JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

LAND TO THE REAR OF BLACKLANDS ROAD,

BENSON, OXFORDSHIRE

NGR SU 6222 9208

On behalf of

BRIM Developments

JANUARY 2016

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land to the rear of Blacklands Road and Brook Street, Benson (NGR SU 6222 9208) on behalf of BRIM Developments. Nine trenches, between 20m and 5m in length were excavated. Four gully/ditches, possibly part of a field system or enclosure were identified. Worked flint from one of these features may indicate a possible prehistoric date. A pit backfilled with re-deposited natural and occasional fragments of animal bone was also recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The proposed development site is located to the rear of Blacklands Road and Brook Street, Benson (NGR SU 6222 9208) at 57m OD. The underlying geology is Upper Greensand formation of siltstone and sandstone formed 94-112 million years ago in the Cretaceous. In the area of the site this is capped by the drift material of the Summertown – Radley Sand and Gravel members formed in the Quaternary some 2 million years ago. The site is currently not in use, and is overgrown with a number of mature trees and shrubs.

1.2 Planning Background

South Oxfordshire District Council has refused planning permission (P12/S2055/O) for the demolition of two dwellings, 22 and 24 Blacklands Road and the erection of nine dwellings to the rear of Blacklands Road and Brook Street, Benson. The development has been refused for a number of reasons, although only part of comment No 2 of the refusal is relevant here which states; 'there is insufficient information to assess to impact on archaeological remains'.

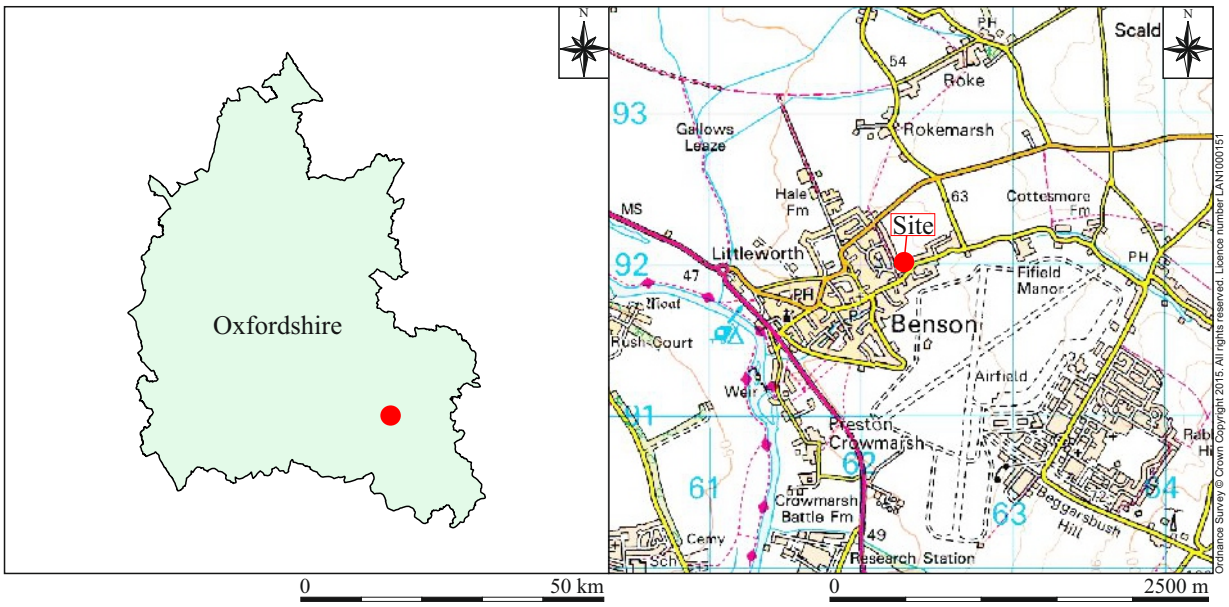
As such a programme of archaeological work was required in order to identify whether archaeological remains of significance survive on the site. This was in line with NPPF (the planning policy current at the time) and other Local Planning policies.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological background to the site is given in Desk Based Assessment on Land Adjacent to Blacklands Road, Benson, Oxfordshire (JMHS 2013) which is summarised here.

The earliest known archaeological activity in the area dates to the Palaeolithic period and is represented by the recovery of an Acheulean hand axe 400,000 years BP and the remains of two hand axes, *c.* 0.65km and 1km, respectively, to the to the south-west.

The site lies just to the north-west of Benson Airfield where extensive cropmarks have been recorded which are thought to represent a Neolithic cursus, prehistoric barrows and enclosures and Roman enclosures.



