

SHINFIELD (BR)

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865/99

SHI/5/9

University of Reading

Shinfield Village Proposals

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR SU73/68

DETR Reference APP/H0330/A/97/286987

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

September 1999

University of Reading

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OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

September 1999

Shinfield Village Proposals

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation at sites around the village of Shinfield, Berkshire on behalf of the University of Reading. Five sites (areas R1b, R3a, R2, R3g and R4b), which would be among the first to be developed if the Shinfield Village proposals were to be approved, were investigated during this phase of work. The evaluation covered two Local Plan Areas of Archaeological Potential so far as they would be affected by the Shinfield Village proposals at development parcels R2 and R3a.

Seven trenches in Area R1b to the north-west of Shinfield revealed a single ditch. The ditch contained only a single sherd of abraded Romano-British pottery that could have been redeposited, and therefore it is not reliably dated.

In Area R3a, to the north-east of the village, six trenches, including a double length L-shaped trench, were excavated. The evidence from this area comprised a ditch and two narrow slots all containing post-medieval material, the earliest of which was sixteenth century. There was also a hollow containing post-medieval finds. This material is probably connected to the demolition of the cottage known to have occupied part of the site. There was some redeposited Roman material, but no evidence of in situ Roman occupation.

Areas R2 and R3g were adjacent and located to the east of the village. They contained the sites of known cropmarks. 24 trenches were excavated to investigate the cropmarks and the adjacent blank areas. Ditches corresponding to the cropmarks were identified and investigated. The dating evidence from most of the ditches was extremely limited, some, but probably not all possibly being Roman, others medieval or post-medieval. The only substantial group of finds was an assemblage of late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery from a ditch in Trench 33. The contrast of this group to the paucity of material elsewhere, suggests that any settlement associated with the pattern of ditches is confined to the eastern edge of the site, in an area of landscaping rather than construction. The areas with no cropmark evidence appeared to be largely devoid of archaeological features and deposits.

The final area investigated, R4b, lay at the south end of the village. A single undated ditch was located in Trench 47 on the east edge of the area.

The results of this first stage of evaluation have largely confirmed the results of the assessment already presented to the Inquiries for the areas investigated (SHI/5/2). Nothing was found in any of the areas evaluated which would suggest a requirement for preservation in situ.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

In August 1999 the Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a series of field evaluation at Shinfield, Berkshire on behalf of Reading University in connection with a proposal for a major housing development for Shinfield Village currently the subject of a public inquiry (DETR Reference APP/H0330/A/97/286987). The work was undertaken in accordance with brief set by and a WSI agreed with Wokingham District Council, advised by Babbie Archaeological Services (Appendix 7). The areas selected for evaluation represent a first stage of archaeological evaluation work (see overall mitigation proposals **SHI/5/2**, section 6.4). This stage corresponds to those areas that would be the first to be developed under the proposed implementation plan for the Shinfield Village proposals in accordance with evidence presented to the Inquiries (see **SHI/3/2-3**; **SHI/5/4**, para 2.1.10). Five separate sites, numbered R1b, R2, R3a, R3g and R4b in accordance with the implementation plan (**SHI/3/2-3**) were evaluated, situated around the village of Shinfield (Figs 1 and 2). Work on two further sites, R4a and R5a, which originally were to have formed part of this phase of investigation, could not be carried out at this time as these fields still contained crops. This work will be completed once the crops have been harvested.

1.2 Archaeological background

The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a desk study which was the basis for the archaeological input to the Environmental Statement and evidence presented to the Inquiries (**CD/3/8**; **SHI/5/1-3**). This background information is summarised at the beginning of the sections describing the results of the evaluation for each area.

1.3 Geology and topography

Generally, east Berkshire is an area of distinctive geology and settlement with the clays and sands providing for a variety of land-uses from woodland to commons and heathland. Shinfield village lies on a ridge of high ground which gently slopes down to the floodplain of the Loddon to the south east and into the Kennet valley to the north west. The site is located on a geological boundary, and lies partly on London Clay on the sides of the Loddon valley and partly on valley gravels and alluvium of its floor.

2 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

2.1 Sample size

The evaluation in each of the five areas was based upon a 2% sample. A total of 50 trenches was excavated. Unless otherwise stated all trenches measured 30 m long and 1.65 m wide.

2.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

Current and recent topsoil and overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator (JCB) working under close archaeological supervision. The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

2.3 Structure of the report

Following these introductory and methodological sections, the report presents a description and interpretation of the results of the fieldwork for each area. Areas R1b, R3a, and R4b are described separately; the descriptions of Areas R2 and R3g are combined as these two sites are adjacent and the fieldwork here examined an area of known cropmarks. The finds from each area are summarised within the descriptive section and the assessments of the finds are appended to the end of the report (Appendices 2-6). The context gazetteers are appended to the end of the report (Appendix 1).

2.4 Consultation

Mr R Bourne of Babbie Archaeological Services acting as archaeological adviser to Wokingham District Council was kept informed of the progress of the work and he visited the evaluation of Area R2 during fieldwork.

3 AREA R1b (Trenches 1 – 7) (Figs 2-4)

3.1 Location, topography and geology

The site is situated on the north-west edge of Shinfield village, adjacent to the former University of Reading animal research laboratories, and comprises three small paddocks of rough pasture (Fig. 2). The ground rises gradually from 62.50 m above OD at the south end of the site to 64.50 m OD at the northern boundary. The site has not previously been used for any purpose other than agriculture. Seven trenches were excavated in this area (Fig. 3). The area is sited on London Clay.

3.2 Archaeological background

There is no known archaeology in this area, and no archaeological evidence was found to the south in Area R1a when it was evaluated prior to the recent housing development (OAU November 1997).

3465 m²
57 11 @ 20 x 2

3.3 Evaluation Aims

- 1 To test the area for archaeological features
- 2 To establish whether, in the light of the survival and significance/ potential of any remains, there is any need for further excavation or other mitigation.

3.4 Results: General

3.4.1 *Soils and ground conditions*

The general soil type was silt clay loam. The water table is naturally very high in this area and the problem was exacerbated by a period of wet weather prior to the evaluation. This caused some of the trenches at lower-lying southern end of the site to flood.

3.4.2 *Distribution of Archaeological Deposits*

No significant archaeological deposits were discovered in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Trench 3 contained a ditch which produced a single sherd of Romano-British pottery

3.5 Results: Descriptions

3.5.1 *Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Figs 3 and 4)*

These four trenches lay within the most northern of the three paddocks. The north half of Trench 1 could not be excavated due to the presence of a high-pressure gas main. The geology in this area was a gravelly clay and this was found at an average depth of 0.35 m below the present ground surface. The natural clay (103, 203, 303 and 404) was overlain by a layer of clay silt containing occasional fragments of post-medieval brick and tile (102, 202, 302 and 402). This deposit appeared to be a buried ploughsoil of recent origin and was directly sealed by the present topsoil. The only feature found in this area was a north-east – south-west aligned ditch (305) which ran through the centre of Trench 3. Ditch 305 measured 0.90 m wide and 0.40 m deep and was sealed beneath the post-medieval ploughsoil (302) and contained an abraded sherd Romano-British pottery. The ditch was partly truncated by a modern pipe trench (306) which extended through the southern half of the trench.

3.5.2 *Trenches 5, 6 and 7*

These three trenches were located in two adjoining paddocks immediately to the south, and the depth and character of the layers of overburden was the same as that seen in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4. However, the natural (503, 603 and 703) became increasingly gravelly towards the southern end of the site. The only feature found in this area was a modern pipe trench in Trench 6.

3.6 Finds

The only find from this part of the evaluation was a single sherd of Romano-British sandy reduced ware was recovered from the fill (304) of ditch 305. (See Appendix 3: 'Later Prehistoric and Roman pottery' for details.)

3.7 Environmental data

No deposits were discovered which were suitable for environmental sampling.

3.8 Discussion and interpretation

3.8.1 Reliability of field investigation

The high water table and weather conditions meant that Trenches 5 and 6 in the lower-lying area of the site flooded shortly after excavation. However, as neither of these trenches contained archaeological features this did not affect the results.

3.8.2 Overall interpretation

The only significant feature found in this area was a possible Roman or later ditch revealed in Trench 3. Although a sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the ditch in Trench 3 this was both small and abraded and may well have been redeposited. Nonetheless, the stratigraphic evidence and character of the fill suggested that this feature predated the post-medieval period although it cannot be closely dated. The character of the ditch, and the abraded nature of the pottery, suggests that this feature was most probably a field boundary, presumably of any date from the Roman period onwards.

4 AREA R3a (Trenches 8-13) (Figs 2, 5 and 6)

4.1 Location and topography

The site is situated on the north-east edge of Shinfield village, to the south of Cutbush Lane within part of an Area of Archaeological Potential identified in the Local Plan extending over the field to the south. At the time of the evaluation most of the area of investigation was under pasture, but also incorporated, along the east edge of the site, part of a strip of cultivated plots containing experimental crops. A cottage and adjoining garden once lay within the northern end of this field. At the south-east corner of the site (Trench 13) the ground level lay at 47.50 m above OD, rising gradually to 51 m OD at the western boundary and 49.70 m OD at the northern boundary. The alignment of Trench 13 was changed from north-south to east-west to avoid damaging a plot of experimental crops growing in the area. Five trenches were excavated in this area,

though one of the trenches, Trench 8 was an L-shaped trench of double length (Fig. 6). The geology revealed over the site consisted of sandy clay with patches and lenses of clay silt and gravel.

4.2 Archaeological background

The site encompasses the whole of a field which contains a number of linear cropmarks (SHI/5/3 Fig. 1). At the northern end of the field is the site of a cottage and garden adjoining the south side of Cutbush Lane. This is shown on eighteenth-century and later maps (SHI/5/3, Figs 6a and 6b) and is partly visible as cropmarks. This site was occupied at least until 1939 but not after 1956. Apart from some curvilinear features of uncertain origin in the vicinity of this site, the other cropmarks in this field correspond to features shown on historic maps.

4.3 Evaluation Aims

- 1 To establish the origins and character of the 18th-century or earlier occupation site.
- 2 To establish the survival and significance of any deposits in the light of the continued occupation of the site into this century.
- 3 To test the area for other features, notably the doubtful curvilinear cropmark.
- 4 To establish whether, in the light of the survival and significance/potential of any remains, there is any need for further excavation.

4.4 Results: General

4.4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The general soil type was a grey brown silty loam. Ground conditions were variable. At the start of fieldwork the ground was hard and dry but there had been rain prior to the start of work and further rain set in during fieldwork.

4.4.2 Distribution of Archaeological Deposits

Post-medieval and modern features were revealed in Trenches 8 and 10, which were located on the site of the demolished cottage. Trenches 9, 11, 12 and 13 contained only modern land drains and cultivation furrows.

4.5 Results: Descriptions

4.5.1 Trench 8 (Fig. 6)

This was an L-shaped trench, consisting of two adjoining 30 m long north – south and east – west segments, which was specifically located to examine possible remains associated with the cottage known to have existed on this site. With the removal of the

topsoil (801) and probable buried soil of (802), the natural sandy clay with gravel (803) was exposed at an average depth of 0.45 m below the present ground surface.

Cutting the natural, in the north – south segment of the trench, were three small pit-like features (808, 810 and 812), which were probably tree-throw holes, two shallow slots (814 and 816) and an east–west aligned ditch (826). The pottery from pits 808 (809), and 812 (813) was of 18th-century date and associated with post-medieval ceramic building material. The pottery from pit 810 (811) was of late 16th-century date; the ceramic building materials included an almost complete brick. Both of the shallow slots (814 and 816) also produced post-medieval material, including some brick and tile. Ditch 826 (Fig. 6, section 803) was broad and shallow. The lowest fill (825) had no finds, but the main fills (823 and 824) sealing 825 contained early 19th-century china and other post-medieval ceramics. They also contained post-medieval ceramic building materials. A narrow trench which truncated the southern edge of the ditch was a modern feature containing an iron water pipe.

At the junction of the two segments of the trench there was an area of shallow irregular disturbance (807) containing three fills (804, 805 and 806). This was investigated by two sections. The lowest layer of fill was a gravelly silt loam (806) with no finds. This was sealed by dark loam (805) again devoid of finds. Sealing these deposits was a charcoal-rich layer (804) containing late 18th-century pottery and post-medieval ceramic building materials.

At the east end of the east–west segment of the trench was a recently cut ditch (830) containing modern brick and plastic.

