

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
GATEHAMPTON FARM, GORING, OXFORDSHIRE.

PHASE II

SP 6029 7973

On behalf of

Thames Water Utilities Ltd

JULY 2009

REPORT FOR Thames Water Utilities Ltd
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Summary

A watching brief was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services during upgrading works to the existing operations for Thames Water supplies at Gatehampton, Goring. A palaeochannel was located running across the entire site. This would appear to have accumulated considerable silt deposits during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. Stray finds of flint contemporary artefacts were recovered, and it is likely the area was exploited for hunting purposes.

By the Bronze Age the channel was dry, but was still a significant mark in the landscape. Hearths of this date are found within the upper soil sequence and are obviously associated with the nearby barrows. The area has seen activity over a broad period of time. Later features included an Iron Age ditch, a Roman posthole, hearth and possible quarrying pit. Also noted was a Saxon pit. It is possible that people were not only drawn here by its location within a bend in the river but also by the Bronze Age Barrows that would have still been an imposing sight.

No evidence of further Bronze Age Barrows expected close to the river was identified.

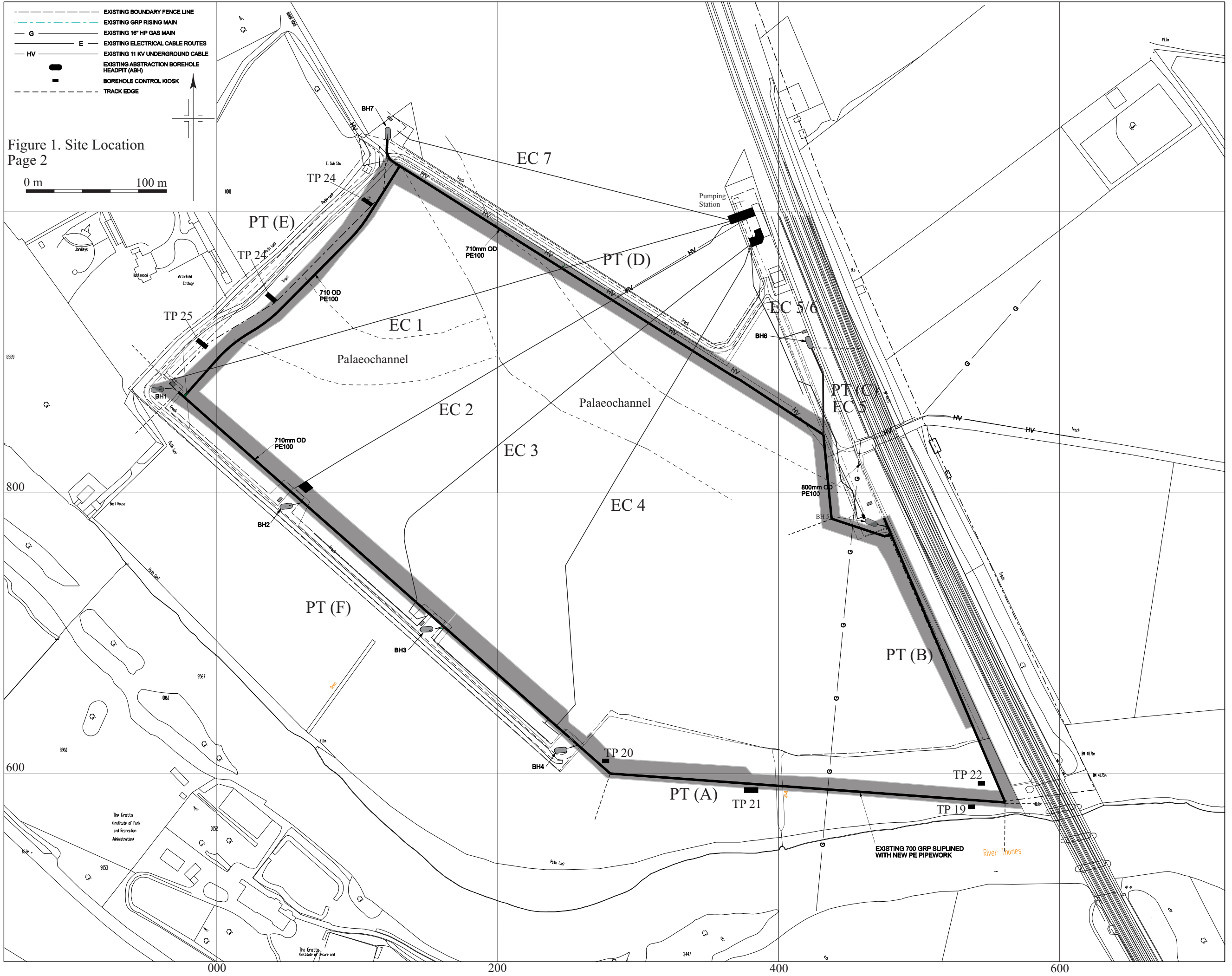
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located to the west of the Reading to Didcot railway line south of Goring (NGR SP 6029 7973). From the railway bridge the area slopes down, across a marked ridge to the River Thames. The area lies at c. 45m OD. The site lies on the north bank of the Thames on the inside of a bend, and in the narrowest part of the Goring Gap where the river passes through the Berkshire Downs. Between the chalk escarpment and the river at this point is a flint gravel terrace some 1200m wide, which slopes gently down to the edge of the flood plain. The acidity of the soils has dissolved all the calcareous constituent of the gravel, leaving only flint pebbles between which postglacial clays have percolated. Overlying the gravel alongside the river is a sandbank 200-250m wide. There is a sharp drop from the edge of the terrace onto the floodplain; this was formerly the edge of the river channel, which has subsequently migrated southwards (Allen 1995).

1.2 Planning Background

Thames Water undertook various improvement works to the existing water operations site at Gatehampton. Phase I consisted of a new temporary pipeline approximately 320m in length within a 10m easement strip that ran from the railway bridge in a south-westerly direction towards the river to join an existing pipe close to Borehole 3. The work in this phase (Phase II) consisted of monitoring the construction of a new borehole (8) and a new pipeline between boreholes 7, 8 and 6. The existing ring main between boreholes 4, 3, 2, and 1 was replaced with a new pipeline between borehole 1 and 7. There was also a replacement pipe from borehole 4 eastwards and alongside the railway embankment within the former easement (previously excavated – see Allen 1995). All the new pipes were to be laid as close as possible to the existing pipe routes. The electricity cables linking boreholes 1-4 and the pumping station were also



replaced. However these were offset from the existing cables with the trenches between boreholes 3 and 4 bent to avoid known archaeological remains and cropmarks. Due to the potential of the work to impact on archaeological remains Thames Water Utilities Ltd engaged John Moore Heritage Services to undertake archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The area where the pipeline was laid contains a number of very important archaeological features. These include approximately seven Bronze Age barrows that make up part of a larger barrow cemetery, a Neolithic enclosure ditch that may be part of a causewayed enclosure, a Roman corn drier, a Grubenhaus and spreads of Mesolithic and Neolithic artefacts. The site was crossed by a late Pleistocene channel, and in the resulting hollows successive prehistoric occupation horizons accumulated. A long blade industry indicates a probable butchery site of the early postglacial period. Other linear features to the west of the barrows identified from aerial photographs may be of natural origin. In the wider context there are further barrows and a Roman villa east of the railway line. Excavations were undertaken prior to the original pipe laying between 1985 and 1988 (Allen 1995).

An interpretation of aerial photographs across the site was recently completed (Cox 2007) (Figure. 2). This basically confirmed the information gathered from previous work, but also showed the possibility of two further Bronze Age Barrows towards the SW of the site not previously identified that would be impacted on from the new pipe works.

From the results of the 1985-1992 work (Allen 1995) the top of the archaeological horizon, over most of the route, was expected at a depth of *c.* 400mm. Topsoil of 250mm overlies a ploughsoil of *c.* 150mm. East of the railway the archaeological horizon is lower at *c.* 800mm with a much thicker old ploughsoil.

The Phase 1 works indicated that the late Palaeolithic long blade knapping deposits extended further west than previously known (JMHS 2007).

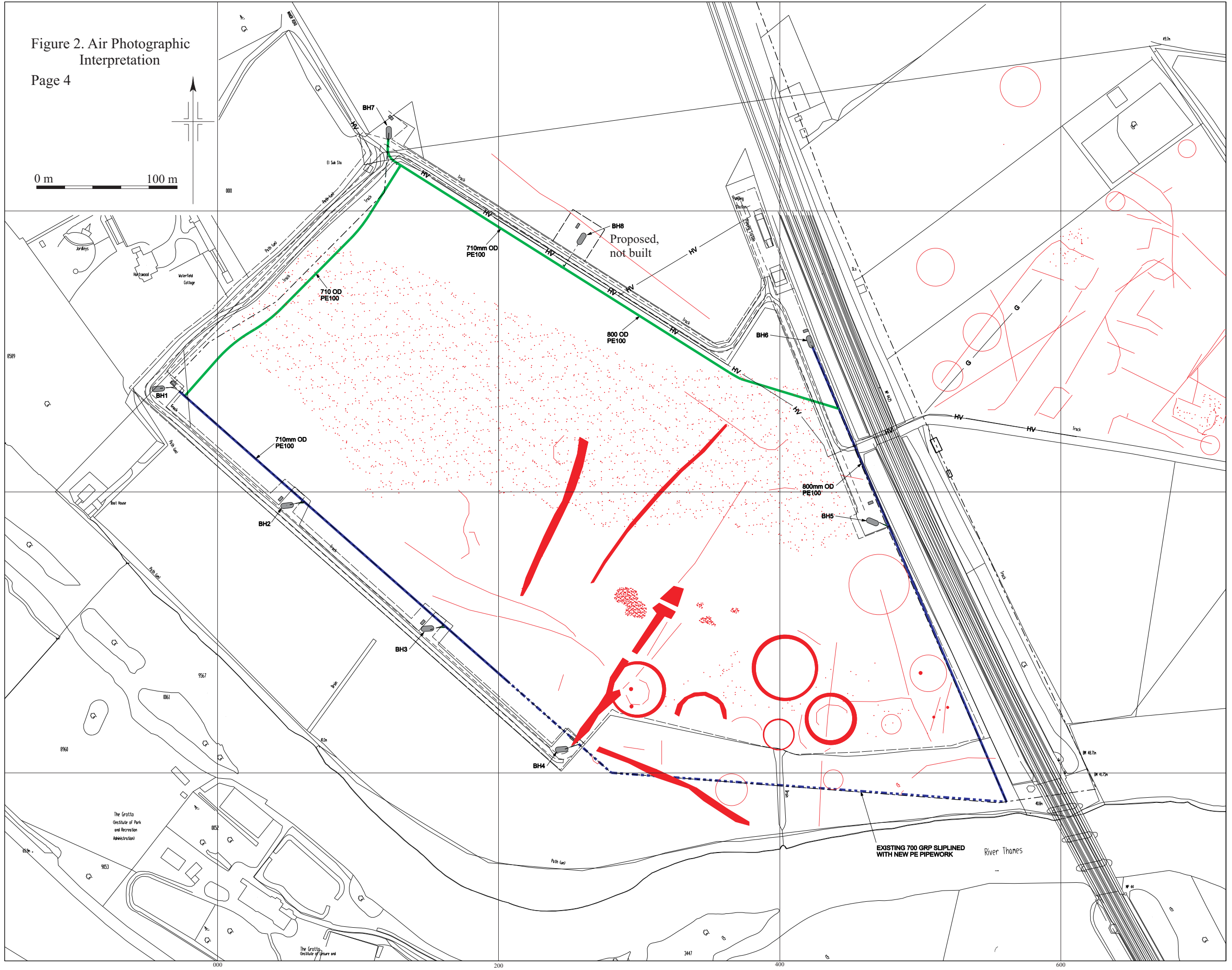
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To identify and record any archaeological features and artefacts exposed during the ground-works.

Further to this, the Roman corn drier discovered during previous excavation work and left *in situ* was to be protected during the new ground-works.

Figure 2. Air Photographic Interpretation
Page 4



3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the archaeological monitoring to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Thames Water Utilities Ltd (TWUL) and Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS). The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeological presence was maintained on site during the course of all operations that were thought to potentially disturb or expose archaeological remains. This included the stripping of all easements and the excavations for the cable and pipe trenches.

All features exposed within the easements were planned and recorded by written record and photographic means. Where such features were not within the line of the pipe, discussions were held with Mike Hall on behalf of TWUL and Hugh Coddington of OCAS as to whether they should be excavated or protected from plant. Where they lay within the line of the pipe trench the features were hand excavated to the limit of the proposed impact, or deeper when agreed with TWUL.

Detailed archaeological excavation for the new pipeline from borehole 4 eastwards was carried out where the pipe route cut through the barrows and other features shown on the aerial photographs.

All archaeological remains within the easement that were deemed to be too important just to be sample excavated and could not be protected from plant movement were fully excavated. All deposits were removed stratigraphically.

All artefacts were to be collected and bagged either by context from within feature fills or in 10m lengths where they derive from general topsoil and subsoil deposits.

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.

4 RESULTS (see Appendix A)

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in () indicate fills or deposits of material whilst those without a bracket but are qualified as pits, ditches etc, refer to features themselves. The new electricity cable trenches (EC) were numbered EC 1-7 corresponding to the existing Borehole (BH) they were dug from. Each EC trench was also treated as an individual entity and issued with its own set of context numbers for the topsoil, subsoil, natural with all other deposits and cuts using a continuous numbering system. The Pipe Trench (PT) that formed a loop close to the boundaries of the site was also subdivided into smaller segments (PT (A), PT (B), PT (C) etc). Again a continuous numbering system was

employed and each segment was treated as an individual entity being issued with its own set of context numbers for ease of reference and to aid finds labelling.

The proposed construction of BH 8 was not attempted during this phase of work and has instead been temporarily shelved for a later date.

Below is a summary of the results while full details on the deposits and features recorded can be found in Appendix A. For location of detailed figures see Figure 3 where P1 etc shows location of plans and S1 etc shows section locations.

4.1 Summary of Excavation Results *(By D. Gilbert)*

The soil sequence seen throughout the entire area was relatively uniform with a mid yellow-orange sandy gravel natural (120, 121, 156, 168, 174, 188, 191, 217, 233, 265, 274, 286, 302, 305, 308, 330 and 428) that represents the river gravel terrace known in the area. This was overlain by a mid orange-brown sandy loam subsoil (117, 119, 155, 187, 190, 216, 250, 253, 257, 262, 281, 301, 304, 307 and 329). The uppermost layer was a mid grey-brown sandy loam topsoil (116, 118, 163, 169, 181, 186, 189, 224, 248, 255, 261, 267, 269, 280, 300, 303, 306 and 328).

The site was located within a bend in the River Thames. Test Pits (19-22) and PT(A) dug within 60m of the river located bands of alluvial deposits (165, 166, 171, 172, 173, 177, 178, 179, 183, 184, 231, 232, 235, 236 and 237). These bands often contained preserved organic material and combined could be up to 1.6m thick. They overlay the natural gravels and were sealed by the subsoil.

Also cut parallel to the river was PT(F) which was at a distance of 130m from the river and did not record any alluvial deposits. It is likely therefore that these deposits represent localised flooding episodes and not relict channels or meanders of the river.

Palaeochannels

Two buried palaeochannels were located during the monitoring of the work (Figure 3).

The first buried channel previously recorded as 469 by Allen (1995, Fig. 26) was bisected by five electricity cable trenches (EC) and by three sections of the pipe trench (PT). It generally showed a similar sequence of deposits within it along its course. A few localised variations were noted and may be the result in a variable depth channel silting up or drying out at different rates.

The table below shows the comparative soil deposits within the channel, as seen in the various sections.

Layer	EC1	EC2	EC3	EC4	EC5	PT B	PT C	PT D
Topsoil	116	118	189	186	328	280	-	303
Subsoil	117	119	190	187	331	281	-	304
Mid orange grey-brown loam	154	130/138/143	367	197	332	282	313	326/327
Orange-yellow sand							312	
Mid orange-brown clay	151			202	333	283	311	318
Dark orange-brown-grey clay-sand	126	131/140/144	368					317

Layer	EC1	EC2	EC3	EC4	EC5	PT B	PT C	PT D
Cream brown clay with chalk						284	310	
Dark grey-brown loam		132/141/145		203	334	285	309	316
Dark orange-brown sandy loam			366/369					
Mid orange brown silt-sand	127	137/139/146	365/370	204	329			315
Dark orange-brown clay-sand		134						314
Natural	121			188/196	330	286	302	305

The palaeochannel was noted to continue past the area that Allen (1995) observed and it would appear to join with the channel located to the east of the present Oxford to Reading railway.

Deposits (320, 322, 323, 324 and 325) noted to overlie layer (318) in PT(D) could represent the last rivulets of the channel before it finally ceased to carry water.

Two phases of activity were noted within the channel deposits. These had obviously taken place at a point when the channel no longer functioned to carry water, but had silted up and formed a hollow in the landscape.

The first phase is associated with a posthole 298 cut into layer 318 in PT(D). This was 0.25m wide, 0.22m deep with steep, slightly curving sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark black-grey silty clay (299) containing very occasional flint gravel and occasional charcoal flecking (Fig. 11, S14, Section C-D).

The second phase was a pit or hearth marked by an area of burning 287 cut into layer (332) in EC 5 (Fig. 7, P4). It measured 0.60m in length and 0.55m in width. The fill was composed of very dark brown-grey sandy silt (288) containing very frequent charcoal flecking, occasional burnt flint and very occasional sandstone. Dark red scorching along part of its edge showed the burning to have been *in-situ*.

No finds were recovered from either feature. Allen (1995) also noted posthole and hearths in the upper fill of this buried channel that he dated to the Neolithic-Bronze Age.

A hearth 148 (Fig. 6, P1, S1) was located within the deposit (151) of this channel as well in EC 1, sealed beneath a similar stratigraphic soil (154) sequence to that seen in PT(D). Feature 148 was irregular in plan with the earliest fill being a mid brown-black silty clay (153) with occasional charcoal inclusions that was 0.07m thick. Above this was a friable dark brown-black silty charcoal layer (150) mixed with a small quantity of silty clay noted to be fairly patchy but typically 0.02m thick. This was covered by a deposit of firm to friable mid red-orange burnt clay (149) containing occasional burnt flint that appear to have been burnt *in-situ*. Overlying this was a thin charcoal layer (152) very similar to layer (150) and with a similar thickness. Sealing (152) and the uppermost fill was a mid yellow-brown slightly silty clay (135) containing occasional charcoal flecking measuring 0.07m thick. No finds were recovered but its relationship to the buried soil sequence may indicate that it is contemporary with that seen in PT(D).

The second buried channel was bisected by TP24, electricity cable EC 1 (upper deposits only) and pipe trench PT(E). This displayed a long sequence of thin silting lenses within its deposits. The main channel appears to have silted up with a chalk

rich deposit (349) (Fig. 14, S15) and later increased water flow formed two channels with perhaps the southern one being earlier. The earliest silts of each channel appearing as deposit (335) to the north and deposit (354) to the south.

The table below shows the stratigraphic sequence for comparison, PT(E) data has been simplified.

Layer	EC1	PT E
Topsoil	116	306
Subsoil	117	307
Mid orange grey-brown loam	122	362
Orange-yellow sand		
Mid orange-brown clay	123	363
Dark orange-brown-grey clay-sand		
Cream brown clay with chalk		
Layer	EC1	PT E
Dark grey-brown loam	157	344/346
Dark orange-brown sandy loam	158	354
Mid orange brown silt-sand	159	335
Dark orange-brown clay-sand		
Natural	121	308

It is possible that this channel forms a braided stream channel from the first, as it the not seen running parallel to it in trenches EC 2 or EC 3. It may join at a point between trenches EC 1 and EC 2. As a potential side channel it is likely that the water flow would have been less than the main channel. This would have encouraged silting. Each band may mark a year of particularly heavy rainfall with increased water flow, before returning to a more regular silting process.

Prehistoric and possible prehistoric features

No artefacts were associated with the alluvial layers. However, Test Pit 21 adjacent to PT(A) located a pit 160 that appeared to contain in-situ burnt material including flint and stone (Fig. 4, P13, S19). This appears to have been sealed by a soil layer (167) before being covered by alluvial deposits (165) and (166).

Pit 226 (Fig. 8, P7, S8) located within PT(A) and near to Test Pit 20 may also be of a contemporary date as it had also been cut into the natural, however modern disturbance had removed any relationship between it and the alluvial layers above (236) and (237).

Within PT(F) several pits and ditches were noted and all appeared to be roughly contemporary.

Close to BH 4 in PT(F) and only seen in section was a wide ditch 238 (Fig. 15, S13). This is thought to be part of a linear cropmark aligned NW-SE across the site and which has an uncertain relationship to the westernmost ring ditch (Cox 2007). This cut into the natural sandy gravel (428) and contained numerous fills. The lowest fill (239) was a mid grey-brown sandy, silty clay 0.32m thick with very frequent gravel and occasional sandstone inclusions. Above this was a very dark grey slightly silty clay fill (240) measuring 0.08m thick with occasional charcoal flecking. This in turn

was covered by a dark grey slightly silty clay fill (241) with dark orange flecking containing occasional flint gravel and larger pieces of flint. Covering this was a silty, sandy clay fill (242) that was 0.20m thick with very frequent flint gravel inclusions. Two sherds of pottery were recovered from this fill dating it to the early to middle Iron Age. Overlaying this was a dark brown-orange silty clay fill (243) with a thickness of 0.14m and containing occasional flint gravel and very occasional charcoal flecking. Sealing this was a mottled mid orange-dark blue-grey slightly silty clay fill (244) measuring approximately 0.30m thick with occasional flint gravel and very occasional charcoal flecking. This in turn was covered by a mottled mid blue-orange clay fill (245) that was 0.40m thick and contained occasional flint gravel. A layer of mottled dark blue-orange clay (246) sealed the ditch. Modern disturbance was seen above this.

