

# SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS LOWER BASILDON

**Archaeological Trench Evaluation**

**Monitoring & Recording**

*Prepared by*

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

*For*

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*On behalf of*

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## Non-Technical Summary

This report presents the results of a suite of archaeological investigations, undertaken in advance of, and during construction of a new Sewage Treatment Works (STW), associated outfall pipe and permanent access road on land adjacent to the River Thames within Beale Park, West Berkshire (NGR 461350 178600). The archaeological investigations comprised trench evaluation in advance of construction followed by archaeological monitoring and recording during construction.

Two main phases of activity, separated by a period of alluvial deposition, were identified. Evidence of transient or low-intensity prehistoric activity was identified throughout the scheme in the form of cut features (possible hearths, pits, and tree-boles) and both worked and burnt flints. In particular, a pair of tree-boles, located beneath the lowest alluvial layer, was found to contain *in-situ* flint knapping debitage of apparent Mesolithic date. Further tree boles, pits, postholes and fire pits, also located beneath the lowest alluvial layer, are likely to be early prehistoric in date.

A ditch, apparently associated with a previously undated double-ditched cropmark enclosure (lying outside and to the north of the STW development area), was investigated and proven to be of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date.

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Summary**

This report presents the results of archaeological investigations undertaken in advance of, and during construction of a new Sewage Treatment Works (STW) at Lower Basildon.

## **1.2 New Sewage Treatment Works**

The new STW is situated within the grounds of Beale Wildlife Park and Gardens within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) approximately 11.5km northwest of Reading in West Berkshire (Figure 1).

Thames Water submitted a planning application for the proposed scheme to West Berkshire Council (WBC) in October 2012 (12/02473/FUL).

Key components of the proposed scheme include:

- 1) Construction of a Reed Bed (approx. 85m x 35m);
- 2) Installation of outfall pipe (c.500m long) and chambers, and
- 3) Above ground headwall at the River Thames;
- 4) Permanent site access track to the STW.

## **1.3 Archaeological background**

Desk-based assessment of the proposed STW and surrounding area identified archaeological sites, representing most periods, and with particular potential for the Iron Age and post-medieval/early modern periods (Network Archaeology 2012a).

The underlying geology is Taplow and Kempton Park gravel formations with the outfall pipe straddling both the Kempton Park gravel formation and alluvium (BGS 2012).

## 1.4 Archaeological investigations

Following pre-determination consultation with the planning archaeologist for West Berkshire Council (WBC), it was decided that the archaeological work would comprise:

- Evaluation trenching in advance of construction, and;
- A targeted program of archaeological monitoring and recording during construction.

A summary of the scheme components and corresponding archaeological investigations by plot is provided below:

PLOT	SCHEME COMPONENTS				ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS	
	STW	Outfall	New access track	Existing access track	Evaluation trenching in advance of construction	Monitoring & recording during construction
1	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
2		✓	✓		✓	✓
3		✓		✓		
4		✓			✓	✓
5		✓				

More background details regarding the scheme and the archaeological investigations can be found in the Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI) (Network Archaeology, 2012a and 2012c) and interim reports on the archaeological findings (Network Archaeology, 2012b and Network Archaeology, 2013).



## 2 AIMS & METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims and objectives

**Specific** aims of the programme of archaeological evaluation were:

- to investigate the cropmark which is crossed by the outfall;

**Specific** aims of the archaeological monitoring & recording were:

- To gain a better understanding of the earlier prehistoric activity (identified during the trench evaluations) within the monitored areas of the PDA.
- To determine the extent, nature and date of the discovered later prehistoric activity (identified during the trench evaluations) within the monitored areas of the PDA.

### 2.2 Methodology & resourcing

Evaluation of the scheme, by four trial trenches totalling 200 sqm, took place in plots 1, 2 and 4, and was undertaken by two archaeologists during November 2012. The trenches were numbered from 1 to 4 and assigned a unique block of 100 context numbers relating to the particular trench (*i.e.* trench 1 was assigned the numbers 100 to 199, whilst trench 4 was assigned numbers 400 to 499).

Monitoring and recording was undertaken by a single archaeologist between February and April 2013 on an intermittent basis. Each plot was numbered (1-4) and assigned a block of 1000 numbers. For example, plot 1 was assigned the numbers 1000 to 1999, whilst plot 4 was assigned the block 4000 to 4999.

Both the evaluation and the archaeological monitoring & recording were undertaken following the methodologies laid out in the relevant WSIs (Network Archaeology, 2012a and 2013) and extracts from these can be found in Appendix A).

## **3 RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter first presents the results of the trench evaluation (3.2) and then those of the monitoring & recording (3.3). A summary of the finds is also presented (3.4).

A summary table of contexts is presented in Appendix B, a selection of plates is presented in Appendix E and the figures are presented in Appendix F.

### **3.2 Trench evaluation**

#### **3.2.1 Trench 1 (Plot 1)**

##### **Description**

This trench, oriented northwest to southeast (30m long x 2m wide), was located within the area of the new STW (Plot 1) and was excavated to evaluate the footprint of the new STW (Figure 2, Plate 1).

##### **Trench stratigraphy**

The topsoil (100) comprised 0.2m of dark red brown, fine, friable soft loam which overlay 0.22m of mid brown-red fine clayey silt subsoil (101). Directly below this was a drift deposit comprising 0.48m of bright brown-red plastic clayey silt (102) which overlay 0.24m of dark red-brown plastic clayey silt (105). Below this was a layer of mid to pale yellow-brown coarse clayey silt (104) and a 4m x 2m patch of pale brown-yellow loose and coarse sand and gravelly silt (106). Layers 102, 104 and 105 were considered to be alluvial in origin.

##### **Archaeological findings**

No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench. However, a single flint flake and two fragments of burnt flint were recovered from the topsoil (100) whilst a blade-like flake was recovered from the subsoil (101). All of these flints appear to date from the Mesolithic or early Neolithic period.

### 3.2.2 Trench 2 (Plot 2)

#### Description

This trench, oriented northeast to southwest (25m long x 2m wide), was located within the proposed compound area (Plot 2) and was excavated to evaluate the compound and permanent access road (Figure 2, Plate 2).

#### Trench stratigraphy

The topsoil (200) comprised up to 0.3m of mid to dark brown loose loam which contained moderate quantities of burnt flint and flint flakes. Below this was up to 0.54m of mid red-brown friable clayey silt (201) which contained the largest recovered assemblage of burnt flints (93 fragments weighing 346gms) and the largest assemblage of early Bronze Age pottery (10 fragments weighing 24gms) as well as a moderate amount of worked flint, a single fragment of modern pottery and a small assemblages of burnt stone. Directly below this was up to 0.38m of pale to mid red-brown fine clayey silt (203) which overlay 0.2m of pale to mid yellow-brown friable plastic clayey silt (204) (Figure 3b). Directly below this was the natural gravelly clay (202). Both layers 203 and 204 were considered to be alluvial in origin.

#### Archaeological findings

A total of four features, comprising a pit (207) a wide linear (211) and two plant-holes (205 and 209) were identified within this trench (Figure 3a).

##### *Tree-bole 205*

This feature was only visible in the southeast facing section of the trench, located close to the southwest corner of the trench (Figure 3a) sealed by the topsoil (200) and cutting the subsoil (201). This feature had an irregular concave profile (0.65m wide x 0.58 deep) and was filled with a mid red-brown clayey silt (206) which contained frequent charcoal flecks but no finds (Figure 3b).

##### *Pit 207*

This pit, located close to the centre of the trench cutting the subsoil (101) and sealed by the topsoil (100), had shallow, concave sides with a flat base (0.9m x 0.6m x 0.3m) and was filled with a mid to dark grey/red-brown

friable clayey silt (208) which contained frequent charcoal fragments along with a small assemblage of burnt flint (Figure 3c, Plate 5). Given the presence of burnt flint and charcoal it is possible that this feature represented the remnant of a former hearth or fire pit.

#### ***Tree-bole 209***

This feature was an amorphous ovoid tree-bole located close to the centre of the trench (Figure 3a). This tree-bole had shallow concave sides (1.1m long, 1m wide and 0.13m deep) and was filled with a grey red-brown clayey silt which contained a small assemblage of burnt flint (11 fragments weighing 74gms), two burnt stones and a single fragment of worked flint.

#### ***Linear 211***

The linear, located within the northeast half of the trench (Figure 3a) cutting the subsoil (201) and sealed by the topsoil (200), was oriented west-northwest to east-southeast and had shallow concave sides with a concave base (up to 5m wide and 0.15m deep). The sole fill (212) had topsoil-like consistency and contained no finds.

This feature correlated with an extant earthwork visible during both the field reconnaissance and the evaluation and likely represented the remnant of a former ditch associated with drainage, agriculture or a combination of both.

### **3.2.3 Trench 3 (Plot 4)**

#### **Description**

This trench, oriented northeast to southwest (25m long x 2m wide), was located along the proposed route of the outfall pipe within plot 4 and was positioned to target a linear anomaly associated with the double-ditched cropmark enclosure (WBHER MWB2782) identified by the desk based assessment (Figure 2, Plate 3).

#### **Trench stratigraphy**

The topsoil (300) comprised 0.24m of dark red-brown friable loam which overlay 0.32m of mid red-brown fine clayey silt (301) which contained a small assemblage of flint flakes. Directly below this was 0.22m of mid to

dark red-brown plastic clayey silt (302) which overlay the natural loose pale brown-yellow coarse sandy silty gravel (303).

Both layers 301 and 302 were considered to have been naturally derived alluvium.

### **Archaeological findings**

This trench contained a total of seven features, comprising two possible pits or postholes (**308** and **316**), a single pit (**310**) and a ditch (**312**) as well as three tree-boles (**304**, **306** and **314**) (Figure 3d). All of these features, with the exception of the ditch, were sealed by the lower alluvium (302) and cut the natural geology (303). Ditch **312** was sealed by the upper alluvium (301) and cut the lower alluvium (302).

#### ***Tree-boles 304, 306 and 314***

All of these features were located within the northeast half of the trench (Figure 3d) and were amorphous in both plan and profile. All were filled with similar red-brown fine clayey silt (305, 307 and 315 respectively) which contained no finds.

#### ***Postholes 308 and 316***

Both of these features were located within the northeast end of the trench and were sub-circular in plan, had similar dimensions (**308**: 0.33m long, 0.36m wide and 0.2m deep, **316**: 0.4m long, 0.33m wide and 0.35m deep) and similar steep sided, concave profiles (Figure 3e). Both were filled with similar mid brown-red moderately clayey loam with the fill of **308** (309) containing a single fragment of worked flint and the fill of **316** (317) containing no finds.

#### ***Pit 310***

This pit, located in the northeast half of the trench, was ovoid in plan with shallow concave sides and a concave base (0.66m long x 0.48m wide x 0.07m deep) (Figure 3f). The fill (311) of this pit was similar to that of the two postholes and also contained two worked flints. The similarity between the fills of these features suggests that they may have been contemporary, possibly part of a post-built structure.

### ***Ditch 312***

This ditch, located at the southwest end of the trench, was oriented northeast to southwest and had steep concave sides and a concave base (1.25m wide and 0.42m deep) (Figure 3g, Plate 6). The sole fill (313) was a mid brown-red friable clayey silt which contained a moderate amounts of worked flint (6 fragments), burnt flint (3 fragments), late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery (7 fragments weighing 24gms) as well as a single fragment of stone and the only animal bone recovered during the evaluation (65 fragments weighing 33gms). A soil sample taken from the fill of the ditch produced charcoal/charred wood fragments.

This ditch correlated with the linear anomaly identified by the desk-based assessment, the dating evidence suggesting that it may have been in use during the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age.

## **3.2.4 Trench 4 (Plot 4)**

### **Description**

This trench, oriented northeast to southwest and located along the proposed route of the outfall pipe within plot 4 (20m long and 2m wide) was positioned in an area immediately adjacent to the double-ditched cropmark enclosure identified by the desk based assessment (Figure 2, Plate 4).

### **Trench stratigraphy**

The topsoil (400) comprised 0.3m of dark red-brown friable loam which overlay 0.16m of mid red-brown fine clayey silt alluvium (401) which contained a small assemblage of worked flint (5 fragments). Directly below this was 0.2m of mid to dark red-brown friable clayey silt (402) which overlay the natural silts, sands and gravels (403).

