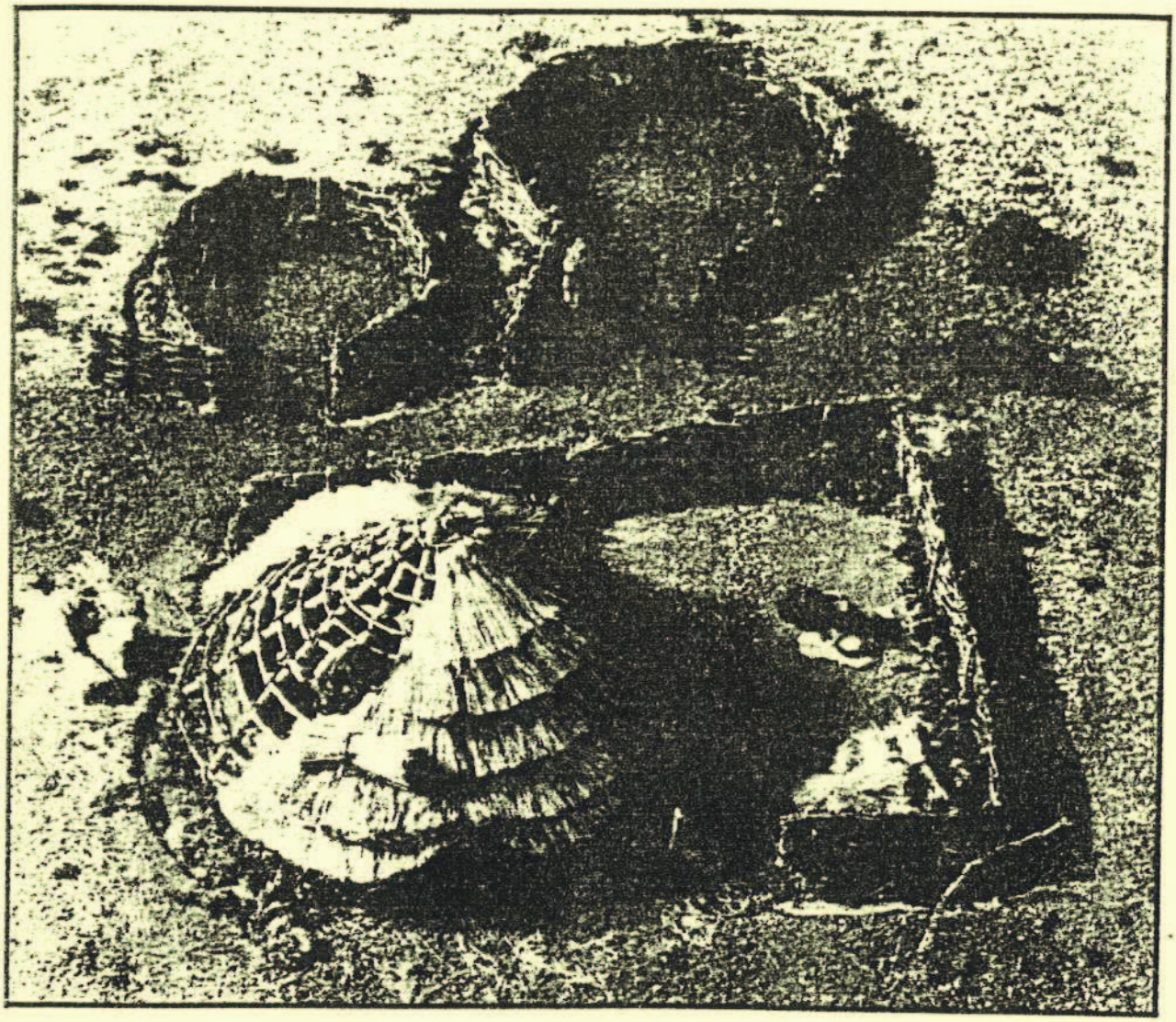
STRATFORD MARKET DEPOT (NORTH)

PHASE II ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

1992-93



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

STRATFORD MARKET DEPOT (NORTH)

PHASE II ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION 1992-93 (TRENCHES 41-66)

A report on the field evaluation undertaken for London Underground Limited (Jubilee Line Extension Project) by the Oxford Archaeological Unit, from November 1992 to January 1992 on the northern area of Stratford Market Depot, Back Lane, Canning Rd, West Ham, London E15.

NGR TQ 388837

by David Wilkinson

Oxford Archaeological Unit

Oxford February 1993

Front cover illustration - Model of Iron Age farmstead from Farmoor, Oxfordshire

LIST OF CONTENTS Page No

LIST OF CONTENTS (CONT.)

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS (located at back of report)

NB The grid lines (denoted either by letters or numbers) on Figures 1, 2 and 3 correspond to the grid used on JLE design drawings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Oxford Archaeological Unit would like to thank the following staff of the Jubilee Line Extension project for their help throughout this evaluation project: Peter Arthey, Huw Edwards, Bob Jefferson, Alf Sibbons, Mike Hutchinson (MOL), Les Lofthouse, Peter Marsden, Mike May, Rino Caroli and Simon Hatfield.

Dr Pamela Greenwood of the Passmore Edwards Museum gave valuable advice on the Roman and pre-Roman pottery, and Dr Tony Barham of the Geoarchaeological Services Facility (Institute of Archaeology, London) advised on the soils and sediments.

We are grateful to Dominic Perring of English Heritage; and Pat Wilkinson and Ken MacGowan of the Passmore Edwards Museum for attending site meetings and for advising in their various capacities.

1 SUMMARY

A Phase II archaeological evaluation at Stratford Market Depot (north) found further evidence of substantial Iron Age and Roman activity, including evidence of structures from both periods. The main time span represented by the finds is from the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (c.1000 BC) to the 4th century AD. There are also signs of earlier use of the site, notably during the Mesolithic period (c. 8500 BC to c.4000BC).

Splitting the site into two parts, the archaeological features are far denser on the west, Trenches 41-57C, than on the east (Fig.1). It is not clear exactly where the dense area of activity finishes, although the change must occur somewhere between Trenches 57A-C and 58-60. The two different areas may relate to a settlement, and the fields/gardens which border it.

The predicted impacts of the proposed new depot buildings on the archaeology vary considerably across the site (Figs 2,3). Mitigation measures have been agreed for one area (drain-run area - Fig.2), but not for either the Workshop and Stores building or the Main Shed. Predicted impacts in these areas range from about 2.5% loss of archaeology (from piling) to close to 10%. Formulation of a mitigation strategy (e.g. a Phase III excavation) is not possible until the acceptability or otherwise of these impacts has been established.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 **Introduction to the Phase II Evaluation**

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a Phase II archaeological field evaluation on the northern area of Stratford Market Depot (SMDN), London E15, on behalf of the Jubilee Line Extension team (JLE) from London Underground Limited (LUL). Archaeological fieldwork began on the 23rd of November 1992 and finished on the 19th of January 1993. The site is one of many which will be redeveloped as part of the Jubilee Line Extension Project; in this particular case the area is to become a major depot with stabling yard, a very large maintenance building (hereinafter referred to as the main shed) and a number of ancillary structures.

The aim of the evaluation was to build on the work done in the Phase I Evaluation (OAU Feb.1992) by further assessing the nature, location, extent and significance of surviving archaeological remains. Given the difficulty of reconciling archaeological excavation with the foundation design of the proposed building (2.2), the location and density of archaeological features were of particular concern. The foundation design also dictated to a large extent the size and position of the evaluation trenches. Details of these circumstances, and of the strategies adopted to deal with them, are set out in Section 5.

2.2 History of the project to date

Prior to the involvement of the OAU in the project, discussions had taken place (1990/91) between JLE, Museum of London (MOL), Passmore Edwards Museum (PEM) and English Heritage (EH). These discussions had centred on the original design for the depot which placed the workshops building at the south end of the site where the main focus of the medieval Stratford Langthorne Abbey was known to have been situated. The decision was therefore taken to flip the design so that the workshops were to the north and the Abbey site was covered by railway lines; the level of these rails in the southern area was kept as high as was practicable without artificially raising ground levels over large areas of the site.

The OAU then carried out an archaeological field evaluation (now referred to as the Phase I evaluation) based on the proposed design, from September 1991 to January 1992. This evaluation concerned both the northern and southern areas of the depot site (OAU Feb.1992). The results of the evaluation, which are covered more fully in Section 4.1, led the OAU to suggest that there was a major prehistoric and Roman site in the northern area, and that the site occupies a substantial part of the proposed footprints for the main shed and some ancillary buildings.

During the course of the evaluation the decision was taken by JLE to divide the site, for archaeological purposes, into two halves from January 31st 1991. The division crosses the site along the line of the northern boundary of Marks Cash and Carry. From 31/1/92 further archaeological work to the south of the line (including any evaluation trenches planned at that time but not yet excavated) became the responsibility of the PEM while the area north of the line remains the responsibility of the Oxford Archaeological Unit. From this point onwards, therefore, any information given refers only to the northern half of the site unless stated otherwise.

Examination of the design drawings for the depot led the OAU to predict that the construction of the main shed, of some other buildings, and of some of the drainage would have a substantial impact on the archaeology, and that this could best be mitigated by controlled archaeological excavation prior to construction (the impacts are discussed in further detail, in the light of current information, in Section 7 (see also Figs 2,3)).

A project design was submitted to JLE, EH and PEM (OAU May 1992) in which an open-area excavation was proposed and defined. JLE felt, however, that if the excavation were carried out then the foundation design for the depot buildings would be compromised through loss of skin friction to the piles. Furthermore, the excavated material would not be suitable for backfilling the excavation, and backfill would have to be imported. In the case of both problems, the expense implications could be considerable.

Accordingly, JLE asked OAU to carry out a second evaluation (the Phase II Evaluation) which is the subject of this report, using trenches located between proposed foundation pile lines (see Section 5.2; Fig.1) - the intention behind this

was not only that an overall fuller picture of the archaeology would be obtained, but that more precise definition of the archaeology might allow mitigation work (i.e. Phase III excavation) to be more specifically targeted.

Since completion of the Phase II evaluation fieldwork, preliminary documents showing revised Phase III excavation proposals were submitted to JLE by OAU (OAU January 1993). The area outlined for open-area excavation was reduced by about one third from the original project design (OAU May 1992). At a meeting to discuss these proposals (25/1/93) JLE agreed in principle that part of the site, the Drain-run area (Fig.2), could go ahead, but that the problems outlined above regarding foundation design had not been resolved for the remainder of the proposed Phase III excavations. JLE then requested that this report be written and presented before further discussions took place.

2.3 Introduction to the report

A summary of the report contents (1) is followed by introductory sections (2-4) which provide all the background information to the evaluation, and to the site itself. Previous evaluation work is summarised in 4.2. Section 5 covers the strategy employed both prior to the evaluation (research, choice of trench locations etc) and during the fieldwork. This is followed by the presentation of the archaeological results for which the site has been split into three areas (see section 6). The archaeological results are brought together on Figure 1, while Figures 4-8 show a number of areas in more detail.

Section 7 is concerned with the predicted impacts on the archaeology of the proposed depot buildings. This information is summarised on Figures 2 and 3 - the former, showing the building foundation detail, is a transparent overlay which can therefore be directly related to the archaeology depicted in Figure 3. Finally, some comments are provided on the proposals for Phase III excavations which have been produced up to now (8).

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 Topography

The Stratford Market Depot site lies in East London, in the Borough of Newham and the Parish of West Ham; National Grid Reference TQ 3888837 (centred on northern half of site). The area proposed for redevelopment covers 10.3 ha and forms a roughly rectangular shape bounded by Abbey Road to the south, Channelsea Road to the north, the North London Railway to the east and the Channelsea River (now piped underground) to the west. The northern area of the site, which is under discussion in this report, comprises some 6.8 ha.

When fieldwork first began in 1991, the northern area of the site was mainly occupied by disused railway yards and by the vacant buildings of the Stratford Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market. The rails have since been removed and

the market buildings demolished. In the south-west corner of the northern area was a large warehouse building (now demolished) originally belonging to the Victoria Stone Works, and several smaller buildings (Badat Brothers, Five Star Products), some of which are undergoing demolition at the time of writing. For the 1991 building layout see OAU Feb.1992: Fig.2.

The whole Market Depot area is relatively low-lying, being at 3 to 3.4 m above Ordnance Datum at the northern end and rising to 4.5 to 5 m at the southern end. Levels at the southern limit of the northern area are at about 4 m above Ordnance Datum[1].

3.2 Geology

The site lies on the Thames Gravels, which occur at between 1 and 4 m below the ground surface, and between 99.4 and 102.2 m TD. In the northern area the gravel is normally between 0.8 m and 2 m below the surface (c. 100 to 102.5 m TD) although it is occasionally deeper. The uneven gravel surface can be explained by a combination of artificial (archaeological features) and natural (water channels) cutting away of the gravel.

The gravel is capped over much of the site by an orange to grey-orange silty clay, which varies in depth from 0.4 to 0.6 m. Some localised alluvium above the gravels was noted in the borehole survey carried out for JLE (eg Borehole 957A) and this is now known to relate to the fills of water channels and (possibly) areas of still water; the existence of such features has been demonstrated during both the Phase I and Phase II evaluations (e.g. OAU Feb.1992: Fig.3 - Section 6).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 **Background prior to the Phase I Evaluation** (before September 1991)

Prior to the Phase I Evaluation in 1991 the prehistoric and Roman periods at the Stratford Market depot site were represented only by flint tools, a Bronze Age jet bead and some Roman pottery. These were all residual finds recovered in the 1983 excavation by the PEM in the south-east corner of the site (ERL 1990: 74). Outlying finds include a possible Bronze Age cemetery north-east of the depot site. Direct evidence aside, it can also be noted that the site lies close to the Channelsea River (which joins the Lea and therefore gives access to the Thames) and is on the Thames gravels. Gravel sites are normally characterised by light, fertile, easily-worked soils and are therefore attractive areas for early settlement. It is also significant that the Roman road from London to Colchester passes 0.4 km north of the site's northern boundary.

---

[1]From this point onwards in the text, and on all figures, levels are given relative to Tunnel Datum (TD) so as to accord with design and construction information. Tunnel Datum is 100 m below Ordnance Datum.

In the early medieval period (broadly, AD 500-1100) the main evidence is provided by Domesday Book, compiled in 1086, when the settlement of West Ham was evidently of some size. The unusually high number of nine mills is of particular interest. Abbey Mills, part of which may still lie in the south-west corner of the site (Junction of Abbey Road and Channelsea River) was almost certainly one of the nine (VCH vi: 89-90), but there is no direct evidence of any mill structure further up the Channelsea in what is now the northern area of the depot site.

The most important historical event came during the medieval period, when the Abbey of Stratford Langthorne was founded in 1134 for monks of the Savignac order, passing to the Cistercians in 1147. Nothing now remains above ground of the Abbey buildings, which are likely to have been both grand and extensive, and there is very little information as to the Abbey's late history, although it may have been briefly abandoned due to flooding in the 14th century (VCH ii: 131). In 1538 the Abbey was surrendered to the King. A document compiled at the time of the dissolution shows the Abbey's buildings and grounds being used for houses, orchards and gardens.

Although there is still some uncertainty about the exact location of many of the Abbey buildings (Watson 1989; OAU Feb.1992: 17), we can be reasonably sure that, with the possible exception of any agricultural structures, these all lay south of the Abbey moat. This latter feature survived into the 19th century, when it was mapped - in modern terms it lies just beyond the northern boundary of the plot occupied by Marks Cash and Carry. The area which is the subject of this report thus lies north of the main Abbey precinct, in what was, in all probability, agricultural land belonging to the Abbey - perhaps orchards and meadow.

Judging from the 18th and 19th century maps, nearly all of the Abbey buildings were demolished by the 18th century, but the area is of importance for the textile industry. Calico printing may have actually begun in West Ham in 1676 (VCH vi; 76-77) and although this was not necessarily on the depot site, the area between Abbey Mill and Stratford was later (in 1747) called the Calico Grounds (*Ibid.*). In the early 18th century calico printing gave way to silk printing; a Mr J.Tucker's West Ham Abbey print works occupied much of the south-west corner of the Market depot site. Our first direct evidence for the northern area of the site is from a map drawn up in the mid-18th century (Rocque 1744-6) which shows open ground divided by east-west ditches and it is very likely that the land had remained open since the Medieval period. The open meadows could have served two purposes, as drying grounds for the calico, and as cattle grazing. Cattle not only provided a profitable sideline, but their dung (which has a high ammonia content) was used in the washing of the cloth.

Although adequate for agricultural purposes, these ditches would have become choked with domestic sewage as the area was built-up in the later 18th and 19th centuries (VCH vi: 94). They were supplanted by several channels, shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1869, which ran approximately north-south and supplied water to the silk-printing works in the southern half of the site. These channels were in turn filled in between 1869 and 1895, when the premises of the

Victoria Stone Works and Globe Mill were constructed (Section 6.1.7; OAU A 1993: 2,11) and the Railway Yards were laid out.

4.2 Summary of the Phase I Evaluation results

The Phase I Evaluation produced evidence of human activity from the Mesolith period onwards. The Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods we represented only by residual flint artefacts and waste flakes (residual meanin finds recovered in the same deposit as later material, and therefore redeposited We can therefore infer that there was activity either on the site or nearby durin these periods, but little more can be said on current evidence.

Strong evidence was found for occupation in the Iron Age and Roman periods. The evidence consists of a ploughsoil which overlies the natural subsoil and of numerous features: ditches, gullies, pits and postholes which were cut into the subsoil. These features included two "special deposits" - a horse burial and a crouched human inhumation. The highest level at which significant archaeology was recorded was 102.56 m TD.

Significant quantities of pottery were recovered, suggesting that the main periods represented were the middle Iron Age, the 1st century AD and the 3rd/4th centuries AD. Palaeoenvironmental evidence was limited, although enough information could potentially be gained to build up a basic landuse model - the identification of a probable late Roman ploughsoil was of particular interest.

Taken together, there was evidence for a major archaeological site representing Iron Age and Roman occupation of the area, and probably including a ritual/religious element as indicated by the burials. The presence of curved gullies, and of a number of substantial postholes, indicates that structures were built on the site, probably during both periods.

5 STRATEGY

5.1 Desktop and research

No formal archaeological research has been commissioned since the report was carried out on the Phase I Evaluation (OAU Feb.1992: 6), for which quite extensive background research took place. Informal research on various topics related to the site (eg Iron Age religion) has, however, continued in the meantime.

