

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

THE HARCOURT ARMS, MAIN ROAD

STANTON HARCOURT, WITNEY

OXFORDSHIRE OX29 5RJ

NGR SP 41528 05710

On behalf of

Ralt Engineering Ltd

JULY 2017

REPORT FOR Ralt Engineering Ltd.
Sutton Farm
Sutton
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX29 5RD

PREPARED BY Pierre-Damien Manisse, with contributions by Roxanne Blanks, Paul Blinkhorn, Simona Denis, Emily Edwards and Edwin Pearson

ILLUSTRATION BY Autumn Robson and Anne Huvig

EDITED BY John Moore

AUTHORISED BY John Moore

REPORT ISSUED 12th July 2017

FIELDWORK Andrej Čelovský, Gavin Davis, Kimberley Dowding, Steve Leech and Pierre-Damien Manisse

FIELDWORK DATE 18th November 2015 - 5th September 2016

ENQUIRES TO John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ

Tel: 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

JMHS Project No: 3392
OASIS No: johnmoor1-273275
Site Code: SHMR 15
Archive Location: The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to Oxfordshire County Museums Service with the accession number 2015.212

CONTENTS

	Page
SUMMARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	1
2. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	3
3. STRATEGY	3
3.1 Research Design	3
3.2 Methodology	3
4. RESULTS	4
4.1 Field Results	4
4.1.1 General deposits	4
4.1.2 Prehistoric period	5
4.1.3 Medieval period	9
4.1.3.1 Features pre-dating the 13 th century	9
4.1.3.2 Features pre-dating the 15 th century	12
4.1.3.3 Features of the 15 th -16 th century	16
4.1.4 Post-medieval and modern periods	17
4.1.5 Undated features	20
4.2 Reliability of Results	21
5. FINDS	25
5.1 Pottery	25
5.1.1 Prehistoric Pottery <i>by Emily Edwards</i>	25
5.1.2 Medieval Pottery <i>by Paul Blinkhorn</i>	27
5.2 Clay pipe <i>by Simona Denis</i>	31
5.3 Ceramic Building Material <i>by Simona Denis</i>	33
5.4 Fired Clay <i>by Simona Denis</i>	34
5.5 Human remains <i>by Roxanne Blanks</i>	34
5.6 Faunal and Floral Remains	36
5.6.1 Animal Bone <i>by Roxanne Blanks</i>	36
5.6.2 Shell <i>by Pierre-Damien Manisse</i>	48
5.6.3 Seed <i>by Simona Denis</i>	48
5.7 Metalwork <i>by Simona Denis</i>	48
5.8 Glass <i>by Simona Denis</i>	52
5.9 Flint <i>by Edwin Pearson</i>	51
6. DISCUSSION	52
7. ARCHIVE	54
8. BIBLIOGRAPHY	55

FIGURES, PLATES AND TABLES

	Page
Figure 1. Site Location	2
Figure 2. Plan of the backyard	7
Figure 3. Plan of the south-east trench and its extension	11
Figure 4. Plan of village shop	19
Figure 5. Sections 1 to 22	22
Figure 6. Sections 23 to 54	23
Figure 7. Sections 55 to 63	24
Plate 1. General view of the backyard area	6
Plate 2. Truncated and inverted cremation urn <i>in situ</i>	6
Plate 3. Pit 43	8
Plate 4. Ditches 156, 160, 162 , postholes 183, 164	10
Plate 5. Ditch 21	12
Plate 6. Ditch 144	13
Plate 7. Ditches 129/131 and modern pit 133	13
Plate 8. Pit 26	14
Plate 9. Pit 26 , ditches 35 and 24 , posthole 38	14
Plate 10. Ditch 148	15
Plate 11. Ditch 174 and recuts 168, 172, 179	15
Plate 12. Ditch 100	16
Plate 13. Pit 39 and ditch 33	17
Plate 14. Pits 138 and 140	18
Plate 15. Features 13 and 11	18
Plate 16. Pit 127 with piglet remains	20
Plate 17. <i>Sus</i> tibia fragments from context (163)	36
Plate 18. Charred fragments of bone from context (145)	40
Plate 19. Reconstructed distal metacarpal (<i>Bos</i>) from context (145)	41
Plate 20. Fragments of an unidentified juvenile mammal from context (151)	41
Plate 21. <i>Ovis</i> mandible from context (161)	41
Table 1. Prehistoric pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context and fabric type	25
Table 2. Medieval Ceramic Phase Chronology, Occurrence and Defining Wares	28
Table 3. Medieval Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type	29-30
Table 4. Clay tobacco pipe occurrence by feature and context	32
Table 5. Ceramic building material occurrence by feature and context	33
Table 6. The animal remains from prehistoric contexts	38-39
Table 7. The animal bone assemblage from the 11 th – 12 th centuries	39
Table 8. The 13 th – 14 th centuries animal remains assemblage	42-45
Table 9. The 15 th – 16 th centuries animal remains assemblage	45-46
Table 10. The animal bone from undated contexts	46-48
Table 11. Oyster shell occurrence by context	48
Table 12. Iron objects occurrence by context	49
Table 13. Glass occurrence by feature and context	51

Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at The Harcourt Arms, Stanton Harcourt (NGR SP 41528 05710) on behalf of Ralt Engineering Ltd. This took place after a previous historic building assessment. This second phase of work can be divided into multiple stages. A first stage was conducted the 18th November 2015 with groundworks consisting of the excavation of footings trenches for a new village shop. Only modern pits and layers were revealed during this phase. A second stage for extensions to the public house, consisting of ground reduction, saw multiple prehistoric and medieval features unearthed. The prehistoric part, concentrated to the south-east of the main building, included a ditch, several postholes or small pits and a possible cremation burial. Dates provided by the pottery point towards an occupation through all the Iron Age period. The principal phase of medieval occupation of the site, to the south, is probably to be dated between the 12th and 14th century with at least six main linear features (and their recuts), a massive pit and one posthole. Only two ditches can be assigned to late medieval activity (15th – 16th century). Further developments occurred during the post-medieval and modern periods in the form of plantation or rubbish pits (among which one contained a piglet burial).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located on the west side of the Main Road, in Stanton Harcourt (NGR SP 41528 05710), around The Harcourt Arms public house, a grade II listed building (No. 1053130).

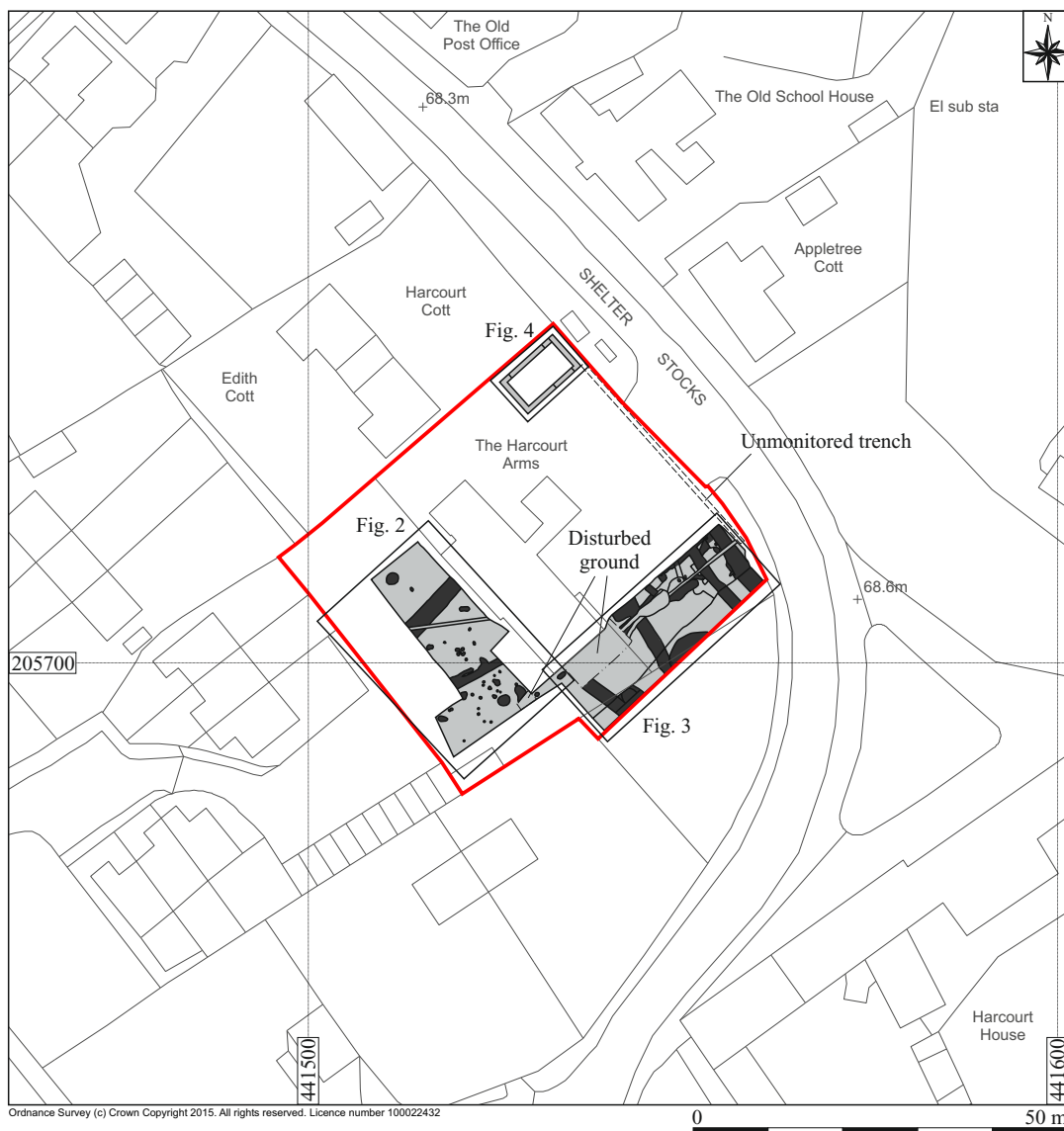
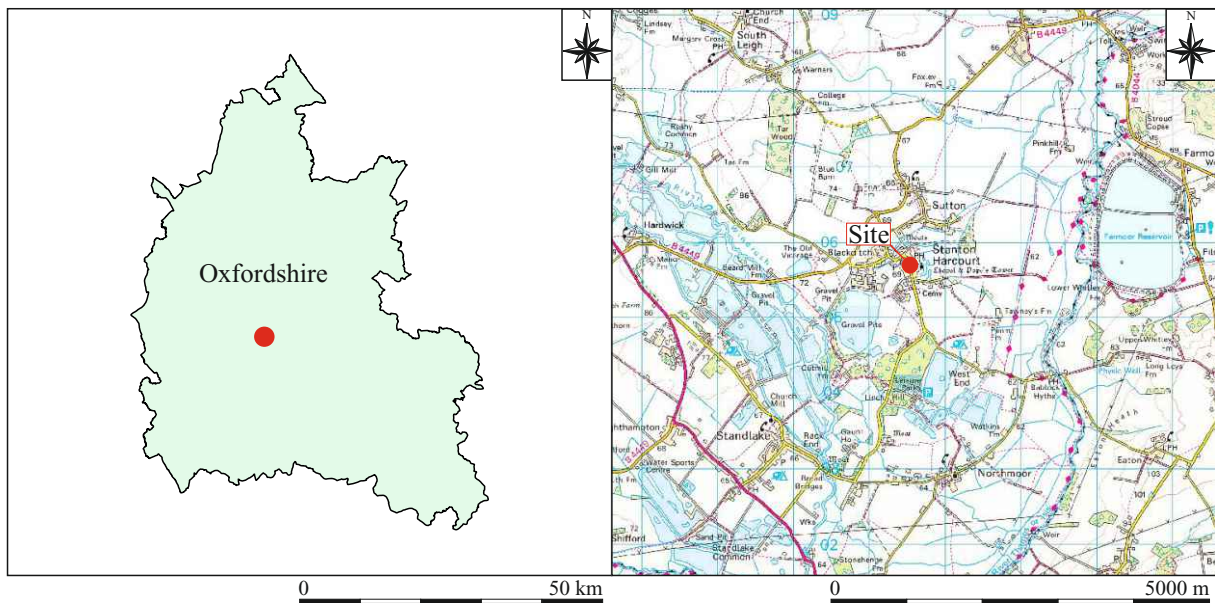
The site lies approximately between 68m and 70m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is Summertown Radley Sand and Gravel. The area, approximately 2000m², was used as a public house with a concrete car park in the front and a garden at the back of the house.

1.2 Planning Background

West Oxfordshire District Council granted planning permission for internal and external works of repair and improvements, removal of existing extensions, erection of new extensions to provide new kitchens, a dining room, a plant room, a store room, a ground floor bedroom with disabled access and further bedrooms at first floor level; and a new village shop (15/02599/FUL). Due to the potential for the work to disturb archaeological deposits a condition (11) was attached to the permission requiring the submission and approval of a Written Scheme of Investigation and the maintaining of an archaeological watching brief during the period of construction/ground works. This was in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

1.3 Archaeological Background

The parish of Stanton Harcourt contains a Late Neolithic henge (known as the “Devil’s Quoit”) and several Bronze Age barrows/ring ditch sites were recorded around the



Key Site boundary Monitored area Archaeological features

Figure 1: Site location

village. There was settlement activity in the parish in the Iron Age and Roman periods and several scatters are referenced. Multiple cropmarks are also visible on air photographs. Saxon settlement is considered to have been concentrated in the vicinity of the modern village.

The village was in existence at the time of Domesday when it was referred to as *Stantone* and whose Lord was bishop Odo of Bayeux in 1086. A more developed account can be found in the building assessment report.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- to make a record of any significant archaeological remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular:

- to record any evidence relating to the known prehistoric and Roman landscape of the area, and any Saxon, medieval and post-medieval village remains on the site.

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, the archaeological advisor to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

An archaeologist was present on site during the course of all groundwork associated with the development that could potentially impact archaeological remains: including surface stripping, excavation for new foundations and services and test pits. Where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately. 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. A photographic record was also produced.

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

3.2 Methodology

The footings trenches for the village shop (Fig. 4) were excavated by a 3.5 tonne 360° machine (Hanix H36C), fitted with a ditching bucket (0.60m wide) in November 2015.

For this, levels were deduced from the contractor's master plan. The foundation trenches for the new shop were 0.70-0.75m wide, cumulating 54.8m in total length.

A trench to the south, some service trenches (running from the village shop footings to the south) and demolition of part of the existing building accompanied by some important ground reduction took place without an archaeologist being present. The aforementioned water service trench was already almost completely backfilled before a visit was made, so no record could be made. The south trench (Plan 4), partially excavated in the adjoining field was also excavated months before our arrival. After some trench cleaning, features were clearly visible. Later on, ground reduction resumed, extending the south trench towards the actual building and encompassing a large area at the back of the pub (Fig. 2). On figure 3, plan 2 is the northern continuation of plan 4 but stripped a bit deeper. Thus a perfect bonding of the plans was not possible and they are presented separately.

The ground reduction to the back of the public house (Fig. 2) was done intermittently with a 12 tonne 360° excavator (Hitachi EX120), equipped with a 1.60m wide ditching bucket. It occurred in March 2016. Though possibly heavily disturbed by part of the former - now demolished – building, an area was dug deeper than the top geological horizon, thus leaving no chance for any archaeology to survive. There the land was also stripped further SW under supervision this time, revealing multiple features below the actual garden. After those were recorded an extension to the SSW corner was dug as well as some part SE of demolished extension without being monitored (features 117 to 127). Finally, a few months later, a deep but limited slot was dug at the beginning of the south trench (Fig. 3, eastern part of Plan 4).

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for finds relating to Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon activity. It was also checked by metal detector. Up to three archaeologists were present on site to deal with the unearthed vestiges.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Field Results

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in bold without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts, numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material, while numbers in [] indicate structural features. 208 single context numbers were assigned, of whom 83 were cuts. Unless otherwise specified, the infill of most of the features was a natural silting up process. Below are described the various features encountered. Their relative positions and dating are referred to more deeply in the Discussion chapter.

4.1.1 General deposits

The geological horizon (10) consisted of a mid yellow/orange sand and gravel deposit, matching the recorded geology. It was not always observed in the trenches for the village shop (Fig. 4); whether the depth of the trenches was not sufficient, or other layers increase the depth at which it could have been seen. For example in the southern part of the new shop, it appeared at only 0.70 to 0.90m below the actual surface whereas

in the northern corner of the footings trenches; despite a sondage to 1.40m below the ground level it was not visible.

Overlying this geological horizon in the village shop footprint was a firm mid brown sandy gravel deposit (09), with some reddish tone. Its thickness was variable, increasing closer to the Main Road to at least 0.80m (compared to only 0.30m in the south-west). It was found all across the footings trenches. This as a naturally accumulated loess deposit, into which were some modern cuts. Its depth of 0.80m+ is surprising. Also present everywhere, overlaying (09), was another deposit (08), a medium compacted mid grey-brown clayey sand with very common gravels and rare charcoal flecks. Rare animal bones and 19th/20th century pottery found within were not retained. Above it there were multiple layers ((01)-(07) and (17); see Fig. 5, S.1-2) that could be related to modern phases of development of the ground. That includes a concrete surface (04) and its bedding (05)+(06), which was overlaid by the present parking: tarmac (01) and made-up grounds (02)+(03).

In the south-east area, the excavation went down to the top geological horizon (10) in which archaeological features survived. Above it existed a former occupation level, (20), a dark brown sandy loam with occasional gravels and 0.20-0.25m thick, present everywhere and presumably post-medieval in date. On top of it, in the north-west section, made-up ground (19) for the parking was observed. Topsoil (18) was overlaying areas not covered by concrete. Here conditions were not optimal as this trench was opened weeks before the arrival of an archaeologist. Despite this, multiple linear features and pits were recorded.