Pit 383 was roughly oval in plan, and was seen to contain two fills (Fig. 17, P18, S19). The feature was 0.87m wide, 0.38m deep and at least 1.20m long with moderately steep slightly curving sides onto a slightly irregular base. The lower fill was 0.20m thick and consisted of a mid orange-brown sandy, silty loam (385) with occasional to moderate flint gravel inclusions whilst the upper fill measured 0.17m thick and was composed of a dark blackish brown sandy, silty loam (384) with very occasional flint gravel and charcoal flecking. A single piece of worked flint was recovered from this fill close to its surface.

A linear ditch 387 (Fig. 17, P18, S20) was noted to have moderately steep, relatively straight sides, which became much steeper following a break in slope. The actual base however was not seen as the feature was not fully excavated. The earliest fill encountered was a mid yellowish brown-orange slightly silty sandy gravel (397) that was at least 0.20m thick. Overlying this was a mid orange-brown sandy, silty loam (396) measuring 0.10m thick and noted to be very similar to (385). Above this was a dark blackish brown sandy, silty loam deposit (395) very similar to (384) measuring 0.52m thick. It (395) contained one piece of burnt flint and one piece of worked flint.

Feature 389 (Fig. ?) was only seen in section. This was 1.24m wide, at least 0.78m deep and at least 0.30m long with an apparent 'V' shape profile, the base of which was not seen. The lowest fill revealed was a mid yellowish brown-orange sandy gravel (408) at least 0.26m thick. Overlaying this was a silty sandy gravel fill (407) measuring 0.06m thick. It was slightly darker in colour than (408). This was covered by a mid orange-brown sandy, silty loam (406) and measuring 0.10m thick. Completing the sequence was another deposit of orange-brown sandy, silty loam (405) that measured 0.48m thick. This contained a single worked flint.

A further two possible pits were cut into the natural (428). The first pit 371 (Fig. 15, P11, S10) was 1.10m wide, 2.30m long and 0.32m deep with moderately steep curving sides onto a slightly curving base and contained three fills. The primary fill (374) was 0.32m thick and consisted of a mid brown-yellow silty sandy gravel. The secondary fill was a mid brown-orange slightly clayey silty sand (373) measuring 0.12m thick that was overlain by a friable-loose dark orange-brown sandy loam (372) measuring 0.20m thick with very occasional chalk flecking and chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered during excavation.

Close by was the other pit 375 (Fig. 15, P11, S11). This was at least 1.55m long, 1.45m wide and 0.50m deep. It had curving sides and a slightly curving base with the

NW edge noticeably steeper than the SE edge. The primary fill was a mid orange-brown sandy loam (377) that contained occasional flint gravel and was 0.20m thick. This was overlain by a dark orange-brown loam fill (376) flecked with charcoal containing occasional flint gravel, which was 0.50m thick. A piece of burnt flint was recovered from this deposit.

Also located in PT(F) was a ditch 378 (Fig. 15, P12, S12), cut into the natural (428). This was 1.28m wide and 0.58m deep with moderately steep and relatively straight sides onto a steeper break in slope and a rounded base. Nearer to where the feature disappeared under the limit of excavation, the feature became more irregular. Four fills were observed in section. The primary fill was a dark orange-yellow sandy loam (382) containing frequent flint gravel and measured 0.14m thick. It blurred into the fill (381) above, which was a mid orange-brown sandy-clayey loam measuring 0.14m thick. This was overlain by a dark orangey brown-grey sandy, clayey, loam (380) with very occasional flint gravel inclusions. It was 0.10m thick. The final fill (379) was a dark orange-brown sandy, clayey loam that was 0.16m thick with occasional flint gravel inclusions.

Roman features

Allen (1995) recorded a buried soil horizon during the previous work in the area. It was thought to represent a buried Roman ploughsoil. Layers thought to be the same were located in trench EC 1 (122) EC 2 (131), (140), (143) and in PT(E) (362), where sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from it.

This layer may be more widespread than initially considered on site as sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the subsoil in EC 2 and PT(D). It is probable that the buried soil layer also existed here but was not recognised. The survival of Bronze Age pottery within this ploughsoil is unusual and is likely to indicate that the area was not intensively farmed during the Roman period.

Within PT(B) was a hearth 218 cut into the natural (233) and sealed by subsoil (224) (Fig. 8, P8). The fill of this hearth consisted of dark brown-grey sandy silt (219) with very frequent rounded flint cobbles, sandstone, occasional burnt flint and burnt sandstone. Three sherds of 2nd century Roman pottery were recovered from its surface.

Within 5m of this hearth was a posthole 222 that was 0.47m in diameter and containing a mid grey-brown sandy silt fill (223). One sherd of pottery dating at the earliest to the 1st-2nd century AD was recovered from its surface. Both features were close to a Saxon pit (see below) and may be contemporary displaying only residual material.

A very wide feature 293 (Fig. 10, P10, S9) was encountered within PT(D) cut into the natural (233). This was thought either to be a large pit, possibly for quarrying, or the terminus of a very wide ditch. In plan it was measured to be at least 8.55m wide before disappearing under the limit of excavation. From the section it was seen to contain two fills, the primary fill was a light yellow-brown silty sand (295) that was 0.18m thick. Overlying this was a dark orange-brown slightly clayey silty sand (294) measuring 0.54m thick. Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from deposit (294) while hand cleaning. These dated to 1st-2nd century AD.

A possible stake-hole 296 (Fig. 10, S9) also cut into the natural (233) very close by but its relationship to pit 293 was uncertain. This feature appeared to be 0.10m in width and 0.29m in depth. Its fill (297) was very similar in composition to fill (294).

Saxon features

Trench PT(B) located a pit 220 (Fig. 8, P8) that was 1.50m wide, 1.70m long and contained a dark brown-grey sandy silt (221) with occasional flint inclusions as well as occasional chalk and charcoal flecking. Ten sherds of early Saxon pottery were taken from the surface of this feature.

Possible modern features

A possible pit 226 (Fig. 8, P7 S8) was noted in section cut into the natural (233) within PT(A). This possible pit was 1.70m wide and 0.24m deep with a shallow U-shape profile. It contained a single fill (228) composed of dark brown-grey slightly silty clay with frequent flint gravel and occasional chalk flecking. It was sealed by the layer of disturbed ground (230) caused during previous pipe laying activities and could simple be part of the disturbance

A track-way was located in PT(A) aligned NW-SE beyond its limit. The positioning of the track-way is consistent with the cropmark shown on Cox's map (2007) commissioned to interpret aerial photographs for potential archaeology (Fig. 2). Despite the plan showing the feature to continue across the pipeline route, it instead disappeared completely where it joined into the easement presumably because it has been fully or at least partially destroyed. Either way, no evidence for this was seen in the trench section or beyond. It is thought to continue beyond the limit of the new easement to the SW onwards towards the river. A small section was placed through this feature 212 for finds retrieval (Fig. 8, P5 & P6, S7). The section showed that the track-way was constructed below the topsoil (224) and above the mid grey-brown silty clay (234) subsoil. It was built from a loosely compacted mixture of flint rubble deposit (213) mixed with mid brown silty loam with occasional chalk fragments and tile. It was 0.08m thick. It displayed two distinct ruts on its upper surface, 1.50m apart and close to either edge of the deposit where it was noticeably firmer. This deposit (213) was defined along either edge by a band of very compacted chalk (214) mixed with a small amount of mid brown loamy soil. Both bands were approximately 0.08m thick and 0.50m wide.

Undated

Located by trench EC 3 was possible pit 207 (Fig. 6, P2, S2) cut into the natural (191). The pit was 2.20m wide and a maximum of 1.00m deep with irregular sides and an irregular base. It contained four fills. The primary fill (210) was composed of a mid orange-brown clayey loam c.0.40m thick containing moderate to frequent flint gravel and very occasional charcoal flecking. Above this was a secondary fill (211) comprising a mid yellow-brown clayey sandy silt with moderate chalk flecking, occasional to moderate flint gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecking. It was 0.28m thick. Sealing this was a 0.08m thick mid brown-yellow sandy silt fill (209) with moderate and flint gravel inclusions which in turn was covered by a dark grey-brown sandy loam fill (208) with moderate flint gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecking that was 0.20m thick. The pit was sealed by subsoil (190). The

irregular natural of the pit may indicate that it was in fact a tree hole as several such features had been recorded by Allen (1995) during previous work in the area.

Within EC 4 the area close to BH4, two features were noted in section both cut into deposit (273) and sealed by layer (272) that contained Roman tile. The first was a shallow pit 278 (Fig. 7, S5) with a flattened U-shape profile that measured 1.20m wide and 0.10m deep. It was filled with a mid brown-grey clay-silt (279) containing very frequent burnt flint inclusions.

In the same general area of the trench was a small pit or posthole 268 (Fig. 7, S6) that was 0.64m wide and 0.40m deep. This had fairly steep straight sides and a slightly curving base with three fills. The primary fill (277) was very mixed or mottled and consisted of a mid yellowish orange-brown to mid grey-brown silty, sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions. This measured 0.20m in thickness and was covered by 0.10m thick of deposit of dark brown-grey sandy, silty clay (276) with moderate to frequent flint gravel and moderate burnt flint inclusions as well as occasional charcoal flecking. The final fill in the sequence was a mid brown-grey silt-clay (275) containing frequent burnt flint that was up to 0.12m thick.

Trench PT(C) located a possible sub-circular pit 289 (Fig. 10, P9) cut into the natural (302). This feature was 2.05m wide and at least 1.80m in length; the full extent was not seen. It contained a mid orange-brown slightly clayey silty sand (291) with frequent flint gravel inclusions very similar to the subsoil (301) that sealed it. Cut into the fill (291) was a probable posthole 290 measuring 0.30m in diameter. This was filled with a dark brown-grey sandy silt (292) containing very occasional charcoal flecking. No dating evidence was recovered from either.

4.2 The Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of techniques and results are considered to be good. However, where the trenches were battered, identifying potential archaeology became problematic especially in areas where the newly dug trench line had already been significantly disturbed by previous work or where the new trench was excavated within the limits of the previous trench cut. Work took place in conditions ranging from bright sunshine to overcast with heavy rain.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery

5.1.1 Prehistoric Pottery (by Frances Raymond)

A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery was recovered during the watching brief (Table 5.1.1). The sherds are largely in poor condition and the majority are wall fragments, so that the phasing has relied mainly on fabric traits. The limited diagnostic evidence means that the pottery has little to contribute to local ceramic studies, although it does provide a broad chronology for phases of activity on the site.

The pottery has been recorded by context following the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997). Details of fabric, decoration, surface

Context	Position	Date	Shd. No.	Shd. Wt. (g.)
117	62m NE of Point I	Middle to late Bronze Age	1	2
117	123m NE of Point I	Middle to late Iron Age	1	2
117	210m NE of Point I	Middle to late Bronze Age	5	2
117	216m NE of Point I	Iron Age	1	1
117	217m NE of Point I	Middle to late Bronze Age	2	6
119	3m NE of Point II	Middle to late Bronze Age	1	1
119	10m NE of Point II	Iron Age	1	4
119	30m NE of Point II	Middle to late Iron Age	1	2
119	112m NE of Point II	Middle to late Bronze Age*	2	4
119	130m NE of Point II	Middle to late Bronze Age*	1	3
119	140m NE of Point II	Middle to late Bronze Age*	1	1
119	176m NE of Point II	Middle to late Bronze Age*	2	2
119	180m NE of Point II	Middle to late Bronze Age*	1	5
119	193m NE of Point II	Middle to late Iron Age	2	3
190	40m N of Point V	Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age	1	1
242	-	Early to middle Iron Age	2	47
303	55m SE of Point VIII	Early Neolithic or middle to late Bronze Age	1	7
304	276m SE of Point VIII	Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age	3	14
362	-	Middle to late Bronze Age	4	35
TOTAL			33	142

Table 5.1.1: Catalogue of prehistoric sherds (* = late Bronze Age more probable)

treatment, wall thickness, fragmentation and condition have been entered on a database and are available in the archive. The sherds have been assigned to broad ware groups, but full fabric analysis has not been carried out because of the low potential of the assemblage.

The earliest diagnostic fragments are from subsoil Contexts 190 and 304 (Table 1) and are likely to be derived from two beakers, produced between approximately 2600 and 1800 cal BC (Kinnes et. al. 1991). The sherds from Context 304 are from a single vessel decorated with rectangular toothed comb impressions (not illustrated). The motifs are unclear because of the fragmented character of the sherds, but appear to include an in-filled triangle or lozenge and banding composed of multiple horizontal impressions above an in-filled zone. The vessel is made from a medium grade sandy grog tempered ware (with grog up to 3.5 mm.) and has a reddish brown to yellowish red exterior (5YR5/3 to 5/6). The sherd from Context 190 is undecorated, but the fine grog tempered fabric is typical of beaker pottery.

The largest component within the assemblage is of middle to late Bronze Age date (Table 1; 20 sherds, weighing 61g.). The only featured piece is a simple rounded rim fragment from the buried soil (Context 362), which lacks enough of the profile to indicate the vessel style so that a middle or late Bronze Age origin is equally possible. This and the other broadly contemporary sherds are tempered with crushed burnt flint. In just over half of the fragments the flint occurs in common to very common quantities and is either fine (up to 2mm.) or medium (up to 4mm.) grade (13 sherds, weighing 48g. from Contexts 117, 119 and 362). Wares of this type emerged during the middle Bronze Age and continued in production into the late Bronze Age. The remaining sherds incorporate sparse to moderate quantities of burnt flint (seven sherds, weighing 13g. from Context 119), which in five cases is accompanied by moderate to very common quartz sand. Here the evidence is weighted towards a late Bronze Age date, when such fabrics became increasingly prevalent, although their less frequent occurrence in middle Bronze Age assemblages introduces an element of uncertainty over the phasing.

The single sherd from topsoil Context 303 (Table 1) is rather less diagnostic. It is made from a fabric tempered with common, medium grade crushed burnt flint with an uneven distribution. Wares of this type first emerged during the earlier Neolithic and were produced once again during the middle and late Bronze Age.

The scattered Iron Age sherds are exclusively wall or base fragments (eight sherds, weighing 59g. from Contexts 117, 119 and 242). Those from the sub-soil are unoxidised sandy or glauconitic sandy wares (Contexts 117 and 119), some of which are likely to be of middle or late Iron Age date. The two early to middle Iron Age sherds from the ditch (Context 242) are made from contrasting wares: one with a mixture of limestone and sand; and the other containing very common medium grade shell (up to 3mm.).

5.1.2 Roman and Early Saxon pottery and Roman tile (by Paul Booth)

Small amounts of Roman pottery (22 sherds, 330 g) and early Anglo-Saxon pottery (3 sherds, 18 g) were recovered during the various phases of fieldwork, together with four fragments (598 g) of Roman tile. The material was recorded using codes set out in the Oxford Archaeology pottery recording system (Booth 2007). The material is listed by context in the table 5.1.2 below.

Table 5.1.2: Quantification of ceramic material by context

Context	Fabric	Sherds	Wt (g)	Comments	Context date
EC1 117, 103 m NE of point I	E30	1	6	?jar rim, abraded	1C
EC1 117, 217 m NE of point I	R20	1	2	abraded	?1-2C
EC1 117, 223 m NE of point I	R90	1	3	abraded	?1-2C
EC2 118, 57 m NE of point II	R20	1	10	abraded	?1-2C
EC2 119, 5 m NE of point II	O80	1	6	abraded	?1-2C
EC2 119, 130 m NE of point II	R90	1	7		?1-2C
EC2 119, 140 m NE of point II	W10	1	3	??lid rim, abraded	?late 1-2C
EC2 119, 186 m NE of point II	R30	1	3	abraded	2C or later
EC7 155, 101 m SE of point X	R90	1	17	dish rim, abraded	?1C
PT(B) 219	O20	1	5		?2C
	R30	1	1		
	R50	1	8	everted rim of uncertain vessel form	
PT(B) 221	Q20	1	11	?flagon	early Anglo-Saxon
	R30	3	23		
	R90	1	36		
	B11	2	5	'cooking pot type' jar	
	Z11	2	13	early Anglo-Saxon	
	Z13	1	5	early Anglo-Saxon	
PT(B) 223	R90	1	171		1-2C (or later)
PT(D) 294	R90	2	13		1-2C (or later)
TOTAL POTTERY		25	348		
TP21 165	CBM	1	443	tegula flange	
PT(B) 221	CBM	3	155	1 tegula flange	

Despite the occasional presence of large sherds, the pottery was typically in relatively poor condition and a number of sherds were small and abraded. For this reason recording of fabrics was at an intermediate level of precision. The fabrics noted were:

W10. Fine sandy white wares. 1 sherd, 3 g.

Q20. Sandy oxidised white-slipped fabrics. 1 sherd, 11 g.

E30. Coarse sand-tempered 'Belgic type' fabrics. 1 sherd, 6 g.

O20. Sandy oxidised coarse wares. 1 sherd, 5 g.

- O80. Coarse- (usually grog-) tempered oxidised wares. 1 sherd, 6 g.
 R20. Sandy reduced coarse wares. 2 sherds, 12 g.
 R30. Moderately sandy reduced coarse wares. 5 sherds, 27 g.
 R50. Black surfaced sandy reduced coarse ware. 1 sherd, 8 g.
 R90. Coarse- (usually grog-) tempered reduced wares. 7 sherds, 247 g.
 B11. Dorset black-burnished ware (BB1). 2 sherds, 5 g.
 Z11. Sand tempered early Anglo-Saxon fabrics. 2 sherds, 13 g.
 Z13. Limestone-tempered early Anglo-Saxon fabrics. 1 sherd, 5 g.

Several of the Roman fabrics have potentially wide date ranges, but the great majority of the material seems likely to have been of early Roman date. Fabric E30 belongs to a group of wares that are in use both before and after the Roman conquest. It is notable, however, that no other elements of that ware group are present, and while fabrics such as R90 and O80 can also be dated this early they continue in use potentially right through the Roman period. An absence of characteristic late Roman material (except in context 221) suggests, however, that the R90 sherds present are more likely to belong to the 1st-2nd centuries rather than later. Almost all the fabrics present could be of local origin. Again the exception is from context 221, where two small sherds of Dorset black-burnished ware are likely to be from a cooking pot of 3rd-4th century date. However, this group also contained three small sherds of early Anglo-Saxon type, in two distinct fabrics, recalling material of that date from the nearby corn drier recorded in earlier excavations (Allen 1995, 96).

Diagnostic characteristics other than fabric were scarce, though a plain rimmed dish in fabric R90, an unusual form in this fabric, may have been of 1st century rather than later date. Other rims were very fragmentary. The only other notable feature of the assemblage is the generally much worn character of the sherds from contexts 117, 118 and 119. This is suggestive of conditions of frequent redeposition, as for example in ploughsoil.

Roman tile, principally comprising flange fragments from two different tegulae, was recovered from two contexts, including the pit group of early Saxon date. This material is likely to have derived from the nearby villa.

5.1.3 Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval pottery (by *Paul Blinkhorn*)

The pottery assemblage comprised 15 sherds with a total weight of 123g. It was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

- OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975-1350. 1 sherd, 2g.
 OXY: Medieval Oxford ware, AD1075 – 1350. 7 sherds, 64g.
 OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 – 1600. 2 sherds, 15g.
 OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 2 sherds, 29g.
 WHEW: Mass-produced white earthenwares, 19th - 20th C. 1 sherd, 4g.

In addition, the following were noted:

Early/Middle Saxon (c AD450 -850)

- F1: Moderate to dense sub-angular quartz up to 1mm. 1 sherd, 8g.
 F2: Moderate chaff voids up to 3mm, rare rounded calcareous material up to 2mm. 1 sherd, 1g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 5.1.3. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Generally, the assemblage is of poor quality, with most of the sherds abraded to some degree, and a number have suffered so much attrition that identification is, at best, tentative. This aside, there appears to have been activity in the early/middle Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. In the case of the medieval period, the range of fabric types present suggests that there were two phases of activity, one in the earlier part of the period and another in the later. Pottery of the 13th – 14th centuries, although common in the region, is entirely absent.

Table 5.1.3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Cntxt	Location	E/MS		OXAC		OXY		OXAM		OXDR		WHEW		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
116	76m NE I					1	1							L11thC
116	140m NE I									1	8			M16thC
116	172m NE I									1	21			M16thC
116	213m NE I							1	11					15thC
117	116m NE I			1	2	1	20							L11thC
117	162m NE I					1	11							L11thC
118	TP15					1	3							L11thC
119	141m NE II					1	10							L11thC
119	160m NE I					2	19							L11thC
119	200m NE II	1	1											E/MS?
190	40m N V											1	4	19thC
190	67m SW IV	1	8											E/MS
304	40m SE XIII							1	4					13thC
	Total	2	9	1	2	7	64	2	15	2	29	1	4	

5.2 Worked flint (by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark)

Introduction

Sixty-one struck flints were recovered during the watching brief at Gatehampton Farm (Table 5.2.1). The flints were recovered from topsoil, subsoil, and a small number of natural features; the latter finds are residual and are not contemporary with the features. The condition of the flintwork was relatively poor, with the majority of artefacts exhibiting moderate post-depositional edge-damage. This level of damage is characteristic for artefacts recovered from agriculturally disturbed layers or as residual finds in later depositional contexts. The assemblage includes debitage and tools dating from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and early Bronze Age.

Methodology

The flints were catalogued according to broad artefact/debitage type and retouched pieces were classified following standard morphological descriptions (Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-49; Bradley 1999, 211-227; Butler 2005). Additional information was recorded on condition of the artefacts including, burning, breakage, the degree of edge-damage and the degree of cortication. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Access database and data manipulated in Microsoft Excel.