A report was commissioned by JLE in late December 1993, covering the industrial history of the site (OAU April 1993). This was of some relevance archaeologically, particularly as regards the various phases of ditches across the open northern area of the depot site.

5.2 Location of evaluation trenches

The Phase II evaluation was commissioned by JLE at a meeting on 29/5/92 (2.2) as a means of better defining the location and density of archaeological features across the site (2.2). As was the case with the Phase I Evaluation, the work took account of the positioning of the proposed depot buildings, so that evaluation took place where some future impact on the archaeology during construction was likely.

Unlike the Phase I Evaluation, however, there was a limiting factor on the placement of evaluation trenches in that JLE wished to protect the foundations of the future buildings - specifically, the pile lines, from any further disturbance. Accordingly, JLE supplied OAU with a number of drawings on which areas considered "safe" for evaluation trenching were marked. OAU then indicated which of these areas they would wish to trench. The pattern of "safe" areas offered consisted of parallel N-S corridors, normally 5 m apart, but also with some larger gaps, up to 11 m. Initially these corridors varied from 1.5 m to 2 m wide, but it was later agreed to standardise the width at 2 m, as it was not felt that trenches narrower than this would prove effective in evaluating the type of archaeology known to exist on the site.

In choosing which of these corridors, or parts of corridors, should be trenched OAU took account of a number of factors. Principally, these were: the results of the Phase I Evaluation, the area already proposed for open-area excavation in the original project design (OAU May 1992) and the requirement to substantially upgrade the Phase I Evaluation. This latter factor reflected the views of JLE at the time, who felt that they could not agree to open-area excavation when the unexcavated areas between Phase I Evaluation trenches were up to 50 m. The intention was thus to substantially reduce the average gap between trenches.

The resultant trench pattern, as excavated, is shown in Figure 1. The most common E-W gap between trenches is from 5 to 7 m; but in three cases this widens to 13 m. Figure 1 shows that these wider gaps are not substantially filled by the earlier Phase I trenches. The Phase II trenches were broken lengthwise at various points - a break right across the southern end of the excavated area was left open where a deep sewer crosses the site. Other gaps reflect areas where very dense piling is proposed (eg between trenches 52/53 and 55/56) or where backfilled Phase I evaluation trenches exist.

A total length of 515.7 m of Phase II trench was excavated (not including steps or ramps), an area of 1031.4 square metres. When added to the Phase I trench area within the footprint of the workshop and stores, this gives a total of 2019.4 square metres, meaning that 10.75% of the building footprint area has now been evaluated. The Phase II area can also be added to the Phase I trench area within the original excavation proposal (OAU Feb. 1992) to give a total of 1487.4 square metres. This means that of the area originally defined as both archaeologically significant, and subject to predicted impacts from construction, a total of 21% has now been evaluated.

The Phase II Trenches continued the same numbering sequence as was used for the Phase I work; the numbering ran from 41-66. Some trenches were broken into separate lengths on site and these were designated by letter - e.g. 57A, 57B. Context numbering again used the same system as for Phase I, with each trench being allotted a block of numbers. Thus, numbers 4100-4199 were allocated to Trench 41, numbers 4200-4299 to Trench 42 and so on. Where a trench has a letter designation, the letter is also added to the context number, e.g 5748B is a context from Trench 57B.

Trench 38 is separate from the rest of the evaluation, and was designed to evaluate the area on which a traction shed will be built near the north end of the depot site. This trench is described fully in 6.3.

5.3 Level of investigation (excavation methods)

Given that trenches could not be more than 2 m wide, it was important to ensure that the Roman and earlier archaeology could be reached without excavating more than 1.2 m from surface. Stepping-in the trenches at a depth of 1.2 m, as was done in the Phase I evaluation, could not be done in Phase II as this would so reduce their width as to make them archaeologically invalid. The situation was resolved by reducing the level of the whole evaluation area (Figure 1) by 0.3 to 0.5 m before the evaluation trenches were laid out. Trench positions were then laid out on the ground by the JLE Survey Department.

The overburden, consisting mainly of the post-1870 build-up for railway yards, was removed along the length of the trenches using a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a six-foot toothless bucket. The overburden was removed either to the top of the natural subsoil (in which case any ploughsoils present were also removed) or to the top of any ploughsoils if archaeological features could be observed at this point. Trenches were then cleaned up by hand, and the methods used from that point onwards are those set out in the document *Archaeological specification for sites est of the River Lea* (see Appendix 2). Only the approach to sampling by excavation of archaeological features requires further amplification (see below). The records of the evaluation are currently held by the OAU but will ultimately be stored at the Passmore Edwards Museum.

In the *Revised fieldwork proposal (Phase II evaluation)*, see OAU June 1992, it was stated that an absolute minimum of excavation of archaeological features was proposed. This was because, following the Phase I Evaluation, OAU were confident of being able to recognise ancient (i.e. Roman or earlier features) when exposed in plan. Data on the location and density of the archaeology could thus be obtained relatively quickly, which was important given the large number of evaluation trenches proposed. More importantly, however, the excavation of all or part of the archaeological features, if carried out on any substantial scale, could constitute unnecessary damage to the site's archaeological integrity, particularly if no open area excavation were then to take place. Additionally, there would be no guarantee of understanding many of the features within the narrow evaluation trenches, and the risk of taking the wrong approach towards

excavating valuable deposits would be significantly increased. Some additional excavation of features was requested by the Archaeological Project Coordinator at a site meeting on 9/12/92 - this was carried out, but only in the case of either discrete features, or, in the case of intercutting features, where it was certain that the correct excavation approach could be taken.

5.4 Finds data

The finds retrieval policy followed that set out in Appendix 2. In post-excavation the worked flint was examined and spot-dated by Pippa Bradley (OAU). Roman and pre-Roman pottery was spot-dated by Paul Booth and Alistair Barclay (also OAU) respectively. Some of the pottery was also examined on-site by Dr Pamela Greenwood (PEM). The spot dates obtained for finds material are listed in Appendix 1.

5.5 Palaeoenvironmental data

It was not anticipated that the Phase II Evaluation would significantly add to the Phase I results (4.2) as regards Palaeoenvironmental data. Provision was made for representatives of the Geoarchaeological Service Facility to visit the site if required, and one visit was made by Dr Tony Barham on 26/1/93, when some of the *in situ* deposits were examined, but no further action was considered necessary.

During the evaluation judgemental sampling of some deposits was carried out, and these samples will be held by OAU in case they require future analysis in the light of further excavation (see also 6.1.6).

5.6 Criteria for further excavation

At a meeting held on 3/7/92 a number of criteria for selecting areas where further excavation would be required were proposed by the Archaeological Project Coordinator, M. Hutchinson (Appendix 3). The results of the Phase II Evaluation are presented in this report in such a way that, where sufficient information exists, these criteria can be applied (Figure 1, Section 6, Appendix 3). This is discussed further in Section 8.1.

6 SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

It is not the intention here to present a detailed, context-by-context description of all the archaeology found during the evaluation. When a trench or feature number is mentioned in the discussion below, reference can be made to Figure 1 and to Appendix 1 for details as to the location, shape, dating, type of feature etc.

NB For the purposes of this discussion the main evaluation area has been divided into two parts, with the dividing line being the eastern edge of Trenches 57A, 57B and 57C. General points (e.g. stratified sequence) are not covered twice, except to point out differences between the two areas. The division of the site is not only logical in archaeological terms, as will become apparent below, but also of use in discussing the impact of the proposed development on the archaeology, as will be made clear in Section 7.1. Trench 38, which was away from the main evaluation area, is discussed separately (6.3).

6.1 Trenches 41-57C

6.1.1 The spatial distribution of the archaeology

Trench 24, a Phase I Evaluation trench on the west side of the area, contained a horse burial and an inhumation, both of which are likely to belong to the middle Iron Age. As was to be expected, the Phase II Evaluation revealed a considerable density of features in Trenches 42,43,45 and 46 which were continuations of Trench 24. To the south, in Trench 41, a number of linear features were revealed, and it is probable that these will continue to the west while to the east they are more likely to have been damaged judging by the lack of archaeology in Trench 44, and in Trench 6 (Phase I).

Moving eastwards from Trench 24, the next line of north-south trenches (48, 49) show that the fairly dense concentration of archaeological features again occurs, as it does in the next row, Trenches 51-3. The gap between Trenches 45/46 and 48/49 is some 11 m, and is bridged only by the west end of Trench 30 (Phase I). Archaeological features at this end of Trench 30 are relatively sparse, but on balance this is unlikely to be typical, and it is more probable that the density of features seen around Trench 24 continues across the gap.

Another gap, of about 12 m, exists between Trenches 51-3 and 54-6. Archaeology is on the whole less dense in Trench 56, although it does include an inhumation, but there is again a noticeable density of features both in Trenches 54 and 55, and in the next line of trenches to the east (57A - 57C). On present evidence, the archaeology in the 12 m gap between the trenches may be less dense to the north than to the south.

The general picture, then, is one of quite dense archaeology over much of the area, although some less dense patches can be identified. The archaeology would

seem to be thinning out to the south, in the area of Trenches 47 and 50, and perhaps also towards the north ends of Trenches 56 and 57B/C, although here the difference is least marked, and is complicated by the presence of a burial. Some other gaps in the archaeology do occur, but it is noticeable that these usually coincide with the position of a later feature, such as one of the 18th-century ditches. This could imply that Roman or Iron Age features were originally present, but were then cut away (see also 6.1.7).

6.1.2 **The stratified sequence** (Fig.4)

The lowest deposit encountered was the natural Thames Gravel, which was exposed only in Trench 41, at a level of 101.55 m TD. The gravel was capped by a layer of silty, orange to grey-orange silty clay, with occasional grey-green variants. The top level of this deposit, which is again natural, varied from 101.72 m TD on the west side of the area (Trench 43) to 101.9 m TD (Trench 57A) on the east. This gradual slope upwards as we move away from the Channelsea River could be a natural phenomenon, but it is also possible that it reflects the varying intensity of past occupation. Greater activity over a number of centuries in the area closest to the river could, arguably, result in a lowering of the subsoil surface - a greater intensity of ploughing at a later date might also have the same effect.

The vast majority of the ancient (i.e. Roman or earlier) features were cut into this natural subsoil, and could not be traced any higher in the sequence. This does not mean to say, however, that this was the ancient ground level. As is common on sites of this type, the features have been subjected to a degree of truncation so that it is the lower part of most features which can now be seen.

An element of the sequence which was not found in the Phase I Evaluation was the preservation in some areas of ancient deposits (as opposed to cut features) above the natural subsoil. In Trench 49 the features 4952, 4947 and 4949 were cut into a stony layer, possibly a deliberate surface, at the north end of the trench. Even more marked was the example in Trench 53 (5318), where a series of 12 thin layers was sampled, being about 0.3 m deep in total, and consisting of alternating stony deposits, some possibly representing surfaces, and bands of sandy loam. These layers were fairly rich in finds, suggesting a Roman (2nd-century) date for the upper part of the sequence, and an Iron Age date lower down. The preservation of this kind of vertical stratification on a site of this type is rare, and is therefore of considerable importance.

With the exception of the deposits described above, the next part of the sequence was one or very occasionally more layers of grey to mid-brown silty loam, up to 0.45 m thick. These have been tentatively interpreted as ploughsoils, the results of agricultural activity on site from as early as the prehistoric period through to 1870 (see 6.1.6). Signs of the ancient features within the lower part of these soils are occasionally present, indicating that the later truncation is not an evenly spread phenomenon and has damaged some areas more than others.

In even rarer cases, when the top of the ploughsoil was exposed ancient features could already be seen in plan. Examples of this are Trench 41 (probably) and Trench 53 (Fig.4). The latter is particularly clear, in that the narrow ditch or gully (5327) is cut into a soil layer, and the same seems to be true of the postholes (5363, 5344) at the south end of the trench. Again, this kind of survival is rare on an archaeological site of this character, and potentially very important.

Leaving aside the Roman and pre-Roman features, there are also post-medieval features cut into the ploughsoils - occasionally postholes, a 19th-century brick-built drain, and also the latest recuts of the large parallel ditches which cross the site from north-east to south-west. These ditches, marked in yellow on Figure 1, can be traced in a number of trenches: e.g. from Trench 60 (6003) to Trench 30 (3009) and all trenches in between (6.1.7; for section see Figure 8).

A black humic silt covered virtually the whole site over the deposits described above. It would seem most likely that this corresponds to a period when the site was undergoing little use of any kind, and when there may also have been some flooding. In Trench 50 the black silt sealed a 19th-century brick-built drain 5004, and it lies immediately below the (post-1870) build-up layers for the railway yards. Broadly speaking, the black silt therefore dates to about 1800-1870, although analysis of the pottery will probably refine this date.

The last deposits in the sequence are the build-up layers for the railway yards which were laid out in the 19th century, between 1869 and 1895. These deposits are up to 1.1 m deep in level areas, and deeper still where they dip into the slumped fills of earlier ditches. The build-up layers consist of various combinations of gravel, rubble, cinders and chalk which were clearly dumped in a series of tip layers.

6.1.3 The pre-Iron Age archaeology

No evidence was found of any definite pre-Iron Age archaeological features, and only a mall amount of pottery could date to the late Bronze Age (5442, see 6.1.4). However, the flint assemblage (25 worked pieces) which was recovered shows that there was some earlier activity on the site. All the pieces were recovered from features which are later in date than the flints themselves, showing that they were redeposited. As only two flints came from outside the trenches here under discussion (from trenches 58,59), these are included in the discussion below.

The earliest material comes from the Mesolithic period (c. 8500 BC to c. 4000 BC). Four definite microliths (small flint blades chipped into points, and characteristic of the Mesolithic period) were found in Trenches 42,46,49 and 59, while a flint core from Trench 49 and a boring tool from Trench 58 may also be Mesolithic. From the next period, the Neolithic (c. 4000 BC to 2,300BC), an oblique arrowhead was recovered from Trench 51; a retouched scraper fragment from

4806 may also belong to this activity. The remaining material cannot be definitely assigned to a period, but would not be out of place in a Mesolithic or Neolithic context.

In terms of distribution, it was noticeable that a high percentage of the flint, including most of the Mesolithic material, came from the area of Trenches 41-49: i.e. on the west side of the site, close to the river.

6.1.4 **The Iron Age**

Archaeological features which can definitely be dated to the Iron Age are denoted by the colour dark blue on Figure 1, and the evidence on which this dating is based is set out in Appendix 1. The summary drawing (Figure 1) shows that features currently thought to be Iron Age are concentrated around Trenches 41-49, and are very much a minority of the ancient features exposed during the evaluation. This distribution, however, needs to be qualified by the fact that more excavation of features was carried out on the west side of the site (particularly during Phase 1, in Trench 24). In examining Figure 1 it should also be borne in mind that features shown in red are either Roman or ancient but undated. While further excavation would almost certainly reveal more Roman features than pre-Roman, as is borne out by the general tenor of unstratified finds, it would also, almost certainly, significantly increase the absolute quantity of Iron Age features. It is further suspected that it would even out the distribution across the area, as suggested by the crouched inhumation in Trench 56 which, on balance, is more likely to be Iron Age than Roman (see below).

Turning to the Iron Age features themselves: postholes, pits, gullies and ditches were all identified from this period, as well as one area where horizontal stratified deposits occurred (Trench 53, Fig.4, see 6.1.2 above). The latter area is increased in importance in that it seems to overlie some Iron Age features (see Fig.4). Taking the postholes first, these have not yet been identified in sufficient numbers to allow any patterns to be discerned and are not yet themselves evidence for Iron Age structures. Perhaps more significant are the small, curved gullies revealed in Trenches 24 (2415), 41 (4113), 51 (5109) and 57A (5706A). The latter example was excavated and Figure 6 shows its narrow, regular character. Such features might easily belong to circular structures of the kind which are common in the Iron Age and, if investigated in more detail, may themselves prove to be for taking posts. Allowing for truncation, a feature such as 5109, which was 0.8 m wide and 0.44 m deep would also fall easily into this category.

Alternatively, gullies like those described above could well be so-called 'eaves-drip' gullies, which usually reflect the circular shape common to Iron Age houses. In this connection it is of note that a number of butt ends of gullies were revealed, for example 2415, 5706A, and these may show the position of entrances to structures.

In the case of larger, straighter linear features such as 4107 and 5447, these may be intended to define areas of ground, to provide drainage, or possibly a

combination of both. It is difficult to say more about these kind of features without seeing their full extent in plan - even then, excavation of a sizeable sample is often required before their function or functions can be determined. One further feature, 4612, could be part of a large ditch, a large pit, or might be a conglomeration of smaller features, as yet undefined.

With the exception of the burials (see below) only one feature which can definitely be termed an Iron Age pit, 4940, has so far been exposed. While this may be a reflection of the small amount of excavation so far undertaken, it should be noted that pits, especially storage pits for grain, are a very common feature of many Iron Age settlement sites. It is possible that the depot site lies too low, and that the water table is too high, for such pits to have been used.

To the discovery of a horse burial (2437) and an inhumation (2439) in Trench 24 during the Phase I evaluation, we can now add a second crouched inhumation, 5623, from Trench 56 - further evidence that the site had a ritual/religious element. The skeleton is lying on its right side, and is probably largely complete; the condition of the bone is only moderate, although this may improve deeper into the fill of the feature. It was felt that it would not be constructive to excavate this new burial during the evaluation, when its surrounding context could not be understood, and we cannot therefore be sure about dating. However, it is most likely to date either to the Iron Age, or to the early Roman period, with the balance of the evidence pointing to the former period (Philpott 1991: 6-8). It is important to stress that a crouched inhumation would be of equal importance whether it is Iron Age or early Roman - burials from either period have much information to offer.

Both human and animal burials can be used to approach the subject of Iron Age ritual and religion. Taking human burials first, the 'normal' method of disposing of the dead during this period is still unknown - burials like those found at Stratford are rare, and cannot represent the whole population. It is therefore possible that individuals who were buried are in some way special, and suggestions have ranged from deaths from certain diseases, to the possibility that these were the medicine men or witches of their time (Waite 1985). On the other hand, should one or more of the burials prove to be early Roman, then there is much to be learned from the continuation of the burial rite when, following the Roman conquest, cremation was becoming the normal treatment of the dead. Animal burials, whether whole or partial, are no less interesting; the recognition and study of these so-called 'special deposits' is one of the major themes of current Iron Age and Roman studies. Theoretically, a horse should represent a large resource of meat, sinew, skin and bone - so why were some examples buried whole? The advantage at the Stratford site is that having recognised the presence of such 'ritual' deposits during the evaluation, all deposits of animal bone can be carefully examined in any future work, so that more may be discovered. It is certain that in past excavations on sites of this period, specia deposits have gone unnoticed, being treated as normal rubbish disposal.

