

# Bray House

Worthy Down Camp

# Winchester

# Hampshire



## Archaeological Excavation Report

oxfordarchaeology



March 2009



Client: MOD Defence Estates

Issue No: 1

OA Job No: 4257

NGR: SU 482 358



**Client Name:** MOD Defence Estates

**Client Ref No:** SERP055

**Document Title:** Bray House, Worthy Down Camp, Winchester, Hampshire

**Document Type:** Archaeological excavation report

**Issue Number:** 1

Grid Reference: NGR SU 482 358  
Planning Reference: 07/02634/FUL

OA Job Number: JN 4257  
Site Code: AY351  
Invoice Code: KIWOBHPX  
Receiving Museum: Winchester City Council Museums Service  
Museum Accession No: WINCM AY351

Prepared by: J Hiller  
Position: Project Officer (post-excavation)  
Date: 1/12/08

Checked by: E Biddulph  
Position: Senior Project Manager  
Date: 2/12/2008

Approved by: T Haines  
Position: Senior Project Manager  
Date: 16/2/2009

Document File Location Server1(X:)Projects/KIWOPX/Bray Ho Worthy Down  
PX/CLIENT REP/Bray House Ass Rep AY351  
Graphics File Location ServerGo:/oaupubs1\_ItoQ\*AY351\*KIWOBHPX\*Bray  
House, Worthy Down\*AH. 14.11.08

Illustrated by Amy Tiffany Hemmingway

**Disclaimer:**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**Oxford Archaeology**

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2009

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)

w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



## **Bray House, Worthy Down Camp**

### **Winchester, Hampshire**

NGR SU 482 358

#### ***Excavation report***

*by Jonathan Hiller*

*with contributions from Paul Booth, David Mullin, Wendy Smith and Lena Strid*

*Illustrated by Amy Tiffany Hemmingway*

### **Table of Contents**

<b>1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	5
1.2 Topography and geology.....	5
1.3 Background.....	5
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	6
<b>2 Project aims and methodology.....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Aims.....	7
2.2 Methodology.....	7
<b>3 Results.....</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 Site description .....	8
3.2 Service trench deposits.....	9
<b>4 Finds summary.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5 Discussion and further work.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6 Archive and publication.....</b>	<b>11</b>
6.1 Archive.....	11
6.2 Publication.....	11
<b>Appendix A. Context inventory.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Appendix B. Finds assessments.....</b>	<b>13</b>
B.1 Pottery.....	13
B.2 Lithics.....	16



---

B.3 Animal bone.....	17
B.4 Hammerscale.....	18
<b>Appendix C. Environmental reports .....</b>	<b>19</b>
C.1 Environmental samples.....	19
<b>Appendix D. Bibliography and references.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix E. Summary of site details.....</b>	<b>24</b>



---

## List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Site plan and area of investigation
- Fig. 3 Features location plan
- Fig. 4 Feature plans and sections



## Summary

*In June and August 2008, Oxford Archaeology carried out an extended watching brief including a small area excavation at Bray House, Worthy Down Camp near Winchester (NGR SU 482 358) on behalf of MOD Defence Estates. The work involved the monitoring of topsoil stripping and the excavation of service trenches by contractors, prior to the construction of offices and store buildings, dining facilities, barns and toilet blocks at this army camp.*

*South of Bray House, natural chalk and former topsoil/ground levelling deposits were revealed in service trenches and the excavations for a new water tank. On the north side of Bray House a small group of archaeological features was exposed on a slight incline leading down to an area where new buildings were to be constructed.*

*The features comprised two pits, three postholes and a likely tree-throw hole with a possible posthole at one edge. Several of the features contained pottery of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date and it is likely that all the features were contemporaneous. Three postholes situated in close proximity may have formed part of a structure that extended outside the area available for investigation.*

*Given the size of the site, a notable number of flints were recovered. The flints represent knapping debitage and in terms of technological traits have been dated to the late Bronze Age and possibly in to the early Iron Age, when taken in conjunction with the pottery evidence. Limited animal bone evidence suggests the presence on the site of young and adult cattle.*

*Overall this small site suggests an area of settlement activity, possibly part of a small farmstead, with the focus of human occupation likely to have been nearby. This document presents an assessment of the features and finds from the site and a proposal for publication of the results in an appropriate local journal.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In June and August 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an extended watching brief including a small area excavation at Bray House, Worthy Down Camp, near Winchester (Fig. 1) on behalf of MOD Defence Estates (grant of planning permission case no: 07/02634/FUL).
- 1.1.2 The work involved the monitoring of topsoil stripping prior to the construction of office and store buildings, dining facilities, barns and toilet blocks and the excavation of service trenches at this army camp (Fig. 2).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a written scheme of investigation (OA 2008) after consultation with Tracey Matthews, Historic Environment Officer of Winchester City Council Museums Service.
- 1.1.4 The document is an assessment of the results from the investigation and details the background, methodology and results from the work together with a quantification of the site archive. A proposal for publication of the results is presented in section 6.

### 1.2 Topography and geology

- 1.2.1 Bray House is located at Worthy Down Camp which is situated south of the village of South Wonston, about 4.5 km to the north of Winchester and east of the A34 (NGR SU 482 358).
- 1.2.2 The camp lies on the south-east side of the former Winchester racecourse, which was converted for use as an airfield between the first and second world wars. The site lies in gently undulating terrain, comprising grass and hard standing, at c 90 m OD. The underlying geology is cretaceous chalk.

### 1.3 Background

- 1.3.1 The site is within a general area of archaeological remains. Two neolithic long barrows are situated 1 km to the north of the site at South Wonston and finds including a Neolithic flint axe are known near Worthy Down Camp. Two Bronze Age round barrows are located 2 km to the west.
- 1.3.2 Field systems and settlements of Iron Age and Romano-British date have been identified close to Worthy Down Camp, which is located between two Roman roads that head north from *Venta Belgarum* – Winchester (now the A272 and A33). Known Iron Age settlement remains are few in the area of Worthy Down/South Wonston, although a Roman building is known 1.7 km to the south at Kingsworthy and a Romano-British cremation was found at the site's sports ground in 1996 when the sports pavilion was extended.
- 1.3.3 A Saxon cemetery was excavated at Worthy Park in Kingsworthy to the south-east in the 1960s. Post-medieval remains include a 19<sup>th</sup> century racecourse that was converted for use as an airfield after WWI.
- 1.3.4 The RAF used the airfield as a training base up to the second world war when it was transferred to the Fleet Air Arm and known as HMS Kestrel. The site was handed over to the army in the 1960s. Worthy Down Camp contains several 20<sup>th</sup> century military installations (OA 2008).
- 1.3.5 A watching brief was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology to the south-east of Bray House in 2005 during construction work for a new classroom building.



- 1.3.6 That investigation revealed a ditch aligned approximately north-south that contained burnt and struck flint and animal bone in its fill. The ditch was not precisely dated but contained flint finds, so may be prehistoric (Wessex Archaeology 2005).