The assemblage

The lithic assemblage contained diagnostic Mesolithic, Neolithic and early Bronze Age artefacts and flake debitage from at least two industries; one orientated towards the production of blades and the other towards the production of flakes. These technological differences were further emphasised by differing patterns of surface cortication. The blade debitage typically exhibits a white or mottled surface cortication while the flake debitage was generally free from cortication. This pattern was first observed in a previous phase of excavation when a large artefact assemblage allowed a white corticated early Mesolithic assemblage to be statistically separated from uncorticated Neolithic artefacts at 99% confidence and a mottled late Mesolithic sample at between 95% and 99% confidence (Brown 1995). The degree of cortication can therefore provide a broad indication of date (Table 5.2.2), but exceptions demonstrate this division is not entirely reliable. For example, a Mesolithic opposed platform core is not corticated, while an early Bronze Age knife exhibits a mottled cortication and an early Neolithic leaf arrowhead exhibits a white cortication.

Table 5.2.1: The flint assemblage from Gatehampton by excavation area

CATEGORY TYPE	Area									Grand Total
	-	EC1	EC2	EC3	EC5/6	PT(B)	PT(B/C)	PT(E)	PT(F)	
Flake	20	1	2			2		5		30
Blade	4		1			3		2	4	14
Bladelet				1				1	1	3
Blade-like	2	1			1					4
Rejuvenation flake tablet	1									1
Bipolar blade core	1									1
Single platform flake core								1		1
Leaf arrowhead	1									1
End scraper							1			1
Spurred piece	1									1
Notch			1							1
Scale-flaked knife				1						1
Retouched flake					1					1
Axe sharpening flake				1						1
Grand Total	1	29	3	6	2	5	1	9	5	61

Table 5.2.2: The flint artefacts by category and degree of cortication

CATEGORY TYPE	Degree of cortication			Grand Total
	None	Mottled	White	
Flake	25	3	2	30
Blade	4	4	6	14
Bladelet	2	1		3
Blade-like	2	2		4
Rejuvenation flake tablet	1			1
Bipolar (opposed platform) blade core	1			1
Single platform flake core	1			1
Leaf arrowhead			1	1
End scraper		1		1
Spurred piece	1			1
Notch			1	1
Scale-flaked knife		1		1
Retouched flake	1			1
Axe sharpening flake			1	1
Grand Total	38	12	11	61

The blade-orientated flake debitage includes a significant proportion of narrow blades, many of which exhibit careful platform preparation and blade scars on their dorsal surface. These attributes are characteristic of blade-orientated industries of Mesolithic date. A bipolar blade core, weighing 53 g, from EC 1 (123) also dates from the Mesolithic. The core exhibits a flat cortex back and symmetrical opposed platforms with very acute flaking angles; the final blade removals measured 55 mm in length. In addition to the debitage, a heavily corticated tranchet axe sharpening flake was

recovered from EC 3 (190). This artefact probably represents the re-sharpening of a tranchet axe rather than evidence for the manufacture of these implements. A broad distal notch in a flake and an end scraper may also be associated with this early debitage, although a later date is possible.

The flake debitage is typically of broad proportions and was manufactured using hard and soft hammer percussion, with only occasional evidence for platform-edge preparation. This flake debitage is characteristic of Neolithic or early Bronze Age assemblages. This date is also appropriate for a single platform flake core and a rejuvenation tablet. The retouched artefacts comprise a leaf-shaped arrowhead, a scale-flake knife, a spurred flake and a simple edge-retouched flake. The leaf-shaped arrowhead and a scale-flaked knife, indicate the presence of both earlier Neolithic and early Bronze Age flintwork, respectively. The leaf-shaped arrowhead, of Green's Type C (1980), is a fine, well manufactured, example measuring 36 mm long, by 17 mm wide and 3 mm thick. The ventral surface of the arrowhead exhibits limited retouch around the perimeter of the tool. This retouch represents the first stage in the manufacturing process and established a platform to facilitate invasive pressure flaking of the dorsal surface; this technique is termed 'turning the edge' (Knowles 1944). The invasive pressure flaking was executed with considerable precision and demonstrates the arrowhead was produced by a competent flint knapper.

The scale-flaked knife is roughly leaf-shaped, exhibiting a broad sub-rounded distal end, formed by the flake's termination, and relatively straight sides converging towards the proximal end. The artefact measures 75 mm long, by 33 mm wide and 9 mm thick. The knife exhibits invasive retouch on the ventral surface which extends along both sides and around the proximal end; the scale-flaking is well executed with removals measuring up to 20 mm in length. The tool may have been used un-hafted, but the lack of retouch at distal end raises the possibility that the knife was hafted. A haft could have been attached forming a typical knife handle, but equally the artefact could have been set into a haft at right angles to the distal end, creating a form similar to a halberd (Plate 1).

Discussion

The flint assemblage from the watching brief includes artefacts spanning several millennia from the early Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age. The flintwork recovered compliments a larger assemblage recovered from the local landscape between 1985 and 1992 (Allen *et al.* 1995). The absence of late Upper Palaeolithic artefacts in the current assemblage is notable, but not unsurprising as previous fieldwalking over the mitigation area in the 1970s by Mr D. Percival recovered only two flints, including a bruised blade, of this date among an assemblage of several hundred flints (author's observation). Moreover, the *in situ* scatter previously identified was located to the east of the current excavations and scatters of this period are typically very localised (Barton 1995; 1998). The previous work also yielded considerable evidence for both early and late Mesolithic activity, to which the current assemblage adds a small number of additional artefacts. The tranchet axe-sharpening flake is particularly notable as tranchet axes and sharpening flakes were particularly common in the early Mesolithic material previously recovered (Brown 1995). The leaf-shaped arrowhead attests to early Neolithic activity and complements two examples that were previously recovered, along with evidence for the production of laurel leaves (*Ibid.*). The small early Neolithic assemblage, however, cannot assist in interpreting the possible



Plate 1: The scale-flaked knife with two examples to illustrate how the artefact may have been hafted

Neolithic enclosure, besides indicating some activity in the early Neolithic. The scale-flaked knife can be added to a small number of diagnostic early Bronze Age artefacts, including a fabricator and a thumbnail scraper (Ibid.), recovered from the area. These may represent grave goods disturbed from the barrows in the field, but equally they may derive from contemporary occupation in the landscape.

The lithic assemblage recovered from Gatehampton Farm, highlights the importance throughout prehistory of the river Thames and this corridor through the Chilterns/Berkshire Downs. The assemblage complements the range of material previously recovered from this area and adds a few diagnostic artefacts.

5.3 Burnt Stone

A total of 113 pieces of burnt flint weighing 1956g were recovered from the Watching Brief across the site area. Nearly all of these were recovered from discrete features. These were not retained. The burnt flint and sandstone from pit 160 was noted in terms of a percentage quantity but was not weighed or counted.

5.4 Tile and Ceramic Building Material

Various sherds of tile and other fragments of CBM were found across the site. The majority of identifiable examples were either Post-medieval or modern in date. However, those thought to be Roman were sent to a specialist for identification. These examples can be found with the pottery report by Paul Booth.

5.5 Metalwork

Two metal iron objects were discovered during the watching brief. One flat object 0.07m thick and possibly part of a plough was found in the topsoil (118) of EC 2 and an unidentified discoidal, slightly convex object measuring 0.06m in diameter was recovered from the spoil-heap of PT(A).

5.6 Coins

One small bronze coin c.14mm in diameter was discovered 68m NE of Point II within the ploughsoil (118) of EC 2. Markings on the coin show it to have been minted during the reign of Constantine the Great (307-337AD). The reverse depicts two soldiers holding a single staff between them with the letter M clearly marked on top of the staff itself. Early coins during his rule portrayed pagan gods but these were replaced with designs honouring the army. Earlier examples of this military homage usually depicted two soldiers holding individual staffs rather than one between them. This design is a later variety.

5.7 Palaeoenvironmental Remains (by Mark Robinson)

During a watching brief of boreholes, pipe trenches and cable trenches at Gatehampton Farm, Goring-on-Thames (9LLF), five samples were taken from some hearth deposits in a late Pleistocene channel and a pit beneath alluvium close to the Thames. These samples were floated and their residues sieved. The dried residues and flots were examined under a binocular microscope.

The three samples from the hearth deposits in the late Pleistocene channel, Sample 1 Context 149, Sample 2 Context 150 and Sample 3 Context 150, all contain fragments of *Quercus* sp. (oak).

The two samples from the pit, Sample 4 Context 161 and Sample 5 Context 162, contain very small quantities of unidentifiable charcoal.

The results for the hearths in the late Pleistocene channel are useful because the occurrence of oak shows that they belong to the Holocene and are Mesolithic or later rather than Upper Palaeolithic. There is no potential for further study of these samples.

6 DISCUSSION

During the excavation all finds not taken from discrete features were approximately tied in to their relative positions on site. This allowed their distribution to be noted and an interpretation of their spread to be made.

From the evidence gathered, the vast majority were collected from the largest field under observation, with a significant majority taken from trenches EC 1 and EC 2 with relatively little from the field just south of the pumping station or from the field closest to and running adjacent to the river. This is not surprising as the field closest to the river appears to have been greatly disturbed during previous pipe laying whilst the field containing the pumping station appears to be further NW than the activity suggested by aerial photographs and revealed during earlier excavation work.

Moreover, the middle to late Bronze Age pottery finds found around the *in-situ* flint scatter previously identified as an area of Late Bronze Age activity to the east of the current excavations along PT (E) and EC 1 and appearing broadly along their length could reasonably be expected. The finds gathered along the length of PT (B) are also unsurprising and tie in with the known activity close to the railway line excavated previously. However, despite the finds as a whole, including the struck flint examples, not forming obvious, distinct cluster groups warranting the production of a spot finds map, it can be noted in general that many of the artefacts discovered not from discrete features were found in the north-western half of the site. Also the Roman pottery finds were typically found from the SW corner of the site.

The relative lack of medieval pottery discovered is consistent with previous work. This combined with finds of prehistoric pottery from the topsoil and subsoil underpins the view of Allen (1995) and later work (JMHS 2007) that this area was not under the plough with associated manuring during this period but instead was left as meadowland.

The examples of worked flint recovered from the area within the relict smaller south-western channel were dated to the Mesolithic through to the Neolithic with no examples dated to the Bronze Age as was expected due to the previous work in the area (Allen 1995). This assemblage is small in size and Allen (*ibid.*) also found that of the 72 pieces of struck flint recovered 13 were Mesolithic in character. The majority of the flint artefacts came from a clay-loam deposit thought to be a buried topsoil (122) and (362) located during this watching brief. The four sherds of Bronze Age pottery also discovered within this layer contradicts the earlier date suggested by this flint assemblage. It is more likely to date the buried topsoil layer as prehistoric pottery is generally fragile in nature and does not survive particularly well if moved around in the ground.

The buried topsoil is also evidence of the channel drying up by this point allowing the formation of this deposit. The clay layer (123)/(363) below the buried topsoil can be interpreted as alluvial showing the land to have been very wet and boggy, at least at times. The Mesolithic and Neolithic flints are thought to have accumulated here rather than have been deliberately deposited because of the fluvial nature of the channel or lost while exploiting the wetlands for resources. It can nonetheless be surmised that the site area was as a whole used from the Mesolithic period onwards, probably for hunting.

The main palaeochannel was located, aligned approximately NW-SE across the site; it may well have had a spur running roughly west. Three features, two hearths and a possible posthole, were identified within the main palaeochannel, cut into the upper deposits. No earlier features within lower deposits were observed. This is directly comparable to previous work (Allen *ibid.*) and it is likely that the features identified are probably Bronze Age in date.

This shows that both channels were at least partially visible as scars in the landscape during this period before being completely in-filled by natural deposition and later ploughing. These features would have acted as a natural corridor defining the burial mounds to the west of the of the railway track, especially, the channel noted to extend NW-SE across the site before curving towards the NE closer to the burial mound themselves. These “scars” would have also been ideal spots for knapping flints or

making fires when dry, as they would have been partially sheltered from the weather. Additionally, these depressions would help restrict the spread of flint debitage by keeping it within the predefined edges of the channel.

The pipe trench excavated close to the river and labelled as PT (A) for the purpose of the Watching Brief was expected to potentially disturb at least two Bronze Age burial mounds. No features were observed, either because the trench was fortunate to avoid them or because the area into which the trench was dug had been disturbed enough during the laying of the former pipe and resulting repair work to prevent their recognition. Parts of the trench were also excavated within the lines of the former trench cut without disturbing new ground.

Part of a track-way was uncovered along the length of PT (A) on an approximate NW-SE alignment, which had presumably been partially destroyed during the construction of the former water pipe but was observed to continue beyond the limits of the new easement SE towards the river. Its positioning and alignment are consistent to the cropmark noted previously. Although not dated, is thought to be relatively recent, being located just below the topsoil and above the subsoil. The track-way appears to join a possible mooring point on the river to a former NE-SW pathway seen on an aerial photograph running towards the bridge. This area close to the river is made up of alluvial deposits and is prone to becoming boggy necessitating the need for such a metalled track-way. A section excavated through it showed it to have been very thin and therefore not designed for heavy duty or perhaps long term use. This part of the site close to the river is known as Little Meadow and is managed by Goring and Streatley Environmental Group partly as a traditional hay meadow to encourage wildflowers and partly as a coppice for wildlife. It is set aside from the other parts of the site and no longer fulfils any agricultural or other need, the only people using this area being walkers and ramblers. As such, a track-way within this area was no longer needed.

The positioning the new electricity cable trenches connecting the pumping station to BH 3 and BH 4 were deliberately bent away from known archaeology. They were designed to avoid major cropmarks identified during previous work and to minimise the impact on potential archaeological deposits. Observations made during their excavation proved this mitigation scheme to have been successful with no major features being disturbed.

Two sherds of pottery were recovered from (242) a lower fill of the wide feature 238 seen in PT (F) close to BH 4. This feature is thought to be part of the NE-SW aligned ditch with an uncertain relationship with the westernmost ring ditch (Allen 1995, 35). The depth at which the pottery was found suggests that the ditch was dug in the early to middle Iron Age and provides further evidence that the ditch does in fact cut this barrow. This would help to explain why no gravely soil was observed on the western side of this barrow as it was simply removed during the excavation of the ditch. This also adds further doubt over the theory that this ditch formed part of a Neolithic enclosure system which is supposed to join with the Neolithic ditch observed just to the west of the railway line unless the feature had been greatly re-cut and widened. The limited number of sherds nonetheless does not prove that the feature was certainly Iron Age but adds further proof that it is later than barrow. Previously evidence for Iron Age activity consisted solely of a few sherds of pottery that were either late Bronze Age or early Iron Age in date or more closely dated to the middle to

late Iron Age. This is the first feature that appears to be dated to this period. It is possible that it was a field boundary separating agricultural land from the earlier barrows.

The very wide pit or ditch 293 revealed within PT (D) appears to be on roughly the same alignment as the linear cropmark thought to cut the westernmost barrow as discussed above. The two sherds of pottery recovered from the surface of the fill are Roman of 1st-2nd century AD date. It is plausible therefore that this represents the north-easterly terminus of an intermittent feature related to 238. Cropmark plans drawn as part of previous work (Allen *ibid*) show this feature broken into three separate lengths continuing across this area of the site. The proposed Roman date does tie in with the pottery from previous work. Unlike 238 though, only two fills were noted but as the section was so far away a change of deposition sequence is not inconceivable. Further work could clarify this suggestion. Early Roman pottery in the upper fill suggests the feature was still an earthwork in this period.

Previously a curvilinear Neolithic ditch was identified along with a Roman ploughsoil that appeared to respect the area of an inferred bank (Allen *ibid*). However, from observations made close to BH 5 in both EC 5/6 and PT (B), this supposed Roman ploughsoil deposit in fact formed the edge of a relict channel and is its uppermost fill. It would appear that the palaeochannel observed aligned approximately N-S within the field to the east of the railway line actually splits in three close to the railway line. One part found by Allen (1995, Fig. 1) terminates within the site just west of the barrows and was not seen further during this watching brief, another part appears to continue southwards towards the river under the railway line whilst the widest part continues towards and beyond BH 7. The widest part is the buried channel observed in EC 1-4, EC 7 and PT (D).

Numerous features were recorded throughout the site that are likely to be either the result of geological processes, such as the infilling of solution hollows, tree boles or ice wedges. These features were either recorded because of their apparent regular shape in both plan and section in comparison to those naturally occurring geological features surrounding them, such as those close to BH 1 or because they appeared to be slightly different in some other way to the surrounding geology such as those between BH 2 and BH 3. Nonetheless, as many could not be completely dismissed on the evidence available, a cautious approach was adopted.

A number of features were revealed closer to the river containing burnt flints, usually whitened and crackled by intense heat and in most cases these were often mixed with frequent charcoal inclusions. Although undated, a number of prehistoric archaeological origins can be suggested for these burnt flints - from heated stones used in the process of cooking food, hearths, to ritual pits.

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APPENDIX – Detailed Context Descriptions *(By S. Hammond)*

All artefacts not taken from discrete features were measured along the trench they were recovered from. Initially this was to be done in 10m lengths. However, this proved impractical so a more detailed measurement was taken to the nearest metre using specific points across the site labelled with Roman numerals.

Detailed section drawings of the palaeo-channel that was partially cut through by EC 1-EC 4 can be found in the archive.

The Test Pits

Numerous test pits were excavated during the course of the project either by machine or by hand with the majority of these being dug to expose existing services. Initially, all of these were recorded but once it became established that only a few of these were likely to be deep enough to expose potential archaeological features or the natural geology, it was decided that only a representative selection would be recorded depending on their size, location and depth, especially when many such test pits would only be dug marginally beyond the existing service they were meant to expose or were in areas that would become part of the a new trench. In total 25 Test Pits were examined.

Test Pits 1-12 were hand dug along the length of the existing electricity cables from BH 1, Test Pit 13 was dug to expose a high voltage cable running NW-SE across the site and Test Pits 14-18 were hand dug to expose the cables running from BH 2. The stratigraphy seen throughout all of these was broadly similar with a mid yellow-orange sandy gravel natural (where seen) overlain by a mid orange-brown sandy loam subsoil that was overlain by a mid grey-brown sandy loam topsoil

Test Pits 19-22 *(Figures 1, 3 and 4)*

These Test Pits were machine excavated to various depths close to the river. Test Pits 19 and 22 were dug in the field closest to the bridge (Fig. 1) whereas Test Pits 20 and 21 were excavated further to the west beyond a ditched boundary, which divided the field (Fig. 1). All of these test pits were 2.00m wide and 4.00m in length with the exception of Test Pit 22, which was extended to become 8.00m long.

Test Pit 19 was 2.28m deep (Fig. 4). Measurements taken from the section showed that a mid creamy orange sandy gravel natural (174) was overlain by 0.65m of dark brown-grey silty clay alluvial deposit with occasional organic matter (173). This was covered by 0.65m of mid orangey grey-brown silty clay alluvium (172), which in turn covered a blue-grey silty clay alluvial type deposit (171) 0.30m thick. Above this was 0.40m of mid orange/brown silty clay (170) that was sealed by 0.18m of dark brown-grey silty loam topsoil (169).

Test Pit 20 was 1.8m in depth (Fig. 4). The natural sandy gravel (185) was over 0.90m thick. This was covered by deposit (184), a mid blue-grey clay 0.40m thick with very occasional sub angular flint inclusions. In turn this was overlain by deposit (183), a mottled mid orange-brown and dark orange-light blue clay 0.50m thick. Above this was a yellowish-brown silty clay layer (182) that was 0.15m thick. A dark brown-grey silty loam topsoil (181) measuring 0.25m thick completed the sequence.