### **Archaeological findings**

No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench. However, the worked flint recovered from the alluvium (401) may have been indicative of short-term or transient activity taking place within the development area during Mesolithic / early Neolithic periods.

## 3.3 Archaeological monitoring and recording

### 3.3.1 Plot 1

#### Description

Plot 1 was the field containing both the original and new sewage treatment works (STW). The area to be monitored comprised both an access track from the new STW to the field boundary with plot 2 and a similar length of the outfall pipe trench, totalling approximately 60m in length (Figure 4). The access track averaged 3.5m wide and was cut to a depth of 0.3-0.4m, whilst the pipe trench was approximately 0.5m wide and 1.2-1.9m deep.

Where the pipe trench became deeper, to the WSW of the boundary between plots 1 and 2, a wider area was benched for safe access. The trench was 2.2m wide between 18m and 50m WSW of the boundary and 4m wide between 50m and 60m WSW of the boundary.

#### Stratigraphy

The topsoil (1000) and subsoil (1001) were identical to those identified during the evaluation with the topsoil containing a single fragment of flint waste whilst four flint flakes were recovered from the subsoil. Directly below the subsoil was 0.3m of pale ginger-brown friable clayey silt (1005) which contained a single fragment of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery and overlay 0.1m of buff ginger-brown clayey silt (1006). Below this was 0.55m of mid orange-brown fine friable silt (1007) which contained six fragments of worked flint and overlay 2.4m of pale grey brown-yellow loose and coarse sandy gravel (1008). All of the layers below the topsoil were considered to be alluvial in origin with the lowest deposit (1008) possibly a former gravel terrace.

#### Archaeological findings

The only feature identified within this plot was a possible quarry pit (**1003**), located close to the southern fence of the existing STW (Figure 4). This pit was ovoid in plan (3m long and up to 18m wide and 0.85m deep) and contained fragments of burnt flint and worked flint. Chunks of clinker were recovered from its surface but not retained.

### 3.3.2 Plot 2

#### **Description**

Plot 2 contained the construction compound and the topsoil/subsoil storage area. The area to be monitored comprised the access track and outfall pipe trench, both of which being approximately 125m long. The access track was 3.5m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m whilst the pipe trench was 0.5m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.9m.

#### **Stratigraphy**

The stratigraphy identified during this phase of works was similar to that identified during the evaluation, this being 0.3m of topsoil (2000) overlying alluvial subsoil (2001) which directly overlay the natural geology (2002). The subsoil within this plot contained the second highest concentration of worked flint (107 fragments) and the largest assemblage of burnt flint (263 fragments) recovered during the archaeological works. The subsoil (2001) also contained a fragment of late Iron Age or Medieval pottery and two fragments of post-medieval pottery, whilst the topsoil (2000) contained a small assemblage of worked flint.

#### **Archaeological findings**

A total of three features, comprising a pit (**2005**) and two tree-boles (**2003** and **2007**) were identified during the stripping of the new access track (Figure 4). Both of these features cut the natural geology (2002) and were sealed by the subsoil (2001). The subsoil contained a single sherd of Iron Age pottery.

#### ***Tree-boles 2003 and 2007***

Both of these features were amorphous in plan with irregular concave profiles (**2003**: 2.5m long x 1.5m wide and 0.22m deep, **2007**: 1.7m long x 1.62m wide and 0.18m deep) and both were filled with a similar mid orange-brown fine silty clay (Figure 5a, Plate 7). The fill of **2003** (2004) contained the largest assemblage of worked flint (137 fragments), a high percentage of which were primarily flakes (73 fragments) and a much smaller quantity being blades (26). A smaller assemblage (15 fragments) of worked flint was also recovered from the fill of tree-bole **2007** (2008) and small assemblages



of burnt flint were recovered from the fill of both tree-boles. A soil sample taken from the fill of tree-bole **2003** produced charcoal/charred wood fragments.

The presence of worked flints (Plate 8) within both of these features suggests that they may have been utilised as “knapping-hollows”. The high proportion of blades recovered indicated that these features dated to the Mesolithic period.

Tree-bole **2003** was located adjacent to pit **2005**. Although their stratigraphic relationship was uncertain, similarity in their fills (and that of tree-bole **2007**) suggests that all three features may be broadly contemporary.

#### **Pit 2005**

This pit, also identified during the stripping of the access track (Figure 4), was sub-circular in plan with steep concave sides and a flat base (0.37m long x 0.34m wide and 0.16m deep). The primary fill (2009) comprised 0.12m of mid orange-brown clayey silt which contained heat-affected stones whilst the secondary fill (2006) comprised 0.04m of pale to mid grey/red-brown sticky silt which contained occasional charcoal flecks (Figure 5c). Soil samples taken from both fills of the pit produced charcoal/charred wood fragments. In terms of plant macrofossils, the primary fill yielded an unidentified charred root/stem.

The relationship between pit **2005** and tree-bole **2003** was uncertain.

The presence of heat-affected stones and scorching on the base of the pit indicated that this feature may have represented the remnant of a hearth or fire-pit. The similarity between the primary fill of this pit and that of the two tree-boles (**2003** and **2007**) suggests that they may be broadly contemporary.

### **3.3.3 Plot 3**

Plot 3 was the existing estate road to which the new access track joined. Trenching across the existing track was not monitored due to its low potential. As such no archaeological records were produced.

### 3.3.4 Plot 4

#### Description

This plot lay on the eastern side of the estate road (plot 3) through which the outfall pipe ran to the River Thames (Figure 4). Archaeological works within this plot included full-time monitoring of an area of topsoil strip (8.5m x 10m) immediately east of the estate road, excavations associated with a temporary soakaway and the monitoring of trenching for the outfall pipe for a distance of 4m. The remaining length of the outfall pipe to the river was only monitored intermittently as it was considered to be of lower potential.

#### Stratigraphy

The topsoil (4000) was the same as that identified by the evaluations and contained a single flint flake. Below the topsoil was 0.31m of pale to mid red-brown alluvial silt (4003) which overlay a further 0.25m of mid orange-brown clay alluvium (4001) which contained a moderate assemblage (50 fragments) of worked flints as well as a single fragment of ceramic building material. Directly below this was 0.08m of weathered natural red-brown silt (4011) which overlay natural clay geology (4002 / 4004).

### 3.3.5 Archaeological findings

Two broad features (**4007** and **4009**), both with gradually sloping profiles and cutting the natural geology (4002), were identified within this plot (Figure 4). Both of these features were filled with sterile red-brown clayey silt (4008 and 4010 respectively) and were interpreted as natural depressions which had silted up during periods of seasonal flooding. A further possible cut feature (**4005**), truncating the upper fill of **4007**, had a similar broad profile and was filled with the same reddish brown clayey silt (4006). It was therefore unclear whether this was a further silted up hollow or simply an upper fill within hollow **4007** (Figure 5d).

## 3.4 Finds

A total of 8 find types, comprising animal bone, burnt flint, burnt stone, ceramic building material, post-medieval and prehistoric pottery, stone and worked flint, were recovered during the evaluations and archaeological monitoring & recording.

These finds are summarised below, a summary table of the finds can be found in Appendix C and the specialist finds reports can be found in Appendix D.

#### **3.4.1 Animal bone (Richard Moore)**

A total of 65 fragments of animal bone, weighing 33gms, were recovered during the evaluation from the fill (313) of ditch **313**. The assemblage was in poor condition and only cattle bones could be identified although sufficient collagen may survive to allow for radiocarbon dating.

*No further recommendations are made.*

#### **3.4.2 Burnt flint (Chris Casswell)**

A total of 435 burnt flints (weighing 2,976gms) were recovered by the archaeological investigations. Assessment of the worked flint showed that a further five of these were also burnt.

The largest assemblage (264 fragments weighing 1,731gms) was recovered from the subsoil (2001) within plot 2 whilst a moderate assemblage (24 fragments weighing 369gms) was recovered from the fill (2008) of tree-bole **2007**.

Further stratified material came from the fills of tree-boles **207**, **209** and **2003** as well as ditch **212** and alluvial deposits 1005 and 1007.

*No further recommendations are made.*

#### **3.4.3 Ceramic building material (Chris Casswell)**

A single, abraded fragment of ceramic building material was recovered from the subsoil (1001) within plot 1.

*No further recommendations are made.*

#### **3.4.4 Pottery – early prehistoric pottery (Emily Edwards)**

A total of 19 body sherds of prehistoric pottery, weighing 61gms, were recovered by the archaeological investigations.

During the evaluation, 10 sherds (24gms) of early Bronze Age pottery were recovered from the subsoil (201) in trench 2, whilst 7 sherds (24gms) of late

Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fill (313) of ditch **312**.

A further fragment (11gms) of late Iron Age or Medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil (2001) within plot 1 and a single fragment (2gms) of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery was recovered from the alluvium (1005) within plot 1.

*Recommendation was made that the fragment of late Iron Age or Medieval pottery should be assessed by a relevant pottery specialist. The sherd was sent to Paul Blinkhorn (see below).*

*No further recommendations are made.*

#### **3.4.5 Pottery – late Iron Age (Paul Blinkhorn)**

A single, abraded sherd of pottery was recovered from context 2001. The sherd was determined to date to the late Iron Age (and not the medieval period) on account of it being wheel-thrown and also on account of the presence of grog and the dearth of flint fragments.

*No further recommendations are made.*

#### **3.4.6 Pottery - post-medieval and early modern (Chris Casswell)**

A total of 3 sherds of post-medieval pottery (weighing 93gms) were recovered from either the topsoil (2000) within plot 2 (2 sherds) or the subsoil (4001) within plot 4 (1 sherd). In addition, a single sherd of early modern plant-pot (weighing 4gms) was recovered from the topsoil within trench 2 (200).

*No further recommendations are made.*

#### **3.4.7 Worked flint (Rebecca Devaney)**

A total of 382 worked flints (2,080gms) were recovered by the archaeological investigations.

During the evaluation, a total of 42 flints was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil of each trench as well as a plant hole (**209**) in trench 2, a posthole (**308**), pit and (**310**) and the ditch (**312**) within plot 3. All of the material

recovered during the evaluation comprised waste flakes which were broadly dated to the Mesolithic or early Neolithic period.

During the archaeological monitoring and recording, a total of 341 flints was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil within plots 1, 2 and 4 as well as the alluvium in plot 1 (1005 and 1007) and the two tree boles (**2003** and **2007**) within plot 2. The largest assemblage was recovered from the fill (2004) of tree-bole **2003** which contained 137 fragments (40% of the total monitoring assemblage) of primarily waste flakes.

In a program of further work, refitting analysis identified one direct refit between two blades from tree bole 2003. This refit, together with visible similarities in raw material and the overall condition of the flint indicates that the assemblage represents derives from a single or limited number of knapping episodes. The material recovered from the tree boles appears to be typologically Mesolithic, although there was insufficient diagnostic material to confidently assert that the assemblage dates to this period.

*No further recommendations are made.*

### **3.5 Palaeo-environmental**

Four deposits from three features were sampled and the soil was processed by manual water flotation/washover.

All four assemblages are extremely small and very limited in composition. Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout but the material is mostly small and abraded. Plant macrofossils are represented by a single piece of charred root/stem from possible hearth/fire-pit **2005**.

Three of the four assemblages contain coal 'dust' contaminant.

*No further recommendations are made.*

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Introduction

This section discusses in plot order the combined results of both the archaeological evaluation and the monitoring and recording.

### 4.2 Plot 1

The only archaeological feature within this plot was a possible quarry pit (**1003**) which was identified during the stripping of the permanent access track. Given that this feature was identified directly below the topsoil (1000) and the presence of clinker (un-retained) visible on the surface it is likely that this feature was relatively modern, possibly associated with the nearby railway.

The alluvial layers identified by the evaluation (102, 104 and 105) and the archaeological monitoring and recording (1005 to 1008) most likely represented evidence of seasonal overbank-spill flooding of the River Thames. The presence of worked flints within these alluvial deposits indicated that there was likely to have been transient or short-term human activity taking place within the area of this plot from as far back as the Mesolithic period potentially through to the Bronze Age.