Phasing and more precisely dating the Iron Age use of the site is barely, on present evidence, possible. In terms of phasing from physical relationships

between features, these have not yet been found; as discussed above, further (area) excavation would probably partially remedy this situation but it is likely to always remain difficult. Further complications are introduced by the presence of a Roman site on top of the Iron Age area - this is useful in understanding the Iron Age to Roman transition period but also means that later features have cut away some of the prehistoric evidence. This process, coupled with that of later ploughing, can result in Roman finds being found in the upper fills of features which were cut in the Iron Age. All these factors must be borne in mind, but they add up to a series of problems which are neither rare on archaeological sites of this type, nor insurmountable. Overall, it is reasonable to remain optimistic. Recent excavations by the Oxford Archaeological Unit at Yarnton in Oxfordshire showed that coherent information could be extracted from an Iron Age/Roman superimposed site of far greater complexity than that revealed at Stratford Market.

The Iron Age pottery is dominated by middle Iron Age flint-tempered material, often with quite coarse inclusions. Some of this, with very coarse inclusions, is early Iron Age or possibly even late Bronze Age (around 1000 BC). Rims, bases and body sherds were recovered in the middle Iron Age fabric, including some decorated fragments. Other fabrics, present in lesser quantities, are a sandy fabric, and a fabric with a sand/organic temper - both of these are probably late Iron Age. A darker sandy fabric is probably either late Iron Age or early Roman. The pottery groups from two contexts are worthy of mention. That from 5442 consisted of 13 sherds of crude flint-tempered ware, including 4 rims from at least two vessels, one of which was carinated. The group probably dates to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age and comes from the fill of a small, shallow feature, 5443. The second group, 5368, contained late Iron Age pottery, perhaps almost as late as the conquest period. It came from an important context, within the one area of vertical stratification found on the site (see Figure 4). Potentially, then, much of the Iron Age period (c. 1000 BC to the Roman conquest) is represented by the pottery assemblage; although it is too soon to tell whether there were any gaps in occupation, it does seem that there was activity on the site for a considerable length of time.

6.1.5 **The Roman period**

It is apparent from Figure 1 that the most numerous features shown in red are the dense formations of archaeological fill (e.g. Trench 43, Trench 49) which are made up of a number of intercutting features. Much of the area of these formations probably consists of pits - e.g rubbish pits - and in fact the evaluation showed relatively few examples of isolated pits. Most of these 'conglomerate' features were not investigated in detail during the evaluation, as to do so within a narrow trench, without seeing the whole formation in plan, would be to risk taking the wrong excavation approach. The presence of such features is, however, reasonably encouraging given that the finds (see below) indicate various phases of Roman activity: intercutting pits, postholes and ditches would allow physical relationships to be established, and could contribute much to the phasing of the site.

A considerable number of Roman postholes were found during the evaluation. Most notable were those from the south end of Trench 53 (5363 - Figs 4,5). Here there were not only a number of discrete postholes (5344) but also close-set postholes in a narrow gully (5363). Both the concentration and the size (0.45 m wide and 0.5 m deep) suggest that the postholes are evidence for a sizeable structure, which is likely to have been something more than a fence, and may well have been a building. The pottery suggests a date in the 2nd century AD. Other postholes occur in trenches 24, 43, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57 and there are many examples of small gullies which may also be structural features, such as in Trenches 49, 57A and 57B. Trenches 43 and 54 in particular are likely, judging by the density of posthole and gully type features, to contain structural evidence.

A considerable number of ditches were found which are likely to date to the Roman period, and some distinct alignments can already be picked out. Ditches crossing the site from north-east to south-west can be seen in Trenches 24, 30, 49 and 52, while the opposite alignment is visible in Trenches 30, 56, 57 and 31. There is some evidence that at least some of the features on the latter alignment may belong to the later Roman period (3rd/4th centuries - see 6.2.3, 6.2.4). The exact function of ditches is always difficult to establish without seeing their full extent in plan and excavating a suitable sample. Generally, they are likely to have defined areas of ground, possibly around a building, while also fulfilling a drainage function. The other common use for ditches - to define and drain fields - is unlikely to have been the case for this area of the site, as there seems to be far too high a concentration of activity.

At least one linear feature, although clearly of "ditch" type, stands out as being different from those discussed above. A very wide cut (some 4.6 m) in Trenches 42 and 45 (4210, 4510) had a number of fine, grey silt fills in the middle of the infill sequence which appeared to be alluvial: 4202-4207, 4507. In the case of Trench 42 these contained pottery from the late 1st century AD. This kind of evidence was not recovered from the Phase I Evaluation, and previously features containing alluvium have not produced finds. The possibility of dating alluvial episodes (albeit localised) at the site is of considerable interest, particularly in this area where it can be related to a number of other archaeological features.

The Roman pottery assemblage recovered during the evaluation was reasonably varied both in terms of the wares which were present, and in its spread through time. The material included Samian (South Gaulish), White ware, White-slipped ware, Amphorae, Grey wares, Black-burnished wares, Nene Valley products, Oxford Colour-coated wares and Mortaria. The latter three types dated from the late 2nd century onwards, with the emphasis being on the second half of the 3rd century and the 4th century. The other wares are dated at Stratford from the conquest period to the mid-2nd century. The whole assemblage thus shows a long chronological spread, from the 1st to the 4th centuries. On present evidence, the first three-quarters of the 3rd century is the most poorly represented period, and a similar pattern was noted from the Phase I evaluation.

The distribution of pottery across the site suggests that the area occupied by Trenches 41-57A saw some activity in all the Roman periods mentioned above. On the eastern side of the site (Trenches 58-66) while there is some 1st and 2nd century pottery, the emphasis seems to be on the late 3rd to 4th centuries (see 6.2).

Finally, but of considerable importance, an area of vertical stratification was sampled in Trench 53 (5318) which is described in 6.1.2 (above and see Fig.4). The lower part of this sequence was late Iron Age, while the upper part contained Roman pottery which was distributed particularly along the thin stony layers - perhaps being material discarded onto a surface. The recognition of this kind of evidence, on a site where most of the archaeology consist of truncated cutting or intercutting features, is of considerable importance, and it is particularly helpful that Iron Age and Roman layers overlie each other, so that changes between the two periods can be directly examined.

6.1.6 **Palaeoenvironmental evidence**

The Stratford Market Depot site is not rich in palaeoenvironmental evidence; there is, for example, no sign of waterlogged deposits where organic remains might be preserved. In these conditions the best chance of recovering such material, particularly grain, would be from burnt deposits, none of which have yet been found. It will be necessary during any Phase III (excavation) work to examine deposits closely for any signs of charred seeds or grain, so that they can then be suitably sampled and analysed.

Leaving aside the kind of evidence discussed above, it should still be possible to develop a basic land-use model for the site, using microphorphological analysis as the main tool. Deposits which will particularly need to be investigated in this way are the assumed ploughsoils, alluvial deposits (particularly where these can be dated) and the various soil layers found within the vertical stratification in Trench 53 (5318: Figure 4). Testing a range of these deposits against a control selection of other fills and layers should provide information as to agricultural activity, and to the character, derivation and deposition method of the deposits.

To this kind of information can be added that from the relationships of archaeological features and ploughsoil to 'natural' alluvial-filled channels on the site. It may also be possible to deduce some data about the water table from the character of man-made ditches on the site.

6.1.7 **Later ditches**

A number of ditches were observed which cross the site approximately from west to east. At least four examples (marked in yellow on Figure 1) can be discerned and are spaced at intervals (from north to south) of 13.2 m, 13.2 m, 21 m, 15 m. They are up to 3 m wide at the top, and a 2 m-deep example was excavated in Trench 30 - others which were not fully excavated are likely to be

deeper still. In stratigraphic terms these features, or at least their latest recuts, can be discerned immediately below the black humic silt (c. AD 1800-70) which covers much of the site, and they cut the uppermost ploughsoils. In the illustrated example (Fig.8) it can be seen that some ploughing had taken place while the ditch was open, as the ploughsoils (3002, 3005) can be seen to have been pushed into the sides of the ditch.

A map of London made in 1744-6 (Rocque) shows a number of field ditches in the area which is now Stratford Market Depot (OAU April 1993: Fig.1). Their spacing. The ditches found in the evaluation can therefore be identified with reasonable certainty as field drainage features which were certainly open in the mid-18th century. While adequate for agricultural purposes, they would have become choked with domestic sewage as the area became built-up. It is recorded that the Commissioners of Sewers gradually filled in or piped these ditches in the first half of the 19th century (VCH vi: 94).

Finally, we should be careful in defining these features as being just of the 18th-century. They may well have their origin in the medieval period, or possibly even earlier. Hints of this were noted during the evaluation, but it was not definitely proved - for example ditch 5718A has cut away an earlier feature, 5716A, on the same alignment; there were also signs that some of the ditches, such as 4946, had earlier recuts. The latter could not be properly investigated without exceeding the safety depth limit, but in any Phase II excavation this possibility should be borne in mind.

6.1.8 **Summary**

The archaeology of the area covered by Trenches 41-57C is, on the whole, both dense and complex. There are signs of the archaeology thinning-out towards the southern ends of trenches 47 and 50. The stratified sequence consists of natural gravel overlaid by a natural silty clay; the majority of the ancient features are cut from the top of this clay layer, but they can occasionally be traced into the ploughsoil above. One or more ploughsoils are present, and in one area of the site some vertical stratification is preserved.

An assemblage of flint showing a bias to the Mesolithic period was recovered. This seems to be concentrated around the west side of the site.

Relatively few Iron Age features have so far been identified, and they are largely concentrated around Trenches 41-49. Further excavation would certainly increase the number of such features, and might also even out the distribution. The presence of Iron Age gullies and postholes indicates that there were structures on the site. Two inhumations and one horse burial testify to a religious/ritual element in the life of the site's inhabitants. The pottery ranges from the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (c. 1000 BC) to the conquest period, although it is too early to say whether there was continuous occupation throughout this time range.

The Roman period is represented by many intercutting features which will aid in phasing the site. There is evidence for post-built structures. The pottery ranges from the conquest period to the 4th century AD, with a possible gap in the last three-quarters of the 3rd century.

The site is not rich in palaeoenvironmental evidence, but it should be possible to build up a basic land-use model. This might be aided by the presence of a number of E-W agricultural ditches which certainly existed in the mid-18th century, but may have earlier origins.

6.2 Trenches 58-66

6.2.1 The spatial distribution of the archaeology

The previous area was left at the eastern limit of Trenches 57A-C. There is a gap of 12 m between this point and Trenches 58-60 and the only trench which crosses this gap, Trench 31 (Fig.1) is helpful only for the northern end, where the archaeology appears to be very sparse. The problem for the rest of the gap is that the evaluation has not revealed exactly where the dense archaeology visible in Trenches 57A-C gives way to the much sparser activity of Trenches 58-60.

Turning to the trenches themselves, the general impression over the whole area is of much sparser activity than on the west side of the site. The predominant feature type is linear, although there are a number of postholes, one conglomerate of features (Trench 59A) and one wide 'natural' channel.

6.2.2 Pre-Iron Age and Iron Age

The pre-Iron Age evidence consisted only of two pieces of flint which are discussed in 6.1.3 (above). Features which can be definitely dated to the Iron Age were also rare - dealing with the small features first these consisted of a small pit or ditch 6112, and a pit or posthole 6107. The former might conceivably form the terminus of a small gully of the type discussed in 6.1.4 (see Fig.1).

One larger feature, 6611 and 6313, produced sherds of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery. This was an E-W orientated ditch, 3.25 m wide but only 0.2 m deep. Its date must remain uncertain for the time being, although we can note that it was certainly cut by a late Roman ditch, 6308 (Fig.7 and see below).

6.2.3 The Roman period

As was noted above, most features in this area are ditches or gullies, and these are set fairly wide apart. Two 'pairs' of narrow gullies occur in trenches 59B and 66, both on an E-W alignment. Two wider ditches in trenches 62 and 64 follow the same alignment, as does the wide, late Iron Age or early Roman ditch described in 6.2.2. The opposite, north-south alignment is also visible, notably

in the ditch 6308, 313, 5934A which appears in three trenches - the same ditch may well also cross Trench 57 (5719B) in which case it is the longest ancient feature which can be traced on the site - cutting an earlier ditch on the way (6313 - see Figure 7).

In terms of dating, while relatively little of the pottery came from good contexts, such as the fill of features, there is clearly more late 3rd and 4th century material than from the rest of the site - the N-S ditch which runs from Trench 63 to Trench 57B (see above) has a definite 4th-century fill, and raises the question of whether thse ditches, being on the edge of a settlement, were used for rubbish disposal. In general, 1st and 2nd century material was recovered from this eastern area of the site, but in lesser quantities than on the west.

Other features, apart from one possible conglomerate of fills in Trench 59A, consisted only of postholes. While a number of these were fairly small and shallow, three substantial postholes were excavated in Trench 59A (5904A) which were very similar in shape and fill to those from Trench 53 (although this time discrete, rather than within a linear feature). These postholes might have been expected to support a reasonable-sized structure, although we cannot say of what type.

6.2.4 Summary

Taking the evidence together, it seems most likely that the eastern area of the site, as represented by trenches 58-66, is either on the very edge of, or beyond, the main focus of activity. It is not yet clear where the change lies between this and the much denser archaeology on the western side of the site, although it must be between Trenches 57A-C and 58. There is evidence for 1st and 2nd century activity but this probably increased in the late 3rd and 4th centuries.

The ditches are most likely to represent field boundaries, possibly with two or more phases on two different alignments. It will be important during any future work to firmly establish the relationship of these features to the settlement area on the west side of the site (6.1.8).

6.3 Trench 38

To the north-east of the main evaluation area a trench was dug across the proposed position of traction building. This building will have a large basement, so that any archaeological deposits/features within its footprint would be destroyed. Trench 38 (not illustrated) crossed the whole width of the building, 16 m, and was 6.8 m wide at the top. this was stepped in at a depth of 1 m, so that at the level of the subsoil the trench was 4.4 m wide.

No ancient features or deposits were recovered from Trench 38. There is thus no sign of any archaeology of the character found in Trenches 41-66. A large ditch running NE-SW crosses the eastern end of the trench, but was cut from

high up in the stratified sequence. This could be one of the channels shown on the 1869 O.S. Map, which was used to carry water to the silk-printing works on in the south-west corner of the site (4.1).

7 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND THE ARCHAEOLOGY (Figs 2,3)

7.1 Predicted impacts on the archaeology - general approach

In trying to predict the impact of the new development on the archaeology, it is helpful to look at three possible situations:

* Individual areas where 100% of any archaeology will be destroyed. The basement area of the traction building, as evaluated by Trench 38 (6.3) would fall into this category.

* Individual areas where a high percentage of the archaeology is to be destroyed, so that what remains is unlikely to be comprehensible if excavated in the future. An example of this is the area just west of the workshop and stores where three parallel drain-runs will be dug out during construction (7.2).

* Areas where a lower percentage of the archaeology will be destroyed. This applies to destruction by piling, and by the pile caps and groundbeams which are part of this kind of construction. In these situations it is necessary to look at the physical area to be occupied by the piles, and assess what percentage of the archaeological site is threatened. Possible impacts during the construction process are relevant, such as damage by compression (i.e. piling rig or other machinery) and damage to the area immediately around the piles during the piling process. Consideration must also be given to the effect on the archaeology of future demolition at the end of the building's life span - e.g. will the piles be reused? Both the workshop and stores area (7.3) and the main shed (7.4) are examples of this kind of problem.

In the case of the first two possibilities, provided the evaluation has shown that significant archaeology is present, the area will normally require the impacts on the archaeology to be mitigated. This can either be carried out by re-design where possible, or, by controlled archaeological excavation prior to construction, so that the archaeology is fully recorded.

The third scenario is altogether less clear cut. No two situations will be alike, and all the factors described above need to be balanced against the density and character of the archaeology which is present, as revealed by evaluation, and the amount of destruction/mitigation taking place elsewhere on the site. It is reasonable to say that no definitive government guidelines exist to cover this kind of situation, i.e. there is no generally agreed acceptable percentage of destruction for a given type of site.

A summary of the predicted impacts for each area of the site is given below. Reference should be made to Figures 2 and 3, where the foundation detail of the proposed structures, including levels at underside of construction, can be overlaid onto the archaeological detail.

7.2 The drain-run area (Fig.2)

Three parallel deep drains, on a NE-SW alignment (invert levels below 101 m TD) will be dug in this area. An open area excavation to mitigate the impact has already been agreed with JLE - its extent is shown on Figure 2.

7.3 The workshop and stores area

This area corresponds to that occupied by trenches 41-49. Piling has been estimated to occupy 2.5% of the footprint of the workshop and stores building. there are a number of beams and pile caps but these are clear of the archaeological levels. The predicted impact thus consists of the actual area occupied by the piles, possibly the area immediately around them (depending on the method used), and any compression from heavy machinery. Some detailed discussion with the design and construction teams is still needed on this topic.

The archaeology in trenches 41-49 is summarised in section 6.1.8. At the southern end of this area (i.e. south of trenches 42 and 45) there are a number of Iron Age linear features - these are potentially important, but they might reasonably be expected to continue into the drain-run area where they can be sampled. The other trenches: 24,42,43-49, show a very different picture. The archaeology is dense, complex and includes the important horse burial and an inhumation. This means that not only will the overall impacts need to be considered, but also the potential impacts on individual features of high archaeological value.

7.4 The main shed area

The piling has been estimated to occupy 5.34% of the footprint of the main shed, but other predicted impacts vary considerably across the building.

The first area to be considered runs from the eastern limits of Trench 47,48,49 up to just beyond the eastern limit of Trenches 57A-C. The slab and pile caps (the latter at 102.7 m TD) are clear of the archaeology, but there are two areas of localised impact - a bogie drop pit, to 101.7 m TD (measures 4.3 m x 12.5 m) and an inspection pit at 102 m TD which is 2.6 m wide and crosses the whole site. Both of these will impact onto the very top of the archaeological levels (see Figs 2,3) and their impact might be increased by any working room cut around the limits of the concrete.

The archaeology of this first area is again fairly dense and complex (summarised in section 6.1.8). It includes a further inhumation, in Trench 56 (5623). Clearly piling at a level of more than 5% cannot be lightly contemplated without some mitigation.

