BURY FARM MOATED SITE
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

for

DAVID BAZZARD BUILDING

Report 251

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1 SUMMARY

Bury Farm, near Great Missenden, in south Buckinghamshire is thought to be a Medieval homestead moated site, although much of the moat has been backfilled. Three listed buildings and a renovated farmhouse with seventeenth century origins, stand on the moat's island.

Evaluation of the site by trial trenching, has found that its proposed redevelopment for residential purposes, will have an impact on some archaeological deposits.

The earliest deposit found by the evaluation was a Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age post pit (012), possibly indicating the site of a very early building. The construction of a proposed garage on this site should not have an impact on any deposits relating to this building.

Residual, prehistoric worked flints found in a number of test pits over the site, signify that prehistoric people were bringing flint cores to the site, and roughing them out. The evidence, particularly in conjunction with post pit 012, and other nearby prehistoric sites, suggests that the area was favoured for settlement and exploitation from the Bronze Age until at least the Early Iron Age.

Twelfth to seventeenth century land division was represented by two parallel linear ditches (036, 058) and a possible track (055) on the same orientation as the moat. The impact of the proposed development on these features will be direct, but the severity of the impact is unknown because the extent and layout of these land divisions is not fully known.

Twelfth to seventeenth century arable agriculture was possibly represented by layer 010 in test pit 7, and layer 064 in test pit 3, although this interpretation of the deposits was by no means certain. Although the development will have a direct impact on layer 010, the significance of this impact remains unknown due to the lack of certainty over the layer's interpretation. Layer 064 may be impacted upon during construction works within Barn A.

Three Twelfth to seventeenth century buildings may be represented by a chalk floor (020) and wall (023) in test pit 1, a layer of rubble (021) in test pit 1, and a possible beam slot (050) and possible clay floor (049) in test pit 7. Two of the possible buildings may be associated with the existing barns (A and D). The remains will be directly impacted upon by the proposed development.

Structural evidence found in test pit 3, in the form of old floors (062, 063) and stake holes (070-082), related to earlier phases, division and use of barn A. The proposed development will have a direct and severe impact upon these deposits

2 INTRODUCTION

Bury Farm is a moated site situated in South Buckinghamshire (SP 906 020) (figure 1). Three eighteenth century, grade two listed buildings, including two barns and a granary stand within the moat (Map 1, A, D, F). The owner, David Bazzard wishes to convert the barns for residential use, and redevelop the grounds (an area of *c*.1.9 ha). This will involve the demolition of modern buildings, and the construction of a number of garages, garden walls, parking and new access roads (Map 1). The alphabetic system of referencing the existing buildings is consistent with that used in the desk based assessment.

In response to a pre-determination enquiry, a desk based and historic buildings assessment were conducted in conjunction with a site visit, and a report of the findings produced (Network Archaeology Ltd, May 2000). The report found that there is a low to moderate potential for the survival of Medieval archaeological remains at the site, and that some of these remains may be impacted upon by the redevelopment.

The desk based assessment report made recommendations for archaeological field evaluation (trial trenching), which were reviewed and amended by Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service. The field evaluation took place in August 2000, and the results of this work are the basis of this report.

In order to fulfil Planning Policy Guidance 16 (Archaeology and Planning), the results of the desk based assessment and field evaluation are to be submitted as part of the developer's planning application.

3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this archaeological field evaluation are listed in the brief (Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service, 20/6/2000).

The general aim of the evaluation was “to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains and associated palaeo-environmental deposits within the area of study." (Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service, 20/6/00).

4 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site (centred at SP 906 020) measures approximately 1.9 ha. Approximately half of this area is taken up by a rectangular moat and its interior (100m x 90m). Bury Farm House, a late seventeenth century building, two eighteenth century, grade II listed barns and an eighteenth century granary, are enclosed by the moat. Modern farm buildings, including cow sheds, an open Dutch barn, silage clamps, a silage tank and a shed, have been built over and outside the east corner of the moat. The farm yard is almost entirely surfaced with concrete, although gardens surround Bury Farm House, Farm Bungalow and Farm Cottage.

The site is situated close to the top of a south east facing slope (180m AOD), overlooking the River Misbourne, and overlies a fine silty clay or loamy clay brown earth (*Batcombe*) on a reddish, clay-enriched subsoil over chalk (BGS 1979).

Nine test pits were excavated, of which six were located against the exterior walls of the two barns to be converted (A & D). Four of these test pits (2, 3, 5 & 6) were placed inside the barns and two (1 & 4) were located outside. The sites of two proposed garages, one outside the west corner of the moat, and the other within the north corner, were each examined (test pits 7 & 8 respectively). A ninth test pit was placed against the interior of the preserved, north east edge of the moat, where a summerhouse is proposed.

5 PREVIOUS FIELDWORK AND RESEARCH

- Desk based assessment (Network Archaeology Ltd, May 2000)

- No previous archaeological fieldwork has been conducted at the site.

6 PROCEDURES

Survey
The test pits were accurately located to the nearest centimetre by hand measuring from fixed points provided by nearby buildings.

Machine-excavated test pits
Archaeological monitoring began once tarmac and concrete overlying part of the site had been removed by the client's arrangement. Nine test pits were then excavated using a JCB fitted with a 0.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. Test pits 1-6 were located within the area stripped of tarmac and concrete, and test pits 7-9 were located in garden soils. Topsoil removed from the latter was stored beside each test pit.

Within each test pit, there were layers, extending beyond the confines of the pits, which appeared to be of relatively recent origin. These were deemed not significant enough to merit hand excavation, and were removed by machine.

Hand Excavation and Recording
Significant archaeological deposits were sample excavated, recorded on context records, drawing film and photographic film, and soil samples were taken, in accordance with the brief. Finds were washed and then examined by an appropriate specialist.

Standards
All work has been undertaken in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists'

- *Code of Conduct* (1997);
- *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (1997);
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (*1994*),* and

- *Guidelines for Finds Work (*1992).

The management of the project is in accordance with the methods and practice described in '*Management of Archaeological Projects*', second edition (English Heritage, 1991).

7 RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

7.1 The test pits are discussed in numerical order. Refer to:

- Appendix A - Gazetteer of Deposits and Tables of Finds
- Appendix B - Specialist Reports
- Appendix C - Figures 2 - 7, and Map 1

Test Pit 1 (Figures 2, 3 and Map 1)
This test pit (2.36-2.96m x 1.92m x 0.44-0.62m deep) produced a north north-west to south south-east oriented ditch (036), associated upcast/ bank material (?022, 024 & 025), five stake/post holes (026, 028, 030, 032 & 034), an area of ground reduction (091), flint and tile rubble (021), the remains of a wall (023), and a chalk surface (020). These features lay outside barn A, beneath the existing barn wall foundations (019), concrete (015), tarmac (016) and their underlying layers of make-up (017 & 018).

Ditch 036
The ditch appears, stratigraphically, to be the earliest feature within test pit 1 (Figures 2 and 3a). Three fragments of pottery and two fragments of tile recovered from the fill of the ditch broadly indicate a Medieval date. Two of the sherds of pottery were dateable. One fragment of Flint Ware jar was of the late eleventh/early twelfth century, and a single sherd of Hertfordshire Reduced Ware dated to between the late twelfth and fourteenth centuries. The two fragments of tile recovered could have been produced at any time between the twelfth and seventeenth centuries (Vince).

The ditch (036) was on a slight incline which ran across the main slope and presumably functioned as a drain and a land boundary. Most of the ditch appeared to have silted naturally, although there was a low to moderate anthropogenic component, indicating that some secondary dumping had taken place within the ditch.

During the construction of the ditch, it appears that upcast was dumped on its west south-west side, creating a bank. The slighted remains of this bank (and possibly, the bank itself) may be represented by deposit 024, which was very mixed with moderately frequent flint gravels and cobbles, giving the impression of a deposit which had been dumped (Figure 3b). It would make sense for a bank to be on the westernmost side of the ditch, as this was the uphill side, and the bank would therefore have obstructed soil creep, preventing the ditch from silting up too rapidly.

Eventually, the ditch had almost entirely silted up, leaving a shallow hollow on the surface. At this stage, it appears that the bank was slighted by pushing the material (025) into the hollow (NB. it was impossible to differentiate between the bank [024] and material from the slighted bank [025]) (Figure 3a). Some of the bank material

(022) seems to have spread eastwards beyond the ditch, and as the deposit (022) was very thin in this area (up to 0.05m deep), it was probably quite easily trampled into the material below, giving it a different appearance from 025 (Figures 3a and 3c). The thinning out of the possible bank material towards the east, emphasises the likelihood that the bank was on the westernmost side of the ditch. Deposit 022 contained one fragment of an eleventh to twelfth century, sooted jar, and twelve fragments of roof tile produced at some point between the twelfth and seventeenth century (Vince).

Area of ground reduction 091

The surface of the underlying clay substrate on the south west side of the ditch (036) was uneven, and appeared to have been deliberately dug away to a depth of 0.14m. The reason for this is uncertain. The ground reduction (091) must have taken place immediately prior to the digging of the ditch (036), as the hollow (091) was filled with bank-like material, presumably derived from the ditch upcast (Figure 2 and 3b).

Stakeholes/ Postholes 026, 028, 030, 032 & 034

Two stakeholes/ postholes (026 and 032) post-dated the silting of the ditch (036), and along with all of the other stakeholes/ postholes appeared to have been dug prior to the slighting of the bank (Figures 2 and 3a).

The most sensible scenario indicated by the limited view of the archaeology within test pit 1, is that the stakes/ posts were part of a fence line which was established and re-established along the line of the filled in boundary/drainage ditch. The fact that the stakeholes/ postholes post-date the silting of the ditch suggest that the landowner decided not to re-cut the ditch but to expend less energy by constructing a fence line. This is evidenced by the following observations: Stakeholes/ postholes were observed only on the westernmost side of the ditch; two of the stakeholes/ postholes lay directly on the edge of the ditch; the size of the holes indicates that the posts within them were not intended to support a heavy load; traces of wood within four of the holes (fills 027, 031, 033 & 035) indicate that the stakes/ posts rotted *in-situ* rather than being removed, a typical occurrence with fences.

Chalk Layer 020, Rubble Layer 021 and Wall 023

The rubble layer (021) comprised frequent flint cobbles as well as roof tile, brick and charcoal. The type of tile found was probably used throughout the Medieval period and into the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries, and although brick tends to be Post Medieval, it could date to the late Medieval period (Vince). The rubble layer had the appearance of a dump of building material robbed from a collapsed or demolished building located in the vicinity. It did not seem to be an *in-situ* collapsed structure.

Chalk layer 020 overlay the rubble layer (021), and was seen on the surface to extend beyond the bounds of the test pit. The layer appeared to have been deliberately dumped and compacted in order to level the ground, which slopes down slightly to the east. On the west side of the test pit, the chalk was 0.12m deep, whilst on the east side, it was 0.22m deep. It is uncertain whether the layer formed an external or internal rammed floor, although chalk is more suitable for indoor purposes as it is easily weathered.

A wall (023), represented by an arrangement of *in-situ* flint cobbles on the north east side of test pit 1, rested on layer 022 (slighted bank material) and on the natural,

chalky boulder clay substrate (014). The wall was very narrow (0.43m wide), and no foundation trench was evident, indicating that the wall is therefore unlikely to have been load bearing, or free standing. This would indicate that it was an internal partition wall of a building.

The wall was butted on both sides by the chalk layer (020) indicating that the two were broadly contemporary. It is therefore conceivable that the chalk layer was an internal floor packed in against the walls of a building, probably as part of the original construction. This would have provided extra support to the base of the walls.

No direct relationship was discernible between the wall and the rubble (021). The wall was only visible in the north east section of the test pit, and the rubble was only visible in the south west section and the middle of the test pit. The contemporaneity of the relationship between the chalk layer (020) and the wall (023) means that the wall was later than the rubble layer (021). The fact that the wall and the rubble comprised similar material suggests that the rubble may have been a source of material for the wall.