### 4.3 Plot 2

The two tree-boles (**2003** and **2007**), identified during construction, date to the Mesolithic period. One of these tree-boles (**2003**) contained the largest assemblage (137 fragments) of Mesolithic flint recovered during any of the works. The material from both tree-boles tree-bole **2007**, comprised only un-retouched debitage with no tools or cores present and was in very good condition suggesting that these knapping deposits were *in-situ*. No doubt, the uprooted stumps and boles resulting from the fallen trees provided a degree of shelter whilst knapping took place. At this stage, however it is uncertain whether the debitage was the result of a single knapping event or if it was an accumulation of material over a prolonged period.

Although no dating evidence was recovered from the potential fire-pit or hearth (**2005**) the fill was very similar to that identified within the two tree-

boles and the feature was cut from the same level (*i.e.* cutting the natural geology) indicating that all three features may be broadly contemporary.

The potential fire pit or hearth (**207**) and two tree-boles (**205** and **209**) identified during the evaluation phase were all cut from a higher level (*i.e.* cutting the subsoil) indicating that they were unlikely to have been contemporary with the tree-boles identified during construction. However, burnt flint was present within feature **207** and a single Mesolithic or early Neolithic flint flake was recovered from tree-bole **209**, indicating that these too may be evidence of prehistoric activity.

Collectively, the fire-pits and knapping deposits reflect transient human exploitation of the Thames Valley spanning the Mesolithic to early Bronze Age. The presence of late Iron Age pottery in the subsoil (2001) shows that transient activity continued locally into the late prehistoric period.

#### 4.4 Plot 4

The ditch (**312**), identified by evaluation, correlated with a linear cropmark associated with the double-ditched cropmark enclosure (WBHER MWB2782) (Network Archaeology, 2012a).

Pottery recovered from the fill (313) of ditch **312** dated from the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age, and provides a possible date for the associated enclosure. The presence of domestic pottery and cattle bones within the fill of the ditch indicates that the associated enclosure may have served a domestic function.

Unlike the ditch (**312**), which was sealed by the upper alluvium (301), all of the remaining features in this plot (pit **310**, postholes **308** and **316** and tree-boles **304**, **314** and **316**) were sealed by the lowest layer of alluvium (302) and had similar fills, suggesting that they may have been broadly contemporary, and that they pre-dated the ditch.

The presence of Mesolithic or early Neolithic flints, albeit in small quantities, from these features suggests that they are early prehistoric and could be broadly contemporary with the Mesolithic knapping deposits identified in plot 2. The ditch which cuts the overlying layer of alluvium provides a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age *terminus ante-quem* for these earlier prehistoric features.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological investigations proved successful in achieving the aims of the Written Scheme of Investigation.

They identified evidence of low-intensity or transient activity taking place throughout the prehistoric period from the Mesolithic through to the late Iron Age. Specifically, *in-situ* flint knapping deposits of likely Mesolithic date have been found. This improves our understanding of the use of the Thames floodplain locally, which appears to have been actively utilised throughout most of the prehistoric period.

In particular, the recent investigations demonstrate the potential for the survival of *in-situ* Mesolithic deposits locally, and the value of archaeological investigations of naturally formed features and deposits, such as tree-boles, which can contain important archaeological material.

In addition, the evaluation proved that the cropmark identified by the desk based assessment was indeed a ditch, possibly dating from the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age, and has provided a likely date and function to the associated double-ditched cropmark enclosure.

The archaeological works have also ensured the long-term survival of the information through the completion of this report and the deposition of the site archive.



## 6 ARCHIVE

The documentary archive comprises:

- a copy of this report
- relevant and non confidential documents and correspondence relating to the site held by Network Archaeology
- original notes relating to the finds or post excavation assessments
- site records, as detailed in the table below:

**Table 6-1 Archive summary**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Count</b>
Number Record	1
Context Registers	5
Context Sheets	64
Trench Records	4
Drawing Registers	2
Permatrace drawing Sheets	5
Sample Indices	2
Sample Sheets	6
Plot Record Sheets	9
Level Registers	2
Photographic Registers	9
Colour slides	28
B&W contact prints and negatives	40
Digital Photographs	114

The recipient museum will be is West Berkshire Museum, The Wharf, Newbury, West Berkshire, RG14 5AS, 01635 519562 and the accession number for the project is: NEBYM:2012.31.

West Berkshire Museum will receive the document archive, and with the permission of the landowner, any finds generated from the archaeological works. The final archive deposition will be notified in writing to B&V, Thames Water and West Berkshire Council.

## 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Network Archaeology Ltd would like to thank the following for their contribution to this project.

**Table 7-1 Acknowledgements**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
West Berkshire Council	Sarah Orr		
Black and Veatch	David Borwick	Project Manager	
	Doug Hall	Site Agent	
	Andrea Fitzmaurice	Q&A and Environmental Advisor	
Thames Water	Paul Connaughton	Section Engineer	
	Dave Tooley	Technical Assurance Engineer	
ARM	Dave Pickering	Project Manager	
	David Bailey	Contracts Manager	
Independent	Rebecca Devaney	External Specialist	Finds report
Independent	Emily Edwards	External Specialist	Finds report
Network Archaeology	David Bonner	Senior Project Manager	Project Management
	Andrew Hunn	Project Officer	Evaluation and Archaeological Monitoring
	Steve Thorpe	Project Officer	Archaeological Monitoring Report Writing
	Virginia Walton	Project Archaeologist	Excavation and Archive Checking
	Chris Casswell	Project Officer	Specialist liaison Finds reports
	Richard Moore	Project Officer	Finds report
	Susan Freebrey	Illustrations Officer	Report Figures

## 8 REFERENCES

Source	Year	Title	Publisher
ACAO	1993	Model briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations	
Allen J L & Holt A St J	1986 (with later updates)	Health & Safety in Field Archaeology	Standing Conference of Unit Managers, London
Association for Environmental Archaeology	1995	Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological Evaluations. Recommendations concerning the environmental archaeology component of archaeological evaluations in England	Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 2, 8 pp. York
Department of the Environment	1990	Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/156777.pdf">http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/156777.pdf</a>
EAA	1997	Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource Assessment	, edited by Jenny Glazebrook EAA Occasional Paper No.3, 1997
EAA	2000	Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy	edited by Nigel Brown and Jenny Glazebrook EAA Occasional Paper No.8, 2000
EAA	2008	Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region	edited by Maria Medlycott and Nigel Brown (2008)
English Heritage	2007	Draft Research Agenda	
English Heritage	2006	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment	London
English Heritage	1991i	Exploring Our Past. Strategies for the Archaeology of England	London
English Heritage	1991ii	The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition	London
English Heritage	2002i	Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation	London
Ferguson L.M. & Murray D.M.	1997	Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage, Paper 1,	Institute of Field Archaeologists' Manchester
Harris, E et al	1993	Principles of Archaeological Stratigraphy	Academic Press, London
HSE	1974	Health and Safety at Work Act	
HSE	1994	Construction (Design and Management) Regulations	

Sewage Treatment Works, Lower Basildon  
Archaeological Trench Evaluation, Monitoring and Recording  
LOB36 v2.0

Source	Year	Title	Publisher
HSE	2002 (As amended)	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)	
Institute for Archaeologists	2009	Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds, Waterlogged Wood)	Institute of Field Archaeologists
Institute for Archaeologists	2008i	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material	<a href="http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_materials.pdf">http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_materials.pdf</a>
Institute for Archaeologists	2008ii	Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives	<a href="http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/Archives2009.pdf">http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/Archives2009.pdf</a>
Institute for Archaeologists	2008iii	Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology	<a href="http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_code_practice.pdf">http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_code_practice.pdf</a>
Institute for Archaeologists	2010	Code of Conduct	<a href="http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/code_conduct.pdf">http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/code_conduct.pdf</a>
MGC	1992	Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections	Museums and Galleries Commission London
MoLAS	1990	Archaeological Site Manual	
MoLAS	2001	Standards for the Preparation of Finds	
Network Archaeology	2012a	Lower Basildon Sewage Treatment Works Upgrade Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation	Unpublished client report
Network Archaeology	2012b	Lower Basildon Sewage Treatment Works Upgrade Interim report of the Archaeological Evaluations	Unpublished client report
Network Archaeology	2012c	Lower Basildon Sewage Treatment Works Upgrade Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording	Unpublished client report
Network Archaeology	2013	Lower Basildon Sewage Treatment Works Upgrade Interim report of the archaeological monitoring and recording	Unpublished client report
Oxford Archaeology	2010	Solent Thames Research Framework	Oxford Archaeology

Sewage Treatment Works, Lower Basildon  
Archaeological Trench Evaluation, Monitoring and Recording  
LOB36 v2.0

Source	Year	Title	Publisher
Oliver, A. C. H.	1996	Frameworks for Our Past	
OPSI	1999	The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (Statutory Instrument 1999 No. 293)	<a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1999/19990293.htm">http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1999/19990293.htm</a> Accessed 16/04/09
OPSI	1997	The Hedgerow Regulations, Statutory Instrument 1997 No. 1160	<a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1997/19971160.htm">http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1997/19971160.htm</a> Accessed 16/04/09
OPSI	1990	Town & Country Planning Act	<a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1990/UKpga_19900008_en_1.htm">http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1990/UKpga_19900008_en_1.htm</a> Accessed 16/04/09
SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers)	1991	Health and Safety in Field Archaeology	revised 1997
SMA (Society of Museum Archaeologists)	1993	Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections.	
SMA (Society of Museum Archaeologists)	1995	Towards an accessible archaeological archive – the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	Society for Museum Archaeologists, London
SSEW	1983	1:250,000 Soil Survey of England and Wales	
UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Archaeology Section)	1990	Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage.	Walker, K for UK Institute for Conservation, London
UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Archaeology Section)	2001	Conservation Guidelines No. 2, Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites	
Watkinson, D. & Neal, A.V.	1998	First Aid for Finds	Rescue Publications, Hertford
WWW	2013	Heritage Gateway	<a href="http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/?refine=true">http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/?refine=true</a>

## **Appendix A**

### **Methodology extracted from the WSI**

### **Trenching methodology**

A sub-contractor will dig a total of three trenches using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Each trench will be 2m long and 1m wide and excavated under the continuous direct supervision and control of the senior attending archaeologist.

Any overburden will be machine excavated down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural substrate, whichever is first reached. Each potentially archaeological horizon will be hand cleaned and inspected for any archaeological remains before being machined down in spits of no more than 100mm thickness until the next horizon is reached.

Throughout this process, due consideration will be given to the potential for the presence of structures, coherent layers (e.g. floors, spreads and middens) and garden features. Consideration will also be given to preservation *in situ* (see Section 2.6.7). Mechanical removal of bulk deposits of low archaeological or environmental potential will only take place following consultation and agreement with Berkshire Archaeology

Excavated materials will be stockpiled at an appropriate distance from the edge of the trench. Excavated material will be stored in separate stacks, where possible, to assist with reinstatement.

No plant will be allowed to track over excavated trenches until express permission is granted by the senior attending archaeologist. In the event of the discovery of unexpected, unusual, sensitive or extremely fragile objects and deposits (see Section 2.6.9), pedestrian access will also be restricted in such a way as the senior attending archaeologist deems appropriate. Any restricted areas will be marked clearly on the ground with temporary fencing and signage as appropriate.

### **Archaeological monitoring and recording methodology**

An archaeological watching brief will be undertaken by appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologists within a framework for reporting of significant archaeological discoveries which allow for decisions to be taken regarding the treatment of any identified archaeological sites in accordance

with the principles set-out below, retaining preservation in situ as an option and allowing time for preservation by record if appropriate.

Continuous presence monitoring will take place during mechanical excavation of topsoil, subsoil and any other overburden, where there is potential for archaeological impact. The surface of all stripped areas will be visually searched for archaeological remains.

Finds will be collected from the stripped surface and spoil heaps and placed within plastic bags marked with the relevant context number and unique find number identifier. Finds will be recorded by hand-held GPS, to an accuracy of sub-5m. Where necessary, finds will be recorded using equipment with a greater degree of accuracy. The recorded data will be downloaded into a GIS system which will be used for display purposes. Artefacts of intrinsic importance will be located to the nearest metre using hand held GPS technology. All artefacts will be collected with the exception of any artefacts positively identified as modern (post WWII). If concentrations of certain materials such as stone, slag, tile and early modern pottery are present they will be sketch planned in the field and sampled only.