#### **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 OA extends its thanks to Tracy Matthews at Winchester City Council for advice and to MOD Defence Estates and architects Rider Levett Bucknall UK Ltd for providing plans of the site.
- 1.4.2 OA's Dan Sykes, Neil Lambert and Steve Teague carried out the site work, which was managed by Tim Haines. This report was edited by Edward Biddulph.



## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims were:

- (i) To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present, in view of the generally high potential for prehistoric and Roman remains in the area.
- (ii) To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains and to establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological features and deposits.
- (iii) To make available the results of the investigation.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 An OA supervisor was in attendance during all machining of topsoil and underlying deposits. Machining was halted at the first archaeological horizon. The exposed features were cleaned by hand and sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples.
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Digital photographs were also taken during the site works.
- 2.2.3 Recording followed procedures detailed in the OAU Fieldwork Manual (Wilkinson 1992).

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Site description

##### ***Area of new buildings: late Bronze Age - ?early Iron Age features (Figs 3 and 4)***

- 3.1.1 The topsoil and overburden were stripped by machine to natural and exposed an area of approximately 30 m by 14 m linked with a trench to a smaller zone measuring 15 m by 17 m. These areas were for the construction of the new proposed buildings, including the field cooking tent raft and dutch barns. Natural chalk (115) was exposed across the stripped area.
- 3.1.2 A feature (113) to the south, near the proposed ramp leading down to the new buildings, cut into the natural and was oval in plan with 45° sides rising to 80° at the top. The feature, interpreted as a pit, measured 1 m by 0.75 m across and was 0.4 m deep (Fig. 4, section 106). The fill consisted of a friable dark brown silty clay with flint and charcoal flecks (114). No finds were recovered from the deposit.
- 3.1.3 To the south-east of the main area was an irregular shaped feature (110) east of the ramp that was 0.8 m in length and 0.6 m wide with concave sides (Fig. 4, section 105). The feature was 0.3 m deep and filled with a dark brown clay silt (111) that contained flint fragments and charcoal flecks together with burnt stones. The feature may have been the remains of a shallow pit or, given the slightly irregular shape, a tree-throw hole.
- 3.1.4 A sub-circular cut (112) with 50° sloping sides that was c 0.3 m in diameter and 0.16 m deep was seen at the south end of 110 (Fig. 4, section 105). The relationship between the two features was uncertain as 112 was filled with similar material to 110. Cut 112 may represent a posthole or more likely was part of the possible tree hole.
- 3.1.5 A group of three small features that could have formed part of a structure was recorded within the small trench linking the two building footprints. The feature (108) nearest the east baulk was circular and was 0.46 m in diameter and 0.36 m deep (Fig. 4, section 104). It had a flat base and vertical sides and was interpreted as a posthole. The fill consisted of a reddish-brown clay silt with frequent chalk and flint fragments (109). Three large flint packing stones occupied the centre of the feature. Fill 109 contained pottery of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date, animal bone, flint and burnt stone.
- 3.1.6 A second posthole (103), 1 m south-west of 108, was circular in plan, 0.45 m in diameter and 0.46 m deep (Fig. 4, section 102). It had a flat base and near-vertical sides. The basal fill (104) was a light grey-brown silt with fragments of chalk. Flint and burnt stone were recovered from the fill that was overlain by a dark reddish-brown clay silt deposit (105) containing chalk and flint fragments.
- 3.1.7 A third posthole (106) was located immediately west of 103. This feature was circular with a diameter of 0.32 m and was 0.12 m in depth (Fig. 4, section 103). It had a flat base and vertical sides and was filled by 107, a dark red-brown clay silt. Pottery of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date and burnt stone were recovered from the deposit.
- 3.1.8 An oval-shaped pit (101) south of the group of postholes had a flat base with shallow flared edges. It was 2.6 m in length and 2 m wide, but only 0.18 m in depth (Fig. 4, section 101). The pit was filled with a reddish-brown clay silt (102) containing a sizeable quantity of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. Flint and burnt stone also came from the fill. All of the feature fills were overlain by topsoil (116), a homogeneous red-brown clay loam that was 0.35 m thick.



## 3.2 Service trench deposits

### ***Water tank trench***

- 3.2.1 The trench for the new water tank was excavated by contractors to the south of Bray House (Fig. 4, section 111).
- 3.2.2 The trench measured 12 m by 3 m and was 0.8 m deep. It revealed natural chalk (124) overlain by a former topsoil (123) of reddish-brown silty clay with chalk flecks, in turn covered by a 0.25 m thick layer of modern rubble (122) mixed with a recently laid geotextile membrane. A further mixed rubble and shallow topsoil covered with weeds overlay this. No finds were recovered from this area.

### ***Gas pipe trench***

- 3.2.3 The excavations by contractors for the new gas main extended along Riley Road to the south of Bray House and around the building itself (Fig. 4, section 110).
- 3.2.4 The trench was 1.1 m – 1.2 in depth. No archaeological features were observed within the trench: chalk natural (121) was overlain by a 0.3 m layer of topsoil and turf (120) that contained no finds. To the south of Bray House, the topsoil sealed re-deposited chalk and modern rubble to depths of 0.8 m.



## 4 FINDS SUMMARY

- 4.1.1 Finds assessments have been prepared for all categories and are presented in the Appendices. These assessments are summarised here.
- 4.1.2 Some 207 sherds (1083 g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered from four contexts (feature fills 102, 105, 107 and 109). The majority of the material (194 sherds, 988 g) came from the shallow fill (102) of pit 101; this total includes 28 fragments (87 g) from the sieved residue of soil sample <1>. The pottery is highly fragmented and many of the sherds are abraded, but all the material appears to be of late Bronze Age-early Iron Age date, with the majority of sherds assigned to the late Bronze Age.
- 4.1.3 A total of 150 lithic items were recovered, the majority from pit fill 102. Over 100 un-worked burnt flint pieces were recovered, mostly from the same context. The worked items comprised waste from the knapping process and the predominance of secondary/tertiary flakes and indications of poor knapping skill suggest a Late Bronze Age date date (after Young and Humphrey 1999).
- 4.1.4 Few animal bones were recovered from the excavations. Both juvenile and adult cattle bones were found, albeit in limited numbers, suggesting that cattle rearing took place in the vicinity. A few sheep/goat bones came from adult animals.
- 4.1.5 A small quantity of hammerscale was recovered from pit fill 102, giving slight indications of metal-working at the site. It is unclear, however, if the material is intrusive in the pit fill or contemporary with it.