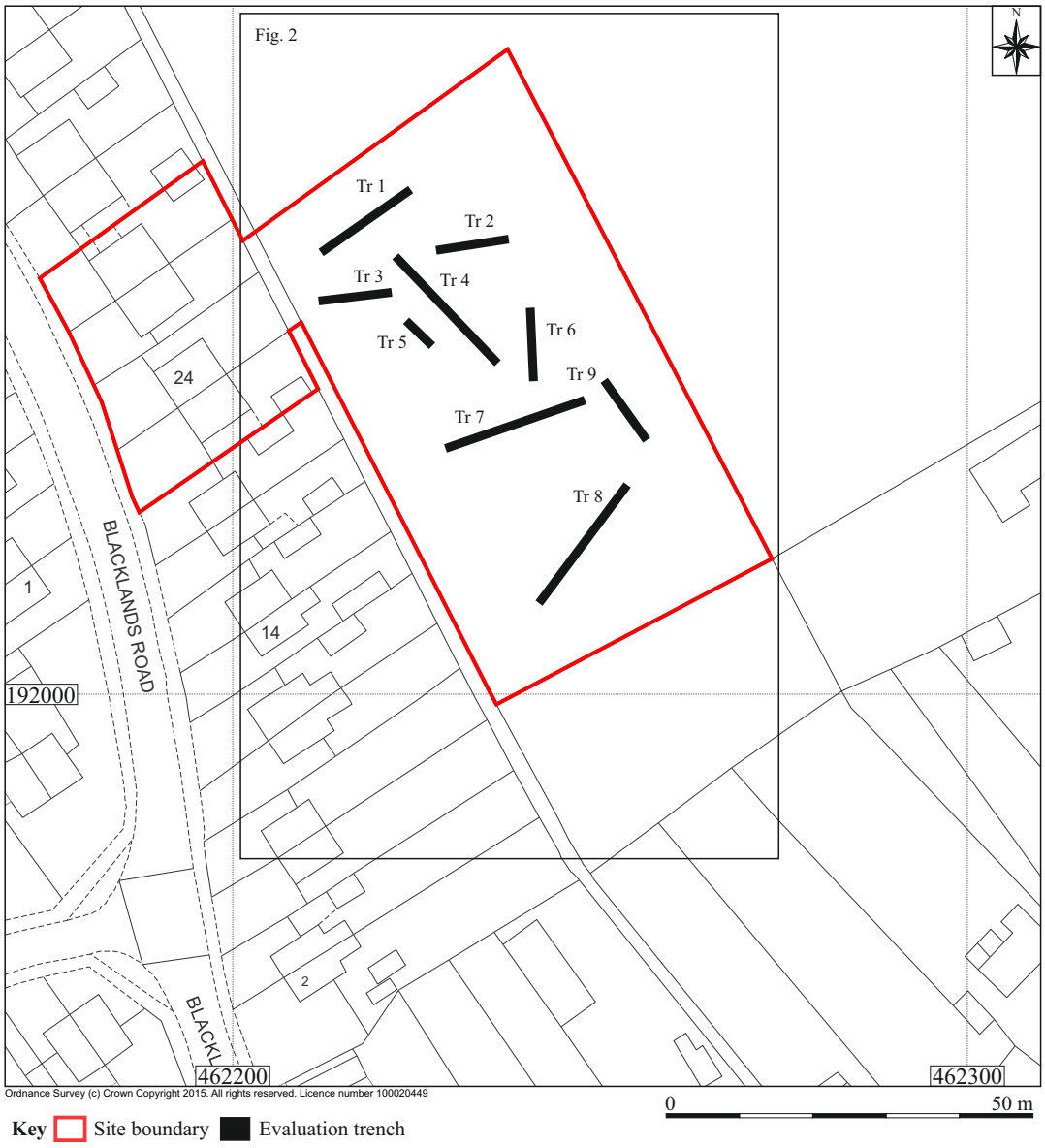


Figure 1: Site location

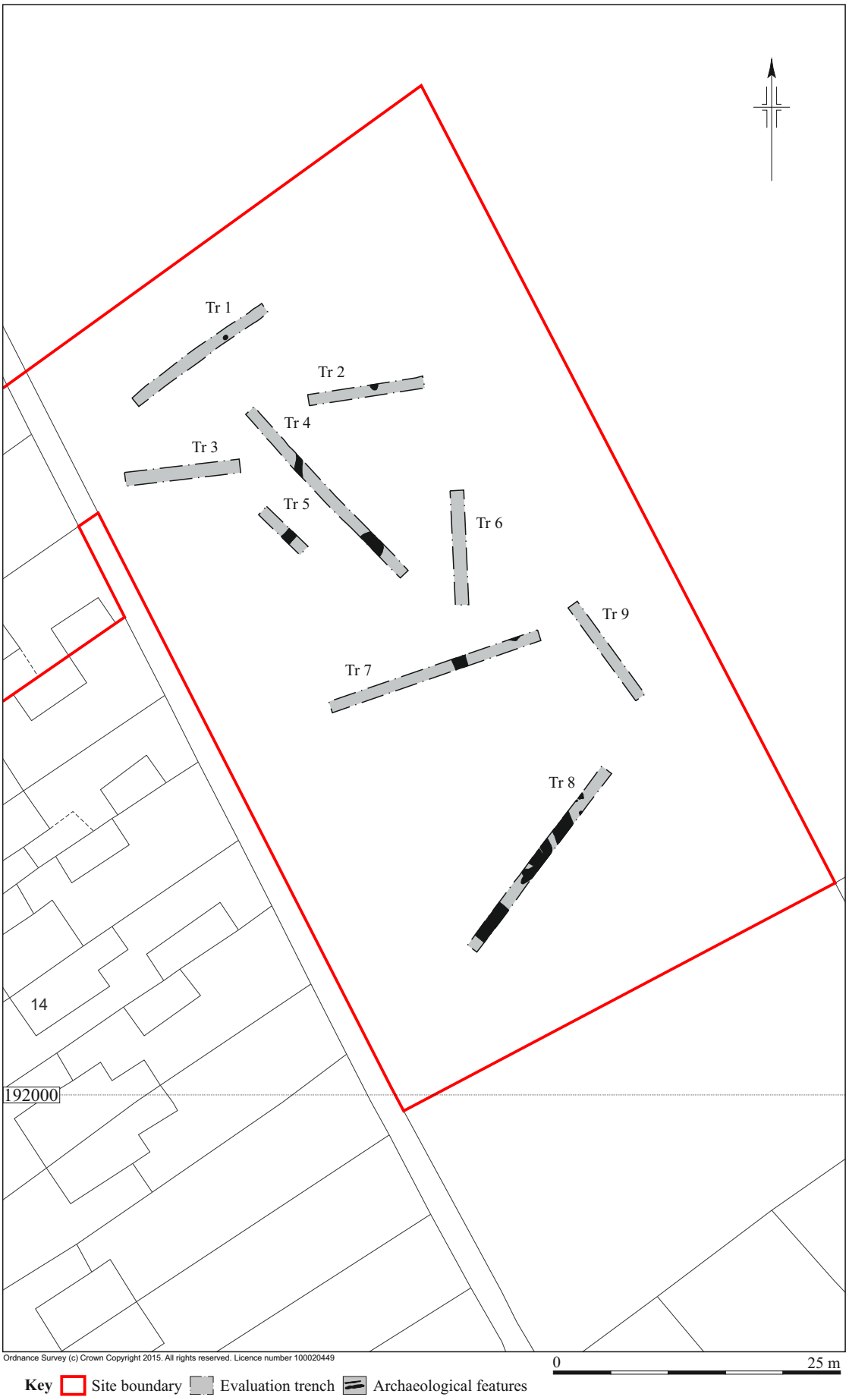


Figure 2: Trench locations with features

Other prehistoric tools have been found *c.* 0.11km and 0.43m to the east of the site, including what have been described as scrapers.