Moving eastwards, the level of the slab drops (to 102.5 m TD) immediately beyond trenches 57A-C, and there is a line of pile caps which go down to 101 m

TD. For the remainder of the archaeologically significant area, the slab remains at 102.25 m TD, and there are four groundbeams at 101.95, each 2.1 m across, and running right across the site. In terms of impact on the archaeology, the slab will be constructed very close to, or into the archaeology, while the ground beams and pile caps will cut into it by up to 1 m. Again, it may be necessary to allow for further impact from working room created around these beams and caps.

Archaeological features are likely to continue to occur at high density across part of the area between trenches 57A-C and 58-60 (see summary in 6.2.4). The predicted impacts on this area are severe, and if left unmitigated, there must be some doubt as to whether the remaining archaeology would be comprehensible. From trenches 58-60 eastwards, the archaeology consists mainly of ditches which may well be field boundaries. Mitigation of the impacts in this area might be possible by sampling archaeological features within the existing evaluation trenches.

7.5 **The traction building**

The results obtained from the evaluation (Trench 38, see 6.3) in this area indicate that the construction of the traction building is unlikely to have any significant impact. A small section of a 19th-century channel will be lost, but considerable stretches of this feature will be preserved elsewhere on the site.

8 COMMENTS ON PHASE III EXCAVATION PROPOSALS PRODUCED TO DATE

It is not possible as yet to produce a definitive mitigation strategy, as decisions have not been made regarding the acceptability or otherwise of the predicted impacts described above (7.1-7.4). However, much relevant information is contained in the original Project Design (OAU May 1992) where an open area excavation was proposed. This proposal was revised in a later document which took account of the preliminary results from the Phase II evaluation (OAU January 1993) and reduced the size of the open area excavation by about one third. It is this latter proposal which is shown on Figure 2 so that it can be seen against the foundation and archaeological detail. Some of the broader historical questions which could be approached through an excavation of this kind are set out in Appendix 4.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1991 — *Exploring our Past: Strategies for the Archaeology of England*, English Heritage, London.

ERL 1990 — *Jubilee Line Extension archaeological assessment: report of desk study*, Environmental Resources Limited, June 1990.

OAU Feb. 1992 — *Stratford Market Depot: archaeological field evaluation 1991-92*, Oxford Archaeological Unit, February 1992.

OAU June 1992 — *Stratford Market Depot (north): revised fieldwork proposal (Phase II Evaluation)*, Oxford Archaeological Unit, June 1992

OAU May 1992 — *Stratford Market Depot: north area - excavation project design 1992*, Oxford Archaeological Unit, May 1992.

OAU January 1993 — Stratford Market Depot (North): Phase II archaeology (general principles) with specific proposals for the workshop and stores area (Drawing Nos OAU/SMD/2,3,4). Also subsequent drawings (Nos OAU/SMD/2,3,4/A) showing proposals for main shed area, with accompanying letter, 25/1/93.

OAU April 1993 — *The industrial development of the Stratford Market Depot site with particular reference to possible sources of ground contamination*, Oxford Archaeological Unit, 4/2/93.

Perring, D, 1991 — *Roman London*, London.

Philpott, R. 1991 — *Burial practices in Roman Britain: a survey of grave treatment and furnishing, AD 43 - 410*, BAR (BS) 219, Oxford.

Rocque, J. 1744-6 — *Survey of London*, 1744-6.

Rodwell, W, 1978 — Relict Landscapes in Essex, in Bowen, H C, and Fowler, P J (eds), *Early Land Allotment*, BAR 48, Oxford, pp 89-98.

Waite, G. 1985 — *Ritual and Religion in Iron Age Britain*, BAR 149, Oxford.

Watson, M, 1989 — Stratford Langthorne Abbey restored, *Essex Journal*, 24.2, 33-37.

VCH ii, vi — *Victoria county history of the county of Essex*, Volumes ii, vi, London, 1903, 1973.

APPENDIX 1 DATABASE OF SIGNIFICANT CONTEXTS: STRATIGRAPHIC AND FINDS DETAIL

Introduction

This appendix has been designed to provide detailed information on the majority of the significant archaeological contexts from the Phase II evaluation. Some later features, such as the 18th-century ditches, are not listed, but all ancient features and layers are covered. There will thus be an entry for all features shown on figure 1. It is intended that use of this appendix together with the report illustrations will allow the trench extension criteria (Appendix 3) to be applied.
The following notes are to clarify individual classes of entry:

Context number(s): Context number(s) as seen on Fig.1

Type of context(s): The following interpretative divisions have been used in this category: deposit, gully, pit, posthole,intercutting group of features, unclassified feature.

Cut into: Refers to the latest deposit cut by the described feature.

Over/under: refers to the layer immediately above the latest fill of the described feature. Where possible, for either of these categories, reference has been made to subsoil, ploughsoil and fills of features. Otherwise a description of the still deposit is given.

Finds: Refers to the pottery and flint assemblages which have undergone an initial examination, primarily for the purpose of spot-dating.

Dating: Refers to the spot-dating of the pottery assemblages. It should be noted that finds have been recovered from the initial cleaning of features, which have not undergone further sampling, and that some features have not been sampled to their full extent due to depth limitations. In both these cases it is possible that the described feature could be earlier than the spot-dating would initially indicate.

TRENCH NUMBER 41

Context number(s):	4113
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	N-S orientated curvilinear ditch, filled by 1414 and 1428.
Cut into:	Subsoil (4116).
Over/under:	Under a friable mid-greyish green clayey silt (4125).
Finds:	2 flint tempered sherds from fill 4114.
Dating:	Middle Iron Age.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated due to depth limitations. Eastern edge had a visible slope of 45 degrees.

Context number(s):	4107
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	NW-SE orientated linear ditch, 3 m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.7 m. Filled by 4111, 4112, 4110, 4108 and 4126.
Cut into:	A friable mid-greyish green clayey silt (4125).
Over/under:	Under a mid-greyish brown clayey silt (4127).
Finds:	2 flint and 2 shell tempered sherds from fill 4108.
Dating:	Middle Iron Age.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated due to depth limitations. Visible sides sloped at 45 degrees.

Context number(s):	4120
Type of context(s):	"Natural" channel.
Comments on type:	SW-NE orientated linear channel, filled by a bluish grey silty clay 4119 (alluvium deposit).
Cut into:	Friable mid-greyish green clayey silts (4121 and 4122).
Over/under:	Under a compact mid-greyish brown clayey silt (4109).
Finds:	Animal bone.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated due to depth limitations.

TRENCH NUMBER 42

Context number(s):	4216
Type of context(s):	Unclassified feature.
Comments on type:	Truncated by modern drain (4100/i) and partially concealed by the NW-facing section; filled by 4217.
Cut into:	A friable mid-greyish brown sandy silt (4212) and a tenacious dark greyish brown sandy clay (4207 a fill of 4210).
Over/under:	Under a friable mid-greyish brown sandy silt (4212), a ploughsoil.
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	4210
Type of context(s):	Unclassified feature.
Comments on type:	A NNW-SSE orientated feature had a SW edge which sloped at 20 degrees towards an irregular pocketed base; filled by a sequence of predominantly bluish grey sandy silts (alluvial deposits); 4209, 4208, 4206, 4204, 4205, 4203, 4202, 4213 and 4207.
Cut into:	A tenacious mid-greyish brown sandy silt (4211).
Over/under:	Under a black humic silt (4201).
Finds:	1 oxidized sherd from fill 4204; 10 flint tempered and 2 reduced (one possibly a fragment of Roman tile) sherds from fill 4207. 1 broken microlith from fill 4203.
Dating:	Late 1st century.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; complete profile concealed by the trench sections. Filled by a sequence of alluvial deposits (bluish grey silts). Finds were located from a middle fill (4204) and two upper fills 4203 and 4207. Possibly equivalent to 4510.

TRENCH NUMBER 43

Context number(s):	4333
Type of context(s):	Intercutting group of features.
Comments on type:	This number represent a group of features which could not be distinguished in plan, due to the similarity of their fills. One fill number was allocated 4332.
Cut into:	Subsoil (4334).

Over/under:	Under a friable light greyish brown clayey silt (4306); a ploughsoil.
Finds:	1 flint tempered with carination and finger-tip decoration and 7 fine oxidized sherds from fill 4332.
Dating:	1st to 2nd century.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	4319, 4321, 4323, 4325, 4327, 4329, 4331
Type of context(s):	Postholes.
Comments on type:	A group of 7 circular/oval postholes, typically 0.3 m in diameter. Filled by 4318, 4320, 4322, 4324, 4326, 4328 and 4330.
Cut into:	Subsoil (4334).
Over/under:	Under a friable light greyish brown clayey silt (4306); a ploughsoil.
Finds:	1 flint tempered and 1 greyware sherd (possibly contamination from ploughsoil above).
Dating:	Not closely datable.
General comments:	Full dimensions of these features are unknown. Only 4322 and 4330 were excavated, and revealed diameters of 0.27 and 0.28 m respectively with depths of 0.10 m.

TRENCH NUMBER 45

Context number(s):	4505
Type of context(s):	?Pit.
Comments on type:	Truncated by modern drain (4502) and partially concealed by the NW-facing section. Filled by 4511.
Cut into:	Two compact mid-reddish brown sandy silts 4506 and 4507, the latter a fill of 4510.
Over/under:	A friable mid-grey sandy silt (4504); a ?ploughsoil.
Finds:	6 flint/sandy tempered, 1 cordon rim and 3 reduced (2 poppy head beaker, possible of Iron Age source) sherds.
Dating:	Late Iron Age/early Roman.
General comments:	Not totally excavated due to depth limitations. Visible dimensions of 1.8 x 1.1 m with unknown depth.

Context number(s):	4510
Type of context(s):	Unclassified feature.

Comments on type: NW-SE orientated linear feature, filled by 4504 and 4507.

Cut into: Subsoil (4509).

Over/under: Under a black humic silt (4503).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; complete profile concealed by trench sections. The upper fill, a friable mid-grey sandy silt (4504), was an alluvium deposit. Possibly equivalent to 4210.

TRENCH NUMBER 46

Context number(s): 4614

Type of context(s): Ditch.

Comments on type: NE-SW orientated linear ditch, filled by 4613.

Cut into: Subsoil (4617).

Over/under: Under ploughsoil (4610).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; not excavated. Possibly equivalent to 2428.

Context number(s): 4612

Type of context(s): Ditch.

Comments on type: NW-SE orientated linear ditch, filled by 4611.

Cut into: Subsoil (4617).

Over/under: Under ploughsoil (4610).

Finds: 7 organic, sand or grog tempered sherds from 4611.

Dating: Middle/late Iron Age.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; not excavated. Dating based on surface find collection.

TRENCH NUMBER 47

Context number(s): 4715

Type of context(s): ?Pit.

Comments on type:	Semicircular feature, partially concealed by the NW-facing section, 1.2 m wide with a depth of 0.2 m. Filled by 4714.
Cut into:	Subsoil (4709).
Over/under:	Under a tenacious mid-grey silty clay (4705).
Finds:	1 flint tempered and 2 reduced (1 rim possibly BB2 dish/bowl) sherds.
Dating:	2nd century.
General comments:	NW side sloped at 45 degrees towards an undulating base.

Context number(s):	4710
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	Only part of the southern edge detected; orientation unclear. Filled by 4708, 4712, 4713.
Cut into:	Subsoil (4709).
Over/under:	Under a tenacious mid-grey silty clay (4705).
Finds:	6 flint, grog or sand tempered sherds, 1 mortarium and 2 "Fabric 52" from fill 4708; 5 flint tempered sherds from fill 4712.
Dating:	Middle/late Iron Age.
General comments:	Not totally excavated due to depth limitations. Southern edge sloped at 60 degrees to a depth of 0.6 m, the extent of excavation.

TRENCH NUMBER 48

Context number(s):	4819
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated ditch, filled by 4812.
Cut into:	Subsoil (4811).
Over/under:	Ploughsoil (4810).
Finds:	1 oxidized and 1 reduced sherd from fill 4812.
Dating:	2nd century.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated. Dating based on surface find collection.

Context number(s):	4814
Type of context(s):	Intercutting group of features.

Comments on type: This number represents a group of possibly 3 features which could not be distinguished in plan, due to the similarity of their fills. 1 fill number was allocated (4813).

Cut into: Subsoil (4811).

Over/under: Ploughsoil (4810).

Finds: 5 reduced sherds (1 jar rim).

Dating: 2nd century.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; not excavated. Dating based on surface find collection.

Context number(s): 4816, 4818

Type of context(s): Postholes.

Comments on type: 2 postholes 0.25 and 0.3 m in diameter; 4816 was partially concealed by the NW-facing section and semicircular in plan, filled by 4815; 4818 was circular, filled by 4817.

Cut into: Subsoil (4811).

Over/under: Ploughsoil (4810).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s): 4807

Type of context(s): Ditch.

Comments on type: NE-SW orientated linear ditch, filled by 4806.

Cut into: ?ploughsoil (4805).
Over/under: Under a compact greyish black sandy clay (4804).

Finds: a flint side scraper, 1 reduced (jar rim) and 1 post medieval sherd from fill 4806.

Dating: Not closely datable (post medieval sherd possibly intrusive).

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated.

TRENCH NUMBER 49

Context number(s): 4934

Type of context(s): Unclassified feature.

Comments on type:	Truncated to S by 4907 and partially concealed by the SE-facing section. Filled by 4908.
Cut into:	Subsoil (4919).
Over/under:	Ploughsoil (4932).
Finds:	3 organic, sand or grog and one whiteware sherd from fill 4908.
Dating:	Late 1st century.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated. Possibly a N-S orientated ditch?

Context number(s):	4914
Type of context(s):	Unclassified feature.
Comments on type:	N-S orientated irregular feature, filled by 4913.
Cut into:	Subsoil (4919).
Over/under:	Ploughsoil (4932).
Finds:	1 oxidized and 1 reduced (jar rim with white bands on rim and shoulder).
Dating:	2nd century.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated. Minimum depth of 0.2 m. Possibly ploughmark?

Context number(s):	4918
Type of context(s):	Unclassified feature.
Comments on type:	NE-SW orientated linear feature, filled by 4917.
Cut into:	Subsoil (4919).
Over/under:	Ploughsoil (4933).
Finds:	1 broken microlith.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated. Possibly ploughmark?

Context number(s):	4921
Type of context(s):	Posthole.
Comments on type:	Circular posthole 0.21 m in diameter.
Cut into:	Subsoil (4919).

Over/under:	Ploughsoil (4933).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated. No sign of postpipe; level of truncation unknown.

Context number(s):	4923
Type of context(s):	Gully.
Comments on type:	NW-SE orientated linear gully, filled by 4924.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (4933).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (4932).
Finds:	1 M22 sherd.
Dating:	Late 3rd to 4th century.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	4926
Type of context(s):	Gully.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated linear gully, filled by 4927.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (4933).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (4932).
Finds:	1 flint tempered (base) sherd and animal bone from fill 4927.
Dating:	Middle/late Iron Age.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	4938
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated linear ditch, filled by 4939.
Cut into:	Subsoil (4919).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (4933).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.

General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	4940
Type of context(s):	Pit.
Comments on type:	Irregular oval shaped pit, partially concealed by the SE-facing section; filled by 4941.
Cut into:	Subsoil (4919).
Over/under:	Ploughsoil (4932).
Finds:	1 flint tempered sherd and bone from fill 4941.
Dating:	Middle/late Iron Age.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	4952
Type of context(s):	Pit.
Comments on type:	Circular shaped pit, partially concealed by the SE-facing section. Filled by 4953.
Cut into:	A compact mid-orange brown sandy clay loam (possible ground surface) 4951.
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (4933).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	4947, 4956, 4954
Type of context(s):	Intercutting group of features.
Comments on type:	This number represents a group of possibly 3 features, filled by 4948, 4957, 4955. The boundaries between these fills are ill-defined, and cannot be relied upon with certainty.
Cut into:	A compact mid-orange brown sandy clay loam (a possible ground surface) 4951.
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (4933).
Finds:	4 sandy tempered (2 jar rims) and 4 reduced sherds from fill 4948.
Dating:	Late 1st to 2nd century.

General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	4949
Type of context(s):	?Ditch
Comments on type:	N-S orientated irregularly shaped feature, filled by 4950.
Cut into:	A compact mid-orange brown sandy clay loam (possibly a ground surface) 4951.
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (4933).
Finds:	2 reduced (1 base); 1 buff (base); 1 white slipped ware.
Dating:	Late 1st to 2nd century.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated. The irregularity in shape could indicate the presence of more than one feature not identified in plan.

TRENCH NUMBER 50

Context number(s):	5014
Type of context(s):	Pit.
Comments on type:	Circular shaped pit, 0.65 m in diameter with a depth of 0.14 m, partially concealed by the W-facing section. Filled by 5013.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5017).
Over/under:	Ploughsoil (5006).
Finds:	1 sherd with a sandy fabric.
Dating:	Iron Age.
General comments:	A diameter of 0.65 m and depth of 0.14 m. Sides sloped at 45 degrees towards a flat base.

Context number(s):	5016
Type of context(s):	Pit.
Comments on type:	Oval shaped pit, filled by 5015 and 5021.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5017).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5006).
Finds:	1 flint tempered and 3 reduced grog tempered sherds from fill 5015. 1 bead rim, 1 southern Gaulish samian, 1 oxidized base and 1 amphora sherd from fill 5021.

Dating:	Late 1st century.
General comments:	Dimensions of 0.9 x 0.65 m with a depth of 0.38 m. Sides sloped 65 degrees towards a flat base.

TRENCH NUMBER 51

Context number(s):	5109
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	N-S orientated linear feature, approximately 0.9 m wide, although the southern end turns towards the east where it meets the W-facing section. Filled by 5118, 5108 and 5105.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (5117).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (5104).
Finds:	1 flint and 1 organic tempered sherd and an oblique arrowhead from fill 5105. 9 flint tempered and 3 oxidized sherds from fill 5108.
Dating:	Late Iron Age/early Roman.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated. Terminates at its northern end.

TRENCH NUMBER 52

Context number(s):	5211
Type of context(s):	?Ditch.
Comments on type:	Possible E-W orientated linear ditch; partially concealed by N and W-facing sections. Filled by 5210.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5209).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5206).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated. Possibly equivalent to ditch cut 3019.

Context number(s):	5208
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated linear ditch. Filled by 5207.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5209).

Over/under: Under ploughsoil (5206).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

TRENCH NUMBER 53

Context number(s): 5363

Type of context(s): Postholes.

Comments on type: An E-W orientated linear cut, contained possibly 3 circular postholes, filled by 5362 and 5319.

