East Park Farm, Charvil

NGR SU 4778 1754

Archaeological Evaluation Report

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1. SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation at East Park Farm, Charvil on behalf of a Consortium (Laings Homes, Bryant Homes and Charles Church Developments). The area where the house and farm buildings of East Park Farm formerly stood was trenched but only modern deposits were present. A medieval headland visible as a ridge crosses the site from N to S. This headland formed along a ditched boundary which was later used as a trackway to East Park Farm and which continued to the S. In the N of the site prehistoric activity is indicated by a scatter of struck flints over an area of some 5 ha and early Neolithic pottery is present at the E of the site. Within the N-S headland there is a rise in the gravel subsoil with a scoop some 17 m across cut into it. The scoop contains middle Neolithic pottery and struck flint. The soils over the top of the scoop are a distinctive chocolate brown markedly different to the red-brown old ploughsoil overlying the gravel across the rest of the site. This area has been protected from ploughing and it is possible that a prehistoric earthwork survives. One (middle Neolithic) Peterborough ware pit and a tree-throw pit which seemed to be associated with a scatter of flints and sherds of Peterborough ware indicate Neolithic activity. An old stream course at the S of the evaluation area contains a Mesolithic Thames pick (similar to that illustrated on the cover) and one Mesolithic blade

2. INTRODUCTION

In March and April 1996 a field evaluation was carried out by the OAU on behalf of the Consortium (Laing Homes, Bryant Homes and Charles Church Developments) as a part of a condition imposed on planning permission for housing, sports facilities and flood alleviation work at grid reference SU 778 754 (Fig.1).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

East Park Farm lies in an area which has proved to be rich in archaeological remains. In particular there is evidence of extensive prehistoric and Roman activity on the gravel terraces in the valleys of the middle Thames and its tributaries.

A desktop study was commissioned from Oxford Archaeological Associates (Johnson, 1995) by the previous landowner RMC Properties Ltd. This gives detailed information on the known archaeology around the site. There were no known archaeological remains within the evaluation site prior to the evaluation. However, flint artefacts and Roman pottery were recovered from the gravel extraction area immediately to the E.

The site lies close to the confluence of the River Thames and the Loddon (Fig.1). Typically such confluences are the location of extensive Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial landscapes. The Scheduled Ancient Monuments to the NE of Sonning form one such landscape. A middle Neolithic cursus and mortuary enclosures have Bronze Age burial mounds (signified now by cropmarks) aligned off them. Neolithic settlement has been detected near the cursus. Roman activity is also indicated by cropmarks. Some of these appear to be linear ditches aligned along the same axes as the Neolithic ceremonial monuments (Johnson 1995 Fig. 2).

Neolithic and Bronze Age settlements have been located to the E of the evaluation site by the East Berkshire Archaeological Survey (Ford 1987 passim). These are part of a much larger pattern of settlement which was unrecognised before Ford carried out his survey.

The local sites most relevant to the present evaluation are the ritual landscape indicated by the cursus and associated monuments and the settlements to the E (an indication of these sites is shown on Fig. 1).

4. TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site, which has been used for arable, lies on the W edge of the second gravel terrace overlooking the Loddon and covers an area of 25 hectares at a height of around 35 m O.D. A small portion of the site to the W is on the edge of higher terraces at 40.5 m OD. The site is overlooked to the W by 4th terrace deposits.

The natural subsoil across the site consists of sands and gravels. The natural subsoil has been truncated by ploughing across all of the site; there were no clear remains of undisturbed soils (other than in Trench 15 see below). The site is well-drained because of the sandy nature of the subsoil. However, standing water is known on the site in winter.

The site is fairly flat but some rises and two noticeable ridges are clearly visible with a high spot corresponding to the site of East Park Farm (see contours on Fig. 2).

5. EVALUATION STRATEGY

The strategy was based on a 1.5% sample of the area (54 trenches each c1.5 m wide and 30 m long set out in a grid pattern) with an extra 0.5 % sample (a further 18 trenches) to be deployed after on site meetings with Babtie Public Services Division who provide archaeological advice to the Local Planning Authority. The trenches were to be excavated by either a 15 ton 360 degree tracked mechanical excavator or a JCB 3CX. The initial trenches representing a 1.5 % sample were numbered from 1 to 54 with additional trenches denoted by a letter suffix, for example additional trenches to Trench 15 were numbered 15A, etc. (Fig. 2). Sample sections were cleaned and areas of the trenches were hand cleaned as appropriate. In most instances the trenches were machined down to the top of the sands and gravels.

Several trenches were not excavated because either they lay under overhead power cables or they were within the area of old gravel pits. The trenches in the old gravel pits were relocated in the area of sports field. Following the reduction of the area to be sampled the total number of excavated trenches was 54 numbered between 1 and 65 with gaps (NB due to the extensions to several of the trenches the total length of trench dug represents 60 trenches).

The archaeological features encountered were sampled by hand to determine their

nature and depth and to recover dating evidence. The features were planned at a scale of 1:100 (details at 1:50) and their sections drawn at scales of either 1:20 or 1:50.

A program of sieving was also carried out. Approximately 30 litres each of topsoil and old ploughsoil were sieved from either end of each trench (for results see Figs 3 and 4).

6. RESULTS

6.1 Soils

The general soil type is sandy loam. The underlying subsoil is sand or gravel.

6.2 Archaeology

A stream course in the S part of the site shows some Mesolithic activity. The N part of the site (the proposed housing area) shows use in the Neolithic and perhaps Bronze Age. Later prehistoric activity may be indicated by a small amount of pottery and perhaps the shallow ditch and gully.

The dimensions of the features can be found in Table 4.

6.3 Trench description (location of Trenches on Fig.2)

6.3.1 Flood alleviation area (Trenches 35-41, 52 and test pits 46 and 49)

6.3.1.1 Trenches 35, 37, 39, 40, 41 and 52

These trenches were uniformly very shallow with the topsoil 0.3 m deep directly overlying the angular gravel. Few finds were recovered from sieving the soils. A modern posthole cut into the subsoil and sealed by the ploughsoil was found in Trench 35.

6.3.1.2 Trenches 36 and 38

These two trenches revealed parts of a palaeochannel (Fig. 5) whose fills were distinguished by their purple hue caused by manganese staining. In Trench 38 the channel was17 m wide and 1.7 m deep. A wide shallow channel, 0.9 m deep, filled much of Trench 36 and this was cut by a shallower channel 7 m wide and 1.5 m deep. A Mesolithic Thames pick was recovered the upper surface of the gravel at the side of the later channel in Trench 36/6 and a small flint blade was also recovered. The channel was filled with a fine silt 36/4 and the remaining slight depression silted up slowly 36/3. This upper silt contained burnt flint and late prehistoric pottery. Thirty litres of soil was sieved from the lower fills of each channel but no further artefacts were recovered. An environmental sample of the lower fill of the channel in Trench 36 proved sterile.

6.3.1.3 Trenches 46 and 49

Trenches 46 and 49 were machined to a depth of 1.2 m and modern deposits were recorded.

These trenches were merely test-pits as the deposits that they revealed indicated that it was likely that the entire area of the former gravel workings had been truncated by gravel

extraction.

6.3.2 Sports field area (Trenches 29-34, 53 and 60-64)

6.3.2.1 Trenches 31, 32, 33, 34, 53, 60, 61, 62, 63 and 64

These trenches were around 0.45 to 0.6 m deep. A layer of red-brown old ploughsoil averaging 0.3 m deep overlay the sand. Few finds were recovered from the trenches with the exception of trench 34 which contained 2 flakes and one scraper.

6.3.2.2 Trenches 29A and 29, 30 and 32

These trenches covered the former site of East Park Farm (Fig. 11). They all showed extensive truncation of the natural subsoil by modern demolition which was up to 1.25 m deep in trench 32, 0.41 m deep in Trench 29A and 0.26 m deep in Trench 29.

Trench 29A was an irregular shaped trench through the bathroom of the former farmhouse. Wall footings, pipes etc. were visible. The natural sand was overlain by brick and mortar demolition which capped the modern footings (and which rested on concrete). The demolition was sealed by a clay loam.

Trench 29 was 10 m long and contained a single layer of demolition material. Trench 32 was 29.4 m long. The N end of the trench was adjacent to the concrete farmyard surface, some of which was mechanically removed, which sealed the natural sand. 11.5 m from the N end of the trench were the remains of a farm building. The demolition was over 1.25m deep and the instability of the sides precluded detailed recording. For safety reasons the trench was filled as soon as was practicable.

Trench 30 was excavated in the garden of the former farmhouse. A modern ditch, 30/12 with recut 30/14 was aligned parallel to the present hedge at a distance of 7 m . The ditches were 1.4 m and 0.97 m wide and 0.3 m and 0.35 m deep respectively. The ditches were sealed under modern deposits30/4 and 30/5. To the centre of the trench were extensive modern drains.

6.3.3 Housing area (Trenches 1-10, 12-28, 43, 44, 55-59 and 65)

6.3.3.1 Trench 4 (Fig.6)

The sand was capped by a red brown old ploughsoil which filled some plough furrows; topsoil overlies the old ploughsoil. Hand cleaning the trench produced two sherds of early Neolithic pottery and one flint flake was also recovered. Three flakes were recovered from the sieving (Figs 3, 4 and 10).

6.3.3.2 Trench 43(Fig. 6)

The sand was capped by a red brown old ploughsoil which was sealed by topsoil. A small pit 43/4 cut into the sand was sealed by the old ploughsoil. The pit contained 21 sherds of middle Neolithic pottery which was identified as Fengate substyle of the Peterborough Ware. Seven flint flakes were also recovered. An environmental sample was very rich in hazelnut shells and

also contained oak charcoal. These charred plant remains are typical of Neolithic occupation.

A slight E-W ridge was visible in the field. This ridge was seen in Trench 43 as a rise in the natural with chalk patches. A section was cut across the ridge but it was formed of unploughed natural material. The chalk 43/6, which is found deeper in the geological stratigraphic sequence, seems to have been brought to the surface by tree root action.

6.3.3.3 Trenches 5, 23 and 55

These trenches were cut across the E-W ridge seen in Trench 43 with similar results. Late prehistoric pottery and struck flints were recovered (Figs 3, 4 and 10).

6.3.3.4 Field boundary in Trenches 9, 13, 15 , 15A and 59 (figs 7, 8 and 9)

A large N-S, V profile ditch was recorded in Trenches 9, 13, 15, 15A and 59. It was truncated by ploughing and so was sealed beneath old ploughsoils 9/4, 13/3, 15/3, 15A/3 and 59/3. It is possible that the ditch was sealed beneath 59/12 as it was beneath 9/4 (see below) and that 59/12 represents an old ploughsoil rather than an original subsoil. The ditch contained few finds. Flints were found in the ditch Trench 13 and in Trench 59 flints and one Roman and one late prehistoric sherd were recovered from the upper fills. One sherd of late prehistoric pottery was also recovered from the lowest fill. In Trench 15 an old turf line 15/5 was identified in the ditch. This was not identified elsewhere.

6.3.3.5 Headland and trackway(Fig. 9)

A series of Trenches (8, 9, 13, 15, 15A, and 59) were cut across the N-S ridge. The ridge was found to be formed of old ploughsoils and was thus interpreted as a headland. The depth of the old ploughsoils to the gravel was 0.5 m in Trench 15 (not including the modern turf) while in Trenches 8, 9, 13 and 59 the depth of old ploughsoil to the sand was 0.9, 1.1, 1.2 and 0.9 m respectively (Figs 7, 8 and 9).

In Trench 8 an interface 8/6 between the red brown ploughsoils and sand 8/7 contained Bronze Age pottery. A remnant of old ploughsoil 8/5 overlay the interface and was sealed by old ploughsoil 8/4. Both of these layers contained Bronze Age pottery. A sandy layer 8/3 was thought to represent the old trackway and this layer was sealed under old ploughsoil 8/2 which contained Saxon pottery. The ridge was capped by turf and topsoil 8/1.

In Trench 9, as was the case in Trench 8, the ridge was found to be formed from an old ploughsoil 9/3. An interface 9/4 which lay between the sand and old ploughsoil seemed to fill a depression in the sand. This depression may have been formed by medieval ploughing as it overlay the fills of 9/9 a linear ditch.

Two parallel N-S ditches were seen in section in Trench 13 and 15 and one of them was also recorded in Trenches 15A and 59. The ditches cut the old ploughsoils and were sealed by only the modern topsoil and grass. These ditches did not cut the natural sand and the fills were so similar in character to the ploughsoil that they were only seen in section once differential drying had taken place. This might explain their apparent absence from Trenches 8 and 9.

Two hedges are seen in an aerial photograph (Johnson 1995, Fig. 9) forming the trackway and these two ditches are likely to be related to these boundaries..

6.3.3.6 Material sealed by the headland- Trench 9 (Figs 8 and 9)

This trench was cut along the N-S ridge known to be an old trackway, extensions were dug to the E and the W. Two rim sherds of Peterborough Ware were recovered from Trench 9. However, these are from old ploughsoil 9/4 which also contained later prehistoric pottery. Thirty-five flint flakes and other flint items were recovered. These finds were clustered around a tree-throw pit (9/13) with an oak charcoal rich fill which produced two flint flakes and an unidentifiable sherd of pottery.