Any mechanical excavation which is considered necessary to monitor will be visually inspected for archaeological remains. Where the trench is too deep to enter a visual inspection will be conducted from the top of the trench ensuring that a safe distance is maintained from the trench edge.

All features revealed within stripped areas and mechanically excavated trenches, which cannot be positively eliminated as natural in origin, will be cleaned and investigated sufficiently to positively determine whether or not they are of archaeological origin.

In the case of discovering single or isolated groups of archaeological remains, the archaeologist(s) undertaking the watching brief will clean, excavate and record them in the course of their daily duties. Investigation and recording will follow the procedures laid down in the WSI. The notification and management of significant archaeological remains will be undertaken as per the procedures laid down in the WSI.



In the event of the discovery of human remains or 'treasure', the attending archaeologist will follow the procedures laid down in the WSI.

## **Appendix B**

### **Summary table of contexts**

Appendix B  
Summary table of contexts

Context	Type	Fill of	Dimensions	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer		0.17-0.20m	Dark reddish-brown friable, fine soft loam	Topsoil
101	Layer		0.10-0.22m	Mid Brownish-red friable slightly clayey fine silt	Subsoil
102	Group		n/a	(103) (104) (105) (106)	Natural drift geology mix
103	Layer		0.48m	Bright brownish-red friable/plastic clayey silt	Natural drift geology
104	Layer		0.16m+	medium-pale yellowish-brown, very compact slightly clayey coarse silt	Natural substrate
105	Layer		0.24m	Moderately dark brownish-red plastic/friable clayey silt	fluvio-glacial dump
106	Deposit		4m+ L x 2m x W0.2m D	Pale brownish-yellow, very loose coarse sandy, gravelly silt	Naturally deposited alluvial substrate
200	Layer		0.20-0.30m	Medium dark brown, fairly loose loam	Topsoil
201	Layer		0.24-0.54m	medium reddish-brown, smooth and friable clayey fine silt	Subsoil
202	Layer		0.04m +	Medium reddish-brown, friable coarse gravelly silty clay	Natural substrate
203	Layer		0.20-0.38m	Light-medium reddish brown smooth and friable moderately fine clayey silt	Naturally deposited alluvial subsoil
204	Layer		0.05-0.20m	Light-Medium yellowish brown plastic and friable clayey silt	Variation of naturally deposited alluvial subsoil
205	Cut		0.65m W x 0.58 D	Amorphorous cut in trench section with steep sloping NE side, rounded base and steady sloping SW side	Very unclear cut in section, probable tree throw
206	Fill	<b>205</b>	0.58 D	Medium reddish-brown clayey silt with frequent ang/sub-ang flints and charcoal flecking	Sole fill of probable tree throw <b>205</b>
207	Cut		0.9m W x 0.6m visible L x 0.30 D	Circular pit with shallow sloping sides to a flat base	Shallow pit, probably prehistoric
208	Fill	<b>207</b>	0.30m D	medium-dark grey/reddish-brown plastic and friable clayey silt with frequent inclusions of firecracked flint and charcoal	Sole fill of shallow pit <b>207</b>
209	Cut		1.1m L x 1m W x 0.13m D	Unclear amorphorous cut with gentle sloping NW side	Probable planthole
210	Fill	<b>203</b>	0.13 D	greyish/reddish-brown clayey silt with occasional rounded/sub-ang flints and small flint flakes inclusions	Sole fill of probable planthole
211	Cut		4-5m W x 0.15m D	WNW-ESE oriented linear feature with shallow sloping sides and a rounded base	Broad, shallow drainage/cultivation ditch
212	Fill	<b>211</b>	0.15m D	No real fill apparent - only contamination of topsoil	Contaminated fill of drainage/cultivation ditch <b>211</b>
300	Layer		0.22-0.24m	Dark reddish-brown loose and friable loam	Topsoil (same as <b>400</b> )
301	Layer		0.16m-0.32m	Medium reddish-brown clayey fine silt	Naturally deposited subsoil
302	Layer		0.10m-0.22m	Medium-dark reddish brown plastic/friable clayey silt with frequent ang/sub-ang flint inclusions	Variation in naturally deposited subsoil
303	Layer		0.10m+	Very loose, pale brownish-yellow coarse silt/sand/gravel	Alluvial/fluvial-glacial substrate
304	Cut		0.08m L x 0.40m W x 0.05-0.12 D	Amorphorous cut in plan with gradual sloping SE Edge and an undulated base	Natural rooting/tree throw

Appendix B  
Summary table of contexts

Context	Type	Fill of	Dimensions	Description	Interpretation
305	Fill	<b>304</b>	0.05-0.12m D	Mix of flinty subsoil ( <b>302</b> ) and fairly stone free reddish-brown fine clayey silt	Mixed fill of rooting/tree throw <b>304</b>
306	Cut		0.70m W x 0.30m D	irregular oval shaped cut with steep irregular sides and a narrow, sharply rounded base	Plant rooting system
307	Fill	<b>306</b>	0.30 D	Mid brownish-red slightly clayey silt loam	Sole fill of rooting <b>306</b>
308	Cut		0.33m L x 0.36 W x 0.20m D	sub circular cut with steep sloping sides and rounded base	small pit or posthole
309	Fill	<b>308</b>	0.20m D	Medium brownish-red moderately clayey loam	Sole fill of small pit/posthole <b>308</b>
310	Cut		0.66m L x 0.48m W x 0.07m D	Roughly E-W oriented oval cut, with shallow sloped excavated side to gently rounded base	Small shallow pit
311	Fill	<b>310</b>	0.07m D	Medium brownish-red moderately clayey loam	Sole fill of small shallow pit <b>310</b>
312	Cut		1.25m W x 0.42m D	NE-SW oriented linear feature with 'V' shaped profile	V-shaped linear ditch
313	Fill	<b>312</b>	0.42m D	Medium brownish-red moderately clayey silt, plastic/friable with sub-ang and rounded pebbles	Sole fill of V-shaped linear ditch <b>312</b>
314	Cut		0.8m L x 0.8m W x 0.18m D	Irregular cut feature with sides to a steep rounded base	Probable planthole
315	Fill	<b>314</b>	0.18m D	medium brownish-red moderately clayey silt loam	Sole fill of probable planthole <b>314</b>
316	Cut		0.4m L x 0.33m W x 0.35m D	sub circular cut with steep sloping sides and rounded base	Posthole
317	Fill	<b>316</b>	0.35m D	Medium brownish-red moderately clayey silt loam with sub-ang and rounded flint pebbles	Sole fill of posthole <b>316</b>
400	Layer		0.26-0.30m	Dark reddish-brown loose and friable loam	Topsoil (same as <b>300</b> )
401	Layer		0.08-0.16m	Medium reddish-brown clayey moderately fine silt with frequent ang/sub-ang flint inclusions towards the perimeters of the layer	Naturally deposited subsoil
402	Layer		0.22m+	Very loose, pale brownish-yellow coarse silt/sand/gravel	Alluvial/fluvial-glacial substrate
403	Layer		0.10-0.20m	Moderately bright medium dark reddish-brown clayey silt, plastic/friable, mostly stone free	Naturally deposited subsoil variant
1000	Layer		0.2m	Dark reddish-brown friable, fine soft loam	Topsoil
1001	Layer		0.22m	Mid Brownish-red friable slightly clayey fine silt	Subsoil
1002	Layer		n/a	medium-pale yellowish-brown, very compact slightly clayey coarse silt	Natural
1003	Cut		16m+ W x 18m L	linear feature (unexcavated)	Linear depression possible quarry pit
1004	Fill	<b>1003</b>	n/a	Mid orangey brown fine slightly clayey silt	Sole fill of 1003
1005	Layer		0.3m	Moderately bright ginger brown moderately clayey silt	Hillside accumulated alluvial silts
1006	Layer		0.1m	Pale gingery brown clayey moderately fine silt	Alluvium
1007	Layer		0.55m	Mid orangey brown fine silt	Alluvium
1008	Layer		n/a	Pale greyish, brownish yellow grit sand and gravel	Natural alluvial terrace
2000	Layer		0.3m	Medium dark brown, fairly loose loam	Topsoil
2001	Layer		0.54m	medium reddish-brown, smooth and friable clayey fine silt	Subsoil

Context	Type	Fill of	Dimensions	Description	Interpretation
2002	Layer		n/a	Medium reddish-brown, friable coarse gravelly silty clay	Natural
2003	Cut		2.5m L x 1.5 W x 0.22m D	amorphorous depression with shallow sloped edges to rounded base	Tree throw
2004	Fill	<b>2003</b>	0.22m	Medium orangey brown fine silty clay	sole fill of tree throw 2003
2005	Cut		0.34m W x 0.37m L x 0.16m D	circular feature with steep sides and rounded base	Pit, possible oven base
2006	Fill	<b>2005</b>	0.16m	Light, mid greyish red brown fine silt	Upper fill of pit 2005
2007	Cut		1.62m W x 1.70m L x 0.18m D	Amorphorous feature Shallow sloping sides to undulated base	Tree throw
2008	Fill	<b>2007</b>	0.18m D	Medium orangey brown fine clayey silt	Sole fill of tree throw 2007
2009	Fill	<b>2005</b>	0.12m D	Stone rich mid orangey brown fine clayey silt	Lower fill of pit 2005
4000	Layer		0.3m D	Dark reddish-brown loose and friable loam	Topsoil
4001	Layer		0.25m D	Mid orangey brown clayey silt	Alluvium
4002	Layer		n/a	orangey brown silt	Alluvium
4003	Layer		0.31m D	Light, mid reddish brown alluvial silt	Alluvium
4004	Layer		n/a	Moderately light mid-reddish brown clay silt with finely packed pebbles	Natural
4005	Cut		5.4m W x 0.35m D	hollow	Natural depression
4006	Fill	<b>4005</b>	0.35m D	Mid reddish brown moderately clayey silt	Sole fill of hollow 4005
4007	Cut		7.2m W x 0.50m D	broad gradual depression seen in section	natural undulation
4008	Fill	<b>4007</b>	0.5m D	moderately bright reddish brown fine clayey silt	Alluvial fill of 4007
4009	Cut		6m W x 0.40m D	depression	Natural silt filled depression
4010	Fill	<b>4009</b>	0.4m D	Light-mid reddish brown clayey silt	Fill of depression 4009
4011	Layer		0.08m D	Light-mid reddish brown fine silt	Weathered layer between 4006 and topsoil

## **Appendix C**

### **Summary catalogue of finds**

Appendix C  
Summary catalogue of finds

Context	Data	Charred Wood	Plant MacroF	Animal Bone	CBM	Flint		Pottery					Grand Total
						Worked	Burnt	EBA	LBA/EIA	LIA	PMed	EMod	
100	Count					1	2						<b>3</b>
	Weight					14	91						<b>105</b>
101	Count					1							<b>1</b>
	Weight					9							<b>9</b>
200	Count					10	4					1	<b>15</b>
	Weight					69	18					4	<b>91</b>
201	Count					11	93	10					<b>114</b>
	Weight					4	347	24					<b>375</b>
208	Count						4						<b>4</b>
	Weight						14						<b>14</b>
210	Count					1	11						<b>12</b>
	Weight					1	74						<b>75</b>
301	Count					3							<b>3</b>
	Weight					12							<b>12</b>
309	Count					1							<b>1</b>
	Weight					1							<b>1</b>
311	Count					2							<b>2</b>
	Weight					2							<b>2</b>
313	Count	✓		65		6	3		7				<b>81</b>
	Weight			33		45	1		24				<b>103</b>
401	Count					5							<b>5</b>
	Weight					37							<b>37</b>
1000	Count					1	1						<b>2</b>
	Weight					18	78						<b>96</b>
1001	Count				1	4	1						<b>6</b>
	Weight				36	10	21						<b>67</b>
1005	Count					2	5		1				<b>8</b>
	Weight					14	29		2				<b>45</b>
1007	Count					6	2						<b>8</b>
	Weight					68	23						<b>91</b>
2000	Count					18	10				2		<b>30</b>
	Weight					312	195				65		<b>572</b>

Context	Data	Charred Wood	Plant MacroF	Animal Bone	CBM	Flint		Pottery					Grand Total
						Worked	Burnt	EBA	LBA/EIA	LIA	PMed	EMod	
2001	Count					107	264			1			<b>372</b>
	Weight					468	1731			11			<b>2210</b>
2004	Count	✓				137	6						<b>143</b>
	Weight					433	66						<b>499</b>
2006	Count	✓											
	Weight												
2008	Count					15	34						<b>49</b>
	Weight					79	369						<b>448</b>
2009	Count	✓	✓										
	Weight												
4000	Count					1							<b>1</b>
	Weight					6							<b>6</b>
4001	Count					50				1			<b>51</b>
	Weight					478				28			<b>506</b>
<b>Total Count</b>				<b>65</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Total Weight</b>				<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2080</b>	<b>3057</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5364</b>

**KEY**

CBM	ceramic building material
EBA	early Bronze Age
EIA	early Iron Age
EMod	early modern
LBA	late Bronze Age
LIA	late Iron Age
Med	medieval
Plant MacroF	plant macrofossils
PMed	post-medieval



## **Appendix D**

### **Specialist finds reports**

# Animal Bone

Richard Moore PhD MifA

## Methodology

A rapid assessment was carried out on a small assemblage of animal bone from a single context: 313, the fill of a ditch of possible Iron Age date, recorded in evaluation trench 3.