A bronze coin of an Iron Age date was recovered and an Iron Age ditch was recorded from an excavation *c.* 0.25km to the south-east. A V-shaped ditch, along with 1st century AD pottery and a coin of Addedomaros has been recorded c. 0.65km SSW of the site. An Iron Age ditch has also been recorded 0.75km to the west of the site.

Roman coins and pottery have been recovered from three sites, c. 0.4km to the west of the site. A human skull, interpreted as belonging to an individual of African origin, has been recorded from a possible Roman inhumation cemetery c. 0.2km to the south of the site.

The remains of an undated rectangular enclosure with a parallel ditch, although likely to be prehistoric or Roman in date has been recorded c. 0.6km to the north.

An evaluation carried out at Littleworth Road (TVAS 2010), *c.* 0.73 km to the south of the site, revealed the presence of a number of archaeological features representing occupation and landscape activity. The evaluation recovered a modest collection of artefacts. Several periods were represented with Mesolithic/Neolithic flint work and pottery of the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, Middle/Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and post-medieval periods recovered. Few of the cut features were well dated. +

The remains of a Roman road is believed to run from the Benson area. A ditch noted as part of a conjectured line of the Dorchester to Silchester Road is located c. 0.8km to the south-east.

Four sites of medieval date have been recorded within the vicinity of the site. The site of the battle of Benson between Offa and Cynewolf, although imprecisely located, has been recorded *c.* 0.22km to the south-west. Other sites have produced medieval finds including medieval pottery have been recorded, within 0.5km, to the east of the site.

An evaluation immediately to the east of the site identified a gully and postholes, pits, and a well interpreted as of a post-medieval date and suggested that later evidence had removed earlier activity. A barn of late 18th century date has also been recorded immediately to the east of the site.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site and the depth of soil deposits that overlie these remains.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.

- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the prehistoric landscape.
- To determine the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits. The forms in which such evidence may be present will be determined in accordance with the guidelines set out in English Heritage's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* and *Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record.*
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.
- To inform the need for, and scope of, further phases of work to mitigate the impact of the development under consideration.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Oxfordshire Historic and Natural Environment Team (OHaNET) the archaeological advisors to South Oxfordshire District Council. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate and possible.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

Nine trial trenches between 5m and 20m in length and 1m in width (equivalent to a 4% sample) were excavated across the proposal site. The land was overgrown with a number of mature trees and a small squatter's camp was present to the southern end of the site, this dictated the placement of the trenches to a certain extent.

The trenches were machine excavated using a 1.5 tonne 360 excavator fitted with a 1m bladed bucket; Mechanical excavation was taken down to the top of "natural" deposits or any higher archaeological horizon. Where archaeological features were encountered they were sampled by hand excavation in order to achieve the objectives laid out in the WSI. For discrete features such as pits and postholes this involved half-sectioning a representative sample, while linear features were sectioned.

4 RESULTS (Figures 2-5)

4.1 Field results

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets denote features i.e. pit cuts, numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material, while numbers in bold denote structural features.

4.2 General deposits

The lowest deposit encountered during the evaluation was a compact mid to light grey silty clay with frequent sub-angular to angular light whitish grey limestone. This varied in Trench 8, where the lowest deposit encountered was a compact mid brown silty clay with occasional flint nodules. These deposits were interpreted as drift material of the Summertown – Radley Sand and Gravel members. The geological horizon was overlain by a soft mid grey clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded stone which varied in thickness between 0.25m and 0.4m; this was interpreted as a remnant ploughsoil, formed prior to the enclosure of the site. This was overlain by a friable dark brown silty loam topsoil, which varied in thickness between 0.1m and 0.38m.

The combined soil depth increased from north to south across the site, from 0.35m in trench 2 to 0.65m in Trench 8.

4.3 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Trench 1 was 15m in length, 1m in width and oriented east-west. The geological horizon (1/03) was cut by a small sub-ovoid feature, 1/04, with steep concave sides and a concave base, 0.52m in length by 0.4m in width with a depth of 0.14m (Fig.2; section 1.02. Plate 1); this was filled by a firm mid brown silt (1/05).

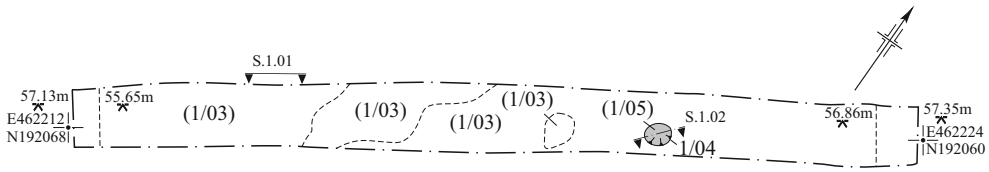
This feature was sealed by subsoil 4/02 which had a thickness of 0.25m and topsoil 4/01, with a thickness of 0.15m.

4.4 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

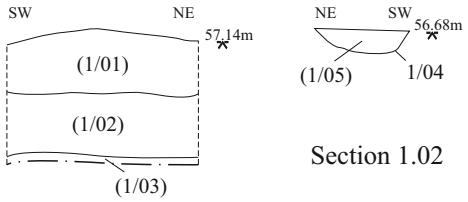
Trench 2 was 10m in length, 1m in width and orientated east-west. The geological horizon (2/03) was truncated by a sub-circular feature with steep sides and an irregular/flat base, 0.4m in length by 0.2m in width by 0.08m in depth 2/04 (Fig. 2; section 2.02); filled by a compact light brown silt with frequent stone (2/05). The subsoil in Trench 2 (2/02) was 0.25m in thickness and was overlain by topsoil (2/01) 0.1m in thickness.

4.5 Trench 3 (Figure 1-2)

Trench 3 was 10m in length, 1m in width and orientated east-west. The geological horizon (2/03) was overlain by subsoil (3/02) 0.3m in thickness which in turn was overlain by topsoil (3/01) which had a thickness of 0.25m. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in this trench.

