JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

DURING REPAIRS TO

A/A (E) PIPELINE

THATCHAM TO CALNE

SU 5195 6754 TO SU 0020 6991

On behalf of

The Oil and Pipelines Agency

JULY 2007

REPORT FOR	The Oil and Pipelines Agency York House 23 Kingsway London WC2B 6UJ
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CONTENTS

Summary

A watching brief was carried out at three locations in Berkshire and nine locations in Wiltshire by John Moore Heritage Services during the excavation of pits for the repair of the oil pipeline managed by the Oil and Pipeline Agency.

No archaeological remains were recorded in Berkshire. In Wiltshire four undated pits were recorded in the Beckhampton area, an undated posthole at Calne and part of a deserted medieval village at Quemerford in Blackland Park was surveyed and a section through a feature recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

Repair work was carried out on the A/A (E) pipeline between Thatcham (West Berkshire) and Calne (Wiltshire) in an approximately east-west line close to the A4 road.. The easternmost repair was at Park Avenue, Thatcham (NGR SU 51955 67546) while the westernmost was in the school playing field west of Tyning Park (SU 00203 69912).

1.2 Background

There were 19 defect locations along the route of the pipeline, which were numbered 1 to 19 inclusive. An impact assessment report on the proposed works was carried out (JMHS 2007). This detailed the archaeological background of the area for each defect. In addition the report recommended differing strategies for dealing with the impact of the works on potential archaeological remains. Some areas did not require mitigation work. These areas have been noted.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To identify and appropriately record any archaeological remains revealed by the works.

The results of the investigations will be made public.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Archaeology Service, Wiltshire County Council (WCC) and West Berkshire Council (WBC).

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist monitored all ground disturbances at Defects 5-7, 9-16, and 19 as recommended in the impact assessment report (JMHS 2007).

The works at each defect comprised an excavation to expose the pipeline, approximately 3m by 5m, to a depth of around 1.5 m. When the section of pipe requiring repair had been completed the trench was back-filled. Some defects required small-scale stripping of topsoil for access.

At Blackland Park an area of the earthworks was surveyed using using the Real Time Kinematic Leica GPS SR530TM System. The data was processed with Leica Geo-Office software achieving sub-centimetric accuracy to produce a contour plan and digital terrain models. In addition a hachure plan was produced by hand measurement.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate.

4 RESULTS (Figure 2)

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in [ ] indicate features i.e. cuts, although is also used for the grouping of modern cuts and fills; while numbers in ( ) show archaeological feature fills or deposits of material.

During monitoring the context record was assigned a defect number according to which defect it was derived from, as well as an individual context number. Near by locations of archaeological interest have also been noted and are indicated thus: (ref. number).

<u>BERKSHIRE</u>

Defects 1, 2, 3 & 4

No work was conducted in the area of these defects (SU 5195 6754, SU 5175 6761, SU 5085 6798 and SU 5068 6797).

Defect 5

Defect 5 was located on a footpath near agricultural land (SU 4799 6874) at approximately 90m OD that sloped to the south east (JMHS 2007). The archaeology within the vicinity of defect 5 comprises three artefact find spots; a 14th century coin (ref. 14), a prehistoric axe head (ref. 15) and Roman period pottery (ref. 16). Also in the area are the remains of a flint wall (ref. 17) and possible prehistoric earthwork features (ref. 18 & 19).

Defect 5 was excavated within the original trench for the pipeline. As a consequence, only two contexts were observed, the fill of the trench (5/02) and the topsoil/pathway (5/01). The fill of the pipe-trench was a compact mid-brownish yellow mottled clay with the odd small stone. The topsoil (5/01) sealed this trench fill, and was a compact dark grey brown silty clay, measuring 0.1m thick. No finds were recovered.

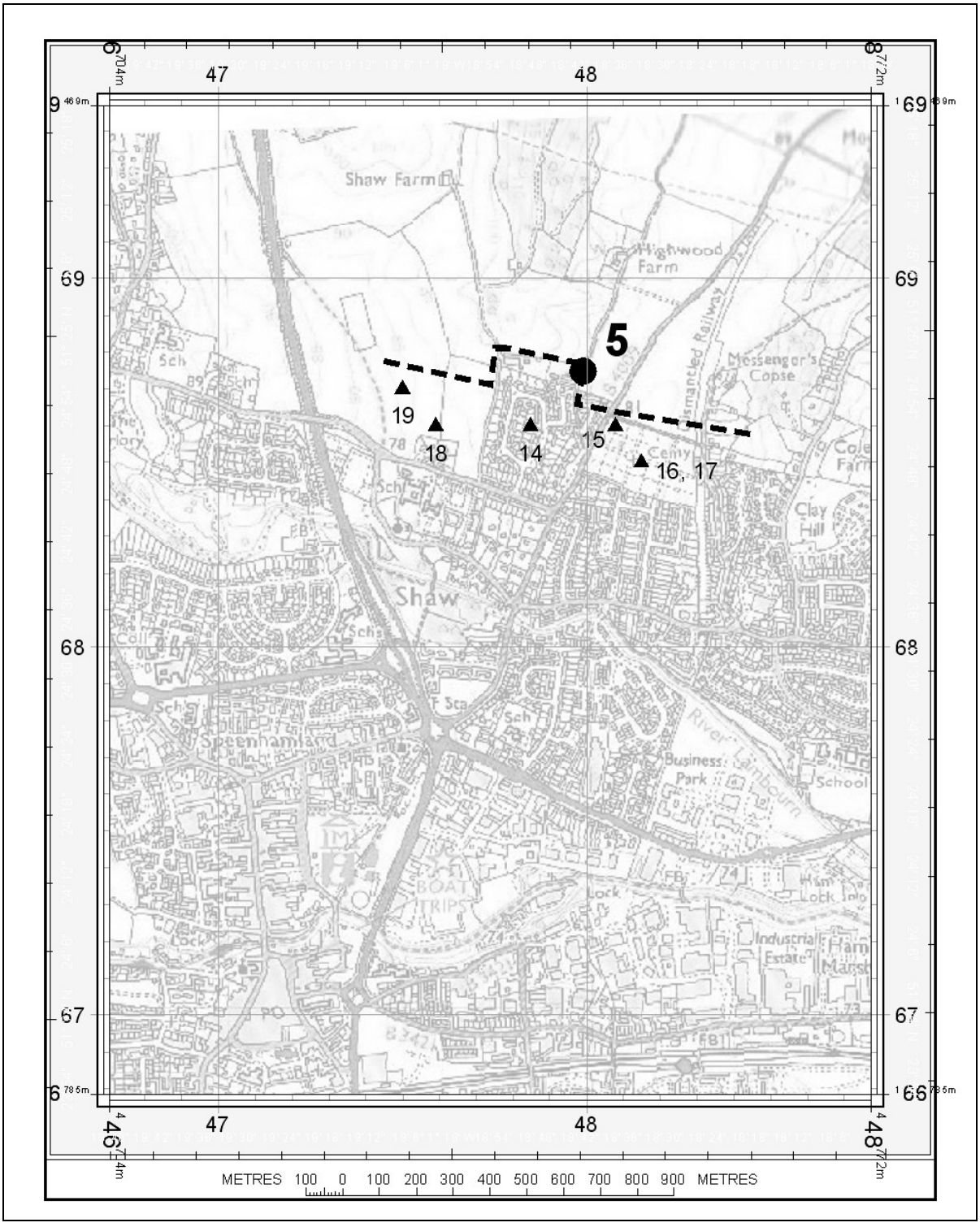


Figure 1. Location map of Defect 5

Defects 6 & 7

Located 2 km to the northwest of the centre of Newbury both locations are on very gently sloping northeast slope to the south of the river Lambourne. Defect 6 is within an 18th century landscaped garden (ref. 29) that was developed around the house Donnington Grove (SU 4567 6850). Today this is a golf course and Defect 6 is adjacent to a fairway. Defect 7 is within the front garden of No.23 Lambourn Road, a mid 20th century linear housing development (SU 4551 6846) adjacent to the golf course and also adjacent to a disused railway line. The site of the English Civil War battle of Newbury lies 800m to the east (JMHS 2007).