Cut into: A friable mid-greenish grey silty clay (5339).

Over/under: Under ploughsoil (5337).

Finds: 1 sandy, 2 reduced and 1 BB2 sherd from fill 5319. 1 ?flagon sherd from fill 5362.

Dating: 2nd century.

General comments: Visible dimensions of 1.1 x 0.5 m; partially concealed by the W-facing section. The southern posthole (the only posthole to be excavated) had a diameter and depth of 0.5 m, with vertical sides. If further postholes are proven to exist within this cut, it is plausible that 5363 was a construction trench.

Context number(s): 5344, 5361

Type of context(s): Postholes.

Comments on type: Possibly 5 oval shaped postholes. Filled by 5362.

Cut into: A friable mid-greenish grey silty clay (5339).

Over/under: Under ploughsoil (5337).

Finds: 1 oxidized (leached organic/calcareous temper) sherd.

Dating: Late Iron Age/early Roman.

General comments: 5344 and 5361 were excavated, and displayed dimensions of 0.15 x 0.12 and 0.2 x 0.2 m, with depths of 0.3 and 0.16 m respectively. 3 further oval features were seen in plan, but not excavated.

Context number(s): 5355

Type of context(s): Pit/Ditch terminus.

Comments on type: Large sub-rectangular feature partially concealed by the E-facing section.

	Filled by 5354.
Cut into:	A friable light grey clayey silt (5322).
Over/under:	Under a black humic silt (5304).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.
Context number(s):	5318
Type of context(s):	Group of deposits.
Comments on type:	1 number is used here to describe a vertical sequence of 12 layers; 5318, 5323, 5345, 5346, 5353, 5364, 5365, 5366, 5368 and 5351.
Cut into:	N/A.
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5335).
Finds:	24 flint and grog tempered together with reduced sherds (most sherds very abraded) from layer 5318; 25 sherds similar in character to the 5318 assemblage and a utilized blade-like flint flake from 5323; 4 flint and 2 grog tempered sherds from 5345; 1 flint sherd from 5353; 3 flint ,sand or grog tempered, 2 oxidized and 2 reduced from 5364; 2 sand, grog or flint tempered sherds from 5365; 6 flint, grog or sand tempered sherds from 5368.
Dating:	Top of the sequence 2nd century; bottom of sequence late Iron Age.
General comments:	An alternating series of stony layers, some possibly representing surfaces, and bands of sandy loam. The sequence was not fully excavated due to depth limitations.
Context number(s):	5312
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated ditch, filled by 5311 and 5367.
Cut into:	A light grey silty clay; a fill of 5326.
Over/under:	Under a friable mid-grey clayey silt (5305).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5326
Type of context(s):	"Natural" channel.
Comments on type:	NW-SE orientated channel, filled by a greenish grey silty clay (5347) and a light greyish brown clayey silt (5348).
Cut into:	A friable greyish brown clayey silt (5377).
Over/under:	Under a friable mid-grey clayey silt (5305).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated due to depth limitations. Filled by alluvium deposits.

Context number(s):	5327
Type of context(s):	Gully.
Comments on type:	NE-SW orientated gully, filled by 5328.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5324).
Over/under:	Ploughsoil (5321).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

TRENCH NUMBER 54

Context number(s):	5434
Type of context(s):	?Ditch.
Comments on type:	Possible NW-SE orientated linear ditch, partially concealed by N and E-facing section. Filled by 5433.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5406).
Over/under:	Under a friable mid-reddish brown silty loam (5405).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5432
Type of context(s):	?Pit.
Comments on type:	Semicircular in plan, partially concealed by W-facing section. Filled by 5431.
Cut into:	A friable mid-reddish brown silty loam (5405).
Over/under:	Under a friable mid-grey clayey silt (5404).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5428
Type of context(s):	Unclassified feature.
Comments on type:	Oval shaped feature with ill-defined edges, partially concealed by W-facing section. Filled by 5427.
Cut into:	A friable mid-reddish brown silty loam (5405).
Over/under:	Under a friable mid-grey clayey silt (5404).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5430
Type of context(s):	Pit
Comments on type:	Semicircular feature partially concealed by the W-facing section.
Cut into:	A friable mid-reddish brown silty loam (5405).
Over/under:	Under a friable mid-grey clayey silt (5404).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5422
Type of context(s):	Group of postholes.
Comments on type:	4 circular shaped postholes, typically 0.3 m in diameter. Filled by 5421, 5423,

	5425 and 5437. 5422 partially concealed by W-facing section.
Cut into:	A friable mid-reddish brown silty loam (5405).
Over/under:	Under a friable mid-grey clayey silt (5404).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions of these features unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5443
Type of context(s):	?Posthole.
Comments on type:	Semicircular in plan, partially concealed by W-facing section, with visible dimensions of 0.45 x 0.25 m. Filled by 5442.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5441).
Over/under:	Under a friable mid-reddish brown silty loam (4505).
Finds:	13 flint tempered sherds (including 4 rims).
Dating:	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age.
General comments:	Gently sloped sides with a maximum depth of 0.1 m. Sever truncation prevents a reliable interpretation of this feature.

Context number(s):	5445
Type of context(s):	?Posthole.
Comments on type:	An oval shaped feature, with visible dimensions of 0.45 x 0.4 m and 0.15 m deep. Filled by 5444.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5441).
Over/under:	Under a friable mid-reddish brown silty loam (5405).
Finds:	1 reduced sherd and burnt clay from fill 5444.
Dating:	Early Roman.
General comments:	Sides sloped at 45 degrees towards a flat base. Severely truncated.

Context number(s):	5447
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated linear ditch, filled by 5446.

Cut into:	Subsoil (5441).
Over/under:	A friable mid-reddish brown silty loam (5405).
Finds:	A utilized blade-like flint flake, 5 flint, sand or grog tempered, 1 reduced and 1 BB1 (probably intrusive) sherds from fill 5446.
Dating:	?Late Iron Age/early Roman.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not fully excavated due to depth limitations.

TRENCH NUMBER 55

Context number(s):	5510
Type of context(s):	Pit/ditch.
Comments on type:	Semicircular feature partially concealed by N-facing section. Filled by 5509 and 5518.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5508).
Over/under:	Under ?ploughsoil (5507).
Finds:	3 reduced and 1 unidentified sherds from 5509.
Dating:	Late 1st century.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated. Edges sloped at 45 degrees towards a flat base.

Context number(s):	5512
Type of context(s):	?Pit.
Comments on type:	Large semicircular feature partially concealed by the W-facing section. Filled by 5511.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5508).
Over/under:	Under ?ploughsoil (5507).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5514
Type of context(s):	Postholes.

Comments on type: 2 circular postholes (5514 and 5516), 0.28 and 0.29 m in diameter and 0.15 and 0.13 m in depth. Filled by 5513 and 5515.

Cut into: Subsoil (5508).

Over/under: Under ?ploughsoil (5507).

Finds: 1 reduced jar rim from 5513; 1 flint tempered sherd from 5515.

Dating: ?Middle Iron Age to 1st century.

General comments: Both features had steeply sloped sides and a flat base.

TRENCH NUMBER 56

Context number(s): 5609

Type of context(s): Intercutting group of features.

Comments on type: E-W orientated linear ditch (5609) filled by 5610 and 5649, cuts a gravelly layer (possibly a ground surface 5650), layers of ploughsoil 5651 and 5652 and the fills of two larger feature 5653 and 5654. All the described features were partially concealed by the W and N-facing sections.

Cut into: Unknown.

Over/under: The fill of 5609 (the latest deposit in the sequence) was under Ploughsoil (5604).

Finds: 1 sandy, flint or grog tempered sherd from 5653. 2 reduced sherds from 5654.

Dating: ?Middle Iron Age/1st century.

General comments: Full dimensions and stratigraphical relationships unknown; not totally excavated.

Context number(s): 5615

Type of context(s): "Natural" channel.

Comments on type: ?N-S orientated channel filled by bluish grey silty clays (5627 and 5632).

Cut into: A friable light grey sandy silt (5645).

Over/under: Under ploughsoil (5604).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; not excavated. Clearly defined edges in plan reveal a visible width of 4 m. Filled by alluvial deposits (5627 and 5632).

Context number(s):	5611
Type of context(s):	?Postholes.
Comments on type:	A group of 3 irregularly shaped postholes 5611, 5613 and 5635. Filled by 5612, 5614 and 5636.
Cut into:	A compact light bluish grey silty clay (5627), the lowest observed fill of "natural" channel 5615.
Over/under:	Under a compact light grey silty clay (5626), the upper fill of "natural" channel 5615.
Finds:	Animal bone in fill 5612.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions of features unknown; not excavated. 5611 and 5613 are filled by bluish grey alluvium, possibly the same as 5626.

Context number(s):	5623
Type of context(s):	Inhumation.
Comments on type:	An E-W aligned crouched inhumation (5624), in a rectangular cut (5623); partially concealed by the W-facing section.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5616).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5631).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown not excavated. The fill of the burial pit is severely truncated; part of the skeleton may be missing.

Context number(s):	5621
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	N-S orientated linear ditch. Filled by 5622 and 5618.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5616).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5631).
Finds:	3 reduced (1 flanged bowl) sherds.
Dating:	?4th century.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5633
Type of context(s):	Unclassified feature.
Comments on type:	Large irregular shaped feature, partially concealed by the E and S-facing sections. Filled by 5634.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5616).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5631).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

TRENCH NUMBER 57A

Context number(s):	5716A
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated ditch. Filled by 5717A, truncated on southern side by 5718A.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (5732A).
Over/under:	Under a hard dark brown silty clay (5719A), fill of later feature 5718A.
Finds:	2 reduced sherds and 2 glazed sherds (possibly intrusive) from fill 5717A.
Dating:	?Late Iron Age/early Roman.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5712A
Type of context(s):	Postholes.
Comments on type:	2 circular postholes 5712A and 5715A, 0.2 and 0.3 m in diameter and 0.08 m deep. Filled by 5713A and 5714A.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5711A).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5704A).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Both features sides sloped at 45 degree and had irregular bases. Possibly root disturbance?

Context number(s):	5710A
Type of context(s):	Ditch and ?pit.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated linear ditch and a possible pit visible in plan, on the southern side of the intersection with the E-facing section, as a circular protrusion. Filled by 5727A, 5722A and 5709A.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5711A).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5704A).
Finds:	11 flint and sand tempered and 1 oxidized sherd and a broken flint scraper from fill 5709A. 4 flint and 1 sand tempered sherds from fill 5722A.
Dating:	Middle Iron Age.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated due to depth limitations. Sides sloped at 60 degrees, base not exposed.

Context number(s):	5706A
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	N-S orientated linear ditch. Filled by 5705A.
Cut into:	The fill of ditch 5710A (5709A) and subsoil (5711).
Over/under:	Ploughsoil (5704A).
Finds:	25 mainly sandy tempered sherds from fill 5705A.
Dating:	Middle Iron Age.
General comments:	Terminates at southern end. Sides sloped at 45 degrees towards a U-shaped base. 0.6 m wide and 0.2 m deep.

Context number(s):	5707A
Type of context(s):	Posthole.
Comments on type:	Irregularly shaped posthole, partially concealed by W-facing section. Filled by 5708A.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (5704A).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (5703A).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

TRENCH NUMBER 57B

Context number(s):	5707B
Type of context(s):	Intercutting group of features.
Comments on type:	A complex group of layers and intercutting features at the SW end of the trench. The following fill numbers were allocated where soils differences could be distinguished; 5706B, 5711B and 5709B.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5712B).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5705B).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions and stratigraphic relationships unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5714B
Type of context(s):	Posthole.
Comments on type:	Probable circular posthole, partially concealed by W-facing section. Filled by 5715B.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (5705B).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (5704B).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	0.38 m in diameter with unknown depth. Sides sloped at 60 degrees.

Context number(s):	5716B
Type of context(s):	Posthole.
Comments on type:	Circular posthole filled by 5717B.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5712).
Over/under:	Under Ploughsoil (5704B).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated. A diameter of 0.38 m with unknown depth.

Context number(s):	5719B
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	N-S orientated linear ditch. Filled by 5741B and 5720B.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (5705B).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (5704B).
Finds:	1 sand, flint or grog tempered; 2 shell tempered; 2 BB2; 1 samian and 1 fineware sherd from fill 5720B.
Dating:	Late 2nd century.
General comments:	Full dimension unknown; complete profile partially concealed by sections. A width of 0.93 m and a minimum depth of 0.24 m; not totally excavated due to depth limitations. Sides sloped at 45 degrees.

Context number(s):	5738B
Type of context(s):	Pit.
Comments on type:	Sub-oval pit, partially concealed by W-facing section. Filled by 5739B and 5740B.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5712B) and the upper fill of ditch 5719B (5720B).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (5704B).
Finds:	3 oxidized and 1 reduced sherd from fill 5739B.
Dating:	2nd century.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated. Sides sloped at 30 degrees towards a concave base; 0.36 m deep.

Context number(s):	5724B
Type of context(s):	Intercutting group of features.
Comments on type:	A complex group of layer and intercutting features truncated at the S by ditch (5721B) and partially concealed by the E and W-facing sections. The following fill numbers were allocated where soil differences were distinguished; 5721B, 5725B, 5727B and 5723B.
Cut into:	?Ploughsoil (5728B).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (5704B).
Finds:	1 shell tempered, 1 oxidized, 2 reduced and 1 BB2 from fill 5721B.
Dating:	2nd century.

General comments:	Full dimensions and stratigraphic relationships unknown; not excavated.
Context number(s):	5729B
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated linear ditch 1.12 m wide and 0.48 m deep, filled by 5730B, 5731B, 5732B, 5733B, 5734B, 5735B and 5737B.
Cut into:	Lower ploughsoil (5728B).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5704B).
Finds:	3 sand, flint or grog tempered sherds from 5730B; 4 sand, flint or grog tempered, 1 samian and 1 reduced sherd from 5732B and 1 bead rim in vesicular fabric and 1 flint/sand tempered base from fill 5733B.
Dating:	Middle Iron Age/early Roman.
General comments:	V-shaped profile with a flat base.
Context number(s):	5752B
Type of context(s):	Intercutting group of features.
Comments on type:	A curvilinear gully (5774B), 0.41 m wide with a depth of 0.39 m; a circular pit (5752B), 0.71 m in diameter with a depth of 0.61 m and an irregular shaped pit/posthole (5754B), 0.47 m wide and 1.11 m in length. These were filled by 5775B, 5753B and 5755B.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (5704B).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (5703B).
Finds:	2 reduced and 1 oxidized sherds.
Dating:	?1st century.
General comments:	Gully (5774B) had sides that sloped at 70 degrees with a concave base. Pit (5752B) had sides that sloped at 70 degrees with a concave base. Full dimensions of 5754B unknown; not excavated.
Context number(s):	5758B
Type of context(s):	Unclassified feature.
Comments on type:	Irregular oval shaped feature in plan, partially concealed by the W-facing section. Filled by 5759B.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (5704B).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (5703B).
Finds:	None.

Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5760B
Type of context(s):	Unclassified feature.
Comments on type:	Irregular oval shaped feature, 1.02 m wide, partially concealed by E-facing section. Filled by 5761B.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (5704B).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (5703B).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5756B
Type of context(s):	Ditch.
Comments on type:	N-S orientated linear ditch, with a width of 2 m and a depth of 0.4 m. Filled by 5757B and 5773B.
Cut into:	?Subsoil (5768B).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5704B).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Eastern edge sloped at 80 degrees and the western edge sloped at 45 degrees.

TRENCH NUMBER 57C

Context number(s):	5710C
Type of context(s):	Gully.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated linear gully, 0.5 m wide and 0.06 m deep, which terminated close to the E-facing section; filled by 5711C. This was cut by a possible gully/pit (5708C).
Cut into:	Subsoil (5705C).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5704C).
Finds:	None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Sides sloped at 45 degrees towards a flat base. Full dimensions of 5708C unknown, partially concealed by the W-facing section.

TRENCH NUMBER 58

Context number(s): 5812

Type of context(s): Gully.

Comments on type: E-W orientated linear ditch, 0.7 m deep and 0.27 m wide, truncated by a later drainage ditch (5801/b). Filled by 5811.

Cut into: Ploughsoil (5810).

Over/under: Under a tenacious dark grey silty clay (5801/c).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Sides sloped at 45 degrees towards a rounded base.

Context number(s): 5809

Type of context(s): Ditch.

Comments on type: NW-SE orientated linear ditch, 0.7 m wide and 0.45 m deep, truncated at northern edge by later linear ditch (5804). Filled by 5808 and 5807.

Cut into: Subsoil (5813) and ploughsoil (5810).

Over/under: Under a tenacious mid brown clayey silt (5806).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Sides sloped at 60 degrees towards a concave base.

TRENCH NUMBER 59A

Context number(s): 5934A

Type of context(s): Ditch.

Comments on type: N-S orientated linear ditch, 2.4 m wide. Filled by 5919A.

Cut into: Ploughsoil (5932A), subsoil (5920A) and ?alluvium (5918A).

Over/under: Under upper ploughsoil (5931A).

Finds: None.

Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated. Southern side sloped at an angle of 50 degrees and the northern side sloped at an angle of 20 degrees.
Context number(s):	5933
Type of context(s):	"Natural" channel.
Comments on type:	N-S orientated channel, 11 m wide. Filled by a sequence of predominantly tenacious sandy silts (alluvium) : 5917A, 5930A, 5929A, 5928A, 5927A, 5925A, 5926A, 5922A, 5924A, 5916 and 5923.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (5931A).
Over/under:	Under a dark greyish humic silt (5902A).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Sides sloped gradually towards an undulating base. Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated.
Context number(s):	5943A
Type of context(s):	Intercutting group of features.
Comments on type:	A large irregular cut, truncated by "natural" channel 5933 and an E-W orientated linear ditch (5940A) to the south; partially concealed by the W-facing section. Filled by 5914A.
Cut into:	Natural gravel (5913A).
Over/under:	Under a tenacious light brownish grey sandy silt (5935A) and a friable light yellowish brown sandy silt (5936A).
Finds:	6 reduced, 6 oxidized, 1 fineware and 1 shell tempered sherds from fill 5914A.
Dating:	Late 3rd century.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not totally excavated. 5943A appears heavily truncated?
Context number(s):	5904A
Type of context(s):	Postholes.
Comments on type:	1 circular posthole, 0.6 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep (5904A), filled by 5905A; 1 oval posthole, 0.8 m x 0.56 m and 0.37 m deep (5906A) filled by 5907A and an irregular shaped posthole (5908A) partially concealed by the E-facing section and filled by 5909A.
Cut into:	?ploughsoil (5903A).