4.5.2 *Trench 9*

This trench lay in the north-east corner of the site. The sandy clay natural geology was directly overlain by a buried cultivation soil and at the west end of the trench cultivation furrows could be seen cut into the top of the natural. This buried cultivation soil was different in character from that seen in the other trenches and was directly overlain by the present turf. No finds were recovered.

4.5.3 *Trench 10*

A layer of sandy loam (1002) which overlay the natural (1007) appeared to be a buried ploughsoil. This layer was truncated throughout much of the north half of the trench by an area of post-medieval disturbance (1003) containing lenses of sand and charcoal (1004). The small quantity of finds recovered comprised two sherds of pottery and a very small piece of brick or tile. The only other feature (1005) was a modern fenceline and its fill (1006) contained barbed wire and wood fragments.

4.5.4 *Trenches 11, 12 and 13*

These three trenches were located in the southern half of the site. The only features discovered in these trenches were modern land drains and cultivation furrows. The natural geology exposed in Trenches 12 and 13 was similar to that seen in the trenches to the north, but in Trench 11, located toward the western boundary of the site, it comprised a mixture of almost pure sand and gravel. Trenches 12 and 13 produced no finds. Trench 11 produced a sherd of china and a piece of a tile from the fill (1105) of a plough furrow (1104).

4.6 Finds

4.6.1 Post-medieval pottery

The bulk of the post-medieval pottery recovered during the evaluation came from Area R3a and within Area R3a almost all came from Trench 8 (Table 1). The material ranges in date from the 16th to the 20th century. (See Appendix 5: 'Post Medieval pottery' for fabric descriptions.)

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	Red Earthenware		Border Ware		Midland Black		Chinese Porcelain		Mocha Yellow		Jackfield ware		Cream-ware		Ironstone China		Misc 20 th wares		DAT
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
804									12	163									L18thC
809	2	15	2	35									2	3					M18thC
811	15	177	1	1	1	4													L16thC
813	1	2							1	40	1	18	1	3					L18thC
815																	3	19	20thC
817			1	12			1	2											16thC?
819	1	10															3	110	20thC
821															5	54			E19thC
823	40	928							1	70					12	61			E19thC
824	2	56							1	20					1	1			E19thC
1004	1	12	1	30															16thC
1105															1	1			E19thC

4.6.2 Ceramic building material

The bulk of the ceramic building materials recovered during the evaluation came from Area R3a and within Area R3a almost all came from Trench 8. (See Appendix 4: 'Ceramic building materials' for more detail.)

Table 2: CBM occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by period

Context	No	Weight (g)
804	8	748
809	4	1338
811	5	860

Context	No	Weight (g)
813	5	2345
815	15	321
817	3	27
818	3	438
821	4	617
823	4	1112
824	5	1988
1004	1	3
1105	1	26

4.6.3 *Worked flint*

Eight pieces of worked flint were recovered from Trench 8 together with two pieces of burnt unworked flint or quartzite. All were from contexts with post-medieval finds. (See Appendix 2: 'Worked and burnt flint' for details.)

4.7 **Environmental data**

No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were discovered.

4.8 **Discussion and Interpretation**

4.8.1 *Reliability of field investigation*

All the features found in Trenches 8 and 10 contained post-medieval pottery. There was evidence of post-medieval disturbance in Trench 8, much of this probably associated with the demolition of the cottage in the mid-20th century. The absence of any surviving structural features indicates that the demolition had been thorough. There was also evidence for more recent activity including fence building..

4.8.2 *Overall interpretation*

Although some features found in Trench 8 were possibly associated with the demolition of the 18th-century cottage, no certain structural remains were discovered. The earliest dating evidence potentially associated with it is 16th century, and there is no indication of medieval material.

5 **AREAS R2 AND R3g (Trenches 14-18 and 19-37) (Figs 1, 7-12)**

5.1 **Location and topography**

These two sites are situated to the east of Shinfield village, to either side of Arborfield Road. At the time of the evaluation both fields were under pasture. However, Area R2 contained a network of sewer pipes and a series of associated manhole covers were

located along the edges and in the centre of the field. The ground in this area rises gradually from 41 m OD at the southern end of Field R2 to 44 m OD at the northern end of Area R3g.

5.2 Archaeological background

Area R3g

Located to the north of Arborfield Road this area contains miscellaneous linear cropmarks, some of which correspond to field boundaries shown on the 1838 tithe map, while others are of rather uncertain origin and not necessarily archaeologically significant.

Area R2

The area to the south of Arborfield Road is an Area of Archaeological Potential in the Local Plan and encompasses cropmarks including a relatively coherent system of rectilinear fields and paddocks occupying the eastern half of the field, and other more widely distributed linear and pit-like features (Fig. 7; **SHI/5/2-3**, para 5.2.6; fig. 1). Prior to the evaluation the importance of the complex was uncertain, as there were no definite concentrations of Roman or medieval finds that might be expected if the rectilinear paddocks were related to a settlement, nor any distinctively early prehistoric cropmarks.

5.3 Evaluation Aims

Area R3g

- 1 To test the area for archaeological features
- 2 To establish whether, in the light of the survival and significance/ potential of any remains, there is any need for further excavation or other mitigation.

Area R2

- 1 To establish the origins and character of the complex of linear cropmarks
- 2 To establish specifically how far these may represent different elements of ancient enclosures or recent drainage ditches
- 3 To establish the survival and significance of any deposits in the light of the continued agricultural use of the site
- 4 To test the area for other features, especially in the light of the finds scatter at the southern end of the area
- 5 To establish whether, in the light of the survival and significance/ potential of any remains, there is any need for further excavation or other mitigation.

5.4 Results: General

5.4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The general soil type in this area was clay or sandy silt. At the time of the evaluation the ground was very dry and hard baked.

The overburden in Area R2 comprised an uncomplicated sequence of buried post-medieval ploughsoil overlain by the present ploughsoil. Unless otherwise stated, all of the features found in this area were cut into the natural and sealed beneath the post-medieval ploughsoil.

5.4.2 *Distribution of Archaeological Deposits*

Area R3g (Fig. 7)

Trench 14 contained a single east – west ditch. Trenches 15, 16, 17 and 18 contained no archaeological features.

Area R2 (Fig. 7).

There was a clearly defined distribution of archaeological deposits in this area. All the trenches in the eastern half of the site contained linear features (see below), whereas there were no features in trenches 22, 25, 29, 30, 36 and 37 located in the western half of the site. This distribution coincided with the known cropmark pattern.

Trenches 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 33 contained two or more ditches. Trenches 31, 32 and 34 all contained a single linear ditch and Trench 35 contained a shallow curving ditch. Apart from the ditches there were only a small number of discrete features and these were located in Trenches 21, 28 and 33.

5.5 **Results: Descriptions**

5.5.1 *Area R3g: Trench 14 (Figs 7 and 8)*

The natural geology consisted of silty sand with patches of coarse gravel, and this was reached at a depth of c. 0.40 m below the present ground surface. An east–west aligned ditch (1404) was cut into the natural geology. This feature, which corresponded with a linear crop mark, was cut through the buried ploughsoil (1402) and contained a single fragment of probably post-medieval tile. Its fill was sealed by the ploughsoil 1401.

5.5.2 *Area R3g: Trenches 15, 16, 17 and 18 (Fig. 7)*

The natural geology in these trenches consisted of patches of coarse gravel in silty sand (1503, 1603, 1703 and 1803), and was at a depth of between 0.40 m and 0.60 m below the present ground surface. In all the trenches the natural was overlain by a layer of sandy loam (1502, 1602, 1702 and 1802), which was probably a buried post-medieval ploughsoil, and above which was the present topsoil (1501, 1601, 1701 and 1801). The only features were modern land drains.

5.5.3 *Area R2: Trench 19 (Fig. 9)*

This trench revealed a north-south aligned ditch (1908) cutting the natural geology (1904), that comprised sandy gravels. This ditch corresponded with a cropmark visible on an air photograph. The ditch was a wide shallow V-shape with a rounded cleaning slot at the bottom. The primary silty gravel fill (1907) contained no finds. Sealing this was mottled layer of silty clay (1906) and finally a layer of mottled silty clay with evidence of iron panning (1905). The only finds came from layer 1905 and comprised a single sherd of Romano-British pottery and a fragment of brick or tile. A further north-south aligned ditch near the centre of the trench was not further investigated. Sealing the ditches was a buried ploughsoil or subsoil (1902). Over a part of the trench was a shallow deposit of dark sandy gravel (1903), which was also sealed by the buried soil.

5.5.4 *Area R2: Trench 20 (Fig. 10)*

This trench contained an east-north-east to west-south-west aligned ditch (2004) and a small linear feature (2005) aligned north north-east to south south-west. Ditch 2004 was shallow and filled with silty sand (2003). The narrow linear feature (2006) appears as a cropmark on an air photograph. The feature was not fully excavated, but no datable material was recovered from its fill (2005). Both features cut the gravel and sand natural (2002) and were sealed beneath the buried ploughsoil or subsoil (2001).

5.5.5 *Area R2: Trench 21 (Fig. 11)*

This trench was positioned to investigate two major linear features visible as cropmarks. Three linear features were identified. The earliest feature was a possible pit (2110), cut by an east-west linear feature (2102). A single small sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fill (2111) of the pit. There were no finds from the linear feature. Just south of the latter was an elongated feature (2104) with a silty clay fill (2105) which was not excavated. Another pit (2106) was located to the south. This was shallow and filled with clay loam (2107) and contained a single worked flint flake and a sherd of Romano-British pottery. Immediately south of 2106 was a large east-west aligned ditch (2108) which corresponded to one of the cropmarks. This contained a series of silty clay fills (2115, 2114, 2113) which were cut by a later ditch (fill 2109). None of the fills produced any datable finds. At the south end of the trench was another east-west aligned ditch (2116). This was shallow and filled with silty loam (2117). There were no finds. All the features cut the natural geology (2112) which comprised coarse gravels with silts. Sealing the features was a subsoil or buried ploughsoil (2101).

5.5.6 *Area R2: Trench 23 (Fig. 12)*

Trench 23 revealed two ditches, 2303 aligned broadly east-west and 2310 aligned north-south, and a modern service trench (2311). Both ditches cut the natural geology (2313) which comprised coarse sand and gravel and they were sealed by a subsoil or buried ploughsoil (2302). Ditch 2303 was filled with grey clay (2304) which was sealed by clay loam (2305). The latter fill contained a single fragment of post-medieval tile and was sealed by a silty sand (2306). Ditch 2310 was broad with three fills. The lowest

layer (2309) was silty clay with a substantial gravel component; this was sealed by grey silt clay with little gravel (2308) which in turn was sealed by layer of silty loam (2307). The latter layer was not clearly distinguishable from the buried ploughsoil or subsoil (2302). Five small pieces of slag were recovered from layer 2307.

5.5.7 Area R2: Trench 24 (Fig. 13)

Two ditches were revealed. Ditch 2409 was aligned north north-west to south south-east and ditch 2403 east-west. Ditch 2403 had five fills: 2404: a grey silty sand with a substantial gravel component, 2405: a silty sand with only a little gravel; 2406: with a substantial fine to coarse gravel component; 2407: silty sand with limited coarse components; and 2408: silty sand with some gravel (c.10%). There were no finds. Ditch 2409 was not excavated. Its exposed fill was a sandy silt with a some gravel. No finds were recovered.

5.5.8 Area R2: Trench 26 (Fig. 14)

Trench 26 contained two definite ditches and one possible one. Ditch 2606 was aligned north-south and 2611 was aligned north-east to south-west. The third possible ditch (2613) was located in the south-east corner of the trench and not further investigated. Ditch 2606 was filled with two layers of silty sand with gravel (2605 and 2604). There were no finds. Ditch 2611 was filled by a number of layers. The lowest fill stratigraphically was a layer of sand silt with gravel (2609). This was sealed by 2610, which may have filled a recut of the ditch. The fill was similar to layer 2609. Sealing 2610 were layers 2607 and 2608: both comprise sandy silt, but in the case of 2607 with some burnt material and a limited gravel component. All three ditches cut the natural geology (2614) which consisted of gravels and silts. Sealing the three ditches was a gravel layer (2603), which was itself sealed by a subsoil layer or buried ploughsoil (2602).

5.5.9 Area R2: Trench 27 (Fig. 15)

The natural was a mixture of gravel and sand. It was cut by two linear features, the earlier was a north-east to south-west aligned ditch which was filled with coarse sand (2704) below sandy silt (2705), both fills with a substantial gravel component. The final fill was another sandy silt. The fills of 2703 were cut by an east-west aligned ditch (2707) filled with layers of sandy silt and gravel (2708 and 2709). The ditch was sealed by the buried ploughsoil 2702. There were no finds.