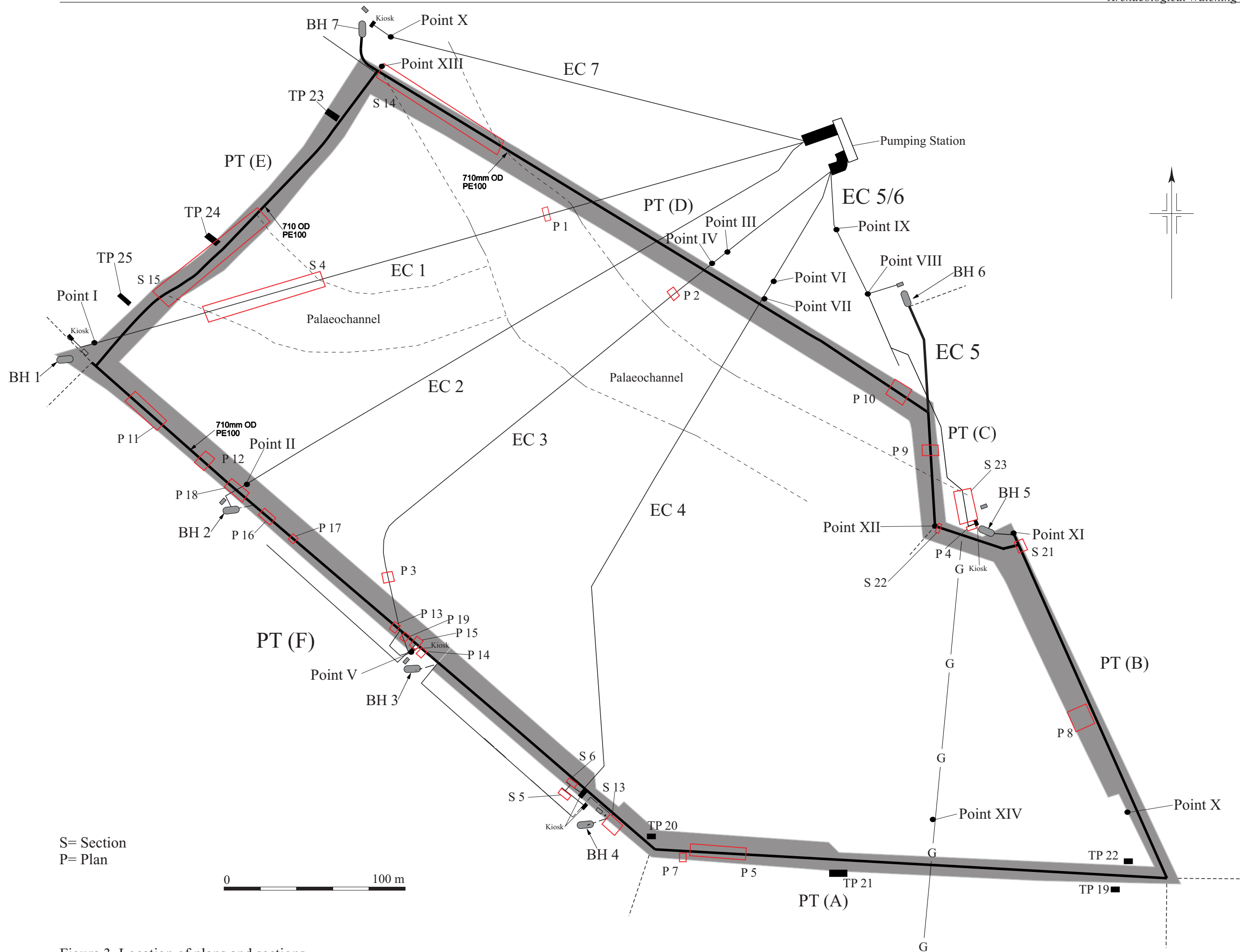


Figure 3. Location of plans and sections

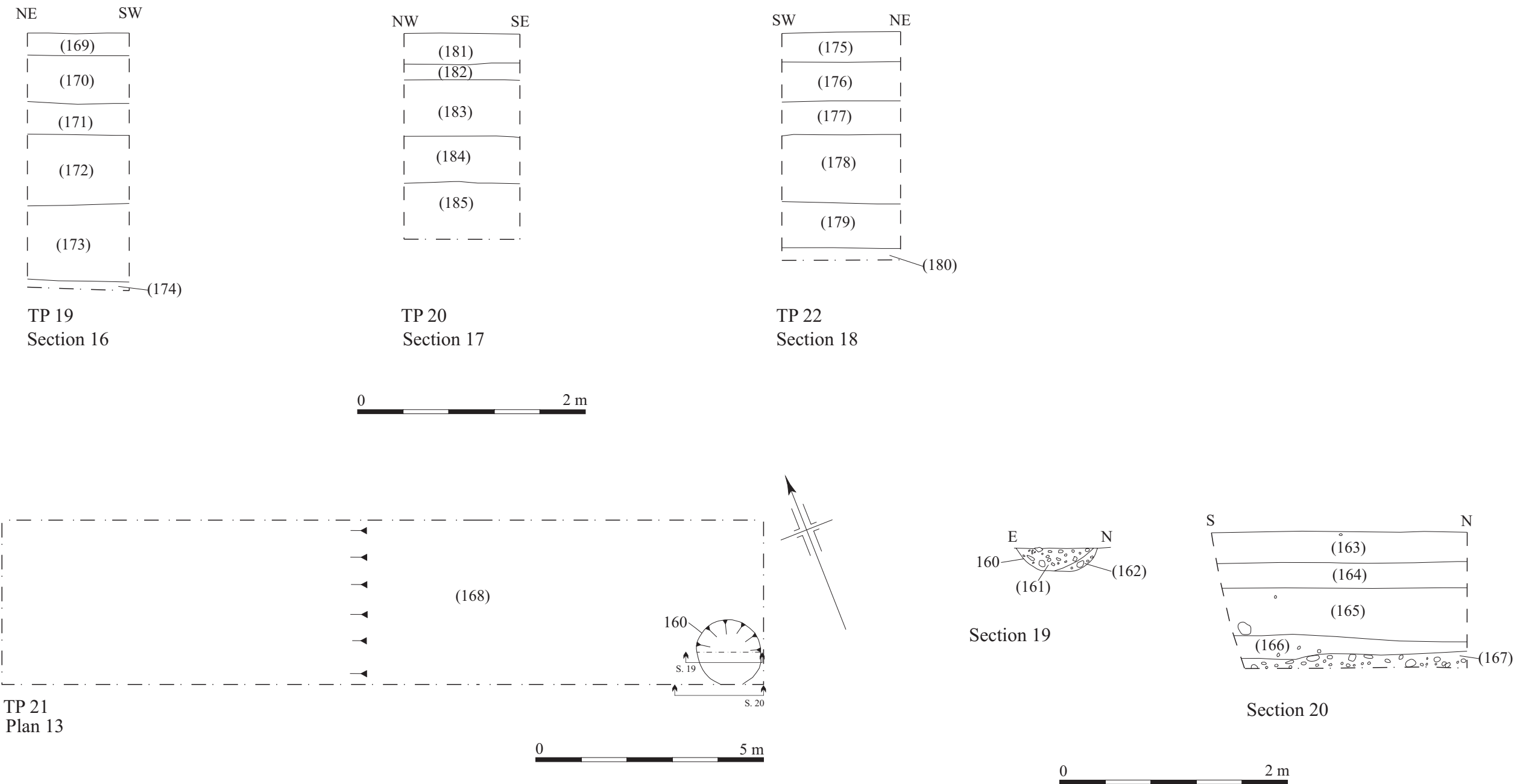


Figure 4. Test Pit 19, 20 and 22 sections. Test Pit 21 plan and section

Test Pit 21 was initially intended to be the same length as the other test pits in this area, however, this was extended to 8m due to the discovery of small pit 160 cutting through the natural sandy gravels (168). This allowed the feature to be investigated.

Pit 160 was roughly circular in shape and measured 0.70m by 0.75m in plan with a depth of 0.23m (Fig. 4). It contained two fills. The lower fill (162) consisted of a light grey fine silty clay with moderate flint and occasional sandstone inclusions as well as burnt flint (c.25%) and burnt sandstone (c.25%). The upper fill (162) consisted of a dark blue-grey sandy clay with moderate flint, sandstone inclusions as well as burnt flint (c.30%) and burnt sandstone (c.25%) inclusions and occasional charcoal flecking. Both of these fills were bulk sampled for environmental analysis. Sealing this feature was deposit (167), a dark yellow-brown-orange sandy clay, which also contained moderate flint and sandstone inclusions as well occasional burnt flint, burnt sandstone and chalk. This layer was only apparent directly above the pit 160 in section and could well represent some form of dumping associated with it. Above this was a deposit (166) of mid blue-grey clay that was 0.20m thick, which was sealed by deposit (165), a mid orange-brown clay mottled with dark orange and light blue. This deposit was noteworthy as it contained a quantity of large flint nodules towards its base close to the interface with (166). Overlaying this was 0.20m of mid yellow-brown silty clay deposit (164) that was in turn covered by 0.25m of dark brown-grey silty loam topsoil (163).

Test Pit 22 was 2.00m deep (Fig. 4). This test pit was not dug deep enough to reveal the sandy gravel natural. Instead the lowest stratigraphic horizon noted was dark blue-grey silty clay alluvial deposit (180) at least 0.10m thick that was not seen in Test Pit 19. Above this was deposit (179), identical to (173) but only 0.40m in thickness. This overlay a deposit (178), considered to be the same as (172) measuring 0.60m thick. Above this was a deposit (177) that was 0.30m thick and the same as deposit (171). Overlaying deposit (177) was a mid orange-brown silty clay deposit (176) very similar to (170) measuring 0.35m in thickness and as with deposit (170) was sealed by a dark brown-grey silty loam (175) topsoil 0.25m thick the same as (169).

Test Pits 23-25 (Figures 1 and 3)

These three Test Pits were machine excavated towards the western edge of the site to locate the water pipe between BH 1 and BH 7. This was done due to the ambiguity of existing service plans. All of the test pits were 2.00m wide. Detailed information regarding the drawn sections can be found in the archive. No archaeological features were identified.

Test Pit 23 was 12.00m long and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.60m. The test pit was dug with a series of steps. The lowest deposit noted was a pale creamy yellow sandy gravel natural (252). Above this was a pale orange-yellow slightly silty sand containing pockets of moderately dark orange sandy loam (251) noted to be 0.50m thick. Covering this was a deposit of mid orange-brown silty-loam subsoil (250) measuring 0.40m thick. Disturbance caused by the previous pipe trench work was seen sealing this and consisted of a mixed dark orange-brown silty clay with frequent pea and sandy gravel inclusions (249). Cutting (249) was the pre-existing pipe trench 254 with mixed backfill material (253), which in turn was sealed by 0.25m of mid grey-brown, silty-sandy, loam topsoil.

Test Pit 24 was 10.40m long and 1.00m deep. No natural geological deposits were encountered and it is thought that this particular test pit was excavated within the known palaeochannel. The lowest deposit encountered was a mid orange-brown slightly silty clay (259) at least 0.60m thick. Cutting through this was 260, the pre-existing pipe trench with its mixed silty-clay backfill (258). Overlying fill (258) was deposit (256), a disturbed layer 0.20m thick thought to be the same as deposit (249) which overlay a mid orange-brown silty loam deposit (257) measuring at least 0.10m in thickness. This was thought to be the same as deposit (250). The uppermost layer was a deposit (255) of mid grey-brown silty, sandy loam ploughsoil that was 0.30m thick. No evidence of Bronze Age activity was observed in this trench despite the close proximity of activity nearby.

Test Pit 25 measured 11.05m in length and 1.80m in the depth. Like Test Pit 23, this exploratory excavation was also stepped. From the section it could be seen that a pale sandy/gravel natural (265) was overlain by a deposit of mid brown-yellow fine clay-sand (266) measuring 1.00m thick. This is likely to represent the edge of the known palaeochannel, which in turn was overlaid by deposit (262), a mid orange-brown silty loam subsoil that was 0.25m thick. This was cut by the original pipe cut 264 that was backfilled with a mixed sandy clay (263). A mid grey-brown loam topsoil (261) that was 0.27m thick was the uppermost layer.

The Electricity Cabling Trenches

The impact, of the new cable trenches from boreholes 3 and 4, on any potential archaeological deposits was minimised with both trenches EC 3 and EC 4 routed and bent to avoid known archaeology and the presence of cropmarks. Trenches EC 1, 2, and 7 were dug close to and parallel with the existing cables running straight from boreholes 1, 2 and 7 to the pumping station whilst trenches EC 5 and EC 6 followed a new route in an area away from the pre existing services.

All of the EC trenches cut across low-lying areas where no flint gravel natural was seen. These areas are thought to represent segments through a palaeochannel discovered previously (Allen 1995). As with this previous work, two such examples were seen in the new cable trench, EC 1, running from BH 1 to the pumping station.

Trenches EC 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 were initially stripped of topsoil typically in a 2m wide corridor before being stepped in to a width of 1m and dug to a depth of 1.10m. Trenches EC 5 and EC 6 however were noted to have a 2.50m wide topsoil strip with a 1.50m wide trench dug to a depth of 1.20m. Further to this, where trenches EC 5 and EC 6 joined the topsoil strip increased to 3.80m in width with the trenches increasing to 2.80m in order to accommodate all of the cables.

Trench EC 1 (*Figures 1, 3, 5 and 6*)

This trench was aligned approximately WSW-ENE and was 425m in length before joining with trenches EC 2 and EC 7. Typically the stratigraphy along the trench consisted of a pale orange-yellow sandy gravel natural (121) with occasional to moderate naturally occurring pockets of dark brown-orange sandy loam overlain by 0.25m of mid orange-brown sandy, clayey silt subsoil (117) which in turn was covered by 0.30m of mid grey-brown sandy loam topsoil (116).

This trench cut across two low-lying areas in which no natural (121) was seen. Both of these are thought to be relict channels, of which, the furthest NE was to be noted in all the other EC trenches and through parts of the pipe trench. This allowed its approximate course to be plotted across the site. The former channel noted closer to BH 1 however was only observed within this trench and PT (E) to the west but nowhere else. This is consistent with the archaeological observations made previously (Allen 1995). A detailed section was drawn for both channels.

The channel closest to BH 1 contained a layer of Bronze Age activity and appeared to follow the same stratigraphic sequence to the work carried out previously (Allen 1995), although earlier horizons were noted towards the NE end dipping beyond the base of the trench. As the trench was dug at an arbitrary level however, their relationship to the lowest horizons seen in the middle of the former channel remained unclear. Beneath the 0.30m thick layer of modern topsoil (116) was a mid orange-brown sandy loam subsoil (117) also 0.30m thick (Fig. 5). This overlay 0.20m of a more clayey and less sandy mid orangey grey-brown loam (122), which contained moderate charcoal flecking and numerous burnt and struck flints. This covered a deposit (123) of mid yellow-brown clay also containing burnt and struck flint as well as occasional flint gravel and moderate charcoal flecking. It was measured to be at least 0.40m thick and continued beyond the base of the trench. Included near to the middle of this deposit were several irregular patches of dark grey clay/silt thought to be animal burrows. Close to the SW end of this channel, deposit (123) was revealed to overlay a dark grey-brown silty loam (157) that was 0.10m thick, and contained occasional flint gravel. This in turn overlay a deposit of dark orange-brown sandy loam (158) containing frequent flint gravel that was 0.40m thick. Below this was a deposit (159) comprising of a mid brown-orange silty sand with very frequent flint gravel inclusions measuring 0.23m thick and which overlay the natural sandy gravels (121).

Further NE beyond the area of Late Bronze Age activity, the stratigraphy changed slightly in section. Here the natural (121) was overlain by deposit (124) comprising a mid brown-orange silty-sand containing frequent flint gravel that was 0.20m thick. This is thought to be an interface between deposit (121) and deposit (128), which was a dark orange-brown sandy loam containing moderate flint gravel inclusions and measuring 0.25m thick. This was covered by 0.15m of subsoil (117), which in turn was overlain by 0.25m of topsoil (116).

Closer to the pumping station and SW of the modern track-way, deposit (124) finished where deposit (128) commenced. This represented the start of the main relict channel. At this end deposit (128) was observed to continue beyond the depth of the trench and was overlain by a mid orangey grey-brown clayey loam (127) that was 0.10m thick and contained frequent flint gravel inclusions. Covering this was a deposit of dark grey-brown clayey loam (126) with very occasional flint gravel and a maximum thickness of 0.40m. This was in turn covered by a mid yellow-brown clay layer (125) that was 0.23m thick. Above this was subsoil (117) measured here to have a maximum thickness of 0.50m that was sealed by topsoil (116) typically 0.30m thick.

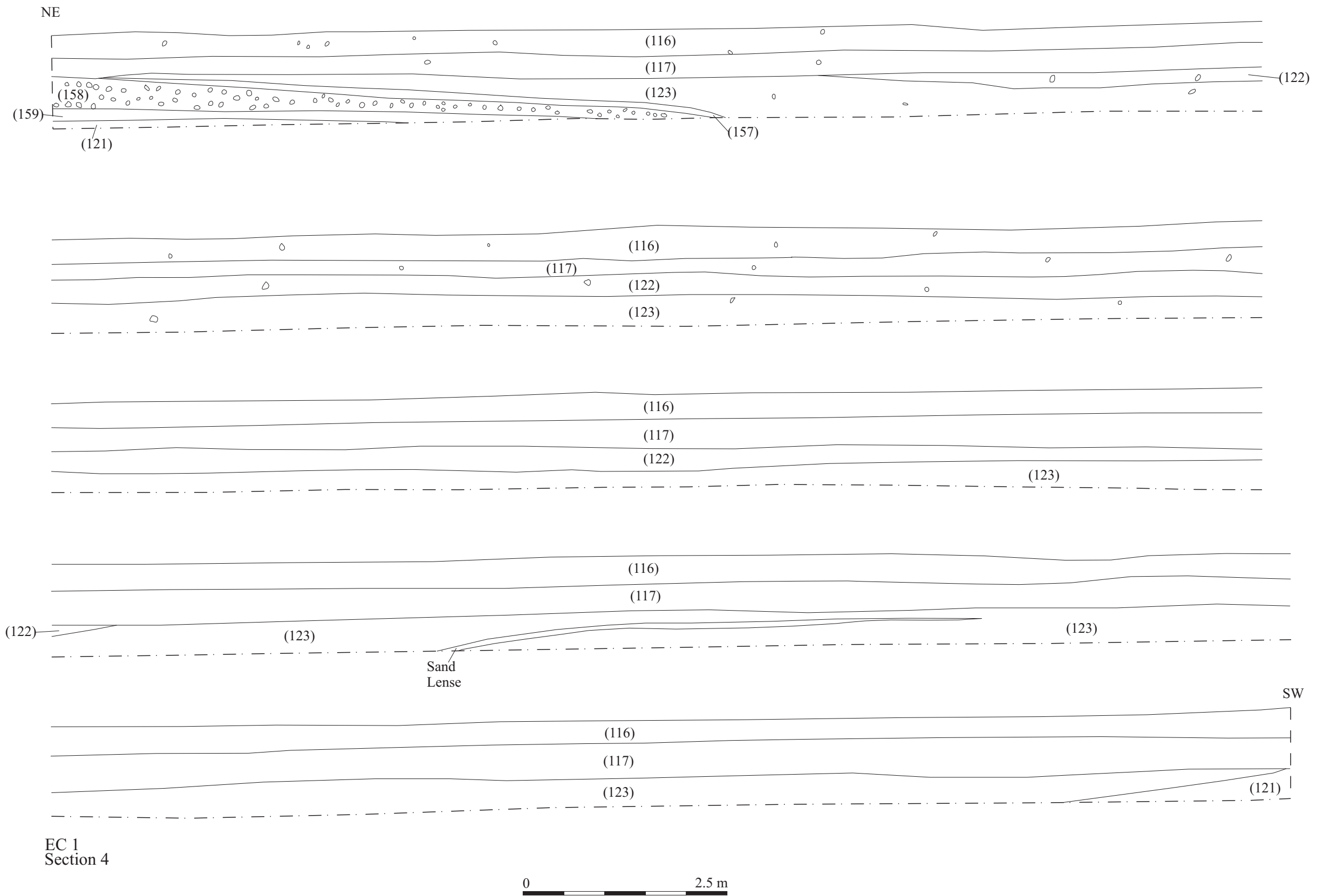


Figure 5. Section showing area of Bronze Age activity in EC 1

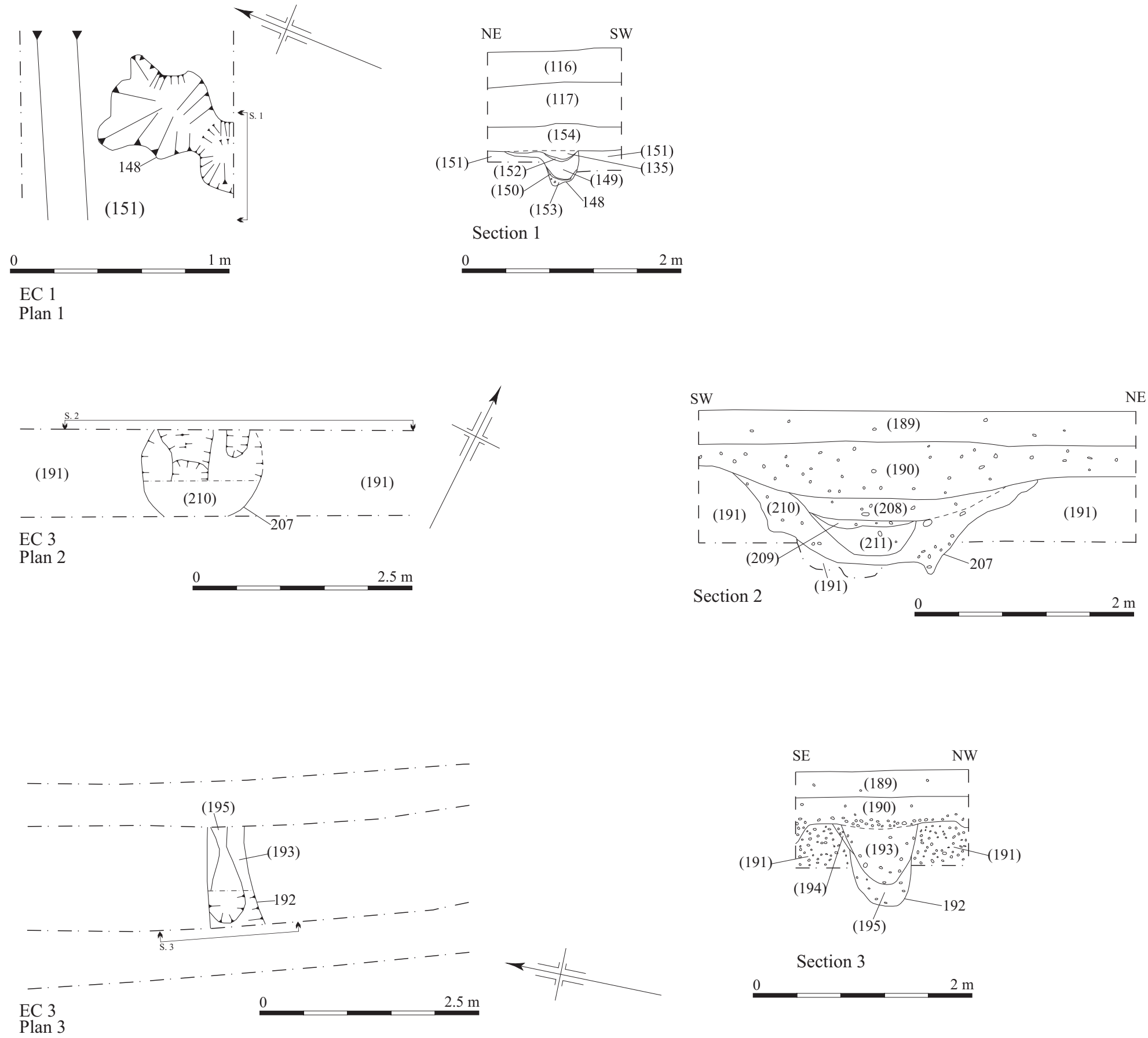


Figure 6. EC 1, EC 3 plan and sections

Near to the middle of this channel, an area of burning 148 was revealed cutting into deposit (151). This deposit was recorded elsewhere as (125). The layer of burning was excavated fully within the confines of the trench because of the need to dig the service trench below the feature level. On initial inspection this feature appeared to 'float' within context (151). It is thought however that a very subtle change in soil occurs indicating a thin layer (154) that existed above (151) and below (117). The feature was investigated during periods of bright sunshine that made identification of these subtleties difficult.