Over/under:	A friable light bluish grey sandy silt (5938A).
Finds:	1 reduced sherd from 5907A.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Postholes 5904A and 5906A had vertical sides and flat bases. Posthole 5908A was not excavated.

TRENCH NUMBER 59B

Context number(s):	5930B
Type of context(s):	Unclassified feature.
Comments on type:	Its E-W extent was 3 m wide, partially concealed by the N and W-facing sections.
Cut into:	Subsoil (5919B) and natural gravel (5926B).
Over/under:	Under ploughsoil (5929B).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	More detailed examination not possible due to waterlogged conditions.

Context number(s):	5927B
Type of context(s):	"Natural" channel.
Comments on type:	Irregularly shaped feature, truncated by ditch cut (5920B) and partially concealed by the E and W-facing sections; the western edge appeared linear. Filled by a sequence of predominantly tenacious bluish grey clayey silts; 5925B, 5922B, 5921B and 5936B. 5927B cuts a channel/?ditch (5920B) 6.5 m wide, filled by 5909B and 5908B.
Cut into:	5927B cuts two friable mid brownish grey sandy silts (5909B, 5908B), the fills of 5920B. 5920B cuts ploughsoil 5904B.
Over/under:	A dark grey humic silt (5902B).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s):	5905B
Type of context(s):	Gully.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated linear gully, 0.35 m wide with a visible length of 3.15 m

	(partially concealed by the W and E sections). Filled by 5906.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (5903B).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (5904B).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.
Context number(s):	5910B
Type of context(s):	?Animal skeleton.
Comments on type:	No cut visible; very badly decayed. 3 isolated patches of bones.
Cut into:	N/A.
Over/under:	Over ploughsoil 5903B; under ploughsoil 5904B.
Finds:	Bone.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Unidentified animal bones, in poor state of repair; possibly articulated?
Context number(s):	5911B
Type of context(s):	Posthole.
Comments on type:	Irregular oval shaped feature, 0.24 x 0.14 m in plan. Filled by 5912B.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (5903B).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (5904B).
Finds:	Charcoal.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Vertical sides with a rounded base, 0.17 m deep.
Context number(s):	5913B
Type of context(s):	Gully.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated gully, 0.7 m wide with a visible length of 2.7 m (partially concealed by the E and W sections). Filled by 5914B.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (5903B).
Over/under:	Under upper ploughsoil (5904B).

Finds: Tile.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Sides sloped at 45 degrees towards a concave base, at a depth of 0.2 m.

TRENCH NUMBER 61

Context number(s): 6109

Type of context(s): Unclassified feature.

Comments on type: Irregular shaped feature, with visible dimensions of 0.8 x 2 m.

Cut into: Subsoil (6105).

Over/under: Under ploughsoil (6104).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s): 6112

Type of context(s): Pit/ditch.

Comments on type: Semicircular feature, with a visible extent of 0.6 x 1.8 m. Partially concealed by the E-facing section. Filled by 6110 and 6111.

Cut into: Subsoil (6105).

Over/under: Under ploughsoil (6104).

Finds: 2 flint, sand or grog tempered sherds from 6110; 1 shell tempered sherd from 6111.

Dating: Middle Iron Age.

General comments: Southern edge sloped at 45 degrees towards a flat base, 0.24 m deep. Possible pit or ditch terminus?

Context number(s): 6107

Type of context(s): Pit.

Comments on type: Semicircular in plan (partially concealed by E-facing section), with visible dimensions of 0.6 x 0.3 m. Filled by a friable dark grey clayey silt (6106), which contained charcoal.

Cut into: Subsoil (6105).

Over/under: Under ploughsoil (6104).

Finds: 1 reduced (bead rim jar) sherd and burnt bone from fill 6106.

Dating: Late Iron Age/early Roman.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; not excavated. Possibly a cremation?

TRENCH NUMBER 62

Context number(s): 6212

Type of context(s): Postholes.

Comments on type: A group of 7 irregular shaped postholes (6212, 6214, 6216, 6218, 6220, 6222 and 6227), which varied from 0.5 m to 0.1 m in diameter. 6220 and 6218 were partially concealed by the E and 6222 and 6224 by the W-facing section. Filled by 6213, 6215, 6217, 6219, 6221, 6223 and 6224.

Cut into: Ploughsoil (6204).

Over/under: Under upper ploughsoil (6224).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s): 6208

Type of context(s): Layer.

Comments on type: A compact dark greyish brown sandy loam with visible dimensions of 2.75 x 0.65; truncated by 6228 to the south.

Cut into: N/A.

Over/under: Over subsoil (6205) and ploughsoil (6203); under a loose black layer of coal ash, slag and burnt material (6201/e).

Finds: Burnt flint and 1 oxidized sherd.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

Context number(s): 6206

Type of context(s): Gully.

Comments on type: E-W orientated linear gully, 0.5 m wide with a visible length of 0.3 m, truncated by machine excavation. Filled by 6207.

Cut into: Ploughsoil (6204).

Over/under: Under upper ploughsoil (6203).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; not excavated.

TRENCH NUMBER 63

Context number(s): 6308

Type of context(s): Ditch.

Comments on type: N-S orientated ditch, 3.5 m wide and 0.5 m deep, partially concealed by the E and W sections. Filled by 6310, 6307 and 6314.

Cut into: A compact mid-yellowish grey clayey silt, the fill of ditch 6313 and subsoil (6309).

Over/under: Under ploughsoil (6304).

Finds: 1 possible Iron Age, 4 reduced, 3 oxidized, 1 amphora and 1 oxidized whiteware from 6310; 1 possible Iron Age, 17 reduced, 4 oxidized, 1 BB2, 2 fineware and 3 mortaria sherds from 6307.

Dating: 4th century.

General comments: Sides sloped at 45 degrees towards a flat base. Possibly truncated by plough?

Context number(s): 6313

Type of context(s): Ditch.

Comments on type: E-W orientated, irregularly shaped ditch with a visible width 1.2 m, partially concealed by 6308 and W-facing section. Filled by 6312.

Cut into: Natural gravel (6311).

Over/under: Under ploughsoil (6304).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Full dimensions unknown; heavily truncated. Sides sloped at 30 degrees towards a flat base, 0.2 m deep.

TRENCH NUMBER 64

Context number(s): 6411

Type of context(s): Ditch.

Comments on type: N-S orientated linear ditch, 1.8 m wide and 0.7 m deep. Filled by 6410 and

6419.

Cut into: Ploughsoil (6407).

Over/under: Under black humic silt (6404).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Sides sloped at 45 degrees towards an undulating base.

Context number(s): 6409

Type of context(s): Ditch.

Comments on type: E-W orientated linear ditch, 1.5 m wide and 0.5 m deep, filled by 6408 and 6418. Partially concealed by E and W sections.

Cut into: Natural gravel (6412).

Over/under: Under ploughsoil (6407).

Finds: None.

Dating: Unknown.

General comments: Sides sloped at 45 degrees towards a flat base.

TRENCH NUMBER 66

Context number(s): 6611

Type of context(s): Ditch.

Comments on type: E-W orientated linear ditch, 3.25 m wide and 0.2 m deep. Filled by 6610.

Cut into: Natural gravel (6618).

Over/under: Under Ploughsoil (6604).

Finds: 5 sand, flint or grog tempered sherds.

Dating: ?Late Iron Age/early Roman.

General comments: Sides sloped at 45 degrees towards a concave base.

Context number(s): 6613

Type of context(s): Gully.

Comments on type: E-W orientated linear gully, 0.5 m wide and 0.18 m deep. Filled by 6612 and 6626.

Cut into: Subsoil (6621).

Over/under:	Under a hard mid-greyish green silty clay (6614).
Finds:	None.
Dating:	Unknown.
General comments:	Sides sloped at 45 degrees towards a V-shaped base.

Context number(s):	6606
Type of context(s):	Gully.
Comments on type:	E-W orientated linear gully, 0.7 m wide and 0.2 m deep. Filled by 6605.
Cut into:	Ploughsoil (6604).
Over/under:	Under a friable dark greyish brown clayey silt (6603).
Finds:	1 reduced and 3 post medieval sherds from fill 6605.
Dating:	Post medieval.
General comments:	Sides sloped at 45 degrees towards a flat base.

APPENDIX 2 JUBILEE LINE EXTENSION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION SPECIFICATION FOR SITES EAST OF THE RIVER LEA

This specification is to be read in conjunction with the Jubilee Line Assessment Report of Desk Study, the Archaeological Agreement and the site specific Scope of Works which includes trench design and attendances. The evaluation has been designed, within the technical constraints of the site, to achieve a sample of the area of proposed groundwork.

Evaluation Techniques

1 The trenches will be opened by mechanical excavators, with removal of undifferentiated topsoil or modern overburden, down to the first significant archaeological horizon. The machine will remove level spits moving along the length of the trench creating a stepped profile where required. On reaching the first significant horizon that level will be cleaned in plan using a ditch bucket and /or hand cleaning if the deposits merit it. All machine works will be under archaeological supervision and will cease immediately significant evidence is revealed.

2 All archaeological assessment is by hand with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and section. The objective is to define remains rather than totally remove them. Full excavation will be confined to the least significant remains (eg dumped layers) which may allow underlying stratigraphy and features to be exposed and recorded. Within significant levels partial excavation, half-sectioning, the recovery of dating evidence and the cleaning and recording of structures is preferable to full excavation.

3 Archaeological excavation may require work by pick and shovel or occasionally further use of the machine. Such techniques are only appropriate for the removal of homogeneous or low grade deposits which may give a "window" into underlying levels. They will not be used on complex stratigraphy and the deposits to be removed will have been properly recorded first.

4 Particular care will be taken not to damage any areas containing significant remains which might merit preservation in situ. Such evidence would normally include deep or complex stratification, settlement evidence and structures. Such areas will be protected and not left to weather.

5 Any human remains must also be left in situ, covered and protected. Removal will only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental regulations.

Excavation and Recording

6 Evaluation involves selective excavation and recording of the ancient remains by hand, with individual features and layers (contexts) being recorded to scale on plan, pro-formas and by photography. A recording system compatible with that used by the Passmore Edwards Museum will be utilised. Context sheets will include all relevant Stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram will be employed. A trench plan will be drawn up and located on the OS grid. Context plans will record the full extent of all archaeological deposits.

7 Sections containing significant deposits, including half-sections, will be drawn as appropriate. Upon completion of the evaluation trench at least one long section will be drawn, including a profile of the top of natural deposits.

8 All archaeological plans and sections will be on drawing film at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 and will be include context numbers and OD spot heights for all principle strata and features.

9 An adequate photographic record of any significant archaeological remains will be made, in both plan and section.

Finds and Samples

10 A high priority will be given to dating remains and so all artefacts and finds will be retained. This could include pottery, tile, bone, building material, wooden artefacts, stone tools and textiles. Similarly high priority will be the recovery of specialist samples for scientific analysis, particularly samples for the absolute dating, structural materials and cultural/environmental evidence including dendrochronological, diatom, plant, seed and pollen analysis. A comprehensive sampling strategy will form part of further archaeological works if they are required, with visits from environmental specialists.

11 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner to prevent deterioration. They will be treated according to the Passmore Edwards Museum specifications. Arrangements will be made for conservation of organic and metal artefacts and other fragile finds. This will involve cleaning, labelling, cataloguing and secure, stable storage in appropriate containers. Arrangements for on-site conservation work will be made if any significant fragile finds are discovered that need specialist lifting or treatment.

Off-site post-excavation

12 A summary report on the results of the evaluation will be prepared. This will include recommendations for further action, identifying any areas suitable for either preservation in situ or rescue excavation in advance of construction.

13 The results of the evaluation will be kept in an easily accessible archive at the Passmore Edwards Museum. This will contain the desk study/documentary survey, the ordered records (written, drawn, photographic), the environmental and finds information. To prepare the archive the finds will be cleaned, catalogued, quantified and dated in a manner compatible with that used by the Passmore Edwards Museum. The archive will need to contain a sequence diagram, evidence for phasing, a summary by phase, an introduction, text and conclusions. Lists of context, drawings, photographs and finds will be required.

14 All original records, finds and samples will subsequently be given long-term storage and curation at the Passmore Edwards Museum.

John Dillon
JLE Archaeological project coordinator
22nd October 1991

Notes on the archaeological specification

No 6 Overall trench plans, and multi-feature/deposit phase plans were also prepared on site.

No 8 Plans at 1:50 were also used

No 10 All post-medieval brick and tile was not retained. Samples of these materials were kept.

APPENDIX 3 TRENCH EXTENSION CRITERIA (as tabled at meeting 3/7/92)

General comments

* MH to monitor excavation and advise as to necessity for trench extension

* Any situations not covered by following criteria should be viewed by MH, Ken McGowan (PEM) and David Wilkinson. MH to advise on final decision.

* During trench extension the size of the new trench to be dictated by archaeology. Where features are no longer found over a sensible area, in the case of burials and structures up to a maximum of 2 m, then limit of excavation to be established at the trigger distance from outermost features

* ?? this instruction to be included in legal agreement

Quality of archaeology

* Low priority archaeology - no trench extension

  - Ploughsoil - post-med
  - Ploughsoil - med/no features/few finds
  - Ploughsoil - Roman/no features/few finds
  - Pits (all dates) (irrespective of interpretation unless structural e.g post pits) - isolated
  - Ditches (all dates) (where sample is available from Phase II trench and plan is revealed by other Phase II trenches)
  - Channels (all dates) - natural channels
    - manmade but no features, sample to be taken from phase II trenches - due to possible depth a flexible approach to be adopted as regards location of sample
  - Field boundaries of all dates (field pattern to be established for Roman or earlier after Phase II results)

* High priority archaeology

  - all structural features of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date
  - all burial features of any date bar post-medieval
  - any collection of features indicating intense occupation/activity (prehistoric, Roman, medieval)

M. Hutchinson
Archaeological Project Coordinator

APPENDIX 4 THE POTENTIAL OF THE SITE: BROADER HISTORICAL QUESTIONS

This section aims to define the archaeological potential of the Stratford Market Depot (North) site. Potential is seen as being the contribution which the site could make to wider historical questions, based on an open area excavation of the size indicated on Figure 2.

A Questions to be asked of the site

Firstly, a number of very general questions can be posed:

- when was the site first used?
- how long was it used for and were there any periods of disuse?

Also of fundamental importance is the type of use:

- was the settlement permanent, seasonal or spasmodic?
- was it mainly concerned with agriculture, industry, trade, religion or a mixture of any or all of these?

Already, because of the presence of animal and human burials on the site, we can single out religion as being particularly important. The evidence from the evaluation also suggests that in approaching these general questions two broad themes can usefully be followed - the function of the site in relation to the hinterland of Roman London, and the development of the site across the Iron Age to Roman transition.

B The hinterland of Roman London

The hinterland of the Roman city of London is not well understood. It has been suggested that the swathe of land immediately north and south of the Thames could have been largely pasture and woodland, possibly communally owned, with the pasture supporting the cattle required to feed the city (Perring 1991, 47). The imposition of a planned, regular landscape has also been considered possible (Rodwell 1978), suggesting direct interference by the city or state. Excavations which can test these themes have been relatively few and this is in marked contrast to intensive archaeological work carried out in the city itself, particularly over the last twenty years. It should be emphasised that much of the data gained from these urban excavations - eg pottery, animal bones, building types - will only be used to its full potential when it has been compared with data of similar quality from the hinterland.

C Briton into Roman - the Iron Age to Roman transition

The theme of Briton into Roman has been identified by English Heritage as an important, academic objective at regional and national level (English Heritage 1991, 36). Again, information on this important transition period is lacking for the area around the major Roman settlement at London (Perring 1991, 46) yet here, if anywhere, the signs of change should be written into the landscape.

D The potential of the site

D.1 Pre-Iron Age

Although there are few, if any, pre-Iron Age contexts from the evaluation, the recovery of an assemblage of residual flint work is encouraging. The presence of a significant proportion of Mesolithic material is noteworthy, particularly if flint from this period continued to be recovered from a Phase III excavation in similar numbers. There would then be the possibility of studying

a sizeable Mesolithic assemblage from a waterside or marsh area. This could be studied from a technological point of view (i.e. to establish which stages of the tool-production process are represented) and the general make-up of the assemblage could be looked at in order to try and establish the types of activity being carried out. Some dating within the Mesolithic may be possible, as might some spatial analysis across the site.

D.2 The Iron Age

The amount of archaeology so far investigated which can definitely be assigned to the Iron Age is relatively small but apparently significant. Aside from the human and animal burials (see D.5, below) both post-holes and small gullies dating to the Late Iron Age have been found (Trenches 24, 43, 47), possibly, indicating the presence of structures. Some use of the site beyond just open-field agriculture can therefore be postulated, but only the excavation of wider areas, which will allow any surviving building plans to be established, can better define the way in which the site was used at this time.

In examining the theme, Briton into Roman, more Iron Age features are evidently essential and further excavation should provide these. The Iron Age use-patterns will, in many cases, be partially or wholly superimposed by those of the Roman period - this is both advantageous in that intercutting features can be phased and a disadvantage in that some damage to the Iron Age evidence is inevitable. Overall, it is reasonable to remain optimistic. Recent excavations by the Oxford Archaeological Unit at Yarnton in Oxfordshire showed that coherent information could be extracted from an Iron Age/Roman superimposed site of far greater complexity than that revealed at Stratford Market.

D.3 Roman

It is now clear that there is a substantial Roman site at Stratford Market. As for the Iron Age, the presence of post-holes, some aligned and of considerable size, shows that structures were present, while intercutting pits, gullies and ditches have also been found. All these features have produced Roman pottery which is present in reasonable quantity and is well-preserved, allowing settlement of the site to be proposed for the 1st Century AD (conquest period), the late 1st/early 2nd centuries and the 3rd to early 4th centuries. There seems little doubt that further excavation will allow this dating to be refined, so that the development of the site through the Roman period can be studied. Comparison of this development with the fluctuating fortunes of Roman London should prove valuable, and would constitute part of the attempt to add to our knowledge of London's Roman hinterland (see also B).