The wall had a direct relationship with layer 022 (slighted bank material) upon which it sat. Layer 022 also extended northwards as far as the wall and no further. This may be significant, indicating that the layer (022) could have been truncated on the north side of the wall, which would suggest that the wall, or a boundary existed at this point when the truncation took place. If the ground was truncated, this must have happened before the deposition of the chalk layer (020) which also directly overlies 022. This brings into question the contemporaneity of the wall (023) and the chalk layer (020). On the other hand, layer 022 may have never existed to the north of the wall, perhaps because the ditch terminated at this latitude.

Examination of a broader area might enable the complex relationships between the archaeological deposits in test pit 1 to be deciphered.

Test Pit 2 (Figure 4 and Map 1)
This test pit (1.8m x 1.6m x 0.52m deep) produced an irregular, pit-like feature (044) (Figure 4a). This lay beneath the concrete floor (041) of barn A, and beneath modern make-up of the floor (042).

The pit-like feature appeared to be cut into natural subsoil (043), and contained what appeared to be a naturally accumulated silt (045) (Figure 4b). A small amount of tile recovered from the fill indicates that anthropogenic activity took place in the vicinity whilst the feature was silting up. The tile could be intrusive. The evidence is ambiguous, and it is quite likely that the pit is non-archaeological, being a natural depression or tree throw which gradually and naturally silted up.

Test Pit 3 (Figure 5 and Map 1)
This test pit (2.04m x 1.94-2.02m x 0.5m deep) produced a shallow, irregular pit-like feature (068) apparently sealed beneath natural subsoil (065). A mixed layer (064) rested on top of subsoil with a compacted clay layer (063) overlying, and a rammed and worn chalk layer (062) above that. A square post-hole (072), and seven stake holes (070, 072, 074, 076, 078, 080, 082) were cut into one or other of layers 062 or

064. All of these deposits lay beneath the concrete make-up (061) of the modern concrete floor (060) of barn A.

Pit-like feature 068
The pit-like feature (068), sealed beneath subsoil (065), was fairly irregular and contained what appeared to be a naturally accumulated fill (Figures 4a and 4b). A lack of finds and large debris within the feature suggest that no anthropogenic activity was taking place in the vicinity whilst it was formed. The feature is likely to have been a natural hollow.

Medieval layer 064
Mixed layer (064) was a friable, silty loam, containing a moderate amount of evenly dispersed charcoal (Figure 5b). A small assortment of pottery ranging in date from the late eleventh to the fourteenth century, was recovered from this layer, indicating that it was formed during or just after the fourteenth century. However, the finds and the levels of charcoal are too few to represent a medieval occupation layer. The layer appears to have been turned, possibly by a plough, and may therefore signify agriculture/horticulture taking place close to medieval settlement. However, this layer was only observed at the south east end of test pit 3 (and was not present in test pit 2) indicating that layer 064 was possibly the result of very localised activity. The absence of this layer in test pit 2 may be due to truncation.

Floor level and make-up 062/063
The compacted clay layer (063) may have been an early surface within a building, or could represent the make-up upon which the chalk layer (062) rested (Figure 5b). Chalk layer 062 may represent the remains of a floor within a building, and was perhaps a previous surface in barn A. The soft and easy to weather nature of chalk indicates that it is unlikely to have been used for surfacing an area outdoors. The absence of these two layers in test pit 2 could be due to differential use of the barn's bays or truncation. It is also possible that the layers never extend as far as test pit 2, and in fact formed the floor(s) of an earlier building(s) with a different layout to the present barns.

Postholes/ stakeholes
Two phases of postholes/ stakeholes may be represented, as some (070, 072) cut through the chalk layer (062), and others (074, 076) cut the mixed layer (064). This may be due in part to the fact that 062 and 063 do not extend across the northern part of the test pit, and have possibly been truncated. The stakeholes/ postholes may represent internal divisions within the building at the time when these floors were in use, or could be the result of scaffold poles during the construction of the existing or earlier barns. No finds were recovered from these features.

Test Pit 4 (Map 1)
This test pit (2m x 2m x 0.64m deep) produced no significant archaeological deposits. The test pit was located outside barns A and D, and cut through tarmac, concrete, a layer of modern rubble make-up for these surfaces, and natural subsoil.

Test Pit 5 (Figure 6 and Map 1)
This test pit (2.04m x 1.46-2.04m x 0.45m deep) produced two north north-east to south south-west oriented gulleys (055) and (058). These were cut into subsoil (054), and underlay a possible beam slot (050), a mixed layer of clay (049), and two layers of ?soil creep (052 & 053). These deposits lay beneath the wall (057) of barn D, its modern concrete floor (047) and its modern rubble floor make-up (048).

The earliest features within test pit 5 were the gulleys (055 & 058). Gulley 055 cut across the slope and is believed to have been too insubstantial for drainage purposes. The feature contained some charcoal, quite a high proportion of tile and some flint. The latter two were evenly distributed, indicating that anthropogenic catalysts probably lead to natural and rapid silting of the gulley which lay within a wet hollow on a slope. It is possible that the feature represented a cart rut in a track which was cut into the slope, creating a depression which then filled as a result of soil creep (layers 052 & 053 - see below).

Gulley 058 ran parallel to the possible cart rut. Gulley 058 contained infrequent and small natural inclusions, as well as some charcoal, indicating natural silting with an anthropogenic component. This gulley was more substantial than gulley 055, and may have acted as a drainage ditch for the posited trackway, which appears to have been located through a very waterlogged area, and was therefore in much need of drainage.

Soil creep layers 052 and 053 contained a high percentage of humic material, indicating that they had been waterlogged. It is likely that the deposits accumulated naturally in a wet hollow or depression, possibly formed by the cutting of a trackway (see 055 above). However layer 053 contained some charcoal and quite a high proportion of tile which may have been added deliberately to aid drainage, firm the ground and fill out the hollow. Fifteen fragments of roof tile were recovered from layer 053, all of which could have been made at any point throughout the Medieval period, into the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The soil creep was overlain by a deep clay layer (049), whose mixed nature indicated that it had been dumped there, perhaps to provide a firm floor for the building represented by the overlying possible beam slot (050), and/or the existing barn.

Beam slot (050) lay directly beneath barn D's wall, on the corner, and may relate to the construction of a wall from an earlier phase of building.

Test Pit 6 (Map 1)
This test pit (2m x 2m x 0.6m deep) produced no significant archaeological deposits. The test pit was located within barn D, and cut through the concrete floor, a layer of mixed, redeposited subsoil containing tile - the make-up for the concrete surface, and natural subsoil.

Test Pit 7 (Figure 7 and Map 1)
This test pit (2.04m x 2.04m x 0.7m deep) produced a small pit (012), which appeared to be overlain by a dumped layer (010). These deposits were beneath a modern lawn, and probable bedding for the lawn (007, 008 & 009). The test pit was located in the vicinity of the swimming pool on the west side of the development site (Figure 7a).

Layer 010
Layer 010 displayed characteristics of not having accumulated naturally. It contained quite a high proportion of sub angular flint, some up to 15 cms in diameter, and was not evenly distributed (Figure 7b). The layer could have been upcast or bank material relating to the moat, or it could represent agriculture, perhaps having been turned and mixed by a plough. The layer showed signs of post-depositional grading indicating that it was of some antiquity.

Post pit 012
The pit (012) appeared to be truncated by and sealed beneath layer 010, although this is not entirely certain. The pit's regular, circular shape, vertical sides, flat base and size (0.32m deep & 0.45m diameter) were characteristic of a large post pit. The mixed nature of the fill (011) and the presence of charcoal and pottery suggest that if the post pit was not deliberately backfilled, anthropogenic activity in the vicinity must have accelerated the filling process.

Twelve sherds of late Bronze Age and early Iron Age pottery, and Medieval tile/daub were recovered from the fill of the post pit. The tile/daub suggests a Medieval date for the structure represented by the post pit. However, it was noticeable that all of the prehistoric sherds were found against the edges of the hole, in a vertical position, indicating that they were introduced amongst soil, as packing around the post. The medieval tile/daub was only found in the upper 0.10m of the post pit. Accidental sorting of the prehistoric and Medieval material into distinct areas of the post pit seems unlikely, and the presence of prehistoric pottery as post packing strongly suggests that the post pit was constructed during the early Iron Age period, and that the Medieval tile/daub was intrusive. The distinction between the post pit fill (011) and layer 010 was blurred. It is possible that the landscaping or ploughing of layer 010, during the Medieval period, caused some mixing with the upper part of the post pit fill, and introduced tile into the feature.

The presence of Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery is highly significant, as it indicates that the site was inhabited during prehistory, and has since been favoured for settlement.

Test Pit 8 (Map 1)
This test pit (2m x 2m x 0.67m deep) produced no significant archaeological deposits. The test pit was located in the garden behind Bury Farm Bungalow, and cut through topsoil and a layer (002) containing dumped tile, which was assumed to have resulted from renovations which took place at the site in the 1940s. Of five fragments sampled, all were roof tile which was produced at some point between the late twelfth and sixteenth or seventeenth centuries (Vince). This is compatible with the 1940's work, as the buildings which were renovated dated from the seventeenth century. Two small, abraded sherds of Medieval pottery are almost certainly residual.

Test Pit 9 (Map 1)
This test pit (1.6m x 1m x 0.75m deep) produced no significant archaeological deposits. The test pit was located against the moat, in the garden behind Bury Farm Cottage, and cut through two layers (003 & 004) of what appeared to be made ground containing a small amount of tile. These layers are assumed to be a continuation of layer 002 in test pit 8.

7.2 *Artefacts*

Test pit	Feature	Context	LBA/ EIA pottery	Medieval pottery	Ceramic building material	Daub	Flint	Burnt flint	Clay pipe	Slag	Env. smp.
8	-	002		2	4						
7	-	009			1		5/20g	1/17g	2/6g		
7	012	011	12/62g		1	1					
1	-	018			3						
1	-	021			7						
1	-	022		1	12		11/52g			1/4g	
1	036	037		5	3		4/61g			2/369g	ü
5	-	053			15	1					
3	-	064		4			3/14g			2/8g	ü

7.3 *Palaeo-environmental and palaeo-economic samples*

Bulk soil samples for general palaeo-environmental and palaeo-economic analysis have been taken from two deposits (037 and 064) (Appendix B - Rackham). The samples contained bone, charred cereals and seeds, and also some uncharred material. This indicates a potential for waterlogged material and pollen. Overall, the samples yielded low levels of settlement debris, although a house mouse (064) indicates proximity to contemporary occupation.

A ditch (036) produced fragments of smithing slag including fragments of two hearth bottoms (Appendix B - Cowgill). They probably represent a low level of metallurgical activity at the site - *iron* smithing, the fabrication, repair or reuse of *iron* artefacts. The abraded nature of the slag and the virtual absence of hammerscale from the processed soil sample indicates that the material had been redeposited in the ditch.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 *Three broad episodes are represented:*

- Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (?9th to 5th centuries BC)
- twelfth to seventeenth century A.D.
- structural evidence relating to the eighteenth century A.D, existing barns (A & D/F)

8.2 *Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age*

Test Pit 7
A structure, broadly dated to the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age was represented by twelve sherds of pottery within a post pit (012). The pottery sherds came from at least three different vessels and it would be unusual for such a high quantity of pottery to be found in a single post pit if the structure was not related to settlement activity.
Significance: The evidence is highly significant as it probably represents Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age occupation of the site. No other evidence of this date is presently known within the wider area surrounding Bury Farm, although the post pit viewed in conjunction with two Neolithic / Bronze Age sites, one less than 400m south, and the other *c*. 800m north of Bury Farm (Network, May 2000, para. 6.2.7), emphasises that the area was favoured for exploitation during the prehistoric periods.
Impact: Indirect, minor; Ground reduction for the purposes of building the garage proposed at this location, will be shallow, and should not cause deposits relating to the structure to be removed. However, machinery may cause some compaction of the ground.
Flints
Twenty-three flints were recovered from four medieval and later contexts. The flints appear to relate to core roughing out activities in the late Neolithic/ Bronze Age. This activity may be associated with the possible structure represented by post pit 012, or could relate to general prehistoric activity in the area.