In the backyard (rear of the public house building), garden soil (18) directly overlaid the geology (10).

4.1.2 Prehistoric period

The backyard (**Figure 2** and **Plate 1**) was mostly occupied during prehistory, almost unaffected by medieval developments and discreetly re-used quite recently. All the Iron Age features, in the form of pits, postholes and ditch clustered here.

Gully **65**, was very shallow gully, 0.10 to 0.14m deep, with a width of 0.54m on the North West side of ditch **63**. It was only observed for 2m due to pit **75** (Fig. 5, S.22). Fill (66) was a slightly darker than (64). The relationship between **65** and **63** was not apparent due to the later pit **75** truncating it.

Despite its full extent not being known, pit **75** was likely a sub-circular pit with steep to sub-vertical sides and a flattish concave bottom. Its diameter was at least 1.20m. Despite a section being excavated to ascertain the relationship between **75** and **63**, the similarity of the fills did not allow a definite answer, though it is suspected that the pit came earlier. Its fill, (76), was siltier and had a thickness of about 0.44m.



Plate 1: General view of the backyard area (before further extension to the SW corner)

Ditch **63** was 1.20m wide and 0.18m to 0.23m deep, with a single fill, (64). This ditch runs WSW-ENE (approximately at 240°) for more than 6.20m, and possibly truncates pit **75**. This was dated to the late Iron Age. The fill, (64), was a commonly observed compact mid brown sand and gravels with rare charcoals.

So the relative chronology would have been: first the gully **63**, at some point disused; then pit **75** was created and later obliterated by ditch **63**, reaffirming the partition initiated by the gully.

114 was a sub-circular small pit, 0.40-0.41m in width, 3m south-east of ditch **63**. There was a sharp break of slope on top, then steep slopes (north side was steeper than south side), afterwards a gradual break of slope and a flattish bottom (Fig. 6, S.41). Within the fill (115) was a broken complete vessel upside-down. The top of the pot had been probably cut by the machine during site stripping. The full content of this inverted very fragile ceramic, (116), was sampled (◇2) and post-excitation revealed that it contained a few residual human burnt bones and one seed. It was therefore a probable cremation burial (see **Plate 2**).



Plate 2: Truncated and inverted cremation urn *in situ*

Two metres north-west of ditch **63** was a collection of more or less convincing small shallow pits or postholes: **67**, **84**, **88**, **90**, **92** and **94**, which had a similar fill, a mid brown sand and gravels, with very rare charcoal flecks and whose depth did not exceed 0.08-0.10m. Two of them contained Iron Age potsherds, (68) in **67** and (91), the infill of **90**. **90** had an oval shape, measuring 0.52 by 0.42m. The surviving depth was 0.08m. The bottom was irregular, possibly due to bioturbations, and the sides were concave (Fig. 6, S.29). **94**'s profile was the same, with a slightly concave base, gradual break of slope at bottom (Fig. 6, S.30) and dimensions very similar: 0.58 x 0.35 x 0.08m. The oval feature **88**, 0.62 x 0.50m, was slightly deeper, 0.10m. Its fill, (89), contained bone.

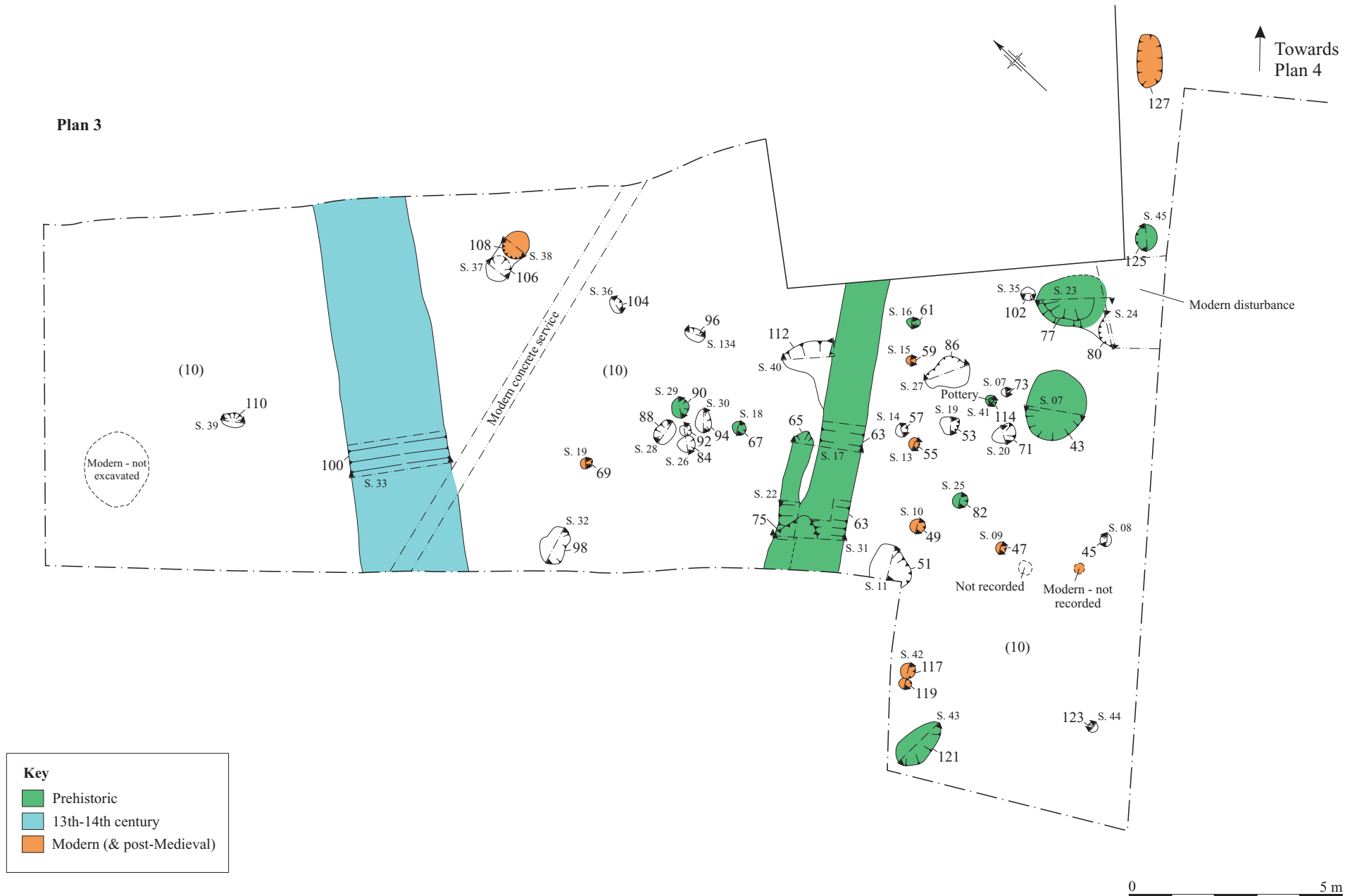


Figure 2: Plan 3

Overall it had a flattish base though some bioturbations disturbed it (S28). The base of **84** was irregular (Fig. 6, S26), while the plan was sub-circular, measuring 0.36 x 0.33m for a depth of 0.08m. In addition the sides were as well irregular. Its fill, 85, contained a small bronze tool (Δ 8). **67** was sub-circular, with gentle slopes (Fig. 5, S.18). It was very shallow (0.05m). Taken together the features might have formed some kind of light structure.

Numerous other features contained a medium compacted mid brown sand and gravels infill, with very rare charcoal flecks (fills were described below only if different). Though most of the feature described below contained no dating evidence the assumption that they all date from Iron Age can be considered due to the similarity of their fills.

Postholes not aforementioned included **45**, **53**, **57**, **71**, **73**, **82**, **102**, all located SE of ditch **63**. Sub-circular posthole **45** had a diameter of 0.30-0.32m with a depth of 0.13m. It is best described as having moderate to steep sides with a soft v-shaped bottom (Fig. 5, S.8); this posthole was undated. **53** was probably the remnant base of a posthole, deeper originally than the 0.08m preserved (Fig. 5, S.12). The diameter was close to 0.40m and survived as a shallow concave feature. Animal bone was found within its fill **54**. **71** can likewise be probably considered as the bottom of another posthole, reduced to a mere 0.12m depth, with moderate slopes and an irregular base (Fig. 5, S.20). The recorded dimensions were 0.56 x 0.46m. Fill **72** was devoid of finds. **73** was a circular posthole, with a diameter around 0.22-0.23m and depth of 0.08m. Moderate sloping sides gradually turned into a flat bottom (Fig. 5, S.21). It was filled with the usual mid brown sand and gravel, again without any finds. **82**'s depth again survived 0.08m. This sub-circular posthole (0.34 x 0.39) was clearly visible on the ground; a sharp break of slope at top, followed by moderate sides and gradual break of inclination at bottom led to a flattish bottom (Fig. 6, S.25). Single fill **82** contained Iron Age pottery. Circular shallow concave posthole **102**, located 0.15m next to pit **77**, was 0.35m in diameter and 0.09 in depth (Fig. 6, S.35).

43 was a large oval pit (1.70 x 1.50m), whose depth attained 0.41m. The edges stood out well on top. It possessed steep sides, gradually forming a flat base (Fig. 5, S.7). In the fill (**44**) some potsherds and animal bones were found.



Plate 3: Pit 43

Close to it was **71**, a much smaller oval pit, only 0.56 x 0.46m with a maximum depth of 0.12m. It had moderate slopes and an irregular bottom (Fig. 5, S.20).

51 was only partly visible as part of it was outside the excavated area. This pit measured 1.06 x >0.88m. It was characterized by steep sides and a slightly concave bottom (Fig. 5, S.11). Only a single fill, (52), was present, 0.23m thick, containing some animal bones.

77 was also difficult to apprehend in its entirety as it was truncated by a modern service trench. It seems it was a sub-circular/oval pit. Its length was 1.30m and its width 1.58m. The estimated maximum depth was 0.21m. The profile showed a gradual break of slope at the base, with a shallow slope down to a slightly concave bottom (Fig. 6, S.23-24). Possible primary fill (78) was a loose mid-grey-brown gravelly silt containing dating evidence in the form of pottery and also a few animal bones. It was overlaid by medium compacted mid reddish brown sandy silt deposit (79) with a moderate amount of fine gravels, also with animal bones and burnt pebbles (93 were counted in the section excavated), with an average size of 110 x 80 x 60mm). The occasional piece of fired clay was also collected. The outline of **77** was partly unclear as the direct stratigraphic relationship with a small pit or posthole **80** appended on its side could not be established. That was due to the similarity of fill 81 with 79. This feature had a diameter of 0.60m and a depth of 0.44m. The sides were steep and gradually formed a concave base.

In the south-west corner, pit **121** had an oval shape measuring 1.30 x 0.80m. Albeit being shallow (0.10m; Fig. 6, S.43), one prehistoric potsherd was found within its fill (122).

Pit **125** was a sub-circular feature (0.50 x 0.48m), whose depth attained 0.32m. It had steep to nearly vertical sides and a flat bottom (Fig. 6, S.45). The break of slope at the top and bottom was sharp. Iron Age pottery and animal bones were found inside the fill (126).

There was a long time gap before activity resumed on site.

4.1.3 Medieval period

This period of activity can be divided into distinct phases, based on pottery. Features of the 11th – 12th centuries have been grouped together with other undated ones cut by 13th century ditches. The 13th – 14th centuries characterized the next period of development and the following two centuries concludes activity for the medieval period.

4.1.3.1 Features pre-dating the 13th century

(193), a mid reddish brown silty sand and gravel deposit, was either of a pre or very early medieval date as 11-12th century ditch **156** was cut into it. This layer was rather defined by the limit of surrounding features than by clear edges and cut. Its thickness attained up to 0.30m and covers an irregular area of 2m x 6m.

Ditch **162** was observed through three sections (Fig. 6, S.51, Fig. 7, S.55, S59 and S.60). Cut by ditches **144=154** and **160=168** (as well as by posthole **183**) it could presumably extend below the modern road, longer than the 2.80m observed. The SSW terminus was probably chopped away by ditch **144=154** as it did not continue the other side of it. The pottery matched the stratigraphy and gave an 11th-12th century date. This is similar to nearby ditch **156=194**. Unfortunately their relationship remained unknown as it was under a preserved part of the parking bays. An estimated width of 1.20m was recorded and it was best described as a shallow ditch with moderate slopes and a slightly concave/flattish base.

Ditch **156 (=185=194)** was cut by **144**. This NE-SW linear feature **156** was dug through deposit 193 on its south-western end and through the natural on the other half. Because of the limit of the excavated area, it was only partially visible and the relationship between ditch **156** and ditch **160** could not be established. For the same reason, the complete profile of **156** could not be provided. Only three partial sections were excavated along its length (Fig. 6, S.54, Fig. 7, S.59 and S.60) and showed a 45° SW slope. The width was more than 0.40m and a depth greater than 0.23m could be expected. Pottery from the single fill (157) (=186)=(195)) proved an early medieval date.

164, a sub-circular feature (posthole?), with a diameter around 0.26-0.30m was at least 0.14m deep. It was cut at the edge of ditches **162=146** and **160=168**. It had steep sides and a flat bottom (Fig. 7, S.56). Its fill (165) was a firm mid brown clayey sand with frequent pebbles or small stones. The man-made nature of this feature was not ascertained. It could have worked with posthole 183. Again, stratigraphy supplies an early medieval date at the latest as upper fill of ditch **160** was masking it.



Plate 4: from the bottom of the photo came ditches **156** and **162**. The later was cut by posthole **183**. Next to that, another slot was made in natural feature **158**, posthole **164** (entirely dug) and ditch **160** coming from the SE.

183 was a more convincing sub-circular posthole, truncating ditch **162**. Its bottom, 0.44m deep, was slightly concave. This posthole was characterized by its 23° inclination

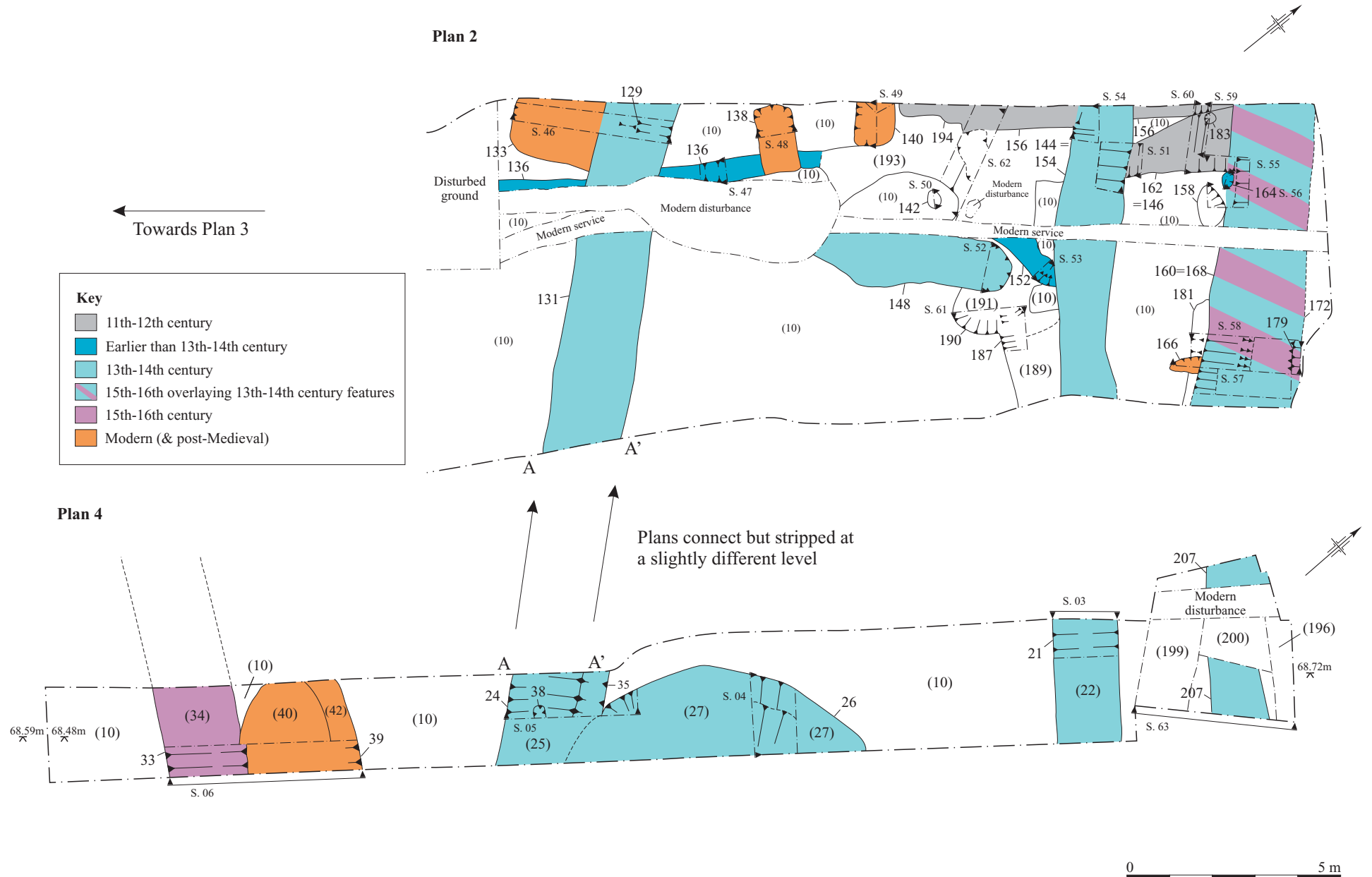


Figure 3: Plans 2 and 4

of axis with regular steep slopes (Fig. 7, S.59). The medium compacted mid brown sand with occasional gravels that filled it, (184), contained one sherd of pottery of early to mid- 11th century. This sherd could be residual as the posthole was later than the 11-12th century ditch it was cut into. Some larger stones (0.10-0.15m) on top of the infill could be the remnant of stone packing.