5.5.10 Area R2: Trenches 22, 25, 28, 29 and 30

These trenches were all situated in the centre of the site. Trenches 22, 25, 29 and 30 contained no archaeological features. Trench 28 contained a single small pit or posthole 0.49 m in diameter and 0.12 m deep. It produced no finds. In Trenches 22, 25, 29 and 30 the natural geology (2202, 2503, 2903 and 3004) comprised clay. In Trench 28 which was located further west the natural geology (2803) was gravel. Except in Trench

30 the natural geology was sealed by a subsoil or buried ploughsoil layer (2201, 2502, 2802 and 2902); in Trench 30 a separate subsoil layer (3003) was identified below the buried ploughsoil (3002). There were no finds from these trenches.

5.5.11 Area R2: Trench 31 (Fig. 16)

This trench contained a single V-shaped ditch (3107) aligned east-west. The primary fill (3108) was a silt clay, and was sealed by substantial layer of slit clay with gravel (3106). There was also a shallow regular cut (3105) only 0.3 m deep and filled with silty sand. Both features were cut into sandy gravel natural (3103) and were sealed by subsoil or buried ploughsoil layer (3102). There were no finds

5.5.12 Area R2: Trench 32 (Fig. 17)

This trench contained a single substantial east-west orientated V-shaped ditch (3206). The boundary between the primary fill (3205) and the fill (3204) above was almost indistinguishable. Both layers comprised silty clay with some gravel and flint. Sealing this was a layer of similar material but with substantially more gravel (3203). This layer contained fragment of post medieval brick or tile. The ditch was cut into the natural geology which comprised silt and gravel (3207). Sealing the ditch was a subsoil or buried ploughsoil (3202).

5.5.13 Area R2: Trench 33 (Fig. 18)

This trench revealed up to five linear features predominantly on an east-west alignment. At the centre of the trench ditch 3313 cut through a disturbed layer (3312) which sealed the natural gravel. Layer 3312 comprised silty loam gravel and sand and was probably disturbed natural. The ditch was filled by a layer of silty sand and gravel (3314). This ditch was truncated by a later ditch (3315) on the same alignment. The primary fill (3316) of 3315 was a silty sand and gravel and contained burnt flint (12 pieces), and eight sherds of pottery (1 late Iron Age, 6 sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman, 1 Romano-British). This ditch appears to have been recut, the recut being filled with silty sand layers 3317 and 3318. The upper layer 3318 contained considerable quantities of charcoal and produced burnt flint (35 pieces) and 113 sherds of pottery (28 late Iron Age, 80 late Iron Age/early Roman, 5 Romano-British). This context was sampled for charred plant remains (see Appendix 6).

North of the ditches there was an elongated shallow irregular pit (3309) which produced no finds. Immediately North was a small east-west ditch 3307. This produced no finds. To the north was another pair of substantial ditches 3305 and 3303. Neither was excavated but 3305 clearly truncated 3303.

All the cut features were sealed by the buried ploughsoil 3302.

5.5.14 Area R2: Trench 34 (Fig. 19)

At the south end of this trench there was a substantial ditch (3403) which appears to have been recut or at least cleaned out at some point. No finds were recovered from this trench. The fills comprised sand and gravel (3404) and silty sand with gravel (3405 and

3406). These were sealed by the buried ploughsoil (3402). The natural geology (3407) comprised gravel and silt.

5.5.15 Area R2: Trench 35 (Fig. 20)

This trench contained a curving shallow ditch (3504) cut into the natural geology (3505: gravel and silt). The only find from the fill (3503) of the ditch was a flint flake.

5.5.16 Trenches 36 and 37

The only features discovered in these trenches were modern land drains and gravel-filled trenches containing ceramic sewer pipes. The natural geology in both trenches was gravel and silt (3603 and 3703). This was sealed by a subsoil or buried ploughsoil (3602 and 3702). There were no finds from Trench 36 and two fragments of brick and tile from buried ploughsoil (3702) in trench 37.

5.6 Finds

The finds from this area were limited, but included two significant deposits of late Iron Age /early Romano-British pottery.

5.6.1 Worked and burnt flint

A single worked flint flake was recovered from pit 2106 which also contained a sherd of Roman-British pottery. More significantly burnt flint was recovered from two contexts (3316 and 3318) within ditch 3315 in association with substantial quantities of later Iron Age and Romano-British pottery and other finds including fired clay and slag (see Appendix 2: Worked and Burnt Flint).

5.6.2 Later Prehistoric and Romano-British pottery

Substantial deposits of late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery were recovered from two contexts (3316 and 3318) in ditch 3315. In context 3316, 8 sherds were found with a small amount of slag, pieces of fired clay and burnt flint. The evidence suggests a dump of material rather than *in situ* burning. In context 3318, which was an upper fill of a recut of the same ditch, 113 sherds of late Iron Age and Romano-British sherds were found. Also from this context were 35 burnt flints and a single piece of slag. Again the material is probably dumped rubbish.

Single sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from ditch and pit fills 1905, 2107, and 2111 (see Appendix 3: Later Prehistoric and Romano-British pottery).

5.6.3 *Other finds*

Very limited quantities of other finds were recovered from this area. These are quantified in Appendix 1.

5.7 **Environmental data**

A 40 litre soil sample was taken from the charcoal-rich fill (3318) of the recut of ditch 3315. The charcoal included oak (*Quercus*. Sp.) and possible Pomoidiae (hawthorn, apple, pear, etc) wood. A single spikelet fork of wheat (spelt or emmer) was found (see Appendix 6 'Charred plant remains' for details).

5.8 **Discussion and interpretation**

5.8.1 *Reliability of field investigation*

Apart from ditch 3315 in Trench 33, which contained a significant quantity of late Iron Age and early Romano-British pottery, none of the other ditches produced more than one or two sherds of pottery, and in most cases this consisted of small abraded sherds which could easily be redeposited. Most of the archaeological evidence comprised discrete cut features, which makes phasing and dating difficult, with the result that the date of many of the features is uncertain. There were some exceptions; the most significant is ditch 3313 which was cut by ditch 3315. The latter appears to have been recut itself and contains substantial late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery deposits.

5.8.2 *Overall interpretation*

Area R3g

The only feature discovered in this area was a field boundary (1404) which was probably post-medieval in date. It contained a small fragment of brick or tile.

Area R2

The evaluation of this area revealed a large number of ditches, many of which correspond with crop marks visible on air photographs. Only a small number of these features produced clear dating evidence. However, ditches 3313 and 3315 can be dated with some confidence to the late Iron Age or early Roman period and it is likely that other ditches investigated in the evaluation, particularly those of comparable size and profile to 3313 and 3315, are of similar date. There is also some evidence for post-medieval field boundaries, but these seem to be slighter and fewer in number than the earlier boundary ditches. Few non-linear features were located, but this perhaps reflects the fact that the evaluation trenches targeted the known cropmarks.

Overall, the lack of finds over most of the area suggests that it is peripheral to any settlement, and that the complexity of linear ditches represents fields and paddocks of more than one phase, some possibly Roman and others later. The concentration of finds in Trench 33 on the eastern edge of the site suggests proximity to a settlement. The

contrast with the adjacent Trenches 26, 27, 32, and 35 suggests that the area of occupation was outside the south-eastern corner of Area R2, perhaps occupying a typical terrace edge position adjacent to the Loddon floodplain

6 AREA R4b (Trenches 38-50)

6.1 Location and topography

The site is situated to the south of Shinfield village, off Hyde end Road, and comprises a large arable field. The site lies at 44 m above OD.

6.2 Archaeological background

There is little evidence of archaeological remains in this area. There are possible but rather doubtful areas of high susceptibility readings in the area either side of Tanners Copse (CD/3/8, Cultural Heritage Assessment Supplementary Report, Appendix 4, p 4)..A few diffused areas of relatively discrete area of enhancement were noted on the southern side of the copse.

6.3 Evaluation Aims

- 1 To test the area for archaeological features
- 2 To establish whether, in the light of the survival and significance/ potential of any remains, there is any need for further excavation or other mitigation.

6.4 Results: General

6.4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The general soil type was a grey brown silty loam. Ground conditions were variable. At the start of fieldwork the ground was hard and dry but there had been rain prior to the start of work and further rain set in during fieldwork.

6.4.2 Distribution of Archaeological Deposits

The only features found in this area were modern boundary ditch in Trench 48 and an undated ditch in Trench 47.

6.5 Results: Descriptions

6.5.1 Trenches 38 and 40

These trenches lay adjacent to the western boundary of the site. The only feature was a 4 m wide gravel-filled modern sewer trench (3805) aligned north-east to south-west, which was revealed in both trenches. Upcast material (3802) and general disturbance

associated with the construction of the sewer trench was also found. The natural geology (3806 and 4003) was mixed sandy silt and gravel. This was sealed by a buried soil or subsoil (3803 and 4002). The only finds were part of a horseshoe and two sherds of brick or tile from the fill (3804) of the sewer trench.

6.5.2 *Trenches 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 50*

These trenches were all located in the central part of the site. The natural geology in this area was a sandy silt with patches and lenses of gravel (3902, 4102, 4202, 4302, 4402, 4503 and 5002). This was this an average depth of 0.40 m beneath the present ground surface. In Trenches 39, 41, 42 43 44 and 50, the present ploughsoil directly sealed the natural geology. In Trench 45 there was a subsoil layer or buried soil (4502). The only features revealed were tree-throw holes and modern land drains. No finds were recovered from any of these trenches.

6.5.3 *Trenches 46, 47, 48 and 49 (Fig. 22)*

These four trenches were situated in eastern third of the site. The natural geology was variable. In Trench 46 there was clear division in the natural geology (4603) between sandy gravel in the south half of the trench and a greater concentration of gravel in the north half. In Trenches 47, 48 and 49 the natural geology (4703, 4805 and 4903) comprised sandy silt with some gravel patches. The natural was sealed by an old ploughsoil or subsoil layer (4602, 4702, 4803 and 4902). The post-medieval field boundary (4802) was located in Trench 48. A large sherd of 20th-century ceramic was recovered from its fill (4804).

The only significant feature was a ditch (4706) which ran obliquely across Trench 47 on a north-east to south-west alignment. The ditch had two sandy silt fills; the lower fill (4705) was very dark, the upper fill (4704) was lighter and contained more gravel. Neither fill produced any finds.

6.6 **Finds**

The evaluation in this area produced almost no finds. The only exceptions were the horseshoe fragment and brick and tile from 3804 and the sherd of 20th-century pottery from 4804; both were features of recent date.

6.7 **Environmental data**

No deposits were discovered which were suitable for environmental sampling.

6.8 Discussion and Interpretation

6.8.1 Reliability of field investigation

The evidence recovered is very limited. The ground conditions and circumstances of the excavation of this area were similar to those in other areas which have produced archaeological evidence and there is every reason to presume that the negative evidence is a true reflection of the lack of archaeological features and deposits in Area R4b.

6.8.2 Overall interpretation

The single potentially significant feature was ditch 4706 in Trench 47 at the eastern edge of the area. It produced no finds and cannot be dated closely. Its form suggests that it is not a Romano-British feature, and a post-medieval date is likely.

7 IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT

7.1 Area R2

The main area of archaeological potential is the eastern part of Area R2 where the evaluation has confirmed the cropmark and field-walking evidence, suggesting extensive ditches but little evidence for occupation. This broadly confirms the assessment given in evidence to the Inquiry (see **SHI/5/2**, 22). Part of the pattern of linear ditches on the east side of this area (representing paddocks and fields peripheral to any settlement) would be affected by housing and its associated infrastructure. The area of ditches outside the eastern margin of Area R2, including an area where there may be more evidence of late Iron Age and Roman occupation around trench 33, would be affected mainly by planting with grassland and trees, which would be a significantly lower level of impact.

7.2 Area R3a

The results of the evaluation in this area have likewise largely confirmed the assessment presented to the Inquiries. There is no evidence for medieval occupation of the site of the cottage, the earliest material potentially associated with it being 16th century, with a range of post-medieval material according with its documented occupation into the present century. This confirms that although the site will be affected by built development it is only of minor interest. No evidence for cropmark features or of earlier material was found.

7.3 Other Areas

The evaluation has also confirmed that there are not likely to be any significant archaeological remains in areas R1b, R3g or R4b.