## Results

The bone is very fragmented, consisting of at least 65 fragments, weighing 33g in total. A single cattle metapodial shaft probably accounts for at least 40 of the pieces. This group of fragments has a fairly well preserved outer surface but is very brittle, readily splitting longitudinally. Several refitting pieces were found, but an attempt at complete reconstruction of the bone was not considered worthwhile.

A fragment from the distal end of a cattle-sized humerus is the only other identifiable bone. A group of fragments with badly eroded, chalky outer surfaces probably represents the remains of a single cattle-sized long bone shaft.

## Discussion

Overall, the material is in poor condition but could possibly yield sufficient collagen for radiocarbon dating. Otherwise, it is of very limited potential for further archaeological study and can be discarded.

# Burnt Flint

Chris Casswell

## Summary

435 pieces of burnt flint, weighing 2.976kg in total, were recovered during archaeological investigation of the site.

## Methodology

The material was counted and weighed in grams, then examined visually to identify any working or burning and to establish its provenance.

## Results

### Evaluation

Of the 116 pieces of burnt flint found, six pieces came from topsoil (contexts 100 and 212) but the vast majority came from subsoil context 201. The remaining pieces were recovered from archaeologically cut features. The detailed count and weight of these finds by context is tabulated below.

**Table 1: Burnt flint recovered from the evaluation**

Trench	Context	Count	Weight (g)
1	100	2	91
2	200	4	18
2	201	92	346
2	208	4	14
2	210	11	74
3	313	3	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>544</b>

### Archaeological monitoring and recording

A total of 319 pieces of burnt flint were recovered during the watching brief stage of archaeological investigation. Small amounts were collected from the topsoil (1000 and 2000), subsoil (1001) and alluvial layers (1005 and

1007), but over 80% of the total count came from subsoil 2001. Tree throws 2003 and 2007 also produced burnt flint. The detailed count and weight of these finds by context is tabulated below.

**Table 2: Burnt flint recovered during the archaeological monitoring**

<b>Plot</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
1	1000	1	78
1	1001	1	21
1	1005	5	29
1	1007	1	10
2	2000	9	130
2	2001	263	1730
2	2004	6	66
2	2008	33	368
	<b>Total</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>2432</b>

### **Further Work**

The flint is considered to be of limited value and no further work is proposed.

# Iron Age Pottery

**Paul Blinkhorn**

## Results

A single sherd of pottery weighing 11g occurred in context 2001. It is somewhat abraded, but appears to be wheel-thrown, with the fabric containing quartz, some calcareous material, and fragments of sub-angular brown grog. It has a soapy texture, and is somewhat soft, with all this, particularly the presence of the grog, suggesting that it is of Late Iron Age date. While the sherd has a passing similarity with the medieval pottery of the area, specifically the flint, shell and quartz-tempered Newbury A/B wares (Mephams 1997), the presence of grog and the dearth of flint fragments indicates an Iron Age date.

## Bibliography

Mephams, L, 1997 Pottery in Vince AG, Lobb, SJ, Richards JC and Mephams, L *Excavations in Newbury, Berkshire, 1979 – 1990* Wessex Archaeol Rep **13**, 45-67

# Post-Roman Pottery

Chris Casswell

## Summary

Four sherds of pottery, weighing 97g, were recovered during archaeological investigation of the site. The assemblage ranges in date from the post-medieval to early modern periods.

## Methodology

The material was counted, weighed in grams and then examined visually to identify joining sherds and to establish a vessel count within each context.

## Results

**Table 3: Post-Roman pottery catalogue**

Context	Description	Form	Sherds	Vessels	Weight (g)	Part	Condition
200	Flower pot	Pot	1	1	4	Body	
2000		Bowl	1	1	3	Body	Abraded
2000	Internal brown slip	Bowl	1	1	62	Base	Abraded
4001	Internal pale green glaze	Bowl	1	1	28	Body	Abraded

## Evaluation

### Early modern pottery

One small piece of modern flower pot of 19th or 20th century date was present.

### Watching brief

### Post-medieval pottery

Three fragments of post-medieval glazed red earthenware were recovered, all of them heavily abraded. This includes a body sherd with internal pale

green glaze, possibly from a bowl. They can all broadly be dated to the late 16th to 18th centuries.

### **Further Work**

The pottery is considered to be of limited value and no further work is proposed.

# Prehistoric Pottery

Emily Edwards

## Introduction

A total of 19 (61 g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the STW (see table 4 below). These were primarily recovered from alluvial layers and subsoils, with the exception of sherds from a V shaped ditch. As all were plain, undiagnostic body sherds, dating was attributed on the basis of fabric and surface treatment.

## Discussion

The grog tempered sherds from context 201 are consistent with the fabrics used to manufacture early Bronze Age Collared Urn and Food Vessel and these can be dated with confidence. The pottery from 1005 and from 313 are consistent with the flint and ferruginous ironstone fabrics noted within late Bronze Age assemblages within Berkshire and along the Thames Valley. No further work will be necessary, with the one exception being that Roman and Medieval pottery specialists should check the sherd from context 2001.

**Table 4: Prehistoric pottery catalogue**

Context	Feature	Count	Weight g	Fabric	Date	Comment
1005	Alluvial Layer	1	2	AFPfe1	LBA/LBAEIA	Body sherds
2001	Subsoil	1	11	GV1	LIA? Med?	Body sherds
201	Subsoil	10	24	G2	EBA	Body sherds
313	Sole fill of V shaped ditch 312	7	24	FAPfe1	LBA/LBAEIA	Body sherds
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>61</b>			



# Worked Flint

**Rebecca Devaney**

## Introduction

A total of 382 pieces of worked flint and five fragments (81g) of burnt unworked flint were recovered from twenty contexts during the archaeological investigations at Lower Basildon (Table 5). Worked flint recovered from distinct archaeological features during the evaluation and watching brief includes material dated to the Mesolithic or Earlier Neolithic. This part of the assemblage includes a relatively large quantity of potentially in-situ knapping debris. Worked flint was also recovered in significant numbers from layers of topsoil, subsoil and alluvium and is broadly dated on technological grounds to the Later Neolithic and Bronze Age.

## Methodology

The worked flint was catalogued according to a standard debitage, core or tool type. Information about burning, breaks, condition, raw material and technology was recorded. In addition, burnt unworked flint was quantified by count and weight. In a program of further work, the potentially in-situ knapping assemblage from contexts 2004 and 2008 was examined for refits. Both visual combination and motor contact combination, as outlined in Fischer 1989, was used.

## Assessment of assemblage

### Evaluation contexts

The flint assemblage from the evaluation mostly comprises unretouched debitage. Within this category, flakes of varying size are the most frequent component and, as the basis for most lithic technologies throughout prehistory, are not chronologically diagnostic. A small number of blades, bladelets and blade-like flakes were also recovered. Although the

assemblage is too small to perform meaningful metrical analysis, the presence of blades suggests the potential for Mesolithic or Earlier Neolithic flint working. This is supported by the presence of consistent technological characteristics such as dorsal blade scars, punctiform and linear butts and platform edge abrasion.

The serrated blade from context 313, the fill of a V-shaped linear ditch, has serrations on both lateral edges. It is broken at the distal end, however the presence of a bluish white cortication on the dorsal and ventral surfaces of the blade and on the broken edge suggest it was broken in antiquity. Serrated blades are usually found in Mesolithic and Earlier Neolithic assemblages and the presence of a linear butt and platform edge abrasion are consistent with the flint-working techniques commonly used at this time.

The condition of the flint is consistent with its predominate recovery from the topsoil and subsoils. Most pieces show slight to moderate post depositional damage and half the assemblage has suffered breaks. Over half the assemblage remained uncorticated and about a quarter exhibited only a light bluish white cortication. Heavier levels of cortication were seen on some of the material recovered from the archaeological features in Trench 3, where some of the probable Mesolithic or Earlier Neolithic material was recovered.

### **Watching brief contexts**

The worked flint recovered during the watching brief is divided into two assemblages. The first group includes likely in-situ material from contexts 2004 and 2008, the fills of tree throws **2003** and **2007** respectively, which, in the case of context 2004, contained the largest assemblage of worked flint from any one context (137 pieces). The second group of material was recovered from layers of topsoil, subsoil and alluvium.

### **Tree throws 2003 and 2007**

Contexts 2004, the sole fill of tree throw **2003**, yielded 137 pieces of worked flint and context 2008, the sole fill of tree throw **2007**, produced a further 15 pieces. The assemblage comprises only unretouched debitage with no cores or formally retouched tools being present. A total of 83 flakes were

recovered and 55 blades, bladelets and blade-like flakes (many of the latter are probably broken blades). The high proportion of blades (40%) firmly suggests a Mesolithic date for this material (Ford 1987:79, table 2).

The condition of the flint is very good with nearly all pieces being in either a fresh condition (71 pieces, 47%) or exhibiting just slight post-depositional damage (77 pieces, 51%). Just four pieces (3%) had more moderate levels of damage. The good condition of the flint suggests that the material has not been subject to later human activity and that it is likely to be an in-situ assemblage. Cortication was seen on less than half the assemblage. Most of these pieces (28%) exhibited just a very light cortication with only 11 pieces (7%) showing a more moderate or heavy cortication. This suggests that the material has not been exposed to weathering conditions for any great period of time and supports the suggestion that this is an in-situ assemblage. In contrast, over half of the assemblage (92 pieces, 61%) is broken. In most cases the breaks have removed either the proximal or distal end of the flake or blade and in some cases both ends are missing. Many broken flakes that could not meet the size criteria for blades (whose length has to be at least twice that of its width) but displayed dorsal blade scars were probably broken blades, and as such were recorded as blade-like flakes.

The total dominance of unretouched debitage, the good condition of the material and the high number of broken pieces suggest that this assemblage is probably an *in-situ* deposit of knapping waste. Refitting analysis was undertaken in order to further understand the nature of the type of activity that took place and to confirm whether the material derived from a single knapping event or was an accumulation of waste material from other activities. As a result, one direct refit between two blades from context 2004 was found. Furthermore, visible similarities in raw material, in terms of colour, cortex, coarseness and the presence or absence of inclusions, indicated that many pieces may have been removed from the same nodules, even though direct refits were not possible. On this basis, it is probable that the assemblage does derive from a single or limited number of knapping episodes and is not a collection of material from other places that was either discarded here as one group or gradually deposited over time. The lack of direct refits is frustrating but expected, as all usable blanks

would have been removed either for immediate use or further reworking, leaving behind the unusable and broken material.

A small number of pieces retained dorsal cortex and a few primary removals were seen, suggesting that the initial stages of the knapping process may also have taken place here. The lack of cores is a little unusual but these must have been taken elsewhere, possibly for continued use. Likewise, the lack of chips (just seven pieces) is surprising but could either be due to archaeological collection methods or that knapping took place elsewhere with the waste material being gathered up and discarded in the tree throw, leaving behind the smaller pieces. Also included in the assemblage from context 2008 was a group of 11 unworked fragments (not included in the quantifications). These were refitted in two groups to reform a nodule that may have been intended as a core, but shattered into fragments along existing thermal fractures when first struck, and was therefore discarded with the rest of the knapping waste.