Truncated at one end by ditch **144** and by a modern service on the other was linear feature **152** (Fig. 6, S.53), whose orientation was around 280°. It could have been a large gully or a small ditch. It was at least 2m long and c. 0.65m wide. The south and north sides had different profiles: moderate then steep for one, sub-vertical then moderate for the other. The base was flat. The composition of its fill (153) was a mid reddish brown clayey silt with rare gravels, 0.23m thick. Some bone was recovered. The date is given in relation to the stratigraphy.

NE-SW gully **136** was cut by ditch **131**, by pit **138** and by a modern service trench. This 0.54m wide feature could be followed over 7.5m after which it disappeared within deposit (193). It had moderate slopes and a concave bottom (Fig. 6, S.47). This shallow linear feature was filled by (137), a single medium compacted mid brown silty sand and gravel, 0.12m thick, containing no dating evidence. Stratigraphically it was earlier than the 13-14th century level.

After that first sequence the site is the object of more structural upheaval.

4.1.3.2 Features pre-dating the 15th century

With the exception of ditch **100** in the backyard, all the features below were located east of the public house.

38 was probably a posthole as it was squared with rounded corners within the central southeast area. It could not be entirely seen within the excavated section (Fig. 5, S.5), but it measured at least >0.33m x 0.42m for a recorded depth of 0.22m. It had steep to sub-vertical sides and a flat bottom. Though its fill, (37), contained no finds, truncation by **24** guarantees a medieval or pre-medieval date. Again its fill 37 resembled ditch fill (25).

21 was a ditch running SE-NW (ca. 334-336°), 1.80m wide for a visible length of 2.30m. Its maximum depth was 0.46m, forming a slightly concave base with gentle sides (Fig. 5, S.3 and **Plate 5**). A 0.80m section was manually excavated, showing two fills. The upper fill, 23, was an orange-brown sandy gravel 0.08m thin deposit. The primary fill, 22, was a mid-greyish brown sand clay with occasional gravels and rare charcoals. It contained potsherds, assigned to the medieval period, as well as some animal bones.



Plate 5: Ditch 21



It continued for a further 6.8m with a similar orientation as no. **144** (=154) in the later stripped area. The NE side was rather irregular while the SW was straighter. Its width ranged from 1.20m to 1.50m with a preserved depth of 0.30m. The machine stripping was deeper than the trench, resulting in the truncation of the top fill. It had slopes at c. 45°, gradually forming a flat base. It truncated the terminus of ditch **146** (Fig. 6, S.51) and also possible ditch **156** (Fig. 6, S.54).

Plate 6: Looking SE, ditch **144** as it cut terminus of ditch **162** (terminus of ditch **148**, yet unexcavated, in top right corner)

24 was another ditch with an almost identical orientation. Its length was superior to 2.05m, with a width of 2m. It had a concave profile with moderate slopes (Fig. 5, S.5). The dating was the same as the previous feature, according to potsherds from its single fill, (25), a mid brown/greyish brown silty sand with gravels, 0.40m thick. **24** truncates an earlier gully, **35** and a possible posthole or small pit **38** (see above).

35 was also a linear feature going, from what could be seen, in the same direction but its smaller width, 0.70m, classifies it as a gully. It had a flat base and steep sides. Fill (36) was very like (25), also containing medieval potsherds.



Plate 7: Ditches **129/131** and modern pit **133**

Despite being truncated by various modern service trenches, it was clear that ditches **35** (=129) and **24** (=131) continued with the same orientation towards the NW for more than 10m (with **35** possibly slightly turning). It was assumed that the later cuts the former but again the fills within the 0.50m wide excavated section were very alike. The pottery date confirms the interpretation made on site.

At section (Fig. 6, S.46) the shape of **129** is indicated more a small ditch rather than a gully. Its preserved width was 0.70m for a depth of approximately 0.40m. The steep sides and flat bottom concur with the observation made for **35**. **129** was cut by **131**. The estimated width of **131** was 1.8m but the SW side was in turn truncated by a recent feature **133**, hindering a proper determination of the full profile of this ditch. Only a single fill was recognised for each ditch, similar to (36) and (25). It should be noted that animal bones were scarce, with pottery being far more common.

Also truncating gully **35** was a very large pit, **26**, whose extent continued outside of the trench. It measured not less than 5m x 2m (Plate 9). A 1m wide section through it could not reach entirely its bottom. It was deeper than 1.26m (Fig. 5, S.4): excavation ceased due to Health and Safety reasons. It was filled by multiple layers, some of them (27, 28, 32) containing medieval pottery. The probable primary fill, 32, was a mid-greyish brown sand and gravels layer, 0.18m thick. The lower part of the pit had a moderate slope. Then there was a sequence of thin redeposited natural layers (from erosion of the upper edge of the pit), 31 and 29, between which occurred 30, an intermediary fill, same as 32 but only 0.08m thick. Another phase of infill above this was 28, a 0.62m thick deposit, similar to 32 but a bit more gravelly. The main part of the pit had steep to sub-vertical sides. The upper fill, 27, was the same as 25 (fill of ditch **24**), making it difficult to know the relationship between this massive pit and ditch **24**. It was up to 0.30m thick (a bit less in recorded section). The top of the pit had a slope that was gentler due to erosion. It was probably a quarry pit.



Plate 8: Pit 26



Plate 9: Pit 26 (section partially backfilled), ditches **35** and **24**, posthole **38**



Plate 10: Ditch 148 (posthole 142 in background)

In between **131** and **144**, was perpendicular ditch **148** (Fig. 6, S.52), orientated at approximately 258°. The WSW end was unknown as it was truncated by a modern service and disturbance. It was longer than 4.60m with an undulating surviving south side. A 0.70m section was excavated in its ENE rounded end, 0.66m deep down to the natural geology, consolidated sand and gravels, revealing no less than three different fill layers. It had steep to sub-vertical sides and a flat bottom. The maximum width was estimated to be c. 1.10m. Top fill (149) was a compact mid greyish brown mix of sand and gravels, up to 0.24m thick with a bit less compacted intermediary fill (150), a mid grey sandy loam with occasional gravels and a similar thickness. The primary fill (151) was a medium compacted mid greyish brown silty sand and gravels, approximately 0.20m thick. Both the upper and lowest fill contained dating evidence as well as a few animal bones.

The most impressive linear feature was on the NE edge of this monitored area. It was a ditch examined in two sections (Fig. 7, S.55 and S.58). The northern one, excavated to see the relationship with ditch **146**, only saw part of the upper 15th-16th century recut, **160** (=168). The main section (Fig. 6, S.52), 0.80m wide, through the ditch was further south. This established that it consisted of a primary ditch **174** (=207), with multiple recuts (**168**, **179** and possibly **172**). The combined proximity of the baulk and the depth greater than 1.72m did not allow a full examination of this feature. To excavate the section and work in a safe environment, the contractor kindly machine dug a 0.60m wide step to the south of it. This feature had not been fully understood during the previously work in the south trench because of an improper observation of the dirtied bottom of trench and top fill was then considered to be a subsoil rather than the infill of an archaeological feature. Later on, this area was cleaned and dug again by the contractors. This allowed a further glimpse of this ditch, without providing new intelligence except for the fact that it seemed to recut an earlier gully, **205** (see Fig. 7, S.63).



Plate 11: Ditch 174 and recuts 168, 172, 179

174 had vertical or near vertical sides, undercutting at its observed base. The width of this primary cut was 1.14m for a maximum preserved surviving depth of 0.84m; it would have been at least 1.85m deep originally. Four fills were distinguished. First came an apparently deliberate firm backfill from the NE, (175), a silty clay deposit with frequent limestone gravels. The recorded section registered a thickness of 0.74m. This could be redeposited material from a possible bank on the NE side. The gap between SW side and this fill was first filled with 0.30m of redeposited/eroded natural yellowish brown sandy gravels (176). This was overlaid by a 0.20m thick firm dark grey silty clay deposit, (177), with frequent charcoal inclusions. A 30L sample for sieving and flotation was taken but did not reveal much. Pottery from fill (177) gave a 13-14th century date for the backfilling while only very small fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from fill (175). Over (177) was 0.20m of a firm mid grey silty clay with a moderate amount of limestone gravels.

179 was only partially visible as it was very close to the limit of excavation and almost nothing can be said about it. It was larger than 0.10m and deeper than 0.87m. A single fill could be recorded, (180), a firm mid grey silty clay with occasional limestone gravels. It was also cut by **168**.

The last of the three linear features that crossed through the back of the public house (Fig. 2), feature **100** was a 2.42m large ditch, 0.86m deep. It had a V-shape profile but with moderate sides (Fig. 6, S.33). It was orientated at 233°. Only a single fill, (101), was observed. It was a compact mid brown sand and gravels mix. Scarce burnt stones were also noted, as well as five iron nails in a 0.80m wide section. This ditch, whose length was more than 8.7m, was disturbed in its south-west part by a modern concrete pipe. Pottery from it gave a date of the 13th-14th century.



Plate 12: Ditch 100

4.1.3.3 Features of the 15th-16th century

Recut **168** (=160) truncated the top of ditch **174** (Fig. 3) and constituted the main element visible in sections S.57 or S.58 (Fig. 7). It was 1.15m deep with a concave profile with 45° slopes. Three fills could be distinguished: (169)-(171). (169) was a firm

mid grey-brown silty clay deposit with frequent limestone gravels. The profile and the gravel-rich composition suggested that it could be some redeposited bank material from the western side (as opposed to that of the earlier ditch). It had a thickness of 0.55m. Above it was a limited patch of a charcoal-rich deposit, (170), only 0.10m thick and not visible in the opposite section. (171) was the upper fill of this recut. This firm mid grey silty clay deposit was characterized by a moderate amount of gravels. It was 0.75m thick. Pottery from (170) and (171) give a 15-16th century date for the filling while (170) contained residual pottery of 13-14th century date. **168** recut another possible ditch, **179**, evocated above. On section 57 and 58 (Fig. 7), the upper part of another recut, **172** (or the latest fill of recut **168**?) could be seen. Again the proximity of the limit of excavation impeded a full appreciation of this ditch cut. It had a 45° SW slope where seen. Fill (173) was a firm mid brown silty clay layer.

Another linear feature of similar date, **33**, was recorded (Fig. 3, S corner). The orientation was at a different angle, ca. 314°. It was first observed only in the trench over a 2m length but a later phase of ground reduction revealed its continuation towards the NNW, only stopped by the foundations of the more recent but now demolished extension of the Harcourt Arms. It had a concave bottom (Fig. 5, S.6). The maximum preserved width was 1.60m. The thickness of its mid brown sand and gravels fill was 0.96m.

4.1.4 Post-Medieval and Modern period

As stated previously **39** was a pit, with no less than three different fills, each containing potsherds and bones (Fig. 5, S.6). Here again, the limited scope of the trench did not allow a full appreciation of the shape of this feature which was possibly oval (Fig. 3, S corner). Its dimension as observed were at least 3m x 2m with a depth of 0.80m. This was a modern feature and the excavated depth was limited by the required development impact level. The lowest deposit (as seen), (42), comprised light brownish grey sand and gravels, 0.54m thick, with occasional charcoals and numerous clay pipes. It was covered by a light yellowish grey sand and gravels layer, (41), 0.34m thick at most. Though it contained some pottery and bones, the fill had a redeposited natural look. From the section, it can be assessed that refuse material was dumped in pit **39** from the NE side, up to the point of forming a bank, which was not entirely overspread by later occupation layer (20). It was finally overrun by actual topsoil, (18). It may have been a quarry pit.



Plate 13: Pit **39** and ditch **33**

Pit **138** truncated gully **136** with its SE end cut by modern disturbance. It was a rectangular feature with rounded corners. It showed a sharp break of slope at top and

bottom and had a flat base (Fig. 6, S.48). The sides were vertical. Its dimensions were 0.86 x 1.60+ x 0.24m. Likewise, pit **140** was a recent feature, truncated on its NW side by an even more recent feature. Similarly it had a sub-rectangular shape, with steep sides and a flattish bottom. The full dimensions are not known due to limit of excavation. Its width was 0.92m for a length of at least 1.10m and a depth of 0.19m. Despite having a different orientation (respectively 298° and 313°) they might belong to a same phase of garden landscaping. However their fills were slightly different: (139) was a mid brownish grey silty sand with common gravels whereas (141) tended towards a dark brownish grey sandy loam with fewer gravels. Pottery from both fills provided a modern date.



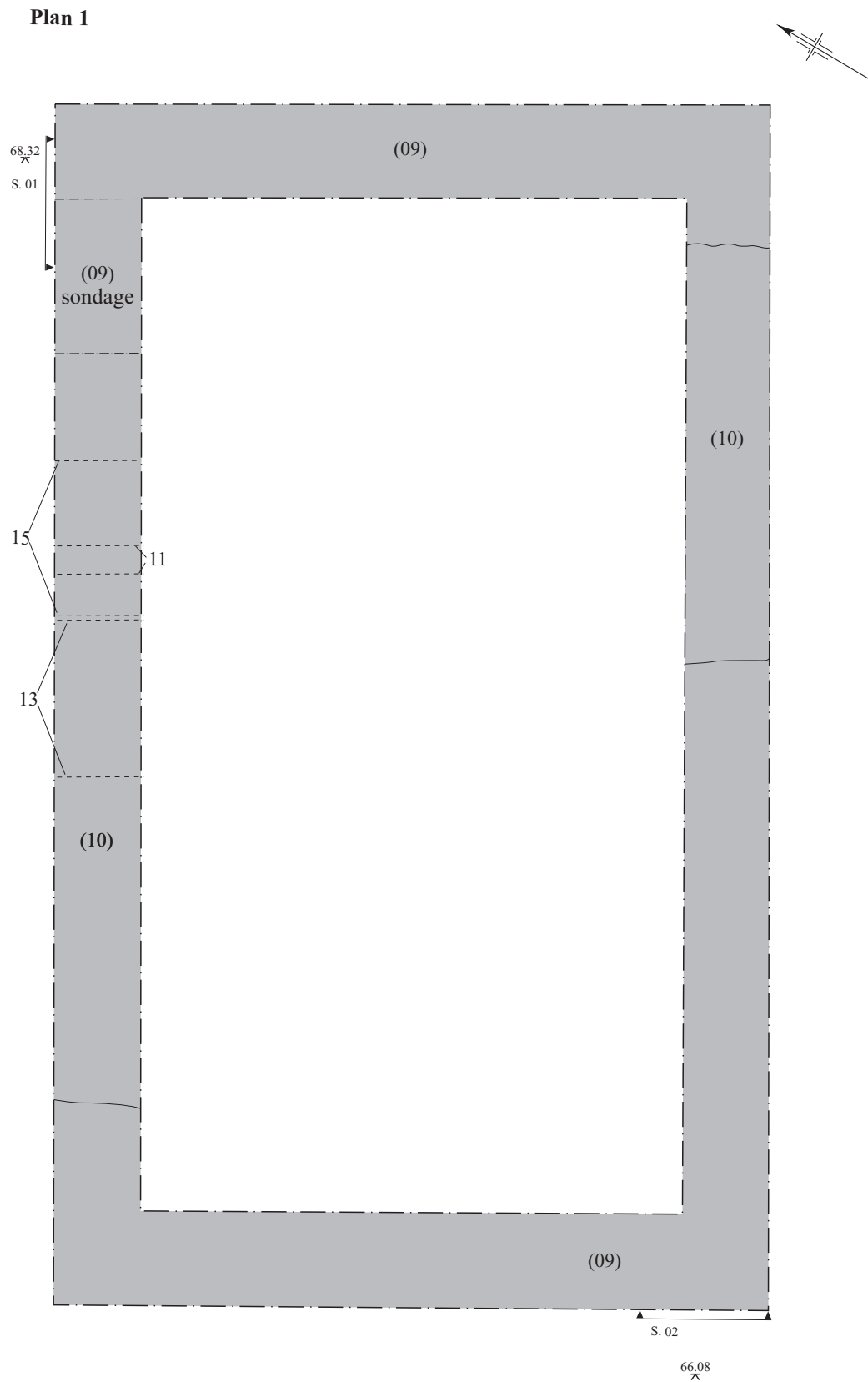
Plate 14: Pits **138** and **140**

133 was a modern sub-rectangular pit with two fills, (134) and (135). It measured 1.90m x >1.46m with a depth of 0.72m. Part of the west side was undercut/collapsed. The base was almost flat. The limit with medieval ditch **131** was uncertain as fills (134) and (132) were very analogous (134) being more brown/reddish brown than greyish brown) but the finds left no doubt regarding the recent date of **133**. The lowest fill, (135), 0.54m thick, was a mid yellowish brown silty sand with very frequent gravels.

Three modern cuts were recorded in the NW footings trench of the village shop, cutting deposit (08). They all could relate to possible pits or linear features with moderately sloping sides and concave base. Feature **11**, only seen cutting the natural sand and gravel **10** as it was obscured by cut **15** above it, had only a single fill (12), 0.2m thick. It contained a lot of modern glass and pottery, thus not retained. In section, **11** was 0.70m wide and as it crossed the trench, it was more than 0.70m in length. **13** was also cutting through the natural. Despite no dating evidence, the similarity between their fills (respectively **11** and **13**) makes it likely that it was another modern feature, 1.20m wide and 0.20m deep. Stratigraphically **15** was way above **11**, so again a modern date has to be considered. This feature is 1.20m wide for an approximate depth of 0.30m. It cut (08).