There are four linear features within the area of interest. Two (ref. 20 & 21) are 2.5 and 9 m wide, respectively and both contain prehistoric period to Roman period pottery sherds in the clay fill. Additionally one (ref. 21) contains ceramic building material within the fill. Both these features were discovered as a result of previous work on the oil pipeline when a watching brief also resulted in unspecified finds being recovered from the topsoil (ref. 30). The other linear features (ref. 24 & 27) are considered to be medieval to 19th century field boundaries (JMHS 2007).

There is a suggestion that the line of the Roman road Ermin Street (ref. 23) can be seen in a bank with trees in the park and a Romano British corn drier and other farm features have been excavated (ref. 25). Two find spots in the area have produced a 5th century coin (ref. 26) and a prehistoric palstave (ref. 28).

The line of a disused railway, constructed after 1883, lies 50m to the south of Defect 7 and nearby is the site of a railway station (ref. 22).

Defect 6 was excavated within the original trench for the pipeline. Only two contexts were observed, the fill of the trench (6/02) and the topsoil (6/01). The fill of the pipe-trench was a compact orange-brown silty clay with gravels. The topsoil (6/01) sealed this trench fill, and was a soft brown-black silty loam up to 0.2m thick. No finds were recovered.

The lowest deposit revealed in Defect 7 was the compact brownish orange clay (7/03) with 20% flint gravels. Above this was a colluvial deposit of orange-brown clay silt and gravel (7/07) that was up to 0.3m thick. Cut [7/04] was a pit 1.2m wide and 0.6m deep. It was only seen in section. This pit was filled with a dark brown silty clay (7/05) with frequent charcoal flecks. Some wood fragments were seen within this fill and the pit is believed to be modern.

Sealing the pit was a subsoil layer of firm orange-brown silty clay (7/02) with some natural flints that was up to 0.2m thick. Above this was a dark brown-grey silty clay loam (7/01) up to 0.15m thick that formed the topsoil.

The pipe trench [7/06] could be seen cut down from the subsoil (7/02) in to the natural (7/03). It was filled with a mottled brown orange clay silt with gravels and brick fragments.

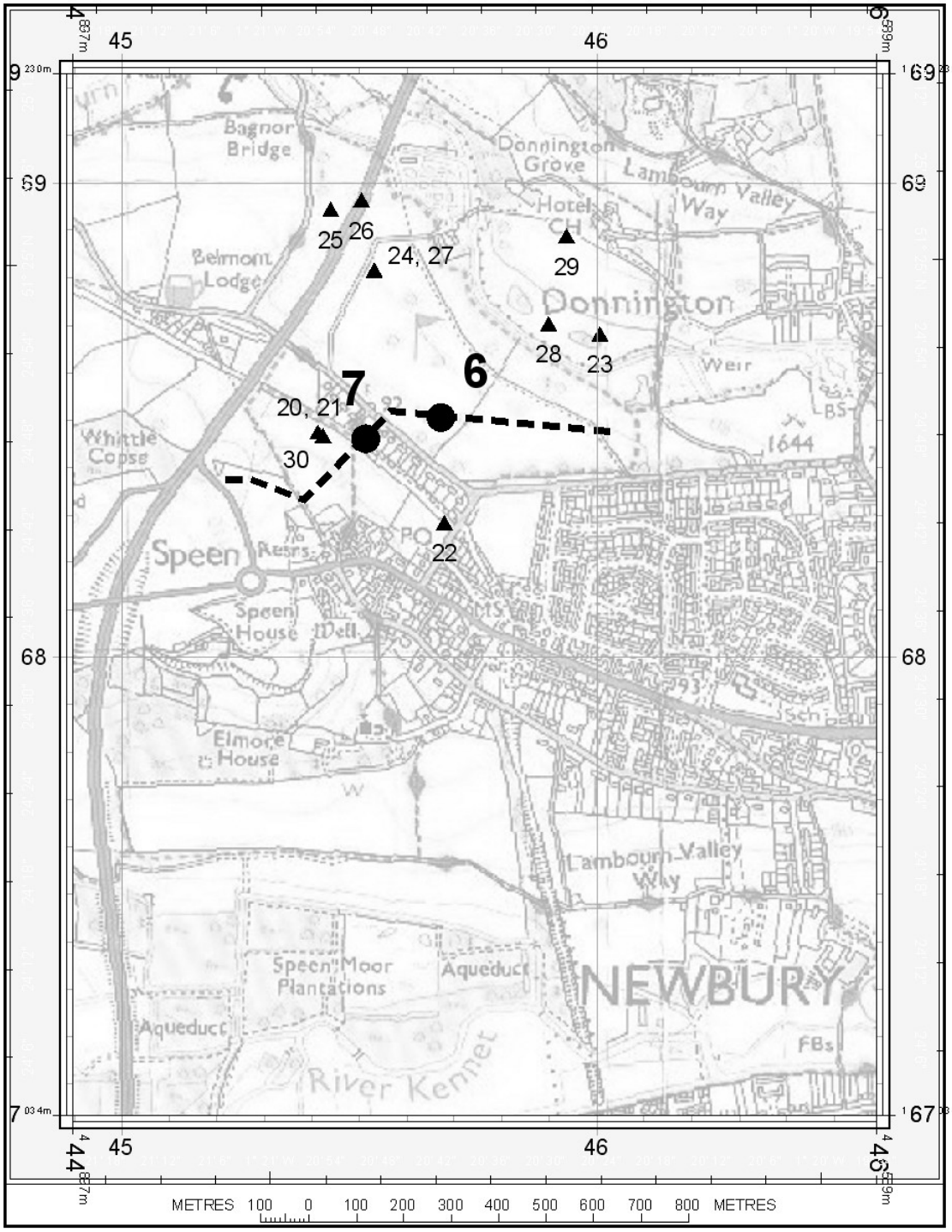


Figure 2. Location map for Defects 6 & 7

Defect 8

No work was conducted in this area (SU 3789 6854).

WILTSHIRE

Defect 9

Defect 9 was located at Beckhampton (SU 0890 6854), on agricultural land to the south of Galteemore Farm, 350m south of Beckhampton village at 160m OD. The defect is within the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Sites. There are three findspots without specific locations in the vicinity of Defect 9**.** These include a prehistoric tranchet axe (ref. 32), an Iron Age scabbard (ref. 34), and two Romano British period horseshoes (ref. 36).

Within the area of interest a Bronze Age beaker and fragments of human skeletons (ref. 33), have been found and Iron Age 'dwelling pits' (ref. 35). There is an area of medieval settlement (ref. 38), 100m to the north and the Speen to Bath Roman road (ref. 37), lies 100m to the south (JMHS 2007).

Defect 9 was excavated within the original trench for the pipeline. As a consequence, only two contexts were observed, the fill of the trench (9/02) and the topsoil (9/01). The fill of the pipe-trench was stiff mid-brownish yellow slightly silty clay with c. 60% flint and c. 1.7m thick. No finds were recovered. The topsoil (9/01) sealed this trench fill, and was a sticky mid grey brown silty clay with c. 35% flint, measuring 0.2m thick.