6.3.3.7 Material sealed by the headland- Trenches 15and 15A (Fig. 7)

Trench 15 was cut across the ridge forming the old trackway, extensions were dug to the N and the S and an additional trench 15A was cut to the SE. A scoop 15/13 which was approximately 17 m across and 0.36 m deep had been cut (either by human or geological action) into the sand and gravel.. The chocolate coloured lower fill of the scoop 15/28 contained nodules of chalk flint. The lower fill was overlain by a grey layer 15/27 and 15A/12 which also extended across the surface of the gravel. An environmental sample of this material contained oak charcoal and a single cereal grain. The finds from 15/11 (undifferentiated fills 15/27 and 15/28) were 3 flints, 6 sherds of Ebbsfleet ware, 6 sherds of other Neolithic pottery and 1 sherd of late prehistoric pottery. 15/27 was overlain by 15/10 which produced 4 flakes, 3 sherds of Neolithic pottery and one sherd of late prehistoric pottery. 15/10 was overlain by 15/26. The presence of Neolithic pottery from the lower of the two 15/10 suggests that it has not been heavily ploughed. The layer 15/14 on the W side of the trench may originally have been the same deposit as 15/26 but it appeared to have been ploughed more heavily. All these layers were capped by old ploughsoil 15/3.

6.3.3.8 Postholes and gully in Trenches 13, 15A and 59

Two postholes were identified in Trench 15A. One of them 15A/6 was excavated and produced a single sherd of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age pottery. A large posthole 59/5 was fully excavated in Trench 59 and had an oak charcoal rich fill which also contained a hazel nut shell and so might be Neolithic. One undated posthole and a small gully 13/9 and 13/10 were excavated in Trench 13.

6.3.3.9 Trench 2 (Fig.5) and Trenches 1 and 3

Two shallow E-W linear features were found cut into the sand and sealed by the old ploughsoil 2/2 in Trench 2. One of them, a small gully 2/4, contained one flake and 1 small sherd of late prehistoric pottery. The slightly larger ditch 2/6 was not dated. A modern large sheep or goat (identified by N Scott) had been buried in a grave 2/9 cut through the old ploughsoil 2/2. Further trenching around these features was deemed inadvisable for safety reasons as the trench lay within a children's play area.

Trenches 1 and 3 were shallow 0.35 and 0.5 m respectively with little old ploughsoil (only 0.05 m in Trench 1). Trench 3 may have been slightly deeper than Trenches 1 and 2 because it was cut through vestigial E-W ridge and furrow.

6.3.3.10 Trenches 12, 18, 24 and 25

These trenches were cut into the slope on the W of the site. The depth of colluvial deposits (including the topsoil) was 0.8, 0.9, 0.8 and 0.72 m respectively. Some material had been dumped following the construction of a sewerage pipe parallel to the road (24/3) and the present topsoil may be made up, in part, of this material.

A small amount of Bronze Age pottery and undiagnostic struck flints was recovered from the ploughsoils in these trenches (Figs 3, 4 and 10). Several tree-throw pits were excavated but none contained finds or obvious charred plant remains.

6.3.3.11 Trenches 10, 14, 26, 27, 28 and 65

These trenches were dug in a slight dip between the foot of the slope and the N-S ridge which formed the old trackway. The topsoil overlay an old ploughsoil which varied in depth from 0.32 to 0.2 m. Few finds were recovered.

6.3.3.12 Trenches 6, 7, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 55, 56 and 57

The sand is capped by an old ploughsoil which fills some plough furrows; topsoil overlies the old ploughsoil. No features were observed in these trenches but some finds were recovered from hand cleaning and sieving (see Figs 3, 4 and 10). Most notable was Trench 6 which contained 4 flakes and 2 sherds of late prehistoric pottery.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 Mesolithic

A single Thames pick was recovered from the surface of the gravel in an old stream course (Fig. 5). Despite further machine excavation to determine the nature of the palaeochannel and sieving 30 litres of channel fill from the lowest deposits no further artefacts were found. An environmental sample proved to be sterile.

The stream course ran roughly E-W and may find its source in the marshy area to the W at the base of the 4th terrace.

6.4.2 *Early Neolithic*

Two sherds of early Neolithic pottery and one flake resulted from hand cleaning Trench 4 (Fig. 6). Although no features were detected in the trench the presence of early Neolithic pottery which is fragile and does not survive prolonged ploughing suggests that the source of this material i.e. a feature (perhaps another pit) lies nearby.

6.4.3 Middle Neolithic (Figs 7 and 8 for plans, sections on Fig. 9)

The natural subsoil in Trenches 13 and 15 was higher than elsewhere (at 35.9 and 35.5 m OD- see Fig. 9) and the gravel had a scoop 17 m across cut into it in Trench 15 (15/13). It is possible that this scoop is a natural hollow. However, nodules of chalk flint, which do not occur naturally on the site, are present in the lower fill (15/28) and struck flints and Neolithic pottery were recovered from the fills (15/27 and 15/28 were undifferentiated during

excavation 15/11). A grey layer (15/27) seals the scoop and an environmental sample from this layer demonstrated the presence of oak charcoal and one cereal grain which, while not diagnostic, is not inconsistent with Neolithic activity. The material (15/10) sealing this grey layer also contained Neolithic pottery and some struck flints. It is possible that the two sherds of sand-tempered pottery identified as later prehistoric in these layers may also be Neolithic. The layers in this trench (15/10, 15/14, 15/17, 15/26, and 15/28 on Fig. 9) were a distinctive chocolate-brown colour which is very different to the red-brown old ploughsoil present on the rest of the site. The upper layer in this sequence appeared to have been ploughed (15/26). The area covered by these layers corresponds to the size of the scoop. Although 15/14 and 15/26 have been ploughed and truncated by the trackway ditches it is possible that part of a mound (signified by the chocolate coloured soils) has partially survived ploughing. The best preserved part of the sequence lies between the two post-medieval trackway ditches (Fig.9).

A small pit excavated in Trench 43 (Fig. 6) produced 21 sherds of middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware pottery (Fengate subtype). The pit also contained a retouched piece of flint, six flakes and 47 pieces of burnt flint. The environmental analysis produced 284 hazelnut shell fragments and oak charcoal.

Trench 9 contained a possible tree-throw pit (9/13 only shown in plan on Fig. 8). This type of feature sometimes contains Neolithic material. Although the excavated fill of the tree-throw pit only contained two flakes and one small unidentifiable sherd of pottery, the ploughsoils around the feature (9/3 and 9/4 in section on Fig. 9) produced two middle Neolithic sherds of Ebbsfleet subtype of Peterborough pottery. In total 35 flint flakes, two scrapers, and one retouched item (a broken chisel arrowhead of late Neolithic date) were recovered. The presence of fragile early prehistoric pottery in the ploughsoils may be explained by their depth. Trench 9 was cut through a ridge which at this point was formed of deep ploughsoils perhaps left as a double headland on either side of a trackway or boundary. The deeper deposits would only have been ploughed a few times, truncating the tree-throw pit but not destroying fragile finds. It should be noted that later prehistoric and medieval pottery were also recovered from these ploughsoils.

One large posthole was found in Trench 59 (in plan on Fig. 7). This contained no dateable material but the charcoal rich fill was sampled and the presence of a hazelnut shell may indicate a Neolithic date (see Robinson below). Two other postholes were found in Trench 15A and one of these was excavated and contained a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age pottery sherd. One slight gully and one posthole were found in the E end of Trench 13. However these were not dated.

6.4.4 Flints

The flint assemblage is Neolithic or Bronze Age in date and may be a result of settlement activity (see also Bradley- flint assessment). Most of the material came from ploughsoils and some concentrations of flint and burnt flint, and for comparison ceramic building material, can be seen from both excavation and sieving (Figs 3, 4 and 10). The distribution of the ceramic building material may be significant as it only occurs N of East Park Farm and S of the E-W ridge.

6.4.5 Bronze Age

Bronze Age pottery was recovered from Trenches 24 and 25 (Fig. 10) at the W of the site but no features were seen. It is possible that this pottery coupled with the worked flints is derived

from a site up the slope on the 4th terrace.

Bronze Age pottery was also recovered from trenches 5, 8, 9 and 23. An E-W ridge was aligned across the site and Trenches 5, 9 and 23 (Figs 2 and 10) were cut across it. The ridge visible in the excavated trenches was formed of unploughed subsoil with chalk patches derived from tree root action. It is possible that this ridge is an indication of a former field boundary and the prehistoric pottery is preserved in its vicinity by a headland of deeper ploughsoil.

6.4.6 Later prehistoric (?middle Iron Age)

A small ditch and a gully were excavated in Trench 2 (Fig. 6). The fill of the gully contained a single sherd of late prehistoric pottery (likely to be of middle Iron Age date- see Barclay below) and as the fills of ditch and gully were similar it is possible they are of similar date. Flint tools including a scraper were also recovered from this trench.

6.4.7 Undated boundary ditch

A large N-S V profiled linear ditch was sectioned and recorded in Trenches 9, 13, 15, 15A and 59 (Figs 7, 8 and 9). The ditch had material similar to the natural subsoil as its lower fills which suggests slippage of the sides. A turf line was seen in Trench 15 but not in the other sections, perhaps because the ditch had been more truncated by ploughing elsewhere. The upper fills were relatively stone free which may indicate slow silting in pasture otherwise pebbles introduced by ploughing might be expected to be present. The upper fills in Trench 59 contained Roman pottery. However, this might be residual.

6.4.8 Post medieval

The farm buildings of East Park Farm (Fig. 11 from 1882 OS map) appear on John Rocque's map of Berkshire (1761). The excavated trenches (29, 29a and 32) showed very modern deposits, including undecomposed plant material, which truncated the natural sands to a depth of around 0.5 m. Trench 30 was excavated in the garden of the house and a modern ditch and drains were recorded.

6.5 Finds

6.5.1 Pottery assessment

By A Barclay

6.5.1.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced 108 sherds (565g) of prehistoric and later pottery. The assemblage is characterised by relatively few featured sherds and is dominated by small abraded body sherds (average sherd weight 5.2g). In the general absence of featured sherds broad dates have been assigned through fabric analysis. The prehistoric assemblage includes material of

the following date ranges Neolithic, early Bronze Age and late Bronze Age-Iron Age. In addition a small quantity of non-prehistoric pottery including late Iron Age/early Roman, Saxon and Medieval/Post-medieval was recorded.

Although the assemblage contains a wide range of material, the discovery of Peterborough Ware from a pit, a hollow and from layers beneath a possible earthwork and all of these deposits apparently within close proximity is of some importance. Further, the location of this domestic site close to the ceremonial complex centred on the Sonning cursus and other middle Neolithic monuments is of great significance.

6.5.1.2 Methodology

All of the material was recorded and quantified by sherd count and weight (see table 2). Broad dates were assigned through fabric analysis. A brief record was made of diagnostic forms and decoration.

6.5.1.3 Fabrics

The assemblage contains few diagnostic sherds and broad dates have been assigned through analysis of the fabrics. Prehistoric sherds from the evaluation occur in either flint or sand tempered fabrics or more rarely as an admixture of the two inclusion types. The few diagnostic Neolithic sherds (see below) were tempered with rare illsorted angular flint. In contrast to this is a range of fabrics containing common calcined flint inclusions which are thought to be of later prehistoric and most likely late Bronze Age date. A single sherd tempered with ?grog and sand could be of early Bronze Age date. A number of sherds from handmade vessels in sand tempered fabrics are also more likely to be of later prehistoric, probably Iron Age date.

6.5.1.4 Forms and decoration

Neolithic

Five rims and a small number of body sherds have been identified as belonging to the Plain Bowl and Peterborough Ware ceramic traditions. A simple everted rim and a body sherd from context 4/2 in a fabric tempered with sparse flint could belong to the Plain Bowl tradition of the earlier Neolithic. Similar rim forms occur elsewhere in the Thames Valley (Robertson-Mackay 1987). Four decorated rims belong to the Ebbsfleet and Fengate substyles of the Peterborough Ware tradition. One sherd from context 15/11 has oblique impressions of twisted cord across the top of the rim and is similar to material recovered from the type site at Ebbsfleet, Kent (Burchell and Piggott 1939). A second rim (Sf129) from context 9E/4 is heavier in style and is decorated all-over with impressed cord maggots (cf. Robertson-Mackay 1987, fig 52). A flint tempered body sherd with finger-nail decoration from 9E/3 can also be attributed to the Peterborough Ware tradition. Context 43/4 produced 21 sherds including decorated rims and body sherds from at least two Fengate Ware vessels.

Later Prehistoric

In contrast to the Neolithic material listed above the later prehistoric assemblage contained

only one simple rim of probable late Bronze Age date (Trench 9 unstratified).

6.5.1.5 Context

The distribution of Plain Bowl and Peterborough Ware is concentrated within a relatively small area of approximately 200 x 200 m. All of this material was of relatively small sherd size and there is no notable difference in size between the sherds recovered from the pit deposit in trench 43 from those recovered from layers within trenches 4, 9 and 15. Later prehistoric material manufactured from either flint or sand tempered fabrics was recovered from trenches 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 15, 18-9, 22-3, 25, 36 and 59. Nearly all of this material was characterised by small and abraded body sherds.

