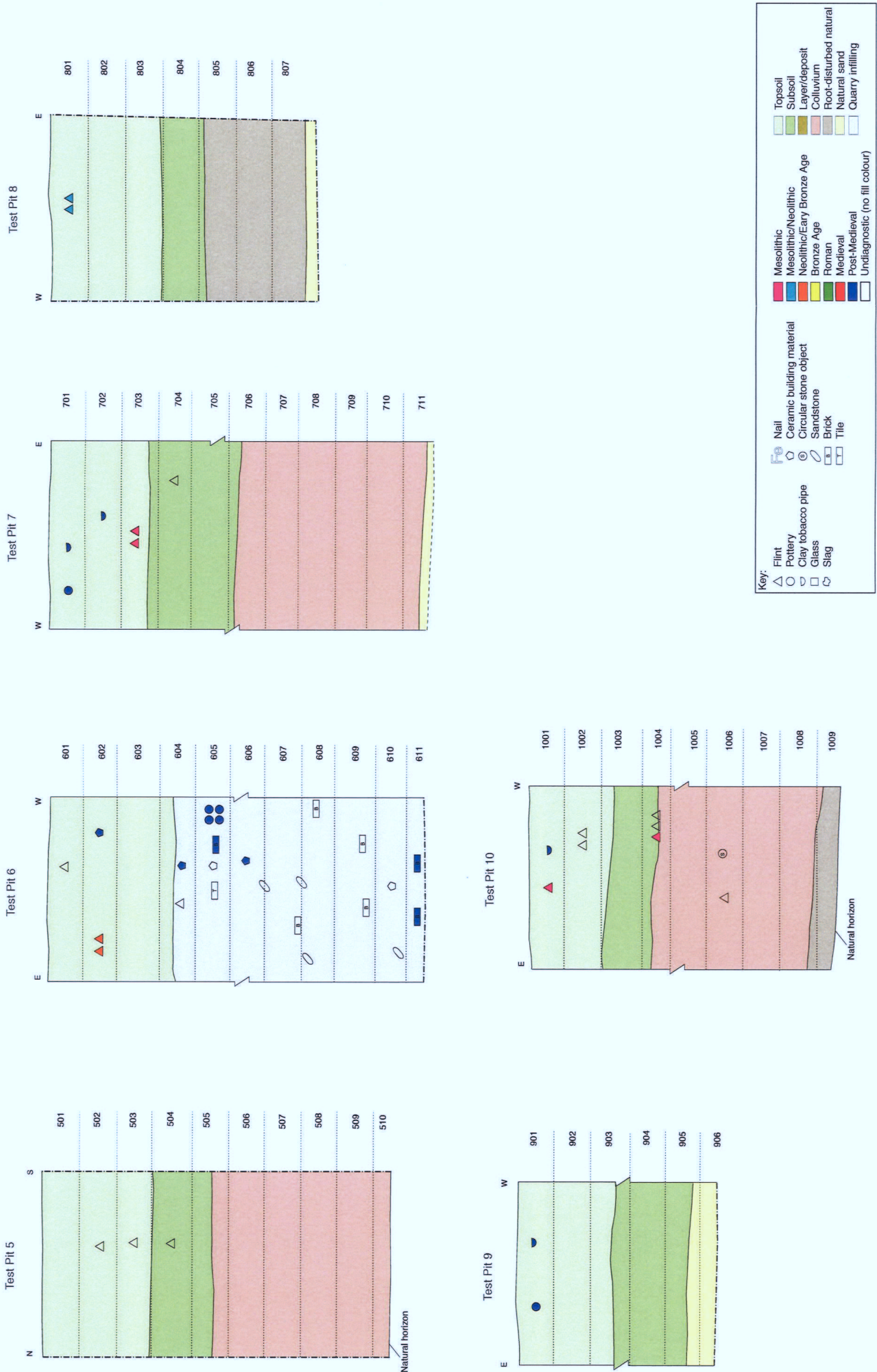


Figure 4: Area 2 Field 2, test pits 5 to 10

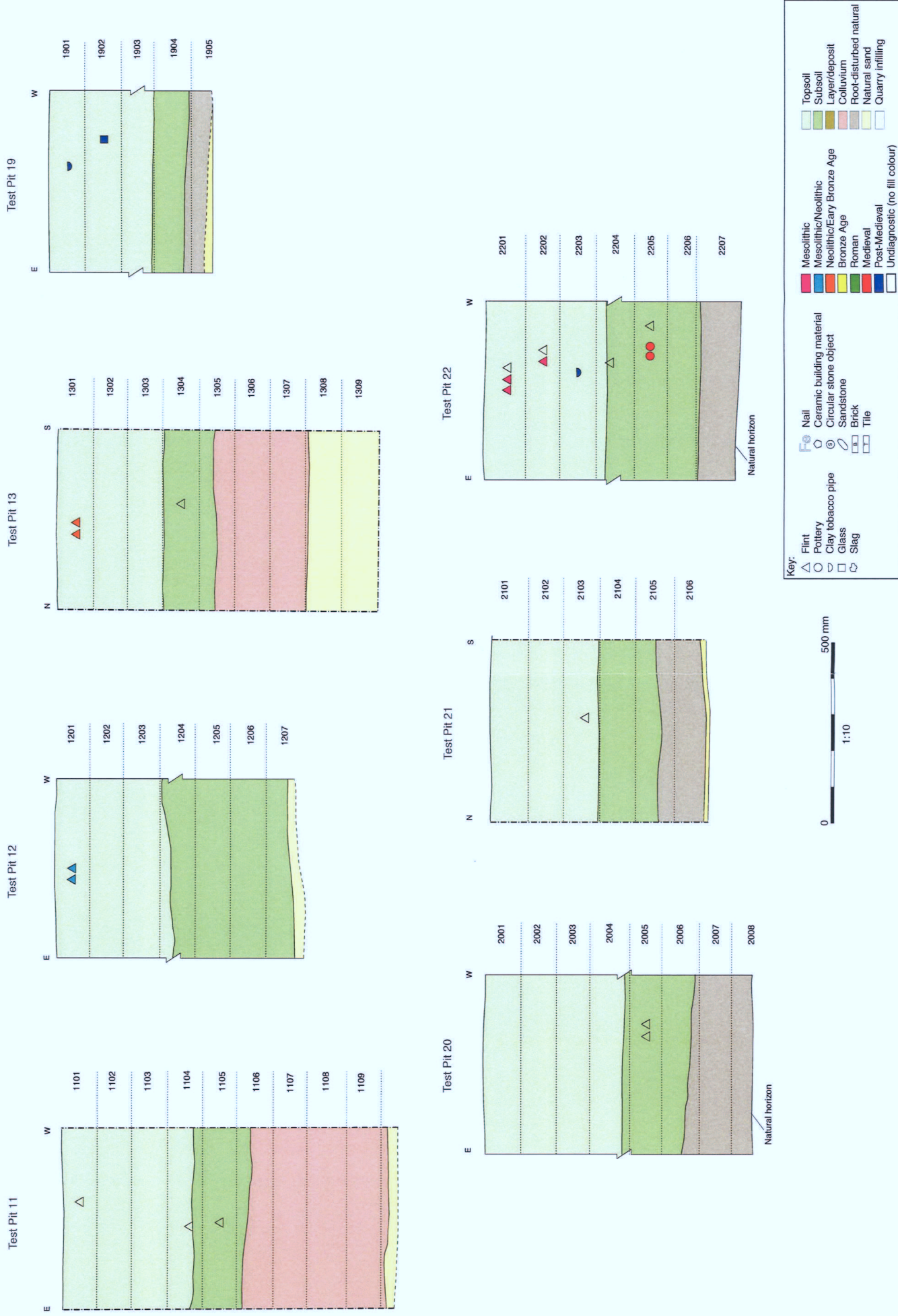