Defect 10

Defect 10 was located west of Beckhampton on the south sloping Knoll Down (SU 0767 6918), on land currently used as gallops, at 185m OD. The defect is within the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Sites.

Location 10 was within an area of potentially significant archaeology, comprising find spots of prehistoric flint implements (ref. 39) within 60m to the northeast, and large quantities of sarsen stones and Iron Age and Romano British pottery 150m to the north (ref. 40 & 41). Additionally, there are linear features, 70m to the southwest (ref. 42) and within 170m to the southeast (ref. 44 - SMR reference is 500m to southeast). A possible undated round barrow (ref. 45) lies to the west and a roughly square mound (ref. 43), which is probably not a barrow, lies to the northwest. A possible pond barrow (ref. 46) is located *c*. 450m to the south (JMHS 2007).

Within the wider landscape there are over 30 other archaeological monuments within a 500m radius of the location, including scheduled monuments 300m to the southeast and southwest of the defect location.

The trench for Defect 10 was aligned west-east just to the south of the lay-by at Knoll Down. The trench measured 8m long and 1m wide, reduced to 0.5m at the west end for access (Fig. 4). The lowest deposit revealed was the natural Chalk (10/03). This was overlaid by a dark brown chalky loam (10/02) that contained some large chalk fragments, which was 0.3m thick. The dark brown chalky topsoil (10/01) sealed this. It was 0.2m thick.

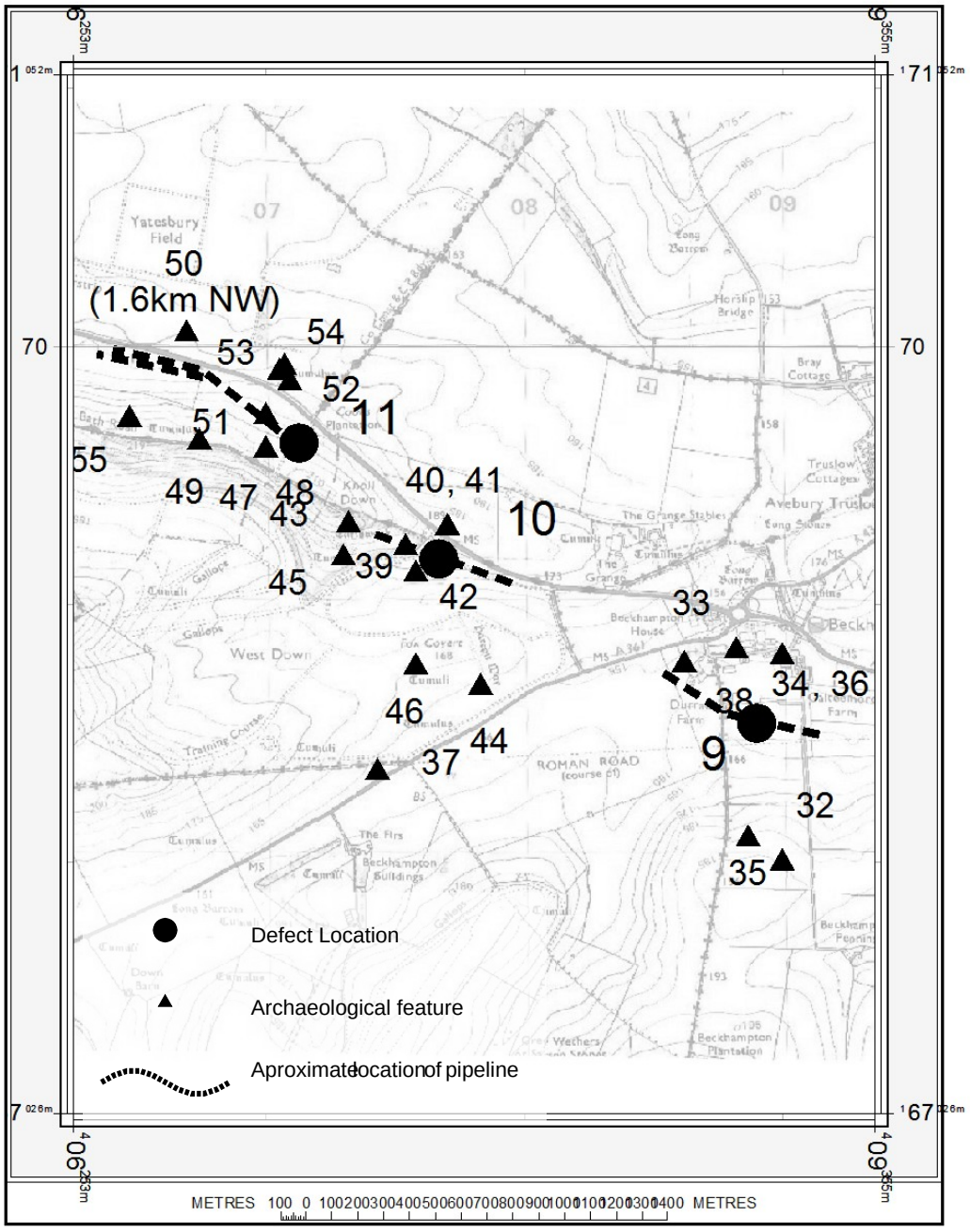


Figure 3. Location map for Defects 9, 10 and 11

Cut into the natural chalk (10/03) and sealed by the subsoil (10/02) were three pits or ditches (Fig. 5). These were seen just beyond the edge of the original trench dug for the pipeline. The opposing side of the 2007 trench was still within the original trench cut. The first feature [10/09] was only partially seen in section and had near vertical sides. It was at least 0.5m long and 0.4m wide and was 0.4m deep. It was filled with a brown-grey loam (10/10) with 40% chalk fragments. The second [10/07] again had