8.3 *Twelfth to seventeenth century*

8.3.1 Land Division:

Test Pit 1
A ditch (036), bank (024) and slighted bank material (022, 024 & 025), combined with stakeholes, indicating a possible fence line, represent early division of land, presumably for agricultural purposes.

Test Pit 5
A possible track (055) and a drainage gulley (058) were on the same north north-west to south south-east alignment as the ditch (036) and possible fence line seen in test pit 1. This suggests that there was some sort of field system template on the same orientation as the moat. Whether the land divisions were internal divisions of the moat, or whether the moat's orientation was based upon an existing field system is unknown. Soil creep, overlying the track (055) and gulley (058) contained tile which was produced at some point between the twelfth and seventeenth centuries, indicating that the track and gulley fell into disuse during this time
Significance: Early land divisions are an important part of the history of the land use of the site.
Impact: Direct, uncertain; The extents of the features, and the percentage and quality of their survival is unknown. However, the ground reduction which is to take place around test pit 1 would remove all archaeological deposits within the depth of the reduction, and has the potential to truncate deep archaeological deposits.

8.3.2 Arable Agriculture:

Test Pit 3
A soil layer (064) probably dated to the fourteenth century. This layer could have been agricultural, but as there was no evidence for the layer in other test pits close by (test pits 2 & 4), this layer could be localised and not related to agriculture.

Test Pit 7
A layer (010) contained tile produced at some point between the twelfth and seventeenth centuries. The layer could have been agricultural, but could also relate to landscaping and/or upcast from the construction of the moat.
Significance: As these layers are not fully understood, their significance is uncertain. Agricultural layers are not of great significance, although they provide an indication of where arable agriculture took place in the Medieval period. Otherwise, they are not very informative. Layer 010 may be of greater significance if it relates to moat construction rather than agriculture.
Impact: Uncertain; Layer 064 may be at a depth which is safe from ground reduction, and as such would probably not be impacted upon. This layer, within barn A, has probably already suffered from compaction by previous works. Layer 010 will be truncated by the construction of the garage on the west side of the site, but as we do not entirely understand what this layer represents, it in not possible to say what the full impact of the development will be.

8.3.3 Buildings:

Test Pit 1:
The chalk layer (020), and the wall (023) may represent the remains of a building coinciding with where barn A now stands. The layer of rubble (021) could indicate an even earlier building in the vicinity, from which material was robbed for the building signified by layer 020 and wall 023.

Test Pit 5:
A possible beam slot (050) which lay on a possible clay floor (layer 049), may represent the site of a building which coincides with the location of barn D.
Significance: These remains may contain important information regarding the development of the site. There is no dating evidence at present, but this might be obtained in future investigations. The building represented by 020 and 023 could actually be an early ‘wing’ of barn A, although it may have no relationship with this building at all. The same can be said of 050 and 049, which could relate to an earlier part of Barn D.
Impact: Direct, uncertain; Both potential building remains may be affected by ground reduction outside barns A and D. This development activity could entirely remove or truncate any building remains.

8.4 *Structural evidence relating to the eighteenth century, existing barns (A & D)*

Test Pit 3
Two possible previous floors of barn A are represented by layers 063 and 062. Layer 063 could be an early floor and/or a make-up layer for the chalk surface (062). A number of stakeholes were observed within this test pit (070, 072, 074, 076, 078, 080, 082). These may relate to the interior organisation of barn A.
Significance: These archaeological deposits could provide unique information regarding the past organisation and function of barn A.
Impact: Direct, major; Reduction and replacement of the surface within barn A would remove these archaeological deposits.

9 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EVALUATION IN MEETING THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES

General aims
The evaluations can be regarded as being successful in locating a range of archaeological deposits

Specific objectives
The test pits were positioned in order to gain an insight into the potential archaeological deposits impacted by the site's redevelopment, and the depths at which they occur. The interior and exterior of the barns were examined in order to understand the length and nature of the use of these buildings and to try and ascertain whether earlier archaeological deposits might be preserved beneath their floors. It was thought that the so far undeveloped parts of the site might yield deposits which have been truncated elsewhere. Test pit nine was located against the interior edge of the moat, where a summer house is proposed.

10 CONCLUSION

Overall, the evidence suggests that the site was frequented and probably inhabited during the prehistoric period. There was probably settlement at the site during the 9th to 5th centuries BC. There is an apparent gap in activity between the Early Iron Age and the twelfth century AD. The site then saw a period of possible clearance, division and cultivation, settlement and periodic redevelopment which has continued to the present day.

How representative the apparent gap in activity between the Early Iron Age and twelfth century, remains uncertain. In such a favoured area for settlement, close to the Iknield Way and Ridge Way, it seems unlikely that the site was not exploited in some way during the Late Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods.

11 ARCHIVE

The archive, prepared in accordance with the Procedures for Deposit of Archaeological Archives (BCM 1999), is currently held at the Buckinghamshire office of Network Archaeology Ltd, but shortly it will be deposited with the Buckinghamshire County Museum. The Accession code for this project is AYBCM: 2000.89.

12 STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report in order to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief, and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. Network Archaeology Ltd cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this report and any supplementary papers, howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as a result of unknown and undiscovered sites of artefacts.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A - Gazetteer of Deposits
Appendix B - Specialist Reports
Appendix C - Figures 2 - 7 and Map 1

APPENDIX A

Gazetteer of Deposits

TEST PIT 1

Layer 014: clay substrate;
bright brown orange, sandy clay, firm; various concentrations of sub angular flints.

Layer 015: concrete yard surface

Layer 016: tarmac yard surface

Layer 017: dumped sand and gravel bedding layer;
mid yellow orange, coarse sand, compacted; rounded/sub angular gravels (D 0.04-0.05m).

Layer 018: dumped spread;
mid grey, sandy loam, firm; frequent sub-angular (occ. rounded) flint frags., frequent sub rounded chalk frags.; moderate-frequent, sub angular tile frags (L&W unknown D 0.002-0.007m).

Layer 019: wall foundations;
bricks: mid-dark orange red; mortar: pale grey yellow, slightly loamy calcarious course sand; not removed (bricks L 0.023m, W 0.007m & D unknown).

Layer 020: yard surface/chalk spread;
white/pale grey white, chalk, compacted; chalk inclusions,(L & W unknown, D 0.14-0.20m).

Layer 021: flint/tile/brick spread;
mid green-grey, sandy calcarious loam, firm; frequent sub angular flint cobbles; frequent tile, occasional brick, occasional charcoal flecks.

Layer 022: trample;
mid brown grey to orange brown (mottled/lenses), loamy clay, very compact; moderate-frequent flint gravels, occasional flint cobbles, occasional tile.

Layer 023: flint stone wall;
wall sub angular, flint cobble/boulder (diam 0.05-0.25m across); mortar pale-mid yellow grey, very sandy clay loam (calcarious),soft.

Layer 024: dumped soil/ditch upcast;
pale-mid yellow grey-orange brown mottled, sandy loam-loamy clay, friable; moderatly frequent sub angular flint gravels and cobbles, rare charcoal flecks (L&W unknown, D 0.15-0.28m).

Deposit 025: ditch fill/slighted bank;
pale-mid yellow grey-orange brown mottled, sandy loam-loamy clay; moderatly frequent sub angular flint gravels and cobbles, rare charcoal flecks (D 0.18m).

Cut 026: post/stakehole;
sub circular, steep near vertical, tapering, sides; flat base (diam 0.15m, D 0.15m).
Fill 027: pale grey, silty clay & water (saturated), soft; occasional flint gravels (D 0.15m).

Cut 028: stakehole;
sub-circular, steep near vertical, tapering, sides; flat base (diam 0.15m, D 0.18m).
Fill 029: mid orange brown, silty clay, soft matrix(D 0.18m).

Cut 030: stakehole;
sub-circular, steep near vertical, tapering, sides; flat base (diam 0.15m, D 0.18m).
Fill 031: pale grey, silty clay & water (saturated), soft; occasional flint gravels (D 0.15m).

Cut 032: stakehole;
sub-circular, unexcavated (diam 0.15m, D probed to 0.22m).
Fill 033: pale grey, silty clay & water (saturated), voidy, soft; occasional flint gravels, traces of wood stake visible (D 0.15m).

Cut 034: stakehole;
oval (top 0.08m) then sub-circular, steep near vertical sides, ledge on south side (diam 0.28m at top then 0.18m, D probed to 0.15m).
Fill 035: pale grey, silty clay & water (saturated), soft; occasional flint gravels (D 0.15m).

Cut 036: ditch
Linear, oriented NNW-SSE, steep straight sides, narrow concave base(L unknown, W 0.5m, D 0.4m).
Fill 037: mid brown gray, silty to loamy clay, soft; moderate-frequent flint gravel; occasional charcoal flecks, moderate-frequent pottery, tile, flint, slag (D 0.4m).

TEST PIT 2

Layer 041: concrete yard surface.

Layer 042: tile/rubble dump
dark yellow brown, silt, friable; frequent tile (diam 0.04-0.2m), frequent brick (diam 0.06-0.25m), frequent concrete rubble dust (diam <0.04m); (D 0.18m).

Layer 043: natural soil accumulation, ?subsoil;
grey brown, silty clay, firm; occasional sub-angular flint (diam 0.01-0.12m).

Cut 044: pit/natural hollow,
sub circular, shallow concave sides, flat base (D 0.32m).
Fill 045: mid grey brown, silty clay, firm-friable; frequent sub angular (occ. rounded) flint (diam 0.04-0.17m), occ. tile.

Layer 046: natural subsoil
light yellow brown/grey mottled, silty clay, firm-compact; occasional sub round-angular flint (diam 0.04-0.12m).

TEST PIT 3

Layer 060: concrete yard surface.

Layer 061: hogging beneath concrete;
pale mid grey, sand; frequent flint gravel, very frequent brick & crushed concrete (D 0.15m west side & 0.07m east side).

Layer 062: rammed chalk floor;
white, chalk, compacted (D 0.07m).

Layer 063: clay floor/floor of barn;
mid orange brown, slightly sandy clay, compacted; very occasional flint gravel (D 0.03-0.05m).

Layer 064: occupation layer
mid brown grey, silty loam, friable; moderatly frequent flint gravels/grits/quartzite pebbles; occasional burnt flint pebbles, occasional charcoal-frequent at south side of feature (D 0.12m).

Layer 065: soil accumulation ?subsoil
pale mid yellow brown, very fine sandy clay, relatively soft; occasional flint gravels (D 0.13-0.22m).

Layer 066: natural substrate;
mid brown orange, sandy clay, very firm; moderatly frequenty flint gravels/quartzite pebbles.

Layer 067: brick foundations
brick mid-dark orange red; mortar pale grey yellow, calcarious course sand (bricks L0.021m, W 0.1m D 0.55m); not removed.

Cut 068: natural hollow;
?rounded, shallow concave sides, concave base (D 0.2m).
Fill 069:
mid grey orange, sandy clay, firm; occasional flint gravels & cobbles; very occasional charcoal flecks toward surface (D 0.2m).

Cut 070: stakehole;
sub circular, steep, tapering sides, pointed base (diam 0.15m D 0.35m).
Fill 071: mid grey brown, sandy loam, firm; occasional flint gravels; occasional modern brick & tile, (D 0.35m).

Cut 072: posthole
sub rectangular, vertical sides, flat base, (W 0.2m, L 0.24 m, D 0.3m).
Fill 073: mid grey, loamy clay, firm; occasional chalk, occasional redeposited clay (D 0.3m).