7.4 Conclusions

This evaluation has covered two of the Local Plan Areas of Archaeological Potential, so far as they would be affected by the Shinfield Village proposals, at development parcels R2 and R3a. The results of this first stage of evaluation have largely confirmed the results of the assessment already presented to the Inquiries for the areas investigated (SHI/5/2). In the area of greatest potential (Area R2) there is good correspondence with the evidence of the cropmarks, and the paucity of finds agrees with the limited amount of material recovered in this area by the Loddon Valley fieldwalking survey, indicating that this area of housing development corresponds to an area of relatively limited archaeological interest peripheral to any settlement. The cottage site at R3a was confirmed as probably being of post-medieval origin of very limited local interest

Nothing was found in any of the areas evaluated which would suggest a requirement for preservation *in situ*.

Bibliography and references

- OAU November 1997 *Church Lane, Shinfield, Berkshire. Archaeological Evaluation Report (Planning Application No. 45251) (unpublished client report 1997)*
- Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual, (First edition, August 1992)*

Appendix 1 - Archaeological Context Inventory

Area R1b

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
001								
	101	Layer		0.11	Present Topsoil			
	102	Layer		0.19	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			Post-med
	103	Layer			Natural geology			
002								
	201	Layer		0.12	Present Topsoil			
	202	Layer		0.20	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			Post-med
	203	Layer			Natural geology			
003								
	301	Layer		0.16	Present Topsoil			
	302	Layer		0.24	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			Post-med
	303	Layer			Natural geology			
	304	Fill		0.40	Fill of ditch 305	Pottery (RB)	1	
	305	Cut	0.90	0.40	NE-SW Ditch			
	306	Cut	0.30		Pipe trench			Modern
004								
	401	Layer		0.20	Present Topsoil			
	402	Layer		0.15	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	403	Cut			Pipe Trench			Modern
	404	Layer			Natural geology			
005								
	501	Layer		0.12	Present Topsoil			
	502	Layer		0.23	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			Post-med
	503	Layer			Natural geology			
006								
	601	Layer		0.12	Present Topsoil			
	602	Layer		0.28	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			Post-med
	603	Layer			Natural geology			
007								
	701	Layer		0.12	Present Topsoil			
	702	Layer		0.23	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			Post-med
	703	Layer			Natural geology			

Area R3a

Trench	Ctxt	Type	Width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
008								
	801	Layer		0.25	Present Topsoil			
	802	Layer		0.30	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	803	Layer			Natural geology			
	804	Fill		0.18	Fill of 807	Pottery (L 18th) CBM (PostM) CBM (RB)	12 6 2	PostM
	805	Fill		0.10	Fill of 807			PostM
	806	Fill		0.05	Fill of 807			PostM
	807	Cut	0.50	0.30	Area of disturbance			
	808	Cut	0.50	0.25	Pit/Tree-bole			
	809	Fill	0.50	0.25	Fill of 808	Pottery (M 18th) CBM (e PostM) Flint worked Coal	6 4 1 1	PostM
	810	Cut	0.50	0.30	Pit/Tree-bole			
	811	Fill	0.50	0.30	Fill of 810	Pottery (L 16th) CBM (e PostM) CBM (RB) Flint worked Flint burnt Animal bone	17 4 1 1 2 1	PostM
	812	Cut	0.50	0.23	Pit/Tree-bole			
	813	Fill	0.50	0.23	Fill of 812	Pottery (L 18th) CBM (e PostM) CBM (RB) Stone tile	4 3 1 1	PostM
	814	Cut	0.18	0.15	? Beam Slot			
	815	Fill	0.18	0.15	Fill of 814	Pottery (?20th) CBM (e PostM) CBM (RB)	3 3 12	modern
	816	Cut	0.20	0.17	? Beam Slot			
	817	Fill	0.20	0.17	Fill of 816	Pottery (?16th) CBM (e PostM) CBM (RB)	2 2 1	postM
	818	Cut			Same as 807			
	819	Fill			Same as 804	Pottery (?20th) CBM (RB)	4 3	modern
	820	Fill			Same as 805			
	821	Fill			Same as 806	Pottery (E 19th) CBM (e PostM)	5 4	modern
	822	Fill			Fill of 826			
	823	Fill		0.15	Fill of 826	Pottery (E 19th) CBM (e PostM) Flint worked Bone Claypipe stem	53 4 5 1 1	modern

Trench	Ctxt	Type	Width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	824	Fill		0.20	Fill of 826	Pottery (E19th) Flint worked CBM (e PostM)	4 1 5	modern
	825	Fill		0.18	Fill of 826			
	826	Cut			Area of disturbance			
	827	Fill			Fill of 828			Post-med
	828	Cut	0.80		Ditch			
	829	Fill			Fill of 830			Modern
	830	Cut	3.00		Ditch			
009								
	901	Layer		0.06	Present Topsoil			
	902	Cut	4.00		Natural feature			
	903	Fill	4.00		Fill in 902			
	904	Layer			Natural geology			
	904	Layer		0.40	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
010								
	1001	Layer		0.20	Present Topsoil			
	1002	Layer		0.10	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			Post-med
	1003	Cut	0.80		Area of Disturbance			Modern
	1004	Fill			Backfill in Area 1003	Pottery (16th) CBM (e PostM)	2 1	Modern
	1005	Cut			Buried Fence Line			Modern
	1006	Fill			Fill of 1005			Modern
	1007	Layer			Natural geology			
011								
	1101	Layer		0.32	Present Topsoil			
	1102	Layer		0.12	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	1103	Layer			Natural geology			
	1104	Cut	0.35	0.08	Ploughmark			Modern
	1105	Fill	0.35	0.08	Fill of 1104	Pottery (E 19th) CBM (e PostM)	1 1	modern
012								
	1201	Layer		0.28	Present Topsoil			
	1202	Layer		0.15	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			Post-med
	1203	Layer			Natural geology			
013								
	1301	Layer		0.29	Present Topsoil			
	1302	Layer		0.11	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	1303	Layer			Natural geology			

Areas R2 and R3g

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
014								
	1401	Layer		0.35	Present Topsoil			
	1402	Layer		0.07	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	1403	Layer			Natural geology			
	1404	Cut	1.28	0.26	Ditch			?Med
	1405	Fill	1.28	0.26	Fill of Ditch 1404	CBM (RB)	1	?Med
015								
	1501	Layer		0.30	Present Topsoil			
	1502	Layer		0.05	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	1503	Layer			Natural geology			
016								
	1601	Layer		0.35	Present Topsoil			
	1602	Layer		0.12	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	1603	Layer			Natural geology			
	1604	Cut	0.30		Land Drain			Modern
017								
	1701	Layer		0.35	Present Topsoil			
	1702	Layer		0.05	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	1703	Layer			Natural geology			
	1704	Cut	0.30		Land Drain			Modern
018								
	1801	Layer		0.35	Present Topsoil			
	1802	Layer		0.15	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	1803	Layer			Natural geology			
	1804	Cut	0.30		Land Drain			Modern
019								
	1901	Layer		0.30	Present Topsoil			
	1902	Layer		0.24	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	1903	Layer	1.00	0.20	Alluvial Deposit			
	1904	Layer			Natural geology			
	1905	Fill	1.70	0.51	Fill of 1908	Pottery (RB) CBM (RB)	1 1	
	1906	Fill	1.32	0.29	Fill of 1908			
	1907	Fill	0.84	0.04	Fill of 1908			
	1908	Cut	2.08	0.75	Ditch			
020								
	2000	Layer		0.20	Present Topsoil			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	2001	Layer		0.15	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	2002	Layer			Natural geology			
	2003	Fill	0.80	0.16	Fill of 2004			
	2004	Cut	0.80	0.16	Ditch			
	2005	Fill	0.80		Fill of 2006			
	2006	Cut	0.80		Ditch			
021								
	2100	Layer			Present Topsoil			
	2101	Layer			Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	2102	Cut	0.26	0.20	Ditch			
	2103	Fill	0.26	0.20	Fill of 2102			
	2104	Cut			Ditch			
	2105	Fill			Top Fill of 2104			
	2106	Cut	0.65	0.18	Disturbance or Pit			
	2107	Fill	0.65	0.18	Fill of 2106	Pottery (RB) Flint	1 1	
	2108	Cut	1.25	0.80	Ditch ?Terminus			
	2109	Fill		0.42	Fill of 2108			
	2110	Cut	0.70	0.24	Possible Pit			
	2111	Fill	70	0.24	Fill of 2110	Pottery (RB)	1	
	2112	Layer			Natural geology			
	2113	Fill		0.20	Fill of 2108			
	2114	Fill		0.38	Fill of 2108			
	2115	Fill		0.35	Fill of 2108			
	2116	Cut	1.04	0.32	Ditch			
	2117	Fill	1.04	0.32	Fill of 2116			
022								
	2200	Layer			Present Topsoil			
	2201	Layer			Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	2202	Layer			Natural geology			
023								
	2301	Layer		0.20	Present Topsoil			
	2302	Layer		0.10	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	2303	Cut	2.00	0.80	Ditch			
	2304	Fill		0.20	Fill of 2303			
	2305	Fill		0.35	Fill of 2303	CBM (e PostM)	1	
	2306	Fill		0.26	Fill of 2303			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	2307	Fill		0.16	Fill of 2310	Slag	5	
	2308	Fill		0.18	Fill of 2310			
	2309	Fill		0.22	Fill of 2310			
	2310	Cut	2.30	0.58	Ditch			
	2311	Cut	2.00		Pipe Trench			Modern
	2312	Fill			Fill of 2311			
	2313	Layer			Natural geology			
024								
	2401	Layer		0.25	Present Topsoil			
	2402	Layer		0.10	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	2403	Cut	2.50	0.53	Ditch			
	2404	Fill		0.32	Fill of 2403			
	2405	Fill	0.78	0.12	Fill in 2403			
	2406	Fill	0.92	0.18	Fill in 2403			
	2407	Fill	1.42	0.17	Fill in 2403			
	2408	Fill	2.00	0.20	Fill in 2403			
	2409	Cut	3.00		Ditch			
	2410	Fill	3.00		Fill of 2409			
	2411	Layer			Natural geology			
025								
	2501	Layer		0.24	Present Topsoil			
	2502	Layer		0.14	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	2503	Layer			Natural geology			
026								
	2601	Layer		0.24	Present Topsoil			
	2602	Layer		0.14	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	2603	Layer		0.14	Alluvial Deposit			
	2604	Fill		0.32	Fill of 2606			
	2605	Fill		0.21	Fill of 2606			
	2606	Cut	2.40	0.37	Ditch			
	2607	Fill		0.11	Fill of 2611			
	2608	Fill		0.10	Fill of 2611			
	2609	Fill		0.22	Fill of 2611			
	2610	Fill		0.40	Fill of 2611			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	2611	Cut	1.30	0.90	Ditch			
	2612	Fill			Fill of 2613			
	2613	Cut			Ditch			
	2614	Layer			Natural geology			
027								
	2701	Layer		0.20	Present Topsoil			
	2702	Layer		0.15	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	2703	Cut	2.00		Ditch			
	2704	Fill		0.16	Fill of 2703			
	2705	Fill		0.16	Fill of 2703			
	2706	Fill		0.22	Fill of 2703			
	2707	Cut	2.00	0.30	Ditch			
	2708	Fill		0.15	Fill of 2707			
	2709	Fill		0.30	Fill of 2707			
	2710	Layer			Natural geology			
028								
	2801	Layer		0.25	Present Topsoil			
	2802	Layer		0.14	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	2803	Layer			Natural geology			
	2804	Fill	0.49	0.12	Fill of 2805			
	2805	Cut	0.49	0.12	Possible Pit/Posthole			
029								
	2901	Layer		0.29	Present Topsoil			
	2902	Layer		0.17	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	2903	Layer			Natural geology			
	2904	Fill	0.40		Fill of 2905			
	2905	Cut	0.40		Land Drain			Modern
030								
	3001	Layer		0.25	Present Topsoil			
	3002	Layer		0.21	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	3003	Layer		0.16	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	3004	Layer			Natural geology			
031								
	3101	Layer		0.30	Present Topsoil			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	3102	Layer		0.23	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	3103	Layer			Natural geology			
	3104	Fill	0.70	0.30	Fill of 3105			
	3105	Cut	0.70	0.30	Ditch/Change in Natural			
	3106	Fill	3.40	0.50	Fill of 3107			
	3107	Cut	3.40	0.84	Ditch			
	3108	Fill	1.21	0.29	Fill of 3107			
032								
	3201	Layer		0.25	Present Topsoil			
	3202	Layer		0.15	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	3203	Fill		0.30	Fill of 3206	CBM (e PostM)	1	
	3204	Fill		0.29	Fill of 3206			
	3205	Fill		0.20	Fill of 3206			
	3206	Cut	2.40	1.20	Ditch			
	3207	Layer			Natural geology			
033								
	3301	Layer		0.20	Present Topsoil			
	3302	Layer		0.15	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	3303	Cut	0.90		Ditch			
	3304	Fill	0.90		Fill of 3303			
	3305	Cut	3.30		Ditch			
	3306	Fill	3.30		Fill of 3305			
	3307	Cut	0.82	0.18	Ditch			
	3308	Fill	0.82	0.18	Fill of 3307			
	3309	Cut	0.85	0.20	Terminus/Disturbance			
	3310	Fill	0.85	0.20	Fill of 3309			
	3311	Cut	0.50		Area of Root Disturbance			
	3312	Fill	0.50	0.17	Fill in Area 3311			
	3313	Cut	0.85	0.28	Ditch/Disturbance			
	3314	Fill	0.85	0.28	Fill of 3313			
	3315	Cut	2.10	0.42	Ditch			
	3316	Fill		0.25	Fill of 3315	Pottery (LIA/RB) Slag Fired clay Flint burnt	8 4 15 12	?LIA/RB