The flake to blade ratio suggests a Mesolithic date for the material, as opposed to Earlier Neolithic, however, without the presence of diagnostic tool types this cannot be confirmed using the flint assemblage. The use of tree throw holes as a sheltered location for flint knapping and other activities during the Mesolithic and Neolithic is well documented, for example at many of the sites along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link in Kent (Harding & Gardiner 2006).

### **The rest of the worked flint from the archaeological monitoring**

The rest of the worked flint recovered during the watching brief came from layers of topsoil, subsoil and alluvium. Unretouched debitage dominates the assemblage (182 pieces, 96%). Of this total, 146 pieces are flakes and just 14 are blades (including bladelets and blade-like flakes). The low proportion of blades (9%) suggests the material potentially dates to the Bronze Age (Ford 1987:79, table 6). Technological characteristics such as pronounced ventral ripples, clear cones of percussion and the presence of points of percussion on butts were seen on many pieces and are associated with the hard hammer percussion industries which dominated in later prehistory. A

single rejuvenation flake created to maintain the usage of a core was recovered from context 2001.

Just three cores were recovered, all of which were utilised for the production of flakes as opposed to blades, which is consistent with the unretouched debitage and the suggested dating. The largest and most recognisable core is the multi-platform flake core from context 2000. It is of medium size, weighing 162g, and has been worked from a number of platforms. The unclassifiable/fragmentary core (from context 2001) is poorly worked and exhibits some natural as well as some struck surfaces. Weighing just 35g it is quite small. The core on a flake from context 4000 utilised a thick primary flake and was poorly worked to create a number of small flake removals. At 30g it is also quite small. The crude nature of the cores is consistent with the less technologically advanced nature of later prehistoric flint industries.

Tools are also few in number and fairly crude. The retouched flake from context 2001 has a small amount of abrupt direct retouch on its distal end, the purpose of which is not obvious. The notched flake from context 4001 has indirect retouch which creates a deep notch on the right lateral side. The end and side scraper from context 2000 has direct retouch on the distal end and right lateral side and the disc scraper from context 4001 has direct retouch on most of its edges. The tools are chronologically undiagnostic but their slightly crude nature is consistent with the technological characteristics seen in the unretouched debitage and cores and is consistent with a later prehistoric date.

The condition of the flint from the layers is more mixed than that seen in the tree throws. Just 19 pieces (10%) are in a fresh condition with no post-depositional damage. Nearly half of the assemblage (92 pieces, 49%) exhibited slight damage and 60 pieces (32%) exhibit moderate damage. Heavy post-depositional damage was seen on 18 pieces (10%). The damage is most frequently seen on vulnerable unretouched edges and implies a degree of post-depositional disturbance which is consistent with its recovery from layers of topsoil, subsoil and alluvium. The amount of surface alteration is minimal with the majority of the assemblage (161 pieces, 85%) being uncorticated. Light, moderate and heavy cortication was

seen on 19, seven and two pieces respectively. A total of 65 pieces (34%) are broken.

## Discussion

The worked flint assemblages from both the evaluation and watching brief at Lower Basildon include material dating from the Mesolithic or Earlier Neolithic. This includes a relatively large quantity of flint recovered from tree throws which is interpreted as being a probable *in-situ* deposit of Mesolithic knapping waste. In contrast the flint recovered from the layers is in a poorer condition and more reminiscent of the hard hammer, flake based industries of later prehistory. However, without the presence of diagnostic pieces in either assemblage, the dating cannot be further refined. The significance of the flintwork lies in its demonstration of continued human activity at the site potentially as early as the Mesolithic and during the Later Neolithic and Bronze Age.

## References

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**Table 5: Flint recovered from the evaluation**

<b>Flint category</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>Total</b>
Flake	1		10	10		3		1	5	4	34
Blade								1			1
Bladelet							1				1
Blade-like flake		1								1	2
Irregular waste				1	1						2
Serrated blade									1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Total weight (g)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>194</b>
<b>Burnt unworked</b>				1							1
<b>Burnt unworked (g)</b>											1

**Table 6: Flint recovered from the archaeological monitoring**

<b>Flint category</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>4001</b>	<b>Total</b>
Flake		4	2	5	13	78	73	10	1	43	229
Blade					2	2	26	3		1	34
Bladelet				1		1	5				7
Blade-like flake					1	3	20	1		3	28
Chip						10	7				17
Irregular waste	1					10	6	1			18
Rejuvenation flake						1					1
Multiplatform flake core					1						1

<b>Flint category</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>4001</b>	<b>Total</b>
Core on a flake										1	1
Unclassifiable/ fragmentary core						1					1
Disc scraper										1	1
End and side scraper					1						1
Retouched flake						1					1
Notched flake										1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>341</b>
<b>Total weight (g)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>1886</b>
<b>Burnt unworked</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>			<b>4</b>
<b>Burnt unworked (g)</b>				<b>13</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>			<b>80</b>



# Palaeo-environmental Remains

Val Fryer

## Introduction and method statement

Excavations prior to the development of the sewage treatment works at Lower Basildon, undertaken by Network Archaeology, recorded a limited number of features of probable Mesolithic and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the fill of ditch [312] (Trench 3, sample 2), from tree bole [2003] (Plot 2, sample 9000) and from the primary and secondary fills of pit [2005] (Plot 2, samples 9001 and 9002).

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. All plant remains were charred. Modern seeds and fibrous roots were present within all four assemblages.

## Results

All four assemblages are extremely small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and very limited in composition. Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout; indeed sample 9001, from the secondary fill of pit [2005] contains a moderately high density of material. However, most fragments are small and abraded and, with the exception of a single piece of charred root/stem from sample 9002, no other plant macrofossils are recorded. Other remains are also scarce, although it is noted that three of the four assemblages contain small pieces of coal (coal 'dust'). Such material is commonly recorded as a contaminant within contexts which have been affected by root disturbance, animal burrowing or other forms of bioturbation.

## Conclusions & Recommendations

In summary, although evidence from both the pottery and finds assemblages clearly suggests that this area of Lower Basildon was being utilised during both the Mesolithic and the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age periods, there is little within the plant macrofossil record to corroborate these results. However, this is, perhaps, not surprising. The Mesolithic activity noted at the site is largely limited to discrete areas of flint working debitage, and although pits and hearths are also recorded, there is little to suggest that site use was anything more than very transitory. As such activity rarely generates more than scattered refuse, the associated assemblages are frequently very sparse. Evidence for Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity is equally ephemeral, with the only sample coming from a ditch associated with a double ditched enclosure of unknown function. Such assemblages rarely contain large quantities of material, unless they are closely associated with areas of settlement, and it is assumed that in the current instance, the recovered material is largely derived from wind-dispersed detritus of unknown origin, some or all of which was accidentally incorporated within the ditch fill.

As identifiable remains other than charcoal/charred wood fragments are not present within the assemblages, no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Site code	LOB 24	LOB 36		
Sample No.	2	9000	9001	9002
Context No.	313	2004	2006	2009
Feature No.	312	2003	2005	2005
Feature type	Ditch	TB	Pit	Pit
Trench/plot No.	3	2	2	2
Date	LBA/EIA	?Meso	?Meso	?Meso
<b>Plant macrofossils</b>				
Charcoal <2mm	xx	x	xxxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x	x	x
Charcoal >5mm		x	x	x
Charcoal >10mm			x	x
Charred root/stem				x
<b>Other remains</b>				
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x	
Bone	xcf			
Burnt/fired clay		x		
Burnt stone		x		
Small coal frags.	x	x	x	
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 50 specimens    xxxx = 100+ specimens  
cf = compare

TB = tree bole    LBA/EIA = Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age    Meso = Mesolithic

# **Ceramic Building Material Report**

by Chris Casswell

One very abraded piece of ceramic building material, weighing 36g, was recovered during the watching brief from subsoil 1001. It is most likely made from locally sourced gault clay; however, the fragment is so abraded that no further information can be gained from it.

It is in a stable condition and is considered to be of limited value. No further work is proposed.

# **Appendix E**

## **Plates**



**Plate 1: Trench 1**



**Plate 2: Trench 2**



**Plate 3: Trench 3**



**Plate 4: Trench 4**



Plate 5: Possible pit or hearth 207. Trench 2



Plate 6: Ditch 312. Trench 3



Plate 7: Tree-bole 2003. Plot 2

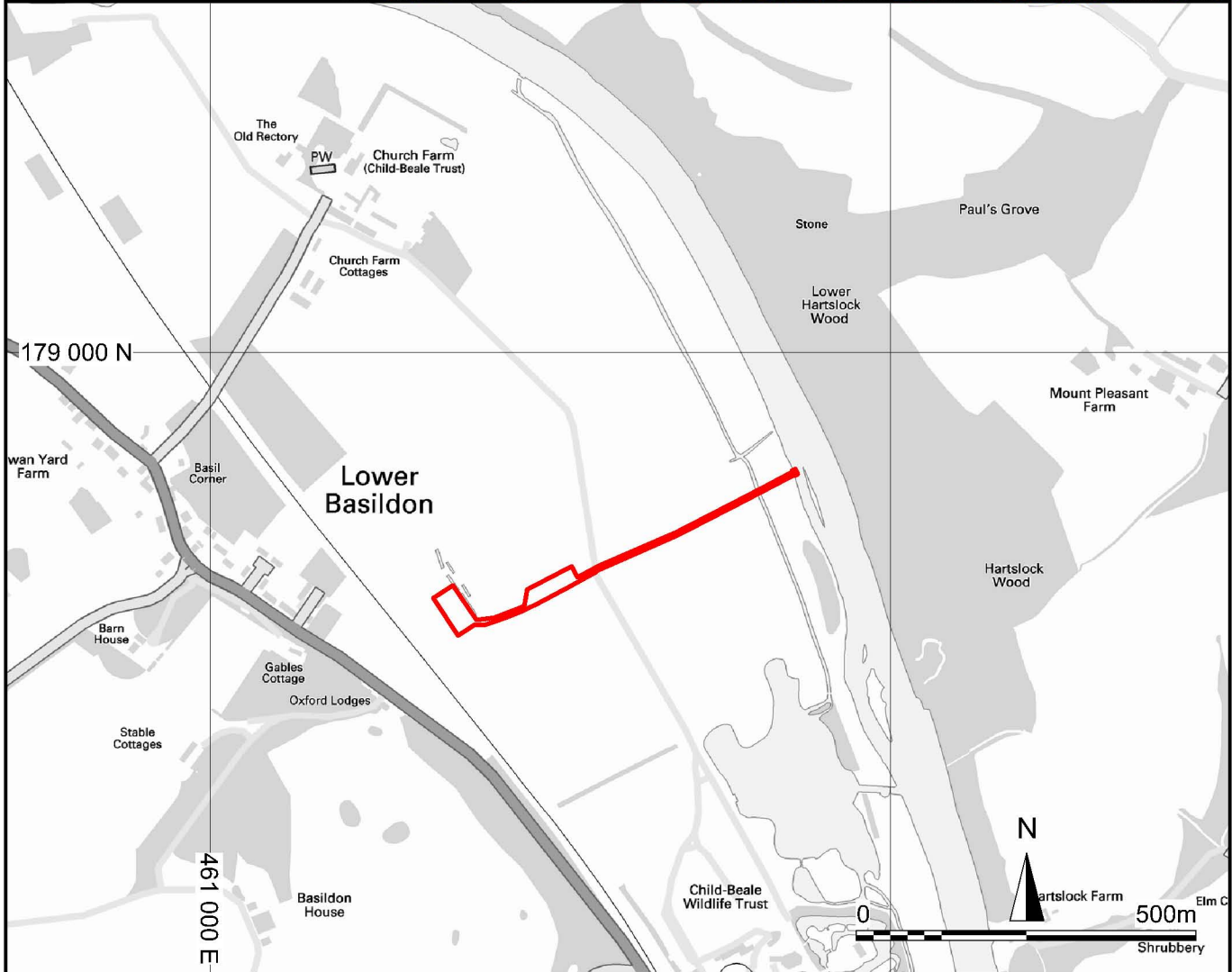
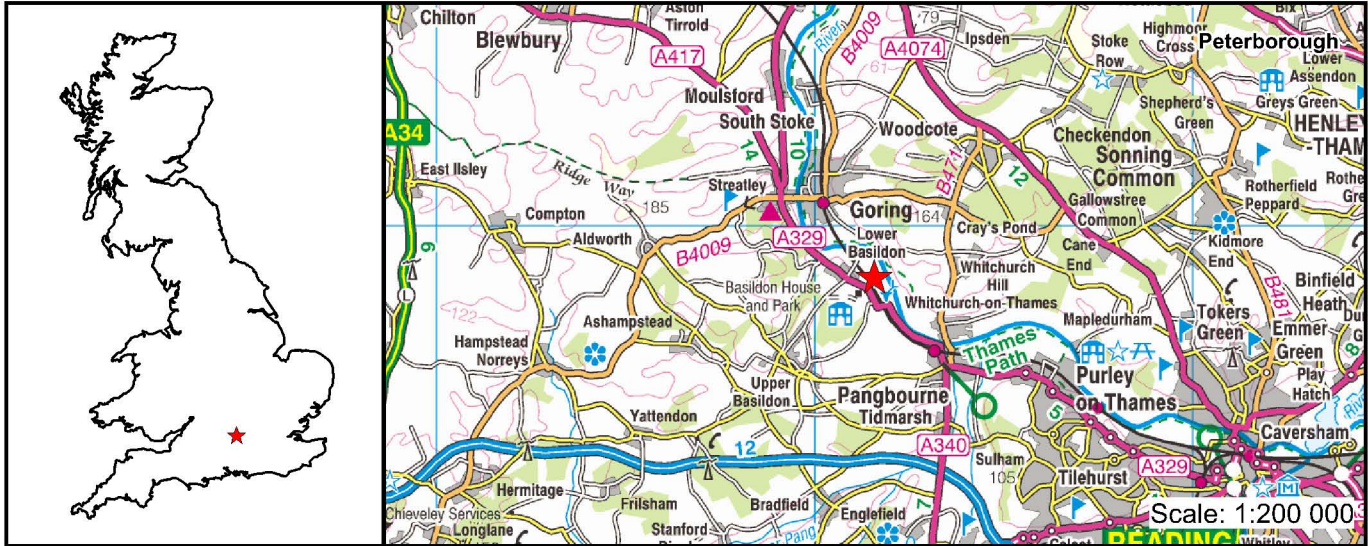