6.5.1.6 Discussion

The sherds of Plain Bowl and the Peterborough Ware could indicate middle Neolithic settlement activity in the later 4th and early 3rd millennia cal BC. The deposition of Peterborough Ware within pits, natural hollows and as surface material is quite common. The currency of Peterborough Ware is known to have overlapped with the construction and use of cursus monuments (cf. Holgate 1988, 368-9; Gibson 1994). The proximity of the Charvil material to the Sonning cursus is of some significance and the two areas of activity are likely to be contemporary. In fact the excavation of a long enclosure of probable middle Neolithic date near to the cursus produced a sherd of Peterborough Ware (Slade 1963-4, 17). The later prehistoric pottery is mostly flint tempered and of probable late Bronze Age date. Later Bronze Age pottery is very common in the middle Thames and lower Kennet valleys where several large domestic assemblages have been recorded (Barrett 1980). At Charvil the assemblage of small and abraded sherds could indicate the close proximity of later prehistoric occupation or the insubstantial nature of the immediate settlement. In addition, the small number of sand tempered prehistoric sherds could indicate some middle Iron Age activity.

6.5.1.7 Non-prehistoric pottery

In addition a small number of non-prehistoric sherds were recovered. Trench contexts 57/2, 59/3 and 59/6 produced a small number of late Iron Age/early Roman sherds. A grass and sand tempered sherd of Saxon date came from context 8/2 and medieval and post-medieval sherds were recovered from contexts 9E/3, 13/3, 21/1, 23/1, 26/1, 30/5 and 15/12 (see table 2).

6.5.2 Flint Assessment (See Table 1)

by Philippa Bradley

6.5.2.1 Introduction

Two hundred and fifty-five pieces of worked flint and approximately 298 pieces of burnt unworked flint were recovered from the evaluation. The flint was briefly scanned and limited recording undertaken to allow the assemblage to be quantified and characterised. The burnt unworked flint was simply scanned and not recorded, the quantification of this material is

therefore approximate. Assemblage composition is summarised in Table 1 and in more detail by trench in Table 4.

The flint is generally mid-dark brown in colour with a white, buff or grey cortex. The majority of the material is abraded and battered, consistent with its recovery from ploughsoil and other superficial contexts. Cortication varied from very light to medium. One or two pieces seem to have been reworked, for example, a tested nodule from 9/1 and a core rejuvenation flake from 36/3. One or two pieces of Bullhead flint were also noted (Shepherd 1972, 114). The raw material would have been available in the locality. The burnt unworked flint is mainly very heavily burnt being white or grey and cracked.

6.5.2.2 Dating and technology

Few diagnostic retouched forms were recovered (see Table 1). Scrapers are the most common retouched form together with retouched flakes and miscellaneous retouched pieces. Six end and side scrapers and four end scrapers were recovered. Generally these were neatly retouched on thin non-cortical blanks. The retouched flakes are mostly irregularly retouched and may have been used for a variety of cutting and scraping purposes. These retouched forms would be consistent with a Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Two possible but fragmentary chisel arrowheads were recovered from 9E/4 and 17/1 indicating a later Neolithic date. Chisel arrowheads are frequently associated the Woodlands substyle of Grooved Ware (Green 1984, 33). Peterborough Ware associations are also known (Edmonds 1995, 100). A 'Thames pick' of Mesolithic date was recovered from 36/5 and a possible pick from the surface (Sf 213). The pick from the surface is not particularly diagnostic and may date from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age.

Hard hammers seem to have been almost exclusively used, prominent bulbs of percussion dominate, and butts are either plain or cortical. Hinge fractures and other accidents of knapping were frequently recorded. This material would appear to be Neolithic or Bronze Age in date.

Occasional soft-hammer struck flakes and two blade-like flakes were recovered, for example, from 30/8, 8/5, 5/1W, 9/4 and 43/4. Some flakes with parallel blade scars on their dorsal faces were also recovered from 57/1 and 9/W/3. There were also some blade-like scars on the core from 24/2. The two core rejuvenation flakes indicate some concern with the maintenance of platforms. One of these flakes from 36/3 had two phases of flaking. This material may indicate earlier activity although it is quite insubstantial and without datable artefacts little more may be said of it. One of the soft-hammer struck blade-like flakes was recovered from 43/4, a pit with Peterborough Ware pottery.

6.5.2.3 Discussion

Although the dating of the material is somewhat tentative, given the lack of diagnostic retouched forms, a broad range of the Neolithic to the Bronze Age may be envisaged. The 'Thames pick' is of Mesolithic date but it is not a sufficiently diagnostic type to provide a narrower date range (*cf* Field 1989, 7, 12). The assemblage would seem to be of a domestic character, dominated by scrapers and retouched flakes. The flint was distributed unevenly across the area examined; a concentration was noted in the area of trenches 8, 9, 15, 55 and 59. Trenches 2, 43 and 36 each produced a relatively large number of pieces of flint. The flint

from these trenches did not stand out from the rest of the assemblage. The retouched forms are mostly scrapers and retouched flakes. The test pit sieving produced relatively few pieces of flint.

6.5.3 Environmental

by Dr. Mark Robinson

Charred Plant Remains from East Park Farm, Charvil (CHPK 96)

Samples were taken for charred plant analysis from a variety of archaeological deposits at East Park Farm, Charvil. The samples were floated onto a 0.5 mm mesh and the flots dried. The flots were then sorted at x10 magnification under a binocular microscope for charred remains. The results are listed in Table 3.

Context 9/12, a possible tree-throw hole, contained much oak charcoal whereas charred remains were absent from an undated ditch (Contexts 13/6, 13/15), a post-medieval ditch (Context 15/17) and a palaeochannel fill (Context 36/4). An extensive layer of possible prehistoric date contained varying amounts of oak charcoal and a single wheat grain (Contexts 15A/12, 15/27+28). The fill of a middle Neolithic pit yielded numerous charred hazel nut shell fragments and some oak charcoal (Context 43/4) while a hazel nut shell fragments and some oak charcoal was also found from an undated post hole (Context 59/4).

The large quantity of charcoal from the tree-throw pit would suggest that the remains of the tree were burnt out after it had fallen. Little can be said about the extensive layer of possible prehistoric date other than it contained charred plant remains derived from human activity. The oak charcoal and large numbers of hazel nut shell fragments from the middle Neolithic pit are typical of settlement features of this date although a few charred cereal grains are often found in addition to the nut shells. The occurrence of a hazel nut shell fragment in the post hole hints that it too could have been of Neolithic date.

6.5.4 Bone

The remains of a modern sheep/goat (identified by N Scott) were found in Trench 2. The only other bone from the site were very badly preserved unidentifiable pieces from the upper silts of the linear ditch.

7. COMMENTS ON THE RESULTS

7.1 Reliability of field investigation

The interpretation of early prehistoric sites revealed in narrow trenches is problematic. The exact location of the relatively insubstantial remains of settlement sites of this date cannot be predicted easily. However, with this proviso it is felt that the aim of establishing the presence or absence of archaeological remains has been met. The extent of the material representing this settlement activity has been determined. The nature of the settlement has been identified even if the actual

component features (i.e. pits etc.) have not been located.

The nature of the scoop and possible earthwork revealed in Trench 15 has been tentatively established but further work is required to define in full what the these deposits represent.

7.2 Overall Interpretation

The evaluation has revealed early prehistoric settlement across the area of the housing development with little later activity apart from the impact of agriculture (for finds found during hand excavation see Fig. 11).

The Mesolithic Thames Pick from the stream course is likely to be a single find with no associated site. This would be relatively common for this type of artefact. A Mesolithic settlement which may have been the source of the pick has been identified further up the Loddon (Ford 1987, Fig. 23).

Most of the early prehistoric material is associated with the two ridges which run across the site (Figs 2 and 10). It is possible that the headlands formed by ploughing have preserved archaeological features (Fig. 9). Both of these ridges can be seen as field boundaries on a 1763 map of '*A plan of the Joint Estates belonging to [name omitted] and Others situate in the Parishes of Sunning, Hurst, Ruscomb and Wokingham in the County of Berks*' (Johnson, 1995, Fig. 4).

The presence of early Neolithic pottery in a ploughsoil, such as in Trench 4, is rare. The pottery is likely to be derived from a nearby feature which has survived the plough. The Peterborough Ware pit, in Trench 43, and the tree-throw pit, in Trench 9, indicate settlement activity. The nature of the scoop cut into a gravel highspot, in Trench 15, whether natural or man-made, is unclear. However, the scoop contains evidence for Neolithic occupation which can be paralleled elsewhere, at Cannons Hill for example (Bradley et al 1974 cited by Ford 1987). There are postholes around the scoop. The fill of the scoop and the gravel are overlain by a grey layer which may be part of an old ground surface. This layer contains oak charcoal and one cereal seed and is overlain by a layer containing Neolithic pottery which would not survive ploughing (see above). The presence of this layer and the height of the gravel suggests an arae which has been protected from ploughing more than the rest of the site. The presence of Neolithic activity in large scoop is relatively well known if uncommon. However, the presence of ?Neolithic postholes is not common and supports the view that this part of the ridge has remained relatively unploughed. The large amount of chocolate coloured soil may indicate a partially ploughed out mound covering the scoop.

The two small features in Trench 2 are tentatively dated by pottery as later prehistoric. A concentration of finds was recovered from the trench but it is unclear if the finds are related to the features given the spread of earlier material across the site.

The N-S undated linear ditch is likely to have been a field boundary. It is common to find boundaries aligned off landscape features and the gravel high spot (or the putative mound) may have been such a feature. The upper fills of the ditch contain Roman and later prehistoric pottery but these finds could be residual and give no clear date for the ditch. This boundary seems to have become fossilised in the landscape as a trackway defined by two ditches.

It is possible that the area to the S of the E-W ridge has been less ploughed than that

to the N. The distribution of ceramic building material, while not conclusive, indicates a different agricultural regime. In support of this is the old field name of this area `Home Close' (Johnson, 1995, Fig.5) which might indicate use as a paddock rather than a field during part of the 18th or 19th centuries.

7.3 Conclusions

The evaluation has revealed Neolithic settlement activity. This activity has relatively good feature preservation (postholes and the scoop) and a large amount of Neolithic pottery was recovered considering the 2% sample size. The preservation of Palaeoenvironmental material was poor apart from charred plant remains. The Bronze Age material may be derived from a nearby site as Bronze Age occupation sites are commonly identified by large assemblages of pottery which is absent on this site. The tentatively dated later prehistoric ditch and gully do not seem to represent domestic activity as, again, there are few finds to support this contention. The alignment of the linear boundary ditch off a gravel highspot or landscape feature may be significant given the Roman ditches aligned off Neolithic ceremonial monuments NE of Sonning. The other material on the site is either modern or likely to be derived from nearby settlement.

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8. APPENDICES

8.1 Bibliography

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Table 1 Flint Summary composition

Flakes	Blade-like flakes	Irregular waste	Chips	Cores/core fragments	Retouched forms	Total	Burnt unworked flint
204*	2	11	2	12 (4 tested nodules, 3 single platform, 5 fragments)	24 (10 scrapers, 2 core tools, 9 retouched flakes, 3 miscellaneous retouch)	255	298

- Including two core rejuvenation flakes (face/edge)

Table 2: Pottery; quantification of sherds (number and weight) by context and date.