D.4 Agriculture

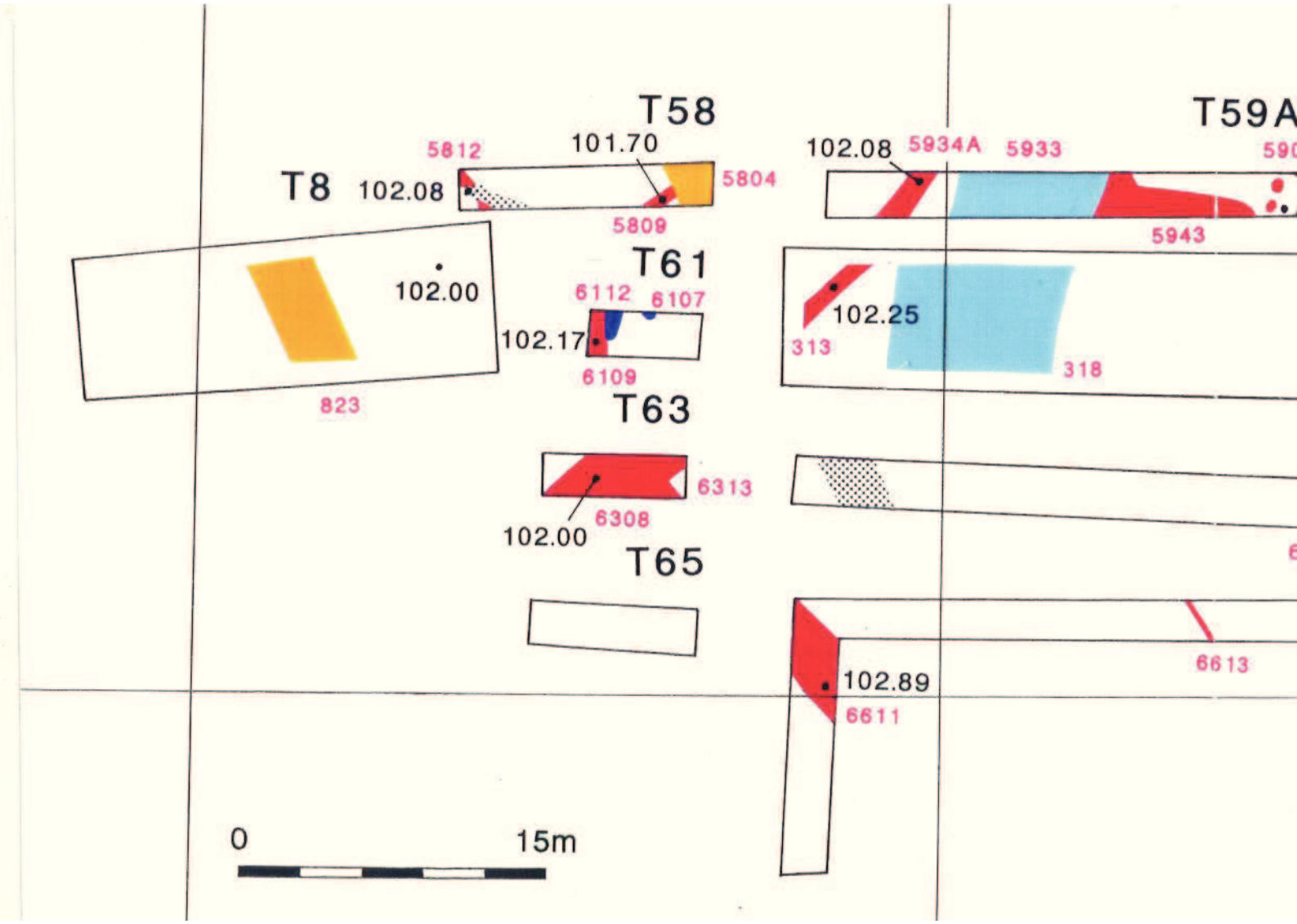
The study of the type of agriculture and of land-management generally, could be approached through a number of different classes of evidence - structures, land-boundaries (ditches), soils and pits. Taking these in order, the archaeology of Roman rural buildings has attracted some research and there is a reasonable chance of identifying the likely function of buildings excavated at Stratford (eg granaries, cowsheds) by examining parallels from other sites. Ditches are present in some numbers on the site and are datable from the pottery within their fills. There appears to be an open system of large ditches on the east side of the excavated area which runs into, and can therefore be related to, the denser archaeology to the west. Land boundaries, which these ditches are most likely to represent, can thus be studied in terms of how and when the divisions developed relative to the adjoining settlement.

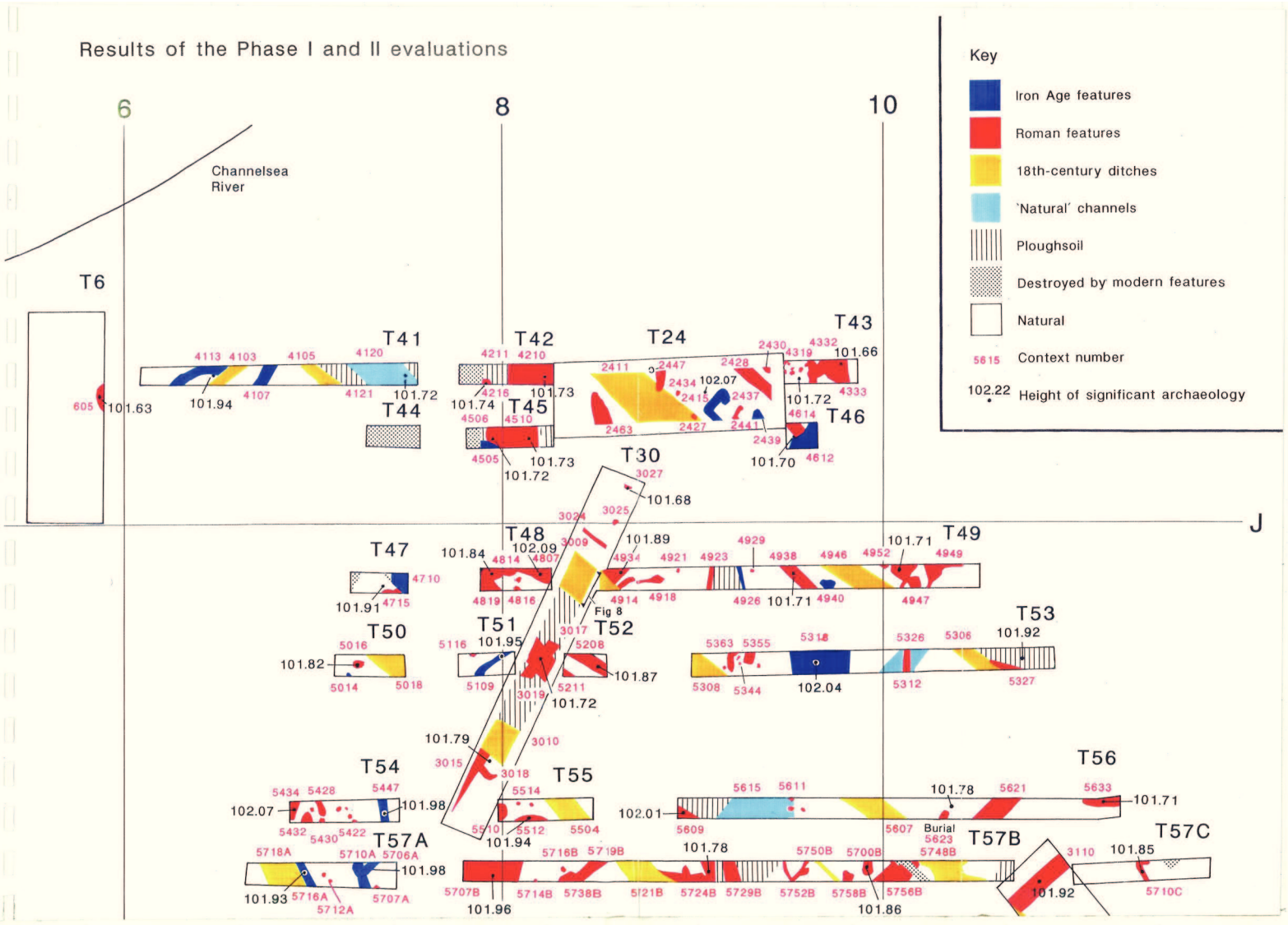
What appears to be a Roman 'ploughsoil' has been identified across much of the site and in some places it is cut by archaeological features. In at least one area a number of soil layers survive with Roman pottery in some of the interfaces. Careful examination of this type of stratification

and its relationship to cut features (especially land boundaries) can be expected to provide valuable information when coupled with soil micromorphology. Lastly, the shape of excavated pits can be expected to give some clue as to their function with the presence or absence of grain storage pits being a key factor.

D.5 Religion

That the site had a ritual/religious element is evident from the horse-burial (Trench 24) and two inhumations (Trenches 24, 56) so far revealed. Further study of these burials and of their spatial context within the site is likely to very instructive, particularly as the site occupied a waterside (possibly marshland) location. It is now understood that such environments were important in religious terms from the Bronze Age through to the Roman period. The advantage at Stratford is that having identified at least one so-called 'special animal deposit', the horse burial, all deposits of bone can now be carefully examined and recorded on-site to ensure that all special deposits are identified. The work done by Waite (1985) has shown how much these deposits can contribute to our knowledge of Iron Age and Roman ritual provided that their context is understood.


T58
T59A
T8
102.08
5812
101.70
5804
5809
102.08
5934A
5933
5943
T61
102.00
6112
6107
102.17
6109
102.25
313
318
823
T63
6313
6308
102.00
T65
6613
102.89
6611
0
15m


Results of the Phase I and II evaluations
6
8
10
J
Channelsea River
T6
T41
T42
T24
T43
T44
T45
T46
T30
T47
T48
T49
T50
T51
T52
T53
T54
T55
T56
T57A
T57B
T57C
Fig 8
Key
Iron Age features
Roman features
18th-century ditches
'Natural' channels
Ploughsoil
Destroyed by modern features
Natural
5615 Context number
102.22 Height of significant archaeology

Predicted construction impacts with area excavation proposal

NB Levels given (eg 102.88) are underside of construction, taken from drawings issued May 1992 by JLE. No allowance made for blinding.