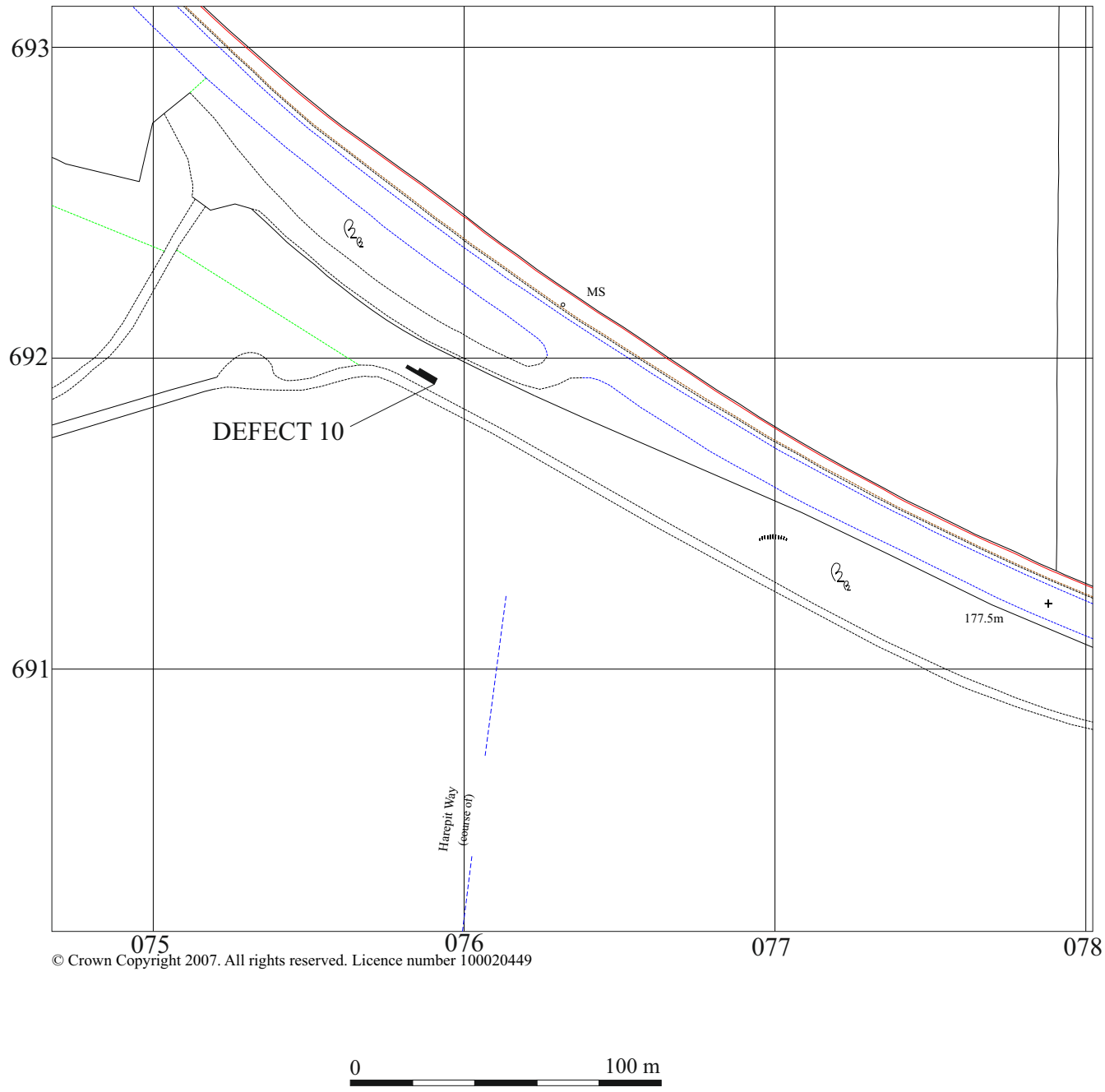
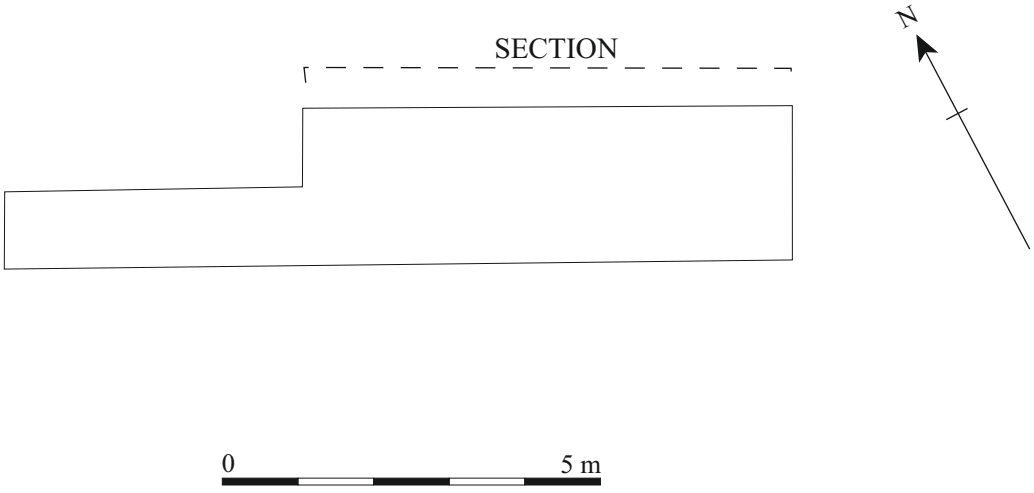


Figure 4. Detailed location map of Defect 10



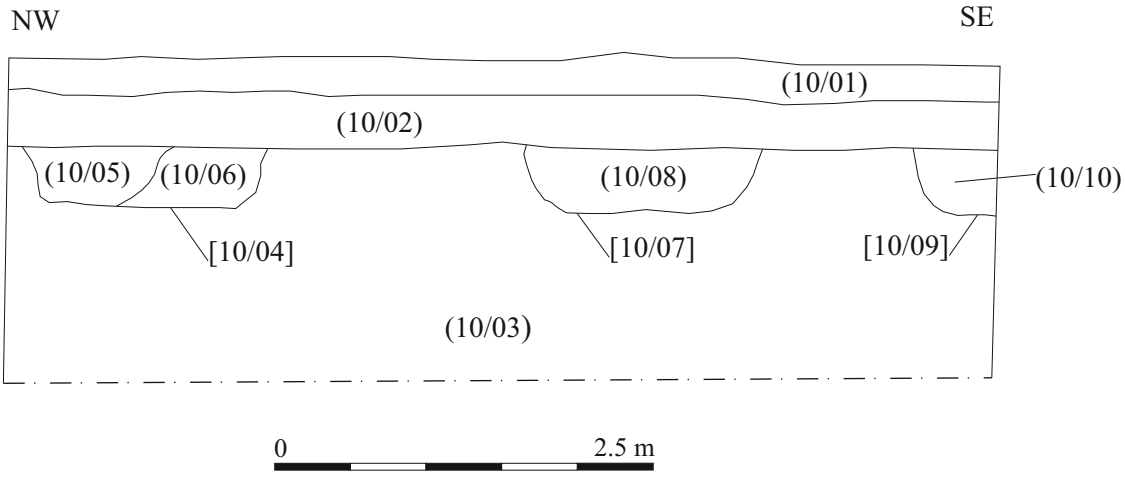


Figure 5. Plan and section of Defect 10

near vertical sides. It was at least 1.5m long, 0.4m wide and 0.4m deep. It was filled with a brown-grey loam (10/08) with 60% chalk fragments.

The third feature [10/04] was only seen in section, again had near vertical sides. It was at least 1.5m long, 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep. This pit had two fills, in fact the second fill may actually be a secondary re-cutting of the first and therefore more likely to be a ditch. The lower fill consisted of chalk rubble in a light grey chalky-loam matrix (10/06) that was up to 0.4m thick. The secondary fill was brown-grey loam (10/05) with 40% chalk fragments. This was also up to 0.4m thick and constituted the entire fill on the western side of the cut. No finds were recovered from the feature fills. Four flints were recovered from the topsoil (see *Lithics* below)

Defect 11

Located on arable agricultural land at the western edge of Knoll Down, it was approximately 100m south of the A4 road (SU 0713 6964).

Neolithic flint tools (ref. 47) and a scatter of flint implements (ref. 48) have been found together with Romano British pottery (ref. 49) in the vicinity. There are four barrows (ref. 51, 52, 53 & 54) some undated but probably Bronze Age, within 250m of the location. There is a late Bronze Age / early Iron Age linear bank and ditch (ref. 56) and an extensive field system (ref. 55) that the pipeline cuts through (JMHS 2007)

An area 6m by 6m was opened up. The lowest deposit revealed at Defect 11 was the natural Chalk (11/03). This was overlaid by a dark brown chalky loam (11/05) that was 0.25m thick. This appears to be a buried land surface. It was overlaid by a compact layer of chalk fragments in a chalk-loam matrix (11/02). This layer varied in thickness from 0.4m to 0.55m. The dark brown chalky topsoil (11/01) sealed this. It was 0.3m thick

Cut into deposit (11/02) and sealed by the topsoil (11/01) was a pit [11/04]. It was roughly circular in plan. The centre was 0.5m in diameter and 0.5m deep, the top then flared out to approximately 1.8m in diameter. It was filled with chalk rubble in a loamy matrix and can be associated with previous works carried out on the pipeline.

The only finds recovered from Defect 11 were worked flints from the topsoil (11/01).