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Findings	No.	Date
	3317	Fill	0.92	0.22	Fill of 3315			
	3318	Fill	1.55	0.24	Fill of 3315	Pottery (LIA/RB) Slag Flint burnt	113 1 35	?LIA/RB
	3319	Layer			Natural geology			
034								
	3401	Layer		0.20	Present Topsoil			
	3402	Layer		0.12	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	3403	Cut	2.65	0.72	Ditch			Modern
	3404	Fill		0.30	Fill of 3403			
	3405	Fill	1.30	0.22	Fill of 3403			
	3406	Fill	1.82	0.29	Fill of 3403			
	3407	Layer			Natural geology			
035								
	3501	Layer		0.38	Present Topsoil			
	3502	Layer		0.05	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	3503	Fill	1.20	0.38	Fill of 3504	Flint worked	1	
	3504	Cut	1.20	0.38	Ditch			
	3505	Layer			Natural geology			
036								
	3601	Layer		0.10	Present Topsoil			
	3602	Layer		0.20	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			Post-med
	3603	Layer			Natural geology			
037								
	3701	Layer		0.12	Present Topsoil			
	3702	Layer		0.23	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil	CBM (RB)	2	Post-med
	3703	Layer			Natural geology			

Area R4b

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
038								
	3801	Layer		0.34	Present topsoil			
	3802	Layer		0.12	Re-deposited natural			
	3803	Layer		0.24	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	3804	Fill			Fill of 3805	Metal CBM (RB)	1 2	
	3805	Cut	2 x 1.5		Sub-rectangular pit			postM
	3806	Layer			Natural geology			
039								
	3901	Layer		0.5	Present topsoil			
	3902	Layer			Natural geology			
040								
	4001	Layer		0.3	Present topsoil			
	4002	Layer		0.2	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	4003	Layer			Natural geology			
041								
	4101	Layer		0.4	Present topsoil			
	4102	Layer			Natural geology			
042								
	4201	Layer		0.4	Present topsoil			
	4202	Layer			Natural geology			
043								
	4301	Layer		0.45	Present topsoil			
	4302	Layer			Natural geology			
044								
	4401	Layer		0.4	Present topsoil			
	4402	Layer			Natural geology			
045								
	4501	Layer		0.3	Present topsoil			
	4502	Layer		0.1	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	4503	Layer			Natural geology			
046								
	4601	Layer		0.4	Present topsoil			
	4602	Layer		0.2	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	4603	Layer			Natural geology			
047								
	4701	Layer		0.3	Present topsoil			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	4702	Layer		0.25	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	4703	Layer			Natural geology			
	4704	Fill		0.26	Fill of 4706			
	4705	Fill		0.14	Fill of 4706			
	4706	Cut	2.0	0.4	NE-SW Ditch			
048								
	4801	Layer		0.3	Present topsoil			
	4802	Cut	3.0		Modern field boundary			
	4803	Layer		0.13	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	4804	Fill		0.34	Fill of 4802	Pottery (20th)	1	
	4805	Layer			Natural geology			
049								
	4901	Layer		0.26	Present topsoil			
	4902	Layer		0.11	Subsoil/buried ploughsoil			
	4903	Layer			Natural geology			
050								
	5001	Layer		0.4	Present topsoil			
	5002	Layer			Natural geology			

Appendix 2: Worked and burnt flint

by Philippa Bradley

The evaluation produced ten pieces of worked flint, 48 pieces of burnt unworked flint and a single burnt quartzite pebble (2.75 Kg). This material is summarised by context in Table 1. The majority of the worked flint came from contexts associated with either Iron Age-Roman pottery or post-medieval pottery and is therefore likely to be redeposited. Some of the burnt unworked flint may, however, be contemporary with Iron Age-Roman activity. The material consists of six flakes and four tested nodules, all of which have been fairly roughly worked. Most of the flakes are hard-hammer struck with little evidence for platform preparation. The tested nodules are roughly worked with one or two removals per piece. This material is not particularly dateable but a Bronze Age date would be consistent with the technological aspects of the material. It represents a very low-level of prehistoric activity across the site.

The burnt unworked flint is generally heavily burnt and red in colour; one or two pieces were white to grey and crazed. The majority of the burnt unworked flint and the single piece of burnt quartzite pebble (46 pieces or 2.7 Kg) came from two ditch fills (3316 and 3318), which also produced Iron Age and Roman pottery. It seems likely that this material represents a dump of hearthstones or was associated with a process that involved heat, such as metalworking, although no evidence for metal residues were noted on the burnt flint.

Table: Summary of worked flint and burnt unworked flint by context

Context	Flakes	Tested nodules	Total	Burnt unworked flint/quartzite (g)
809	1		1	
811	-	1	1	2 (60 g)
823	2	3	5	-
824	1	-	1	-
2107	1	-	1	-
3316	-	-	-	12 (679 g)
3318	-	-	-	35 (2009 g)
3503	1	-	1	-
Total	6	4	10	49 (2.75 Kg)

Appendix 3: Later Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

by Kayt Brown

Introduction

A total of 125 sherds of later prehistoric and Roman pottery was recovered, weighing 11171 g. The material was in a relatively good condition with an average sherd weight of 9 g. Good surface preservation allowed the survival of carbonised residues on the interior and exterior of some sherds. The pottery could be dated to the late Iron Age (29 sherds), late Iron Age/early Roman (86 sherds) and Roman (10 sherds) periods.

The material was examined and divided into broad fabric groupings, which were then confirmed using a binocular microscope (x20). Fabrics were quantified by sherd count and weight by context, and vessel numbers calculated by basic rim count. Fabrics were recorded following the system established at the OAU for the recording of later Prehistoric and Roman pottery. In this system Prehistoric fabrics are recorded by principal inclusions on a decreasing scale of fineness from 1 to 5. Later material is recorded using a hierarchical alpha-numeric system. Material defined as late Iron Age/early Roman comprises fabrics distinguished by inclusions (principally grog) distinct from the preceding Iron Age material but not considered to be characteristically 'Roman'. These fabrics are usually wheel thrown and show 'belgic' affinities (after Thompson 1982) such as the use of cordon decoration and generally display a wider range of forms. Roman material is grouped by broad ware groups which can then be sub-divided into products of specific industries.

Fabrics and forms

The late Iron Age material was characterised by a single fine sand fabric (A3) 29 sherds (260 g) of which were recovered. A single rim of a handmade bead-rim jar and a fragment of a rim too small to be assigned a type were recorded by rim count. Tool marks and burnishing was observed on a number of these sherds.

The Late Iron Age / early Roman material comprised 86 sherds (848 g) in the following fabrics: quartz sand (E30); calcined flint with quartz sand and mica (E64); calcined flint with quartz sand and clay pellets (E61); calcined flint with grog (E63); and grog tempered (E80). Some 7 vessels were represented by rim count. These comprised the rim of a large jar (E61), 1 bead-rim jar (E61) and a plain upright rim, probably of a barrel jar (E61). The only wheel-thrown vessel present was in fabric E80, with cordons at the base of the neck and on the shoulder. A further 3 rim fragments were too small to be assigned a type. A number of body sherds displayed evidence of use in the form of sooting on the exterior or carbonised residues adhering to the interior surface.

Only 10 sherds of Roman material were recovered, all reduced sandy wares. A single sherd had cordon decoration on the shoulder.

Discussion

The majority of material was recovered from ditch fills 3316 and 3318, which produced material from all three periods. Consequently it appears that most of this material is likely to be redeposited and little further comment can be made. Roman material was retrieved from contexts 304; 2905; 2107; and 2111. There is a general paucity of sites within the area from which comparisons with this material can be drawn. The mid-late Iron Age and Roman site at Binfield produced similar material and a number of these fabrics can be directly paralleled (E61, E63, E64, E80) which correspond to ceramic phase 2 defined at Binfield (Booth 1995).

Table: Quantification by fabric, sherd count and sherd weight

Fabric	late Iron Age		late Iron Age/early Roman										Roman		Total		
	A3		E30		E64		E61		E63		E80		R30		Total		
	No.sh.	Wt	No.sh.	Wt	No.sh.	Wt	No.sh.	Wt	No.sh.	Wt	No.sh.	Wt	No.sh.	Wt	No.sh.	Wt	
Context	304													1	7	1	7
	1905													1	3	1	3
	2107													1	4	1	4
	2111													1	6	1	6
	3316	1	29			6	26							1	1	8	56
	3318	28	231	2	19	10	98	41	576	4	29	23	100	5	42	113	1095
Total		29	260	2	19	16	124	41	576	4	29	23	100	10	63	125	1171

References:

Booth, P 1995 'Iron Age and Romano-British pottery', in M. R. Roberts, Excavations at Park Farm, Binfield, Berkshire 1990: An Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement and Two Mesolithic Flint Scatters, in I. Barnes *et al*, *Early Settlement in Berkshire: Mesolithic-Roman Occupation Sites in the Thames and Kennet Valleys* Wessex Archaeology Report No. 6 1995 pp106-117

Thompson, I 1982 *Grog-tempered 'Belgic' Pottery of South-eastern England*, BAR British Series 108

Appendix 4: Ceramic building materials

by Kate Atherton

Introduction

The evaluation produced an assemblage of 65 pieces of ceramic building material with a total weight of 9785 g. In addition, one fragment of limestone tile (739 g) was recovered. The types represented amongst the assemblage were brick, plain flat tile, roof tile with holes for pegs or nails and ridge tile. Measurements were made where dimensions survived. All the material is, or is likely to be post-medieval. It includes thin bricks of early post-medieval date as well as more recent material.

Table 1: Quantification of building material

	Type	No	Weight (g)
Post-Medieval	Brick	15	6472
	Flat tile	5	480
	Flat roof tile	17	1807
	Peg roof tile	4	668
	Ridge tile	1	84
	Miscellaneous	23	276
	Stone tile	1	739
Total		66	10,526

Table 2: Quantification of building material by context and date

Context	Total	
	No	Weight
804	8	748
809	4	1338
811	5	860
813	5	2345
815	15	321
817	3	27
818	3	438
821	4	617
823	4	1112
824	5	1988
1004	1	3
1105	1	26
1405	1	103
1905	1	24
2305	1	156
3203	1	1
3702	2	317
3804	2	102

Appendix 5: Post-Medieval Pottery

by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 114 sherds with a total weight of 2277 g. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1.

All the fabrics are well-known types, as follows:

Red Earthenwares: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century.

Border Wares: Generic term for the late 15th/early 16th century pottery industry of the Hampshire/Surrey border area (Pearce 1992). The range of fabrics comprised fine, sandy whitewares with an off-white to buff fabric and with yellow, green olive or brown glaze, and fine redwares with clear green to olive or brown glaze (ibid. 1). The manufacture of whitewares ceased during the 18th century. Produced a wide range of late medieval and early post-medieval vessel types.

Midland Blackware: c AD1580-1700. Hard fabric, usually brick-red, but can be paler or browner, with moderate quartz grains. Surfaces covered with a glossy black glaze. Range of tablewares, such as mugs (McCarthy and Brooks 1988).

Chinese Porcelain: Hard, slightly translucent white fabric with a clear glaze, often with hand-painted polychrome decoration. Known in Europe from the 13th century, but did not become common until the 16th century (Whitehouse 1972, 63).

Creamware: c 1740-1880. A cream-coloured earthenware made from the same calcinated flint clay that produced Staffordshire white salt-glazed stonewares (Jennings 1981, 227). However, Creamwares were fired at different temperatures with a lead glaze, resulting in a rich cream colour. The general range of forms for this ware include plates and bowls.