Cut 074: stakehole;
sub circular, steep, tapering sides, pointed base (diam 0.12m D 0.14m).
Fill 075: mid brown grey, silty loam, friable; moderatly frequent flint gravels/grits/quartzite pebbles, occasional burnt flint pebbles, occasional charcoal (D>0.12m).

Cut 076: stakehole;
sub circular, steep, tapering sides, pointed base (diam 0.1m, D 0.1m).
Fill 077: mid brown grey, silty loam, friable (D 0.1m).

Cut 078: stakehole;
sub circular, steep, tapering sides, pointed base (diam 0.13m D 0.08m).
Fill 079: mid brown grey, silty loam, friable (D 0.08m).

Cut 080: stakehole;
sub circular, steep, tapering sides, pointed base (diam 0.15m D 0.12m).
Fill 081:
mid brown grey, silty loam, friable (D 0.12m).

Cut 082: stakehole;
sub circular, steep, tapering sides, pointed base (diam 0.15m D 0.11m).
Fill 083: mid brown grey, silty loam, friable (D 0.11m).

Cut 084: stakehole;
sub circular, steep, tapering sides, pointed base (diam 0.13m D 0.11m).
Fill 085: mid brown grey, silty loam, friable (D 0.11m).

Group 086: stakehole configuration.
Includes 074, 076, 078, 080, 082, 084.

TEST PIT 4

Layer 087: levelling deposit;
very dark grey, clay silt, friable; occasional chalk, occassional flint; frequent tile (diam 0.01-0.17m), rare concrete.

Layer 088: ?subsoil;
orange brown, clay, firm; occasional sub rounded-sub angular flint.

Layer 089: tarmac yard surface.

Layer 090: concrete yard surface.

TEST PIT 5

Layer 047: concrete yard surface.

Layer 048: levelling deposit
mid brown, sandy silt, friable-loose; very frequent tile (diam 0.02-0.1m), frequent rubble (diam 0.01-0.1m); (D 0.09m).

Layer 049: levelling deposit
orange/yellow brown, clay, firm; frequent sub angular-sub rounded flint (diam 0.02-0.1m); rare tile; (D 0.31m).

Cut 050: beam slot/post hole;
not visible in plan, straight sides, flat base (W 0.5m & D 0.12m).
Fill 051: dark grey brown, silty clay, friable; frequent sub angular flint (diam 0.01-0.08m);(D 0.12m).

Layer 052: waterlogged accumulation;
light grey, silty clay, firm; occasional charcoal flecks, frequent tile (D 0.15m).

Layer 053: waterlogged accumulation;
dark grey/black, silty clay, firm; occasional charcoal flecks, frequent tile (D 0.12m).

Layer 054: ?natural subsoil;
orange, clay, firm; frequent sub angular flint.

Cut 055: cart rut/gully;
linear, aligned NNE-SSW, straightish sides, flat base (L >0.4m, W 0.24m, D 0.14m).
Fill 056: light grey, silty clay, friable; occasional sub rounded flint (diam 0.01-0.04m); frequent tile (diam 0.01-0.07m); (D 0.14m).

Layer 057: wall;
brick mid-dark orange red ; mortar pale grey yellow, slightly loamy calcarious course sand (bricks L 0.023m, W 0.007m); not removed.

Cut 058: gully;
linear, aligned NNE-SSW, straight sides, flat base, (L >0.3m, W 0.24m, D 0.24m).
Fill 059: grey/yellow brown, clay, friable; occasional sub angular flint (diam 0.01-0.05m); (D 0.24m).

TEST PIT 6

Layer 038: concrete yard surface.

Layer 039: levelling deposit;
light grey, clay silt, friable; frequent sub angular flint (diam 0.01-0.07m); frequent tile; contaminated with oil & diesel; (D 0.12m).

Layer 040: soil accumulation,
orange brown, silt clay, firm; frequent sub angular flint (diam 0.02-0.1m); (D 0.14m).

TEST PIT 7

Layer 007: topsoil deposit;
dark grey brown, sandy silt, friable; angular flints <17% (diam 0.01-0.10m) evenly dispersed; rounded chalk 5% (diam 0.01-0.10m) evenly dispersed; (D 0.22m).

Layer 008: ?path;
grey brown, silt, friable; rounded flints <50% (diam 0.001-0.08m) evenly dispersed; sub angular flint 2% (diam <4cm) evenly dipersed; (D 0.5m).

Layer 009: natural silt accumulation;
dark brown, sandy silt, friable; tile <1%; coal <1%; ironstaining <20%; (D 0.17m).

Layer 010: ?sub soil;
brown, clay silt, friable; sub angular flint <30% (diam 0.02 - 0.15m) concentrated toward base of deposit; (D 0.32m).

Cut 012: posthole;
circular, vertical side and a flat base (L 0.60m, W 0.54m & D 0.32m).
Fill 011: orange/dark grey mottled, silty clay, firm; sub angular flint <2% (diam.0.01-0.08m) evenly dispersed; pottery <1% concentrated toward edges of deposit; (L 0.60m, W 0.54m, D 0.32m).

Layer 013: subsoil;
orange brown, clay, compact; sub angular flints <20% (diam 0.02-0.20m) evenly dispersed, occasional silty lenses.

TEST PIT 8

Layer 001: topsoil deposit;
mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable; sub rounded to sub angular flint inclusions, <2% (diam 0.02-0.07m) evenly dispersed, sub rounded chalk <2% (diam.0.1-0.4m) evenly dispersed; tile <3% concentrated toward base of deposit; (D 0.19).

Layer 002: clay and tile dump;
mid grey/yellow brown, clay silt, friable; sub-rounded chalk <7% (diam 0.01-0.7m) concentrated toward center of deposit, sub-rounded/occ.angular flint <5% (diam 0.04-0.15m) concentrated toward base of deposit; tile <45% slight concentration toward base of deposit; rare charcoal flecks; (D 0.42).

TEST PIT 9

Layer 003: dumped deposit/made ground;
mid grey brown, sandy silt, firm; flint sub rounded <5% (diam 0.01-0.15m) concentrated toward base of deposit; chalk sub-rounded <2%, (diam 0.01-0.08m) concentrated towards base of deposit; rare charcoal flecks; (D 0.38m).

Layer 004: dumped soil/made ground;
mid yellow/orange brown, sandy silt, firm; flint sub-angular <8%, (diam 0.04-0.15m) evenly dispersed, chalk sub-rounded <2% (diam 0.01-0.10m) evenly dispersed; tile <3% evenly dispersed, rare charcoal flecks; (D 0.38m).

APPENDIX B

Specialist Reports

Prehistoric Pottery	*Carol Allen*
Medieval pottery and Ceramic Building Material	*Alan VInce*
Flint	*David Bonner*
Burnt Flint	*David Bonner*
Clay Pipe	*David Bonner*
Slag	*Jane Cowgill*
Environmental Analyses	*James Rackham*

Prehistoric Pottery

Carol Allen

Description

Twelve sherds of prehistoric pottery (62g) were found within context 011 on this site. Ten sherds (51g) are dark grey throughout with a wall thickness of about 5mm. The pottery is well fired and finished. Two other sherds (11g), each of different fabrics, were found in the same context; one is dark brown throughout with large inclusions protruding from the surface and the other has an oxidised orange exterior and dark grey interior and core. The pottery is detailed in the catalogue below.

Fabric and Source of Materials

The pottery was examined with a x4 binocular microscope. Two of the rim sherds and eight of the body sherds all contain fine quartz. The quartz is angular and has been crushed, and is very likely to have come from local river gravels. There are no inclusions to indicate anything other than a fairly local source, but thin section analysis would be needed to be sure whether the inclusions in the fabric of the pottery were all quartz, and thus whether imported or local. Two other sherds from very different pots contain chalk and flint, both of which are available locally.

All the fabrics are shown in the catalogue and are described in detail below.

Typology and Comparative Pottery

There are at least 2 vessels represented by the dark grey, well-fired sandy sherds. One rim sherd has fingernail diagonal cabling on the rim, and there is also part of another flattened and inturning undecorated rim, in the same fabric, but from another pot. The decorated rim sherd has a convex neck with light fingertip impressions, and may be part of an ovoid bowl. The body sherds exhibit random brushing on the exterior.

The form and decoration strongly suggest that these sherds belong to the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age pottery traditions. Pottery found on the early Iron Age site of Gretton, Northants (Jackson and Knight 1985) has similar rim forms, flattened and internally bevelled (*ibid,* fig 6), and similar rim decoration (fig. 6.21). Very similar exterior decoration is also seen on the same site, with fingertip impressions (fig. 7.41 and random brushing (fig. 8.61). Similar vessels are also known at Rainsborough, Northants (Avery *et al* 1967).

Dating

The pottery from Bury Farm is of late Bronze Age and early Iron Age date (Barrett 1980). Pottery of this period shows the transition from `Post-Deverel-Rimbury plain wares' to the use of simple decoration, possibly about the 8th century BC (Barrett 1980, 306-13), before the appearance of the more decorated wares of the 5th century BC. More precise dates are difficult to obtain. Radiocarbon dating of similar material has confirmed that the material is Iron Age, but does not provide close results for this period (Jackson and Knight 1985, 81). However, a date in the 9th to 5th centuries BC would be considered a reasonable estimation for this type of material, based on stratigraphic information and associated material (*ibid*).

The other two sherds are undecorated and have no distinguishing features which enable them to be dated with any accuracy. These two sherds could also be of early Iron Age date.

Acknowledgements

Dr David Knight kindly provided information and access to his unpublished material on the ceramic sequence of the first millennium BC.

Catalogue of the prehistoric pottery

Context	*Sherds*	*Weight*	*Fabric*	*Description*
011	1	15	QUMF FLRC	rim sherd - fingertip cabling on rim, fingertip impressions on convex neck
011	1	1g	as above	rim sherd – flat inturning
011	8	35g	as above	body sherds brushed decoration
011	1	7g	LISC FLRV QUSF	undecorated body sherd
011	1	4g	FLSV LISV	body sherd- lumpy surface undecorated, possibly QUSF towards base of small pot
Total	12	62g		

Fabrics

QUMF/FLRC
Contains a moderate quantity of well-sorted angular quartz of fine size, together with a rare amount of poorly sorted angular coarse flint.
Colour is dark grey throughout, and firing irregular. Fine sandy ware.

LISC/FLRV/QUSF
Contains a sparse quantity of poorly sorted and subangular limestone or chalk or coarse size, together with a rare amount of flint poorly sorted and angular of very coarse size. Also some sparse well sorted and rounded quartz of fine size. orange and oxidised exterior with irregularly fired grey/brown interior and core.

FLSV/LISV/QUSF
Contains sparse quantity of poorly sorted and angular flint of very coarse size, and spare amount of limestone/chalk poorly sorted and angular of very coarse size. The exterior is dark grey, the interior dark orange and the core dark grey.

Quantification and sizes of inclusions

Quantity of inclusions:

Rare = R, under 3%: Sparse – S, 3-9%: Moderate = M, 10-19%.
Modal size of inclusions:

Fine = F, <0.25mm: Medium = M, 0.25-1.00mm: Coarse =C, 1.00-3.00mm: Very Coarse = VC, >3.00mm.

Medieval Pottery and Ceramic Building Material

Alan Vince

Summary

A small collection of pottery and a moderate-sized collection of ceramic building material was recovered from the Bury Farm, Missenden site investigated by Network Archaeology (BFM00). The pottery probably ranges in date from the late 11th/12th centuries to the late 12th/13th centuries, with one undated type, possibly of later medieval date. The ceramic building material consists of flat roof tiles fastened with pegs, daub, and brick. The tile and daub appear to be of local manufacture but the brick may be a regional import. The ceramic building material is only broadly datable, to the late 12th century up to and including the post-medieval period.