Plate 15: Linear features **13** and **11**





Key
[Dashed line] Limit of excavation [Grey box] Monitored area

Figure 4: plan of village shop

0 2.5 m

The aforementioned features and deposits could relate to former buildings along the road, shown on the various edition of the ordnance survey map since 1876 but no longer existing (Dowding & Yeates 2015, pp. 8-10).

In the backyard, a battery of modern sub-circular postholes distinguished themselves by their dark greyish brown clayey sand and gravel fill (Fig. 2). It includes **47**, **49**, **55**, **59**, **69**, **117** and **119**, considered part of group **208**. **47** was 0.26 x 0.30 x 0.18m. It had a sub-vertical east side while west slope was less strong. The bottom can be considered as slightly concave. **49** was more regular with sub-vertical sides, a flattish bottom (Fig. 5, S.10). The transition between slope and base was sharp. It measured 0.33 x 0.37 x 0.16m. A clay tobacco pipe stem was found within its fill. **55** had similar characteristics (Fig. 5, S.13). Its depth was 0.24m with a diameter around 0.30-0.31m. Though shallow, **59** can be included in the list in regard to its fill. It had more reduced measurements: 0.23 x 0.22 x 0.05m (Fig. 5, S.15). **69** was also defined by sub-vertical inclination of the edges and flat base (Fig. 5, S.19). The break of slope was sharp both on top and at the bottom. It measured 0.23 x 0.26 x 0.13m. **117** and **119** were very close to each other. Maybe **119** was a failed attempt to put a post here as it was only 0.04m deep and the post was repositioned where cut **117** was. The later, whose fill contained pottery and glass, was a circular feature ($\text{Ø} = 0.30\text{m}$) with sub-vertical sides, sloping 0.14m down to a flat base (Fig. 6, S.42). Though presenting some varieties in their dimensions and profile, their shared infill was very much differentiated from older features and finds in some of them testify of their recent nature.

Among the pits stood out **127**, an oval-shaped post-medieval animal burial. The edges were unclear (area stripped without supervision) but it can be considered to extend for an approximate 1.20 x 0.60m with a depth of 0.20m.



Plate 16: Pit 127 with piglet remains

4.1.5 Undated features

Alongside ditch **168** was a possible gully, **181**, which was 0.40m wide and at least 2.5m long (Fig. 3). This was a very shallow feature (Fig. 7, S.58) with its depth not exceeding 0.05m. The fill was a firm grey brown silty sand with no inclusions and no finds. It was truncated by pit **166**.

Undated oval pit **166** cut into the SW top fill of ditch **168** and gully **181** (Fig. 7, S.57). It was 0.2m wide and 0.9m long, with a maximum depth of 0.15m. The sides were sub-

vertical then imperceptibly becoming flat. It was filled with a firm mid brown silty clay deposit. It post-dates the 15th-16th century.

Shallow pit **158** was more or less oval, measuring 0.52 x 0.81m (its longest axis was NW-SE). It had gentle sides and a gradual break-of-slope (Fig. 7, S.55). The bottom was flat. Only animal bone was retrieved from fill 159, a firm grey sandy clay only 0.09m thick, with frequent small stones and pebbles.

Among the few postholes recorded in that area was **142**, a possible sub-circular posthole, 0.38 x 0.34m with a depth roughly 0.19m. The sides had a sub-vertical sloping stepped profile (Fig. 6, S.50). The bottom was flattish. The fill, 143, was a medium compacted sandy loam with gravels.

106 was first interpreted as a gully on site from what was visible on surface but investigations caused a rethink (Fig. 2, E of ditch **100**). Originally recorded as 4.40m long during stripping, after some cleaning, the edges were too diffuse to confirm that length, reduced to a 1.35m length. Excavation of a section (Fig. 6, S.37) through it revealed a 0.19m depth and 0.53m width. On its west end it was truncated by a modern probable plantation pit, **108**, not fully excavated (Fig.6, S.38). It was interpreted as a natural hollow in the top of the gravels.

110 was an undated sub-oval feature on the NW side of this area (Fig. 2). It was 0.57 x 0.30m, with a depth of 0.17m. The slope break on the top ranged from gradual to sharp with steep to moderate sides (Fig.6, S.39). It had a concave bottom. The mid reddish brown sandy silt with moderate fine gravels fill indicated it was more likely an animal burrow or bioturbation. Feature **86** was similarly interpreted as an animal disturbance, despite some bone being recovered from its same-looking fill (87). This was a sub-oval feature with maximum dimensions of 1.10 x 0.80m. The sides were moderate to steep and sloping towards NE, creating an irregular concave bottom (Fig.6, S.27).

98 probably also was a natural feature with its irregular and shallow shape (1m x 0.5m with a depth of 0.18m). It had steep sides with an irregular base (Fig.6, S.32). Another uncertain feature was **104**. It had an oval shape (0.34 x 0.26m), with a shallow concave profile (0.09m deep). Their respective fills, (99) and (105), contained no finds. They shared the usual natural mid reddish brown silty sand and gravels infill. There was also some doubt regarding **96**, also oval-shaped (0.46 x 0.34m) and shallow (0.08m), with moderate slopes (Fig.6, S.34). This time the fill's colour was a mid greyish brown, more usual for an actual archaeological feature.

112 was likely to be a natural feature, developing against ditch **63** (unless this was the remnant of a pit truncated by the ditch). It had an irregular shape and its profile, shallow concave (0.06m deep) with flattish bottom and gradual break of slope on top, and tends to point towards a natural disturbance rather than a proper archaeological remain. A sensation reinforced by the absence of finds in the fill, (113), a medium compacted mid reddish brown sandy silt with moderate fine gravels.

4.2 Reliability of Results

The reliability of results was considered to be good. The archaeological watching brief took place in good weather conditions with excellent light and visibility. Excellent

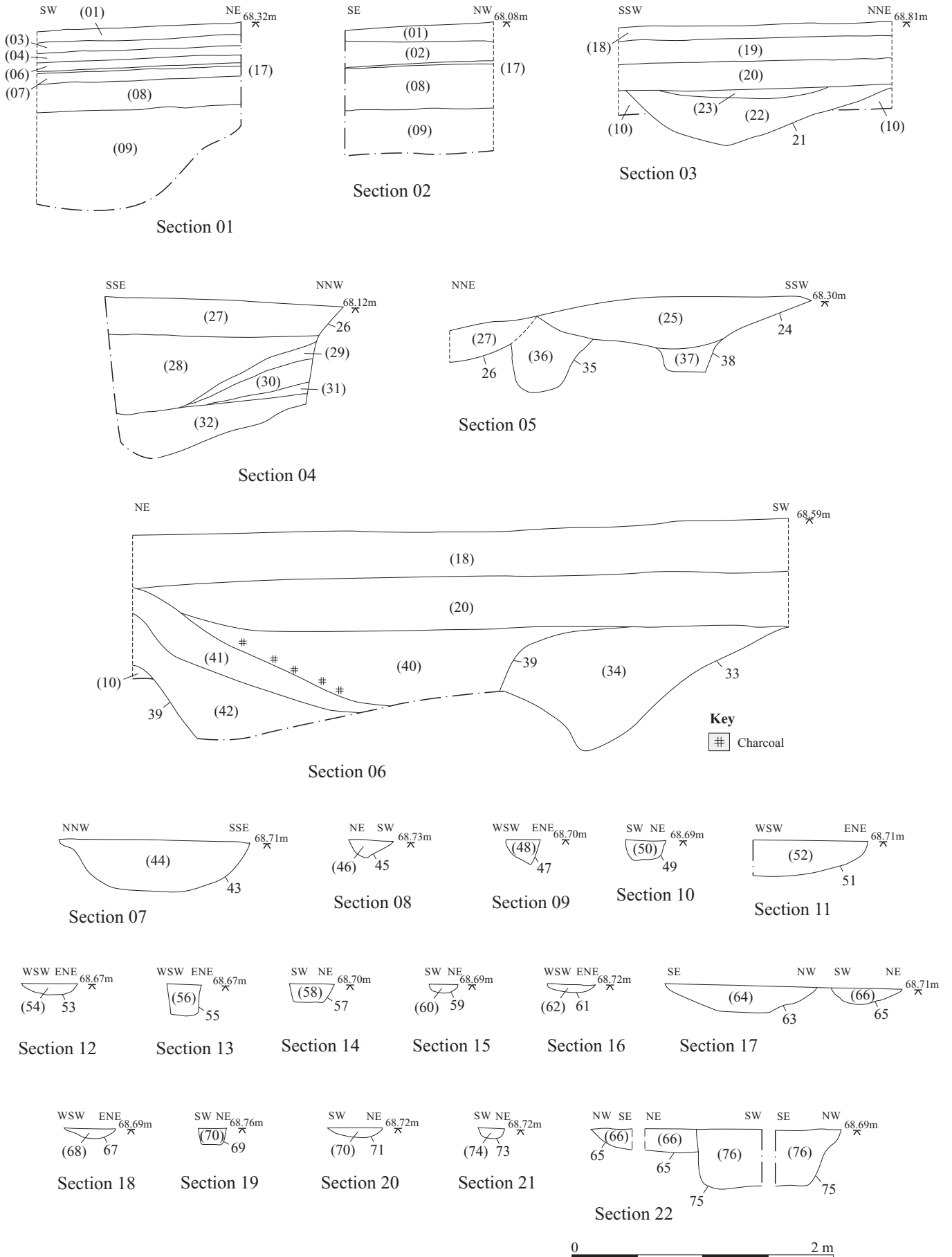


Figure 5: Sections 1-22

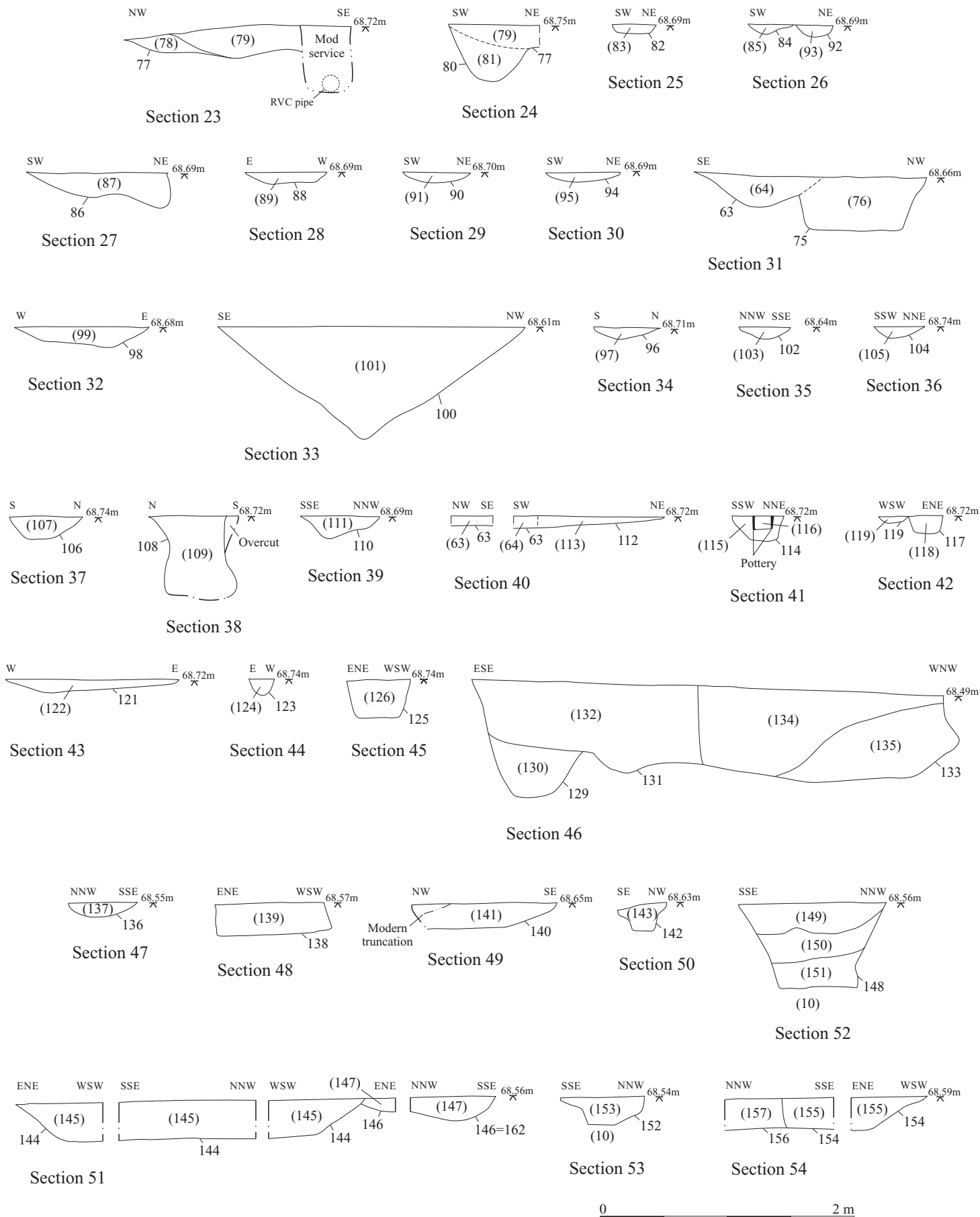


Figure 6: Sections 23-54

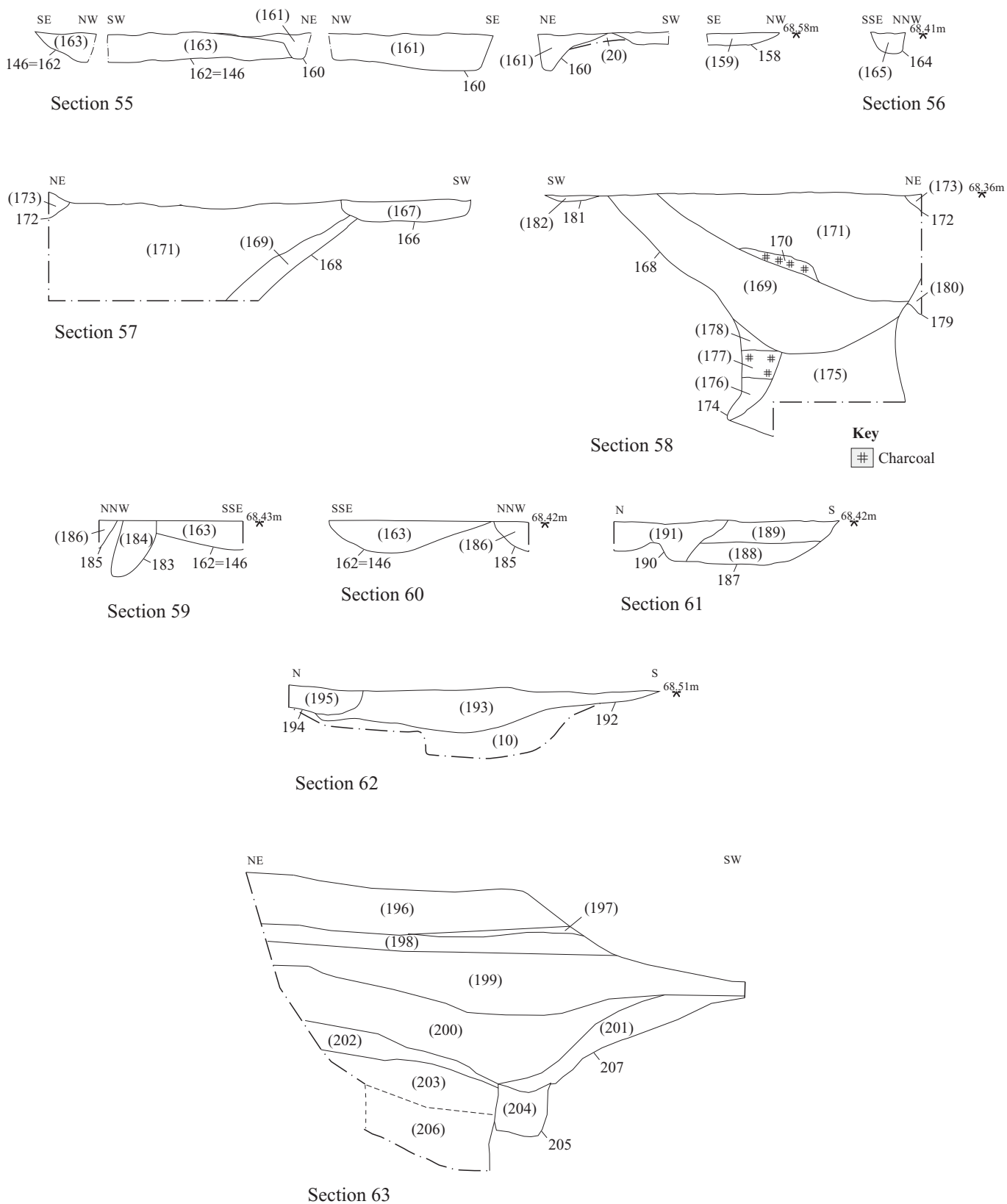


Figure 7: Sections 55-63

co-operation from the ground workers and landowner ensured sufficient time to investigate and record the archaeological deposits to the appropriate standards. This archaeological investigation was monitored by Hugh Coddington on behalf of West Oxfordshire District Council.

5 FINDS

During the first step of this watching brief, regarding the footing trenches of the new village shop, no finds were considered suitable for retention, in accordance to the guidelines in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* by the Society of Museums Archaeologists in 1993. The second phase was more fruitful.