Mocha wares. c. 1780-1900, and *English Yellow-glazed earthenwares.* c. 1785-1835. Both wares have the same hard, white, slightly sandy fabric with an applied thick yellow/lemon glaze. Yellow wares have a general range of utilitarian forms. Mocha wares, made in Staffordshire, were usually tea pots, with a brown fern-like transfer decoration made from a mixture of tobacco and urine (Mellor 1984, Fiche II, GI). Mocha wares had a very short production span, although yellow wares continued in production into the middle of the 19th-century.

Jackfield ware. c. 1750-1820. Compact uniform dark black/brown fabric and a thick lustrous black glaze. Black, iron-stained earthenwares known as Jackfield Wares were made in Staffordshire from c 1750 (Jennings 1981, 230).

Ironstone china. c 1810 plus. A well sorted, reduced white earthenware fabric with rare red subangular quartz up to 0.3mm and occasional fine white quartz up to 0.1mm. (Mellor 1984, Fiche II, G11).

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	Red Earthenware		Border Ware		Midland Black		Chinese Porcelain		Mocha Yellow		Jackfield ware		Cream-ware		Ironstone China		Misc 20 th wares		DATE
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
804									12	163									L18thC
809	2	15	2	35									2	3					M18thC
811	15	177	1	1	1	4													L16thC
813	1	2							1	40	1	18	1	3					L18thC
815																	3	19	20thC?
817			1	12			1	2											16thC?
819	1	10															3	110	20thC?
821														5	54				E19thC
823	40	928							1	70				12	61				E19thC
824	2	56							1	20				1	1				E19thC
1004	1	12	1	30															16thC
1105														1	1				E19thC
4804																	1	430	20thC?
	62	1200	5	78	1	4	1	2	15	293	1	18	3	6	19	117	7	559	

References:

Jennings, S, 1981 *Eighteen Centuries of Pottery from Norwich*. E Ang Archaeol 13

McCarthy, MR and Brooks, CM, 1988 *Medieval Pottery in Britain AD900-1600* Leicester University Press

Mellor, M, 1984 'A summary of the key assemblages. A study of pottery, clay pipes, glass and other finds from fourteen pits, dating from the 16th to the 19th century', in TG Hassall *et al*, 'Excavations at St Ebbe's', *Oxoniensia*, 49, 181-219.

Pearce, J, 1992 *Border Wares* HMSO

Whitehouse, D, 1972 'Chinese Porcelain in Medieval Europe', *Medieval Archaeology* 16, 63-78

Appendix 6: Charred Plant Remains

by Ruth Pelling

Introduction

During the evaluation at Shinfield a single sample was taken for the extraction of charred plant remains. The deposit sampled was a ditch fill which contained occupation debris associated with a Late Iron Age settlement. A total of 40 litres was processed by bulk water flotation and the flot collected on a 500µm mesh. The dried flot was submitted for evaluation. The purpose of evaluation was to establish if charred plant remains were present on the site and to gain an impression of the nature of material present, preservation and density of remains.

Methodology

The flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at x 10 magnification. Any charred seeds or chaff present were identified and an estimate of abundance made. Fragments of charcoal were randomly extracted, fractured and examined in transverse section. This is a reliable method of identification of the ring porous wood (*Quercus* sp.) while the identification of the diffuse porous wood (Pomoideae) is more tentative.

Results

The flot contained a moderate quantity of charcoal, the majority of which was *Quercus* sp. (oak). In addition occasional poorly preserved fragments of possible Pomoideae wood (hawthorn, apple, pear, etc.) were also present. No cereal grain was present, while a single spikelet fork was noted. Identification beyond the level of *Triticum spelta/dicoccum* (spelt/emmer wheat) was not possible. Preservation of the spikelet fork was poor.

Implications

It is not possible to establish if charred seeds and chaff are present on the site on the basis of a single sample. The state of charcoal would suggest that preservation is likely to be varied, but certainly charred remains could survive. It is recommended that sampling is taken into consideration in planning any future excavation.

Appendix 7: Written Scheme of Investigation and Associated Correspondence

UNIVERSITY OF READING

Shinfield Village Proposals

*Written Scheme of Investigation
Evaluation of Proposed Years 2 and 3 Housing Allocations*

LPI Reference: 1041
DETR Reference: GOSE/103/002/WHAM/001 (Grazeley)
APP/H0330/A/97/286987 (Shinfield Village)
GOSE/103/004/WHAM/002 (Spencers Wood)

**Oxford Archaeological Unit
1999**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 This written scheme of investigation concerns the evaluation of areas at Shinfield village that would be affected by the first two years' housing allocation should the University of Reading major housing proposals be approved. The details of the development proposals and the results archaeological desk studies and surface surveys to date have been reported in a series of documents, including evidence presented by Mr G Lambrick on behalf of the University to the current Public Inquiry into University's Appeal for non-determination of their outline planning application (DETR Reference: APP/H0330/A/97/286987). These documents provide the wider context to this proposed evaluation.

1.2 Overall Strategy

1.2.1 This WSI provides a summary of the potential of each area to be investigated based on Mr Lambrick's evidence concerning the areas to be investigated. In each case the proposed approach to the evaluation is given at the end of the summary, noting the sampling strategy and any specific questions to be addressed or features to be examined.

1.2.2 The proposed trench layout is shown on the accompanying plans. The overall strategy is to investigate a 2% sample of areas with clear recognised potential with provision for increasing this up to 3% if necessary to meet the aims of the investigation. For areas with no specific potential a sample of 2% will be investigated. The base sample will be standard 30m x c. 2m trenches in each case, laid out so as to sample the whole area but including specific known features where appropriate. Any additional trenches will be configured to address specific issues that need clarification.

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

2.1 Housing Area R3a

Existing archaeological information

2.1.1 *An Area of High Archaeological Potential* on gravel and clay south of Cutbush Lane encompasses the whole of a field which contains a number of linear cropmarks. This area of housing occupies the northern end of the area where there is the site of a cottage and garden adjoining the south side of Cutbush Lane (OAU no.11). This is shown on eighteenth century and later maps (see Appendix 9 Figures 3-5, 6, 7), and is partly visible as cropmarks. It would be almost completely affected by the construction of residential units and access roads. This site was occupied at least 1939 but not after 1956 (see **SHI/GRA/GHL/3**, Figs. 6 & 7) and is unlikely to be of more than local interest. Apart from some curvilinear features of uncertain origin in

the vicinity of this site, the other cropmarks in this field correspond to features shown on historic maps.

Aims

1. To establish the origins and character of the 18th century or earlier occupation site
2. To establish the survival and significance of any deposits in the light of the continued occupation of the site into this century
3. To test the area for other features, notably the doubtful curvilinear cropmark
4. To establish whether, in the light of the survival and significance/ potential of any remains, there is any need for further excavation.

Sampling strategy

- 2.1.2 The area will be subject to an initial 2% sample of trenches with contingency for increasing this up to 3% if necessary. Trenches to be aligned as indicated on plan, including specific sampling of the site of buildings recorded on 18th and 19th century maps, and linear features seen on air photographs.

2.2 Housing Area R2

Existing archaeological information

- 2.2.1 South of Arborfield Road an *Area of High Archaeological Potential* on gravel encompasses an area of cropmarks (OAU no. 14) including a relatively coherent system of rectilinear fields and paddocks of uncertain date occupying the eastern half of the field, and other more widely distributed linear and pit-like features. Some of these are likely to belong to other phases of activity. A group of parallel linear features that are likely to be the result of medieval or later ridge-and-furrow cultivation (OAU 15) roughly correspond to cultivation strips shown on the 1756 estate map and 1838 tithe map. The complex also includes a scatter of flintwork and other finds (OAU 43; 51 and 13). The flints suggest an area of prehistoric activity, but need not indicate the existence of any *in situ* subsoil archaeology since such scatters often reflect quite ephemeral domestic or other activity that left little other trace. The complex is of uncertain importance: there is no definite concentration of Roman or medieval finds that might be expected if the rectilinear paddocks were related to a settlement, nor any distinctively early prehistoric cropmarks that might be related to the relatively modest flint scatter. It is unlikely to be of more than local or possibly county importance.
- 2.2.2 The western side of the northern end of this area would be affected by houses, while the more coherent area of cropmarks on the east side would be affected partly by housing but mainly by structural planting with woodland. The north-western part of the southern half of the Area of High Archaeological Potential (into which the coherent pattern of cropmarks and scatter of prehistoric flintwork extends) would be affected by conversion to a junior school playing field. This might well not involve any disturbance but would take the site out of cultivation, so there could well be no impact. The rest of the Area of Potential extends outside the development area and would not be affected.

Aims

1. To establish the origins and character of the complex of linear cropmarks
2. To establish specifically how far these may represent different elements of ancient enclosures or recent drainage ditches
3. To establish the survival and significance of any deposits in the light of the continued agricultural use of the site
4. To test the area for other features, especially in the light of the finds scatter at the southern end of the area
5. To establish whether, in the light of the survival and significance/ potential of any remains, there is any need for further excavation or other mitigation.

Sampling strategy

- 2.2.3 The area will be subject to an initial 2% sample of trenches with contingency for increasing this up to 3% if necessary. Trenches to be aligned as indicated on plan, including specific sampling of the complex of linear features seen on air photographs.

2.3 Housing Area R3g***Existing archaeological information***

- 2.3.1 North of Arborfield Road there is an area of gravel with miscellaneous linear cropmarks, some of which correspond to field boundaries shown on the 1838 tithe map, while others are of rather dubious origin and might not be archaeological (OAU no. 32). None of these cropmarks is of any obvious significance. This area would be completely affected by houses and access roads.

Aims

1. To test the area for archaeological features
2. To establish whether, in the light of the survival and significance/ potential of any remains, there is any need for further excavation or other mitigation.

Sampling strategy

- 2.3.2 The area will be subject to a 2% sample of trenches, to be aligned as indicated on plan.

2.4 Housing Area R4a & b***Existing archaeological information***

- 2.4.1 There are possible but rather doubtful areas of high susceptibility readings in the area either side of Tanners Copse. These are on gravel and are of uncertain origin and significance.

Aims

1. To test the area for archaeological features
2. To establish whether, in the light of the survival and significance/ potential of any remains, there is any need for further excavation or other mitigation.

Sampling strategy

- 2.4.2 The area will be subject to an initial 1% sample of trenches with provision for increasing this up to 2% if archaeological potential is demonstrated. Trenches to be aligned as indicated on plan.

2.5 Housing Area R5a***Existing archaeological information***

- 2.5.1 This area on clay is only known to contain scattered individual finds which may well be casual losses and do not obviously suggest the existence of buried remains. No archaeology was found to the north in area R1a when it was evaluated prior to the recent housing development there.

Aims

1. To test the area for archaeological features
2. To establish whether, in the light of the survival and significance/ potential of any remains, there is any need for further excavation or other mitigation.

Sampling strategy

- 2.5.2 The area will be subject to an initial 2% sample of trenches, to be aligned as indicated on plan.

2.6 Housing Area R1b***Existing archaeological information***

- 2.6.1 There is no known archaeology in this area on clay, and none was found to the south in area R1a when it was evaluated prior to the recent housing development there.

Aims

1. To test the area for archaeological features
2. To establish whether, in the light of the survival and significance/ potential of any remains, there is any need for further excavation or other mitigation.

Sampling strategy

- 2.6.2 The area will be subject to an initial 1% sample of trenches, to be aligned as indicated on plan.

3 METHODOLOGY**3.1 Trial Trenching**

- 3.1.1 The initial evaluation will comprise a total of 67 machine-excavated trenches (representing a 2% sample) supplemented by hand investigation of archaeological deposits. As defined in section 2 of this document, further trenches may be excavated in areas where archaeological potential is demonstrated, if there is a need to obtain more information to address the evaluation aims.

- 3.1.2 It is envisaged that the trial trenching work will be undertaken in up to three weeks by a team comprising a Supervisor and 5 technicians under the general direction of R J Williams MIFA (Head of Fieldwork).