Plate 8: A selection of flints from tree-bole 2003. Plot 2



# **Appendix F**

## **Figures**



★ □ Proposed development

[Contains Ordnance Survey data  
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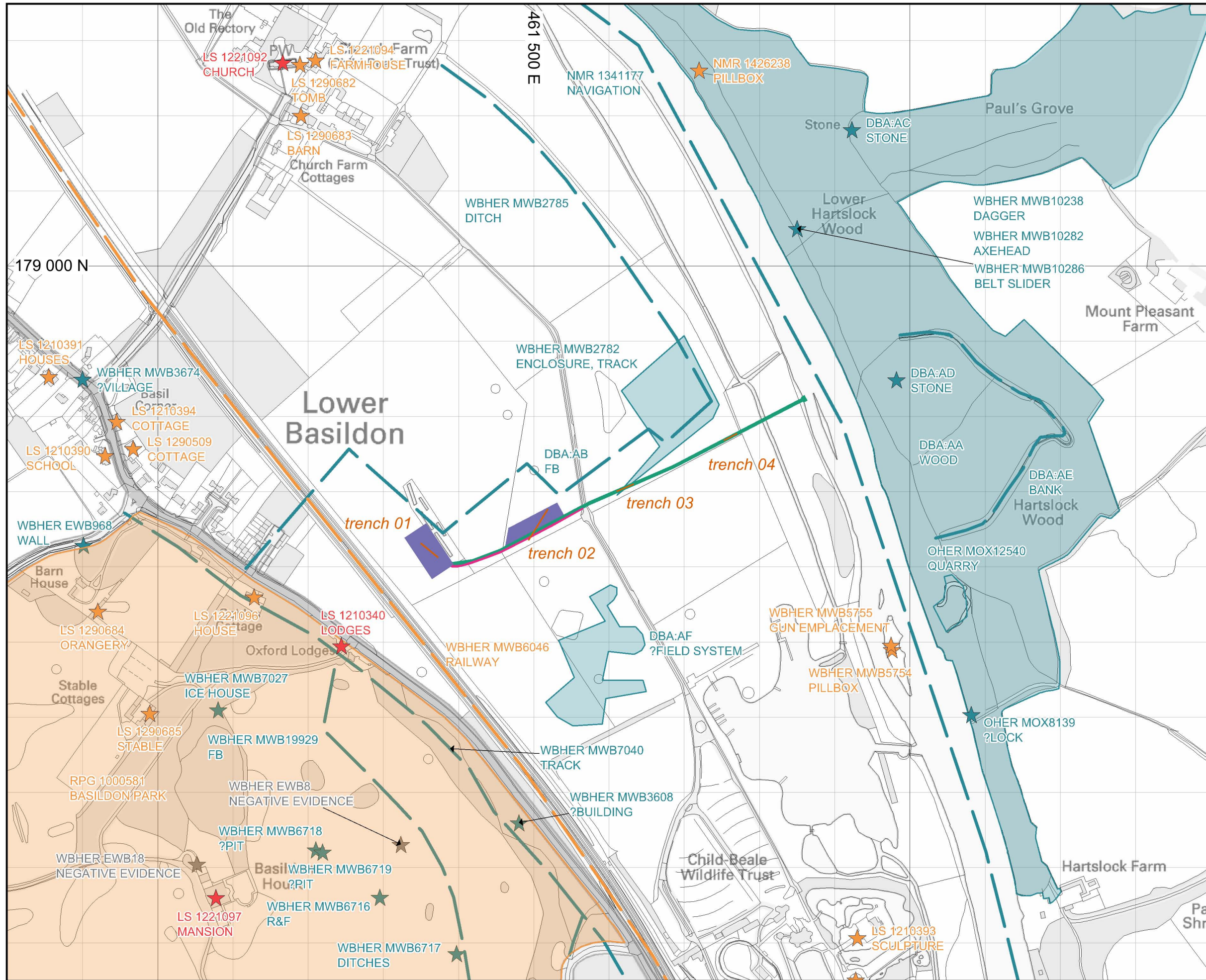
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Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

network  
archaeology

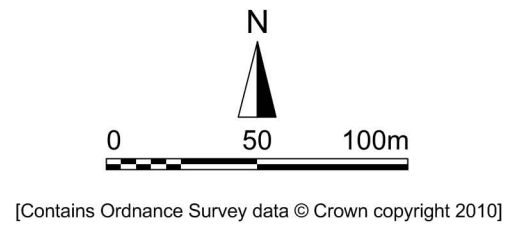
Lower Basildon STW

**Figure 1**  
Location of development area

Scale: 1:10 000



- Proposed outfall pipe: watching brief
  - Proposed access track: watching brief
  - Proposed reed beds and compound: no w'ing brief
  - Evaluation trench
- Archaeological constraints**
- ★ A grade
  - ★ B grade
  - ★ C grade
  - ★ U grade



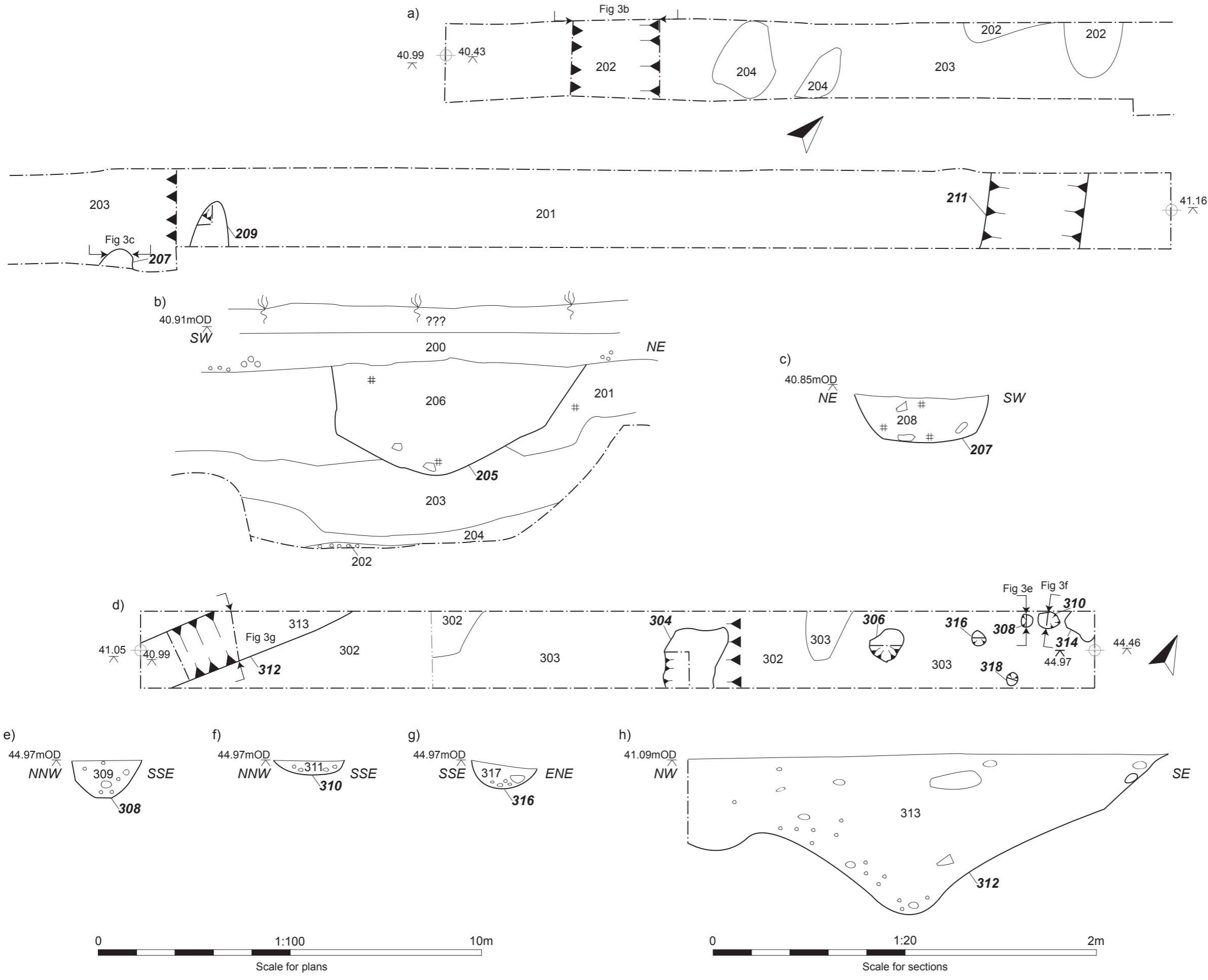
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Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App



Lower Basildon STW

**Figure 2**  
Archaeological mitigation areas in relation to desk based data

Scale: 1:5000



- Limit of excavation
- Cut line
- Layer line
- Field drain/modern features
- 1234** Cut number
- 1233 Layer/fill number
- # Charcoal
- Stones