5.1 Pottery

Some pottery were sent to both specialists, this is why they appear in each tables.

5.1.1 Prehistoric Pottery by Emily Edwards

A total of 198 sherds (966) were recovered and examined, the majority of which dated to the Iron Age.

CONTEXT	SMALL FIND NUMBER	COUNT	WEIGHT (G)	DATE	FABRIC	VESSEL ELEMENT	VESSEL FORM
115		96	752	MIA	AS3	Rim and body	Barrel urn
44		3	18	E-MIA	VS2	Body	
44		1	1	EIA	A1	Rim	
44		1	2	EIA	F1	Body	
44		1	10	EIA-MIA	A2	Body	
62		1	1	MIA	O1	Body	
91		2	13	MIA?	V1	Body	
116	2	70	18	IND	-	Crumbs	
126		1	1	IA	A1	Crumbs	
175		1	9	Medieval?			
64		2	14	LIA	G1	Rim and body	
64		2	1	IA?	S1	Rim	
64		1	2	IA	A1	Body	
64		2	8	EBA?	S1	Body	
68		1	1	IA??	AS1		
76		5	17	LIA	AS1	Rim and Body	
78		3	25	EIA	FA1		
83		1	2	IA	AS1		
122		1	12	LIA	S1	Rim	
132		1	52	13 th – 14 th			
145		2	8	13 th – 14 th			
		198	966				

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

Methodology

The pottery was counted and weighed by context whilst fabric and form were briefly noted (PCRG 1997). Fabrics were given alphanumeric codes relating to the size of the principal inclusion. Generally speaking, in excess of 20 sherds (or several diagnostic sherds) are required from a single prehistoric feature to allow some precision of dating which takes residuality into account. This must be taken into account with the spot dating especially where there are less than five sherds.

Condition

The great majority of the pottery comprised broken undiagnostic body sherds, or single featured sherds, with the exception of context 115, which contained refitted sherds from a middle Iron Age straight sided barrel jar. These sherds comprised an almost entirely refitting rim and some refitting upper body. The body breaks occurred along the diagonal bonds between the coils with which the pot had been built.

Fabric

The fabrics were generally shell and sand based, with some flint and organic fabrics. The assemblage is consistent with the fabrics noted within the larger assemblage from Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt (Duncan, Lambrick and Barclay 2004).

A1 – Fine sand. Fine regular sand.

A2 – Sand. Fine to medium sand, common.

AS1 – Sand and Shell. Regular amounts of fine sand and rare amounts of fine shell.

AS3 – Coarse shell and Fine sand. Rare coarse shell and sparse fine sand.

F1 – Fine flint. Sparse flint, 1-2mm.

FA1 – Fine flint and sand, moderate fine sand with rare to sparse angular flint up to 1mm.

G1 – Grog-tempered. Wheel-thrown, late Iron Age/early Roman.

O1 – Oolitic limestone. Common fine ooliths.

S1 – Fine Shell. Rare to sparse sand, sparse to moderate shell fragments up to 2mm.

VS2 – Shell and leached organic. Regular amounts of leached organic material and rare shell.

V1 – Leached organic. Regular voids showing impressions of grains and grass.

Form

Middle Iron Age forms included one straight sided, barrel jar with a finger wipe below the rim, giving just a hint of a slack shoulder. The rim was thick and squared and the body walls thick and soft. Rims included a simple pointed rim manufactured from fine sand fabric.

Later Iron Age forms included some everted rims.

Context 64, whilst containing some later Iron Age rims, also contained two sherds that were decorated with impressed cord or fingernail tips. These are more likely to be residual early Bronze Age.

Conclusion

The assemblage fits in very well with what is known about this area from previous excavations at Gravelly Guy (ibid).

5.1.2 Medieval Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 379 sherds with a total weight of 3777g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 1.12.

It consists of a mixture of Iron Age, early/middle Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval wares. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1.

Iron Age

The Iron Age assemblage comprised 21 sherds with a total weight of 141g. The following fabric types were noted:

F1002: Fine Flint and Sand. Moderate fine sand, with rare to sparse angular flint up to 1mm. 5 sherds, 41g.

F1003: Fine Shell. Rare to sparse sand, sparse to moderate shell fragments up to 2mm. 13 sherds, 34g.

F1004: Grog-tempered. Wheel-thrown, late Iron Age/Early Roman. 3 sherds, 66g.

The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. One of the sherds in fabric F1002, from context 78, is part of a finger-tipped carination, which is typical of the early Iron Age in the region. The rest of the assemblage consists of small bodysherds, other than a fragment of a base of a wheel-thrown, burnished vessel in fabric F1004.

Early/Middle Anglo-Saxon

The early/middle Anglo-Saxon assemblage comprised 8 sherds with a total weight of 61g (EVE = 0.11).

F1: Early/middle Anglo-Saxon Organic-tempered Ware. 7 sherds, 59g, EVE = 0.11.

F2: Fine Sandy. 1 sherd, 2g, EVE = 0.

All the sherds were residual. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region, particularly from the 7th century onwards, when organic-tempered wares dominated. A single rimsherd was noted, from a small jar with a simple everted rim-form.

Medieval and Later

The medieval and post-medieval pottery was recorded using the conventions of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

Medieval

F102: OXZ: Stamford Ware, AD850-1150.

F200: OXAC: Cotswold-type Ware, AD975-1350. 205 sherds, 1913g, EVE = 0.64.

F202: OXBF: North-East Wiltshire Ware, AD1050–1400. 6 sherds, 52g, EVE = 0.

F300: OXY: Medieval Oxford Ware, AD1075–1350. 3 sherds, 69g, EVE = 0.05.

F302: OXAG: Abingdon Ware, late 11th – 14th century. 5 sherds, 40g, EVE = 0.

F352: OXAM: Brill/Boarstall Ware, AD1200 – 1600. 38 sherds, 448g, EVE = 0.25.

- F353: OXAW: Early Brill Coarseware**, AD1180-1250. 1 sherd, 4g, EVE = 0.
F355: OXBB: Minety-type Ware, early 13th–16th century. 4 sherds, 104g, EVE = 0.07.
F400: OXBX: Late Medieval Brill/Boarstall Ware, 15th – early 17th century. 14 sherds, 122g, EVE = 0.

Post-medieval

- F412: OXST: Westerwald Stoneware**, 1590-1800. 1 sherd, 9g.
F414: OXBEW: Staffordshire Manganese Glazed ware, 18th century. 1 sherd, 4g.
F415: OXEAH: Midland Blackware, late 16th – 17th century. 1 sherd, 5g.
F416: OXBEWSL: Staffordshire Slip-trailed Earthenware, 1650–1750. 1 sherd, 7g.
F425: OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 10 sherds, 162g.
F438: OXEST: London Stoneware. 1680 +. 9 sherds, 117g.
F443: OXFM: Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware, 1720–1800. 4 sherds, 24g.
F1000: WHEW: Mass-produced White Earthenwares, 19th-20th century. 51 sherds, 554g.

The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region, and suggests that there was activity at the site throughout the medieval period, although there is much less pottery dating to the 15th – 16th century than the earlier part of the era. The sherds of Stamford Ware are rare finds to the west of Oxford. They are all in the late, fine fabric, and some have spots of yellow glaze, which is typical of the 11th – 12th century products of the tradition (Kilmurry 1980).

The medieval rim assemblage comprises entirely fragments of unglazed jars (EVE = 0.85; 75.9%) and glazed jugs (EVE = 0.27; 24.1%), which is typical of the period.

The Pottery

Each stratified, context-specific pottery assemblage has been given a ceramic phase ('CP') date based on the range of ware and vessel types present, and adjusted according to the stratigraphic matrix. The chronology, defining wares and the amount of pottery per phase is shown in Table 2.

The data shows the medieval activity at the site probably started during CP2, the late 11th – 12th century. All the context-specific assemblages dating to CP1 comprises one or two small sherds, and are probably later than the bare pottery date suggests.

Phase	Defining wares	Date	No Sherds	Wt. Sherds	Mean Sherd Wt.
CP1	OXAC	Early-mid 11 th C	7	35	5.0g
CP2	OXBF, OXY, OXZ	M/L 11 th – 12 th C	17	279	16.4g
CP3	OXAM	13 th – 14 th C	228	2202	9.7g
CP4	OXBX	15 th – 16 th C	26	257	9.9g
PMED	-	17 th – 18 th C	13	119	9.2g
MOD	-	19 th C +	70	805	11.5

Table 2: *Medieval Ceramic Phase Chronology, Occurrence and Defining Wares*

Ceramic Phase CP3 produced the most pottery, but most of it comprises small sherds, as the mean sherd weight of less than 10g indicates, showing that the bulk of the material is the product of secondary deposition. A few large sherds were present, but

Context	IA		E/MS		F102		F200		F202		F300		F355		F302		F352		F353		F400		PMED		Date			
	No	Wt.	No	Wt.	No	Wt.	No	Wt.	No	Wt.	No	Wt.	No	Wt.	No	Wt.	No	Wt.	No	Wt.	No	Wt.	No	Wt.				
20																							2	98	MOD			
22										1	22															CP2		
25							28	269				1	19					1	17							CP3		
27							19	250										1	15							CP3		
28							36	232							3	9	12	95								CP3		
32			1	7	1	27	8	146	1	13																CP2		
34							2	5	1	4											1	26				CP4		
36			2	10														1	38							CP3		
40							1	6																51	514	MOD		
41																								2	17	MOD		
42																								7	55	MOD		
64	7	24																									LIA	
68	1	1																									IA??	
76	5	17																									LIA	
78	3	25																									EIA	
83	1	2																									IA	
101							2	5										1	2								CP3	
109													1	15										1	14		PMED	
118																								1	10		MOD	
122	1	12																										LIA
130												2	50															CP2
132	1	52	5	44	2	28	82	846							2	31	12	139									CP3	
134																									1	10		MOD
139							3	11										2	34					2	23		MOD	
141							1	3																3	19		MOD	
145	2	8					2	24	1	7								1	7								CP3	
147							1	5																				CP1
149							5	26										1	4									CP3
151														1	9													CP2

157					1	3			1	2																CP2
161							1	3																		CP1
163							2	5																		CP1
169							4	31									2	68								CP3
170																							12	80		CP4
171							5	30					1	65			3	31				1	16			CP4
177							1	4									1	1	1	4						CP3
184							1	1																		CP1
195							1	11																		CP1
204										1	4							1	12							CP3
Total	21	141	8	61	4	58	205	1913	6	52	3	69	4	104	5	40	38	448	1	4	14	122	70	766		

Table 3: *Medieval Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

most assemblages consisted of small groups of sherds from individual vessels. There is very little residual material other than all but one of the early/middle Anglo-Saxon sherds, and three fragments of Iron Age material, although one of them is quite large (52g).

Just three contexts are of CP4 date (Table 1), and the assemblage of OXBX consists of fragments of just three vessels. All those from context (170) are from the same vessel. From this, it is entirely possible that the site was abandoned in the 14th century, and that this phase represents a phase of consolidation and clearance.

None of the sherds are worthy of illustration, and no further work is required.

5.2 Clay Tobacco Pipes by Simona Denis

A collection of 93 clay tobacco pipe fragments, of a combined weight of 712.1g, was recovered from 4 individual features. The material, although fragmentary, is in a good state of preservation. 11 of the items recovered preserved bowl, spur and part of the stem; of these, 7 were found to be near complete. Two of the stems had spurs; however, the vast majority (82%) of the assemblage was composed of plain, undiagnostic and unmarked stem fragments, a regular occurrence in clay tobacco pipe assemblages.

Pit **39** was the richest in clay pipe fragments, yielding 66 items, or 71% of the group, while 20 items, making up 21% of the collection, were found in pit **140**. A limited number of examples were recovered from pit **133**, and two fragments only were found in gully **129**, representing 8% of the assemblage combined.

a. Bowl with stem and spur/heel

The majority of the bowl fragments preserving spur and part of the stem appear to date to the 18th century, with the exception of 3 examples of earlier date.

The two well-preserved, near-complete and identical bowls recovered from context (139), single fill of pit **140**, were positively identified as type OA 1969 no.15 and dated between 1660 and 1680. These examples also showed a milled ring around the rim, usually associated with earlier pipes. One of the items found in context (42), the lower fill of pit **39**, shows similarities with type AO 1969 no.21, dated to the late 17th century. The remaining examples, collected from the upper fill (40) of pit **39** and from pit **133**, bear resemblance to a variety of types dated to the 18th century. The typical leaf or branch design was observed on one of the bowls found in context (40); such patterns were commonly used to cover up the seams of the bowl (CAFG 2012).

Four different moulded maker's marks were present on five of the bowls collected; all of them consisted in the maker's initials, and were placed on the sides of the spur, a practice started in London about 1670 (Oswald 1975). The only exception is the decorated bowl, bearing an unclear, possible asterisk symbol on the right side of the spur. No exact correspondence was found between the observed marks and the makers recorded in Oxfordshire as recorded by Oswald (1975:189).

Feature	Context	Type	No. of items	Weight (g)	Heel/ Spur type	Marks/ Decoration	Reference	Date range	
Pit 39	40	Bowl with stem and spur	1	7.4	Flat spur	Spur: E/C	?AO 1996 no.25	?1700-1770	
			2	11	Flat spur		?AO 1969 no.27	?1780-1820	
			2	15.4	Forward spur	Spur: I/S	AO 1969 no.26	c. 1740-1800	
			2, conjoining	9.7	Flat spur	Bowl: branch R Spur: asterisk	?AO 1969 no.27	?1780-1820	
		Bowl with spur	1	2.5	Flat spur	B/illegal	?AO 1969 no. 29	?1840-1880	
		Bowl	3	6.2	Missing				
		Stem with spur	1	2.1	Flat spur		?AO 1696 no. 31	c. 1850-1910	
					1	2.6	Missing		
		Stem	1	3		Branch	AO 1980 decoration no.11	c. 1780-1790	
	Stem	10	462						
	42	Bowl with stem and heel	1	5.2	Flat heel	L Spur: ?I or L	?AO 1969 no.21	?1680-1710	
			1	3.7	Missing				
		Stem	41	91					
Gully 129	128	Stem	2	4					
Pit 133	134	Bowl with stem and spur	1	10.5	Flat spur		?AO 1980 no.1	?1771	
		Stem	4	8					
Pit 140	139	Bowl with stem and spur	2	27.8	Flat spur	Milling	?AO 1969 no.15	c. 1660-1680	
		Stem	9	27					
	141	Stem	9	13					

Table 4: Clay tobacco pipe occurrence by feature and context

- EC: the only maker recorded for Oxfordshire with such initials is Elizabeth Carty, operating in Banbury, although her activity would be much later (1847) than the dating suggested by the pipe typology.
- IS: three different manufacturers in Oxfordshire used this combination of initials: John Sims, Joseph Sims and J. Smith. Again, the activity of these makers starts in the second half of the 19th century.

The remaining marks were partly illegible.

b. Stem with spur

Of the two stem fragments including the spur, only one has preserved the base intact. It was tentatively identified as type AO 1969 no.31 (Atkinson and Oswald 1969: fig 2), dating between 1850 and 1910.

c. Stem

A single example of decorated stem was found in context (40). The object, preserved to a maximum length of 45mm, has a 20mm long, moulded decoration representing leaves, very similar to the variant recorded for bowls as no.12 by Atkinson and Oswald (Atkinson and Oswald 1980:375), and dated to 1780-1790.

None of the 76 plain stem fragments recovered included a mouthpiece. No decorations or marks were observed; also, the fragmentary state of the items precludes any attempt to reconstruct the original overall length or attempt a dating.

It is not recommended to retain the plain, undecorated stem fragments with no diagnostic feature.

5.3 Ceramic building Material by Simona Denis

A small group of 4 ceramic building material fragments, weighing 579.8g in total, were found in pit 39. The material, dating to the post-medieval period, was found in a fair state of preservation although extremely fragmentary.

Feature	Context	Type	Fabric	No. of items	Weight (g)	Comments	Date range
Pit 39	40	Tile	Sandy, orange with grey core	1	57	Curved. Complete thickness: 15mm	?Post-Medieval
		Brick	Sandy, orange-pink with rare small inclusions	1	65.5	1 arris partially preserved	
	41	Brick	Sandy, red with occasional small to medium inclusions	1	197	Complete thickness: 59mm	
			Sandy, red with grey core, occasional small to medium inclusions	1	260.3	Complete thickness: 62mm	

Table 5: Ceramic building material occurrence by feature and context

5.4 Fired Clay by Simona Denis

54 fragments of fired clay, weighing 498g, were recovered from context (79), fill of pit 77. A single fabric was recorded, a fine, sandy, light-orange pinkish fabric with very rare calcareous shell and other small inclusions.

5.5 Human remains by Roxanne Blanks

Introduction

During the on-site work a possible cremation was recognised. A small amount (six fragments) of burned bone were recovered from pit 114 filled by contexts (115) and (116). The fragments of burned bone, found in context (116), the fill of the Middle Iron Age pottery in pit 114, have been tentatively identified as human due to their presence within this urn, their size and morphology (particularly cortical thickness). The condition and fragmentation of the bone as well as the significant levels of disturbance to the pit (top part was truncated during the stripping process) have made obtaining any meaningful information from these fragments of bone incredibly challenging.

Osteological method

The content of the vessel was 100% sampled and dry sieved at the office. The remaining fill of the pit was carefully hand excavated and checked on site but proved to contain no bone. The remains were then processed as individual finds and analysed in accordance with standard procedures (McKinley, 1997, 2000a). They were analysed for identifiable elements, demographic data, evidence of pathology and trauma, evidence of the presence of pyre/grave goods and the efficiency of cremation.