Context/SF no	Neolithic	Early Bronze Age	Later prehistoric	late Iron Age and Roman	Saxon, medieval and post-medieval	Indeterminate	Total
US			1, 5g (rim)				1, 5g
2/3			1, 8g				1, 8g
4/2	2, 16g (rim)						2, 16g
5/2 5/2E			4, 11g 1, 8g				4, 11g 1, 8g
6/3			2, 18g				2, 18g
8/2 8/4 8/5 8/6			 4, 16g 2, 13g 2, 14g		1, 6g		1, 6g 4, 16g 2, 13g 2, 14g
9E/3 9/4 9/E4 9/W4 9/12	1, 12g 1, 10g		 3, 10g 3, 38g 2, 6g 1, 1g		1, 5g		2, 17g 3, 10g 4, 48g 2, 6g 1, 1g
13/3					1, 14g		1, 14g
14/2						crumbs 2g	crumbs 2g

Context/SF no	Neolithic	Early Bronze Age	Later prehistoric	late Iron Age and Roman	Saxon, medieval and post-medieval	Indeterminate	Total
15/3 15/A/5 15/A/9 15/10 15/11 15/12 15/A/12 15/15 15/17	 3, 9g 12, 33g 2, 2g		1, 2g 1, 10g 8, 15g 1, 3g 1, 4g 1, 1g 1, 1g 1, 10g		 1, 3g	 1, 1g	1, 2g 1, 10g 8, 15g 4, 12g 13, 37g 2, 4g 3, 3g 1, 1g 1, 10g
18/2			1, 1g				1, 1g
19/2			2, 5g				2, 5g
21/1					1, 5g		1, 5g
22/3			1, 11g				1, 11g
23/1 23/2			 2, 2g		1, 5g		1, 5g 2, 2g
24/4		1, 9g					1, 9g
25/4			1, 10g				1, 10g
26/1					1, 3g		1, 3g
30/5					2, 110g		2, 110g

Context/SF no	Neolithic	Early Bronze Age	Later prehistoric	late Iron Age and Roman	Saxon, medieval and post-medieval	Indeterminate	Total
36/2 36/3			1, 6g 1, 3g				1, 6g 1, 3g
43/4	21, 50g						21, 50g
57/2				1, 7g			1, 7g
59/3 59/6 59/9 59/11			 1, 1g 1, 3g	1, 26g 1, 1g			1, 26g 1, 1g 1, 1g 1, 3g
Total	42, 132g	1, 9g	52, 236g	3, 34g	9, 151g	1+, 3g	108, 565g

Table 3: **Charred Plant Remains**

Context	Sample	Volume (litres)	*Corylus avellana* (hazel) nut shell fragments	*Triticum* sp. (wheat) grain	*Quercus* sp. (oak) charcoal
9/12	10-13	56	-	-	+++
13/6	18	18	-	-	-
13/15	19	16	-	-	-
15A/12	20	62	-	-	+
15/12	6-9	60	-	-	++
15/17	2-5	62	-	-	-
15/27+28	21	58	-	1	+
36/4	14	18	-	-	-
43/4	1	15	284	-	++
59/4	15-17	38	1	-	++

charcoal: + present, ++ some, +++ much

Table 4: Contexts, description and finds

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
1	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
1	2	Interface between natural and topsoil			0.05	
1	3	Natural sand, silt and gravel				
2	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
2	2	?Interface between natural and topsoil			0.1	flakes (6), scraper (1), retouched flake (1), core (1)
2	3	Fill of gully	2+	0.5	0.2	flake (1), late prehistoric pottery (1)
2	4	Linear gully filled by 2/3	2+	0.5	0.2	
2	5	Fill of ditch	1.7+	1.4	0.4	
2	6	Linear ditch with U profile filled by 2/5	1.7+	1.4	0.4	
2	7	Partially exposed animal skeleton				large sheep or goat
2	8	Fill of animal grave		0.8 diameter	0.2	flake (1)
2	9	Grave cut		0.8 diameter	0.2	
2	10	Natural sand				
3	1	Topsoil and turf			0.26	
3	2	Possible ridge and furrow ploughsoil			0.3	flake (1), retouched flake(1)
3	3	Natural sand and gravel				
4	1	Topsoil and turf			0.26	
4	2	Interface between natural and topsoil			0.07	flake (1), Early Neolithic (2), fired clay (1)
4	3	Natural sand				
5	1	Topsoil and turf			0.32	flake (2)
5	2	Yellowish ploughsoil			0.18	flake (2), scraper (1) late prehistoric pottery (4), Late Bronze Age pottery (1)
5	3	Lower ploughsoil			0.22	
5	4	Natural sand				
6	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
6	2	Old ploughsoil			0.32	
6	3	Interface between natural and ploughsoil			0.12	flake (4), late prehistoric pottery (2)
6	4	Natural silt and sand				
7	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
7	2	Old ploughsoil			0.3	
7	3	Natural silt and sand				
8	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
8	2	Old ploughsoil			0.35	Saxon (1)
8	3	Remains of trackway			0.4	
8	4	Lower reddish brown ploughsoil			0.4	Flakes (13), Late Bronze Age pottery (4)
8	5	Earliest surviving ploughsoil in trench 8			0.2	Flake (1), Late Bronze Age pottery (2)
8	6	Interface between ploughsoil and natural			0.1	Late Bronze Age pottery (2)
8	7	Natural silt and sand				
trenches 9, 9E, 9W		Contexts 9/1 to 9/14 also apply to trenches 9, 9E, and 9W				
9	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	flake (1)
9	2	Yellowish brown ploughsoil			0.2	
9	3	Reddish brown lower ploughsoil			0.8	Flakes (15), waste (4), scraper (1), medieval pottery (1), flakes (11), waste (2), retouched item (1), middle Neolithic pottery (1)
9	4	Lower sandy deposit between natural and ploughsoil			0.2	blade-like flake (1), late prehistoric pottery (6), middle Neolithic (1)
9	5	Natural silt and sand				
9	6	Fill of ditch (Only taken down to safety limit of 1.2m)		1.8	0.22+	
9	7	NNW/SSE aligned linear ditch filled by 9/6. Also located in trenches 9W, 15, 15A, and 59.		1.8	0.22+	
9	8	Fill of ditch		1.2	0.7	

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
9	9	NNW/SSE aligned linear ditch filled by 9/8. (Trench 9W)		1.2	0.7	
9	10	Fill of possible linear feature (Trench 9W)	1.6+	1.0	0.2	
9	11	Possible linear feature aligned N/S (Trench 9W)	1.6+	1.0	0.2	
9	12	Fill of pit with high ash and charcoal content	1.6	0.9	0.25	flake (2), late prehistoric pottery (1)
9	13	Slightly irregular pit filled by 9/12	1.6	0.9	0.25	
9	14	Large shallow scoop largely containing 9/4	25.0 approx.	10.0 approx.	0.2	
10	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
10	2	Old ploughsoil			0.35	flakes (2)
10	3	Natural gravel silt and sand				
11		Trench not excavated				
12	1	Topsoil and turf			0.35	
12	2	Old ploughsoil			0.45	flakes (2)
12	3	Natural sand and silt				
13	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
13	2	Yellowish old ploughsoil			0.14	
13	3	Lower reddish old ploughsoil			0.46 max.	Waste (1), Core (2), Medieval pottery (1)
13	4	Context not used				
13	5	Context not used				
13	6	Upper fill of linear ditch 13/7		1.65	0.35	Flake (2)
13	7	NNW/SSE aligned linear ditch Filled by contexts 6, 13, 14, and 15.		1.65	0.75	
13	8	Fill of possible linear gully	0.5+	0.3	0.25	
13	9	Terminal end of possible linear gully. Filled by 13/8	0.5+	0.3	0.25	
13	10	Fill of posthole		0.3 diameter	0.05	
13	11	Possible posthole filled by 13/10		0.3 diameter	0.05	
13	12	Natural sand and gravel				
13	13	Tertiary fill of ditch 13/7		1.0	0.2	

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
13	14	Primary sandy fill of ditch 13/7		0.8	0.1	scraper (1), flake (1)
13	15	Secondary fill of ditch 13/7		1.4	0.4	
13	16	Fill of eastern linear track side ditch		2.15	0.7	
13	17	Eastern N/S aligned linear track side ditch. (Possibly more than one cut)		2.15	0.7	
13	18	Clean greyish layer deposited to west of ditch 13/7	1.6+	4	0.15	
13	19	Fill of western linear track side ditch		1.3	0.35	
13	20	Western N/S aligned linear track side ditch. (Possibly more than one cut)		1.3	0.35	
14	1	Topsoil and turf			0.32	
14	2	Old ploughsoil			0.2	unidentified pottery (1)
14	3	Natural silt and sand				
15	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	Flake (1)
15	2	Yellowish old ploughsoil			0.2	
15	3	Reddish brown lower ploughsoil			0.4	late prehistoric pottery (1)
15	4	Upper fill of linear ditch 15/9		1.8	0.36	
15	5	Possible turf line within linear ditch 15/9		1.4	0.1	
15	6	Tertiary fill of linear ditch 15/9		0.74	0.17	
15	7	Secondary fill of ditch 15/9		0.52	0.15	
15	8	Primary fill of ditch 15/9		0.29	0.17	
15	9	NNW/SSE aligned linear ditch filled by 15/4, 15/5, 15/6, 15/7 and 15/8.		1.76	0.95	
15	10	Fill of possible large scoop feature 15/11. Later separated into three layers (see Ctx. 27 and28)			0.36	flake (4), Neolithic pottery (3) late prehistoric pottery (1)
15	11	Possible large shallow scoop feature. Same as 15/13		17.0 diameter approx.	0.36+	flake (3), scraper (1), Middle Neolithic pottery (12), late prehistoric pottery (1)
15	12	Fill of possible large scoop feature 15/13 in southern extension of trench 15			0.22	flake (4), late prehistoric pottery (1)
15	13	Possible large shallow scoop feature. Same as 15/11		17.0 diameter approx.	0.22	

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
15	14	Possible ploughsoil or ploughed out 'mound' material. Same as 15/26 to the east		5.0	0.45	
15	15	possible scoop feature on W of Trench filled by 15/14				flake (2), pottery (1)
15	16	Lower fill of scoop. Possibly same as 15/10			0.36+	
15	17	Scoop. Box section excavated to west of 15/11. Same as 15/11				Flake (7), late prehistoric pottery (1)
15	18	`cut' containing 15/17				
15	19	Context not used				
15	20	Context not used				
15	21	Lower fill of scoop in western excavated box section. Also present in base of southern trench			0.2+	
15	22	Fill of western track side ditch obliquely sectioned by southern extension to trench 15		5.0	0.8	
15	23	Western N/S aligned track side ditch. Possibly more than one cut. Filled by 15/22		5.0	0.8	
15	24	Fill of linear eastern track side ditch 15/25		4.5	0.8	
15	25	Eastern N/S aligned track side ditch. Possibly more than one cut. Filled by 15/24		4.5	0.8	
15	26	Possible ploughsoil/ploughed 'mound' material		6.0+	0.45	
15	27	Greyish layer extending over scoop fill and natural gravel	5.0		0.1	
15	28	Originally recorded all as 15/10. 15/28 is lower part of this fill			0.1	
15A	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
15A	2	Yellowish old ploughsoil			0.25	
15A	3	Reddish brown old ploughsoil			0.45	
15A	4	Context not used				
15A	5	Fill of possible shallow posthole	0.37	0.29	0.06	Late prehistoric pottery (1)
15A	6	Possible posthole filled by 15A/5	0.37	0.29	0.06	
15A	7	Natural sand and silt				
15A	8	Context not used				
15A	9	Possible ploughed 'mound' material as in trench 15			0.25	flake (1), late prehistoric pottery (8)

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
15A	10	NNW/SSE aligned linear ditch filled by 15A/15 and 15A/11		1.65	0.75	
15A	11	Primary fill of linear ditch 15A/10		1.1	0.25	
15A	12	Greyish layer, same as 15/27	2.1+		0.1	flake (1), Neolithic pottery (2), late Prehistoric pottery (1)
15A	13	Eastern N/S aligned track side ditch. Possibly more than one cut. Filled by 15A/14		4.2	0.9	
15A	14	Fill of eastern track side ditch		4:2	0.9	
15A	15	Upper fill of linear ditch 15A/10		1.65	0.35	
16	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
16	2	Old ploughsoil			0.32	
16	3	Natural silt and sand				
17	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	retouched flake (1)
17	2	Old ploughsoil			0.38	
17	3	Natural silt and sand				
18	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	flake (1)
18	2	Old ploughsoil or colluvium			0.6	late prehistoric pottery (1)
18	3	Natural silt, sand and gravel				
19	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
19	2	Old ploughsoil			0.33	late prehistoric pottery (2)
19	3	Natural silt and sand				
19	4	Fill of possible pit	0.6	0.45	0.04	
19	5	Very shallow pit filled by 19/4	0.6	0.45	0.04	
19	6	Fill of possible posthole		0.2 diameter	0.02	
19	7	Very shallow ?posthole filled by 19/6		0.2 diameter	0.02	
19	8	Fill of possible posthole		0.2 diameter	0.02	
19	9	Very shallow ?posthole filled by 19/8		0.2 diameter	0.02	
19	10	Fill of pit	0.55	0.25	0.1	flake (1), core (1)
19	11	Small pit filled by 19/10	0.55	0.25	0.1	
19	12	Fill of possible posthole		0.2 diameter	0.03	

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
19	13	Very shallow ?posthole filled by 19/12		0.2 diameter	0.03	
19	14	Fill of possible posthole	0.4	0.35	0.03	
19	15	Very shallow ?posthole filled by 19/14	0.4	0.35	0.03	
19	16	Fill of possible posthole		0.2 diameter	0.02	
19	17	Very shallow ?posthole filled by 19/16		0.2 diameter	0.02	
20	1	Topsoil and turf			0.32	
20	2	Old ploughsoil			0.33	
20	3	Natural silt and sand				scraper (1), waste (1)
21	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	flake (1)
21	2	Old ploughsoil			0.23	
21	3	Natural silt and sand				
22	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
22	2	Old ploughsoil			0.2	
22	3	Natural silt and sand				late prehistoric pottery (1)
23	1	Topsoil and turf			0.26	flakes (3), CBM medieval pottery(1)
23	2	Old ploughsoil			0.46	?late prehistoric pottery (2)
23	3	Natural clayey silt and gravel				
23	4	Natural feature				
24	1	Topsoil and turf			0.2	
24	2	Old plough soil			0.2	
24	3	Upcast from sewer pipe construction			0.2	
24	4	Lower ploughsoil			0.4	flake (1), early Bronze Age pottery (1)
24	5	Natural sand and silt				
25	1	Topsoil and turf			0.15	Unstratified from spoil;flakes (3), core (1) and blade-like flake (1)
25	2	Old ploughsoil			0.2	
25	3	Upcast from sewer pipe construction			0.12	
25	4	Lower old ploughsoil			0.4	Late prehistoric pottery (1)