1.00	27/06/13		SAF	ST	DB
Ver	Date	Description	DM	Chk	App

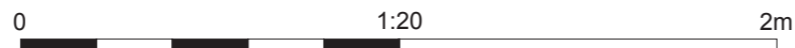
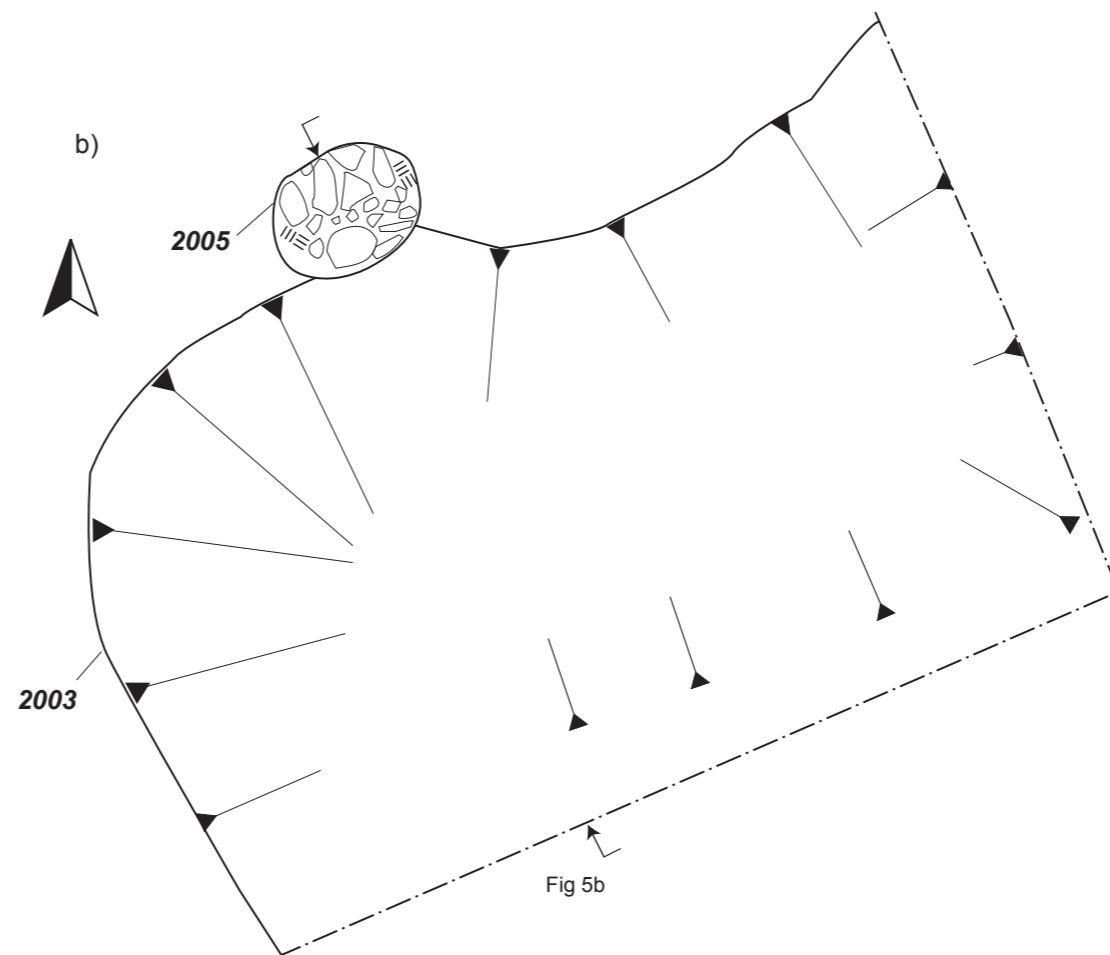
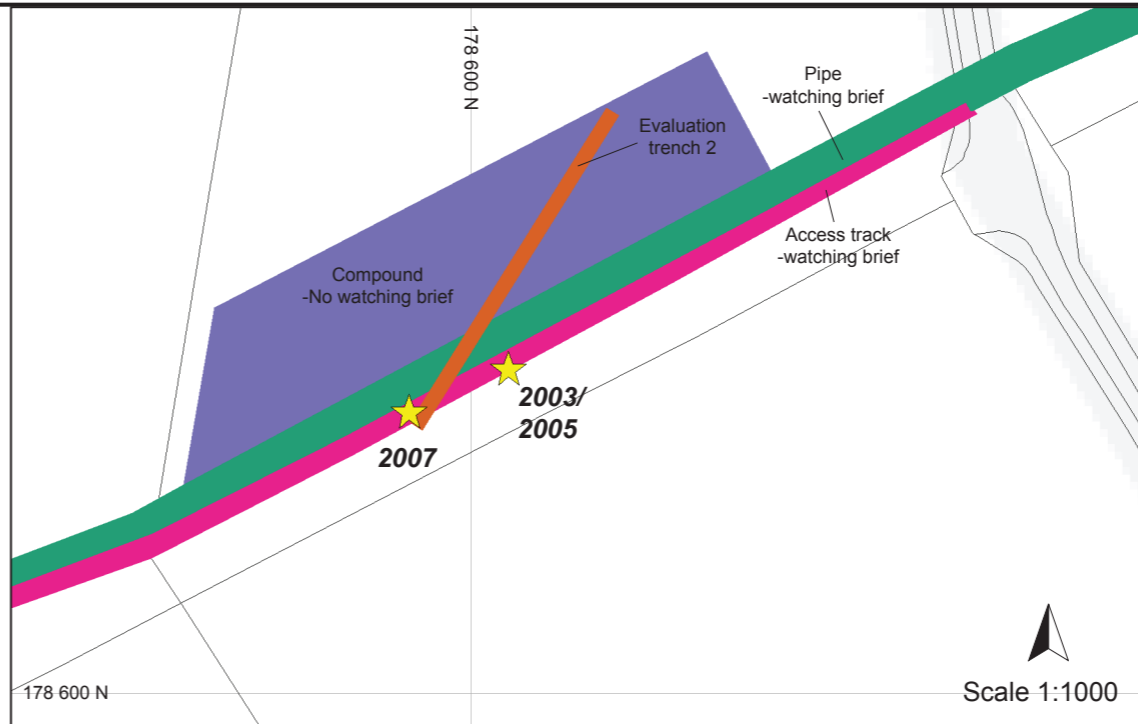
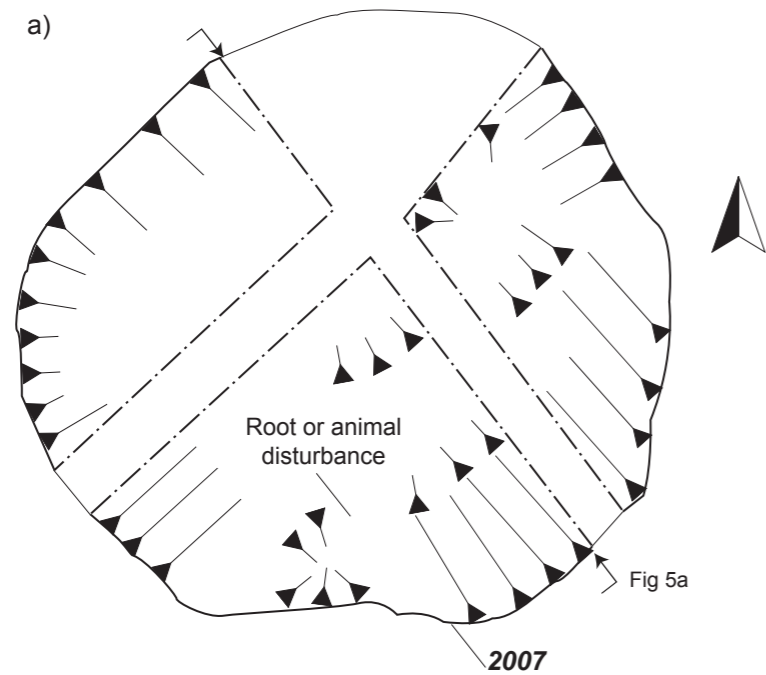


**Lower Basildon STW**

Figure 3 : Evaluation trench plans and sections

a) Plan of Trench 2  
 b) Trench 2 representative section and tree-bole 205 1:20  
 c) Section of pit 207  
 d) Plan of Trench 3  
 e) Section of pit or posthole 308  
 f) Section of shallow pit 310  
 g) Section of ditch 312

Scale 1:100 and 1:20



- Limit of excavation
- Cut line
- Layer line
- 1234** Cut number
- 1233 Layer/fill number
- |||| Clay
- Stones

1.00	08/08/13			SAF	ST DB
Ver	Date	Description	DM	Chk	App

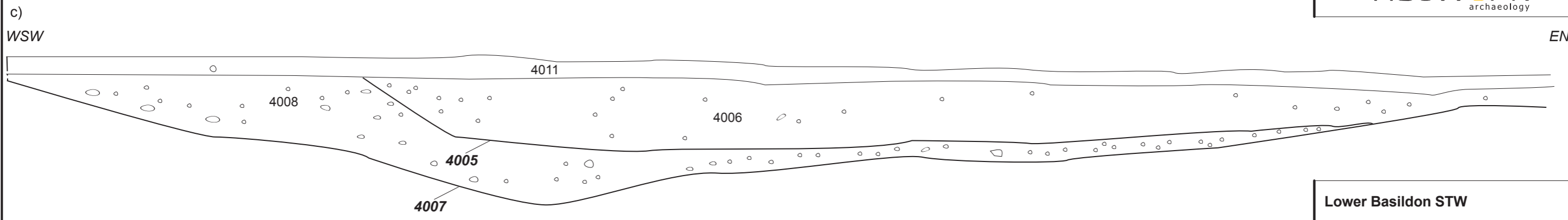
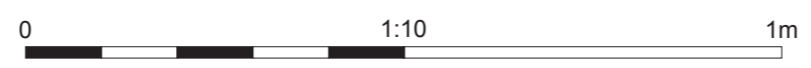
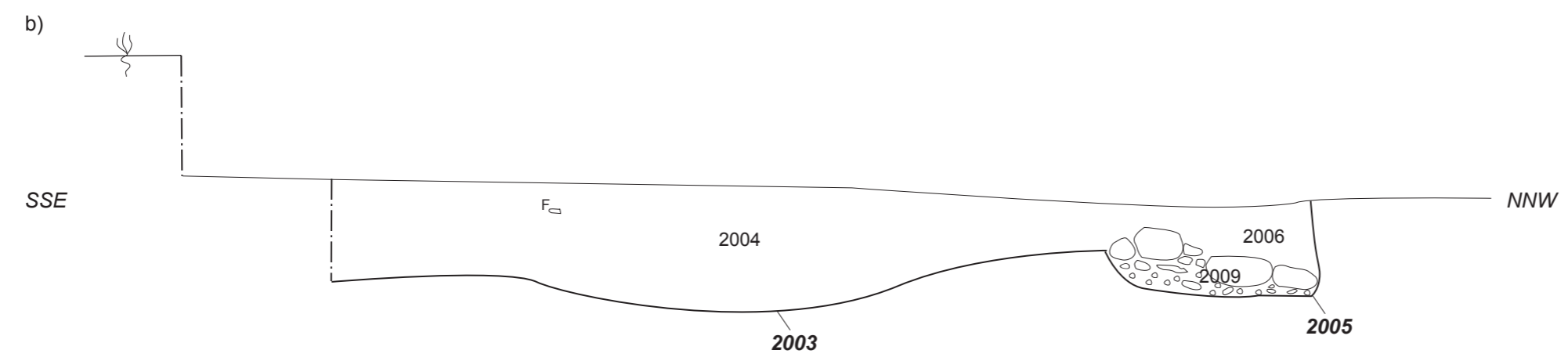
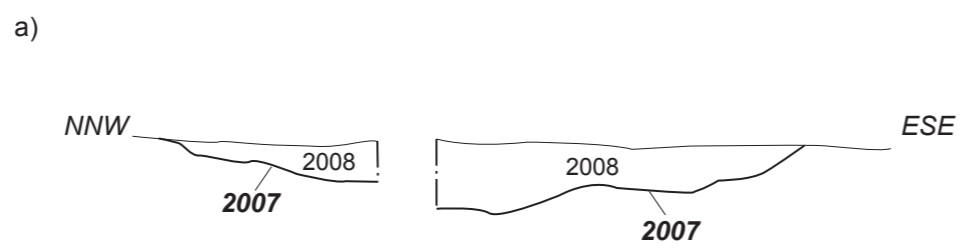


**Lower Basildon STW**

Figure 4: Watching brief plans

- a) Plan of tree-bole 2007
- b) Plan of tree-bole 2003 and possible fire-pit 2005

Scale 1:20



- Limit of excavation
- Cut line
- Layer line
- - - - - Field drain/modern features
- 1234** Cut number
- 1233 Layer/fill number
- # # # Charcoal
- o o o Stones
- F Blade flake

1.00	23/07/13		SAF	ST	DB
Ver	Date	Description	DM	Chk	App



**Lower Basildon STW**

Figure 5: Selected archaeological sections from the archaeological monitoring

a) Section of tree-bole 2007  
 b) Section showing tree-bole 2003 and possible fire-pit 2005  
 c) Section through depressions 4005 and 4007

Scale 1:10 and 1:20