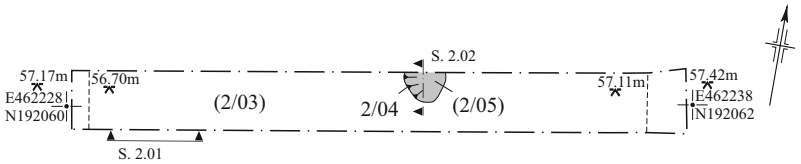


Trench 1

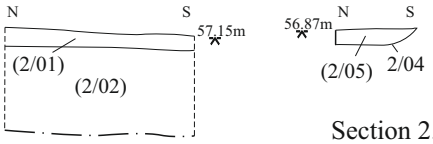


Section 1.01

Section 1.02



Trench 2



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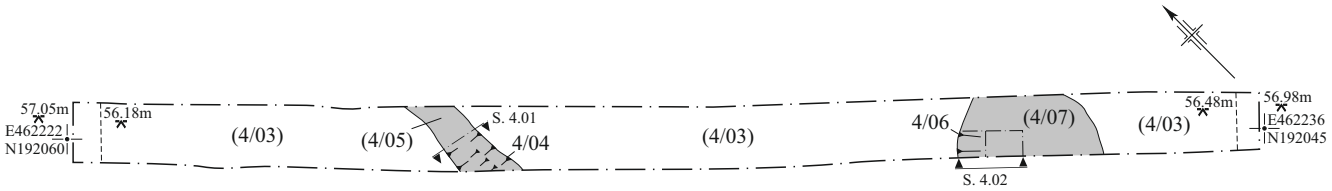
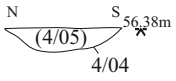
Section 2.02



Trench 4



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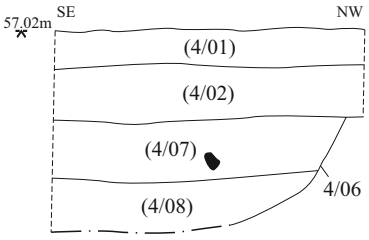

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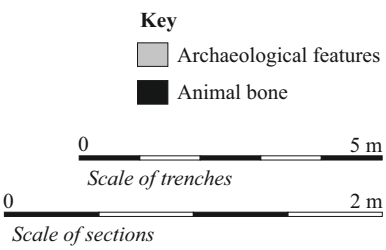


Figure 3: Trenches 1,2 and 4 - plans and sections

Plate 1: *1/04; section 1.02. Looking south east.*

4.6 Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was 20m in length, 1m in width and orientated northwest – southeast. The geological horizon (4/03) was truncated by a linear gully 4/04, aligned north-south, with concave to irregular sides and a concave base 4/04 (Fig. 2; section 4.01. Plate 2). Within the trench the feature was 1.5m in length and 0.6m in width with a depth of 0.12m; the feature extended beyond the limit of excavation (l.o.e.) to the north and south. It was filled by a compact dark brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks and sub-rounded stone (4/05).

Plate 2: *Linear ditch 4/04, section 4.01. Looking north east*

Plate 3: *Pit 4/07; section 4.02. Looking south west.*

Pit cut 4/06 was located 7m to the south east; this feature was sub-ovoid in plan, with steep concave sides, 2.5m in length by 1.0m in width and greater than 0.6m in depth (Fig. 2; section 4.02. Plate 3). The feature extended beyond the l.o.e. to the north-east and south-west, and the base was not reached. The lowest excavated fill was a compact mid brownish grey silty sand with moderate sub-angular limestone, 0.3m in thickness (4/08); this was overlain by a compact mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent sub-angular limestone, 0.32m in thickness (4/07). 39 sherds of animal bone were recovered from these fills, comprising sheep/goat, horse and unidentified mammal. Features 4/04 and 4/06 were sealed by subsoil (4/02), with a thickness of 0.32m, which in turn was overlain by topsoil (4/01) with a thickness of 0.38m.

4.7 **Trench 5** (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was 5m in length, 1m in width and orientated northwest – southeast. The geological horizon (5/03) was truncated by a shallow linear gully/ditch 5/05, aligned northeast – southwest, with gently sloping concave sides and a concave base (Fig. 3; section 5.01. Plate 4). Within the trench the feature was 1m in length and 1m in width with a depth of 0.1m and extended beyond the l.o.e. to the northeast and southwest. It was filled by a compact grey silty clay (5/04). The gully/ditch is a continuation of the one seen in Trench 4. This was sealed by subsoil (5/02), with a thickness of 0.3m which in turn was overlain by topsoil (5/01) with a thickness of 0.24m.

Plate 4: *Linear feature 5./05, section 5.01. Looking north east*

4.8 Trench 6 (Figures 1-2)

Trench 6 was 10m in length, 1m in width and orientated north – south. The geological horizon was overlain by subsoil (6/02) 0.25m in thickness which in turn was overlain by topsoil (6/01) which had a thickness of 0.15m. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in this trench.

4.9 Trench 7 (Fig. 4)

Trench 7 was 20m in length, 1m in width and orientated northwest – southeast. The geological horizon was truncated by a linear ditch, aligned northeast – southwest, with

Plate 5: *Linear ditch 7/06; section 7.02. Looking north west.*

steep concave sides and a concave base 7/06 (Fig 3; section 7.02. Plate 5). Within the trench the feature was 1m in length, 1.4m in width and 0.2m in depth and extended beyond the limit of excavation. to the northwest and southeast. It was filled by a soft mid brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks (7/07). The ditch was almost parallel to that in Trenches 4 & 5. This feature was sealed by subsoil (7/02) which had a thickness of 0.26m.

Subsoil (7/02) was truncated by 7/04, a feature of unknown shape in plan or profile, approximately 3.5m in length by 1m in width, with a depth of 0.3m. The feature was filled with a soft mid grey clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded stone and charcoal flecks (7/05). This fill was indistinguishable from the subsoil, barring occasional charcoal flecks; as such the edges of the feature were difficult to determine, and the feature was only readily visible where it had truncated the geological horizon (7/03) (Fig. 3; section 7.01). This feature was overlain by topsoil (7/01), which had a thickness of 0.25m.