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
25	5	Natural sand and silt				
26	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	medieval pottery (1)
26	2	Old ploughsoil			0.38	
26	3	Lower old ploughsoil			0.24	
26	4	Interface between natural and ploughsoil			0.08	
26	5	Natural sand and silt				
27	1	Topsoil and turf			0.34	
27	2	Old ploughsoil			0.28	
27	3	Natural sand and silt				
28	1	Topsoil and turf			0.27	
28	2	Possible old ploughsoil			0.11	flake (1)
28	3	Lower old ploughsoil			0.42	
28	4	Natural sand and silt				
29	1	Rubble layer associated with modern farmyard demolition			0.49	
29	2	Demolition rubble layer	9.0+		0.16	
29	3	Chalk rubble dump			0.1	
29	4	Demolition rubble layer	5.5+			
29A	1	Topsoil covering demolition layers			0.27	
29A	2	Demolition layer of brick and mortar			0.41	
29A	3	Natural sand and silt				
29A	4	Organic buried garden soil			0.2	
29A	5	Gravel and clay dumping			0.06	
30	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
30	2	Possible plough furrow	1.6+	2.3	0.15	
30	3	Old ploughsoil			0.4	
30	4	Dumped deposit over top of ditch fills		1.34	0.14	
30	5	Spread covering primary ditch fills	4.15+		0.25	post-medieval pottery (2), CBM
30	6	Old ploughsoil cut by ditches 30/12 and 30/14			0.3	
30	7	Natural sand and silt overlying gravel				

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
30	8	Natural				
30	9	Natural				
30	10	Natural				
30	11	Fill of ditch 30/12	1.6+	0.97	0.35	CBM
30	12	Probable linear ditch	1.6+	0.97	0.35	
30	13	Fill of ditch 30/14	1.6+	1.4	0.3	
30	14	Probable linear ditch	1.6+	1.4	0.3	
31	1	Topsoil and turf			0.25	
31	2	Old ploughsoil			0.3	
31	3	Natural sand and gravel				
32	1	Demolition debris and topsoil			0.23-1.25 at southern end	
32	2	Mixed natural and demolition debris	11.5+		0.1+	
33	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
33	2	Old ploughsoil			0.25	
33	3	Natural sand and silt				
33	4	Natural sand and gravel				
34	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	flake (1)
34	2	Old ploughsoil			0.3	flake (1), scraper (1)
34	3	Natural sand and silt				
35	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
35	2	Old ploughsoil			0.2	
35	3	Natural sand and gravel				
35	4	Natural sand and silt				
35	5	Single posthole filled by 35/6		0.4 diameter	0.12+	
35	6	Fill of posthole		0.4 diameter	0.12+	
36	1	Topsoil and turf			0.25	
36	2	Old ploughsoil			0.2	late prehistoric pottery (1)
36	3	Upper fill of palaeo-channel		4.5+	0.4	rejuvenation flake/core (1), flake

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
						(2), retouched flake (1), late prehistoric pottery (1)
36	4	Main fill of channel extending along length of the trench			0.7	flake (2)
36	5	Possible earlier palaeo-channel deposit				flake (1), fired clay (10)
36	6	Latest palaeo-channel cut		4.5+	1.2	
36	7	Gravely fill of channel		0.4+	0.15	
36	8	Silt and sand lower fill of palaeo-channel		1.0+	0.4+	
37	1	Topsoil and turf			0.32	
37	2	Natural silt, sand and gravel				
38	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
38	2	Upper fill of possible palaeo-channel			0.35	
38	3	Manganese stained fill on southern edge of channel		3.0	0.25	
38	4	Central fill of channel		3.5+	0.3	
38	5	Lower fill of channel		3.5+	0.4	
38	6	Same as 38/3 on northern edge of channel		3.0+	0.5	
39	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
39	2	Natural silt, sand and gravel				
40	1	Topsoil and turf			0.4	
40	2	Natural silt, sand and gravel				
41	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
41	2	Natural silt, sand and gravel				
42		Trench not excavated				
43	1	Topsoil and turf			0.15	
43	2	Old ploughsoil			0.2	retouched item (1)
43	3	Lower old ploughsoil			0.34	
43	4	Fill of shallow pit containing pottery and charcoal		0.42 diameter	0.13	flakes (7), chip (1), middle Neolithic pottery (Fengate Ware) (21), fired clay (2)
43	5	Shallow pit filled by 43/4		0.42 diameter	0.13	

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
43	6	Fill of irregular hollows across trench			0.1	
43	7	Natural sand and silt				
44	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
44	2	Colluvium			0.72	
44	3	Natural silt and sand				
45		Trench not excavated				
46	1	Topsoil			0.1	
46	2	Modern rubble layer			0.9	
46	3	Natural clay and gravel				
47		Trench not excavated				
48		Trench not excavated				
49	1	Topsoil			0.12	
49	2	Modern rubble layer			0.9	
49	3	Natural clay and gravel				
50		Trench not excavated				
51		Trench not excavated				
52	1	Topsoil and turf			0.35	
52	2	Natural silt, sand and gravel				
53	1	Topsoil and turf			0.26	
53	2	Old ploughsoil			0.32	
53	3	Natural sand and silt				flake (1)
53	4	Disturbed deposit	15.5+			
54		Trench not excavated				
55	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	retouched flake (2), tested nodule (1), flake (1)
55	2	Interface between natural and topsoil			0.15	
55	3	Natural sand and silt				
56	1	Topsoil and turf			0.32	
56	2	Old ploughsoil			0.14	

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
56	3	Natural sand and silt				
57	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
57	2	Old ploughsoil			0.3	late Iron Age/early Roman pottery (1)
58	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
58	2	Interface between topsoil and natural			0.1	
58	3	Natural sand and silt				
59	1	Topsoil and turf			0.35	core (1), late prehistoric pottery (1)
59	2	Yellowish old ploughsoil			0.18	
59	3	Reddish brown lower old ploughsoil			up to 0.6	flake (1), late Iron Age/early Roman pottery (1)
59	4	Fill of posthole containing charcoal	0.45	0.3	0.33	flake (2)
59	5	Posthole filled by 59/4	0.45	0.3	0.33	
59	6	Upper fill of linear ditch		1.3	0.3	waste (1), Roman pottery (1)
59	7	NNW/SSE aligned linear ditch filled by 59/6, 59/9, 59/10, 59/11.		1.35	0.8	
59	8	Natural sand and silt				
59	9	Tertiary fill of linear ditch		1.0	0.3	later prehistoric pottery (1)
59	10	Secondary fill of linear ditch		0.65	0.06	
59	11	Primary fill of linear ditch		0.55	0.25	late prehistoric pottery (1)
59	12	Possible surviving subsoil			0.15	flake (1)
60	1	Topsoil and turf			0.2	
60	2	Old ploughsoil			0.2 to 0.5	
60	3	Natural sand and silt				
61	1	Topsoil and turf			0.25	
61	2	Old ploughsoil			0.2	scraper (1)
61	3	Natural sand, gravel and silt				
62	1	Topsoil and turf			0.2	
62	2	Old ploughsoil			0.25	

Trench	CTX	Description	Length	Width	Depth	
62	3	Natural sand, gravel and silt				
63	1	Topsoil and turf			0.2	
63	2	Old ploughsoil			0.2	
63	3	Natural sand, gravel and silt				
64	1	Topsoil and turf			0.2	retouched flake (1)
64	2	Old ploughsoil			0.2	
64	3	Natural sand, gravel and silt				
65	1	Topsoil and turf			0.3	
65	2	Old ploughsoil			0.25	
65	3	Natural sand and silt				Number of finds and date