Results

Total weight of bone

The total weight of burned bone recovered from pit 114 was one gram. Clearly this falls well below the expected weight of a cremation representing a complete skeleton. The fragments of bone were all unidentifiable and therefore no comments can be made about the distribution of skeletal elements by weight.

Condition and fragmentation of the bone.

A total of six fragments of calcined bone were recovered from pit 114, they all fell within the 2-5mm fraction. The fragments of bone were highly friable.

Demographic data

Due to the size and fragmentation of the bone demographic data was unobtainable.

Pathology and trauma

There were no visible signs of pathology or trauma.

Non metric traits

There were no visible non metric traits.

Efficiency of cremation

Efficiency of cremation can be inferred from the colour of cremated bone (McKinley, 2000b). Cremated bone displays a range of colours from black (charred), through to blues and greys to white (Gejvall, 1969; McKinley, 2004; Nicholson, 1993; Shipman et al., 1984; Ubelaker, 2008). White bone is fully calcined, bone in this state is

considered to be efficiently cremated (Ubelaker, 2008). The human remains were white in colour, fully calcined and efficiently cremated.

Pyre debris

There was no evidence of pyre debris recorded during the excavation of Pit 114, nor was any pyre debris evident with the remains analysed.

Pyre/Grave goods

An upturned pot was recovered from pit 114. This is believed to be a cremation urn. In addition a single fragment of unburned unidentified bone was recovered from context (116), this may represent the remains of a grave good in the form of a food offering which no longer exists due to the severe disturbance to pit 114, though this is unlikely. It is also possible that this fragment is contamination from fill (115) which contained animal remains. Due to the uncertainty surrounding the provenance of the fragment it will not be considered and discussed further.

Formation process

Little information can be gained about the formation process of this cremation deposit due to the high levels of disturbance of this feature. However, the cremation urn was found upturned within the pit. This may suggest that this deposit is a secondary deposit containing a cremation burial rather than a primary cremation burial.

Discussion

The cremated human remains recovered from pit 114 likely represent a single individual (MNI=1). It is clear from the low cremation weight that little of the cremated skeletal remains were recovered. This is likely due to a selection in the remains recovered from the pyre and put into this urn. Furthermore the cremation urn was noted to be in an upturned position during excavation suggesting the deposit was a secondary deposit as opposed to a primary cremation burial. If the deposit is in-fact a secondary deposit this may in part account for the low recovered cremation weight. It is possible some of the skeletal material was lost during the transfer from the primary deposit into pit 114.

The cremated bone was highly fragmented, and only six fragments in total were recovered. Fragmentation can occur due to a number of factors including taphonomic damage, factors relating to funerary practices, care taken during the collection of the remains from the cremation site, and fragmentation caused during the excavation and post-excavation processes.

The high levels of fragmentation and lack of identifiable material made it impossible to obtain any demographic data about the individual. Further no interpretation surrounding funerary practices could be made, such as the interpretation of whether there was selection of specific skeletal elements for burial.

The bone was white in colour and fully calcined. This suggests that it was subject to an efficient cremation process with temperatures reaching over 645°C for a sustained period of time to ensure full calcination occurred (Clough, 2005; Gejvall, 1969; McKinley, 2004; Nicholson, 1993; Shipman et al., 1984; Ubelaker, 2008).

No pyre debris was evident, and only one pyre/grave good was evident. The cremation urn consisted of a ceramic vessel. The lack of pyre debris suggests that the deposit is a

cremation burial as opposed to redeposited pyre debris. Whilst the upturned position of the cremation urn is suggestive that this may be a secondary deposit rather than a primary cremation burial.

Conclusion

In conclusion the tentatively identified human remains from The Harcourt Arms Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire were efficiently cremated. The deposit in pit 114 is likely to represent a secondary deposit rather than a primary cremation burial.

Potential for further work on the human remains is extremely limited due to the condition and fragmentation of the bone and the very small amount of material. However it is possible that with technological advancements to gain additional information about the individual from further analyses. It is therefore recommended that the remains are kept for retention for further analysis should new methods of analysis and funding become available in the future.

5.6 Faunal and Floral Remains

5.6.1 Animal Bone by Roxanne Blanks

Introduction

The animal remains were recovered from 45 contexts from the prehistoric, medieval and modern periods. The assemblage consists of a total of 578 fragments with a total weight of 5366g.

Osteological method

The animal bone assemblage was analysed according to Hillson (1992) and Schmid's (1972) identification manuals. Whilst butchery marks were identified in accordance Crabtree and Campana's (2008) identification guide.

Of the whole assemblage across the site 31.14% of the remains could be identified to Taxon. Identified taxa are *Sus*, *Bos*, *Cervus Elaphus*, and *Ovis*. Further to this unidentified Avian bones were recovered as were remains of unidentified mammals. 180 fragments displayed evidence for butchery across the site, the most common butchery mark observed was that of spit diaphysis from marrow extraction (plate 15).



Plate 17: *Sus* tibia fragments from context (163); example of typical evidence of marrow splitting from across the site.

Animal remains from the prehistoric features

The remains from prehistoric features are from contexts (44), (62), (64), (66), (76), (83), (91), (126) (table 6). The animal remains from the prehistoric contexts consist of 67 fragments (11.59% of total assemblage by fragment count) and weights 601.5g (11.21% of total assemblage).

The animal remains from the rest of the contexts consists of 445 fragments (76.99% of total assemblage by fragment count) and weighs 4815.5g (89.74% of total assemblage weight).

The remains from context (44) belong to an unidentified mammal, the remains include fragments of rib, unidentified diaphysis, innominate and further unidentified fragments. One of the rib fragments (one of two) displays evidence of butchery. It bears a cut mark through the body of the rib from the superior-inferior direction and seven fine slice marks on the medial-lateral aspect of the body. All six fragments of diaphysis display evidence of marrow splitting, whilst the unidentified fragment of bone has a cut mark along the lateral aspect of the fragment.

Bos remains were identified from Context 62, these consist of a mandible fragment and a tooth.

The remains from context (64) contain unidentified mammal, *Sus* and *Bos* remains. Of the remains from context (64) butchery marks are evident of the unidentified rib fragment which displays two fine slice marks on the anterior aspect of the body. They are also evident on the unidentified diaphysis fragments, with six displaying evidence of marrow splitting. Whilst two diaphysis fragments display evidence of peri-mortem fracturing to the superior and inferior ends which may be evidence of marrow splitting, however these may have been caused by other traumatic events besides butchery activities.

The remains from context (76) consist of unidentified mammal remains. Nine of the 15 recovered fragments (60%) display evidence of butchery activities. Three vertebral fragments unidentified to species and element display evidence of butchery, two of these have cut marks extending from the superior to inferior aspects of the spinous processes. The third displays cut marks from the superior to inferior aspect of the vertebral body. Two thoracic vertebrae fragments were identified (unidentified to species) which both display cuts through the vertebral body from the superior to inferior aspects separating the anterior and posterior aspects of the vertebrae. These cuts have separated the superior and inferior articular facets and partial vertebral body from the pedicle and spinous processes. Further evidence for butchery activities comes from the three rib fragments which have been cut through their mid-shafts and an unidentified diaphysis fragment which has been split for marrow extraction. The high percentage of animal remains with butchery marks from context (76) suggests that this deposit represents butchery waste.

Context (83) contained the remains of unidentified mammals, *Bos* and *Sus*. The *Sus* remains consist of a mandibular canine and the *Bos* remains consist of a carpal. Whilst the unidentified mammal remains consist of a rib fragment, a fragment of cervical vertebra and two unidentified fragments.

Context (91) contained a single avian long bone unidentified to species. It also contained an unidentified diaphysis fragment and a fragment of mandibular ramus from an unidentified mammal.

Context (126) contained *Bos* and unidentified mammal remains. The *Bos* remains consist of one femoral fragment which displays cut marks on the antero-superior and antero-inferior as expected when the bone has been split during marrow extraction.

Whilst the unidentified mammal remains consist of five scapulae fragments and nine diaphysis fragments. All of the scapula fragments display evidence of butchery in the form of cut marks (table 6). Whilst all nine diaphysis fragments display evidence of splitting during the process of marrow extraction.

Context	Identification	Skeletal element	Number of fragments	Weight (g)	Comments
(44)	Unidentified mammal	Rib	2	22	One fragment displays a cut mark through the rib body from the superior-inferior direction. Whilst seven cut marks were recorded on the medial-lateral aspect of the body.
		Diaphysis	6	10	All show evidence of marrow splitting
		Innominate	1	33	?Sus, ?Ovis
		Unidentified	1	14	Cut mark along the lateral aspect of fragment
(62)	<i>Bos</i>	Mandible	1	38	
		Dental	1	34	
(64)	Unidentified mammal	Cranial	1	2	
		Scapular	1	3	
		Rib	1	13	Displays two cut marks on the anterior body.
		Diaphysis	8	58	Six fragments show evidence of marrow splitting. Two have peri-mortem fractures on the superior and inferior ends.
	Unidentified	2	2	One fragment is from a juvenile animal.	
	<i>Bos</i>	Dental	1	48	Molar
	<i>Sus</i>	Dental	1	1	Incisor
Ulna		1	13		
(66)	Unidentified mammal	Scapula	1	1	
		Rib	3	7	
		Vertebrae	1	5	?Thoracic vertebra
		Diaphysis	1	2	Charred, black fragment.
(76)	Unidentified mammal	Cranial	1	2	
		Unidentified vertebrae	5	3	Two display cuts through spinous processes. One displays a cut through the vertebral body
		Thoracic vertebrae	2	27	Both cut through vertebral body separating anterior and posterior aspects of the vertebra.
		Sacral	1	9	
		Rib	3	9	Two display cuts through mid-shaft.
		Diaphysis	1	17	Displays evidence for marrow splitting.
		Unidentified	1	4	
(83)	Unidentified mammal	Diaphysis	1	2	15mm in length
(91)	Avian	Long bone	1	0.5	
		Diaphysis	1	6	Evidence of marrow splitting

	Unidentified mammal	Mandible	1	8	Mandibular ramus
(126)	<i>Bos</i>	Femur	1	94	Anterior diaphysis has cut marks at the superior end and the inferior end shows evidence of splitting for marrow extraction.
	Unidentified mammal	Scapula	5	62	Two have scapular spine. The smaller fragment has a cut mark just inferior to scapular spine going from lateral to medial sides whilst the larger fragment has 2 rounded transverse cut marks. One fragment is the scapular body and lateral border. Whilst the remaining two fragments are just scapular body fragments. All of the scapular body fragments display transverse cut marks.
		Diaphysis	9	52	All show evidence of marrow extraction

Table 6: The animal remains from prehistoric contexts

Animal remains from the 11th-12th Centuries

The animal remains from the 11th-12th centuries are from contexts (147), (156) and (163) (table 7) and consist of *Sus* and unidentified mammal remains. The assemblage weighs 62g (0.97% of the total assemblage by weight) and consists of ten fragments (1.73% of the total assemblage by fragment count).

Context (147) contained a single mandibular fragment from an unidentified mammal. Context (157) contained five fragments of charred diaphysis from an unidentified mammal. Whilst context (163) contained *Sus* remains consisting of four tibia fragments weighing 44 grams. All of these fragments display evidence of splitting for marrow.

Context	Identification	Skeletal element	Number of fragments	Weight (g)
(147)	Unidentified mammal	Mandible	1	12
(156)	Unidentified mammal	Diaphysis	5	6
(163)	<i>Sus</i>	Tibia	4	44

Table 7: The animal bone assemblage from the 11th-12th centuries

Animal remains from the 13th-14th Centuries

The animal remains dating to the 13th-14th centuries were recovered from contexts (22), (23), (25), (28), (101), (132), (145), (149), (151), (155), (161), (169), (171) and (177) (table 8). The 13th-14th century assemblage consists of 129 fragments (22.32% of the total assemblage by fragment count), weighing 2975g (55.44% of the total assemblage by weight).

Three (of five fragments total) of the fragments from context (22) display evidence of butchery. One of the mandibular fragments is a *Bos* mandibular ramus, this has a scoop mark just inferior to the coronoid process and a small slice mark (less than 1cm in length) on the mandibular ramus itself. Whilst the second mandibular fragment is an alveolar fragment from an unidentified mammal, this displays a transverse cut across the alveolar bone. A *Bos* vertebral fragment was also identified from context (22) this has a transverse cuts on the inferior and superior aspects these cut marks have cut

through the spinous process, pedicle and transverse processes. The cut on the superior aspect has removed the right transverse process.

Context (23) contained a single *Bos* astragalus, the astragalus displayed a cut mark on the medial anterior inferior aspect, a second cut mark on the right postero-lateral aspect, two cuts on the postero-lateral side and two scoop marks. The scoop marks were located on the anterior aspect (one of two) and posterior aspect (two of two) of the astragalus. Context (25) contained two diaphysis fragments from an unidentified species, both fragments show evidence of marrow splitting.

Context (28) also contained diaphysis fragments from an unidentified species all displaying evidence of butchery. Two of four of these fragments show evidence for marrow splitting whilst one of these fragments (70mm in length) also displays three fine slice marks on the cortical surface. The smallest fragment (55mm in length) displays two fine slice marks and one small hole in the form of a penetrating mark. Whilst the second fragment 55mm in length displays one fine cut mark approximately 0.5mm in length on the cortex. Context (28) also contained a vertebral fragment which displays a cut mark through the spinous process and pedicle from the superior to inferior aspects.

Context (101) contained the remains of *Bos*, and *Cervus elaphus* alongside unidentified avian and mammal remains. The *Bos* remains consist of a mandible which has been cut through the anterior most aspect at the mental eminence to separate both halves, a sacrum fragment with cuts down both sides of the body separating this from the sacral ala, a molar, an incisor, and two ribs. The *Cervus elaphus* remains are those of a distal humerus, which displays evidence of marrow extraction. The avian remains consist of five long bones. Whilst the unidentified mammal remains consist of a thoracic vertebra, scapulae fragments, large mammal diaphysis fragments, an astragalus, and two radial fragments all displaying signs of butchery. Further to this 21 unidentified fragments, and five unidentified diaphysis fragments belonging to an unidentified mammal species have also been identified.

Context (132) contained *Bos*, *Sus*, unidentified avian and unidentified mammal remains. The *Bos* remains consist of a molar. The *Sus* remains consist of a fibula fragment and an ulna fragment, the ulna fragment displays three cut marks. The unidentified avian remains consist of an ulna. Whilst the unidentified mammal remains consist of five unidentified diaphysis fragments which all display evidence for marrow splitting, an unidentified fragment of bone, and a single un-sided rib fragment which has three cut marks at its anterior end.



Plate 18: Charred fragments of bone from context (145)

Context (145) contained the largest quantity of animal remains from the 13-14th Century assemblage (29 fragments) among the assemblage were remains displaying evidence for butchery and cooking. Two fragments of burned diaphysis from an unidentified mammal were recovered, the fragments are

charred and black in colour (plate 16). The burned fragments also display evidence for marrow splitting. Evidence of butchery comes from the burned fragments, a cattle metacarpal displaying a large scoop mark on the posterior aspect. Seven unidentified diaphysis fragments display evidence of marrow splitting, whilst one fragment of cortical bone also shows evidence of butchery with cut marks evident on the lateral and medial sides of the fragments (plate 17).



Plate 19: Reconstructed distal metacarpal (*Bos*) from context (145)

Context (149) contained a single alveolar fragment from an unidentified mammal and a *Sus* right proximal tibia fragment. The *Sus* remains display a cut marks through the posterior diaphysis possibly caused during the process of extracting marrow.



Context (151) yielded ten cranial fragments from an unidentified mammal, these fragments were unfused and belong to a juvenile individual (**Plate 20**). These fragments display no signs of pathology, trauma or evidence of butchery activities.

Plate 20: Cranial fragments of an unidentified juvenile mammal recovered from context (151)

Context (155) yielded two unidentified fragments from an unidentified mammal. One of these fragments displays evidence of butchery.

Context (161) contained an *Ovis* mandibular body fragment with teeth in situ (**Plate 21**).

Plate 21: *Ovis* mandible from context (161)



Context (169) contained *Sus* and unidentified mammal remains. The *Sus* remains consist of a left innominate fragment from a juvenile individual. The innominate has a cut mark from the superior to inferior aspect separating the acetabulum from the ilium, it also displays a cut mark on the inferior most aspect of the fragment.

Context (171) contained *Bos* and unidentified mammal remains. The *Bos* remains consist of a juvenile intermediate phalanx, two mandibular fragments with teeth in situ, two fragments of unidentified diaphysis and a metacarpal or metatarsal fragment which displays possible evidence of marrow extraction. The unidentified mammal remains consist of three charred fragments of bone, two are cortical fragments and one is a scapula fragment, three fragments of alveolar bone, and an unidentified diaphysis fragment.

Context (177) <1> contained the unidentified mammal remains. These consist of one unidentified juvenile bone, four fragments of black, charred bone all under 10mm in length, and eight fragments of unidentified bone between 2-15mm in length.