4.10 Trench 8 (Figure 4)

Trench 8 was 20m in length, 1m in width and aligned northeast – southwest. The geological horizon (8/03) was truncated by a series of features. At the northeastern end of the trench, (8/03) was truncated by three small features: 8/04 a sub-circular cut with steep concave sides and an irregular base, 0.2m in length by 0.2m in width and 0.1m in depth (Fig. 3; section 8.01. Plate 6), filled by a soft dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks (8/05). Located 0.2m to the north east was 8/06 an irregular feature with steep irregular sides and irregular to flat base, 0.77m in length by 0.38m in width (Fig. 3; section 8.01. Plate 6), filled by a soft dark brown silty clay with moderate flint pebbles (8/07). Located 1m to the south was 8/08, a circular cut with steep concave sides and a concave base, 0.3m in length by 0.25m in width (Fig. 3; section 8.03). Filled by a soft dark brown silty clay (8/09). 8/04 and 8/08 are postholes possibly in a line parallel to ditch 8/20 although none were seen in Trench 7.

Located approximately 1m to the south west was 8/20, a linear ditch aligned north - south with gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base, 1m in length by 2m in width and 0.19m in depth (Fig. 3; section 8.08. Plate 7). This feature was filled by a compact dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal fragments (8/21); two pieces of worked flint and three small fragments of animal bone were recovered from this context. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation. to the north into Trench 7 and southwards. From the profile the ditch appears to have been recut.

Located 0.7m to the south west of 8/20 was 8/19, a curvilinear feature with steep concave sides and a flat base (Fig 3; sections 8.04, 8.05 and 8.06. Plate 8). The feature ran on a north – south alignment for 1.4m, before turning to run southwest for 3.4m, terminating within the trench. The width varied between 0.5m and 0.95m and the depth varied between 0.06m and 0.16m. This feature was filled by a soft mid brown clayey silt (8/18). Fill (8/18) was truncated by 8/14, an irregular feature with steep concave sides and a flat base, 1.1m in length by 0.8m in width and 0.17m in depth (Fig. 3; section 8.05); this was filled by a compact mid brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular flint (8/13). 8/19 was closely associated with 8/17, a sub-ovoid cut with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base, 1.6m in length by 0.6m in width and 0.11m in depth, filled by a soft mid brown clayey silt (8/16).

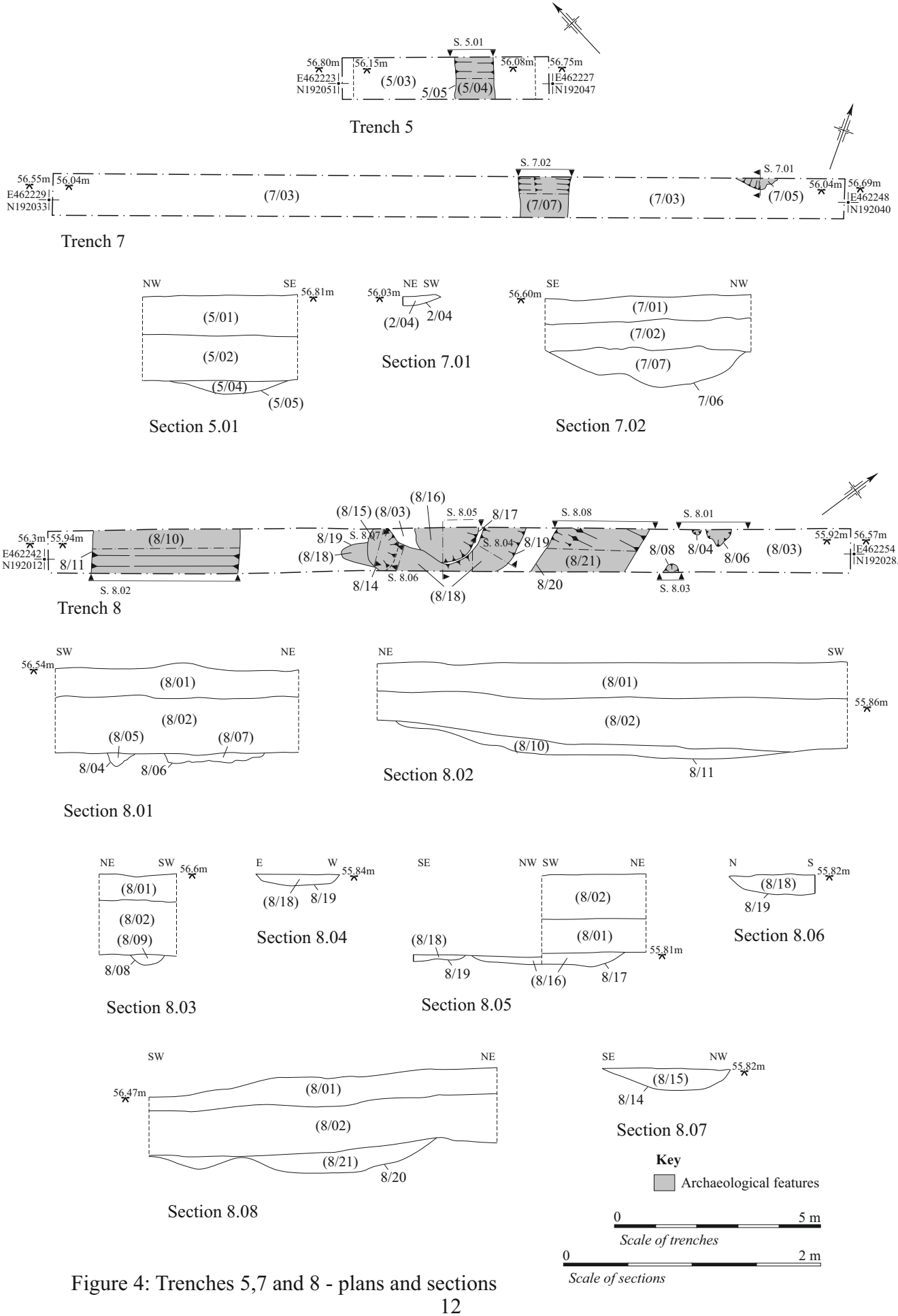


Figure 4: Trenches 5,7 and 8 - plans and sections

Plate 6: *Features 8/04 and 8/06; section 8.01. Looking north west.*

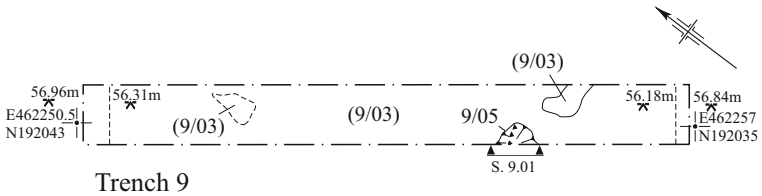
Plate 7: *Linear ditch 8/20; section 8.03. Looking north east.*

At the south western end of the trench, (8/03) was truncated by 8/11, a shallow linear feature aligned south east – north west with gently sloping slightly concave sides and a concave base; 3m in width (Fig 3; section 8.02. Plate 9). This was filled by a soft mid brown clayey silt with moderate flint pebbles (8/10), 0.12m thick.