3.2 Site procedures

- 3.2.1 Site procedures for the evaluation will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the OAU Field Manual (ed. D Wilkinson 1992).
- 3.2.2 The procedures for the trial trenches are defined as follows
- 3.2.3 An appropriate mechanical excavator will be used for excavate the trial trenches. All machining will be undertaken under direct archaeological supervision. All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon, in successive, level spits. Following machine clearance, all faces of the trench that require examination or recording will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Spoil heaps will be scanned for artefacts.
- 3.2.4 All investigation of archaeological levels will be by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and section. Within significant archaeological levels a minimum number of features required to meet the aims will be hand excavated. Pits and postholes will be subject to a 50% sample by volume. Linear features will be sectioned as appropriate. Features not suited to excavation within narrow trenches will not be sampled. No archaeological deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable. It is not necessarily the intention that all trial trenches will be fully excavated to natural stratigraphy, but the depth of archaeological deposits across the entire site will be assessed. The stratigraphy of all evaluation trenches will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 3.2.5 Any excavation, both by machine and by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits that appear to be worthy of preservation in situ.
- 3.2.6 The contexts within the trenches will be individually numbered using a block of numbers, in a continuous sequence. Written descriptions will be recorded on proforma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements. Where stratified deposits are encountered a Harris matrix will be compiled during the course of the excavation.
- 3.2.7 Plans will be drawn at 1:100, however if deeply stratified or complex deposits are encountered a scale of 1:50 or 1:20 will be used. Detailed plans will be at an appropriate scale. Burials will be drawn at scale 1:10. The site grid will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on the 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. Plans will be leveled with respect to Ordnance Datum. Long sections of trenches showing layers will be drawn at 1:50. Sections of features or short lengths of trenches will be drawn at 1:20. All sections will be tied in to Ordnance Datum. All plans and sections will be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labeled. A register of plans and sections will be kept.

- 3.2.8 A full black and white and colour (35 mm transparency) photographic record, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered will be maintained. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological work. Photographs will be recorded on OAU Photographic Record Sheets.
- 3.2.9 The watching brief will comprise the monitoring of all intrusive works related to the two new terminal towers to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains.
- 3.2.10 Any features exposed will be hand excavated and recorded. Site recording and sampling levels for archaeological features are defined as above (where appropriate).

3.3 Report and Archive

- 3.3.1 Following completion of the on site works the site archive will be prepared and security copied by the NAR.
- 3.3.2 A report of the findings will be produced. The contents will include a description of the nature of the field work carried out, the conditions and limitations within which it was undertaken and the results that were obtained. Should significant remains be encountered then full account will be taken of their wider context (Appendix 8). The format and content of any publication will be agreed with the Wokingham District Council.
- 3.3.3 Copies of the report will be forwarded to Haslams (for Reading University), the Wokingham District Council and to the Sites and Monument Record within three weeks of the end of the trenching work.
- 3.3.4 The site archive including finds (subject to the landowner's agreement) to be deposited with an appropriate repository agreed by the landowner, Wokingham District Council, in an approved format.
- 3.3.5 Site records may be examined at any time during or after the evaluation, by the Applicant, the Wokingham District Council or any designated representative of the District Council.

3.4 General

- 3.4.1 Any significant variations to the proposed methodology will be agreed with the local authority's archaeological representative in advance.
- 3.4.2 The scope of work detailed in the main part of the Written Scheme of Investigation is aimed at meeting the aims of the project in a cost-effective manner. The Oxford Archaeological Unit attempts to foresee possible site-specific problems and resource these. However there may be unusual circumstances which have not been included in the costing and programme:

Unavoidable delays due to extreme bad weather, vandalism, etc.

Complex structures or objects, including those in waterlogged conditions, requiring specialist removal.

Extensions to specified trenches or feature sample sizes requested by the archaeological curator.

Trenches requiring shoring or stepping, ground contamination, unknown services, poor ground conditions requiring additional plant, specialist reinstatement of surfaces (i.e. tarmac, turf).

4 OTHER STANDARDS

4.1 Health And Safety and Insurance

4.1.1 All work will be carried out to the requirements of *Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974*, *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) H & S manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1991*, the OAU Health and Safety Policy, and any main contractors requirements.

4.1.2 A copy of the OAU's Health and Safety Policy is available on request. OAU will require copies of the H & S policies of all other contractors and operators present on site in compliance with *The Manual of H & S Regulations 1992*. The OAU holds Employers Liability Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Details will be supplied on request. The OAU will not be liable to indemnify the client against any compensation or damages for or with respect to:

4.1.3 Damage to crops being on the Area or Areas of Work (save in so far as possession has not been given to the Archaeological Contractor). The use or occupation of land (which has been provided by the Client) by the Project or for the purposes of completing the Project (including consequent loss of crops) or interference whether temporary or permanent with any right of way, light, air or water or other easement or quasi easement which are the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement. Any other damage which is the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement;

4.1.4 Injuries or damage to persons or property resulting from any act or neglect or breach of statutory duty done or committed by the client or his agents, servants or their contractors (not being employed by the Oxford Archaeological Unit) or for or in respect of any claims demands proceedings damages costs charges and expenses in respect thereof or in relation thereto.

4.2 Copyright And Confidentiality

4.2.1 Oxford Archaeological Unit will retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive

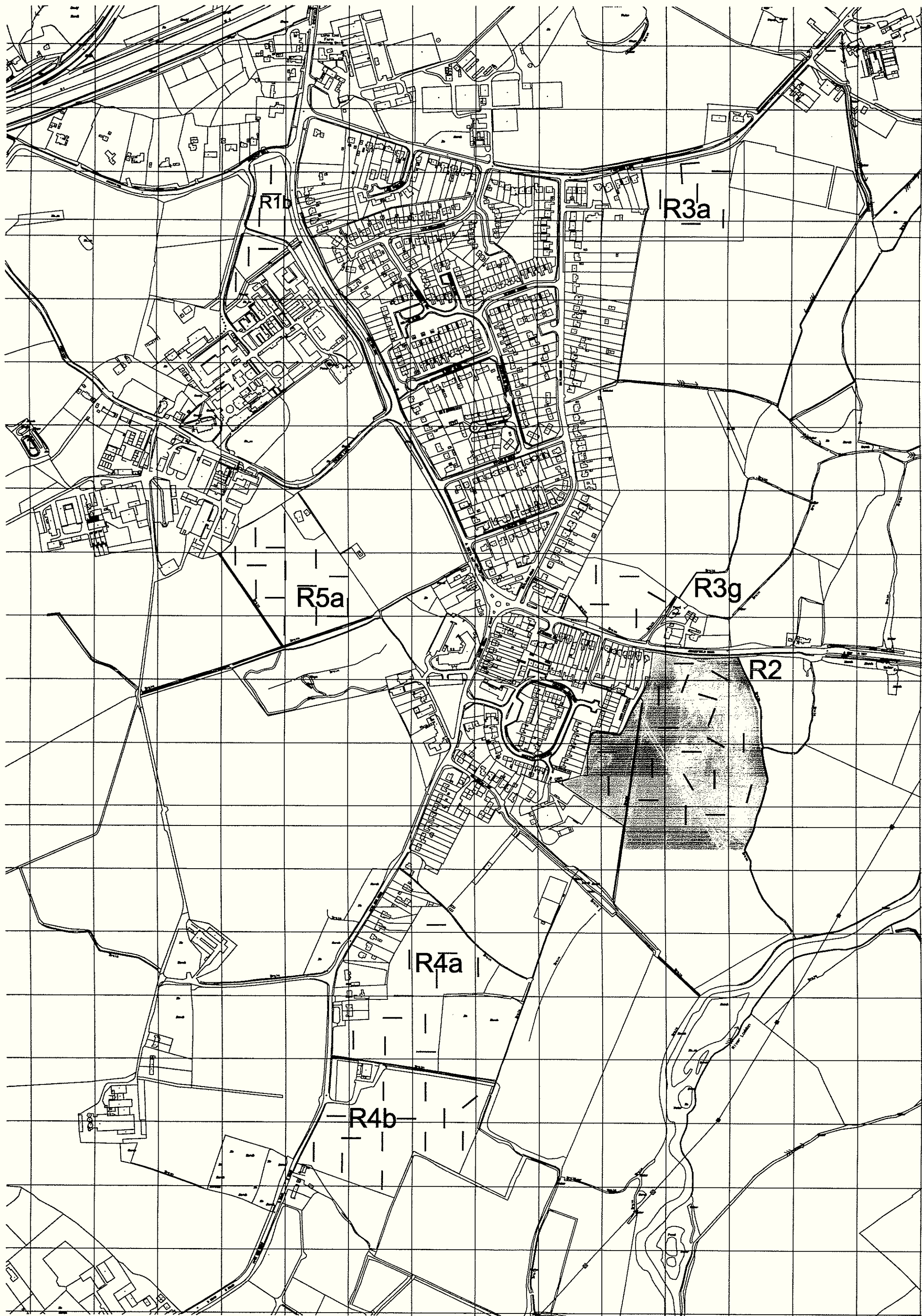
licence to the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

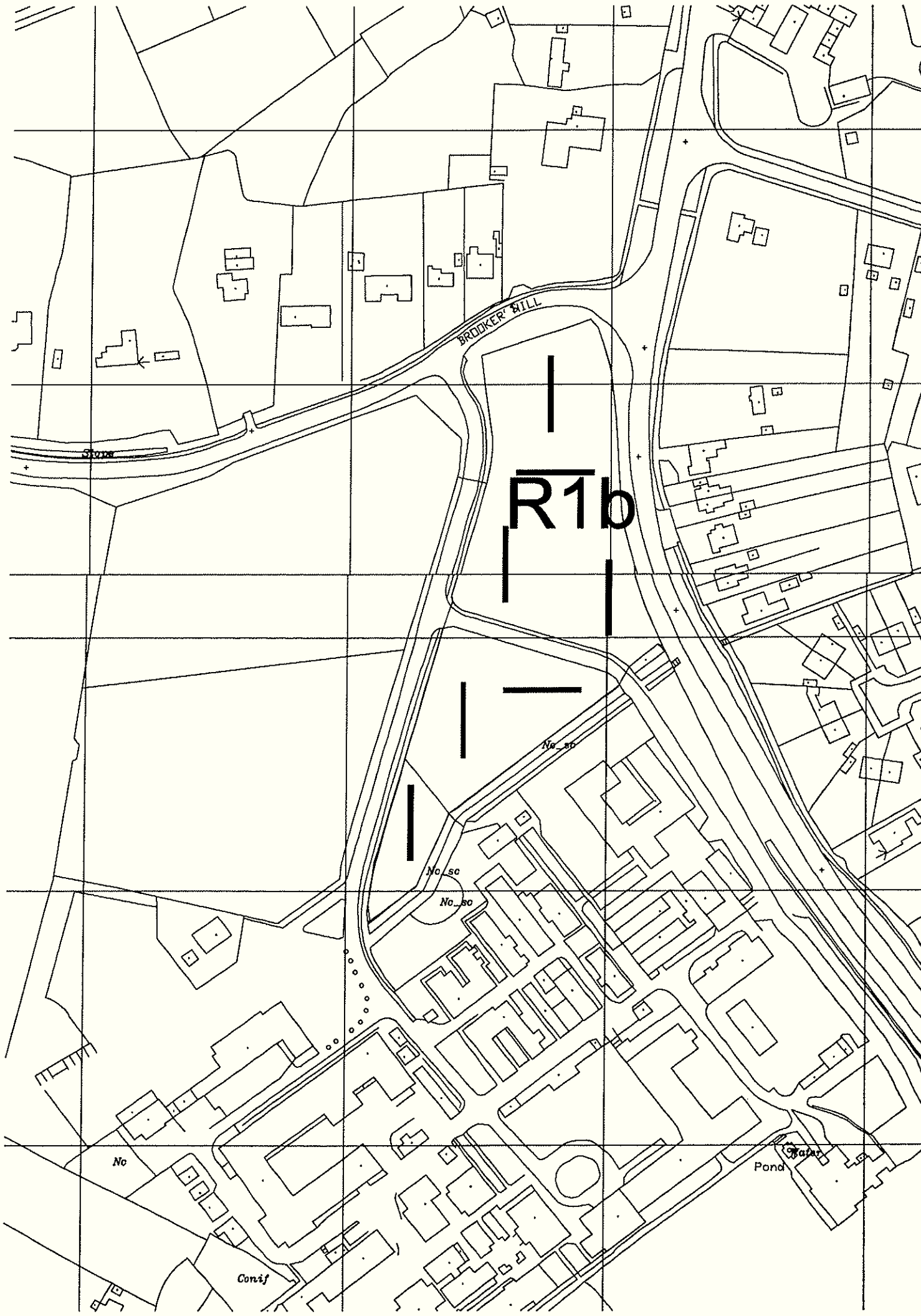
- 4.2.2 Oxford Archaeological Unit will assign copyright to the client upon written request but retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (Chapter IV, s.79).
- 4.2.3 OAU will advise the client of any such materials supplied in the course of projects which are not OAU's copyright.
- 4.2.4 OAU undertakes to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the client's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. It is expected that such conditions shall not unreasonably impede the satisfactory performance of the services required. OAU further undertake to keep confidential any conclusions about the likely implications of such proposals for the historic environment. It is expected that clients respect OAU's general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