Figure 5: Area 2 Field 2, test pits 11 to 13 and 19 to 22

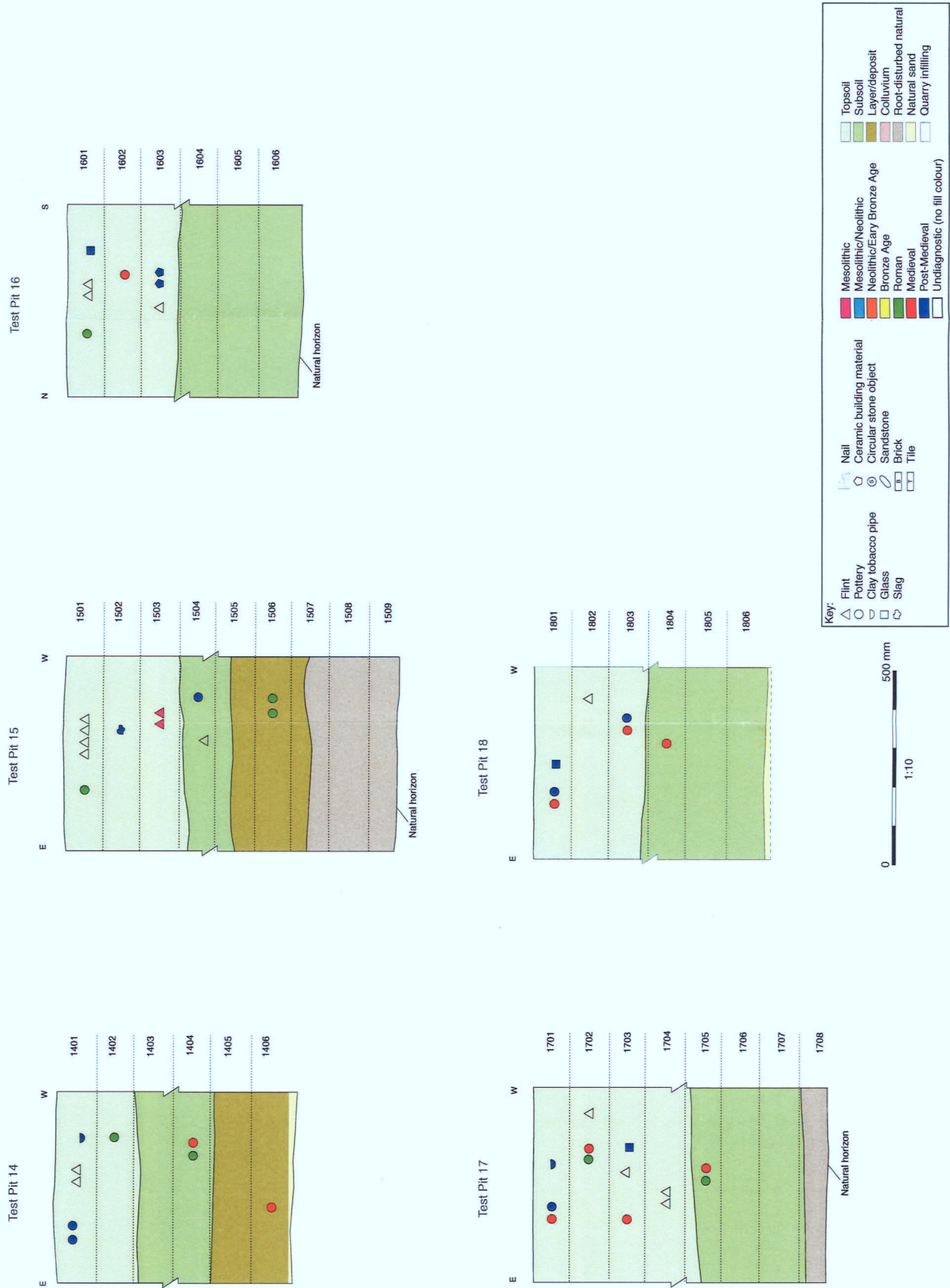
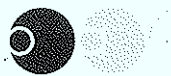


Figure 6: Area 3 Field 3, test pits 14 to 18



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