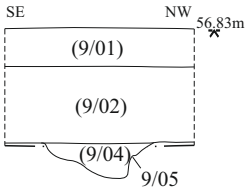
These features were sealed by subsoil (8/02) 0.4m in thickness; subsoil (8/02) was overlain by topsoil (8/01), 0.2m in thickness.

Plate 8: *Shallow gully 8/19; section 8.04. Looking south.*

Plate 9: *Linear feature 8/11; section 8.02. Looking south east.*



Trench 9



Section 9.01

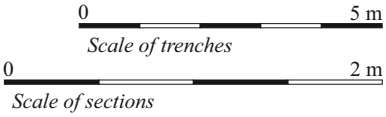


Figure 5: Trench 9 - plan and section

4.11 Trench 9 (Fig. 4)

Trench 9 was 10m in length, 1m in width and aligned northwest – southeast. The geological horizon (9/03) was truncated by a sub ovoid feature with steep irregular sides and concave to irregular base, 0.7m in length by 0.4m in width and 0.2m in depth (Fig 4; section 9.01); filled by a compact mid brownish grey clay (9/04). This features was sealed by subsoil (9/02) with a thickness of 0.25m which in turn was overlain by topsoil (9/01), 0.2m in thickness.

4.12 Reliability of results

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in dry conditions. The reliability of the results can be considered to be good and the nature of the work to evaluate the site has been successful.

5 FINDS *By Simona Denis*

5.1 Animal bone

43 fragments of animal bone, with a combined weight of 710.3 gr, were collected from three contexts. The items are in a good state of preservation, although extremely fragmentary; no complete bone was found.

With the exception of the three small fragments found in ditch fill (8/21), the entirety of assemblage was found in pit 4/06. 65% of the animal bone was recovered from the top fill (4/07), with an additional 27% found in the lower fill (4/08).

Species Identification
The fragmentary nature of the items prevented a positive identification of the species for the largest part of the assemblage; however, most of the examples were assigned to the ovine *genus* on the basis of their size range.

Sheep/goat bones constitute the vast majority of the collection, with 7 positively identified fragments and additional 19 ovine-sized examples, forming over 60% of the assemblage.
4 horse bones were also recognised, constituting 9% of the collection.

13 fragments, or 30% of the animal bone group, remain unidentified due to the small size and lack of diagnostic features.

Butchering Marks
Cut marks were observed on 6 of the animal bone fragments, representing different phases of the butchering process. The most represented is the chop mark, recorded on 4 different bones; a single example showed multiple knick marks, while multiple filleting cuts were observed on one additional fragment. With the exception of a single mark observed on the horse humerus, all of the butchering marks recorded occurred on sheep/goat remains.

Chop Marks
Chop marks are the result of the use of heavy implements, such as cleavers or large knifes, and produced during the initial phases of the butchering process, from the slaughter to the large portioning of the carcass (Seetah 2009).

The four bone fragments bearing chop marks were equally distributed between (4/07) and (4/08). The typical smooth surface at the point of impact was observed on two of the bones, while the two remaining examples showed the fragmented exit point.

Knick
Knick marks are generally found in areas where the bone has a greater degree of architecture. The sheep/goat proximal femur fragment found in (4/07) bears four parallel knick marks on the surface of the head, possibly as result of the process of disarticulation.

Filleting Marks
This type of mark is produced by the insertion of the tip of the knife to detach the muscles from the bones. This activity is most commonly noted on groups of bones that are in close articulation, such as the vertebrae (Seetah 2009), as in the sheep/goat rib head fragment collected from (4/07).

Context	Species	Type	No. of Items	Weight (gr)	Marks
4/07	Sheep/Goat	Proximal metacarpus	4	129.1	Chop
		Proximal radius	1	4.8	
		Distal humerus	1	14.4	
	? Sheep/Goat	Rib	9	47	Filleting
		Thoracic vertebra	1	14.6	
		Proximal femur	1	19.4	Knick
		Long bone diaphysis	1	5.4	
	Horse	Distal humerus	1	105.4	Chop
		Axis	1	38	
	Unidentified mammal	Distal humerus	1	26.4	
		Long bone diaphysis	6	44.5	
4/08	Sheep/Goat	Proximal radius	1	121.5	Chop
	? Sheep/Goat	Vertebra	3	35.1	
		Atlas	1	16.4	
		Rib	2	15.5	
		Long bone diaphysis	1	14.8	Chop
	Horse	Molar	1	46	
	Unidentified mammal	Unidentified	3	10.6	
8/21	Unidentified mammal	Unidentified	3	14	

Table 1: Animal bone

Undiagnostic and unmarked fragments are not recommended for retention.

5.2 Flint

A small assemblage flint of a total weight of 52.2 gr was recovered from two different contexts.

Context	Type	Weight (gr)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Striking platform	Bulb of percussion	Bulbar scar	Ripp les
4/07	?Debitage	13.5	48	22	None	None	None	?
8/21	Core	4	23	21	?	x	x	x
	Cortical flake	34.7	74	43	x	x	x	x

Table 2: Flint

The two items found in (8/21) were positively identified as worked flint; all of the distinctive features characteristic of man-made flint were observed on the cortical flake as well as on the core (Burningham 2015, Skeen 2012). Possible ripples were noted on the example collected from (4/07), but none of the other features were observed.