## 5 DISCUSSION AND FURTHER WORK

- 5.1.1 The small group of features represent activity of a late Bronze Age date with the suggestion of this activity extending in to the early Iron Age on the basis of some of the pottery forms (see Booth, this report, Appendix B1). The sizeable quantity of pottery recovered from pit 101 and the presence of well-defined postholes suggest that there is a domestic focus nearby.
- 5.1.2 Taken in isolation, the three postholes that appear to be grouped could represent an individual structure, perhaps a cooking tripod or hide-drying rack, or it may be that they represent part of a larger structure whose full dimensions lay outside of the investigation area.
- 5.1.3 The abraded nature of the pottery and the quantity of material found, and the fact that all the flints were either waste from knapping or burnt, suggest that the material was redeposited from areas of disposal, probably middens, which similarly points to a nearby domestic focus. Plough damage over the centuries has certainly truncated the features – the pit (101) is clearly very shallow – and suggests that any signs of former ground horizon(s) in the area excavated were always likely to be minimal.
- 5.1.4 It is possible that this group of features is associated with the (undated) ditch located to the south-east of this site during the Wessex Archaeology investigation in 2005, and may prove to be a boundary feature of some sort.

## 6 ARCHIVE AND PUBLICATION

### 6.1 Archive

6.1.1 A table of the archive from the project is presented below: The archive will be deposited with Winchester City Museum Service.

*Table 1: Quantification of site archive*

Type	Quantity	Comments
Context records	21	-
Plans	5	Size A4, A3
Sections	8	Size A4
Photographic films	6	3 colour, 3 B&W
Environmental samples	1	1 box
Pottery	191 sherds	LBA/early Iron Age; 1 box
Animal bone	9 pieces	1 box
Worked Flint	150 pieces	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age; 1 box
Burnt flint	135 pieces	1 box
Hammerscale	1 box	From pit fill 102
Other Records	10	-

### 6.2 Publication

6.2.1 This report will be prepared for publication in the form of an article in *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club Archaeological Society*. In addition, a note of the results will be placed in CBA Wessex News.



## APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Excavation area and service trench contexts						
Ctx No	Type	Width	Depth	Comments	Findings	Date
101	Cut	2 m	0.18 m	Pit	-	-
102	Fill		0.18 m	Fill of pit 101	Pottery, flint and burnt flint	LBA/eIA
103	Cut	0.4 m	0.45 m	Posthole	-	-
104	Fill	-	0.15 m	Lower fill of 103	Flint, burnt stone	LBA/eIA
105	Fill	-	0.3 m	Upper fill of 103	Pottery, animal bone	LBA/eIA
106	Cut	0.32 m	0.12 m	Posthole	-	-
107	Fill	-	0.12 m	Fill of 106	Pottery, burnt stone	LBA/eIA
108	Cut	0.46 m	0.36 m	Posthole	-	-
109	Fill	-	0.36	Fill of 108, including packing stones	Pottery, bone, flint, burnt stone	LBA/eIA
110	Cut	0.8 m	0.3 m	Possible tree hole	-	-
111	Fill	-	0.3 m	Clay silt fill of 110		-
112	Cut	0.3 m	0.16 m	?Posthole	-	-
113	Cut	1 m	0.4 m	Pit	-	-
114	Fill	-	0.4 m	Fill of 113	-	-
115	Layer	-	-	Natural disturbed chalk surface		-
116	Layer	-	0.35 m	Topsoil	Flint	-
117-119	Void	-	-	-	-	-
120	Layer			Topsoil in gas trench	-	-
121	Layer			Natural chalk in gas trench	-	-
122	Layer			Modern surface levelling deposit in water tank trench	-	C20
123	Layer			Former topsoil under 122	-	-
124	Layer			Natural chalk in water tank trench	-	-

LBA – late Bronze Age

eIA – early Iron Age



## APPENDIX B. FINDS ASSESSMENTS

### B.1 Pottery

*By Paul Booth (OA)*

#### ***Introduction and methodology***

- B.1.1 Some 207 sherds (1083 g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered from four contexts (102, 105, 107 and 109). The majority of the material (194 sherds, 988 g) came from the shallow fill (102) of pit 101; this total includes 28 fragments (87 g) from the sieved residue of soil sample <1>. The pottery is highly fragmented and many of the sherds are abraded, but all the material appears to be of late Bronze Age-early Iron Age date, with the majority assigned to the late Bronze Age.
- B.1.2 The pottery was recorded using elements of the OA later prehistoric and Roman recording system, which is consistent with the standards established by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997). Primary records were made on paper pro forma sheets which form part of the project archive.

#### ***Fabrics***

- B.1.3 Fabrics were recorded using codes to identify the principal inclusion types in order of importance. These were qualified with a numeric indicator of the degree of coarseness of the fabric (on a scale of 1 - very fine to 5 - very coarse). This could be based on the primary inclusion type or the secondary inclusion type if this was a significant element, as here in the case of flint in the AF fabrics. Fabrics were distinguished and defined by eye and with use of a binocular microscope at x20 magnification. The inclusion types noted were:

A	quartz sand
F	flint
P	clay pellets
N	none visible
Z	voids (organic)

- B.1.4 All but three of the sherds (from context 105) contained flint temper. In the great majority of cases this occurred in combination with quartz sand. While there was a continuum of fabric variation, from those in which flint dominated and sand was of minor importance, to those in which sand dominated and flint was less frequent, in practice there was little 'middle ground' and in most cases either flint or sand was the unambiguously preferred principal tempering agent. The main fabrics present, usually only defined in terms of their two most common inclusion types, are tabulated below.
- B.1.5 The dominance of flint tempering is clear from the table. It is underlined by the likelihood that while quartz sand may have been an incidental element (i.e. a component of the clay matrix) of some of the sherds recorded as FA4, and indeed one sherd was recorded as having no inclusions apart from flint (fabric FN4). It is less likely that flint was a similarly incidental element in sherds assigned to the AF3/4 group. The flint was almost invariably calcined, white flint which will have been deliberately prepared for addition to the clay matrix. The distinction between FA and AF fabrics is also supported by the fact that many sherds of the former group also contained both voids, where organic material had burnt out of the clay, and clay pellet inclusions. These elements were not regularly noted in the AF fabrics. This may suggest that the clay

used for the latter was more carefully prepared, whereas for the makers of vessels in FA fabrics the addition of flint may have been the only important activity.

- B.1.6 In general, the quartz sand inclusions appeared to be better sorted than the flint ones, which were often quite variable in size (though usually within a range of 2-5 mm) and sparse to moderate in frequency. There were exceptions in both groups, however. A single sherd of fabric AF2 was notable for its fine flint inclusions, comparable to the associated sand, and another single sherd, of fabric FA3, which also contained clay pellets, had noticeably quite fine flint inclusions. Equally, the quartz sand grains were not always uniform. In a few cases considerable variation in grain size was noted, the larger grains sometimes having a distinct glassy appearance, and a group of eight small sherds of fabric AF4 from context 102 included glauconitic sand grains. Such grains were occasionally seen in other sherds but were not always routinely recorded. The inclusions in the quartz sand-tempered fabrics were typically common to abundant. in frequency.