Context	Identification	Skeletal element	No. of fragments	Weight (g)	Comments
(22)	<i>Bos</i>	Mandible	1	40	Mandibular ramus with a scoop mark just inferior to the coronoid process.
		Cervical vertebra	1	34	Cut marks on the superior and inferior aspects.
		Dental	1	50	Molar
	Unidentified mammal	Rib	1	3	
		Mandible	1	4	Alveolar process, displays transverse cut through the alveolus.
(23)	<i>Bos</i>	Astragalus	1	56	Cut mark on the medial anterior inferior aspect, Cut mark on the right postero-lateral aspect, two cuts on the postero-lateral side, two scoop marks one on the anterior aspect and one on the posterior aspect.
(25)	Unidentified mammal	Diaphysis	2	16	Fragments are 53mm and 75mm in length. Both display evidence of marrow splitting
(28)	Unidentified mammal	Vertebrae	1	5	Cut mark from the superior to inferior aspects through the spinous process and pedicle.
		Diaphysis	4	25	Fragments are 25mm, 55mm (X2) and 70mm in length. Two display evidence of marrow splitting. One of the

					55mm fragments has a ~0.5mm long fine cut mark on the cortex, whilst the second 55mm fragment displays two fine slice marks and a small penetrative mark on the cortex.
(101)	<i>Bos</i>	Mandible	1	1886	Cut through the anterior aspect through the mental eminence separating both halves of the mandible
		Sacrum	1	121	Juvenile. Sacral promontory is unfused. S1-S4 is fused anteriorly, S2-S4 is fused posteriorly. Cut marks down both sides of the sacral bodies separating these from the sacral ala.
		Dental	2	9	One molar, One maxillary left incisor.
		Rib	2	28	One unsided rib. One left rib.
	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Humerus	1	10	Right sided, distal end of humerus. Medullary cavity has been split for the extraction of marrow.
	Avian	Long bone	4	6	
		Femur	1	1	
	Unidentified mammal	Vertebrae	1	39	Thoracic vertebra with cut marks in the superior-inferior orientation through both transverse processes.
		Unidentified	17	2	Between 2-10mm in length
		Unidentified	4	168	Large mammal fragments.
		Diaphysis	5	10	
			2	93	Large mammal diaphysis both show evidence of marrow extraction.
		Scapula	2	28	Unidentified large mammal. One fragment has a cut across the scapular spine in the transverse direction. Whilst the second has a cut in the superior-inferior orientation along scapular body

			2	23	Unidentified small mammal. One fragment has a transverse cut through the scapular spine.
		Metacarpal	1	14	?Ovis. 1 cut mark on mid-diaphysis.
		Astragalus	1	10	Left half, has been cut in the superior-inferior direction through the middle.
		Radius	2	15	Both proximal ends of radius. Both show evidence of marrow extraction.
(145)	<i>Bos</i>	Metacarpal	3	74	Left metacarpal. Large scoop mark on the posterior aspect. Three fragments which pair-match to form one metacarpal. MNI=1.
	Unidentified mammal	Mandible	1	4	
		Rib	1	3	Left rib
		Diaphysis	8	18	Seven show signs of marrow splitting
		Diaphysis (burned)	2	2	Fragments are black and charred. Both show signs of marrow splitting
		Cortical bone	14	7	Ranging from 3-55mm in length. One fragment shows evidence of butchery, has cut marks on both medial and lateral aspects of fragment.
(149)	<i>Sus</i>	Tibia	1	23	Proximal tibia fragment. Displays evidence of marrow extraction.
	Unidentified mammal	Alveolar bone	1	3	
(151)	Unidentified mammal	Cranial	10	15	Three unidentified fragments. Two occipital fragments. Three parietal fragments. Two temporal fragments. Unfused sutures suggestive of a juvenile individual.
(155)	Unidentified mammal	Unidentified	2	5	One fragment displays cut marks on medial and lateral borders.
(161)	<i>Ovis</i>	Mandible	1	11	Left sided mandibular body fragment with teeth in situ.

(171)	<i>Bos</i>	Mandible	2	45	Two mandibular body fragments with teeth in situ
		Phalanx	1	11	Intermediate phalanx with unfused epiphyses. Juvenile <i>Bos</i> .
		Diaphysis	3	36	Two fragments have perimortem fractures on the medial and lateral sides. One fragment shows clear evidence of marrow splitting.
		Metacarpal/metatarsal	1	17	Evidence of marrow splitting
	Unidentified mammal (burned)	Scapula	1	1	Scapula spine is present. Fragment is black and charred.
		Cortical bone	2	1	Fragments are black and charred.
(177) <1>	Unidentified mammal	Unidentified	9	2	All are between 2mm and 15mm in length.
		Unidentified (burned)	4	1	Charred and black in colour, all under 10mm in length.

Table 8: The 13th-14th centuries animal remains assemblage

Animal remains from the 15th-16th Centuries

The animal remains recovered from context (34) were dated to the 15th-16th Century (table 9). These remains contribute 1.90% of the total assemblage by fragment count and 5.01% of the total assemblage weight. The remains consisted of a juvenile *Bos* specimen which displayed signs of butchery. The juvenile innominate displayed cut marks on the innominate, one of the rib fragments, and the vertebrae. Whilst the adult *Bos* remains also displayed evidence of butchery on the diaphysis and vertebral fragments.

Context	Identification	Skeletal element	Number of fragments	Weight (g)	Comments
(34)	<i>Bos</i> (juvenile)	Astragalus	1	9	Left side.
		Innominate	1	15	Displays one cut mark in the superior-inferior direction across the ilium and a transverse cut on the anterior aspect of the acetabulum.
		Rib	2	12	Two fragments 90mm and 50mm in length. The 90mm fragment has three cut marks on the posterior, inferior surface at the head and neck.
		Vertebrae	2	99	Display furrows on the superior and inferior surface of the body due to incomplete epiphyseal fusion. The fragment unidentified to region displays cut marks on both transverse processes in the superior-

					inferior orientation, and a transverse cut through the inferior body and spinous process. The cervical vertebra displays a cut through the vertebral body in the superior-inferior direction through the middle of the body and has a cut through into the right superior articular facet in from the superior-inferior direction.
		Phalanx	1	29	
		Vertebrae	2	79	One thoracic vertebra, which has cut marks through both transverse processes in the superior to inferior orientation. One cervical vertebra has cut marks in the superior-inferior orientation through the vertebral body, also displays a cut on the right superior articular facet.
	<i>Bos</i> (adult)	Diaphysis	1	5	Fragments are 21mm and 50mm in length. The larger fragment displays evidence of marrow splitting
	Unidentified mammal	Metacarpal /Metatarsal	1	21	

Table 9: The 15th-16th centuries animal bone assemblage

Animal remains from the modern period

The animal remains from contexts (40), (41), (42), (109), (128), (134) and (139) have been dated to the modern period. The remains from the modern period consist of a total of 311 fragments (53.81% of the total assemblage by fragment count) and weighs 2641g (49.22% of the assemblage by weight). The remains from the modern period include those of a nearly complete piglet which undoubtedly skews the overall percentages of the total assemblage. The remains from the modern period consist of 196 fragments (33.91% of the total assemblage by fragment count) and weighs 1536g (28.62% of the total assemblage) when the piglet is removed from the sample. The modern assemblage has not been subjected to detailed analysis as it is not of archaeological significance.

Animal remains from the undated contexts

The animal remains from the rest of the assemblage were unable to be indirectly dated. The rest of the assemblage is from the following contexts: (52), (54), (78), (79), (87), (89), (93), (115), (116), (109), (137), (153), (159), (186), (139), (193) (table 10). The animal remains from the rest of the contexts consists of 445 fragments (76.99% of total assemblage by fragment count) and weighs 4815.5g (89.74% of total assemblage weight). Archaeological significance of the remains from undated contexts could not be ascertained and therefore they will not be discussed in any great detail however further details about the undated assemblage can be found in the table below.

Context	Identification	Skeletal element	Number of fragments	Weight (g)	Comments
(52)	Unidentified mammal	Unidentified	4	23	1mm, 12mm, 25mm and 125mm in length. The 125mm fragment has a cut through the diaphysis at the midshaft. Whilst the 25mm fragment has cuts

					through the superior and inferior ends and three cuts on the lateral aspect.
(54)	Unidentified mammal	Diaphysis	2	1	
(78)	Unidentified mammal	Mandible	2	34	Both mandibular ramus fragments. One fragment has a transverse cut through the ramus and a superior-inferior orientated cut on the inferior aspect of the ramus.
		Unidentified	1	4	Cut mark across fragment
(79)	<i>Sus</i>	Mandible	2	46	2 mandibular rami fragments. One has three cut marks on the posterior aspect of ramus
	Unidentified mammal	Innominate	1	59	? <i>Sus</i> . Has a small patch of periosteal new bone on the posterior aspect
		Diaphysis	1	23	Shows evidence of marrow splitting
		Unidentified	2	3	
		Vertebrae	1	11	Just vertebral body, has unfused epiphyseal plates displays a cut through body in the superior-inferior orientation,
(87)	<i>Bos</i>	Metacarpal	1	67	Right sided. Patch of necrosis on the right superior articular facet possible osteochondritis dissecans.
	Unidentified mammal	Diaphysis	2	4	Approximately 40mm in length. Both show evidence of being split for marrow extraction.
(89)	<i>Sus</i>	Dental	1	8	Canine.
	<i>Bos</i>	Carpal	1	16	
	Unidentified mammal	Unidentified	2	11	
		Rib	1	2	? <i>Sus</i>
		Vertebrae	1	3	Cervical vertebra
(93)	Unidentified mammal	Diaphysis	1	4	Evidence of marrow splitting
(137)	Avian	Diaphysis	2	2	MNI=1 both fragments pair-match.
(153)	Unidentified mammal	Dental	4	42	3 right maxillary molars. 1 unidentified molar.
		Mandible	1	11	Mandibular corpus fragment
		Alveolar bone	1	1	
		Unidentified	11	19	Three fragments show evidence of perimortem fracturing.
(159)	Unidentified mammal	Mandible	1	18	Mandibular body fragment with cut marks in the superior-inferior orientation through the anterior and posterior ends, there is also a fine slice through the posterior end of the external surface. A mandibular torus is present. ? <i>Sus</i>
(186)	Unidentified mammal (burned)	Unidentified	7	1	Fragments are between 1mm and 9mm in length, they are black in colour and charred.
(193)	<i>Bos</i>	Vertebrae	1	67	One lumbar vertebra, cut marks evident on the left superior articular facet, and three cut marks are present on the posterior aspect on the left inferior articular facet.
		Rib	1	16	Juvenile.

		Tibia	1	112	Transverse cut across mid-diaphysis and scoop mark down the anterior margin of the tibia.
Unidentified mammal		Diaphysis	8	26	Five show evidence of marrow extraction
		Unidentified	2	12	Both fragments are unidentified trabecula bone.

Table 10: The animal bone assemblage from undated contexts

Summary and recommendations for retention

The animal remains from the Harcourt Arms, Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire date from between the prehistoric and modern periods. A large proportion of the animal remains could not be dated and therefore archaeological significance could not be ascribed to these remains. In general a significant proportion of the assemblage across the site displays butchery marks and the remains are most likely to represent deposits of butchery waste.

It is recommended that the animal remains of archaeological significance are kept for retention for further research and analysis into butchery patterns by a specialist. It is also recommended that the undated animal remains are retained for future research, including direct dating should funding become available. This retention will allow for the determination of the archaeological significance of the undated remains, and for further research to be conducted on these remains should they be proven to be of archaeological significance. It is not recommended that the modern remains are kept for retention as they are not of archaeological significance.

5.6.2 Shell by Pierre-Damien Manisse

The presence of a small assemblage of oyster shell was observed on site; only a sample was collected for analysis. The items, weighing 86.5g in total, were identified as 3 left and a single right oyster shell valves on the basis of the aspect of its surface (Winder 2011).

Feature	Context	Type	Identification	No. of Items	Weight (g)
Pit 39	40	Oyster	Left valve	2	30.9
Ditch 100	101		Right valve	1	8.3
Ditch 168	169		Left valve	1	47.3

Table 11: Oyster shell occurrence by context

It is not recommended to retain the oyster shell due to its very limited potential for further analysis.

5.6.3 Seed by Simona Denis

A single seed, weighing 0.1g, was hand recovered from context (116), fill of feature 114, and identified as a cereal seed, possibly wheat.

5.7 Metalwork by Simona Denis

A total of 16 metal objects were collected during the excavations at the Harcourt Arms. The most represented material was iron, constituting 56% of the assemblage; copper

alloy represented 38% of the total, while the remaining 6% is composed by the single lead object recovered.

5.7.1 Iron

A small assemblage of 9 iron objects, of a combined weight of 73.1g, was recovered from three different features. All of the items were positively identified as post-medieval to modern fasteners. The state of preservation of the collection is generally fair, although traces of oxidation were observed; 5 of the examples were found complete.

Context	Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Shaft Cross-Section	Head Type	Point Type	Comments	Date Range
101	Heavy duty general purpose nail	3	10.6	83	Rectangular	Flat round	Sharp	Complete.	Post-Medieval
			11.2	90				Complete. Curved	
			9	72			Missing (?Sharp)		
	?Heavy duty general purpose nail	1	6.5	18			Missing		
	General purpose nail	1	6.8	55			Sharp	Complete. Curved	
139	Nail	1	18.6	92			Flat	Complete. Curved. ?Machine-cut	?19 th C
	?Lath Nail	1	2.6	42		Missing	Sharp		?18 th - 19 th C
	?Staple	1	1.8	41		N/A	?Sharp	L-shaped	?Post-Medieval
141	?T-head nail	1	6	67		T-head	Flat	Complete	Post-Medieval

Table 12: Iron objects occurrence by context

(101), fill of ditch **100**, was the richest in iron nails, containing 5 items (55.5% of the group), while context (139), fill of pit **140**, had 2 nails and the only possible example of staple recovered during the excavation, representing 33.3% of the assemblage. The remaining item, the only T-head nail of the collection, was found in context (141), fill of pit **140**.

It is not recommended to retain the iron nails due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

5.7.2 Copper Alloy

Six copper alloy objects, weighing 36.59g in total, were recovered from four different contexts. The items are generally fairly preserved, although fragmentary and showing traces of *Verdigris*.

The vast majority (4 items, or 66.6% of the group) was recovered from pit **39**; a single object was found in possible small pit or posthole **84**, while the remaining item was unstratified. The items were identified as common post-medieval household and personal objects, with the exception of the single tool found in feature **84**.

SF1 - Candle holder

Δ1 was a cast copper alloy object, weighing 11.9g and measuring 28mm in length and 24mm in diameter. The item has a clear bell-shaped profile, although no element to attach a clapper was present. The object was therefore tentatively identified as a fragmentary candle holder, and dated to the post-medieval period.

SF2 - Unidentified object

A flat copper alloy disc, weighing 4.9g and measuring 21mm in diameter, was also recovered from context (40). Three soldering points were observed on the back of the object, arranged in a triangle; the face bears the incised letter “D”. Function and dating of the item remain undetermined, although it is possible to exclude its function as a button, as the traces observed do not correspond to any known shaft pattern.

SF3 – Fitting

Copper alloy object Δ3, collected from context (40), is a round, cast item measuring 38mm in diameter and weighing 11.9g. A moulded decoration was observed on the domed face of the object, representing a central urn and a circle of “rope” along the circumference. The top of the object originally had a projecting element, possibly a fitting.

Although the function of the object remains undetermined, a general dating to the post-medieval to modern period is suggested on the basis of the general aspect of the item.

SF5 - Shoe Buckle

The fragmentary trapezoidal buckle frame Δ5 was recovered from context (40), fill of pit **39**. The object weighs 4.1g and is preserved to its complete width of 32mm and partial length of 25mm, including one of the pin slots; the reconstructed original length of the object is therefore of ca 44mm. The two-piece frame has an incurved edge and a bowed frame, typically found on Early Georgian shoe buckles, to fit the curvature of the foot (Whitehead 2003); an elaborate, geometrical moulded decoration was also observed.

SF6 - Button

Mother-of-Pearl button Δ6 was found in context (41), an intermediary fill of pit **39**. It is a round, cut, 2-piece button weighing 0.8g and measuring 12mm in diameter. The copper alloy shank, extremely affected by *Verdigris*, is possibly of the “swaged in” type, indicating a production date for the object between the late 18th and the 19th century.

SF8 - Bradawl

Object Δ8 was found in context (84), the fill of the possible small pit or posthole **84**. It is an apparently complete copper alloy item, measuring 51mm in length and weighing 3.2g; its square cross-section tapers to a point at one end and with a very narrow chisel point at the other. The item was tentatively identified as bradawl, a small tool commonly used in woodworking or that could be used on leather. No dating can be suggested for the item, as functional objects as this were produced with similar techniques at least from

the Roman to the post-medieval periods. The environment where it was found suggests an Iron Age date.

5.7.3 Lead

A single lead object Δ4, weighing 95.7g and tentatively identified as a chisel, was recovered from context (40). The item appears to be complete, measuring 102mm in length; it has a rectangular cross-section (14x10mm) at the wider end, and tapers to a wedge like, slightly curved point.

No dating can be suggested for the item, as functional objects are produced with similar techniques over long periods.

It is not recommended to retain the post-medieval fragmentary items due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

5.8 Glass by Simona Denis

A small assemblage of 12 glass fragments, of a combined weight of 73.9g, was recovered from four different features. The state of preservation of the objects is mediocre, and extremely fragmentary; only limited observation on manufacturing details and dating were possible. Extensive iridescence was observed on 4 of the objects, preventing in two cases from the positive identification of the colour.

The vast majority (9 items, or 75% of the collection) of the fragments were curved, and identified as belonging to vessels; the remaining three items were identified as flat glass, probably from windows. The assemblage was dated to the post-medieval and modern periods on the basis of the general aspect of the material.

Feature	Context	Type	Colour	No. of items	Weight (g)	Imperfections / Degradation	Notes	Date range
Pit 39	40	Window	?Aqua	1	6.3	Iridescence	Edge	?Post-Medieval
		Vessel	Undetermined	1	6			
	42	Window	Aqua	1	2.8	Bubbles		Modern
		Bottle body	Olive green	2	24.9			
		Push-up base		1	8.2			
		Vessel	Clear	1	6.3			
Posthole 117	118	Vessel	Clear	1	0.7			Modern
Ditch 131	134	Vessel	Olive green	2	6.5	Orange-peel surface	Edge	?Post-Medieval
		Window		1	2.8	Iridescence		
Pit 140	141	Vessel	Undetermined	1	9.4			?Post-Medieval

Table 13: Glass occurrence by feature and context

The modern glass fragments were not retained due to their extremely poor and unstable state of preservation, and limited potential for further analysis.