The absence of diagnostic tools prevents dating of the objects.

5.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

No deposits deemed suitable for palaeo-environmental analysis were identified, and as such no samples were taken.

6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological field evaluation was successful and meets the aims of the investigations, as laid out in the WSI.

Linear features were recorded in Trenches 4, 5, 7 and 8 (Fig. 2); these features were similar in form, and ditches 7/06 and 8/20 ran on roughly the same north– south alignment and are probably the same feature. The only dating evidence recovered was two pieces of worked flint from 8/20, providing a possible prehistoric date. Given the known prehistoric activity within the area it is entirely possible that these features are ditches relating to a field system or enclosure of prehistoric date. An evaluation by Thames Valley Archaeological Services 800m to the west of the site recorded a series of similar, albeit greater number of undated linear features (Weale 2010).

The cluster of features in Trench 8 may represent an area of more intense activity associated with ditch 8/20; features 8/04 and 8/08 appear to run parallel to the ditch, possibly suggesting that they are post-holes associated with the ditch. Feature 8/11 may represent another linear feature such as a furrow although nothing similar was seen in the other trenches. However due to the ephemeral nature of the feature it seems equally likely to be a depression in the geology within which a natural subsoil has accumulated. 8/19 can be interpreted as a curvilinear gully, however the shallow nature of the feature may suggest substantial truncation through ploughing during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The presence of pit 4/06 to the north-east further suggests that some form of occupation occurred within the immediate area. The function of this pit is uncertain; the fills consisted of redeposited natural, suggesting a relatively quick period of cutting and backfilling.

A ditch was also seen in Trenches 4 and 5 but remains undated.

Features 1/04, 2/05, 8/06 and 9/05 are considered to be the result of natural processes such as rooting or animal burrowing; the cuts were shallow and irregular while the fills were sterile and subsoil like.

The soil depth varied across the site, increasing in depth from 0.35m in the north to 0.65m in the south. This suggests that the potential for the preservation of archaeological remains may be lower to the north, where truncation through ploughing is likely to have had greater impact.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents
The archive consists of the following:

Paper record	Physical record
The project brief	Finds
Written scheme of investigation	
The project report	
The primary site record	

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Oxfordshire County Museums Service under accession code OXCMS:2015.251.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench context inventory *

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1								
1/01	Deposit	Loose dark brown silty loam.	0.15	Trench	Trench	None	Topsoil	Modern
1/02	Deposit	Firm dark brown clayey silt with moderate sub-rounded/rounded stone	0.25	Trench	Trench	None	Subsoil – former ploughsoil horizon.	Post-Medieval
1/03	Deposit	Compact mid grey silty clay with frequent sub-angular to angular light whitish grey limestone.	-	Trench	Trench	None	Geological Horizon	Quarternary – formed approximately 2 million years ago.
1/04	Cut	Sub-ovoid in plan with Sharp BoS at top and base, steep concave sides and a concave base.	0.14	0.40	0.52	N/A	Sub-ovoid feature. Assumed to be natural rooting or animal burrowing.	Undated
1/05	Fill	Firm mid brown silt.	0.14	0.40	0.52	None	Fill of 1/04	Undated
Trench 2								
2/01	Deposit	Friable dark brown silty loam.	0.1	Trench	Trench	None	Topsoil	Modern
2/02	Deposit	Firm dark greyish brown clayey silt.	0.25	Trench	trench	None	Subsoil – former ploughsoil horizon.	Post-Medieval
2/03	Deposit	Compact mid grey silty clay with frequent sub-angular to angular light whitish grey limestone.	-	Trench	Trench	None	Geological Horizon	Quarternary – formed approximately 2 million years ago.
2/04	Cut	Sub-circular in plan with sharp BoS at top and base, steep sides and irregular/flat base.	0.08	0.2	0.4	None	Irregular natural feature.	Undated
2/05	Fill	Compact light brown silt with frequent stone.	0.08	0.2	0.4	None	Fill of 2/04	Undated
Trench 3								
3/01	Deposit	Friable dark blackish brown silty loam.	0.25	Trench	Trench	None	Topsoil	Modern
3/02	Deposit	Soft mid brownish grey clayey silt.	0.3	Trench	Trench	None	Subsoil – former ploughsoil horizon.	Post-Medieval
3/03	Deposit	Compact light to mid-grey clay with frequent sub-angular to angular light whitish grey limestone	-	Trench	Trench	None	Geological Horizon	Quarternary – formed approximately 2 million years ago.
Trench 4								

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Interpretation	Date
4/01	Deposit	Friable mid brown silty sand.	0.38	Trench	Trench	None	Topsoil	Modern
4/02	Deposit	Soft mid yellow silty sand.	0.32	Trench	Trench	None	Subsoil	Post-Medieval
4/03	Deposit	Whitish yellow compact silty clay clay with frequent sub-angular to angular	-	Trench	Trench	None	Natural	Quarternary – formed approximately 2 million years ago.
		light whitish grey limestone						
4/04	Cut	Linear in plan with sharp BoS at top and base. Irregular to concave sides and concave base.	0.12	>0.6	>1.0	None	Linear ditch cut.	Undated
4/05	Fill	Compact dark brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks and sub-rounded stone.	0.12	>0.6	>1.0	None	Fill of 4/04	Undated
4/06	Cut	Sub-ovoid in plan with sharp BoS at top, steep concave sides. Base not excavated.	>0.6	>1.0	>1.6	None	Sub-ovoid pit cut.	Undated
4/07	Fill	Compact mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent sub-angular limestone.	0.32	>1.0	>1.6	Animal bone	Fill of 4/06	Undated
4/08	Fill	Compact mid brownish grey silty sand with moderate sub-angular limestone.	>0.3	>1.0	>1.6	Animal bone	Fill of 4/06	Undated
Trench 5								
5/01	Deposit	Friable dark brownish black silty loam.	0.24	Trench	Trench	None	Topsoil	Modern
5/02	Deposit	Soft mid brownish grey clayey silt with moderate sub-rounded stone <20mm.	0.3	Trench	Trench	None	Subsoil – former ploughsoil horizon.	Post-Medieval
5/03	Deposit	Compact light to mid-grey clay with frequent sub-angular to angular light whitish grey limestone.	-	Trench	Trench	None	Geological horizon.	Quarternary – formed approximately 2 million years ago.
5/04	Fill	Compact mid grey silty clay.	0.1	1.0	>1.0	None	Fill of 5/05.	Undated
5/05	Cut	Linear aligned NE-SW with Gradual BoS at top and base, gently sloping concave sides and a concave base.	0.1	1.0	>1.0	None	Shallow linear feature.	Undated
Trench 6								
6/01	Deposit	Dark blackish brown friable loamy silt.	0.15	Trench	Trench	None	Topsoil	Modern
6/02	Deposit	Soft mid grey clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded stone.	0.25	Trench	Trench	None	Subsoil – former ploughsoil horizon.	Post-Medieval