*Table B1.1 Quantification of pottery fabrics*

Fabric code	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Features
AP3	3	21	1 simple rim
AF	4	5	
AF2	1	2	
AF3/4	45	169	1 simple rim
FA	6	5	
FA(P)3	1	5	Carinated body sherd
FA4	146	873	5 rim sherds, 9 base sherds,
FN4	1	3	

### ***Forms and other diagnostic characteristics***

- B.1.7 A total of seven rim sherds was recorded. Two of these from context 102 are likely (although not certain) to have been from the same vessel, so it is probable that six vessels were represented by rims. All the rims were small. The largest was that from context 105 in fabric AP3, a piece in seven joining fragments with a total weight of 14 g. The other rim sherds ranged from 1-9 g in weight. On this evidence identification of vessel forms was impossible. Most of the rims were very simple, with rounded or slightly tapering ends, either outsloping or slightly incurved, although it was not always possible to be certain about the angle of particular sherds. One insloping rim was very slightly expanded, with a flat top. Overall, three vessels, including the latter, were thought to have incurving rims suggestive of simple, slightly barrel-shaped forms, while the other three had outsloping rims. These could have been from equally simple forms, but two of the rims (three sherds) were quite thin and even sided, and it is quite likely that they were from shouldered or angular vessel forms.
- B.1.8 The only certain example of a well-defined shoulder carination was in the fine fabric FA3, but up to ten sherds in fabric FA4 may have been from very slack shoulders of forms which would most likely have had everted rims of the type just described. One of these shoulder sherds, in fabric FA4, may have borne a fingertip impression, but if so this was only lightly impressed, and the small size and rather irregular surface of the sherd make it impossible to be certain that this feature really was a fingertip impression. Two other sherds in fabric FA4 had slight traces of linear decoration, in one case an incised line and in the other one or (just possibly) two lightly impressed lines at right



angles to each other. In neither case was it possible to determine the orientation of the decorative features, and in the case of the second sherd even the identification of the marks as deliberate decoration is not certain. One other sherd of fabric FA4 may have been burnished on both internal and external surfaces. Despite the often poor condition of the sherds, the fact that this is the only possible evidence for the use of this technique indicates its extreme rarity in the assemblage as a whole. The only other technological characteristic identified was the presence of extra flint temper on the underside of base sherds. This was noted on a total of four small sherds, all in fabric FA4.

### ***Use and disuse***

- B.1.9 Clear evidence for vessel use was limited to the occurrence of an internal carbonised residue on two sherds of fabric AF3, clearly from the same vessel, in context 102. Little can be said about the pottery in relation to context. The three posthole fills (105, 107 and 109) produced respectively 4, 2 and 7 sherds, with average weights of 11.3 g, 1 g and 6.9 g, while the 194 sherds from pit fill 102 had an average weight of 5.1 g (the average sherd weight from context 102 excluding the sieved material is still only 5.4 g). On this basis there is no meaningful difference in the broad character of the pottery from the pit and the postholes. The generally small sherd size and the lack of evidence for joining sherds (although an extensive search for joins was not undertaken) suggests that the pottery derives from at least secondary if not tertiary deposits in relation to its original locus of use and breakage.

### ***Local context and chronology***

- B.1.10 The pottery is consistent in general character with that from a number of larger assemblages examined in the Winchester area, particularly important amongst which is the material from the adjacent sites of Winnall Down and Easton Lane (Hawkes 1985; 1989). The later prehistoric pottery from these sites is dominated by flint-tempered fabrics, a broad tradition that extended from the Neolithic (Ellison 1989, 87) at least into the middle Iron Age (e.g. Hawkes 1985, 62; 1987, 27). The general characteristics of the Winnall Down and Easton Lane assemblages support a late Bronze Age-early Iron Age date for the present material. This is indicated both by the fabrics and, so far as can be judged, the vessel forms.
- B.1.11 A number of specific features can be used to substantiate this conclusion, although arguments from negative evidence are always problematic in relation to small assemblages. The absence of saucepan pot forms and, perhaps particularly, of the burnishing and other decoration that is often so characteristic of these forms (e.g. Hawkes 1985, 62-3; 1987, 27; Cunliffe 1984, 293, 307) precludes the dating of any part of the assemblage to the middle Iron Age. The very limited extent of the typological and decorative repertoire may serve to narrow the chronological range further. Distinctive early Iron Age techniques such as red or 'haematite' coating (Middleton 1987) are completely absent. Despite uncertainty about the precise significance of variations in the incidence of this technique (e.g. Hawkes 1985, 67-9) it is a regular feature of assemblages in this region (*ibid.*) and notwithstanding the poor condition of the present material it is expected that red-surfaced sherds would have been identified had they been present. The variety of other early Iron Age decorative techniques and of vessel forms seen at sites such as Winnall Down (*ibid.*, 61-2) is also largely absent.
- B.1.12 These factors suggest a slightly earlier date for the assemblage, but definition and clarification of the developmental sequence of late Bronze Age ceramics in Wessex have been problematic, as discussed for example by Cunliffe (2000, 149-50). In line



with that discussion, the present assemblage can be characterised broadly as a late Bronze Age plain ware group. Its clearest local parallel is a relatively small group of material from Winnall Down (Hawkes 1985, 61), dominated by flint-tempered fabrics, in simple forms and with a notable absence of decorative features. Comparable material from elsewhere in the area remains scarce.

- B.1.13 The possibility remains that a small component of the assemblage is as late as early Iron Age in date, but the few sherds in question (such as the angled sherd in fabric FAP3) might equally be seen as belonging to the late Bronze Age 'decorated ware' tradition (e.g. Cunliffe 2000, 149). While this would typically be seen as later in date than the 'plain ware' phase (e.g. Barrett 1980, 314), the chronological implications in the Wessex region remain uncertain and a linear development sequence is not assured (*ibid.*, 309-10, 314; Cunliffe 2000, 149).
- B.1.14 None of the pieces is considered worthy of illustration – the publication will include a summary of the above report.

## B.2 Lithics

*By David Mullin (OA)*

### ***Introduction and methodology***

- B.2.1 A total of 150 lithic items were recovered from the excavations. Most of these came from a single context (102, fill of pit 101). In addition, 135 un-worked burnt flint pieces weighing 5.67kg was recovered, mostly from the same context. The flint was catalogued according to a broad debitage, core or tool type. Information about burning and breaks was recorded and where identifiable raw material type was also noted. Where possible dating was attempted.
- B.2.2 Cores were classified according to the number and position of their platforms, following Clark (1960) and core maintenance pieces were classified to the following criteria. Core rejuvenation flakes are pieces representing the removal of the top or bottom of a core in order to improve the flaking angle of the platform. Core trimming flakes are flakes which remove a substantial part of a core in order to aid working by removing an imperfection in the core, a miss-hit or other impediment to flaking. The nature of any remnant flake scars on the dorsal surface of core trimming flakes was noted.
- B.2.3 Flakes were classified following Saville (1990, 155), which allows an identification of the stage in the core reduction process to which the flake belongs. Terminations such as hinge fractures were noted. Chips are defined as pieces measuring less than 10mm by 10mm. Flakes having a proportions length to breadth ratio of greater than 2:1 were classified as blade-like, those with a greater length to breadth ratio being classified as blades. Mid-sections of blades with no bulb of percussion were classified as blade shatter (Andrefsky 1998, 81-3).
- B.2.4 Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (Bamford 1985, Healy 1988, Bradley 1999, Butler 2005). No attempt was made at refitting or use-wear analysis.