5.9 Flint by Edwin Pearson

Just one piece of worked flint was recovered within context 193.

The flake from fill 193 is comprised of mid-blueish grey flint with chalk cortex. It is fully intact with a single worked or 'retouched' edge. The dorsal flake scars indicate that it derives from the deliberate reduction of a core to produce simple flint flakes for short term use. Its large ventral bulb is a technological characteristic associated with hard hammer technology.

The flake shows minimal post-depositional damage. Although relatively corticated, the condition suggests the material has had little disturbance since its deposition.

Although there was just one flint flake recovered during the work at The Harcourt Arms, Stanton Harcourt, it suggests human activity at the site during prehistory, somewhere between the Upper Palaeolithic through to the Late Neolithic. The technological characteristics seen suggest that the flint derives from a knapping industry that included hard hammer percussion and the creation of simple flakes.

6 DISCUSSION

No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the first stage of the watching brief, regarding the new village shop foundations. Other areas excavated were more intensely marked by significant archaeological features.

Though slight evidence for some kind of presence during early Prehistory (one single flint) and the Anglo-Saxon period (7 sherds), the finds assemblage gives two – three if we consider the modern era – main periods of occupation.

The area at the back of the pub concentrated all the prehistoric features. The earliest one appears to be pit 77. It dates back to the Early Iron Age according to pottery. It was uncertain if the upper deposit (79) in this shallow pit was part of a more recent feature, cutting it, or just a secondary fill. The presence of burnt material, both pebbles and clay (daub?) in it was not anecdotal. As animal bones from the same context do not appear to have been heated, it can be inferred this was a refuse pit and never was a hearth. This was a rather scarce testimony for this period. More extensive evidence had been first found in 1961 during gravel-quarrying, SW of the actual village (Hamlin 1966) and later during the 1980s in Gravelly Guy field (Lambrick and Allen 2004). In the later, some pits did contain burnt stones along with clay (not fired), which were differently interpreted. Whereas the clay could have been a reserve of raw material used to make loomweights, the purpose of the stone was tentatively to consolidate the fills of the pits "once they had fallen into disuse, especially in heavily trampled areas". So our case seems different.

There was a more obvious occupation during the Middle Iron Age, several of the features containing also residual EIA potsherds. That included postholes 61, 90, small pit 114 and more substantial pit 43. 114 contained an overturned pottery vessel. It was assumed that its bottom was spoiled during the stripping process and thus only the upper part of the vessel was preserved. Its fill was sampled as it could have been a funerary urn. One seed was recovered as well as indeed some human burnt bones. It appears as an isolated burial as surrounding pits did not reveal any more cremations. There exist records of such inverted (truncated) urned cremations, see for instance Moody *et al.* 2010, p.149 at West Cliff, Ramsgate (Kent) or Alexander & Adam 2012 at Wick Lane,

Norton Fitzwarren (Somerset), both of Bronze Age date. Thus it might have been in a primary position.

For the Late Iron Age ditch **63**, pits **75** and **122** all contained LIA potsherds. As **75** was cut by **63**, two phases should be considered for this specific period. **63** was probably a linear WSW-ENE boundary ditch despite features occurring on both sides of it (though there does not seem to be any prehistoric feature further than 4m NW of it).

However, other Iron Age features, without more precise date, can be considered within this period. That includes pit **77** and postholes **67**, **82** and **125**. No pattern emerges regarding this array of postholes, often very shallow.

It was possible that some of the undated small pits/postholes in this area also belongs to the same phase as no medieval activity was found here.

Features from the Iron Age period are restricted to this SW corner of the excavated area with only some residual IA pottery found among the medieval features to the east (in ditches **131** and **144**). Note that specialists differs on dating of those specimen and they probably were medieval ones, but difficult to identify.

The closest well recorded Iron Age settlement lies approximately 1250m west, at the aforementioned site of Gravelly Guy, which comprised a wide range of structures, mostly house enclosures, and a dense area of seed and storage pits later used for rubbish dispersal. Other IA enclosures were recorded at Linch Hill Corner (Grimes 1943-4), 1km to the south. According to G. Lambrick's distribution map (Lambrick et al. 2009, p.107), Iron Age occupations surrounds the earlier barrows cemetery and the Devil's Quoit monument. Our finds secure a northern extent to it, as no Neolithic or Bronze Age discovery were made. These discoveries also makes Stanton Harcourt village's origins way earlier than the Domesday Book record.

The presumed settlement of the 9th century concentrating in the area of the current village cannot be inferred from this excavation. Only a limited amount of residual pottery was forthcoming.

Pottery evidence shows the main start of occupation in the 11th /12th century. Ditches **194 (=156)** and **162**, orientated NW-SE, both contained 11th century material but according to the pottery a late 11th or 12th date was more probable in regard to the pottery condition. Cutting 162 was posthole **183**, also containing 11th century pottery within its fill. Those features were observed towards the edge of the opened area and were also truncated by others, whose fill was 13th/14th century, so their extent could not be fully appreciated. In between its first mention as *Stantone* in the *Domesday* book, the village had often changed hands until Robert de Harcourt of Bosworth inherited it in 1191 (Baggs *et al.* 1990, p.274). It was probably under the Harcourt family supervision that major redevelopments occurred. The closest feature to the modern road was a deep ditch, **207=177**, which was NW-SE. Could it be part of the moat of the manor house, which lies not much further south-east?

2.2m to 2.5m to the south-east of it was another parallel ditch, **144=154**, but less profound. Maybe with recuts **160=168** of ditch **177** it defined a large alley. If it is projected it would more or less arrive at the gatehouse of the manor.

Further 10m south-east was another almost parallel ditch, **131=24**. It was filled by 13th/14th century deposits but could recut an earlier 12th century ditch, **129**.

A perpendicular ditch segment (or pit?), **148**, was also noted between **131** and **144**. The primary fill was dated late 11th/ 12th and final filling 13th – 14th century. Beside, **131** was also a massive pit (an estimated diameter of 7m for a depth superior to 1.40m), with similar multi-deposits. It is interrupted as a quarry pit.

From the back of the pub, V-shaped linear feature **100** was orientated SW-NE, at right angles to the ditches in the south-east area of the investigations. The content of its fill, poorer in terms of quantity of potsherds collected – suggests that it was away from settlement structures– also delivered a 13th – 14th century date.

This limited area of Stanton Harcourt probably started being laid out at the earliest in the 11th century, but more likely in the 12th century, which is also the earliest known date of the current church building.

But by the end of the 14th century the area was entirely reorganised, all features being backfilled. Possibly WNW-ESE ditch **34** could have been dug around this time or later (fill includes 15th-16th pottery as a *terminus ante quem*), at the south of the pub. The diverging orientation from the earlier phase was in itself an indication of a new layout and date. At the same period massive ditch **168** finished to be backfilled. At this time (16th century) the erection of the pub took place (Dowding & Yeates 2015) at which time ditch **34** went out of use.

Interesting is to compare those results with an investigation in 2003 brought to light at the nearby manor house (Moore, J. and Parsons, M. 2003). Before any building was constructed, some pits certified a Saxo-Norman presence in the 11th century and were considered for gravel extraction rather than refuse pits. A disruption in the occupation was also seen between the 14th and 16th century before new development occurred (stable and gatehouse being built). Thus that matches the result at the public house site.

What has been found corresponds with the idea of “an increase in population until the 14th century followed by a decrease as a result of the plague” (Dowding & Yeates 2015, p.4) and then later on more activity.

If not for a possible plantation pit in the backyard, **108**, recorded as post-medieval, the site does not seem to know any major transformation since then as suspected from the continual use of the pub. More modern human intervention included a rubbish pit at the south-east side of the pub, **39**, the disposal of a dead piglet, **127**, and other pits (**133**, **138**, **140**) of uncertain purpose. **138** and **140** might be remains of tree holes adjoining a pathway and visible on the 1876 edition of the OS map.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

Physical record

Finds

Environmental remains

The primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Oxfordshire Museums Service under accessional number OXCMS: 2015.212.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alexander, M. and Adam N. 2012 “Bronze Age and later archaeology at Wick Lane, North Fitzwarren”, *SANHS Proceedings*, vol. 156.

Atkinson, D. and Oswald, A. 1969 London clay tobacco pipes. *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, 3rd Series 32.

Atkinson, D. and Oswald, A. 1980 *The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe. III Britain: the North and West. BAR British Series* 78.

Aultman, J., Bon-Harper, N. and Grillo, K. 2014, *DAACS Cataloging Manual: Buckles* (<http://www.daacs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/buckles.pdf>), accessed 03/07/2015).

Aultman, J., Bon-Harper, N., Grillo, K. and Sawyer, J. 2014 *DAACS Cataloging Manual: tobacco pipes* (<http://www.daacs.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/tobacco-pipes2.pdf> accessed 30/06/2015).

Aultman, J. and Grillo, K. 2014 *DAACS Cataloging Manual: Buttons* (<http://www.daacs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/buttons.pdf>, accessed 03/07/2015).

Aultman, J., Grillo, K., Sawyer, J. and Galle, J. 2014 *DAACS Cataloging Manual: Glass Vessels* (<http://www.daacs.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/glass.pdf>, accessed 03/07/2015).

Ayto, E. G. 1994 *Clay Tobacco Pipes*. Princes Risborough, *Shire Album* no.37.

Baggs, A. P., Blair, W. J., Colvin, C., Cooper J., Day, C.J., Selwyn, N. and Townley, S. C. 1990 “Stanton Harcourt: Manors and other estates” in Crossley, A. and Elrington, C. R. (eds.), *A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 12, Wootton Hundred (South) including Woodstock*, London, pp.274-281.

Bodey, H. 1983 *Nailmaking*. Shire Album 87.

CAFG, 2012 Cambridge Archaeology Field Group, *Evolution of clay tobacco pipes in England* (<http://www.cafg.net/docs/articles/ClayPipes.pdf> accessed 09/07/2015).

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

Chervenka, M., “Nails as Clues to age” (<http://www.realorrepro.com/article/Nails-as-clues-to-age.html>), accessed 10/07/2015).

Clough, S. 2005 “Cremated human remains report” in *Oxford archaeology: Cassington West, CASW05*. Oxford: Oxford archaeology unpublished report.

Crabtree, P. and Campanya, D. 2008 “Traces of butchery and bone working” in *Comparative skeletal anatomy*. New York: Humana Press, pp.323-345.

Dowding, K. & Yeates, S. 2015 *Building Assessment on The Harcourt Arms, Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire. Unpublished client report 3280. John Moore Heritage Services.*

Duncan, D, Lambrick, G, Barclay, A. 2004 “Final Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age Pottery” in Lambrick, G. & Tim Allen, T. 2004 *Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt: The development of a prehistoric and Romano-British community*, Oxford Archaeology, Thames Valley Landscape Monograph 21, pp.259-303.

Fitzsimmons, E. 2010 *An archaeological evaluation at Land at Blackditch, Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire. Unpublished client report 2158. John Moore Heritage Services.*

Davis, G. 2016 *Land adjacent to No. 1 Blackditch, Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire. Unpublished client report 3485. John Moore Heritage Services.*

Gejvall, N. G., 1969 “Cremations” in Brothwell, D. and Higgs E. 1969 *Science in archaeology: a survey of progress and research*. 2nd Edition, London: Thames and Hudson, pp.379-390.

Grimes, W. F., 1943-4 “Excavations at Stanton Harcourt, Oxon, 1940”, *Oxoniensa*, vol. VIII-IX, Oxford, pp.19-63.

Hamlin, A. 1966 “Early Iron Age Sites at Stanton Harcourt”, *Oxoniensa*, vol. XXXI, Oxford, pp. 1-27.

Hammond, M. 1990 *Bricks and Brickmaking*, Shire Album 75.

Harden, D.B. 1945 “Excavations at Stanton Harcourt, Oxon., 1940, II”, *Oxoniensa*, vol. X, Oxford, pp. 16-41.

Hillman-Crouch, B. 2015 Nails (<http://www.hillman-crouch.co.uk/Ironwork/Chapter%207/7.Nails3.html>), accessed 10/07/2015).

Hillson, S., 1992 *Mammal bones and teeth*. UK: Institute of archaeology.

Horn, J. C. 2005 *Historic Artifact Handbook*. Alpine Archaeological Consultants (http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/crforms_edumat/pdfs/1402sup.pdf accessed 25/04/2016).

Kennedy, K. A. R. 1996 “The wrong urn: commingling of cremains in mortuary practices”, *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 41 (4), pp.689-692.

Kilmurry, K. 1980 *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincs. C. AD850-1250*, Oxford, *BAR British Series* 84.

- Jacomet, S. 2006 Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites. IPAS, Basel University ([https://ipna.unibas.ch/archbot/pdf/Cereal Id Manual engl.pdf](https://ipna.unibas.ch/archbot/pdf/Cereal%20Id%20Manual%20engl.pdf) accessed 12/12/2016).
- Lambrick, G. and Allen, T.G. 2004 *Gravelly Guy, Stanton Harcourt: The development of a prehistoric and Romano-British community*, Oxford Archaeology, Thames Valley Landscape Monograph 21.
- Lambrick, G. with Robinson, M. and with contributions by Allen, T.G. 2009 *The Thames Through Time - The Archaeology of the Gravel Terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames, Late Prehistory: 1500 BC – AD 50*, Oxford Archaeology, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph No. 29.
- Mays, S., 2010 *The archaeology of human bones*. 2nd Edition. New York: Routledge.
- McComish, J. M. 2015 *A Guide to Ceramic Building Materials*. York Archaeological Trust Web Based Report 2015/36 (<http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/A-guide-to-ceramic-building-material.pdf> accessed 15/04/2016).
- McGavin, N. 1980 “A Roman Cemetery and trackway at Stanton Harcourt”, *Oxoniensia*, vol. XLV, Oxford, pp. 112-123.
- McKinley, J. I. 1993 Bone fragment size and weights of bone from modern British cremations and the implications for the interpretation of archaeological cremations. *International journal of osteoarchaeology*, 3(4), 283-287.
- McKinley, J. I. 1997 “Bronze Age ‘barrows’ and funerary rites and rituals of cremation” in *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 63, pp.129-145.
- McKinley, J. I. 2000a “Cremation burials” in Barber, B. and Bowsher, D. 2000, *The Eastern cemetery of Roman London. Excavations 1983-1990, MOLAS Monograph 4*. London: MOLA, pp.264-277.
- McKinley, J. I. 2000b. “The analysis of cremated bone” in Cox, M. and Mays, S., *Human osteology in archaeology and forensic science*. London: Greenwich medical media, pp.403-421.
- McKinley, J. I. 2000c “Funerary practice” in Barber, B. and Bowsher, D. 2000, *The Eastern cemetery of Roman London. Excavations 1983-1990, MOLAS Monograph 4*. London: MOLA, pp.264-277.
- McKinley, J. I. 2000d *Phoenix rising: aspects of cremation in Roman Britain*, in *Burial, Society and Context in the Roman World*. Oxford: Oxbow Books, pp.38-44.
- McKinley, J. I. 2004 “Compiling a skeletal inventory: cremated bone” in Brickley, M., and McKinley, J. I., 2004. *Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains, IFA Paper No. 7* [Online]. Southampton: British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology, Reading: Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Mellor, M. 1984 "A summary of the key assemblages. A study of pottery, clay pipes, glass and other finds from fourteen pits, dating from the 16th to the 19th century" in TG Hassall *et al*, "Excavations at St Ebbe's", *Oxoniensia* 49, pp. 181-219.

Mellor, M. 1994 "Oxford Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region", *Oxoniensia* 59, pp.17-217.

Moody *et al*. 2010 "Later Bronze Age cremation at West Cliff, Ramsgate", *Archaeologia Cantiana*, vol. 130, pp.147-172.

Moore, J. and Parsons, M 2003 *An Archaeological Investigation at Stanton Harcourt Manor, Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire*, unpublished client report 1297, John Moore Heritage Services.

Murray, K. A., and Rose, J. C. 1993 "The analysis of cremains: a case study involving the inappropriate disposal of mortuary remains" in *Journal of Forensic Sciences* [Online], 38 (1), pp.98-103.

Nelson, L. H. 1968 "Nail Chronology as an aid to dating old buildings", *American Association for State and local history technical leaflet 48, History News* 24.

Nicholson, R. A. 1993 "A morphological investigation of burnt animal bone and an evaluation of its utility in archaeology" in *Journal of Archaeological Science* [Online], 20, pp.411-428.

Oswald, A. 1975 *Clay pipes for the archaeologist*. Oxford, *BAR British Series* 14.

PCRG, 1997 *The study of later prehistoric pottery: general policies and guidelines for analysis and publication*, reprint, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group occasional papers 1 and 2, Oxford.

Philpott, R. 1991 *Burial practices in Roman Britain. A survey of grave treatment and furnishing A.D 43-410*, Oxford, *BAR British series* 219.

Schmid, F. 1972 *Atlas of animal bones*. UK: Elsevier.

Shipman, P., Foster, G., and Schoeninger, M. 1984 "Burnt bones and teeth: an experimental study of colour, morphology, crystal structure and shrinkage" in *Journal of Archaeological Science* [Online], 11, pp.307-325.

Whitehead, R. 2003 *Buckles 1250-1800*. Witham, Greenlight Publishing.

Winder, J. M. 2011 Oyster shells from archaeological sites: a brief illustrated guide to basic processing (<https://oystersetcetera.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/oystershellmethodsmanualversion11.pdf> accessed 17/07/2015).