Defects 12, 13 & 14

Defects 12, 13 and 14 were located in the grounds of Blackland House, Quemerford (ref. 59) on land currently used for grazing (SU 0121 6957). Earthworks of a deserted medieval settlement (ref. 58) are visible within the area of the grounds and are particularly well-preserved on the west side of the enclosure. The defects identified on this stretch of pipeline are located across the most well-defined area of the earthworks. Further earthworks (ref. 57) of a deserted settlement 200m to the north are believed to be post medieval encroachment onto Quemerford Common (JMHS 2007).

A topographic survey was carried out on the earthworks in the area of the pipeline using two separate methods. First a measured hachure plan was drawn and then a detailed contour survey using GPS was conducted. The latter produced both a contour plan (Fig. 8) and digital terrain models (in archive). The last do not show sufficient detail to merit their reproduction here. The run over of the east side of the contour survey onto the lane is a result of the inherent errors in digital Ordnance Survey mapping in relation to GPS.

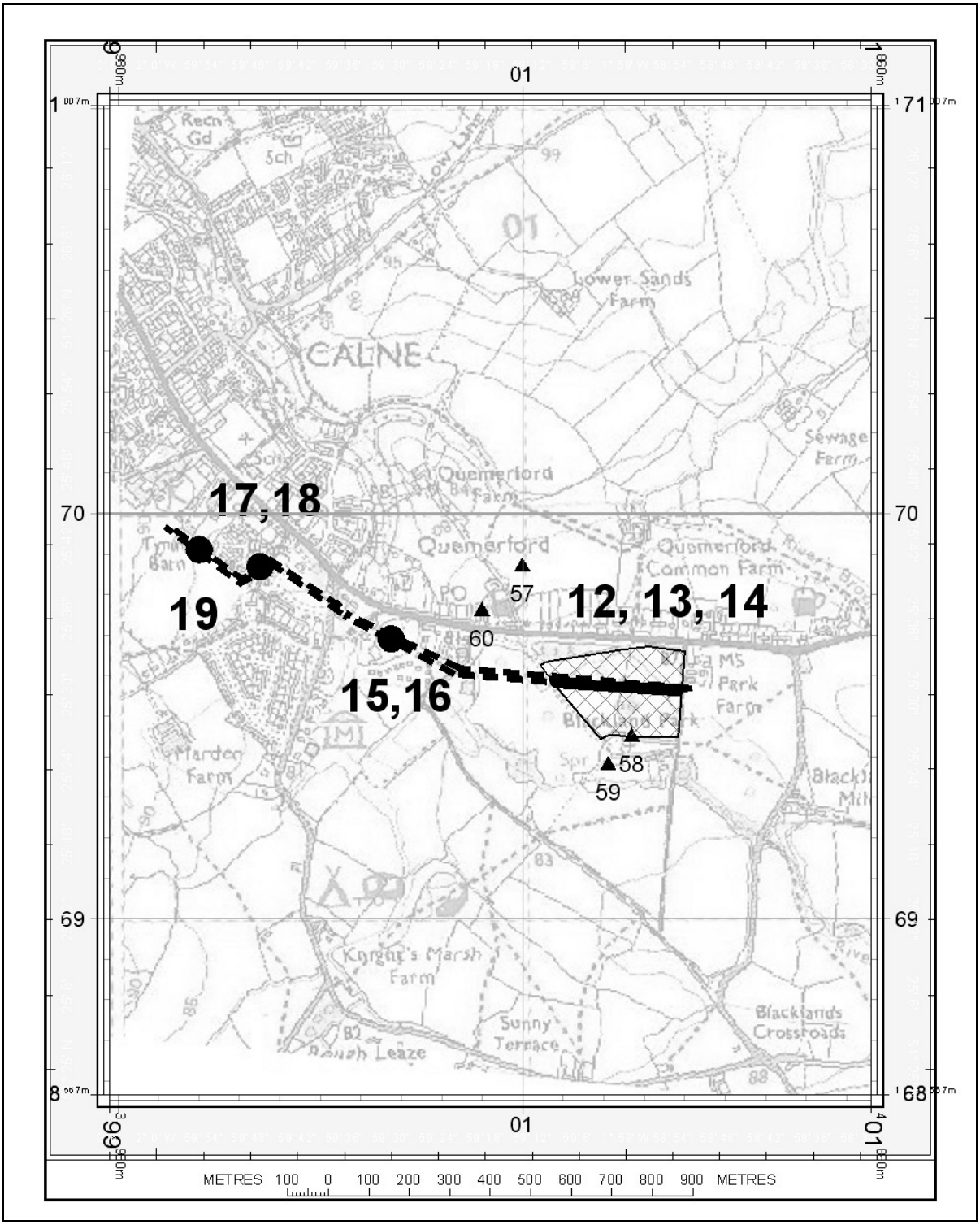


Figure 6. Location Map of Defects 12 to 19

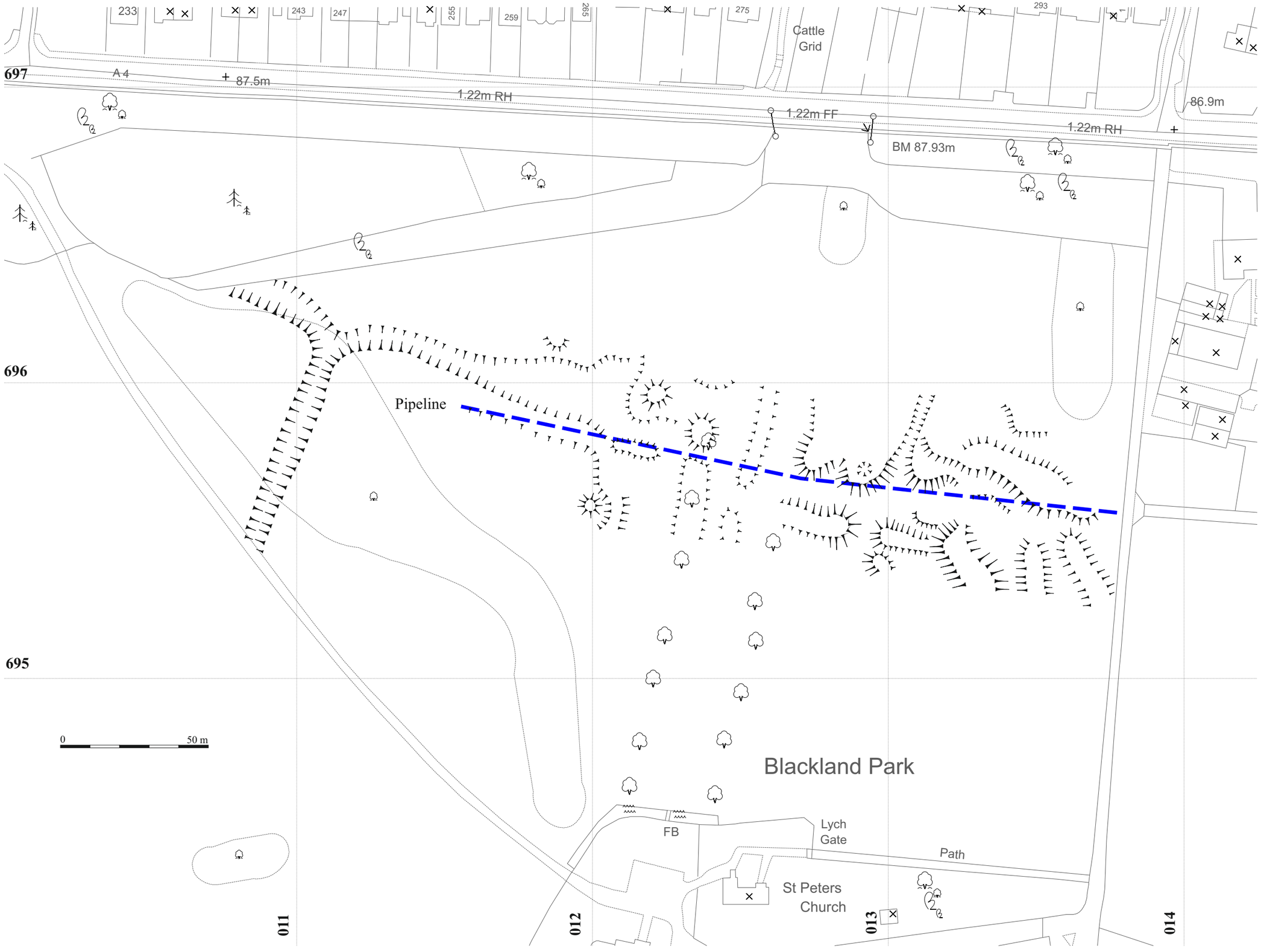
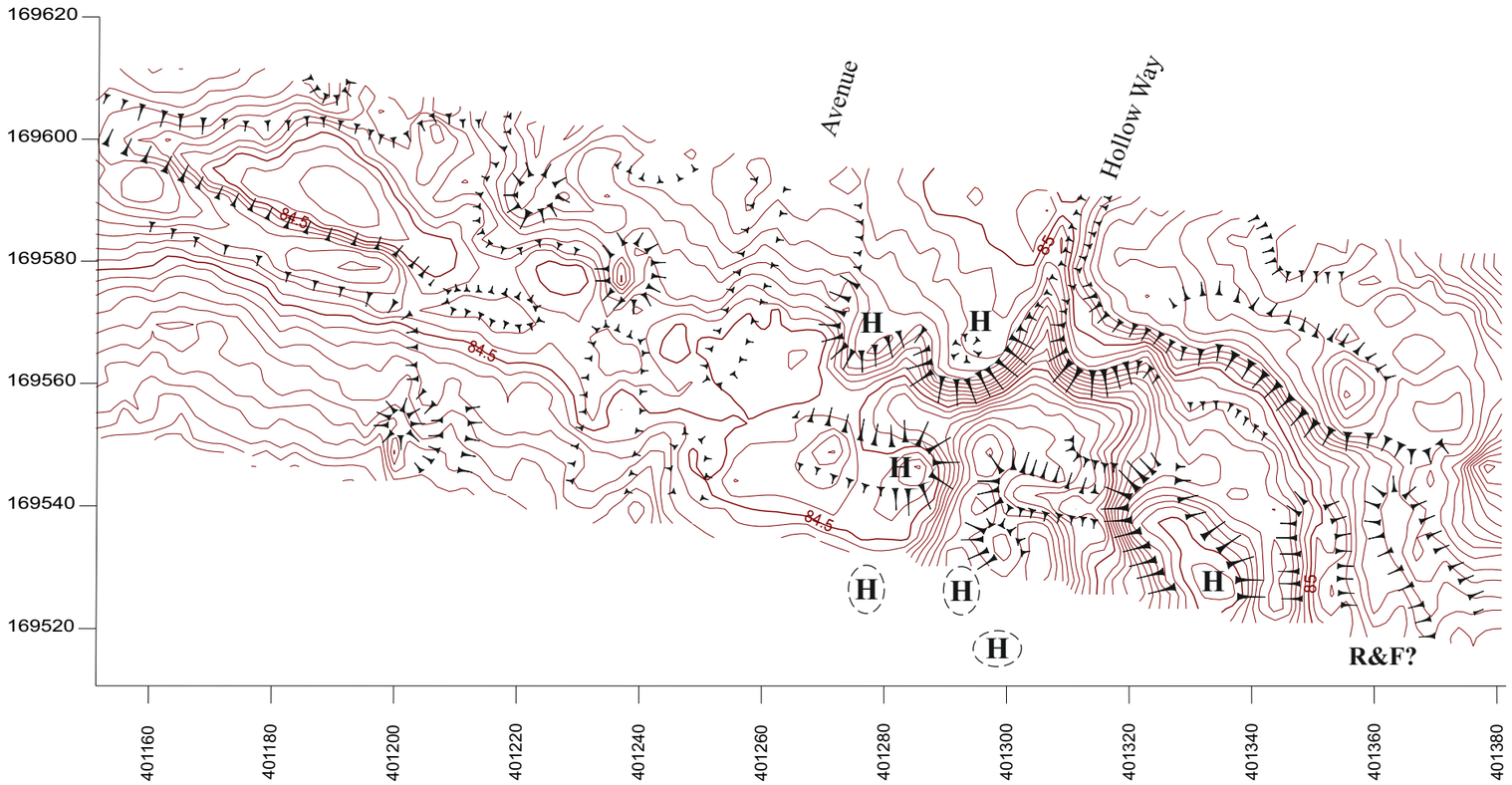


Figure 7. Measured survey of Defects 12 to 14

Figure 8. Detailed Contour Survey of Defects 12 to 14



H **(H)** House Base (outside survey area)

R&F? Possible Ridge and Furrow

Earthworks

While in general the hachured survey and the contour survey correlate, small differences are apparent. These are caused by the GPS survey being carried out on a grid while the hachure survey is more interpretive as the survey is being carried out. In addition subtle changes in elevation can be seen by the eye under differing light conditions.

The comments given here not only describe the earthworks in the survey area but include others elsewhere within the Park north of Blackland House. In the extreme east of the park and only south of the pipeline are three apparent ridges and associated furrows relating to ridge and furrow agriculture. These are clearer south of the survey area. These are parallel to the lane leading down to the church