### ***Results: technology and dating***

- B.2.5 Raw materials exploited at the site were predominantly locally occurring chalk flint, which had varying degrees of cortication. Much of the material was in relatively fresh condition, suggesting that it had suffered minimal disturbance.



- B.2.6 No formal implements were identified in the assemblage, which comprised waste from the knapping process. This waste showed evidence for the use of hard hammers and the presence of large, irregular waste; the predominance of secondary/tertiary flakes and indications of poor knapping skill suggest a Late Bronze Age/Iron Age date (Young and Humphrey 1999).
- B.2.7 A total of 133 flints were recovered from context 102 these were predominantly waste flakes, comprising six primary flakes, 53 secondary flakes, 34 tertiary flakes and 22 chips. Cores and core maintenance pieces were poorly represented, a total of 10 core related pieces being recovered from 102. The largest amount of burnt flint was also recovered from 102 with small amounts from feature fills 104, 107 and 109.

### **Discussion**

- B.2.8 The lithic material comprises a relatively small group but is important due to its context and association with the dated pottery. The material forms one of an emerging number of well-stratified later prehistoric assemblages, which have demonstrated continued flint knapping into the Iron Age period. Such sites include Wanlip, Leicestershire (Cooper and Humphrey 1998); London Road and Fison Way, Thetford (Gardiner 1993, Healey 1991) and phases 4 and 5 from the barrow site at Micheldever Wood, Hampshire (Fasham & Ross 1978).
- B.2.9 In the absence of worked tools in the assemblage, none of the flint pieces is considered worthy of publication.

## **B.3 Animal bone**

*By Lena Strid (OA)*

- B.3.1 The animal bone assemblage comprised nine bones (see table B3.1 below). The bones were in a fair to poor condition, but with no traces of gnawing or burning. The species present were cattle and sheep/goat.
- B.3.2 Both juvenile and adult cattle were found at the site, suggesting cattle rearing took place in the vicinity. The sheep/goat remains belonged to adult animals. These two species are commonly found on Iron Age sites.
- B.3.3 Of interest was a articulated calf tarsal joint, which had pathological bone growths on the shaft of the metatarsal. This appears to be an infection of the bone, possibly osteomyelitis (Baker and Brothwell 1980, 64-67). It is not certain whether the calf died of the infection or if it was slaughtered.

*Table B3.1 Faunal remains by species and context*

<b>Context</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Bone</b>	<b>Comments</b>
102	Cattle	Maxillary molar	-
104	Sheep/goat	Incisor	-
105	Cattle	Metatarsal	Juvenile. Pathological (osteomyelitis?)
	Cattle	Tarsal	Juvenile
	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	-
109	Sheep/goat	Mandibular 3rd molar	Wear stage: e. = 3-4 years old (Payne 1973)
		Tibia	fused distally = >15-20 months old.
	Medium mammal	Longbone	2 bones.



## **B.4 Hammerscale**

- B. 4.1 A small quantity of hammerscale was recovered from the environmental residue from context 102, the fill of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pit 101.



## APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Environmental samples

*By Wendy Smith (OA)*

#### **Introduction**

- C.1.1 A single sample was collected from a pit fill (context 102 in pit 101) of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date. A 40L sample of sediment was processed using a modified Siraf flotation machine at Oxford Archaeology. The flot (the material which floats) was collected in a 0.25mm mesh sieve and the heavy residue (the material which does not float) was retained in a 0.5mm mesh.
- C.1.2 The heavy residue was sorted by eye by an environmental assistant and the flot was sorted by the author under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x12 – x35. Identifications were made in comparison to the modern reference collection house at Oxford Archaeology. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

#### **Results**

- C.1.3 Table C1.1 presents the results for the sample from context 102. A small quantity of charred plant remains were recovered, which includes a mixture of poorly preserved cereal grain, weed seeds and a small quantity of cereal chaff. A few minute fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana L.*) nutshell were also noted.
- C.1.4 The flot contained abundant modern roots and insect remains, which implies that this deposit was near to or within top soil level and was likely to be subject to bioturbation (e.g. worm action, ant or rodent nests). Abundant charcoal fragments were also present in the flot; however, all of the charcoal fragments were too small (<2mm) to be identifiable.

#### **Discussion**

- C.1.5 The charred plant remains recovered in this sample are likely to represent the kind of 'background noise' one might expect of rural agricultural settlement, with small quantities of cereal grain/ chaff and charred weed seeds present.
- C.1.6 Previous work in the Andover/ Winchester area at Danebury Hill Fort (Campbell 2000; Jones 1984; Jones and Nye 1991), Easton Lane (Carruthers 1989), Micheldever Wood (Monk and Fasham 1980); Winnal Down (Monk and Fasham 1980) and Woolbury (Danebury Hill Fort) (Campbell 2000) all have produced abundant charred plant remains from Iron Age deposits, with strong evidence for a great deal of cereal processing activities in the area.

#### **Conclusion**

- C.1.7 The small assemblage recovered from Bray House was relatively poor and too small to be easily interpretable. Nevertheless it is broadly consistent with activities related to cereal processing, which is known to have been widely occurring in the area.
- C.1.8 The recovery of some charred material from what may be a partially disturbed deposit (either from previous development of the site in advance of the construction of Bray House itself or bioturbation due to close proximity to top soil level) suggests that preservation of charred plant remains is likely at this site and should be planned for in any future archaeological interventions in the vicinity of Bray House. In particular,



sampling should target well-sealed features, which are clearly undisturbed and at some depth below current top soil level.

C.1.9 For publication a summary version of this report will be prepared.

*Table C1.1 Charred plant remains recovered from LBA/early Iron Age feature fill 102*

Site Code: <b>AY351</b> Sample Number: <b>1</b> Context Number: <b>102</b> Sample Volume: <b>40L</b> Flot Volume: <b>40 ml</b>	Flot	4-2mm HR	
Cereal Grain			Cereal Grain
Cereal grain - indeterminate	2		Cereal/ Large Grass
Cereal/ POACEAE - indeterminate	2		Cereal/ Large Grass
Cereal/ POACEAE - indet. minute fragments	++		Cereal/ Large Grass
Cereal Chaff			
Cereal rachis node - indeterminate	1		Cereal
Cereal lemma/ glume - indeterminate fragment	1		Cereal
Weed/ Wild plants			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. - nutshell fragment (m.n.i. = 1)	2	1	Hazel
<i>Atriplex</i> spp. - ?ancient/ ?sub-fossil	4		Orache
CHENOPODIACEAE - indet internal structure	1		Goosefoot Family
<i>Vicia</i> sp./ <i>Lathyrus</i> sp.	1		Vetch/ Vetchling
<i>Galium</i> spp. (small-seeded)	2		Bedstraw
cf. <i>Galium</i> sp. - fragment	1		Possible Bedstraw
<i>Carex</i> spp.	2		Sedge
POACEAE - small caryopsis	1		Grass Family
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>		

Key: HR = heavy residue, the material that does not float. ++ = ca. 10-15 minute (<2mm) fragments. m.n.i. = minimum number of individual nuts.



## APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- Andrefsky, W, 1998 *Lithics: Macroscopic approaches to analysis*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge
- Baker, J and Brothwell, D ,1980 *Animal diseases in archaeology*, Academic Press, London
- Bamford, H, 1985 *Briar Hill: excavation 1974-1978*, Northampton Development Corporation. Archaeological Monograph **3**, Northampton
- Barrett, J, 1980 The pottery of the Late Bronze Age in lowland England, *Proc Prehist Soc* **46**, 297-320
- Bradley, P, 1999 Worked flint in *Excavations at Barrow Hills, Radley, Oxfordshire. Volume 1: The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex* (A Barclay and C Halpin), Oxford Archaeology, Oxford, 211-227
- Bradley, P, Charles, B, Hardy, A and Poore, D, 2005 Prehistoric and Roman activity and a civil war ditch: excavations at the Chemistry Research Laboratory, 2-4 Parks Road, Oxford, *Oxoniensia* **70**, 141-197
- Butler, C, 2005 *Prehistoric flintwork*, Tempus, Stroud
- Campbell, G, 2000 Charred plant remains, in *The Danebury environs programme: The prehistory of a Wessex landscape. Vol 2.1 Woolbury and Stockbridge Down, Stockbridge, Hampshire 1989* (B Cunliffe and C Poole), English Heritage and Oxford University Committee for Archaeology Monograph **49**, Oxford, 72-4
- Carruthers, W , 1989 The carbonised plant remains, in Fasham *et al.* 1989, 131-4
- Clark, J, 1960 Excavations at the Neolithic Site at Hurst Fen, *Proc Prehist Soc* **26**, 214-245
- Cooper, L and Humphrey, J, 1998 The lithics, in A Middle Iron Age site at Wanlip, Leicestershire (M Beamish), *Trans Leicestershire Archaeol Hist Soc* **72**, 63-74
- Cunliffe, B W, 1984 *Danebury: an Iron Age hillfort in Hampshire. Volume 2. The excavations 1969-78: the finds*, CBA Res Rep **52**, London
- Cunliffe, B, 2000 *The Danebury environs programme: The prehistory of a Wessex landscape, vol 1 Introduction*, English Heritage and Oxford University Committee for Archaeology Monograph **48**, Oxford
- Ellison, A B, 1989 The Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery, in Fasham *et al.* 1989, 83-91
- Fasham, P J, Farwell, D E, and Whinney, R J B, 1989 *The archaeological site at Easton Lane, Winchester*, Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society Monograph **6**, Winchester
- Fasham, P J and Ross, J M, 1978 A Bronze Age flint industry from a Barrow site in Micheldever Wood, Hampshire, *Proc Prehist Soc* **44**, 47-67
- Gardiner, J, 1993 The flint assemblage in Excavation of an Iron Age pit group at London Road, Thetford (J A Davis), *Norfolk Archaeology* **41.4**, 456-468



- Hawkes, J W, 1985 The pottery, in *The prehistoric settlement at Winnal Down, Winchester* (P J Fasham), Hampshire Field Club Monogr **2**, Gloucester, 57-76
- Hawkes, J W, 1987 The pottery, in *A banjo enclosure in Micheldever Wood, Hampshire* (P J Fasham), Hampshire Field Club Monogr **5**, Gloucester, 24-39
- Hawkes, J W, 1989 Later prehistoric pottery, in Fasham *et al.* 1989, 91-97
- Healy, F, 1988 *The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham. Part VI: Occupation in the seventh to second millennia BC*, East Anglian Archaeol **39**, Gressenhall
- Healy, F, 1991 Lithic material in *Excavations in Thetford, 1980-1982, Fison Way, Volume 1* (T Gregory), East Anglian Archaeol **53**, 143-146
- Jones, M and Nye, S, 1991 The plant remains: A quantitative analysis of crop debris, in *Danebury: An Iron Age hillfort in Hampshire. Volume 5. The Excavations, 1979-88: The finds* (B Cunliffe and C Poole), CBA Res Rep **73**, York, 439-47
- Jones, M 1984 The plant remains, in *Danebury: An Iron Age Hillfort in Hampshire. Volume 2. The Excavations 1969-1978* (B Cunliffe), CBA Res Rep **52**, London, 483-95
- Middleton, A, 1987 Technological investigations of the coatings on some 'haematite-coated' pottery from southern England, *Archaeometry* **29(2)**, 250-261
- Monk, M A and Fasham, P J, 1980 Carbonised plant remains from two Iron Age sites in Central Hampshire, *Proc Prehist Soc* **46**, 321-44
- Wilkinson, D (ed.), 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (1 edn), Oxford Archaeological Unit unpublished guidelines
- Oxford Archaeology 2000 OA Environmental sampling guidelines and instruction, unpublished guidelines
- OA 2008 Bray House, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hampshire. Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief
- PCRG, 1997 *The study of later prehistoric pottery: General policies and guidelines for analysis and publication*, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Occ Papers Nos 1 and 2, revised, Oxford
- Pitts, M W and Jacobi, R M, 1979 Some aspects of change in flaked stone industries of the Mesolithic and Neolithic in Southern Britain, *JArchaeological Science* **6**, 163-177
- Saville, A, 1990 *Hazleton North, Gloucestershire 1979-1982*, English Heritage Archaeological Report **13**, London
- Stace, C, 1997 *New flora of the British Isles* (2 edn), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge
- Wessex Archaeology 2005 Bowman Modular Classroom, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hampshire. Report on archaeological watching brief
- Young, R and Humphrey, J, 1999 Flint use in England after the Bronze Age: Time for a re-



evaluation? *Proc Prehist Soc* **65**, 231-242.



## APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Bray House, Worthy Down Camp, Winchester, Hants.  
**Site code:** AY 351  
**Grid reference:** NGR SU 482 358  
**Type:** Watching Brief/small area excavation  
**Date and duration:** June – August 2008  
**Area of site:** 1 ha.

**Summary of results:** The watching brief involved the monitoring of topsoil stripping and the excavation of service trenches at the site, prior to the construction of office and store buildings, dining facilities, barns and toilet blocks at this army camp. A group of features of late Bronze Age/?early Iron Age date was excavated north of Bray House comprising pits and postholes, three of which may have been part of a structure. The features contained pottery and flint knapping waste and suggest that the focus of human occupation is nearby.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Winchester County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: WINCM: AY351, and following publication of an article in *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club Archaeological Society*.