Feature 148 was possibly sub circular in plan, close to where it runs into the section, but upon excavation it became apparent that much of the feature's cut appeared very irregular (Fig. 6, P1, S1).

The earliest fill within feature 148 was a mid brown-black silty clay (153) with occasional charcoal inclusions that was 0.07m thick. This was the earliest burning episode and is perhaps evidence of the area being cleared out between burning or evidence of the base being levelled up before 'firing'. Above this was a friable dark brown/black silty charcoal layer (150) mixed with a small quantity of silty clay noted to be fairly patchy but typically 0.02m thick. This was covered by a deposit of firm to friable mid red-orange burnt clay (149) containing occasional burnt flint that appear to have been burnt in-situ. Overlying (149) was a thin charcoal layer (152) very similar to layer (150) and with a similar thickness. Sealing (152) and the uppermost fill within this feature was a mid yellow-brown slightly silty clay (135) containing occasional charcoal flecking with a maximum thickness of 0.07m. It was similar to both layers (154) and (151).

Trench EC 2 (*Figures 1 and 3*)

Aligned NE-SW this trench was approximately 365m in length before joining with trenches EC 1 and EC 7. An area 6.5m (NE-SW) by 6m (NW-SE) was excavated close to the borehole in order to bury an extra length of cable for future use. Measurements taken from the section revealed the stratigraphy typically consisting of a pale orange-yellow sandy gravel natural with occasional to moderate naturally occurring pockets of dark brown-orange sandy loam (120) was covered by a 0.32m thick layer of mid orange-brown sandy loam subsoil (119) that was sealed by 0.25-0.45m of mid grey-brown sandy loam topsoil (116).

Just southwest of where the trench was dug across the roadway, the palaeochannel recorded in trench EC 1 was revealed again. Although excavated to an arbitrary depth, it was apparent at this point to have an irregular base and the channel was observed rising and dipping into the gravels at several points. Initially these dips were thought to represent several different relict channels (137, 142 and 147 respectively) and were recorded as such. On closer inspection however, these dips were found to be one continuous feature. Here the earliest stratigraphic deposits encountered were a mid brown sandy, clay-loam (141) at least 0.34m thick and a dark brown clay-loam (134) at least 0.20m thick, both of which continued below the depth of the trench. Above deposit (134) was a mid brown silty clay (139) containing very frequent flint gravel inclusions ranging in thickness from 0.10–0.15m. It was also recorded as (133) and (146). This underlay a mid brown-orange silty clay (132) with occasional flint gravel, also recorded as (145), which varied in thickness from 0.01m to at least 0.45m.

Stratigraphically above this deposit and deposit (141) was a dark black-brown silty clay (140) with very occasional flint gravel inclusions, it was also recorded as (131) and (144). This is thought likely to be a buried topsoil horizon similar to that found previously in this area (Allen 1995). It varied in thickness from 0.02-0.25m. Overlying layer (140)/(131)/(144) was deposit (130), also recorded as deposit (138) and deposit (143), comprising a mid brown-yellow to mid brown-orange clay deposit that contained very occasional flint gravel and some charcoal flecking. It had a maximum thickness of 0.40m. This deposit (130) became patchy towards the middle of the channel before becoming more prominent again either side. Sealing this deposit was the subsoil (119) that in turn was covered by the topsoil (118) as revealed elsewhere.

No evidence of the relict channel noted in EC 1 close to BH 1 containing late Bronze Age activity was observed. This channel must therefore stop somewhere between where the two EC trenches were dug.

Trench EC 3 (*Figures 1, 3 and 6*)

This trench was approximately 400m in length and was aligned NNW-SSE for around 70m before turning NE-SW towards the pumping station. The trench was not dug directly to the borehole itself to allow an additional length of cable to be buried for future use. Measured records of the sections revealed a stratigraphic sequence typically consisting of a pale orange-yellow sandy gravel (191) similar to that found across the majority of the site overlain by a 0.32m thick layer of mid orange-brown subsoil (190), which in turn was covered by a 0.30m thick layer of mid grey-brown sandy loam topsoil (189).

The excavation of the trench through this part of the palaeochannel showed that the stratigraphy seen in trenches EC 1 and EC 2 was beginning to change. The lowest stratigraphic horizons seen in this section were a yellow-brown sand (365), thought to be part of the natural and a loose mid orange-brown sandy silt deposit (370) containing a moderate quantity of flint gravel at least 0.50m thick. Overlying this was a band recorded as two deposits (366) and (369). Deposit (369) was a darkish orange-brown clay up to 0.20m thick and almost identical to deposit (366) seen further to the northwest that was 0.15m thick.

It is thought that deposit (366) is a continuation of deposit (369), the separation caused by the arbitrary level of the trench base and the irregular nature of the deposit dipping below the depth of the trench before rising again. Above deposit (369) was a dark grey-brown clayey silt deposit (368) that was 0.15m thick. Sealing this deposit was a green-brown clay (367) that was noticeably thicker towards the SW with a maximum thickness of 0.30m. This was in turn covered by a subsoil (190) with the topsoil (189) completing the sequence.

Close to the SW of the trackway that divides the two fields between BH 3 and the pumping station was possible pit 207 (Fig. 6, P2, S2) cut into the natural (191), which continued beyond the confines of the trench. This feature was 2.20m wide and a maximum of 1.00m deep with irregular sides and an irregular base. It contained four fills. The primary fill (210) was composed of a mid orange-brown clayey loam c.0.40m thick containing moderate to frequent flint gravel and very occasional charcoal flecking. Above this was a secondary fill (211) comprising a mid yellow-

brown clayey sandy silt with moderate chalk flecking, occasional to moderate flint gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecking. It was 0.28m thick. Sealing this was a mid brown-yellow sandy silt fill (209) with moderate and flint gravel inclusions measured to be 0.08m thick which in turn was covered by a dark grey-brown sandy loam fill (208) with moderate flint gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecking that was 0.20m thick.

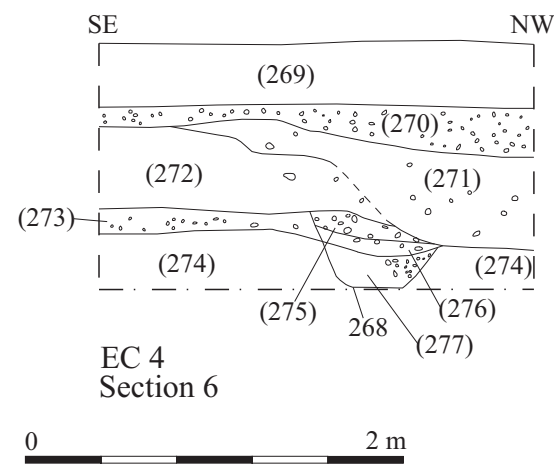
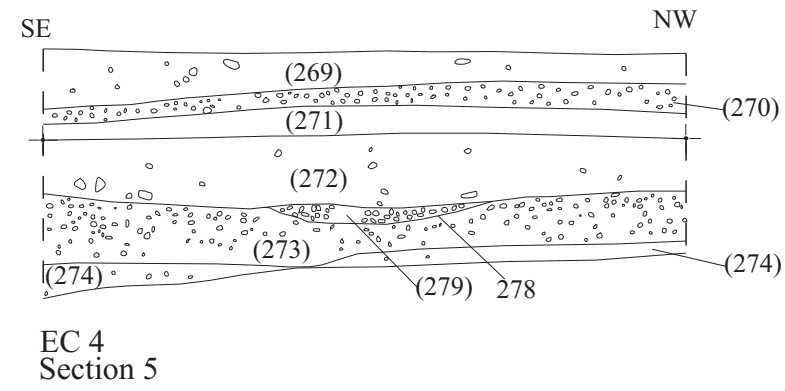
Sealing this pit was a layer of subsoil (190) with a maximum of 0.50m thick. 0.30m of topsoil (189) completed the sequence. No finds were recovered from this pit and it is possible that this whole feature could be the result of some natural process such as the formation of a solution hollow, especially considering the patches of decayed chalk observed with evidence of solution hollows noted at the base of the feature.

Nearer to the borehole, within the length of trench that was aligned approximately N-S, a possible ditch or elongated pit 192 (Fig. 6, P3, S3) was revealed cut into natural (191). This however may be natural. Hand cleaning showed this feature was slightly curving in plan. It was noted to be 0.8m wide and have steep, relatively straight sides onto a curving base. It contained three fills. Its primary fill (195) was 0.24m thick and consisted of mid brown-orange very sandy loam with moderate flint gravel inclusions. Above this was a mid orange-brown sandy loam fill (194) very similar to the subsoil and only appearing along the features southern edge. This is thought to be the result of slumping. The tertiary fill (193) was a very dark brown-grey sandy silt containing moderate flint gravel inclusions that measured 0.64m thick. No finds were recovered from this feature. Given the filling sequence this feature is more likely to have been formed naturally as an ice wedge.

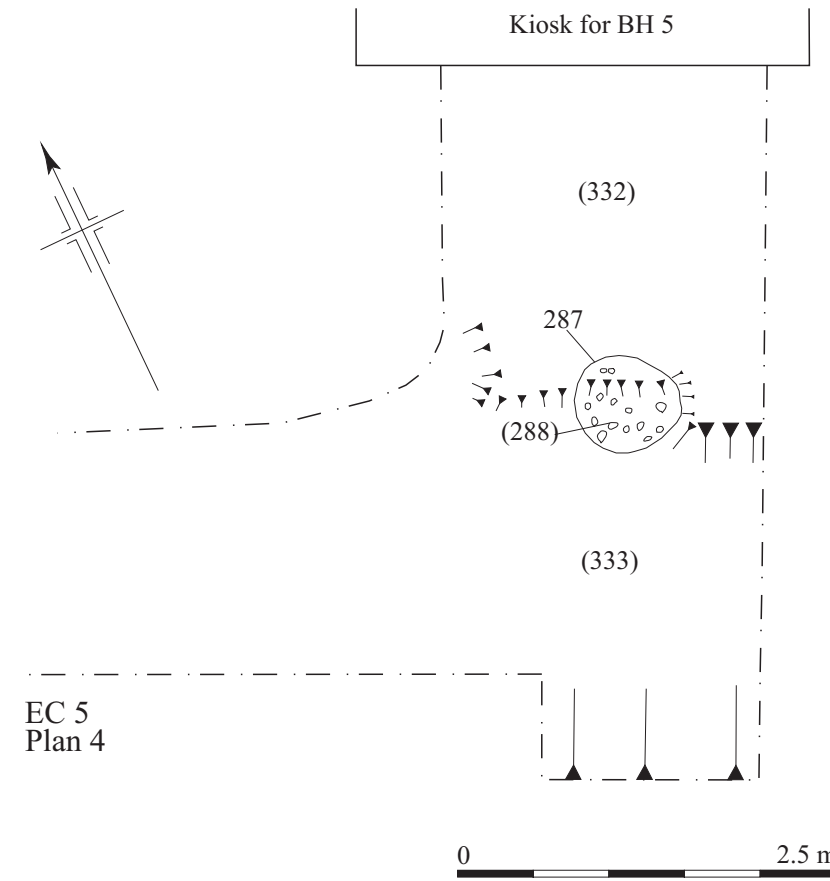
Trench EC 4 (Figures 1, 3 and 7)

Similar to trench EC 3, trench EC 4 was also aligned NNW-SSE for approximately 120m from BH 4 before turning SSW-NNE towards the pumping station. The trench was also not dug directly to the borehole itself to allow for an extra length of cable to be buried. This trench was approximately 395m in length. The soil sequence typically observed consisted of a natural pale orange-yellow sandy gravel (188) overlain by a 0.30m thick deposit of mid orange-brown sandy loam subsoil (187). This in turn was sealed by a 0.25-0.30m thick deposit of mid grey-brown sandy loam topsoil (186).

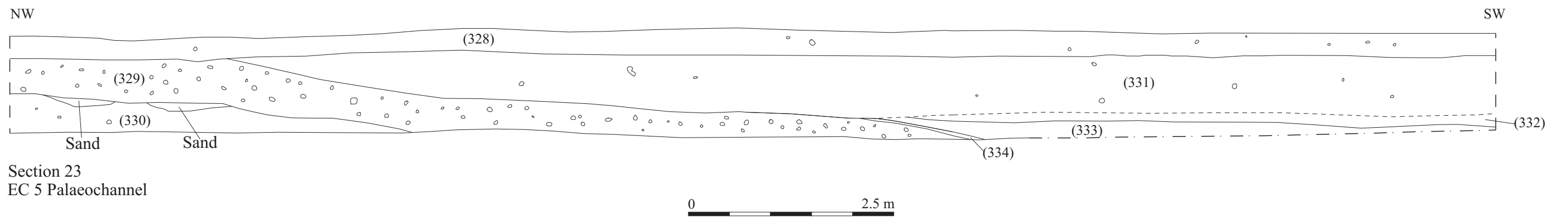
The stratigraphy of the soil sequence changed closer to the borehole and to the SW of the water pipe. The natural sandy gravel (274) was overlain by a mid orange grey-brown slightly silty clay deposit (273) with frequent sandy gravel and occasional chalk fragments that varied between 0.15m and 0.40m thick. This was covered by a mid orange-brown sandy clay deposit (272) with occasional to moderate flint gravel inclusions that was 0.44m thick. This appeared to peter out in section further westwards. Above this was a mid grey-brown slightly silty clay deposit (271) with occasional flint gravel inclusions and chalk flecking noted to be a maximum of 0.50m thick but more typically 0.14m on average. The remains of the former easement (270) was noted above this. It displayed a varying thickness along its length that was not greater than 0.24m thick.



0 2 m



0 2.5 m



0 2.5 m

Figure 7. EC 4 sections, EC 5 plan and EC 5 section of Palaeochannel

A mid brown-grey silty/sandy loam topsoil (269) 0.30m thick completed this sequence.

Within the area close to BH 4, two features were noted in section both cut into deposit (273) and sealed by layer (272). A shallow pit 278, 1.20m wide and 0.10m deep was revealed closest to BH 4 itself (Fig. 7, S5). It was noted have slightly curving sides onto a slightly curving base. It was filled with a mid brown-grey clay-silt (279) containing very frequent burnt flint inclusions.

Slightly further to the north within the same general area of the trench was a small pit or posthole 268 that was 0.64m wide and 0.40m deep (Fig. 7, S7). This had fairly steep straight sides and a slightly curving base with three fills. The primary fill (277) was very mixed or mottled and consisted of a mid yellow-orange-brown to mid grey-brown silty, sandy clay with moderate gravel inclusions. This measured 0.20m in thickness and was covered by 0.10m thick of deposit of dark brown-grey sandy, silty clay (276) with moderate to frequent flint gravel and moderate burnt flint inclusions as well as occasional charcoal flecking. The final fill in the sequence was a mid brown-grey silt-clay (275) containing frequent burnt flint that was up to 0.12m thick.

Further NW, this trench cut through the known palaeochannel as expected. The earliest deposits encountered were a very soft light greenish brown clay (200), containing occasional gravel at least 0.25m thick. Towards the SW end of the channel was a loose mid grey-brown silty gravel deposit (204) at least 0.50m thick, which appeared to lie above the natural sandy gravel (188)/(196). Covering deposit (204) was a dark brown silty clay deposit (203), at least 0.40m thick. Whilst layer (200), with an uncertain relationship to the natural, was covered by deposit (199) a dark black-brown slightly clay-silt that was 0.15m thick.

Deposit (199) was overlain by both a very soft light green-brown clay deposit (198), being at least 0.62m thick and by deposit (201). This (201) was a very soft light green-brown clay measuring 0.08m thick. Deposit (198) seemed to undercut the natural in section and appears in plan to contain a band of mid orange-brown silty sand (206).

Deposit (201) was overlain by deposit a firm light orange-brown clay (202) at least 0.55m thick containing very irregular patches of soft dark grey clayey silt (205) with occasional charcoal inclusions. These are thought likely to be animal disturbance. Deposit (202) in addition also overlay (203).

Above both deposits (198) and (202) was a mid green-brown silty clay (197) measuring 0.30m thick. This was sealed by the subsoil (187), which in turn was covered by topsoil (186). Both of which had a similar thickness as seen elsewhere along the trench.

Trenches EC 5 and 6 (Figures 1, 3 and 7)

A cable trench was dug from BH 5, which joined with a trench excavated from BH 6 before joining those from BH 3 and BH 4 close to the pumping station. Typically the stratigraphy noted here was similar to that in the other EC trenches with a topsoil (328) consisting of dark grey-brown sandy loam 0.38m thick overlying a mid orange-

brown sandy loam subsoil (329) that varied in thickness from 0.45m to 0.61m. This in turn covered the natural creamy yellow sandy gravels with mid orange-brown silty sand pockets (330).

Towards BH 5 the edge of the palaeochannel, noted in all of the EC trenches, was revealed and the section drawn (Fig. 7, S23). At this point the natural (330) was overlain by a deposit (329). These were observed dipping downwards below the limits of the excavated trench. Here deposit (329) was covered by a mid grey-brown silty clay deposit (334) with very occasional flint gravel inclusions that was 0.04m thick. This in turn was covered by a mid brown-orange clay deposit (333) at least 0.20m thick. Over this was a 0.10m thick layer of mid orange-brown silty sand (332).

An area of burning 287 was noticed cut into this layer close to and just SW of the new kiosk for BH 5 (Fig. 7, P4). It measured 0.60m in length and 0.55m in width. Its fill was composed of a very dark brown-grey sandy silt (288) containing very frequent charcoal flecking, occasional burnt flint and very occasional sandstone. Some evidence of dark red scorching along part of its edge showed the burning to have been in-situ. As this feature was at the base of the trench with no further digging necessary and was to be protected by a layer of bedding sand used for the laying of the new cables, it was possible to preserve the feature *in-situ*, thus removing the need for further archaeological investigation.

Deposit (332) was only slightly lighter and with a slightly higher silt content than the deposit (331) above. This deposit (331) was a maximum of 0.62m thick and was sealed by a layer of topsoil (328).

A large modern pit cutting through the subsoil was also observed towards the middle of this trench measuring to be 4.25m in width and 0.90m depth containing metal, plastic and occasional fragments of asbestos.

Trench EC 7 (Figures 1 and 3)

Aligned WNW-ESE the trench measured approximately 250m in length. Typically, at the base of the trench was a light creamy yellow gravelly sand natural (156) with occasional to moderate naturally occurring pockets dark brown-orange sandy loam. This was overlain by a dark orange-brown silty sand subsoil (155) measuring 0.40m thick, which in turn was sealed by a dark brown-grey silty-sandy loam topsoil (129) that was 0.25m thick.

Towards BH7 and approximately 42m from the fence surrounding the borehole, the subsoil appeared to become much thicker, to such an extent that no natural was seen within the trench at the finished depth. The reason for this was originally unclear, but later work along the length of PT (D) revealed that this part of the trench cut through the palaeochannel aligned NW-SE observed elsewhere through the entire site.

No archaeological features were discovered in this trench.

The Pumping Station (*Figures 1 and 3*)

Various service trenches were dug within the compound containing the pumping station. Some of these, particularly those around the new transformers were not dug deep enough to reach natural or were dug through previously disturbed ground (the new concrete transformer platforms had already been constructed prior to the watching brief commencing). Typically the service trenches, where deep enough to reveal natural geology, a mid orange-yellow sandy gravel (217) containing pockets of dark orange-brown sandy loam, this was overlain by a 0.40m thick layer of mid orange/brown sandy loam containing occasional sub rounded to sub angular flint inclusions. The uppermost layer was compacted stone made ground (215) that was 0.36m thick. No finds or archaeological features were observed in this area.

The Pipe Trench

Before any trenching could be excavated, the topsoil was stripped off allowing the formation of an easement. Typically the easement was 15m wide, 5m to the outside of the existing pipe/site and 10m to the inside. In all areas where the pipe was to replace the former pipe work, it was intended to excavate the trench on the existing line whilst removing the redundant pipe. The exception being the trench running NE-SW between BH 1 and BH 7 where the pipe was offset 5m inside the former line. The trench itself comprising PT (A) and PT (B) was in general 1.6m wide with the uppermost sections being battered back for safety reasons. The battering varied depending on the depth of the trench and the stability of the resulting section. This made identifying potential archaeology problematic especially in areas where the newly dug trench line had already been significantly disturbed by previous work or where the new trench was excavated within the limits of the previous trench cut.

From the excavation of the pipe trench PT (C) along the main pipe route and round through to the majority of PT (F), following topsoil striping a 5m wide strip (2.5m either side of the pipes' designated line) was dug down an extra. 0.60m before the main trench (c. 1.20m wide) was dug to the required depth. This was to allow a step to be made to increase the trench safety. The spurs from the main ring to the boreholes themselves continued to be battered back in the majority of cases except for BH 1. This spur was dug down using the 5m wide step first.

Observations made of the stratigraphy encountered during this phase of work revealed that for the majority of the trenching natural sandy gravels containing naturally occurring pockets of mid to darkish orange-brown sandy loam or silty sand were overlain by a mid orange/brown sandy loam subsoil of varying depth that was in turn sealed by a mid grey/brown sandy/silty loam topsoil. The exception to this being the area closest to the river where typically a series of alluvial deposits were noted between the natural sandy gravel and the topsoil with no recognisable subsoil similar to that seen elsewhere noted.