CHPK 96

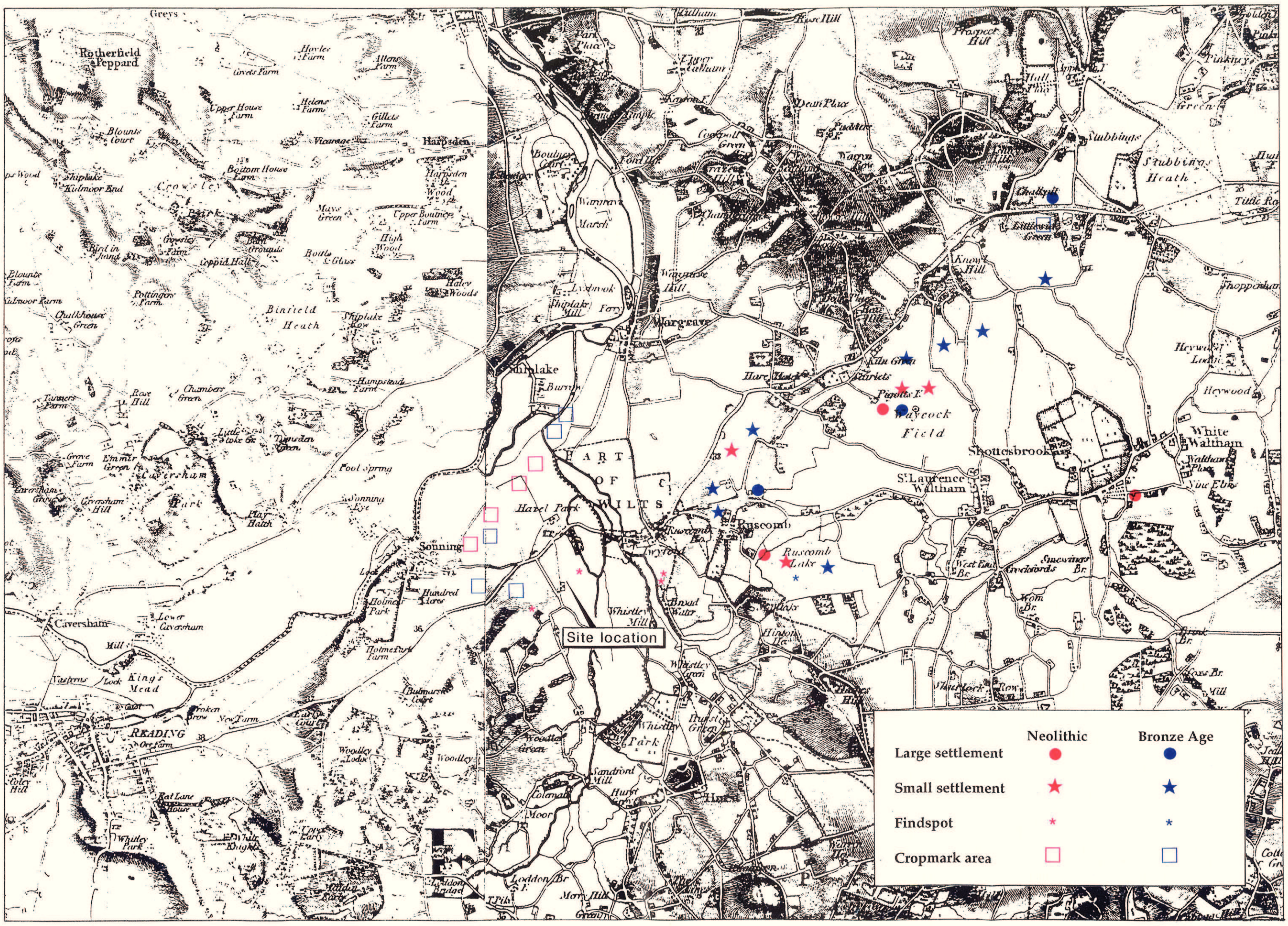

Figure 1

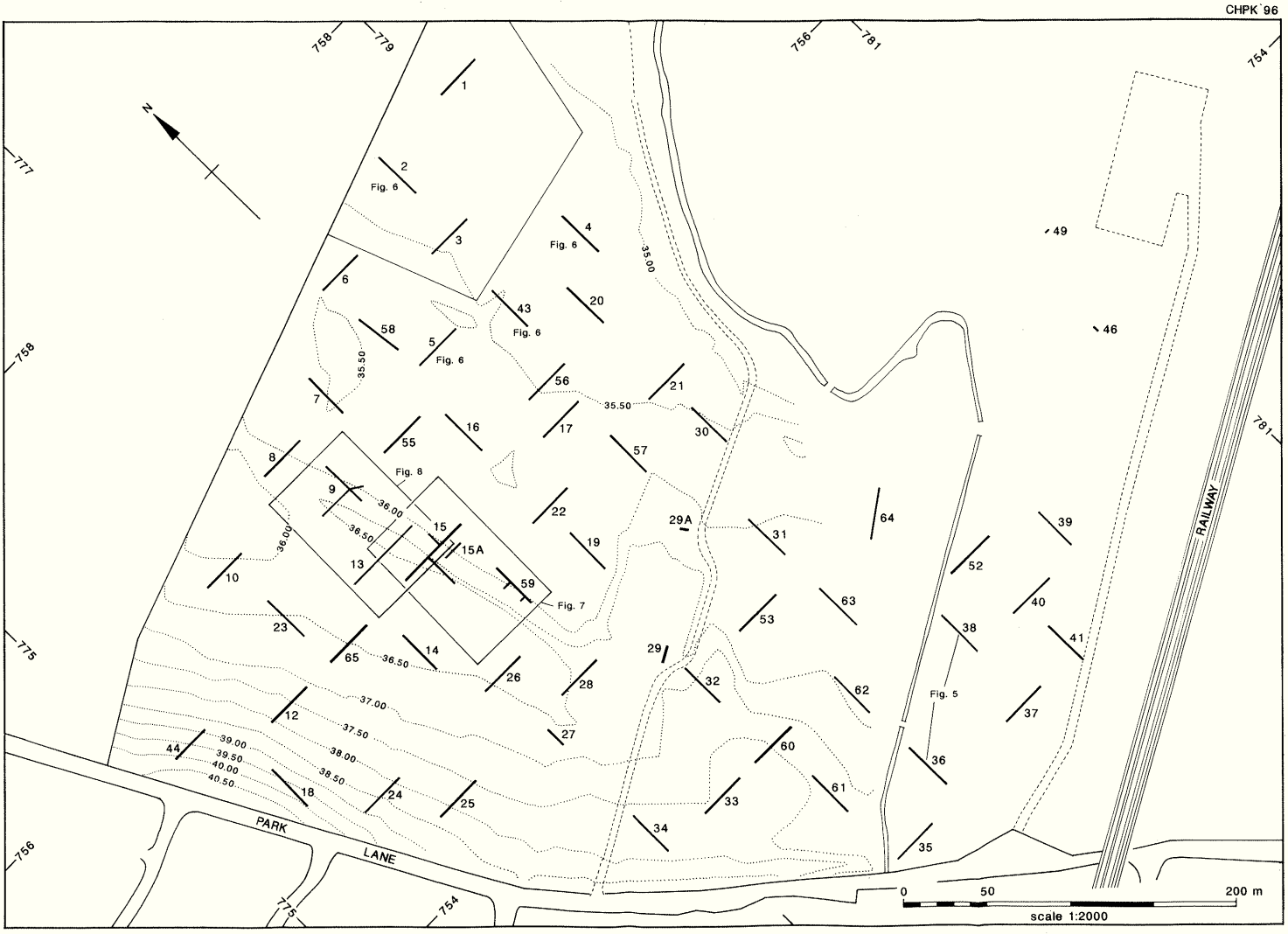
CHPK '96
N
758
779
756
781
754
777
758
781
775
756
775
754
PARK
LANE
RAILWAY
Fig. 6
Fig. 6
Fig. 6
Fig. 6
Fig. 8
Fig. 7
Fig. 5
35.00
35.50
36.00
36.50
37.00
37.50
38.00
38.50
39.00
39.50
40.00
40.50
0
50
200 m
scale 1:2000

Figure 2

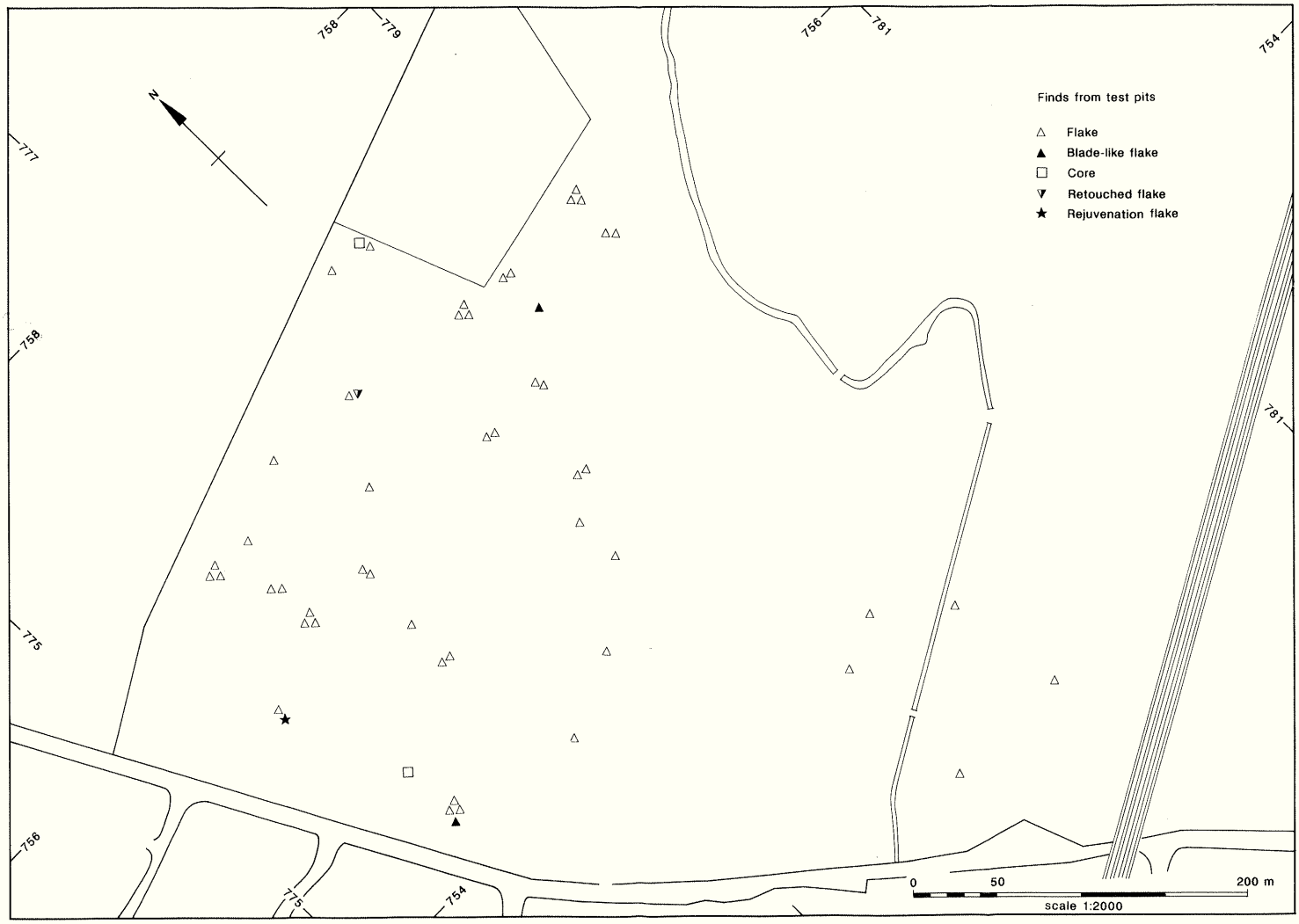
758
779
756
781
754
771
758
781
775
756
775
754
N
Finds from test pits
Flake
Blade-like flake
Core
Retouched flake
Rejuvenation flake
0
50
200 m
scale 1:2000

Figure 3

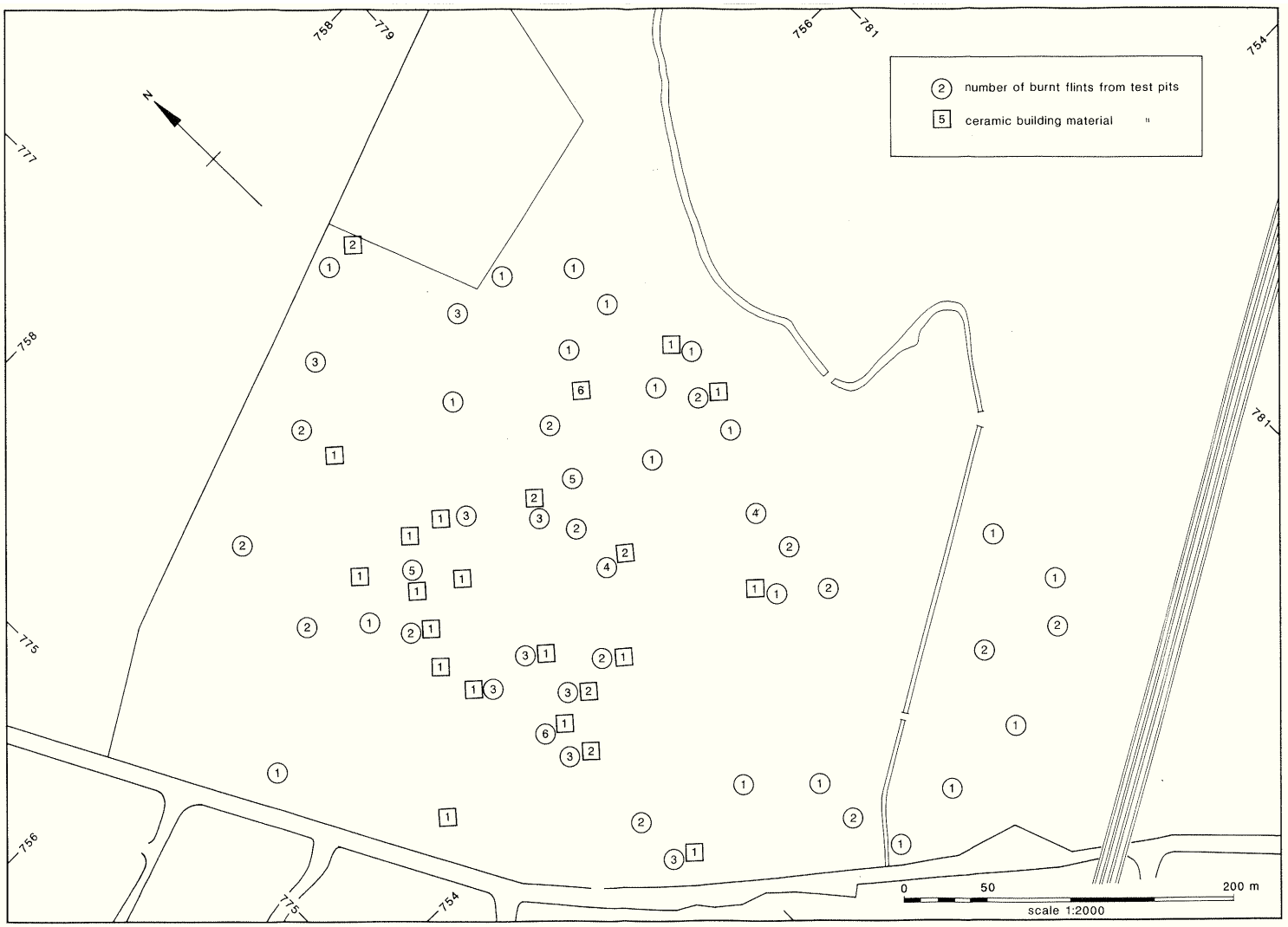
(2) number of burnt flints from test pits
[5] ceramic building material
N
758
779
756
781
754
777
758
781
775
756
775
754
0
50
200 m
scale 1:2000

Figure 4

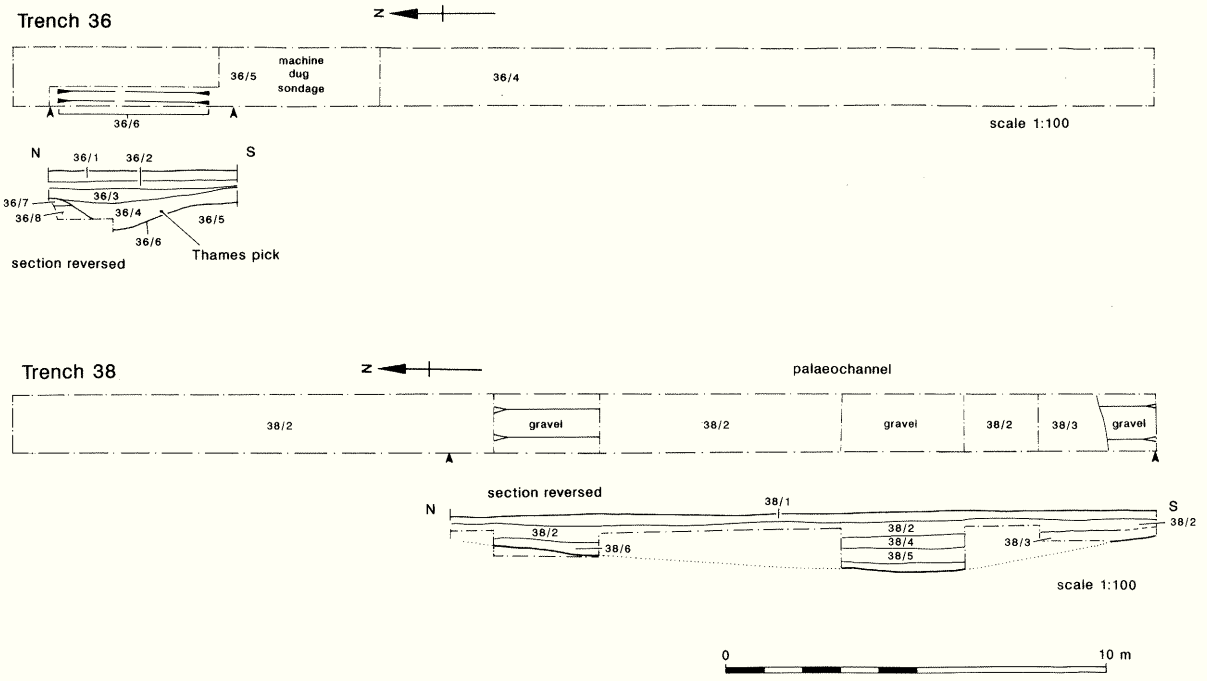
Trench 36
N
36/5
machine dug sondage
36/4
36/6
scale 1:100
N
36/1
36/2
S
36/7
36/3
36/8
36/4
36/5
36/6
Thames pick
section reversed
Trench 38
N
palaeochannel
38/2
gravel
38/2
gravel
38/2
38/3
gravel
section reversed
38/1
S
38/2
38/2
38/4
38/5
38/3
38/6
scale 1:100
0
10 m