Reproduced from the Explorer 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 1998. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location

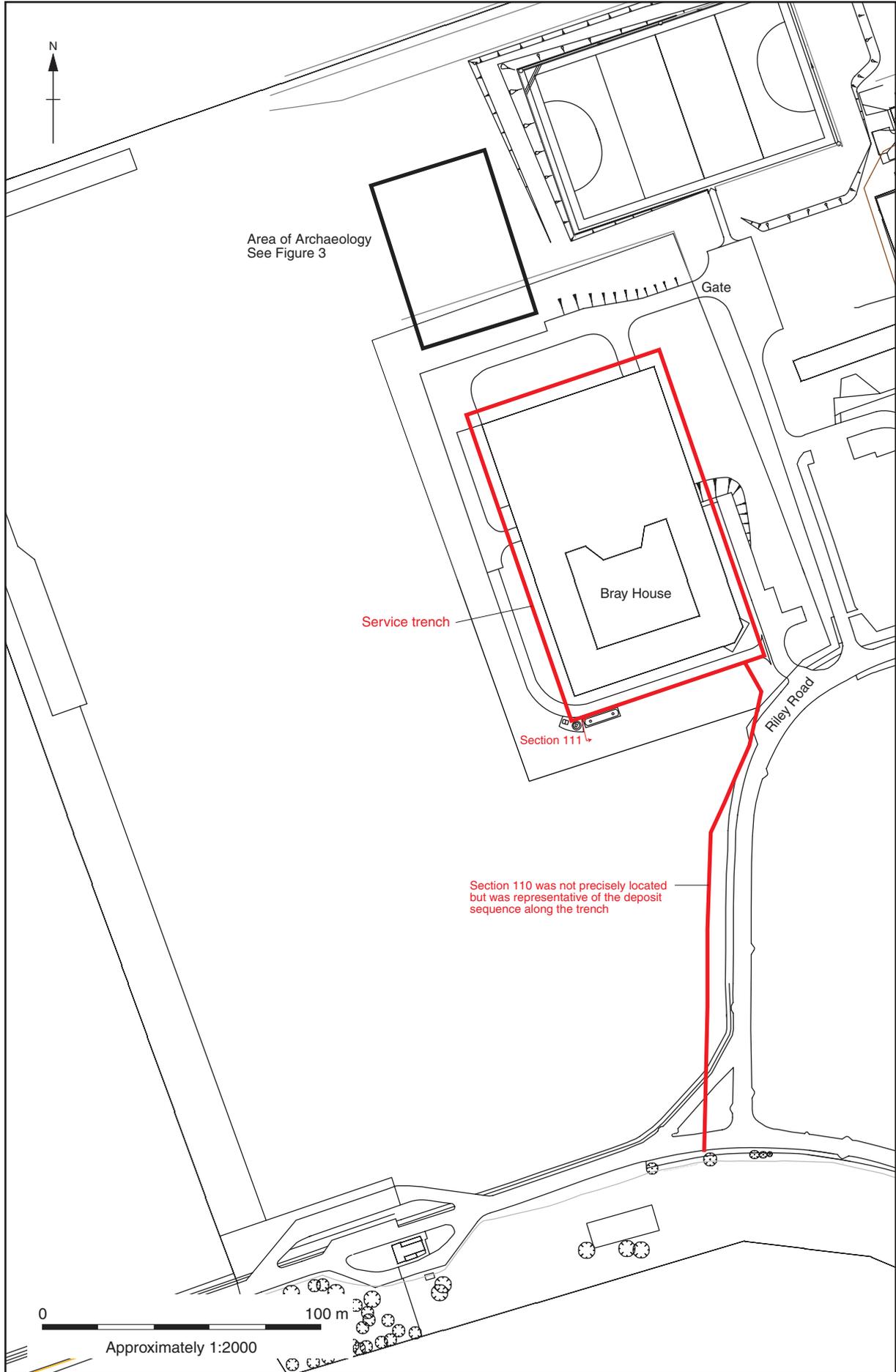


Figure 2: Site plan and area of investigation

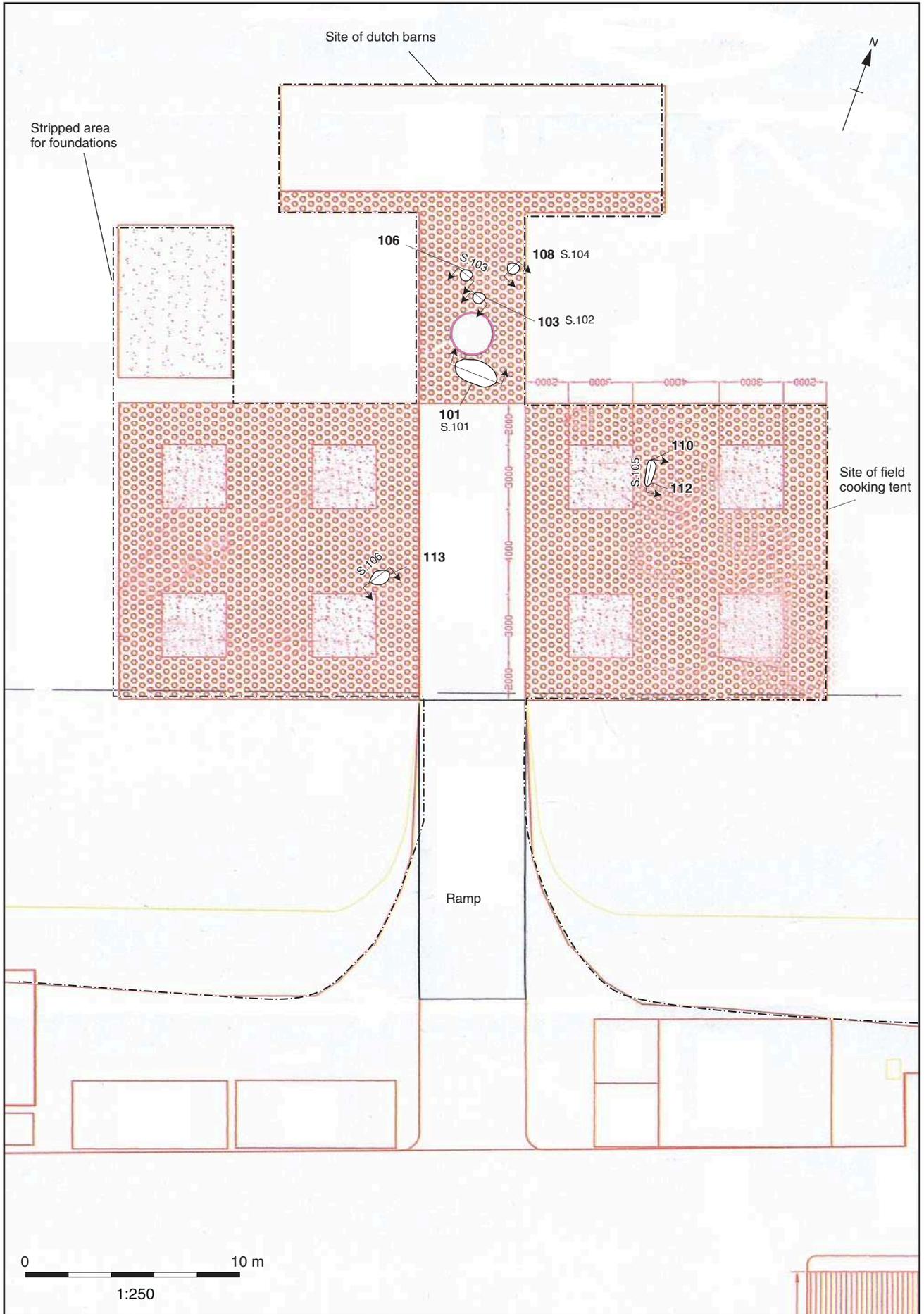


Figure 3 : Features location plan

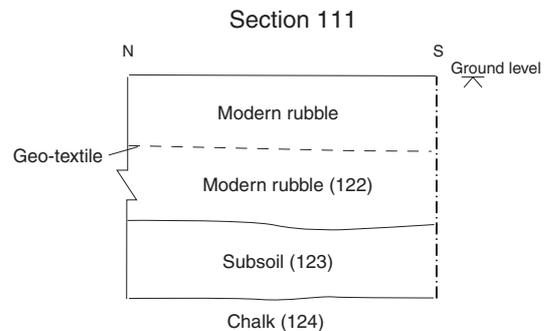
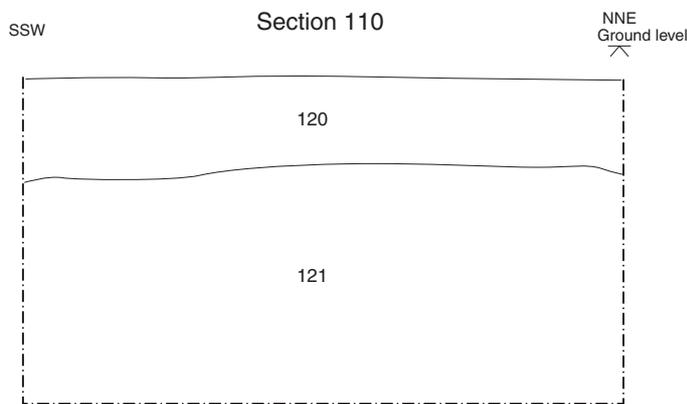
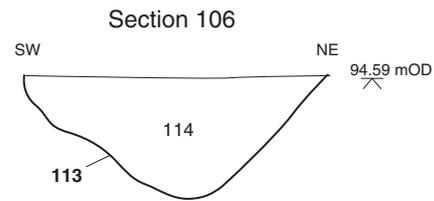
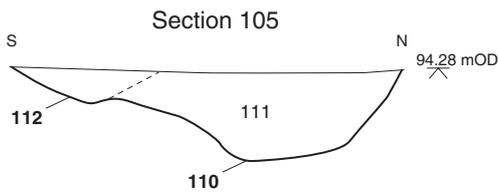
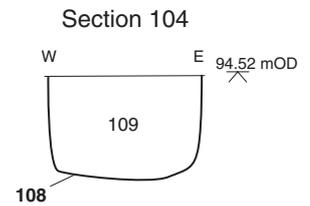
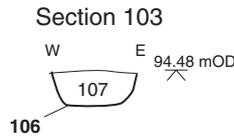
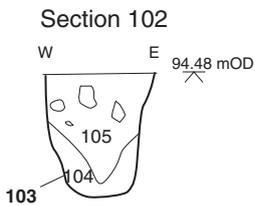
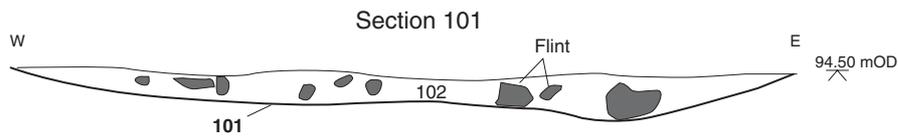