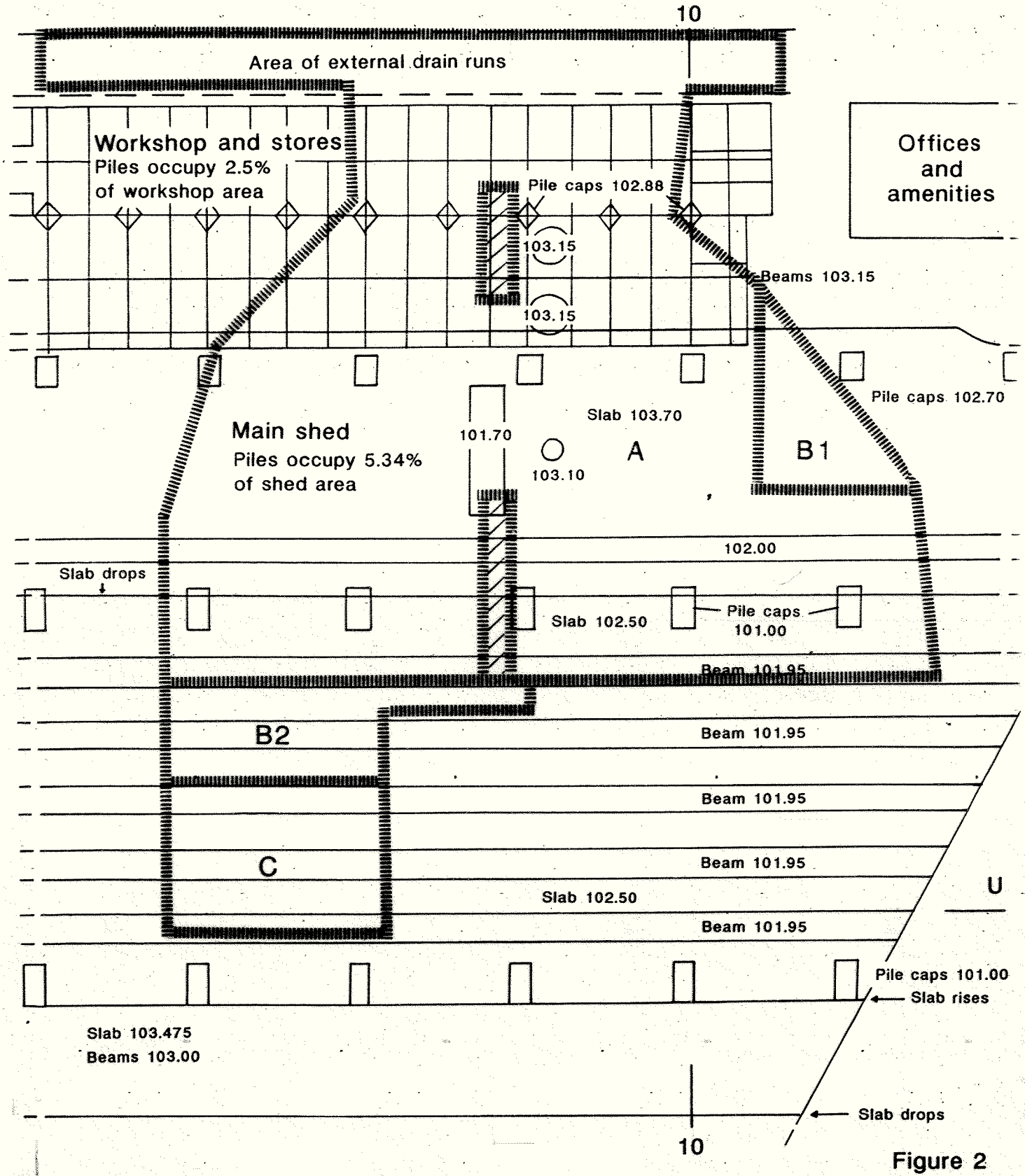


Figure 2

Results of the Phase I and II evaluations

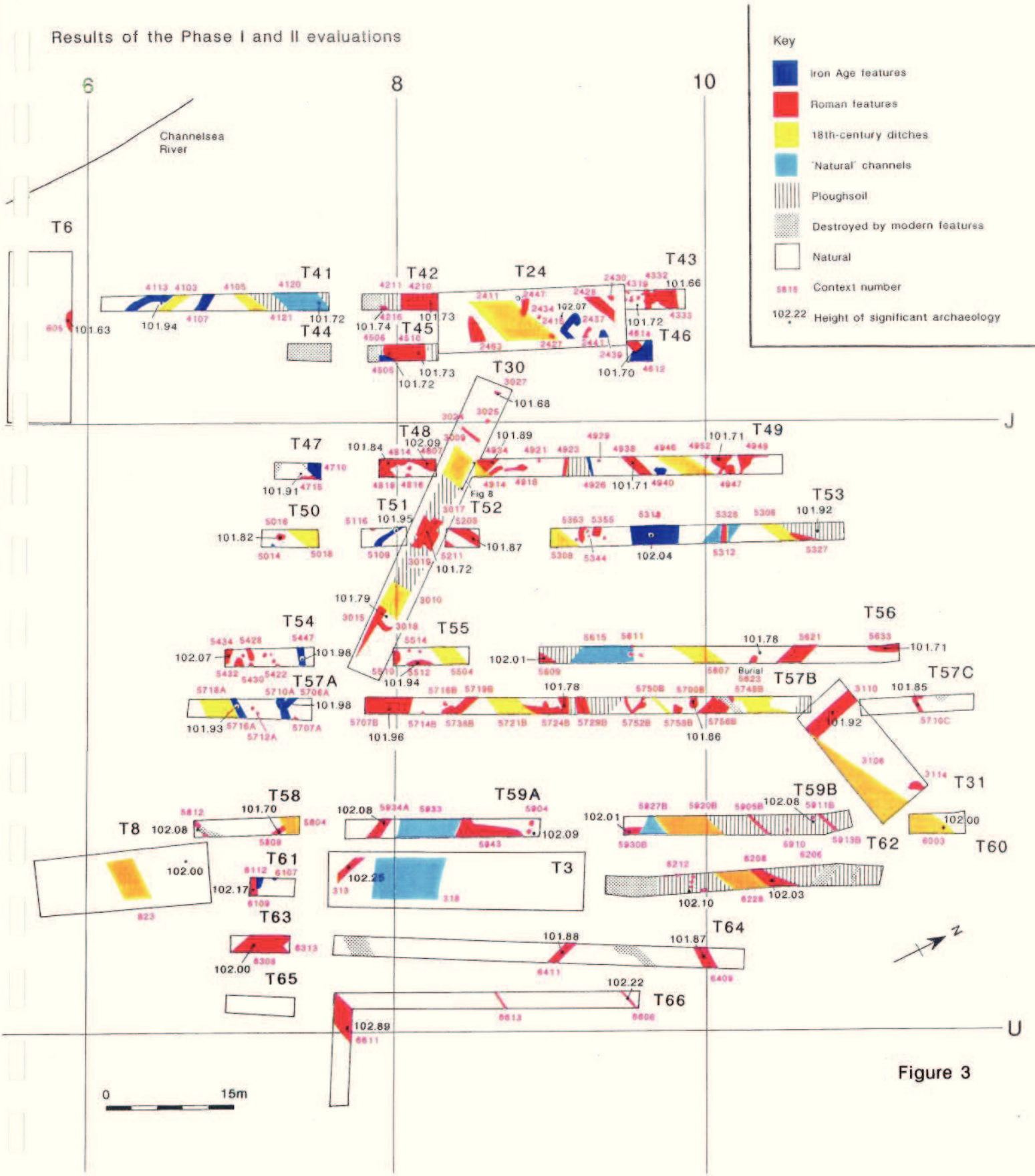


Figure 3

TRENCH 53: WEST SECTION

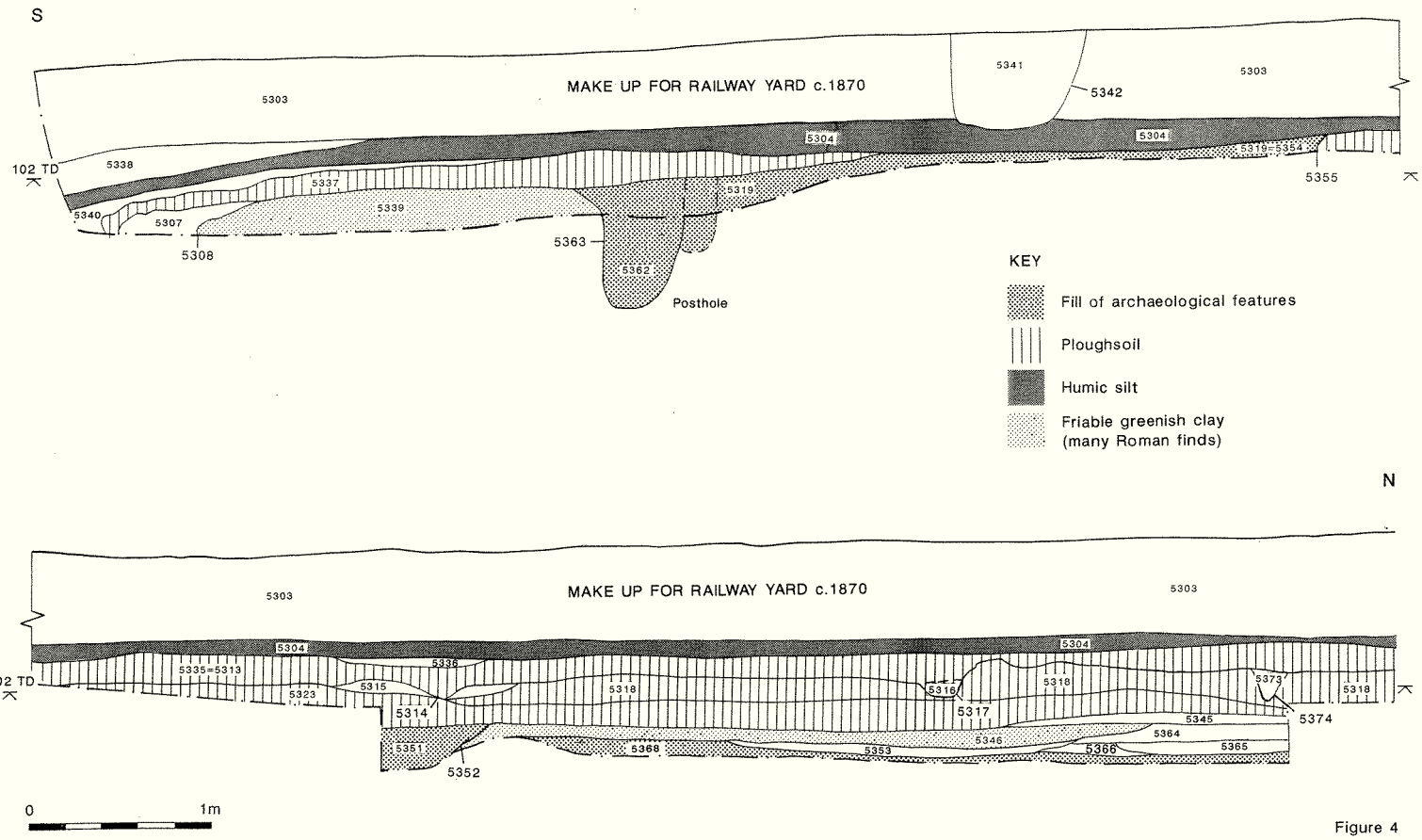


Figure 4

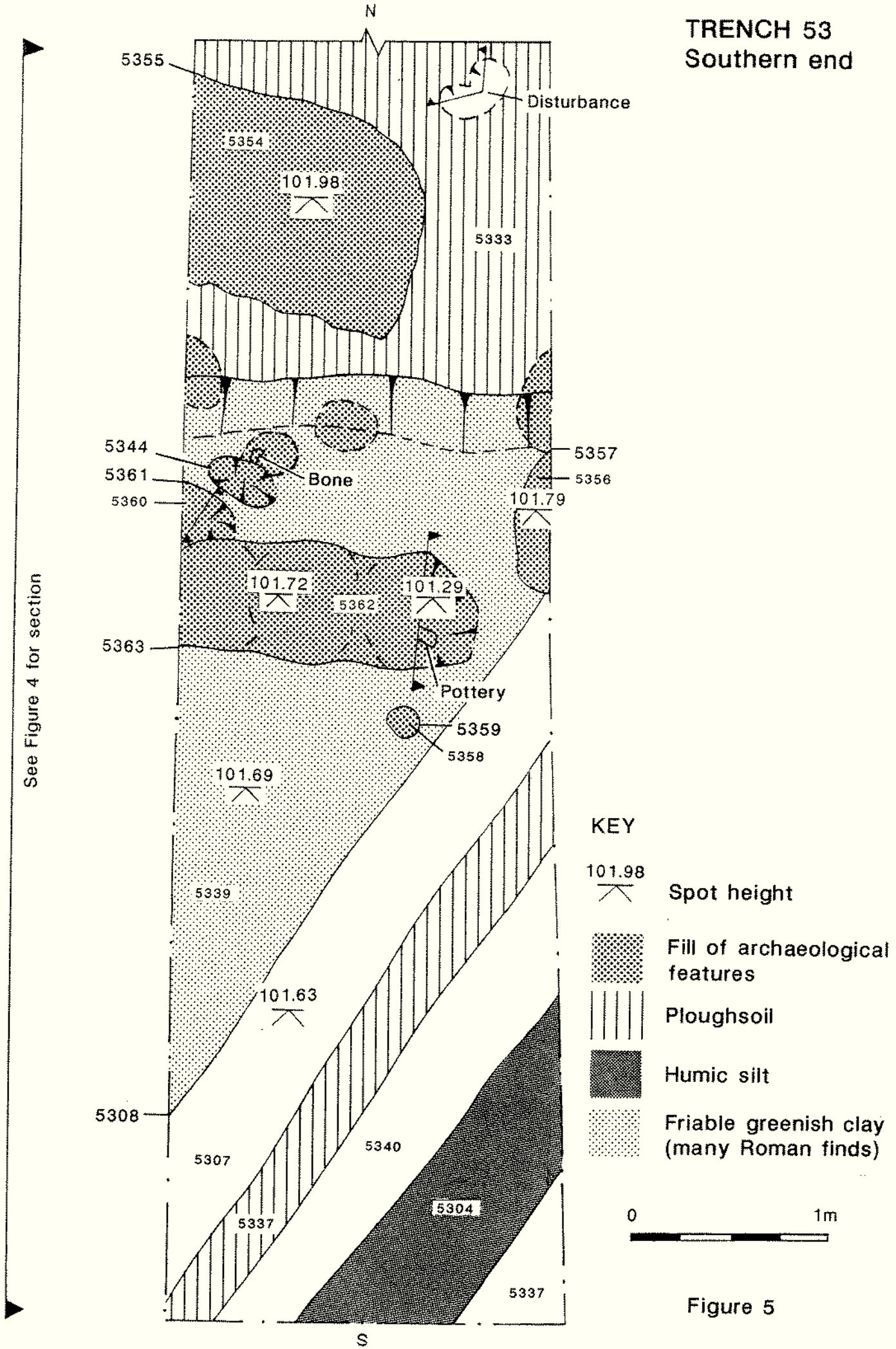

TRENCH 53
Southern end
N
S
5355
Disturbance
5354
101.98
5333
5344
5361
5360
Bone
5357
5356
101.79
101.72
5362
101.29
5363
Pottery
5359
5358
101.69
5339
101.63
5308
5307
5340
5337
5304
5337
See Figure 4 for section
KEY
101.98
Spot height
Fill of archaeological features
Ploughsoil
Humic silt
Friable greenish clay (many Roman finds)
0
1m

Figure 5

TRENCH 57A Ancient and later features

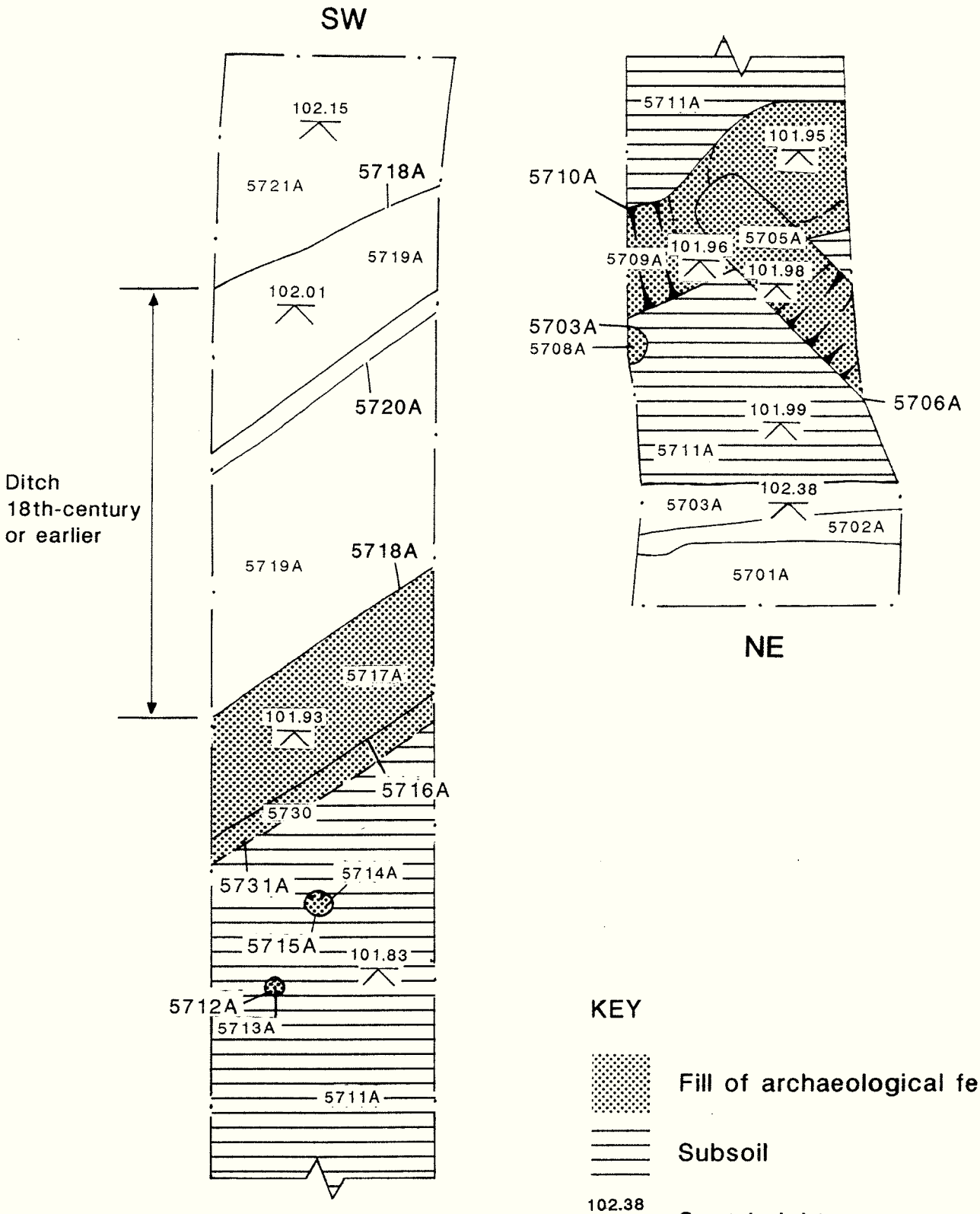


Figure 6

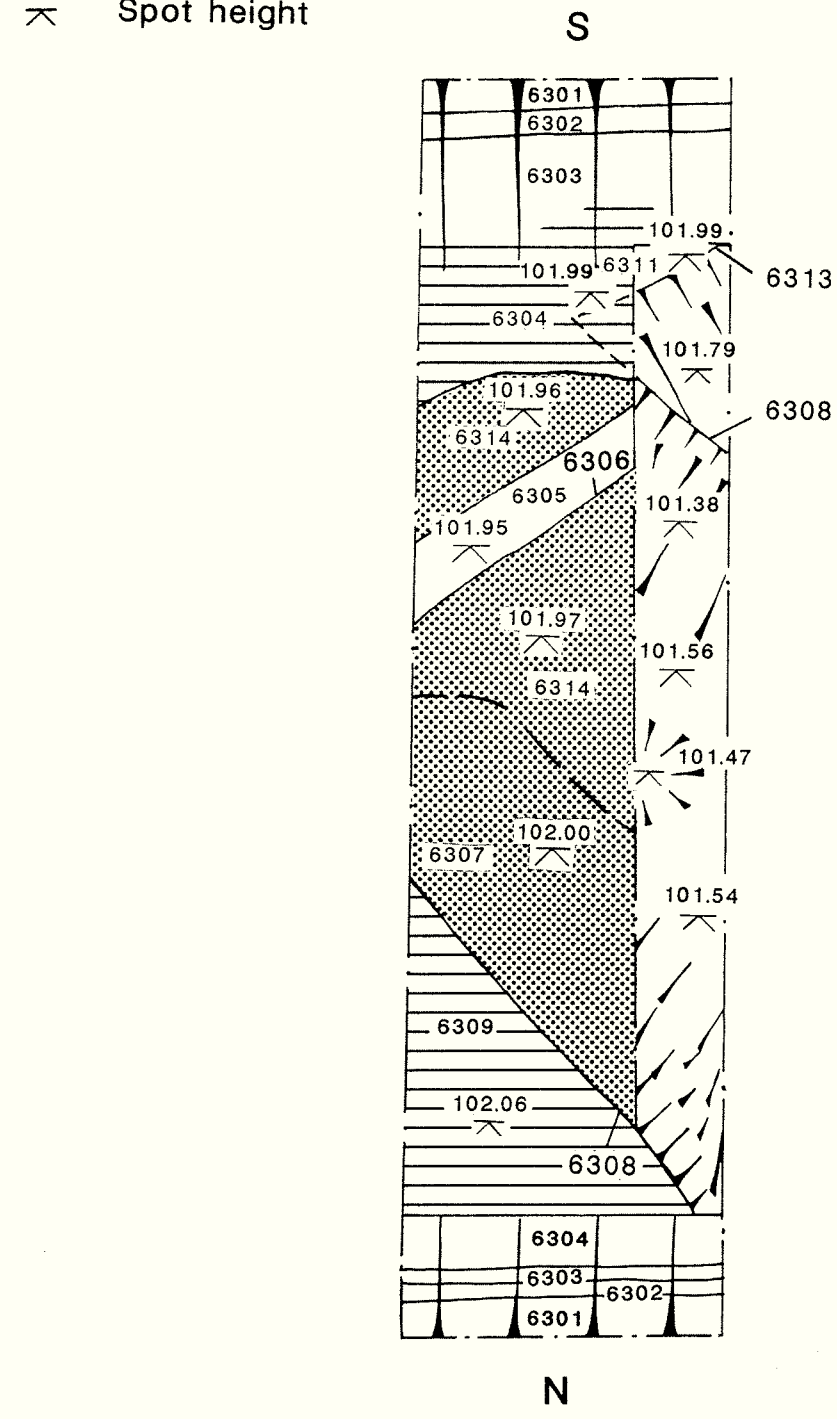
TRENCH 63 Ancient and later features

KEY

Fill of archaeological features

Subsoil

102.00 Spot height



0 5m

Figure 7

TRENCH 30 Phase I evaluation
SW facing section through ditch, cut 3009

KEY

Ploughsoil

Humic silt

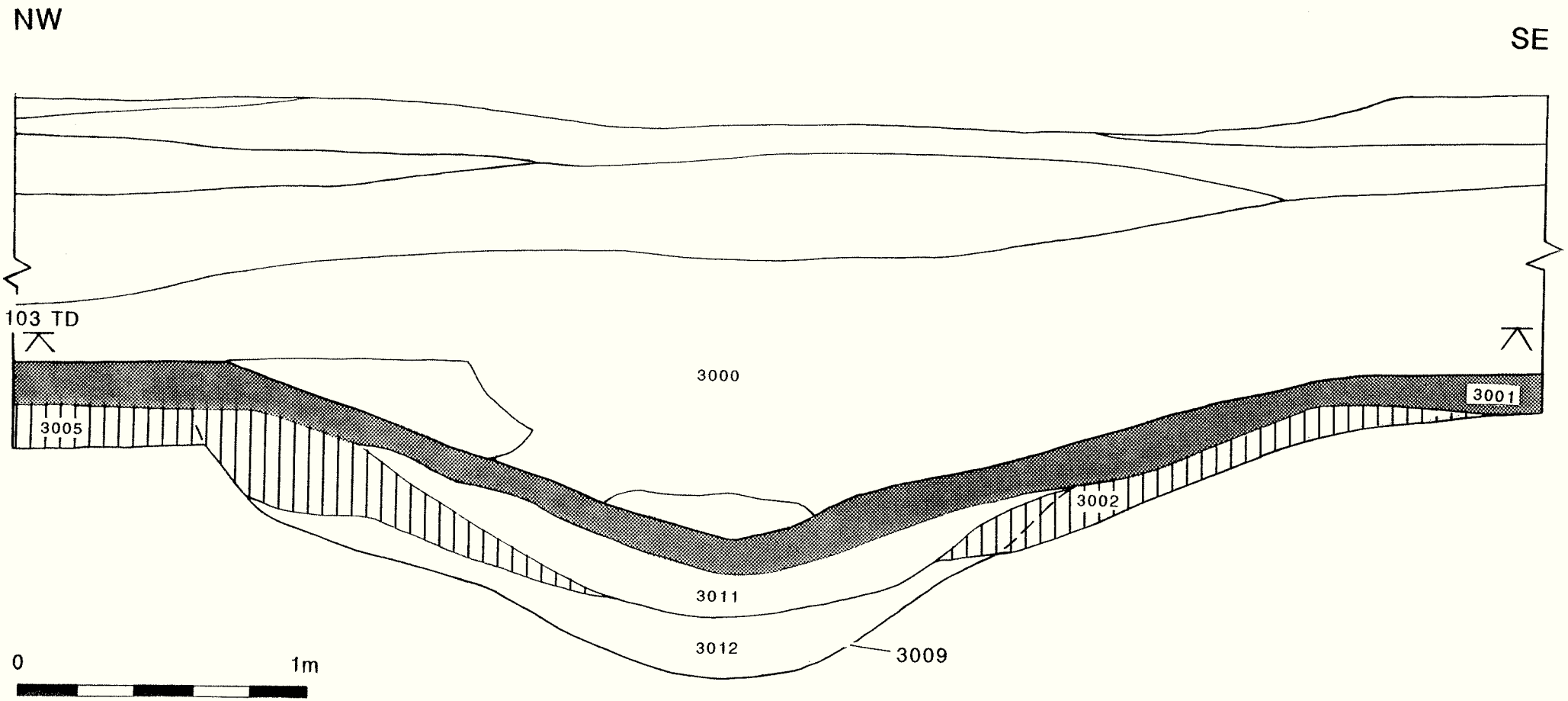


Figure 8

The Oxford Archaeological Unit

46 Hythe Bridge Street

Oxford OX1 2EP

tel. (0865) 243888 fax. (0865) 793496