Figure 5

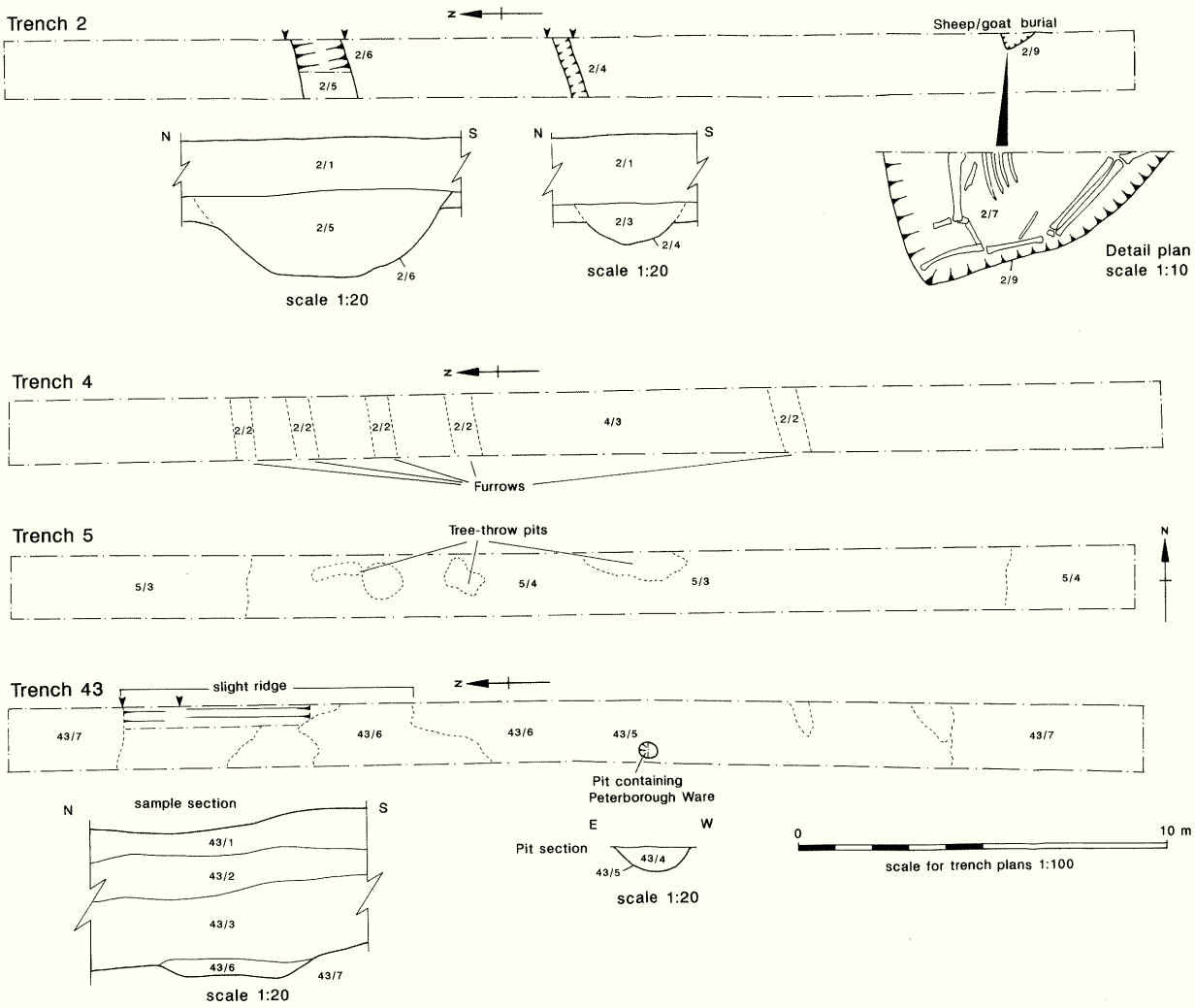
Trench 2
Z
2/6
2/5
2/4
Sheep/goat burial
2/9
N
S
2/1
2/5
2/6
scale 1:20
N
S
2/1
2/3
2/4
scale 1:20
2/7
2/9
Detail plan
scale 1:10
Trench 4
Z
2/2
2/2
2/2
2/2
4/3
2/2
Furrows
Trench 5
Tree-throw pits
N
5/3
5/4
5/3
5/4
Trench 43
slight ridge
Z
43/7
43/6
43/6
43/5
43/7
Pit containing
Peterborough Ware
N
sample section
S
43/1
43/2
43/3
43/6
43/7
scale 1:20
E
W
Pit section
43/4
43/5
scale 1:20
0
10 m
scale for trench plans 1:100

Figure 6

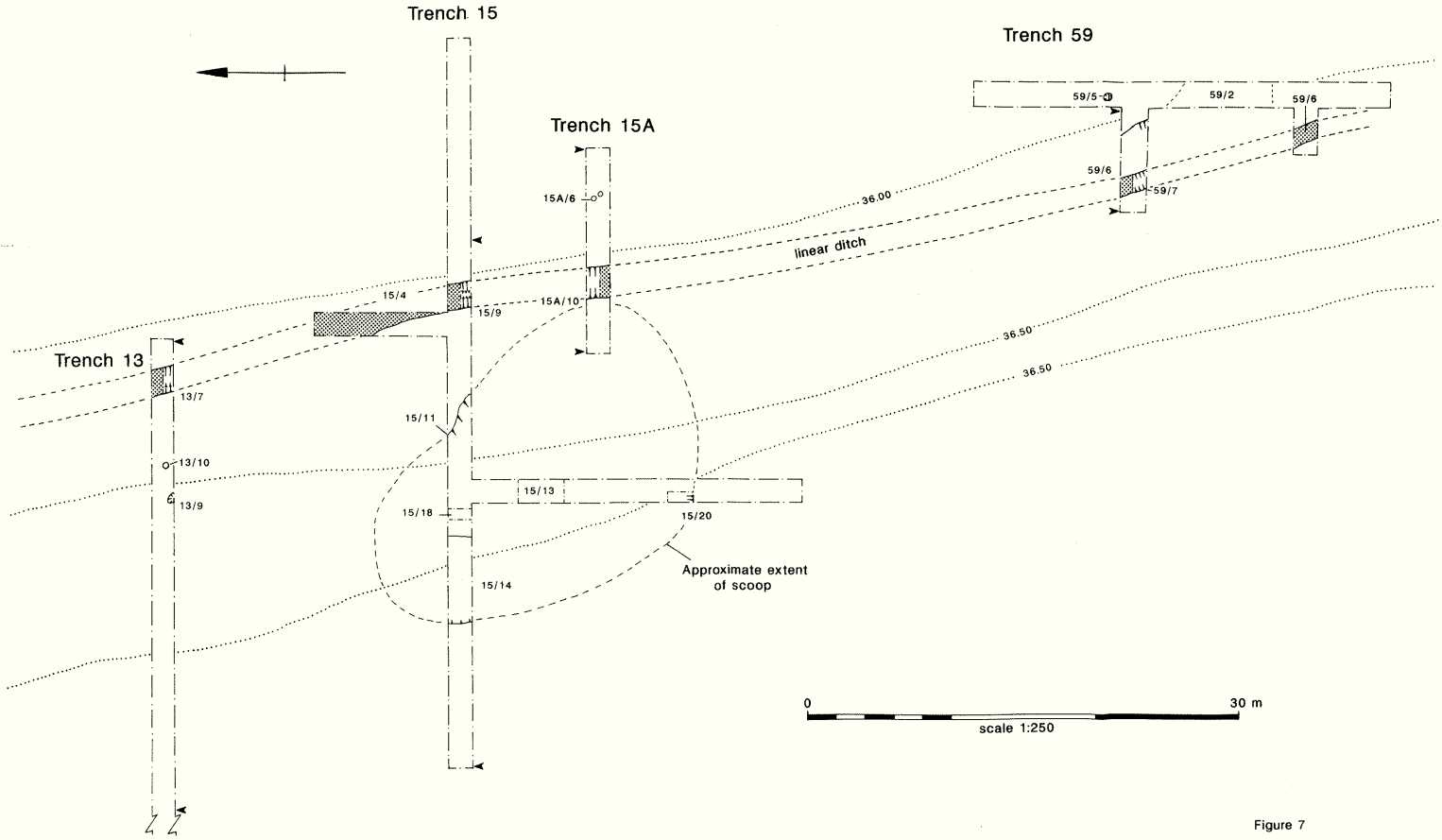
Trench 15
Trench 59
Trench 15A
Trench 13
59/5
59/2
59/6
59/6
59/7
15A/6
36.00
linear ditch
15/4
15/9
15A/10
36.50
36.50
13/7
15/11
13/10
13/9
15/13
15/18
15/20
15/14
Approximate extent
of scoop
0
30 m
scale 1:250

Figure 7

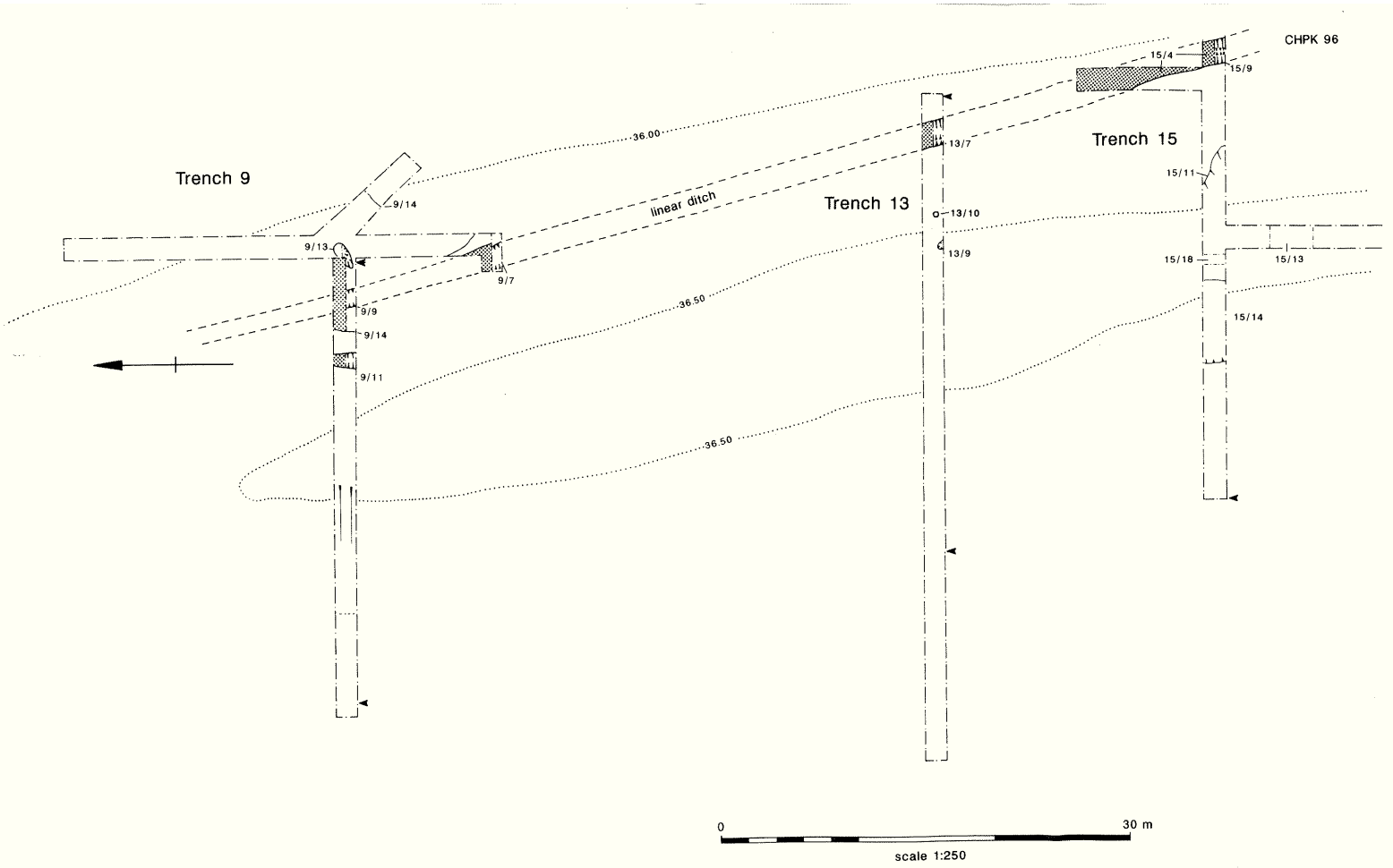
CHPK 96
Trench 9
Trench 13
Trench 15
linear ditch
36.00
36.50
36.50
9/13
9/14
9/7
9/9
9/14
9/11
13/7
13/10
13/9
15/4
15/9
15/11
15/18
15/13
15/14
0
30 m
scale 1:250