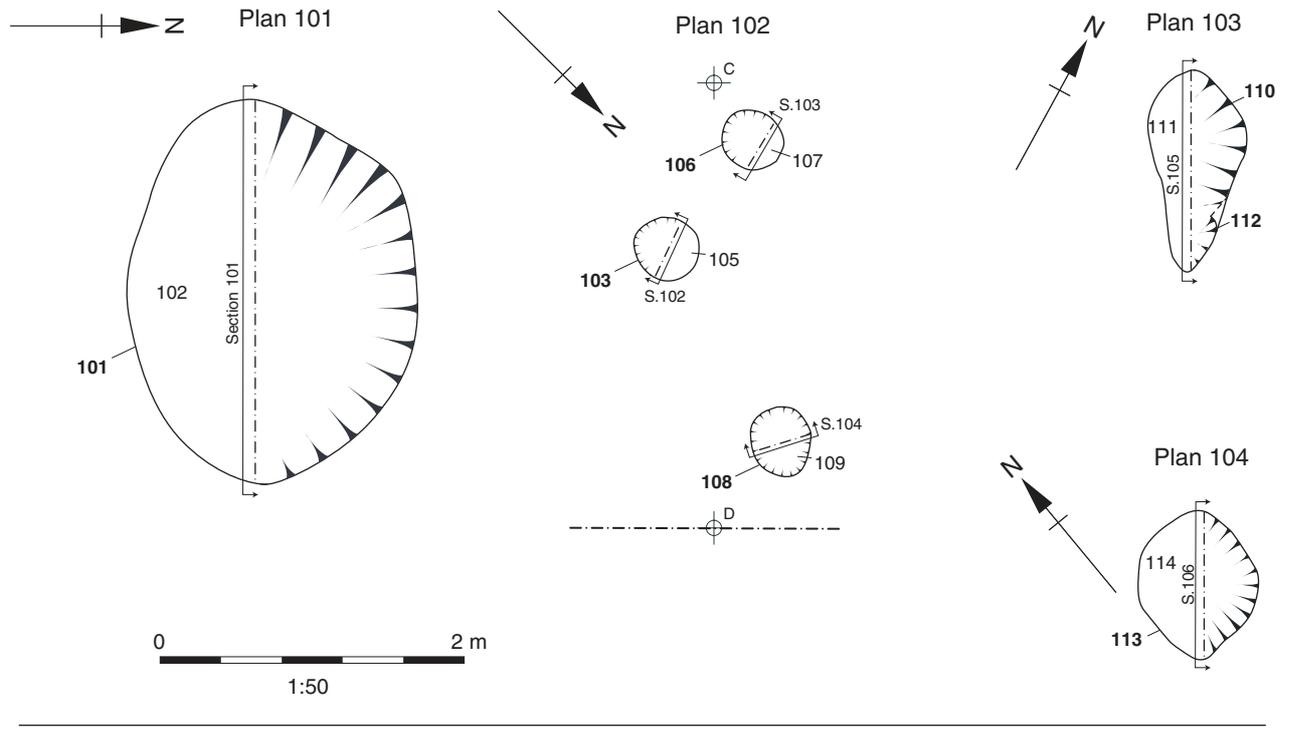


Figure 4 : Features plans and sections



#### **Head Office/Registered Office**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:info@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599  
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

#### **OA Méditerranée**

115 Rue Merlot  
ZAC La Louvade  
34 130 Manguio  
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92  
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93  
e: [oamed@oamed.fr](mailto: oamed@oamed.fr)  
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeological Unit is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627*