Pottery

Twelve fragments of pottery were recovered, from contexts 002, 022, 037 and 064. Four wares are present, three of which are present in the medieval period in the City of London and are fully described in print (Vince & Jenner 1991).

Early Medieval Flinty ware (EMFL)

Four sherds containing sparse to moderate coarse angular flint fragments up to 4.0mm across, and moderate to abundant rounded quartz sand were found. The sherds came from contexts 002, 037 and 064. All were from jars, one of which had been used in cooking. In the City of London vessels of this type were present in the later 11th and earlier 12th centuries.

Early Medieval Grog-tempered ware (EMGR)

A scrap of a sooted jar containing abundant grey angular grog fragments up to 2.0mm across was found in context 022.

Miscellaneous (MISC)

Fragments of sooted jars with a micaceous oxidized body and reduced surfaces were found in contexts 002 and 037. The vessels were wheelthown and had no traits which would allow a close date to be assigned to them.

A sherd of a sooted jar containing abundant rounded quartz sand inclusions was found in context 064. Similar vessels are thought to have been produced at Great Brickhill in the 12th or 13th centuries (*pers. comm.* B Hurman).

Hertfordshire Reduced ware (SHER)

Two sherds of wheelthrown greyware containing an illsorted sand, composed of rounded quartz grains and sparse flint, were found in contexts 037 and 064. One sherd is from a squared rim (context 037) and the other is unusually light-coloured. Both sherds were sooted. Similar vessels were produced at a number of centres in the south of Hertfordshire and north Middlesex from the later 12th to well into 14th century.

Ceramic Building Material

The ceramic building material consisted mainly of tile fragments with two pieces of daub and one brick.

Flat Roof Tiles

The 45 fragments of flat roof tiles from Bury Farm all have a similar appearance. They are oxidized, with a small proportion overfired, and range between 15 and 20 mm thick. No lengths or breadths were measureable.
Most of the tiles contain sparse quartz sand grains and were produced in sanded moulds. These sandy tiles can be divided into two fabric groups based on the grain size distribution of the sand. In the first group (A) the grains are all less than 1.0mm across and are well-sorted. In the second group (B) the grains are larger, mainly between 1.0mm and 2.0mm across, and are ill-sorted.
In addition, two tiles had distinctive fabrics. That from context 11 had a silty, laminated fabric with colours which suggest the presence of calcium carbonate and salt whilst that from context 018 contains sparse unidentified white inclusions, probably calcareous. There is no obvious pattern in the distribution of these fabric groups (Table 1).

Table 1

Context:	Others	Group A	Group B	Totals
002		2	3	5
009		1		1
011	1		1	2
018	1	2		3
021		5		5
022		4	8	12
037		1	1	2
053		6	9	15
Totals	2	21	22	45

Flat roof tiles were probably introduced to the Chilterns in the later 12th century but there is no indication as to the precise date of the Bury Farm examples. Similar tiles were probably used throughout the medieval period and into the 16th or 17th centuries.

Daub

Two fragments of daub were found, in contexts 011 and 053. They contain similar quartz sand to that found in the flat tiles but with the addition of large iron-rich nodules, up to 4.0mm across. Neither piece had a suface or wattle impressions surviving and thus could be classed as 'fired or burnt clay' rather than daub.

Brick

The brick was recovered from context 021. It was produced from a laminated, silty clay and the range of colours present is reminiscent of objects produced from brine-rich estuarine silt. No such deposits are available locally and it is therefore likely that the brick was not locally produced. The brick was produced in a sanded mould, lined with fine sand or quartz silt. Dimensions: Breadth 132mm Thickness 54mm. Although mainly post-medieval, bricks were used in the Home Counties in the later medieval period.

Recommendations

Neither the pottery nor the ceramic building material is worthy of publication for its intrinsic interest. The pottery should be retained for future study, as should a representative sample of the building material. If the ceramic building material is discarded then the thicknesses of the tiles should be measured and each fragment weighed.

Appendix One

Context	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Sub-fabric	Part	Description
002	EMFL	JAR	1	1	-	BS	ABRADED SHERD
002	MISC	FLAT	1	1	SY	BS	FINE SANDED MOULD;ROUNDED GRAINS >1.0MM
002	MISC	FLAT	1	1	SY	PEG	FINE SANDED MOULD;ROUNDED GRAINS >1.0MM
002	MISC	JAR	1	1	MW	BS	OXIDIZED, MICACEOUS BODY WITH GREY SURFACES;SOOTED EXT
002	MISC	FLAT	1	1	SY	BS	SANDED MOULD;GRAINS MAINLY >1.0 BUT SOME >2.0MM;HIGH FIRED
002	MISC	FLAT	2	1	SY	PEG	SANDED MOULD;GRAINS MAINLY >1.0 BUT SOME >2.0MM;HIGH FIRED
009	MISC	FLAT	1	1	SY	BS	FINE SANDED MOULD;ROUNDED GRAINS >1.0MM
011	MISC	DAUB	1	1	SY	BS	QUARTZ SAND INCLUSIONS PLUS LARGE FE NODULES >4.0MM
011	MISC	FLAT	1	1	SY	BS	SANDED MOULD;GRAINS MAINLY >1.0 BUT SOME >2.0MM
011	MISC	FLAT	1	1	LSY	BS	SILTY FABRIC; COLOUR SUGGESTS ESTUARINE CLAY;SANDED MOULD (ROUNDED QUARTZ GRAINS >1.0MM)
018	MISC	FLAT	1	1	LY	BS	MODERATE LIMESTONE? VOIDS >2,0MM
018	MISC	FLAT	2	2	SY	BS	FINE SANDED MOULD;ROUNDED GRAINS >1.0MM
021	MISC	FLAT	5	5	SY	BS	FINE SANDED MOULD;ROUNDED GRAINS >1.0MM
021	MISC	BRICK	1	1	LSY	BS	SILTY FABRIC; COLOUR SUGGESTS ESTUARINE CLAY;SANDED MOULD (ROUNDED QUARTZ GRAINS >1.0MM);B:**;TH:**
022	EMGR	JAR	1	1	-	BS	SOOTED;SCRAP
022	MISC	FLAT	3	3	SY	BS	FINE SANDED MOULD;ROUNDED GRAINS >1.0MM
022	MISC	FLAT	1	1	SY	BS	FINE SANDED MOULD;ROUNDED GRAINS >1.0MM;HIGH FIRED
022	MISC	FLAT	2	2	SY	PEG	SANDED MOULD;GRAINS MAINLY >1.0 BUT SOME >2.0MM
022	MISC	FLAT	2	2	SY	BS	SANDED MOULD;GRAINS MAINLY >1.0 BUT SOME >2.0MM
022	MISC	FLAT	1	1	SY	BS	SANDED MOULD;GRAINS MAINLY >1.0 BUT SOME >2.0MM
022	MISC	FLAT	1	1	SY	BS	SANDED MOULD;GRAINS MAINLY >1.0 BUT SOME >2.0MM;HIGH FIRED
022	MISC	FLAT	2	2	SY	BS	SANDED MOULD;GRAINS MAINLY >1.0 BUT SOME >2.0MM;HIGH FIRED
037	EMFL	JAR	1	1	-	BS	-

037	MISC		1	1	-	BS	FEATURELESS SCRAP
037	MISC	FLAT	1	1	SY	BS	FINE SANDED MOULD;ROUNDED GRAINS >1.0MM
037	MISC	JAR	3	1	MW	BS	OXIDIZED, MICACEOUS BODY WITH GREY SURFACES;SOOTED EXT
037	MISC	FLAT	1	1	SY	BS	SANDED MOULD;GRAINS MAINLY >1.0 BUT SOME >2.0MM
037	SHER	JAR	1	1	-	R	SOOTED;SQUARED RIM
053	MISC	FLAT	6	6	SY	BS	FINE SANDED MOULD;ROUNDED GRAINS >1.0MM
053	MISC	DAUB	1	1	SY	BS	QUARTZ SAND INCLUSIONS PLUS LARGE FE NODULES >4.0MM
053	MISC	FLAT	1	1	SY	PEG	SANDED MOULD;GRAINS MAINLY >1.0 BUT SOME >2.0MM
053	MISC	FLAT	8	8	SY	BS	SANDED MOULD;GRAINS MAINLY >1.0 BUT SOME >2.0MM
064	EMFL	JAR	2	1	-	BS	SOOTED EXT
064	MISC	JAR	1	1	SY	BS	ABUNDANT ROUNDED QUARTZ SAND;SOOTED
064	SHER	JAR	1	1	-	BS	LIGHT GREY BODY;SOOTED

Flint

David Bonner

Introduction

Twenty-three knapped flints, weighing 147g, were submitted for analysis. These include waste flakes and no tools or cores.

Raw Materials

Macroscopic analysis on the basis of colour, hue, quality and finish has identified four main categories of flint type (in order of frequency):

- pale grey yellow opaque material with mottles and a dusky finish (11)
- pale to mid grey opaque material with yellow, cream or white opaque mottles and a dusky or matt finish (10)
- pale to mid yellow or grey semi translucent material and semi-gloss finish (2)

Persistently thin, eroded cortex indicates that most of the flint is from local, derived surface nodular flint. A few pieces appear to have been obtained direct from chalk source.

Condition of Flint

The flint is in a variable condition. Some flints are relatively abraded, and show typical wear traits. This is reflected by a moderately high incidence of breakage (35%).

By contrast, many flints (notably from context 022) are unusually fresh, indicating that they have not become buried soon after deposition. None of the flints exhibit a surface patina.

Morphology of the Flint Assemblage

The flints are entirely waste flakes (Table 1).

Flakes (Table 1)

The flakes have been subdivided into primary, secondary and tertiary flakes on the basis of the degree of cortication of the dorsal surface (see table below).

Primary flakes/ blades	6	26%
Secondary flakes/ blades	15	65%
Tertiary flakes/ blades	2	9%

The balance of primary, secondary and tertiary flakes indicates that most of the flints are the result of core procurement/ roughing out activities, while few are the result of tool shaping/ finishing activities.

The majority of this debitage is intermediate and squat-shaped, most of which have been hard-hammer struck and date to the late Neolithic/Bronze Age. One example has a blade-like form, but is nevertheless probably of the same date as the rest of the assemblage.

Metrical analysis, involving the measuring of length and breadth was not undertaken, due to the small sample size, and also due to the high incidence of breakage, which would have skewed the results.

Conclusion

The bulk of the flints are late Neolithic/Bronze Age in date, and probably relate to core procurement and roughing out activities. This activity probably relates to known Bronze Age activity in the general area, and there is no reason to assume that the flints relates directly to the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age post pit structure found in test pit 7.

Table 1. Flake Quantification Table

Test pit	Context	Cl	Br	Pat	Weight	Notes	Date
7	009	s	-	-	1g		LN/BA
7	009	s	-	-	4g		LN/BA
7	009	s	-	-	3g		LN/BA
7	009	s	-	-	3g		LN/BA
7	009	s	y	-	2g		LN/BA
1	022	p	-	-	7g		LN/BA
1	022	p	-	-	3g		LN/BA
1	022	s	-	-	15g		LN/BA
1	022	s	-	-	7g		LN/BA
1	022	s	-	-	3g		LN/BA
1	022	s	-	-	4g		LN/BA
1	022	s	-	-	2g		LN/BA
1	022	s	y	-	3g		LN/BA
1	022	s	y	-	1g		LN/BA
1	022	t	y	-	5g		LN/BA
1	022	t	y	-	1g		LN/BA
1	037	p	-	-	22g		LN/BA
1	037	p	-	-	16g		LN/BA
1	037	p	y	-	16g		LN/BA
1	037	s	-	-	8g		LN/BA
3	064	p	-	-	10g		LN/BA
3	064	s	y	-	4g		LN/BA
3	064	s	y	-	1g		LN/BA

[C = class; P = primary, S = secondary, T = Tertiary; B = broken; P = patination]

Burnt Flint

David Bonner

One burnt flint, weighing 17g was recovered from context 009. Its rose-coloured surface and scorched appearance indicates that it had been heated in an oxidising environment, possibly on the edge of a hearth or fire.