Figure 8

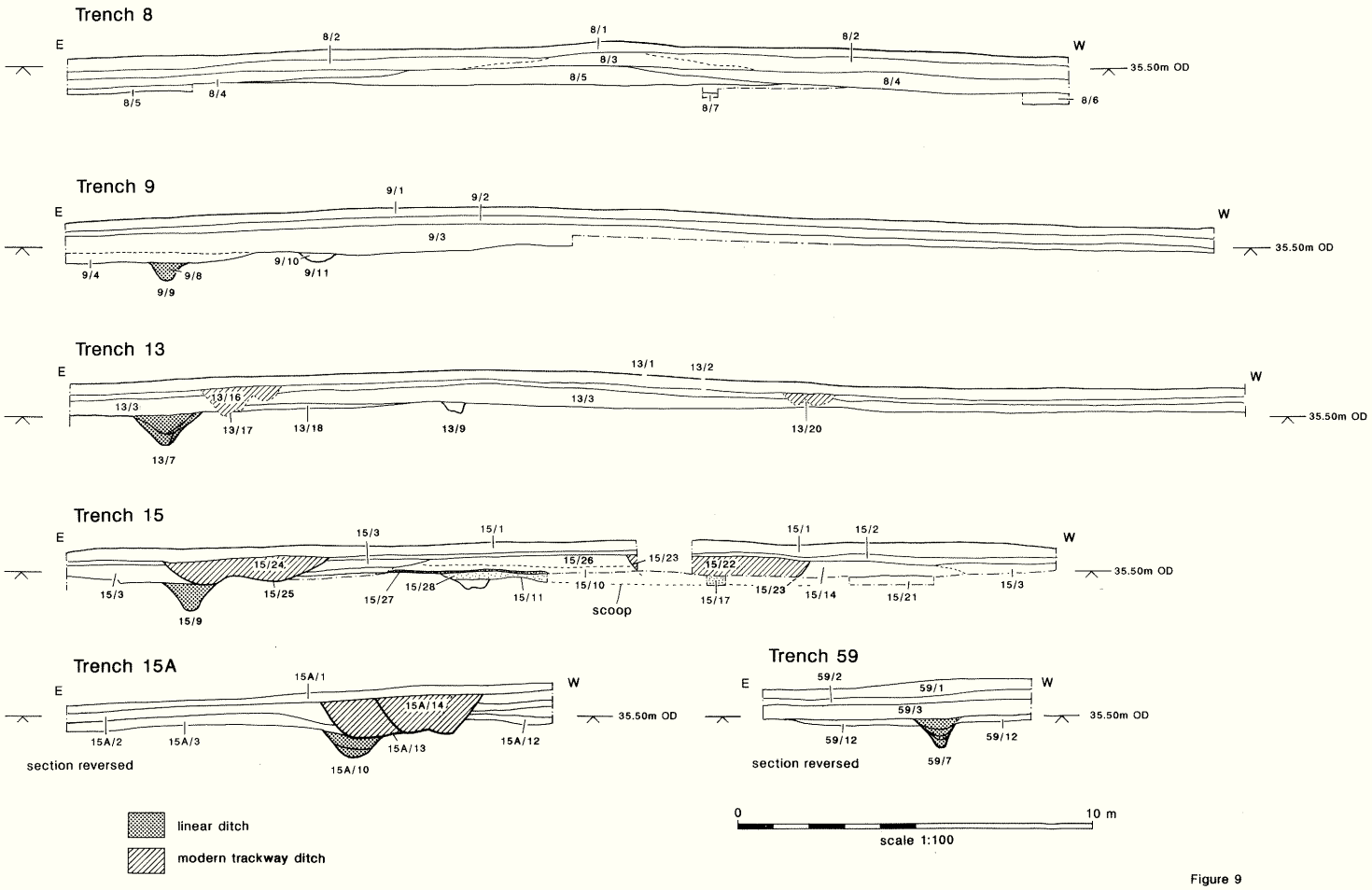
Trench 8
E
W
35.50m OD
8/1
8/2
8/3
8/4
8/5
8/6
8/7
Trench 9
9/1
9/2
9/3
9/4
9/8
9/9
9/10
9/11
Trench 13
13/1
13/2
13/3
13/7
13/16
13/17
13/18
13/9
13/20
Trench 15
15/3
15/1
15/2
15/24
15/25
15/26
15/23
15/22
15/27
15/28
15/11
15/10
scoop
15/17
15/14
15/21
15/9
Trench 15A
15A/1
15A/14
15A/2
15A/3
15A/13
15A/12
15A/10
section reversed
Trench 59
59/2
59/1
59/3
59/12
59/7
section reversed
linear ditch
modern trackway ditch
0
10 m
scale 1:100

Figure 9

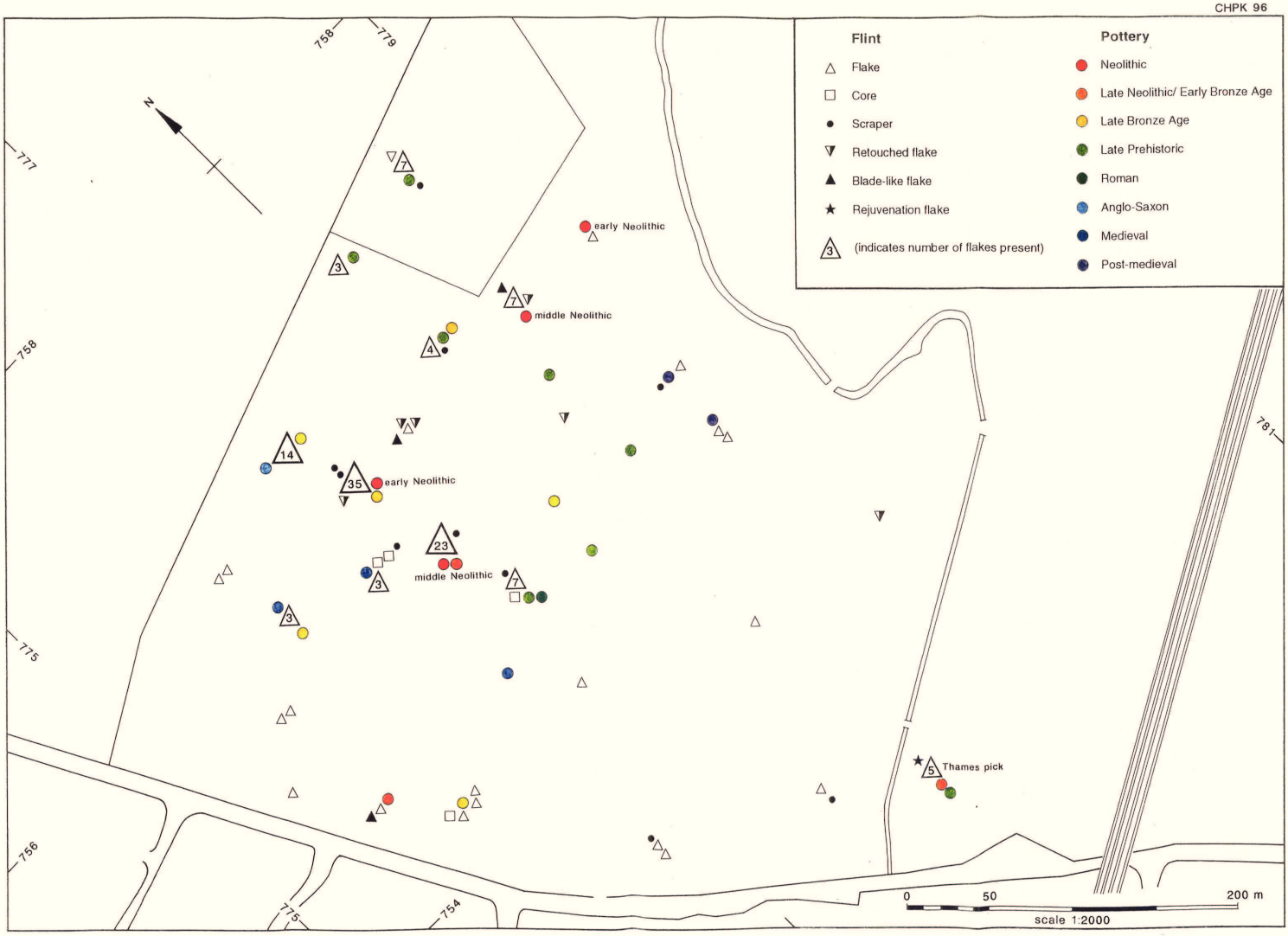
Flint
Flake
Core
Scraper
Retouched flake
Blade-like flake
Rejuvenation flake
(indicates number of flakes present)
Pottery
Neolithic
Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age
Late Bronze Age
Late Prehistoric
Roman
Anglo-Saxon
Medieval
Post-medieval
N
758
779
777
758
781
775
756
775
754
early Neolithic
middle Neolithic
early Neolithic
middle Neolithic
Thames pick
0
50
200 m
scale 1:2000

Figure 10

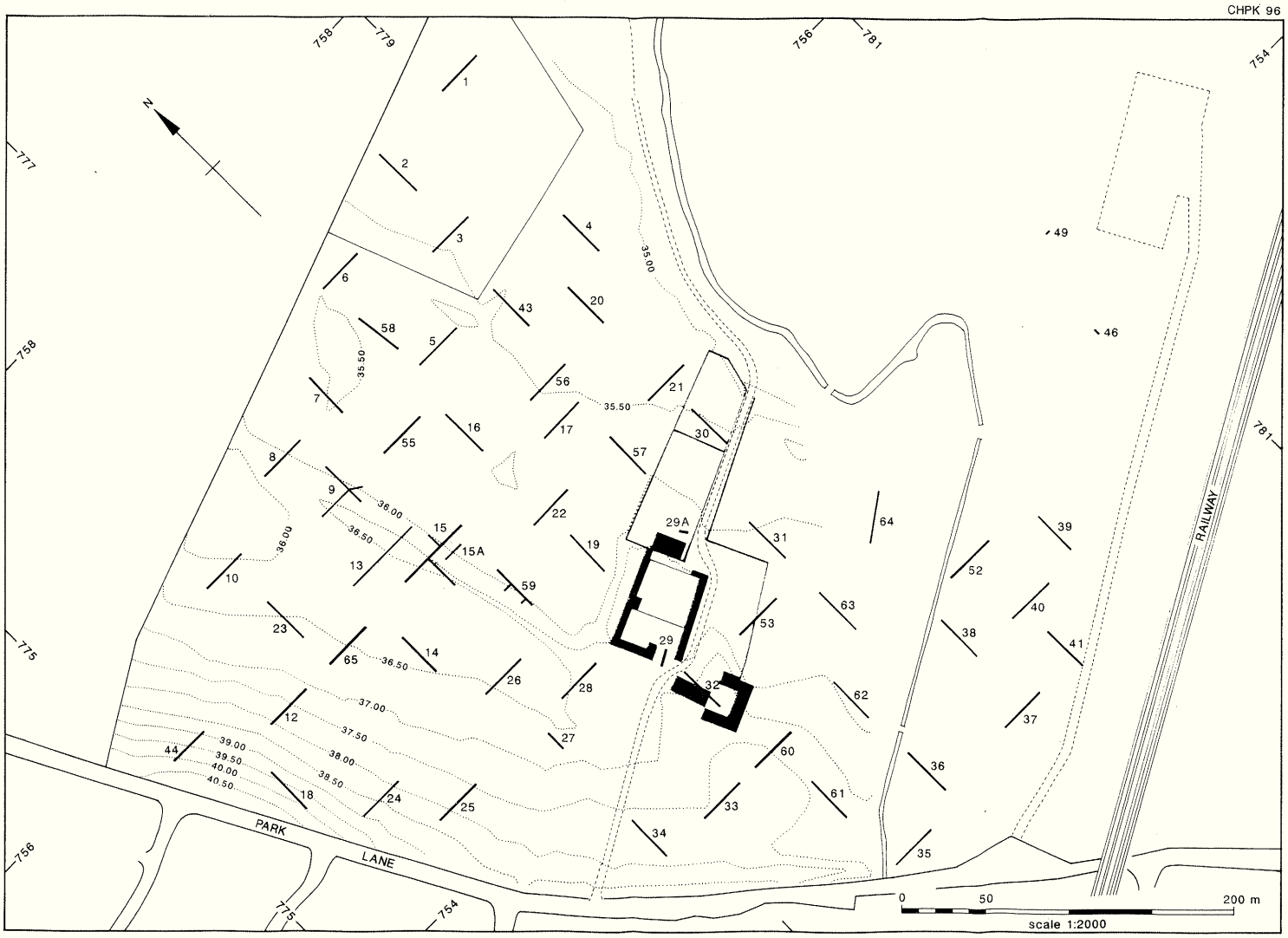
N
758
779
756
781
754
777
758
775
756
775
754
781
RAILWAY
PARK
LANE
35.00
35.50
36.00
36.50
37.00
37.50
38.00
38.50
39.00
39.50
40.00
40.50
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
12
13
14
15
15A
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
29A
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
43
44
46
49
52
53
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
0
50
200 m
scale 1:2000

Figure 11

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