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Interpretation	Date
6/03	Deposit	Compact mid-grey clay with frequent sub-angular to angular light whitish grey limestone.	-	Trench	Trench	None	Geological horizon.	Quarternary – formed approximately 2 million years ago.
Trench 7								
7/01	Deposit	Friable dark blackish brown silty loam	0.25	Trench	Trench	None	Topsoil	Modern
7/02	Deposit	Soft mid grey clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded stone.	0.26	Trench	Trench	None	Subsoil – former ploughsoil horizon.	Post-Medieval
7/03	Deposit	Compact light to mid-grey clay with frequent sub-angular to angular light whitish grey limestone.	-	Trench	Trench	None	Geological horizon.	Quarternary – formed approximately 2 million years ago
7/04	Cut	Unknown shape in plan.	0.3	Unknown	Unknown	None	Modern pit or disturbance	Undated
7/05	Fill	Soft mid grey clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded stone, charcoal.	0.3	Unknown	Unknown	None	Fill of 7/04	Undated
7/06	Cut	Linear in plan. Sharp BoS at top and base with steep concave sides and a concave base. Aligned NE – SW.	0.2	1.54	>1.0	None	Linear ditch cut.	Undated
7/07	Fill	Soft mid brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks.	0.2	1.54	>1.0	None	Fill of 7/06	Undated
Trench 8								
8/01	Deposit	Friable dark brown silty clay.	0.2	Trench	Trench	None	Topsoil	Modern
8/02	Deposit	Soft mid brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones.	0.4	Trench	Trench	None	Subsoil – former ploughsoil horizon.	Post-Medieval
8/03	Deposit	Compact mid brown silty clay with occasional stones.	-	Trench	Trench	None	Geological horizon.	Quarternary – formed approximately 2 million years ago.
8/04	Cut	Sub-circular in plan with sharp BoS at top and base with steep concave sides and an irregular base.	0.1	0.2	0.2	None	Natural feature	Undated
8/05	Fill	Soft dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks.	0.1	0.2	0.2	None	Fill of 8/04	Undated
8/06	Cut	Irregular in plan with sharp BoS at top and base with steep irregular sides and flat irregular base.	0.08	0.38	0.77	None	Natural feature	Undated
8/07	Fill	Soft dark brown silty clay with moderate flint pebbles.	0.08	0.38	0.77	None	Fill of 8/06	Undated

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Interpretation	Date
8/08	Cut	Circular in plan with sharp BoS at top and base, steep concave sides and a concave base.	0.09	0.25	0.3	None	Natural feature	Undated
8/09	Fill	Soft dark brown silty clay.	0.09	0.25	0.3	None	Fill of 8/08	Undated
8/10	Fill	Soft mid brown clayey silt with moderate flint <80mm.	0.12	3.0	>1.0	None	Fill of 8/11	Undated
8/11	Cut	Linear in plan, aligned SE-NW. Gradual BoS at top and base, with gently sloping slightly concave sides and a concave base.	0.12	3.0	>1.0	None	Possible linear feature	Undated
8/12	Cut	Linear in plan, aligned NE-SW. Sharp BoS at top and base with steep sides and a flat base.	0.16	>1.0	3.5	None	Shallow gully	Undated
8/13	Fill	Compact mid brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular flint.	0.16	>1.0	3.5	None	Fill of 8/12	Undated
8/14	Cut	Irregular in plan. Sharp BoS at top and base with steep concave sides and a flat base.	0.17	0.8	1.1	None	Irregular pit	Undated
8/15	Fill	Loose mid brown silty sand with moderate sub-rounded stone.	0.17	0.8	1.1	None	Fill of 8/14	Undated
8/16	Fill	Soft mid brown clayey silt.	0.11	0.9	1.6	None	Fill of 8/17	Undated
8/17	Cut	Sub-ovoid in plan. Sharp BoS at top and base with moderate concave sides and a concave base.	0.11	0.9	1.6	None	Irregular pit	Undated
8/18	Fill	Soft mid brown clayey silt.	0.06	1.0	>3.5	None	Fill of 8/19	Undated
8/19	Cut	Curvilinear in plan. Sharp BoS at top and base with steep concave sides and a flat base.	0.06	1.0	>3.5	None	Shallow gully	Undated
8/20	Cut	Linear in plan, aligned N-S. Sharp BoS at top and base with gently sloping sides and a flat base.	0.19	2.0	>1.0	None	Linear ditch	Possible Prehistoric
8/21	Fill	Compact dark brown silty clay.	0.19	2.0	>1.0	Flint, Bone	Fill of 8/20	Possible Prehistoric
Trench 9								
9/01	Deposit	Friable dark blackish brown silty loam	0.2	Trench	Trench	None	Topsoil	Modern
9/02	Deposit	Soft mid brown grey clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded stone.	0.25	Trench	Trench	None	Subsoil – former ploughsoil horizon.	Post-Medieval

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Interpretation	Date
9/03	Deposit	Compact grey clay with frequent sub-angular stone.	-	Trench	Trench	None	Geological horizon.	Quarternary – formed approximately 2 million years ago.
9/04	Fill	Compact mid brownish grey clay.	0.2	0.4	0.7	None	Fill of 9/05	Undated
9/05	Cut	Sub-ovoid in plan. Sharp BoS at top and base with steep irregular sides and concave to irregular base.	0.2	0.4	0.7	None	Small natural feature	Undated

* – All dimensions of context are given as excavated