Clay Pipe

David Bonner

Two clay pipe stem fragments, weighing 5g, were recovered from context 009. They date from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries.

Slag

Jane Cowgill

Introduction

The evaluation was of a medieval moated site with associated barns that are due to be converted. The slag was recovered from a ditch, probably medieval in date.

Catalogue

Context 022, Iron-smithing slag, weight 4g.
Probably a very abraded fragment of a hearth bottom.

Context 037, Iron-smithing slag, weight 35g.
Cream/white lump of slagged flint with frequent charcoal inclusions.

Context 037, Iron-smithing slag, weight 334g.
Hearth bottom fragment, very dense but abraded. Vertical back but no hearth lining attached.

Context 064, Sample No TP3, Iron-smithing slag, weight 8g.
Smithing slag lump with charcoal imprints.

Context 064, Sample No TP3, Iron-smithing slag, weight <1g.
Very small fragment.

Discussion

All the slags were generated by iron smithing, the fabrication, repair or reuse of iron artefacts. The pieces are all abraded and therefore have probably been redeposited in the features in which they were found. This impression is reinforced by the lack of hammerscale in either of the environmental samples (see DJ Rackham report). Charcoal was the only fuel source noted as either imprints or inclusions in the slag.

October 2000

Environmental Analyses

James Rackham

Introduction
Evaluation excavations conducted by Network Archaeology at a medieval moated site at Bury Farm, Missenden uncovered features from which two environmental samples were collected for assessment. The samples were taken from context 037 in Trench 1 and 064 in Trench 3. No information has been supplied concerning the sampled features.

Methods
The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and float were dried. The dried residues were then refloated to ensure efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flots was measured, and the volume and weight of the residue recorded.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The residue was then discarded. The float of each sample was studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The float was then bagged. The float and finds from the sorted residue constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below.

Results
Context 037
A 10 litre clay sample was processed and yielded a 1 litre residue of flint and pebble gravel and coarse sand. The residue produced 3g of brick/tile, 3 sherds of abraded pottery and two very small indeterminate bone fragments. The flot volume is 9 mls and includes small quantities of charcoal, four charred cereal grains including oat? and wheat, a couple of charred weed seeds and many uncharred seeds of which the most abundant were *Rubus*, blackberry/raspberry, and also included *Sambucus* (elder) and *Chenopodium* (goosefoot). The number of *Rubus* seeds (>100) suggests that these seeds are contemporary and indicates some survival of waterlogged material in the feature, although only the most robust seeds are present.

Context 064
A 10 litre sample of silty clay was processed and produced a 2 litre residue of flint and pebble gravel with some fine concreted sediment. A few fragments of brick/tile, two pieces of smithing slag, a couple of flakes of hammerscale, one sherd of pottery (late or post-medieval?) and several small mammal bones were sorted from the residue. The latter included the partial skeletons of a house mouse, *Mus musculus*, and a rat, probably *Rattus norvegicus* the brown rat. The latter tends to confirm a probable post-medieval date since this species is thought to have been introduced into this country in the first half of the 18th century (Yalden 1999).

The flot of 50 ml was largely composed of charcoal fragments, mainly wood with occasional twigs. In addition charred *Rubus*, pulses (possible pea), and one piece of charred cereal chaff were present. A few uncharred seeds of *Sambucus*, *Chenopodium* and *Carex* (sedges) may be recent contaminants or possibly the survivors of a previously much larger assemblage of uncharred material. The clay sediments may well have assisted in the survival of a number of uncharred seeds.

Discussion
The samples apart from yielding datable material allow little interpretation. Both contain low densities of settlement debris, although the quantities of charcoal and the presence of house mouse in 064 suggests relatively close proximity to contemporary occupation. The two flakes of hammerscale and smithing slag in 064 also suggest some iron smithing taking place somewhere in the vicinity although possibly of minor scale.

There are indications from the survival of uncharred material that deeper features may retain waterlogged remains and pollen may have survived in some of the sediments on the site. Bone survives and charred cereals and seeds are present indicating that the main lines of evidence associated with the agricultural economy of the site at different periods can be expected if further fieldwork is undertaken.

No further work is recommended on these samples.

Acknowledgments
I should like to thank Jeremy Dubber for the sample processing.

4th October 2000

APPENDIX C

Figures 2 - 7, and Map 1

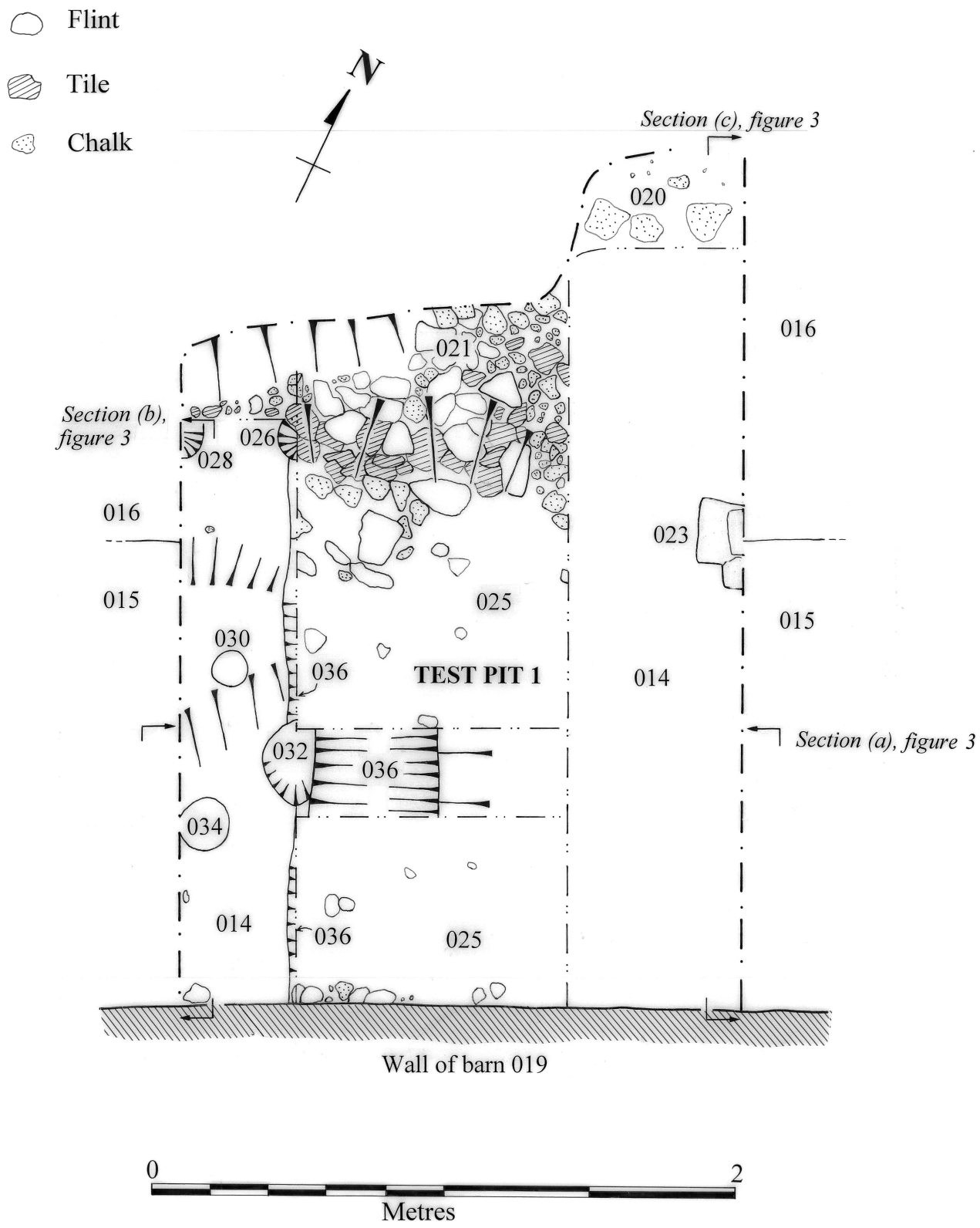


Figure 2: Plan of Test Pit 1, showing location of section drawings (a), (b) and (c)