PT (A) (*Figures 1, 3 and 8*)

Following on from the initial topsoil strip evidence for the former easement became apparent as too did a track-way aligned NW-SE beyond its limit. The positioning of the track-way is consistent with the cropmark shown on Cox's map (2007)

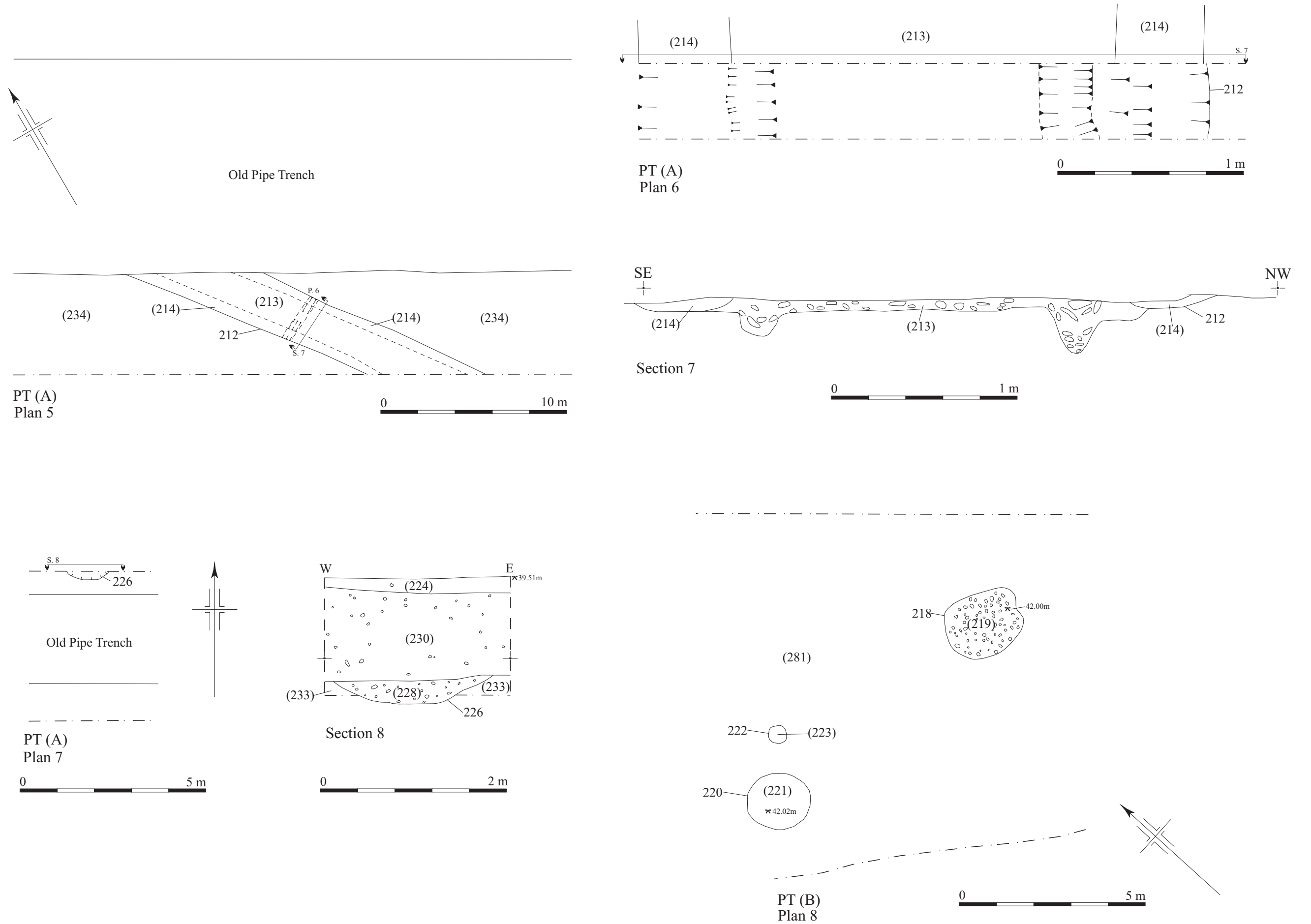


Figure 8. PT (A) and PT (B) Plans and sections

commissioned to interpret aerial photographs for potential archaeology (Figs. 2 & 8, P5 & P6). Despite the plan showing the feature to continue across the pipeline route, it instead disappeared completely where it joined into the easement presumably because it has been fully or at least partially destroyed. Either way, no evidence for this was seen in the trench section or beyond. It is thought to continue beyond the limit of the new easement to the SE onwards towards the river. A small section was placed through this feature 212 for finds retrieval. The section showed that the track-way was constructed below the topsoil (224) and above the mid grey-brown silty clay (234) subsoil. It was built from a loosely compacted mixture of flint rubble deposit (213) mixed with mid brown silty loam with occasional chalk fragments and tile. It was 0.08m thick (Fig. 8, S7). It displayed two distinct ruts on its upper surface, 1.50m apart and close to either edge of the deposit where it was noticeably firmer. This deposit (213) was defined along either edge by a band of very compacted chalk (214) mixed with a small amount of mid brown loamy soil. Both bands were approximately 0.08m thick and 0.50m wide. The new trench was to be excavated just inside the confines of the former easement, where this feature was not present. In consultation with ground-workers a barrier was created around the track-way and an agreement not to disturb the feature any further was made thus allowing it to be safely recorded and preserved *in-situ*.

The new pipe trench was positioned close to the southern edge of the former easement and the section created along this edge was cut through previously undisturbed ground in places where the trench was dug beyond the cut of the original pipe. This was in the northerly facing section. The southern facing section was always dug into disturbed ground. A modern boundary ditch separated the two fields into which PT (A) was excavated (Fig. 1).

To the east of this boundary ditch, identifying potential archaeological features became very problematic. This was partially due to disturbance caused during previous repair work just west of the gas pipe where metal shuttering had been left *in-situ*. Added to this, the battering employed to make the trenches safe and the ingress of water due to the trenches position close to the river, despite the use of a pump, did not help. Finally, as the trench was dug within the same line as the previous trench, much of the section seen was previously disturbed.

The stratigraphic soil sequence noted in section varied across this portion of the trench. The easterly part was noted to be consistent with the stratigraphy observed within Test Pits 19, 21 and 22 with a gradual change noted further west, where it was less disturbed.

The stratigraphy seen between 8-10m east of the boundary revealed that in the north facing section the natural sandy gravels (233) were overlain by a mid blue-grey clay alluvial deposit (237) containing frequent flint gravel that was 0.08m thick. This is thought to be the interface between the natural and a deposit (236) deemed identical to deposit (237) but containing only the occasional flint gravel and measuring to be 0.28m thick. Above this was a mid brown-grey mottled with mid orange clay alluvial deposit (235) that was 0.26m thick. This was in turn covered by a mid grey-brown silty clay deposit (234) that was 0.20m thick. The uppermost layer was a 0.25m thick mid grey-brown topsoil (229).

The southern facing section was slightly different. Above the natural (233) were two layers identical to the northerly facing section. Layer (232) was identified as the same as layer (237) and layer (231) as layer (236). Between these and the topsoil was a deposit (230) representing evidence of the former easement and consequent disturbance caused during previous ground-works. Typically this layer of disturbance was 0.30m thick but became increasingly thicker (up to 0.90m) further westwards to such an extent that it became the only layer between the natural and the topsoil for much of the section between the field boundary and BH 4, and also beyond the field boundary and further west. An equivalent to the clay alluvium (235) was not observed in this section.

A possible pit 226 (Fig. 8, P7, S8) was noted in section cut into the natural (233), 45m from the bend which separates PT (A) from PT (F). This possible pit was 1.70m wide and 0.24m deep with shallow, curving sides and a curving base. It contained a single fill (228) composed of dark brown-grey slightly silty clay with frequent flint gravel and occasional chalk flecking. Most of this feature appears to have been destroyed by truncation associated with the layer of disturbed ground (230) caused during previous pipe laying activities. No dating evidence was recovered and it is plausible that this feature could simple be part of the disturbance.

The two ring ditches expected within this area (Cox 2007) were not seen despite a continuous presence during topsoil stripping and the excavation of the new pipe trench. Whether or not these features do in fact exist but are further off the pipeline than first thought or have been hidden by disturbance associated with the inception or repair work of the original water pipe is a moot point. However, even where a good clean section was excavated through the more westerly conceived example, nothing tangible was identified.

PT (B) (Figures 1, 3, 8 and 9)

A large part of this section of pipe trench had already been previously archaeologically excavated as part of the former ground works so it was not necessary to maintain a watching brief during the excavation of the new pipe trench which followed the existing line. The new easement, however, was designed to be much wider.

Following the topsoil strip, three new features (Fig. 8, P8) were identified beyond the limits of the former easement in an area stripped onto the cusp between subsoil (281) and the top of natural (286).

Pit 220 was 1.50m wide and 1.70m long and contained a dark brown-grey sandy silt fill (221) with occasional flint inclusions as well as occasional chalk and charcoal flecking. Ten sherds of pottery were taken from the surface of this feature dating it to the early Saxon period. Close to the NE of this was a posthole 222 measuring 0.47m in diameter and containing a mid grey-brown sandy silt fill (223). One sherd of pottery dating at the earliest to the 1st-2nd century AD was recovered from the surface of this deposit.

Further to the east of both these features was a hearth 218. This consisted of a dark brown-grey sandy silt (219) with very frequent rounded flint cobbles, sandstone,

occasional burnt flint and burnt sandstone. Three sherds of pottery were taken from its surface dating the feature to the 2nd century AD. As these features were in no danger of being damaged during the ground works, it was decided to preserve them *in-situ*.

Towards the western end of this area, close to the southeast of BH 5, was an area of perceived ploughsoil noted during previous excavation work (Allen 1995). This was discovered to the NW of a curving Neolithic ditch and continuing beyond the limits of the former limit of excavation. Upon investigation it was found to be the upper fill of the relict channel revealed elsewhere. It was aligned roughly NW-SE across the site.

This palaeochannel is highly likely to be the same channel that was aligned E-W in the field to the west of the railway track. A drawing of the section was taken close to the railway embankment and also close to where PT (B) joined with PT (C). At this point, the stratigraphic sequence seen within the channel showed that natural mid yellow-orange sandy gravels (286) were overlain by a 0.10m thick layer of dark brown-grey silty clay (285) with occasional flint gravel and moderate chalk flecking (Fig. 9, S21).

Overlying this was a 0.40m thick layer of very fine creamy-off white chalky, clayey silt (284) containing a thick lens of flint gravel. This was covered by a 0.15m thick deposit of mid orange-brown slightly silty clay (283). It was itself sealed by a deposit of mid orange-brown very sandy loam (282) measuring 0.58m thick. On top of this was a pale-mid orange-brown sandy loam deposit (281), containing occasional flint gravel and measuring 0.40m thick. A mid grey-brown sandy loam topsoil (280) measuring 0.30m thick was the uppermost layer.

At the junction between PT (B) and PT (C) a further record of the stratigraphy of the palaeochannel was made at its deepest point as it was noted to be different to that seen close to the railway embankment

Here natural sandy gravel (302)/(286) was overlain by a 0.14m thick layer of dark grey-brown silty clay (309) with occasional flint gravel and very occasional chalk fragments similar to deposit (285) (Fig. 8, S22). Above this was a fine chalky silty clay deposit (310) similar to (284) but only 0.24m thick. This was covered by deposit (311), which although comparable to deposit (283) appeared to only consist of clay and was instead a mid yellow-brown colour and was itself much thicker, measuring 0.76m in depth. Overlying this was a light orange-yellow sand deposit (312) that was 0.10m thick. It was not observed in the section close to the embankment that in turn was sealed by a mid orange-brown sand deposit (313) measuring 0.80m thick. This was reminiscent of both deposits (282) and (281) but appeared to consist of just sand. The topsoil that would have completed the sequence had previously been stripped whilst making the new easement.

PT (C) (Figures 1, 3 and 10)

The edge of the palaeochannel revealed at SE end of this trench was measured but a detailed drawing of this section, to compliment the section drawn at the corner between PT (B) and PT (C), was not possible due to the need to batter the trench for health and safety reasons. However, a section was drawn close by where the relict channel was cut by the electricity cable trench EC 5/6 close to BH 5.

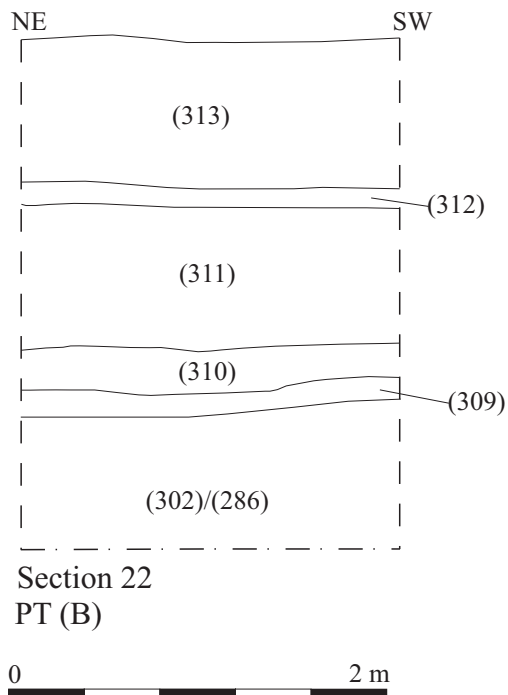
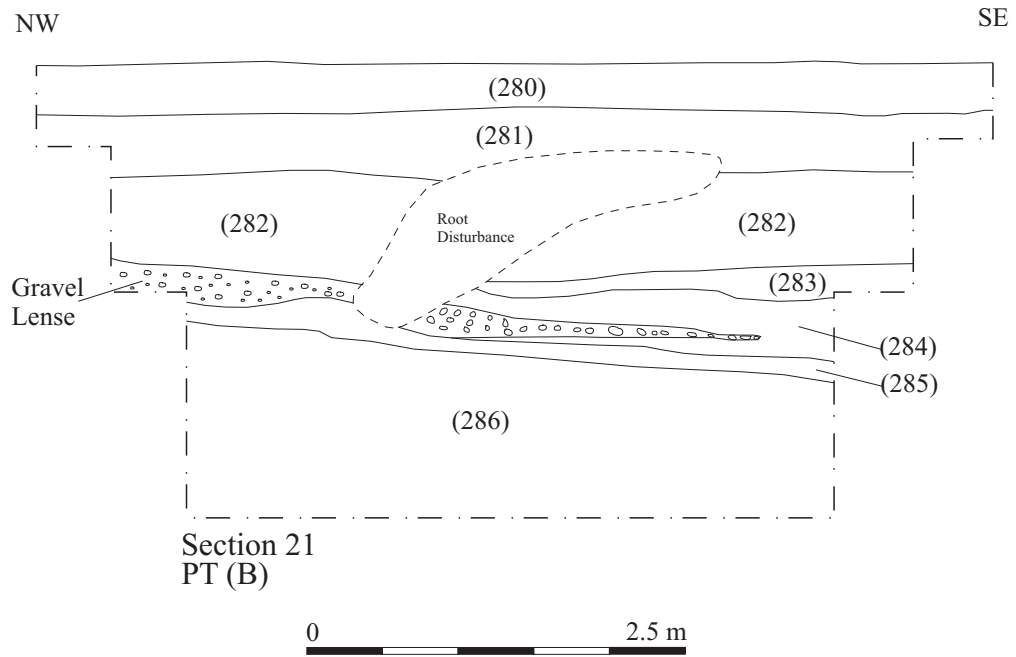


Figure 9. PT (B) Sections

At a point 41.25m N from the mid point of the trench where PT(C) joins PT (B), a possible sub-circular pit 289 was observed cut into the natural (Fig. 10, P9). This feature was 2.05m wide and at least 1.80m in length, the full extent being hidden under the baulk. It contained a mid orange-brown slightly clayey silty sand fill (291) with frequent flint gravel inclusions very similar to the subsoil (301). Although this feature appeared analogous to pockets of naturally occurring silty sandy seen elsewhere, it was notable for being very regular in plan. The possible fill (291) was cut by a probable posthole 290 measuring 0.30m in diameter. This was filled with a dark brown-grey sandy silt (292) containing very occasional charcoal flecking. Both of these features were left *in-situ* as they would not be damaged by the groundwork. No dating evidence was recovered from either.

Heading towards BH6 the bore of the pipe changed to a much smaller diameter to that of the main ring, and the trench was battered and not stepped. From the trackway onwards a great deal of modern disturbance was seen either from services or from work on the former pipe. No archaeological finds or features were revealed in this area.

PT (D) (Figures 1, 3, 10, 11 and 12)

At a point 14.30m NW from the pipe junction where the pipe running from BH 5 splits and heads towards BH 6 and BH 8, a very wide feature 293 (Fig. 10, P10, S9) was encountered cut into the natural (233). This was thought either to be a large pit, possibly for quarrying, or the terminus of a very wide ditch. In plan it was measured to be at least 8.55m wide before disappearing under the limit of excavation. From the section it was seen to contain two fills, the primary fill was a moderately light yellow-brown silty sand (295) that was 0.18m thick. Overlying this was a dark orange-brown slightly clayey silty sand fill (294) measuring 0.54m thick. Two sherds of pottery were recovered from deposit (294) while hand cleaning. These dated to 1st-2nd century AD.

A dubious stake-hole 296 also cut into the natural (233) but its relationship to pit 293 was uncertain. This feature appeared to be 0.10m in width and 0.29m in depth. Its fill (297) was very similar in composition to fill (294) but is thought more likely to be the result of animal disturbance or some natural process that is commonplace throughout the site and noted elsewhere.

Between 0.40m and 81.10m SE of the 'T' junction designed to join the pipe-work from BH1 and BH7 was the palaeo-channel found previously within the other EC trenches. Although dug at an oblique angle, the trench was deep enough to expose the full stratigraphic sequence of the channel so it was decided to record the section in full (Figs 11 & 12).

Above the natural sandy gravels (305) was a dark red orange-brown sandy clay deposit (314) containing occasional to moderate flint gravel. This deposit was very irregular in thickness, but on average 0.12m thick. Sealing this was a mid orange-brown clay-sand (315) with occasional flint gravel, which also varied in depth from 0.05m to 0.55m. Above this was a small pocket of mid grey-brown slightly silty clay (316) with a maximum thickness of 0.20m. Overlying this was a relatively thin deposit of dark brown slightly clayey sand (317) that varied in depth from an average

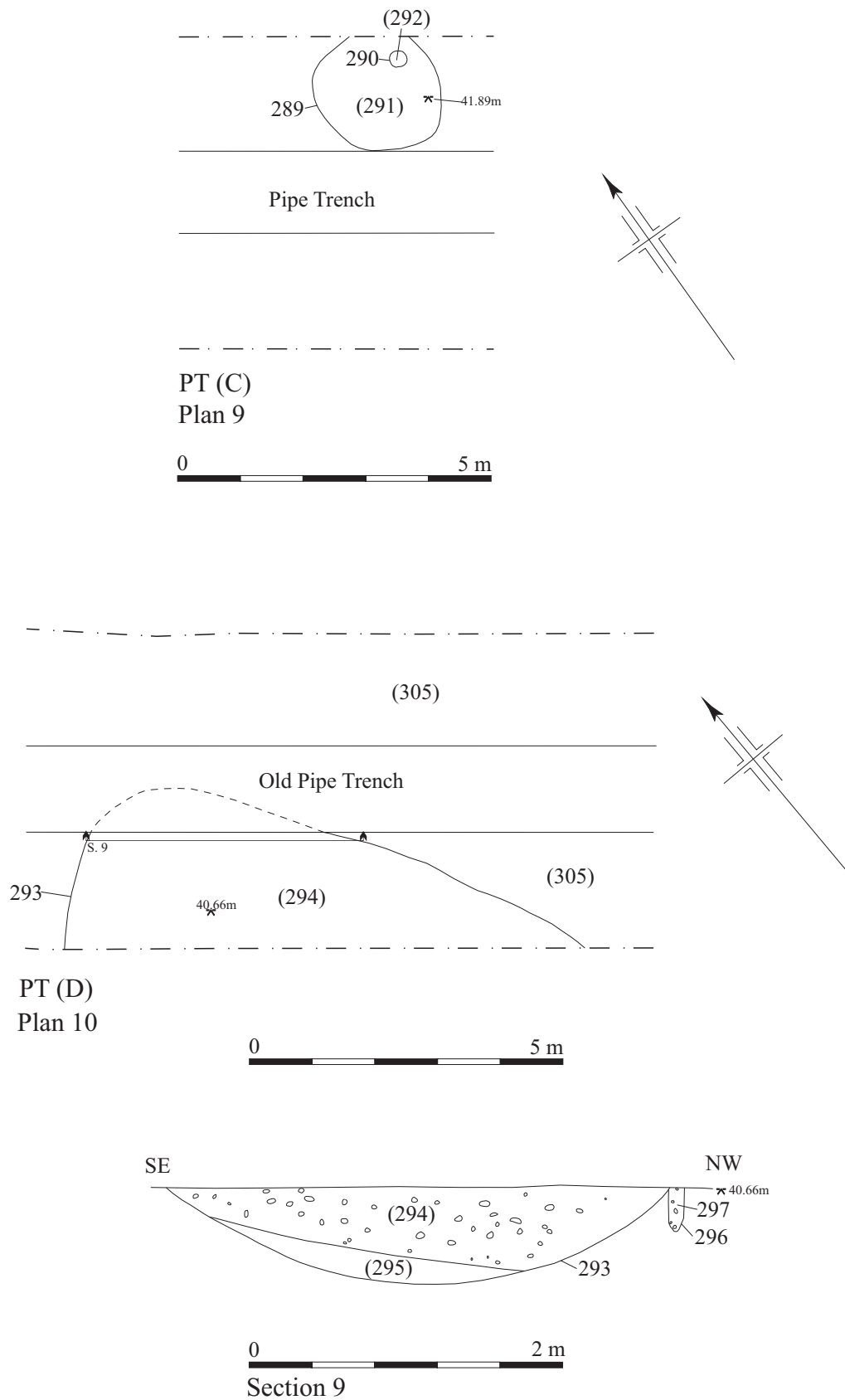


Figure 10. PT (C) and PT (D) Plans and sections

of around 0.05m to a maximum of 0.20m and was noted not to be a continuous fill but intermittent.