and other ridge and furrow in the field east of the lane. South of the pipeline are a series of platforms extending from the probable ridge and furrows to the avenue of trees leading to the house (Fig 7). These extend back to the southern limit of this part of the Park. Several possible building platforms are indicated on Figure 9. Two north/south hollow ways are apparent south of the pipeline joining to form one north of the pipeline heading in a north-north-easterly direction. Probable building platforms flank the hollow ways. Possible building platforms are present just to the north of the pipeline route.

In the north-east corner of the Park are several indistinct earthworks. A possible building near the north side of the park approximately 50m from the east edge was indicated by a rectangular area of 18x6m discolouration of the vegetation.

The Avenue has landscaped away most traces of earthworks; those mapped are very subtle earthworks. To the west of the Avenue and north of the pipeline route are a series of probable ditches, possible clay pits and a possible pond. The last is close to the west extent of the earthworks in north part of the Park. The west extent of the main earthworks is marked by an irregular north/south ditch fed by two east/west ditches at its north end (Fig. 7).

West of the house and east of the irregular north/south ditch are further earthworks although rather indistinct. In the extreme west of the park are occasional linear earthworks and linear marks. These may be former field boundaries.

Trenches

The trench excavated for Defect 12 was oriented west/east along the pipeline, and measured 9.5m by 1.5m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.9m. Traces of a feature were observed at the eastern end of the trench. An additional pit to locate a weld was also excavated 8.5m to the west.

The lowest deposit encountered was a yellow-brown clay (12/06) up to 0.5m deep. This layer was observed over the length of the trench. Overlying this Gault Clay (12/06) was a deposit of brown silty clay (12/02) subsoil, measuring c. 1.2m (east-west) and extending beyond the east edge of the trench and c. 0.1m thick. The subsoil and natural were truncated by the cut [12/08] for a feature.