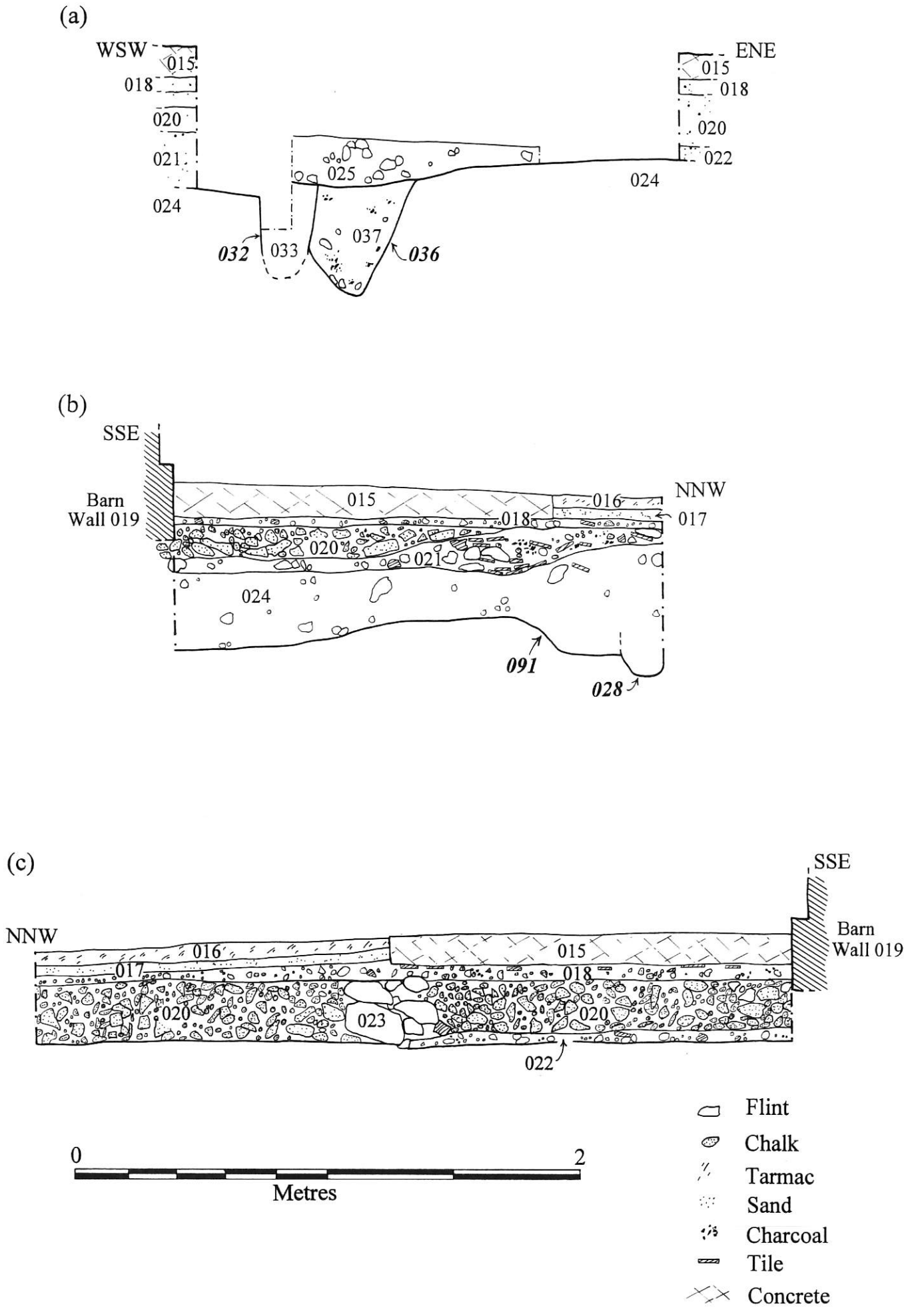


Figure 3: Sections through Test Pit 1

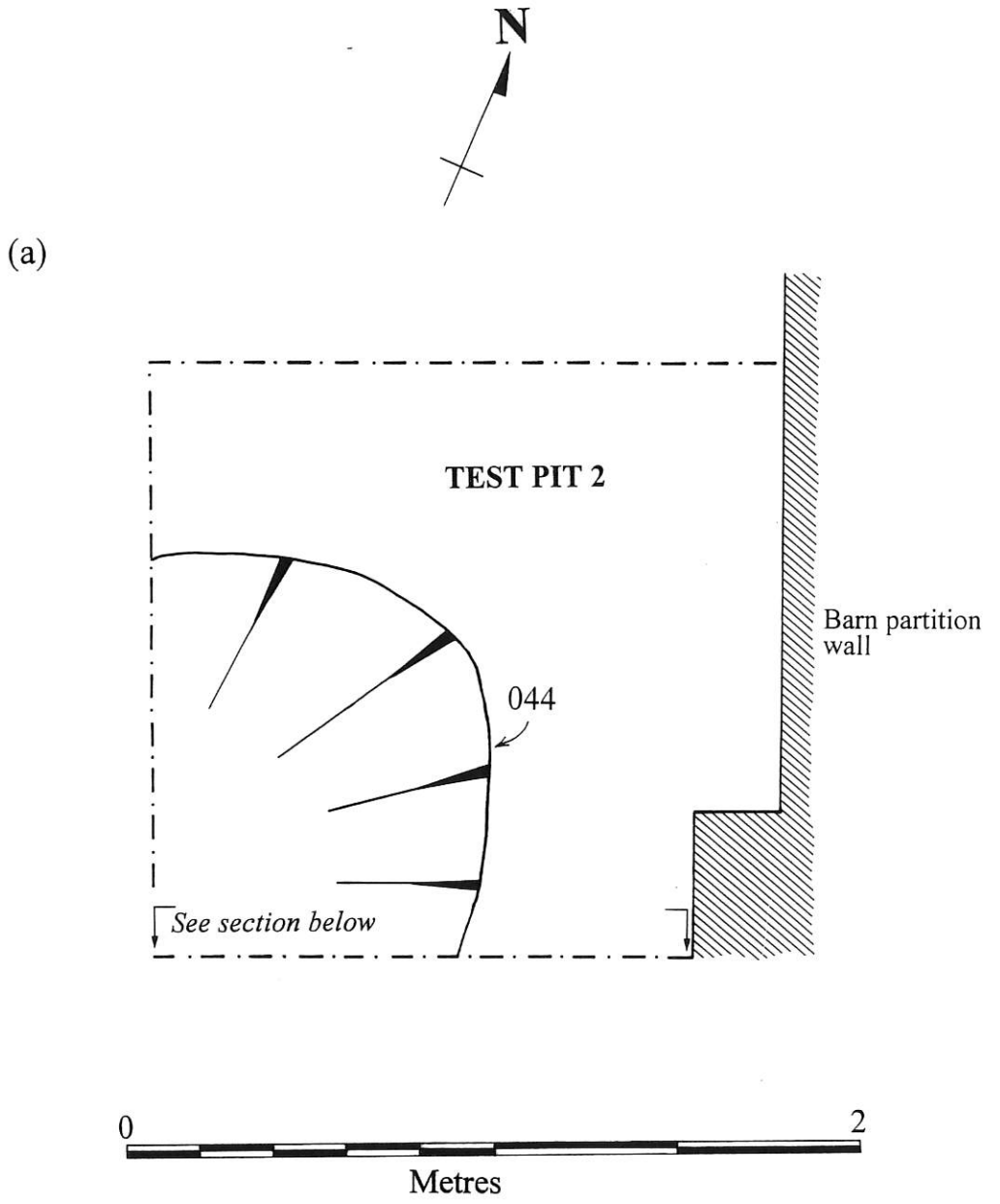
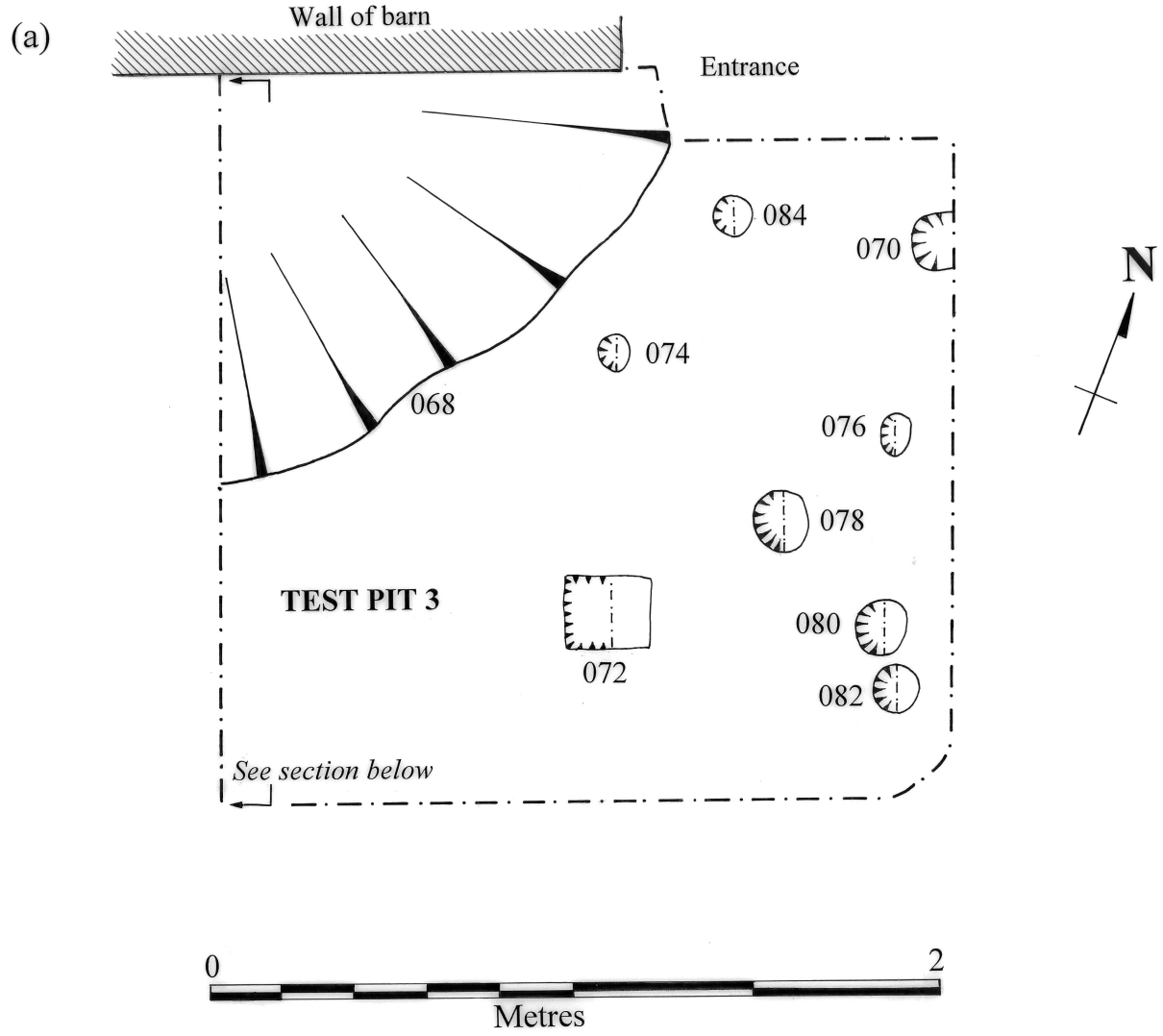


Figure 4: (a) Plan of Test Pit 2, and (b) North northwest facing section of Test Pit 2



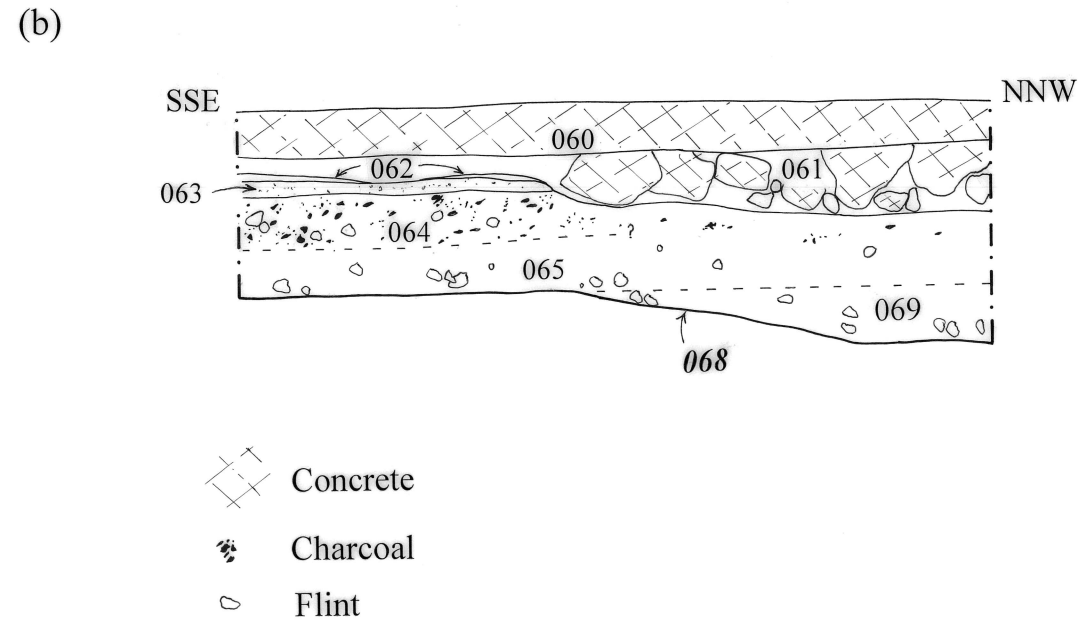


Figure 5: (a) Plan of Test Pit 3, and (b) Section along western side of Test Pit 3