A mid yellow-brown clay with occasional charcoal flecking (318) was observed above. This layer also displayed a variable thickness to a maximum of 0.45m. Cutting into this deposit was possible posthole 298 measured to be 0.25m wide and 0.22m deep with steep, slightly curving sides onto a flat base (Fig. 11, S14 C-D). Its fill consisted of a dark black-grey silty clay (299) with very occasional flint gravel and occasional charcoal flecking. No finds however were recovered.

A small patch of mid orange-brown clay (321) measuring 1.9m wide and 0.08m thick, was noted on the surface of deposit (318). Sealing both of these deposits was a dark grey-brown silty clay deposit (319) with very occasional flint gravel inclusions. Several other deposits (320), (323), (324) and (325) were revealed above deposit (318). All were very similar in composition and colour to (319) and likely to be the result of one episode of activity rather than unique events. These ranged in thickness from 0.05m to 0.25m. Also noted above layer (318) was deposit (322) consisting of dark brown-grey silty clay with very occasional charcoal flecking, which is thought to be the result of animal disturbance.

Stratigraphically above all these deposits was a dark orange-brown sandy loam deposit (326) with occasional charcoal flecking, occasional flint gravel and a measured maximum thickness of 0.55m. This is considered to be the same as deposit (327) slightly further NW.

Overlying these two deposits was a mid orange-brown sandy loam deposit (304), similar but slightly lighter in colour than deposits (326) and (327). The definition between (326) and (304) became increasingly blurred and disappeared near to the middle of the former channel. Overlying layer (304) was a mid grey-brown sandy loam topsoil (303) which in section had been partially covered with demolition rubble that formed a temporary hard-standing area previously in use by the contractor.

The palaeochannel was again recorded slightly further away where the trench bent towards BH 7. The channel appeared to run under BH 7 itself with the western edge 0.50m N from where the pipe trench bent into a NW-SE alignment towards the junction that joined the borehole onto the main loop. Although the sections were roughly battered, the stratigraphy appeared to be the same.

The excavation of the new pipe trench, within this subsection, cut through the area of Bronze Age activity previously seen during the digging of trench EC 1. The trenching for the new pipe was significantly deeper than that excavated previously allowing the opportunity to record the channel in greater detail. The full length of the palaeochannel containing this activity was recorded.

The earliest stratigraphic horizon within this channel seen cut into the natural sandy gravel (308) was a mid brown-orange slightly silt, sandy gravel deposit (335) measuring 0.15m thick. Above this was a mid yellow-brown sandy gravel deposit (336) also 0.10m thick.

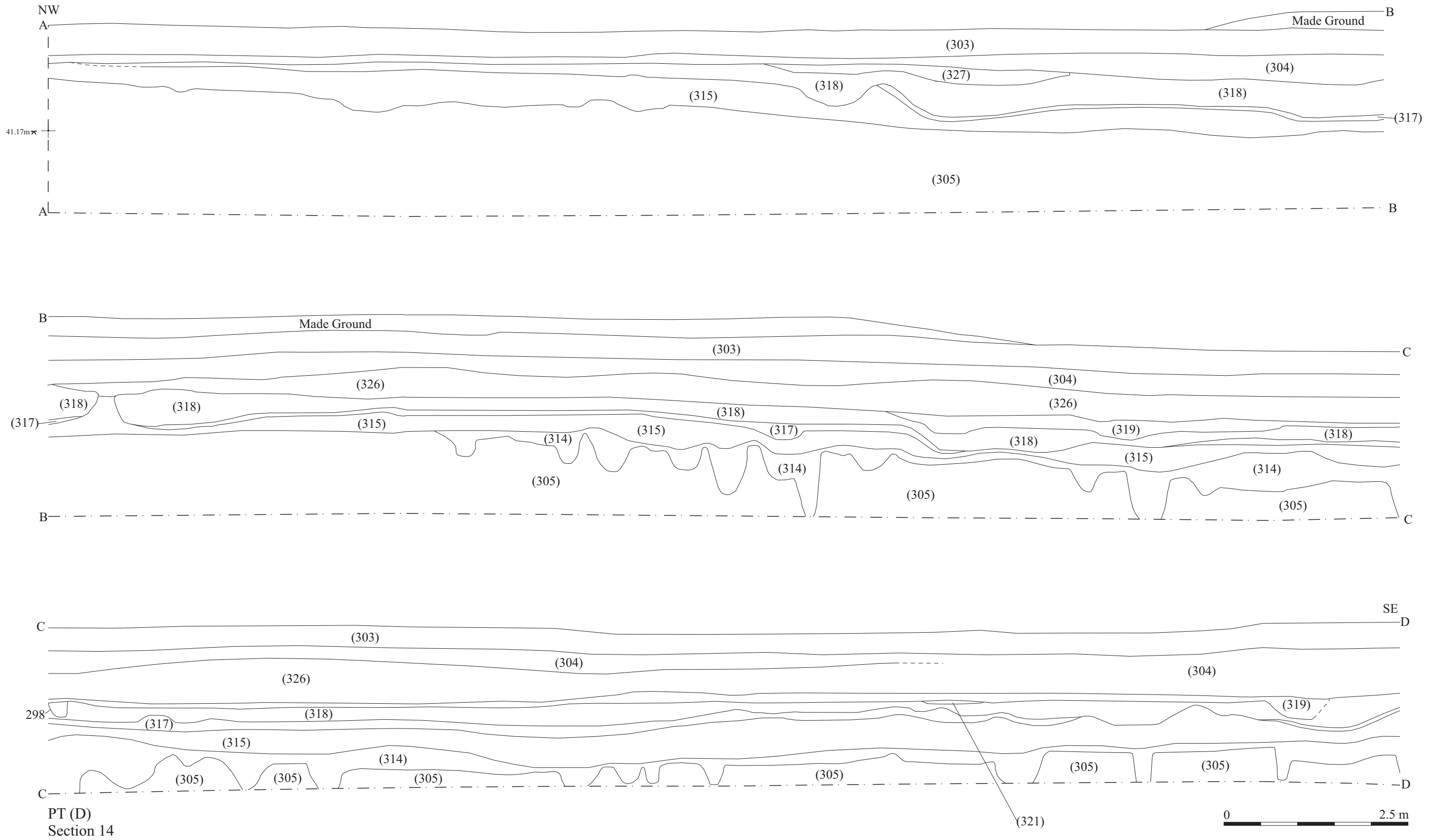


Figure 11. PT (D) Section 14 through Palaeochannel

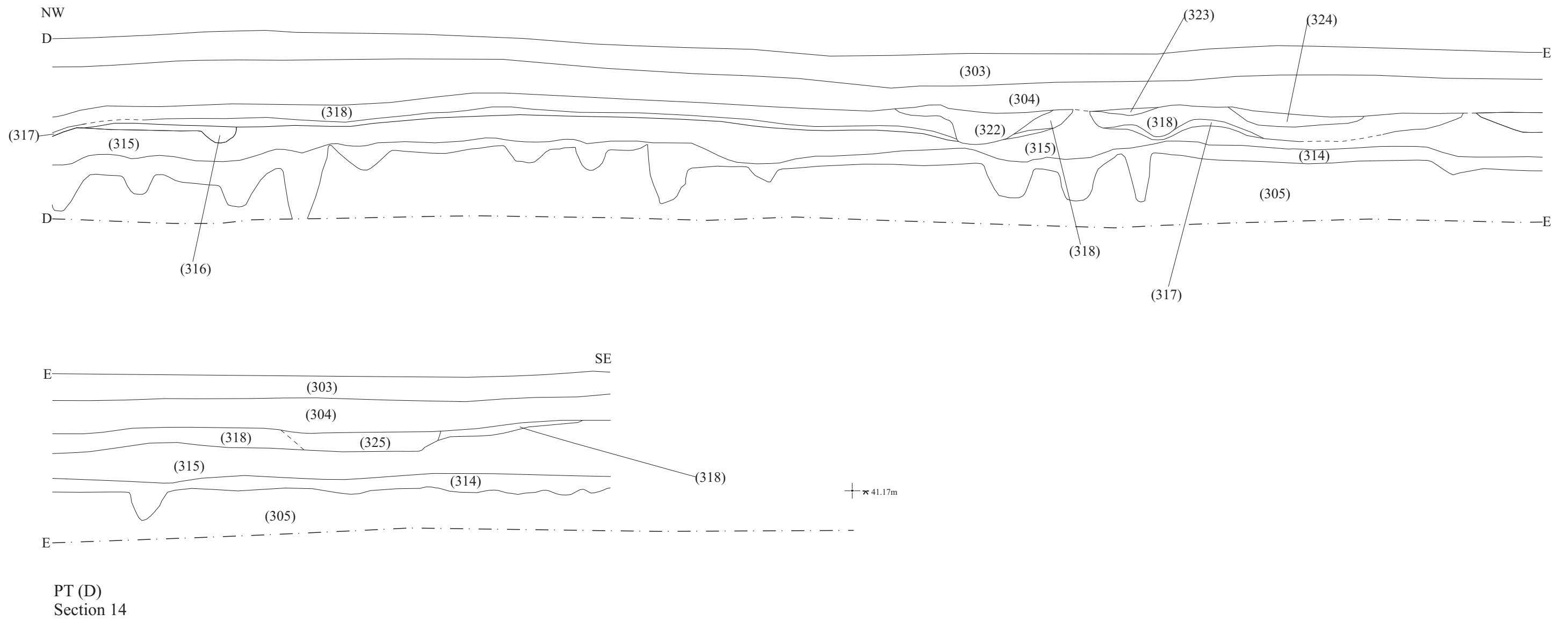


Figure 12. PT(D) Section 14 continued

PT (E) (*Figures 1, 3, 13 and 14*)

Towards the NE end of the smaller more southern channel containing the Bronze Age activity was an isolated deposit of firm dark brown slightly silty clay (364) measuring 0.10m thick. This was located near to north bank of the palaeo-channel.

On the north edge of the palaeochannel the earliest deposit seen was mid brown-orange silty sandy gravel (335) which was overlain by mid yellow-brown sandy gravel (336). Overlying both deposits (336) and (364) was a dark grey-brown silty clay deposit (337) that was 0.10m thick. This in turn was overlain by a mid grey clay deposit (339) with mid orange edges measuring 0.08m thick. Rewrite

Towards the SW end of the channel the earliest deposit encountered was a pale creamy brown fine clay (351) with occasional chalk inclusions at least 0.25m thick. This was covered by a mid grey clay deposit (350) with mid orange edges that was 0.15m thick very similar to deposit (339). It was overlain by a very soft pale/creamy brown sandy clay deposit (349) that was 0.95m thick, and contained bands of mid orange sand up to 0.05m thick.

Deposits (339) and (349) were both overlain by a soft light creamy brown fine clay-silt deposit (338) with decayed chalk inclusions at least 0.48m thick seen dipping and rising again towards the central part of the trench. Above this was a soft mid blue-brown clay deposit (340) with occasional charcoal flecking measuring 0.40m thick. It was covered by a soft brown sandy clay deposit (341) that was 0.05m thick. Above this was a mid blue-brown clay deposit (342) that was slightly lighter than deposit (340). This also dipped and rose again like deposit (338) towards the middle of the feature.

Also overlaying deposit (349) was a loose brown sand deposit (352) with a maximum thickness of 0.45m. This gradually changed to a creamy white colour close to its base. Above this was soft mid blue-brown fine clay deposit (353) that was 0.10m thick with occasional iron pan flecking.

Above this was a dark brown sandy clay deposit (354) that was 0.25m thick. This underlay a mid brown fine clay deposit (355) with a maximum thickness of 0.40m that was noted to be similar in appearance to deposit (356) above but which on closer inspection was made up of fine sandy clay and was slightly firmer. Deposit (356) was 1.10m thick.

A relatively thin layer of mid grey-brown fine clay (359) measuring 0.08m thick lay above these deposits.

Above layer (342) were two deposits (343) and (347). Both consisted of dark brown sandy clay and are like to have formed during the same event. Deposit (343) measured 0.30m thick whilst deposit (347) was 0.20m thick.

Overlaying deposit (347) was a mid brown silty sand deposit (348) that was 0.40m thick. Sealing both deposits (343) and (348) was a firm mid grey-brown clay deposit (344) with very occasional charcoal flecking. This was covered by a deposit (346) very similar to deposit (344), but noted to be slightly more friable. This difference though is probably the result of the upper part of the deposit being exposed to a

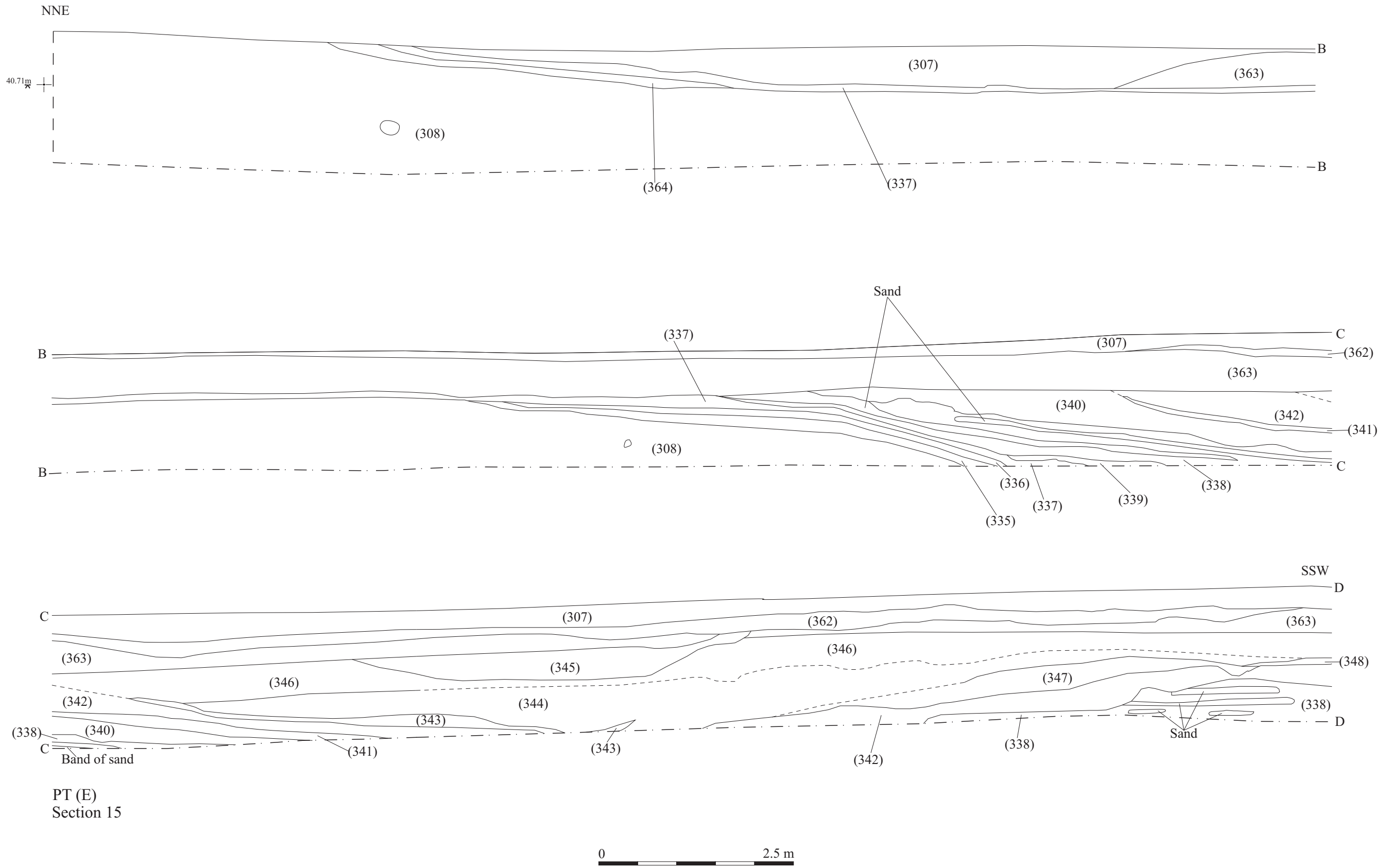


Figure 13. PT (E) Section 15 through palaeochannel

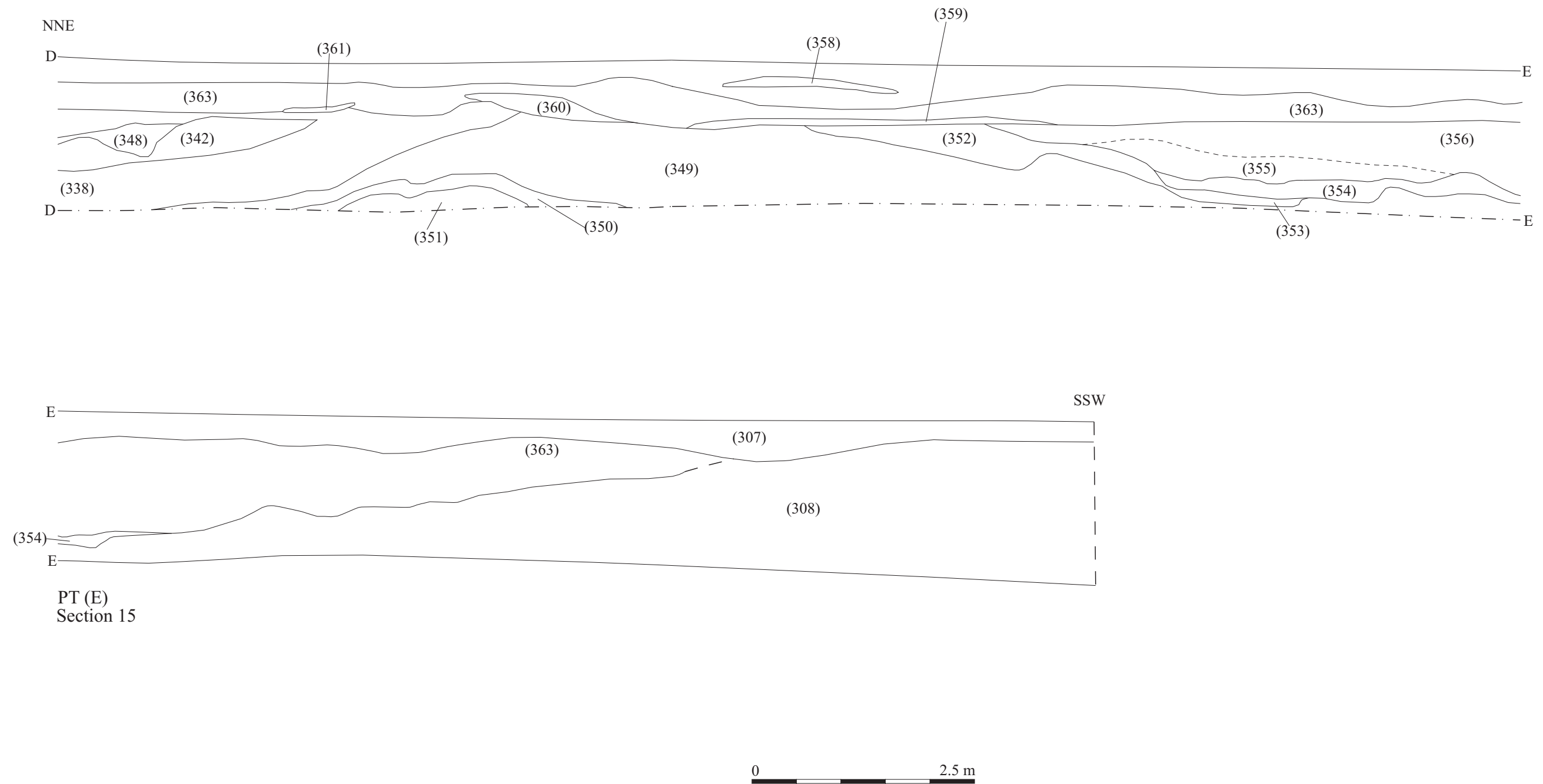


Figure 14. PT (E) Section 15 through palaeochannel continued

greater amount of sun during recording. Deposit (346) was overlain by a dark grey-blue slightly silty clay deposit (345) that measured 0.35m in thick.

Stratigraphically above both deposits (345) and (359) was a mid yellow-brown clay deposit (363), which became more of a mid orange-brown colour further SW and contained two pockets of mid brown clayey sand labelled as (361) and (360). Deposit (363) varied in thickness to a maximum of 0.45m. Several worked and burnt flints were recovered from its surface during machining.

Above deposit (363) was a mid brown-grey silty clay loam deposit (362) measuring 0.15m thick with occasional charcoal flecking and containing both burnt and struck flints as well as four sherds of pottery dating to the middle to late Bronze Age. This layer is identical to deposit (122) seen in trench EC (1), and a deposit identified during the previous work (Allen 1995) that was thought to be the buried topsoil horizon.

Sealing deposit (362) was a mid orange-brown sandy loam subsoil (307) that was 0.30m thick and seen throughout the trench. The mid grey-brown sandy loam topsoil (306) had been stripped away prior to the main dig.