The negative feature measured at least 6.9m (west-east), and was more than 1.5m wide (i.e. across the width of the trench). A moderately large unworked piece of

Figure 10. Sections of Defects 12 and 14

limestone at the east end defined the edge . The stone measured at least 0.2m by 0.18m. The lowest deposit within the feature [12/08] was sticky dark grey-brown clay silt (12/05) with no inclusions. The deposit measured 2.1m (west-east) and 0.2m (max.) thick. The deposit was also visible in the south wall of the trench. This was overlain by a thin deposit of paler grey-brown clay silt (12/04), which measured c. 0.5m (west-east) and 0.1m (max.) thick, and was not visible in the south wall of the trench. Sealing both of these layers was a thicker deposit (12/03) of greyish/yellowish brown silty clay which contained pottery, 1% oyster shell and 3% charcoal. The pottery recovered from this last layer was dated from the late 12th to 14th centuries. In addition there was a spread of rubble extending 2m (east-west) within this layer – this spread was also visible in the south wall of the trench. The layer (12/03) measured 7.25m (west-east) along the north wall of the trench, along the south wall it extended for c. 3.5m; the deposit was up to 0.3m thick in the centre.

Sealing the layer (12/03) was a layer of more recent subsoil (12/01) – a brown mottled with yellow silty clay loam which was visible in all sections of the trench measuring c. 0.2m thick, which was in turn sealed by the brown clay loam topsoil (12/07).

The feature [12/08] originally may have been a cut for material to form a platform or terrace (12/02) to the east. The larger stone may have been part of an edge/revetment to this earthwork. The negative feature may have further eroded to the west being used as a throughway around the earthwork similar to the holloways further to the west. The stones within (12/03) may have derived from a structure on the postulated earthwork to the east after abandonment of the site.

Fifty metres to the west of Defect 12 lay Defect 13. The trench excavated for Defect 13 measured 15m by 1m, with two bell-pits c. 1.5m from either end of the trench. The east bell-pit measured 2m wide at the east end, which reduced in a triangle to 1m over a distance of 2.5m. The western bell-pit measured 2m by 2m. The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.5m. Three contexts were observed and were visible in all sections over the length of the trench.

The earliest deposit revealed by the trenching was the underlying geological Gault Clay (13/03) – a stiff grey blue clay with orange ferruginous mottling. This deposit was observed throughout the length of the trench and was observed to a thickness of 1.1m. Overlying the natural Gault Clay was a subsoil or interface (13/02) of yellow-brown loamy silty clay with approximately 5% small limestone fragments. This deposit, which was 0.2m thick, was visible throughout the trench. Sealing the subsoil was topsoil (13/01) – a sticky dark brown/black clay loam, also c. 0.2m thick. No finds were recovered from the trench.

Defect 14 was located approximately 100m to the west of Defect 13. The trench opened for Defect 14 was a pair of small trenches to locate the weld and defect. The smaller, eastern trench measured c. 1x1.5m, the larger western trench measured c. 2x3m; both trenches were excavated to a depth of c. 1.4m. A sequence of five deposits was recorded, and dating was recovered during the monitoring. The earliest deposit encountered was loose brownish yellow silty sand (14/05), which was at least 0.2m thick, but was not excavated to its full depth as the maximum needed for the trench depth was 1.4m. The deposit of sand within the Lower Greensand was observed across the base of the trench and in all sections.

Sealing the sandy pocket (14/05) was the top of the Lower Greensand – a grey-yellow-brown clay/slightly silty clay (14/04) which was 0.3m thick. This natural deposit was also observed in all sections of the trench. Overlying this deposit was a yellow-brown loamy silty clay (14/03), c. 0.2m thick. This in turn was overlain by layer (14/02), a yellow-brown loamy clay silt with c. 2% charcoal and containing pottery. It measured 0.4m thick and was visible in all walls of the trench. It is interpreted as a ploughsoil. The layer (14/02) was sealed by the topsoil (14/01).

Defects 15 & 16

Defects 15 and 16 were located in the grounds of Quemerford House, Quemerford nr Calne (SU 0067 6969). A ditch and two post holes (ref. 60) were revealed during an excavation approximately 200m to the northeast of defect locations 15 and 16**.** Pottery, clay pipe fragments and building material recovered from the excavation date these features to the post medieval period. The defect locations lie within the grounds of Quemerford House, a late 18th century building with attached 17th century fulling mill, (Grade II listed). The grounds of the house were used in the 16th and 17th centuries as a tenter field for drying cloth (JMHS 2007).

The lowest deposit revealed at Defect 15 was a mottled yellow/orange brown clay (15/03) with up to 20% small stones and gravel, which formed part of the Kimmeridge Clay deposits. This was overlaid by a mid to dark grey-brown clay loam (15/02) that was 0.65m thick. It showed a considerable degree of bioturbation. The dark brown-black humic topsoil (15/01) sealed this. No finds were recovered from Defect 15.

The lowest deposit revealed within Defect 16 was (16/03) stiff yellow/orange brown clay more than 0.2m thick, which was Kimmeridge Clay. The clay was sealed by sticky mid to dark grey slightly silty clay (16/02) with c. 10% chalky gravel/detritus measuring c. 1m thick. This was sealed by topsoil (16/01). No finds were recovered from any of the deposits observed at Defect 16.

Defects 17 & 18

No work was conducted in the area of these defects (SU 0035 6987).

Defect 19

Defect 19 was located in the lower playing field of John Bentley School, Calne (SU 0020 6991). No archaeological features are recorded on the SMR within 400m of the defect. A survey was carried out on the earthworks visible in the upper playing field to the northwest of the defect.

The lowest deposit encountered within the trench was natural comprising a stiff creamy white slightly silty clay (19/03) with c. 5% limestone pieces. This was cut at the east end by a small single posthole [19/05], measuring 0.15m in diameter and 0.15m deep. The sides were straight with sharp breaks of slope at the top and the