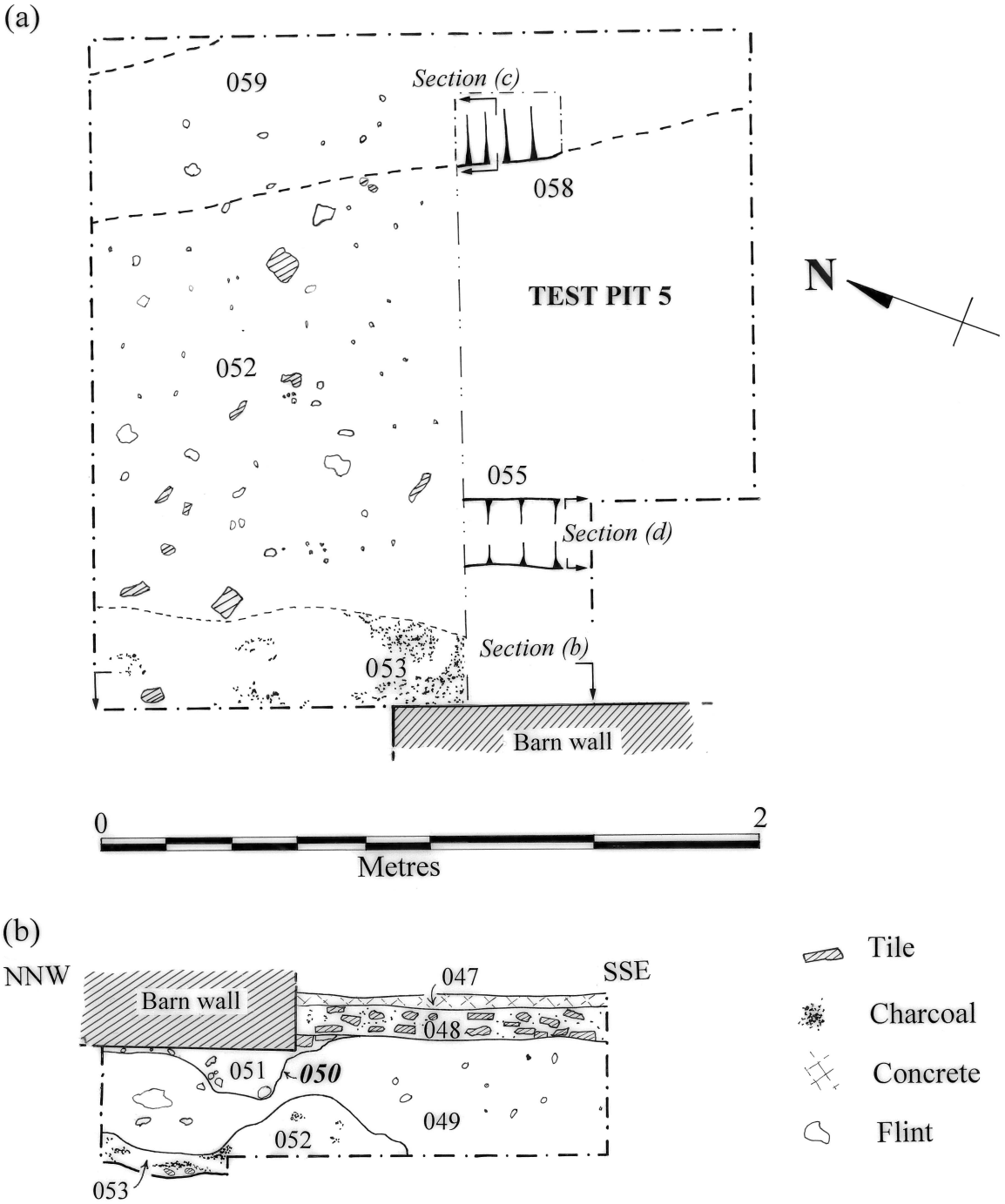
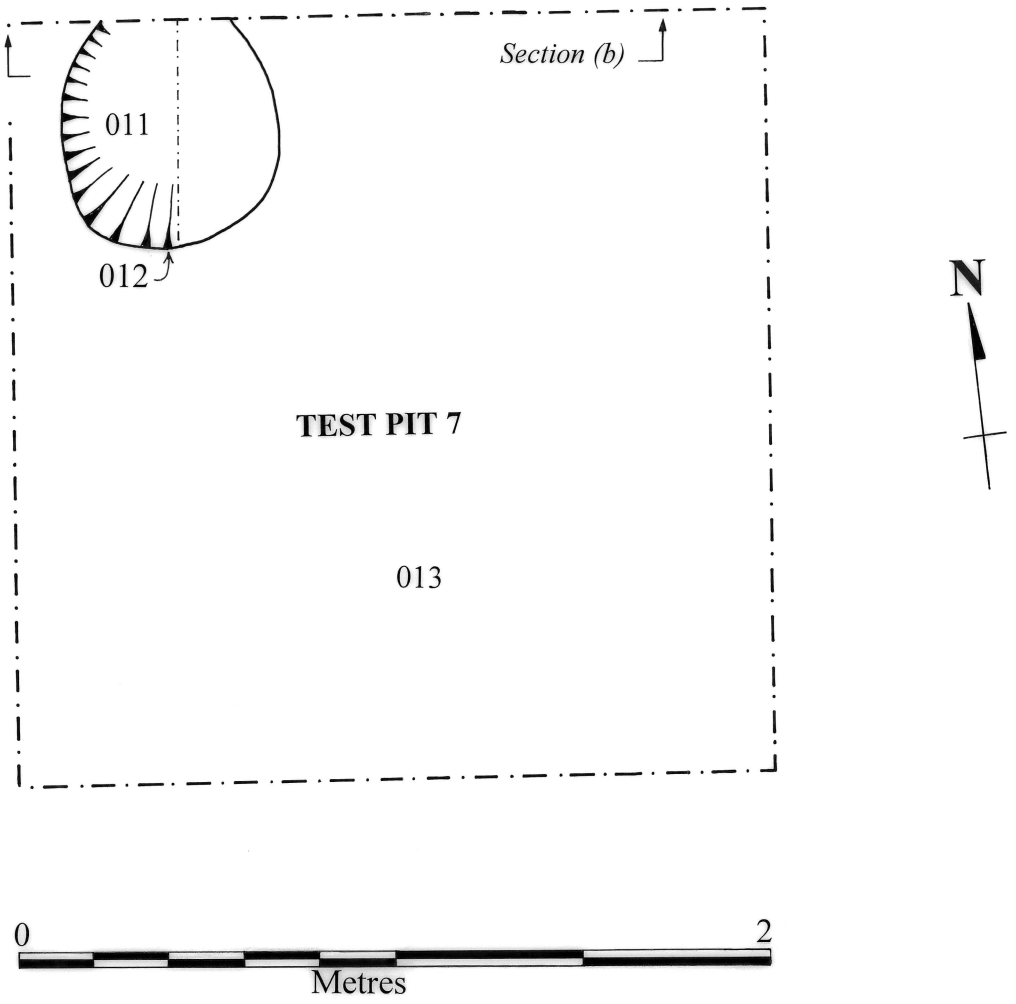


Figure 6: (a) Plan of Test Pit 5 (b) Northeast facing section along western side of Test Pit 5
(c) Section through 058 (d) Section through 055

(a)



(b)

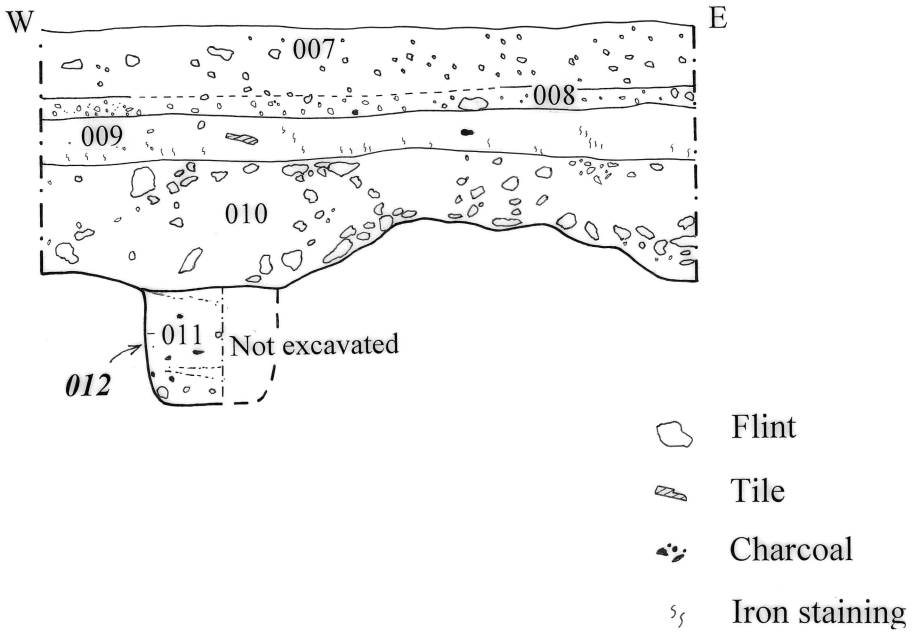
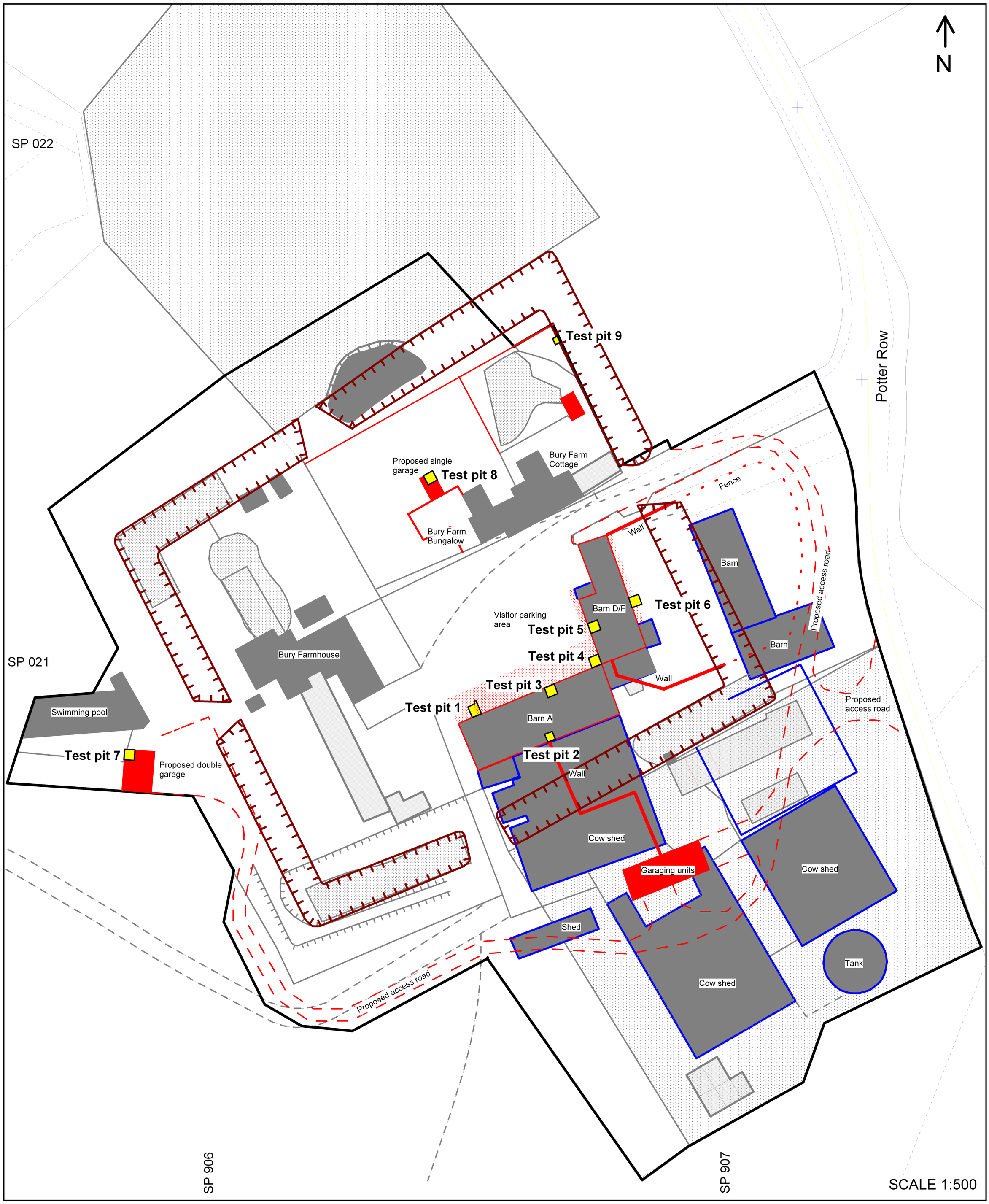


Figure 7: (a) Plan of Test Pit 7, and (b) South-facing section along Test Pit 7



Building (existing)

Building (former)

Other (former)

Proposed development area

Moat

Existing building to be developed

Existing building to be removed

Proposed new buildings

Proposed area of ground reduction

Test pit

MAP 1

Proposed development of Bury Farm and Location of Test Pits 1-7

network archaeology