PT (F) (Figures 1, 2 and 15)

Between BH 4 and BH 3 the new trench was dug within and followed the pre-existing pipeline and as such, much of the section had already been previously disturbed. However, between BH 3 and BH 1 a 5m wide trench was first excavated making a wide step down onto the natural before the main pipe trench was dug. This gave the opportunity for investigation of any potential features just beyond the boundaries of the original trench.

Between BH 1 and BH 2 many pockets of sandy loam were identified in plan. Most of these were very irregular in shape and were clearly either formed as part of the root action by trees or were naturally occurring much the same as in other areas of the site. Nonetheless, of the more regular examples examined, three were recorded tentatively as possible features. The first, a possible pit first 371 (Fig. 15, P11, S10) was the closest of the three to BH 1. It was 1.10m wide, 2.30m long and 0.32m deep with moderately steep curving sides onto a slightly curving base and contained three fills. The primary fill (374) was 0.32m thick and consisted of a mid brown-yellow silty sandy gravel. The secondary fill was a mid brown-orange slightly clayey silty sand (373) measuring 0.12m thick that was overlain by a friable-loose dark orange-brown sandy loam (372) measuring 0.20m thick with very occasional chalk flecking and chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered from this possible feature.

Further SE was another possible pit 375 (Fig. 15, P11, S11). This was at least 1.55m long, 1.45m wide and 0.50m deep. It had curving sides and a slightly curving base with the NW edge noticeably steeper than the SE edge. It contained two fills, the primary was a mid orange-brown sandy loam (377) that was 0.20m thick and contained occasional flint gravel. This was overlain by a dark orange-brown loam fill (376) that was 0.50m thick with occasional flint gravel and very occasional charcoal flecking. A piece of burnt flint was recovered from this deposit.

Closer to BH 2, was a possible ditch 378 (Fig. 15, P12, S12). This was 1.28m wide and 0.58m deep with moderately steep and relatively straight sides onto a steeper break in slope and a rounded base. Nearer to where the feature disappeared under the limit of excavation, the feature became more irregular. Four fills were observed in section. The primary fill was a dark orange-yellow sandy loam (382) containing frequent flint gravel and measured 0.14m thick. It blurred into the fill (381) above, which was a mid orange-brown sandy-clayey loam measuring 0.14m thick. This was in turn overlain by a dark orangey brown-grey sandy, clayey, loam (380) with very occasional flint gravel inclusions. It was 0.10m thick. The final fill (379) was a dark orange-brown sandy, clayey loam that was 0.16m thick with occasional flint gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Closer to BH 2 and through to BH 3 a series of potential features were identified, the majority of which contained a dark brown-black deposit as part of their final or occasionally, second from last fill. These are thought to have formed through some natural process either as ice wedges or as solution hollows. However, three of these features were found to contain worked flint very close to their surface (features 383, 387 and 389 respectively) (Fig. 17). Because of this, all the examples found within this area of PT (F) were recorded as a matter of course. Typically, these were either deep, almost 'V' shaped features, or were shallow and irregular upon examination.

Features 383 and 387 were seen in plan to be cut by the former pipe trench, whilst 389 was only seen in section. Feature 383 was roughly oval in shape, and was seen to contain two fills (Fig. 17, P18, S19). The feature was 0.87m wide, 0.38m deep and at least 1.20m long with moderately steep slightly curving sides onto a slightly irregular base. The lower fill was 0.20m thick and consisted of a mid orange-brown sandy, silty loam (385) with occasional to moderate flint gravel inclusions whilst the upper fill measured 0.17m thick and was composed of a dark blackish brown sandy, silty loam (384) with very occasional flint gravel and charcoal flecking. A single piece of worked flint was recovered from this fill close to its surface.

A possible ditch 387 appeared linear in plan before disappearing under the limit of excavation (Fig. 17, P18, S20). From the section the feature was noted to have moderately steep, relatively straight sides, which became much steeper following a break in slope. The actual base however was not seen as the feature was not fully excavated and could conceivably be much deeper. The earliest fill encountered was a mid yellowish brown-orange slightly silty sandy gravel (397) that was at least 0.20m thick. Overlying this was a mid orange-brown sandy, silty loam (396) measuring 0.10m thick and noted to be very similar to (385). Above this was a dark blackish brown sandy, silty loam deposit (395) very similar to (384) measuring 0.52m thick. It (395) contained one piece of burnt flint and one piece of worked flint.

Feature 389 was revealed close to BH 3 (Fig. 19, P19, S22). This was 1.24m wide, at least 0.78m deep and at least 0.30m long with a slightly irregular 'V' shape profile, the base of which was not seen. The lowest fill revealed was a mid yellowish brown-orange sandy gravel (408) at least 0.26m thick. Overlaying this was a silty sandy gravel fill (407) measuring 0.06m thick. It was slightly darker in colour than (408). This was covered by a mid orange-brown sandy, silty loam (406), similar to (385) and measuring 0.10m thick. Completing the sequence was another deposit of orange-brown sandy, silty loam (405) similar to (385) that measured 0.48m thick. This fill became much lighter

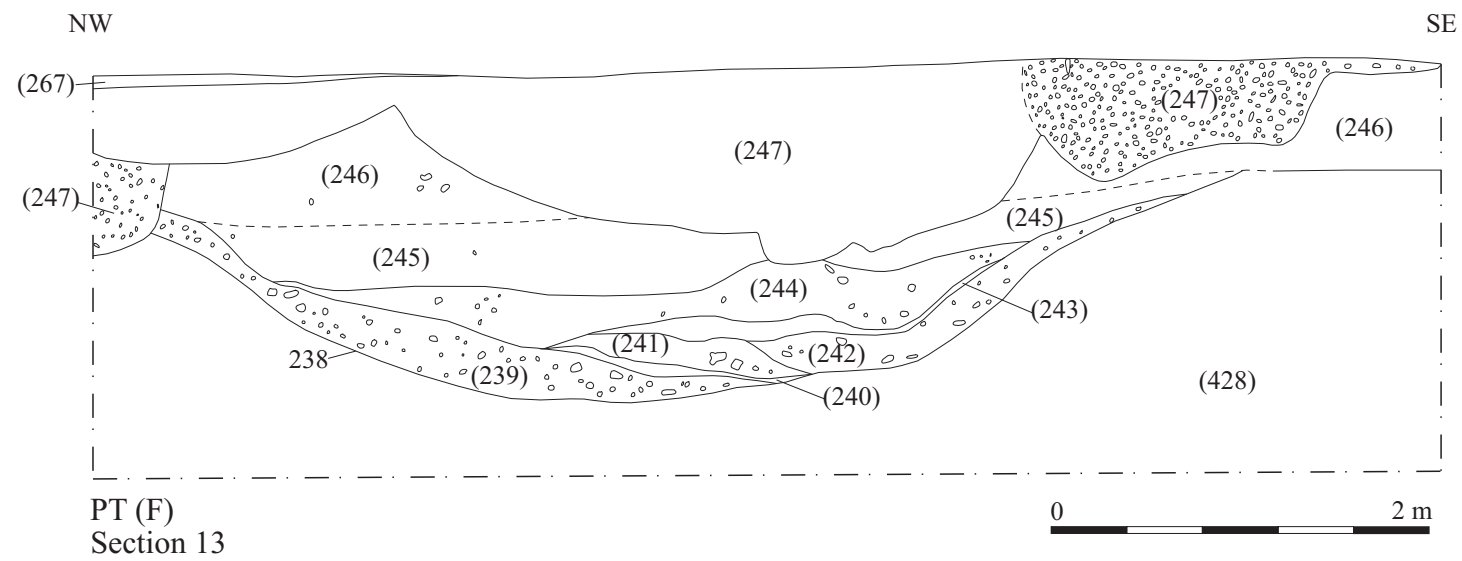
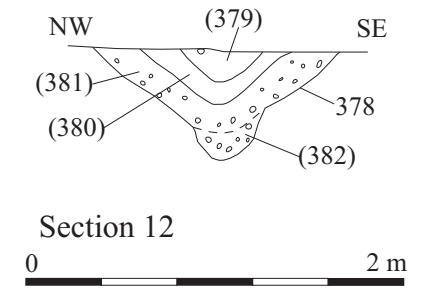
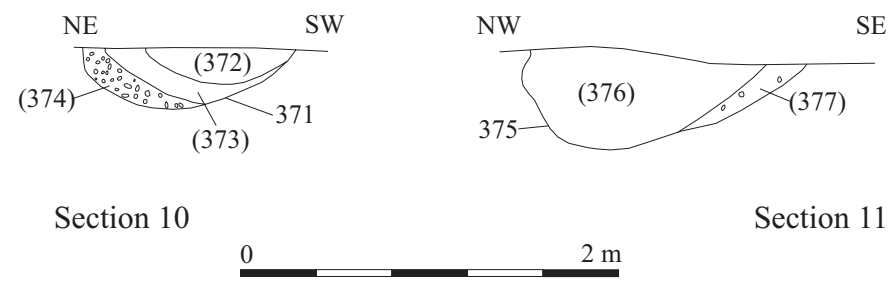
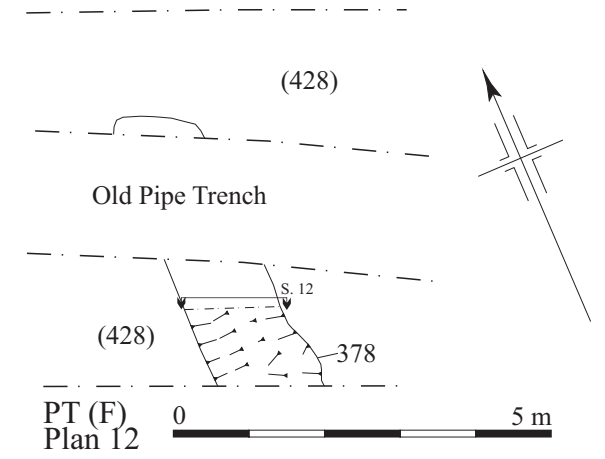
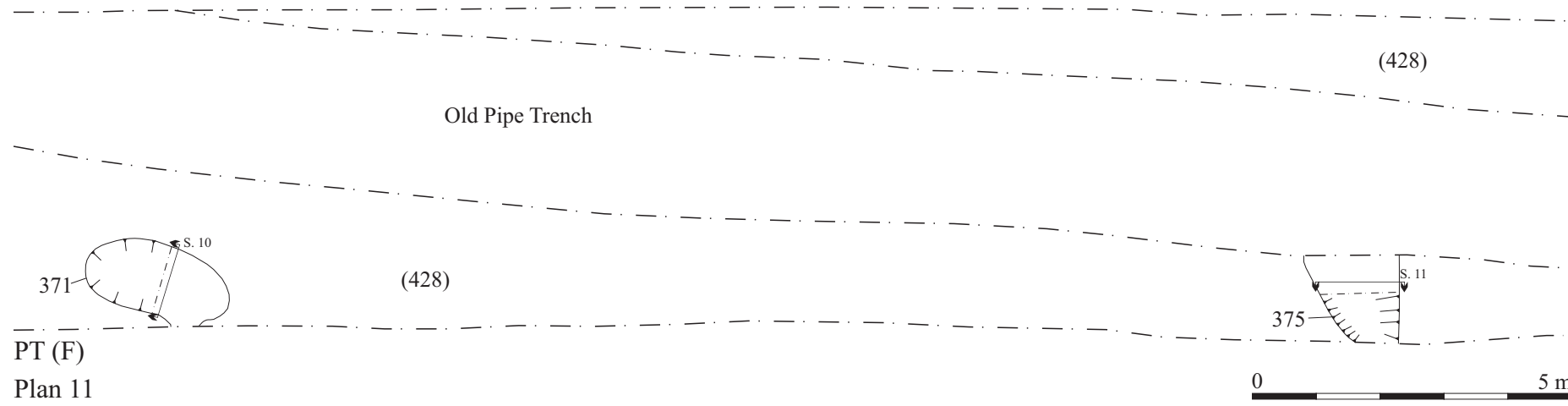


Figure 15. PT (F) Plans and sections

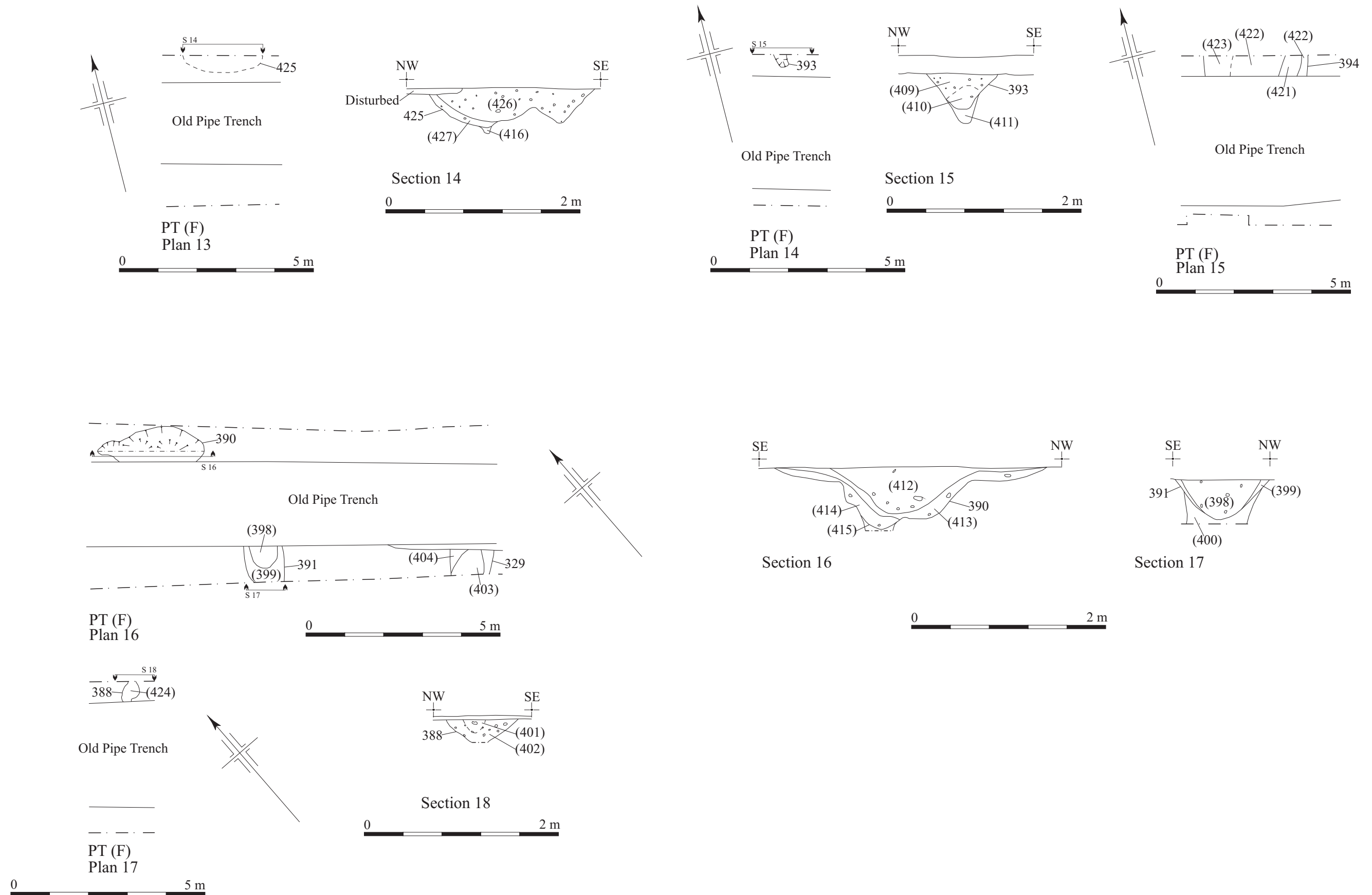


Figure 16. PT (F) Plans and sections

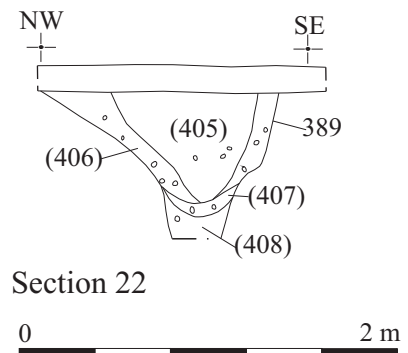
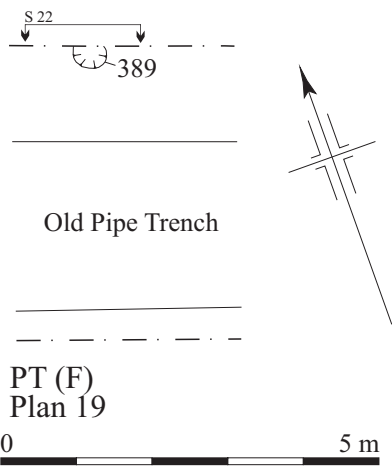
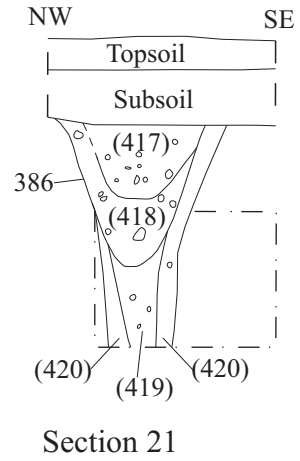
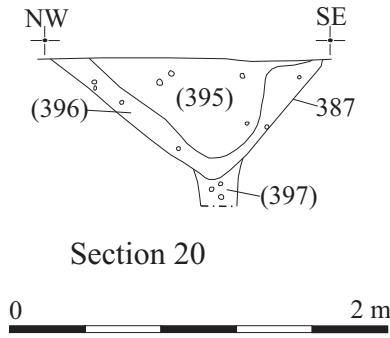
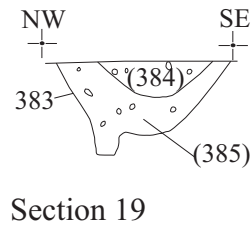
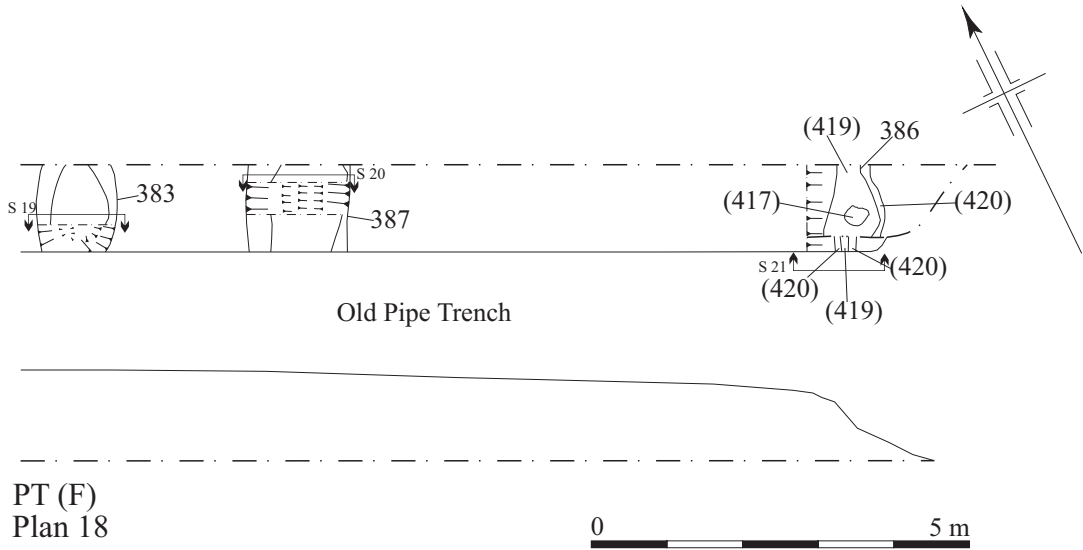


Figure 17. Plans and sections

and almost indistinguishable between itself and fill (406) close to its surface. A single worked flint was recovered from the top of this feature.

Close to BH 4 and in section, a wide ditch 238 was identified (Fig. 15, S13). This is thought to be part of a linear cropmark aligned NW-SE across the site and has an uncertain relationship to the westernmost ring ditch (Cox 2007). This cut into the natural sandy gravel (428) and contained numerous fills. The lowest fill (239) was a mid grey-brown sandy, silty clay 0.32m thick with very frequent gravel and occasional sandstone inclusions. Above this was a very dark grey slightly silty clay fill (240) measuring 0.08m thick with occasional charcoal flecking. This in turn was covered by a dark grey slightly silty clay fill (241) with dark orange flecking containing occasional flint gravel and larger pieces of flint. Covering this was a silty, sandy clay fill (242) that was 0.20m thick with very frequent flint gravel inclusions. Two sherds of pottery were recovered from this fill dating it to the early to middle Iron Age.

Overlaying this was a dark brown-orange silty clay fill (243) with a thickness of 0.14m and containing occasional flint gravel and very occasional charcoal flecking. Sealing this was a mottled mid orange-dark blue-grey slightly silty clay fill (244) measuring approximately 0.30m thick with occasional flint gravel and very occasional charcoal flecking. This was in turn was covered by a mottled mid blue-orange clay fill (245) that was 0.40m thick and contained occasional flint gravel. Above this was a mottled dark blue-orange clay deposit (246), noted to be very similar to (245). This deposit was slightly thicker at 0.50m. Repair work to the original pipe and damaged caused during its inception could clearly be seen above this layer represented by irregular and mixed fills of pea-shingle and dark grey-brown sandy loams and gravel (247). Overlying this was the remains of the topsoil (267), roughly stripped to form an easement.

The presumed ditch 238 was only seen in the SW facing section and not in the opposite one. This was at least partially due to modern disturbance caused by previous pipe work. However, from looking at the cropmarks it is conceivable that this ditch could well have terminated within the trench.