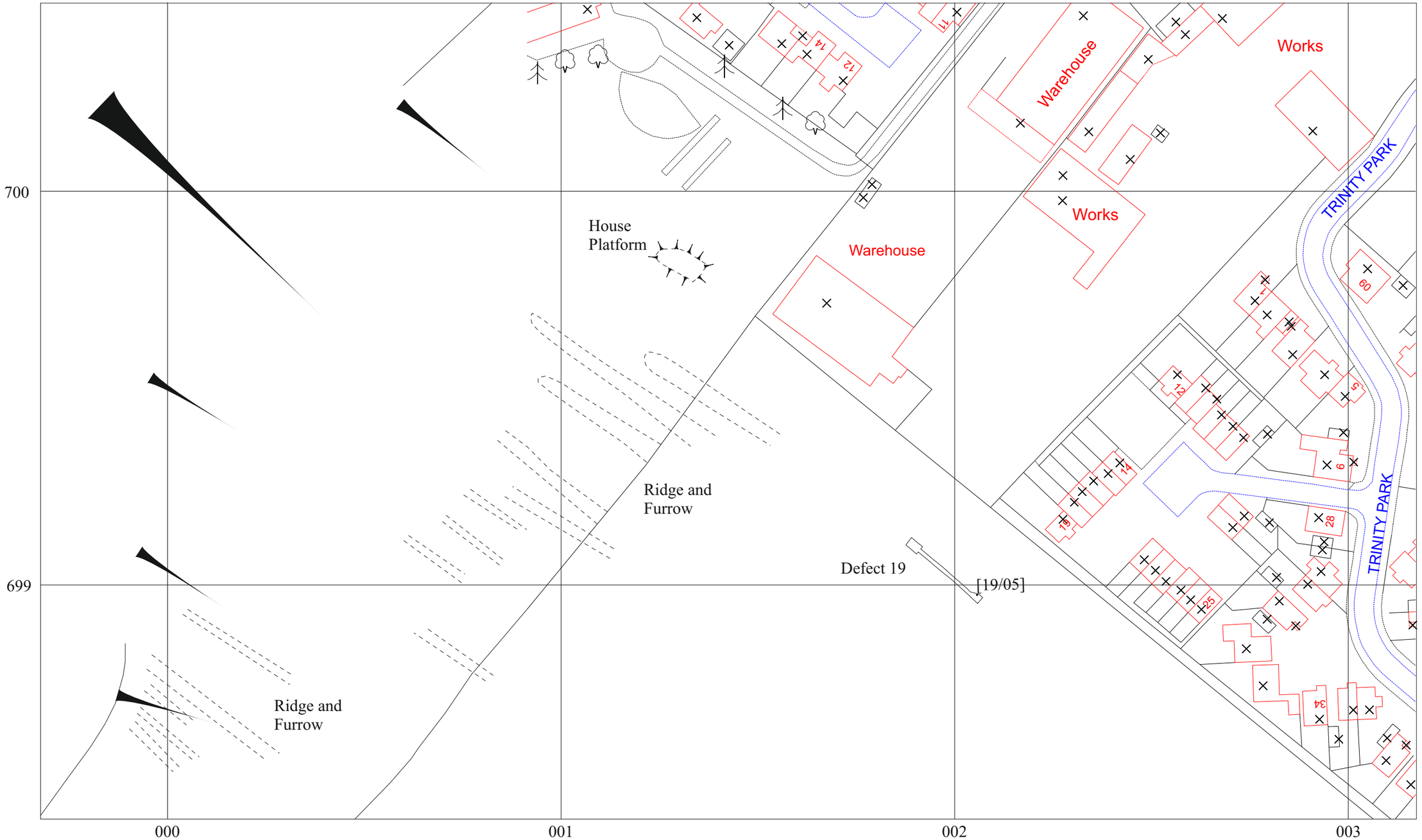


Figure 11. Plan of Defect 19 and earthwork survey

base, with a flat bottom. The fill (19/04) was a moderately compact pale grey brown clay silt with broken limestone fragments. No finds were recovered from the fill of the posthole and therefore its date is unknown. This was sealed by a subsoil (19/02) of moderately stiff mid reddish brown silty clay with 2-5% degraded limestone through it. The layer was visible in all sections of the trench and was 0.15m thick. This in turn was sealed by topsoil (19/01), soft dark grey brown clay silt loam with occasional limestone fragments, c. 0.3m thick.

Traces of ridge and furrow agriculture orientated NW-SE are visible in the adjacent playing field to the northwest of Defect 19. They are more pronounced to the northwest of the hedge-line separating the two playing fields. They probably extended into the playing field where the pipe repair was located but have been landscaped away. No trace of these archaeological features was apparent within the footprint of the pipe-trench. In addition to the ridge and furrow, the earthwork survey revealed the presence of a possible house-platform. This feature was a trapezoidal raised area, which measured 13m on the northwest-southeast axis. The broad end of the raised area was to the southeast and measured 9m wide; the narrow end was to the northwest measuring 4m wide.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery *(By Paul Blinkhorn)*

The pottery assemblage comprised 27 sherds with a total weight of 337g. The range of fabrics, which is typical of sites in the region, indicates that there was activity at the Blackland Park site in the earlier medieval period.

The following fabric types were noted:

Newbury A/B wares, late 11th – early 15th century (Mepham 1997, 51-2). Flint, sand and shell tempered wares, probably manufactured in the Savernake Forest (ibid. 65). It has a wide distribution throughout Wiltshire, Berkshire, northern Hampshire and Oxfordshire (ibid. fig. 29). 8 sherds, 66g.

Minety-type Ware: Limestone gritted glazed ware. Mid 12th - 15th century (Mellor 1994). Manufactured in north-east Wiltshire, but had a wide distribution across the south midlands. Wide range of domestic vessel types, including aquamaniles. 5 sherds, 63g.

Newbury C ware: Late 12th – mid 14th century (Mepham 1997, 52-4). Dense sub-rounded white quartz up to 1mm, rare rounded red ironstone up to 1mm. Jars, bowls, tripod pitchers and slipped and glazed jugs. 14 sherds, 208g

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

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

	Newbury A/B		Mintey		Newbury C		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
12.3	5	52	5	63	13	205	L12thC
14.2	3	14			1	3	L12thC
Total	8	66	5	63	14	208	

5.2 Lithics *(By David Gilbert)*

A total of 7 flint objects were recovered from 3 defect areas.

Defect 10 produced 4 flakes from the topsoil (10/01). The first is a primary flake measuring 30mm long by 57mm wide and 7mm thick. It has approximately 10% cortex, a thick white patina and shows some signs of post-depositional damage. The dorsal surface has three facets from previous flake detachments. The second measures 28mm long by 16mm wide and 6mm thick. The dorsal surface has approximately 30% cortex and two facets from previous flake detachments. It has a white patina. Both are hard hammer struck and typical of Bronze Age debitage.

The third is a primary flake with 90% cortex on the dorsal surface, measuring 15mm long by 10mm wide and 1mm thick. It has a grey-white patina and is hard hammer struck, probably during core preparation. The fourth is a secondary flake measuring 24mm long by 14mm wide and 2mm thick. It has some post depositional damage and a white patina all over. It is possible it was detached using a punch technique as the striking platform is very small. Both could be early to late Neolithic in date

Defect 11 produced 2 primary flakes from the topsoil (11/01). The first is 41mm long by 21mm wide by 4mm thick. It has approximately 90% cortex on its dorsal surface, the rest has a thick grey-white patina. The second flake is 27mm long by 18mm wide and 5mm thick. The dorsal surface has approximately 15% cortex and two facets from previous flake detachments. It patina is a thick grey-white all over. Both were hard hammer struck and likely to be of late Neolithic date.

Defect 12 produced a single secondary flake from context (12/03). It had suffered some post depositional damage and measured 35mm long by 15mm wide and 4mm thick. It had a pale brownish grey patina all over. The striking platform had been removed by damage. It is typical of early Neolithic debitage of the region, but is residual within this context.

6 DISCUSSION

<u>BERKSHIRE</u>

The only archaeological feature to be recorded within the County was a modern pit [7/04] at Defect 7.

<u>WILTSHIRE</u>

Defects 10 and 11 produced a series of undated pits or ditches at Defect 10. The pit located at Defect 11 is considered to be modern. Finds from the topsoil at these two sites produced further evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the area. This is not surprising considering the extent of prehistoric monuments and find-spots in the area (JMHS 2007).

Three Defects (12, 13 and 14) where located within the earthworks of a deserted medieval village. Only Defect 12 produced any archaeological remains in the form of a negative feature perhaps originally for material to produce a platform and then

further used as an access. Both Defects 12 and 14 produced pottery dating from the 12th to 14th centuries, all of types common throughout the region. While the earthworks survive relatively well it appears that they have been ploughed since abandonment of the settlement with a ploughsoil present in Defects 12 and 14 and possibly in Defect 13.

The survey highlighted probable building platforms in the area of the earthworks, including some just outside the surveyed area (Figure 9). Also recorded were probable hollow-ways adjacent to and leading to a broader avenue. The remains of ridge and furrow agriculture were also present in the area.

A single un-dated posthole was recorded in Defect 19. No other archaeological features are recorded in this area, but it is unlikely that the posthole is isolated. In the adjacent field to the northwest, traces of ridge and furrow and a possible house platform were recorded during the earthwork survey. These did not extend to any significant degree into the field in which Defect 19 was located.

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