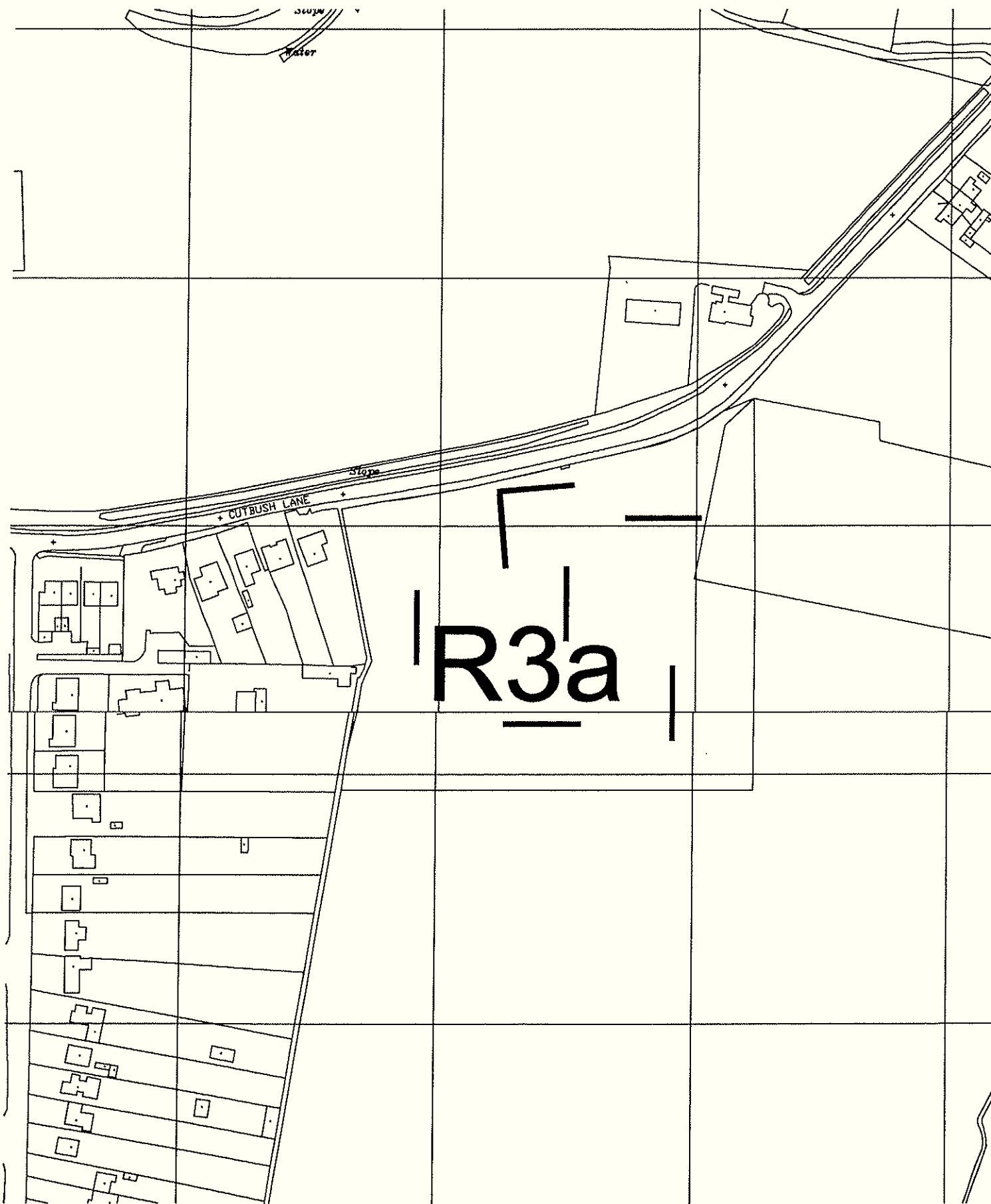
4.3 OAU Professional Standards and Procedures

- 4.3.1 OAU shall conform to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, the IFA Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, the IFA Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluations, Desk Based Assessments, etc. and the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice. OAU is a member of the Institute of Environmental Assessment and the Council for British Archaeology. Project Directors normally will be recognised in an appropriate Area of Competence by the IFA.

Oxford Archaeological Unit
June 1999









R3g

R2

FAIRBANK ROAD

ARBORFIELD ROAD

WICKERS CR.

GUESTING CREEK

SANDY CREEK

WINDY LAKE

Pond Water

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

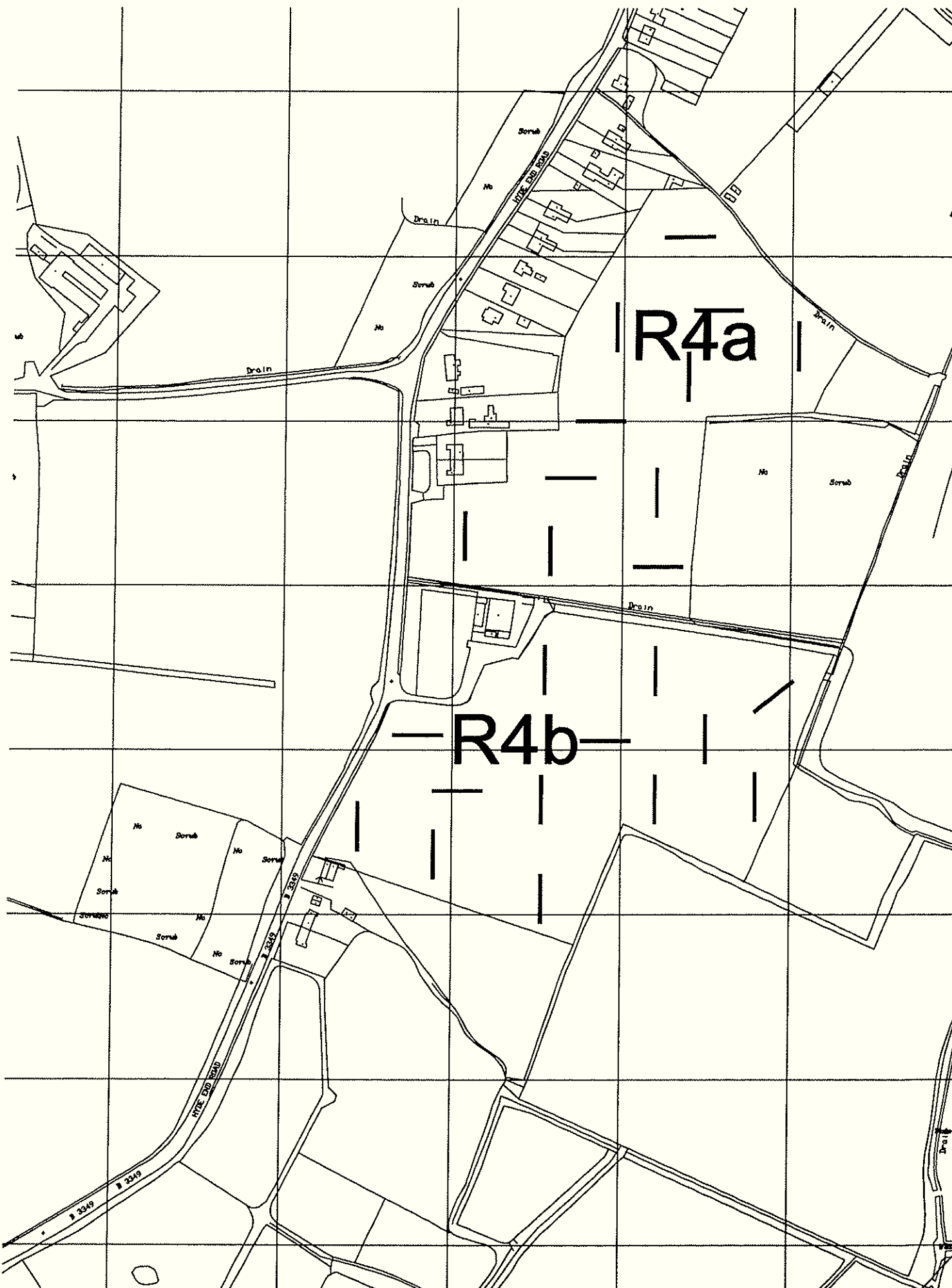
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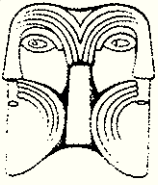
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R4a

R4b







OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496
email: postmaster@oau-oxford.demon.co.uk



Ms C Humphrey
Development Control Manager
Planning Dept
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
Berks
RG40 1BN

5 August, 1999

Dear Ms Humphrey,

Archaeological Evaluation Shinfield Village Year 2 & 3 Housing

Thank you for your letter of 29 July. We fully appreciate that should the Shinfield Village proposals receive outline consent as a result of the present Inquiries, further stages of evaluation work would need to be done well in advance of the different aspects of the development proceeding. This would be in accord with the proposed mitigation put forward in the ES and to the Inquiries, and of course any conditions and recommendations of the Inspectors. The detailed scope of work and its implementation would of course be subject to agreement with yourselves, as with this preliminary stage of work.

Yours sincerely,

George Lambrick
Deputy Director

Cc S. Dimmick, Clarks Solicitors
J. Short, Haslams

Tel. (0118) 974 6487 (Direct Line)
Fax. (0118) 974 6484
Email. Carol.Humphrey@wokingham.gov.uk
Date 29 July 1999
My ref. CEH/SB/SM4
Your ref.

02 AUG 1999



Mr G Lambrick
Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House
Osney Mead
OXFORD
OX2 0ES

Environmental Services Department
Planning Services
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR
Switchboard Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Minicom No: (0118) 974 6991
DX: 33506 - Wokingham
<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk>

Dear Mr Lambrick

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION PROPOSALS, YEAR 2 & 3 HOUSING
SHINFIELD VILLAGE**

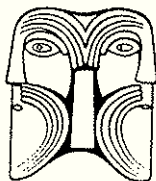
Thank you for the evaluation proposals for parts of the proposed Shinfield development. I can confirm that they are acceptable.

However, these proposals are only adequate as a first stage of a comprehensive evaluation and mitigation programme and the remaining areas need to be evaluated at an early stage. Should the Shinfield site be granted planning permission I would expect a completed evaluation and the implementation of any necessary mitigation prior to the submission of a further application. In this way I can ensure full compliance with Local Plan policies.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CEH Humphrey'.

CAROL HUMPHREY
Development Control Manager



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496
email: postmaster@oau-oxford.demon.co.uk



Rob Bourne
Babtie Group
School Green
Shinfield
Reading
Berks
RG2 9HL

15 June, 1999

Dear Rob,

**WSI for archaeological evaluation:
Year 2 & 3 housing at proposed Shinfield Village development**

Further to our phone discussions about sampling etc., I enclose our WSI for the evaluation which Reading University has proposed to undertake in advance of a decision on the appeal against non-determination of their application for a major housing development that is currently the subject of the concurrent Public Inquiry. In line with the position stated to the Inquiry, the selection of areas to be evaluated at this stage is aimed at ensuring that the archaeological mitigation requirements of the land that would be developed first are fully understood. This is so that archaeology does not represent an issue of uncertainty that could jeopardise progress of implementation should the proposals receive consent, but will be fully taken into account in detailed applications.

In area R2 we have tried to target visible cropmarks as well as providing a reasonable general coverage. We have plotted the trenches on a scanned and approximately rectified air photo. While this will not produce exact correspondence to the actual position of features, the layout should intersect enough of the linears to give a reasonable idea of their character and potential. In area R3a the L-shaped trench is intended to cover the buildings known from historic maps. This layout will need some final tweaking in the light of more accurate correlation with the old maps.

The University wishes to progress this work as soon as possible, (possibly subject to crop conditions) and I would be grateful for your comments and approval of the WSI.

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely

George Lambrick
Deputy Director

Cc Carol Rimmer, Wokingham DC
John Short, Haslams



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Carol Rimmer
Planning Dept
Wokingham District Council
Shute End
Wokingham
Berks
RG40 1BN

~~15 June, 1999~~

5 July

Dear Ms Rimmer,

**WSI for archaeological evaluation:
Year 2 & 3 housing at proposed Shinfield Village development**

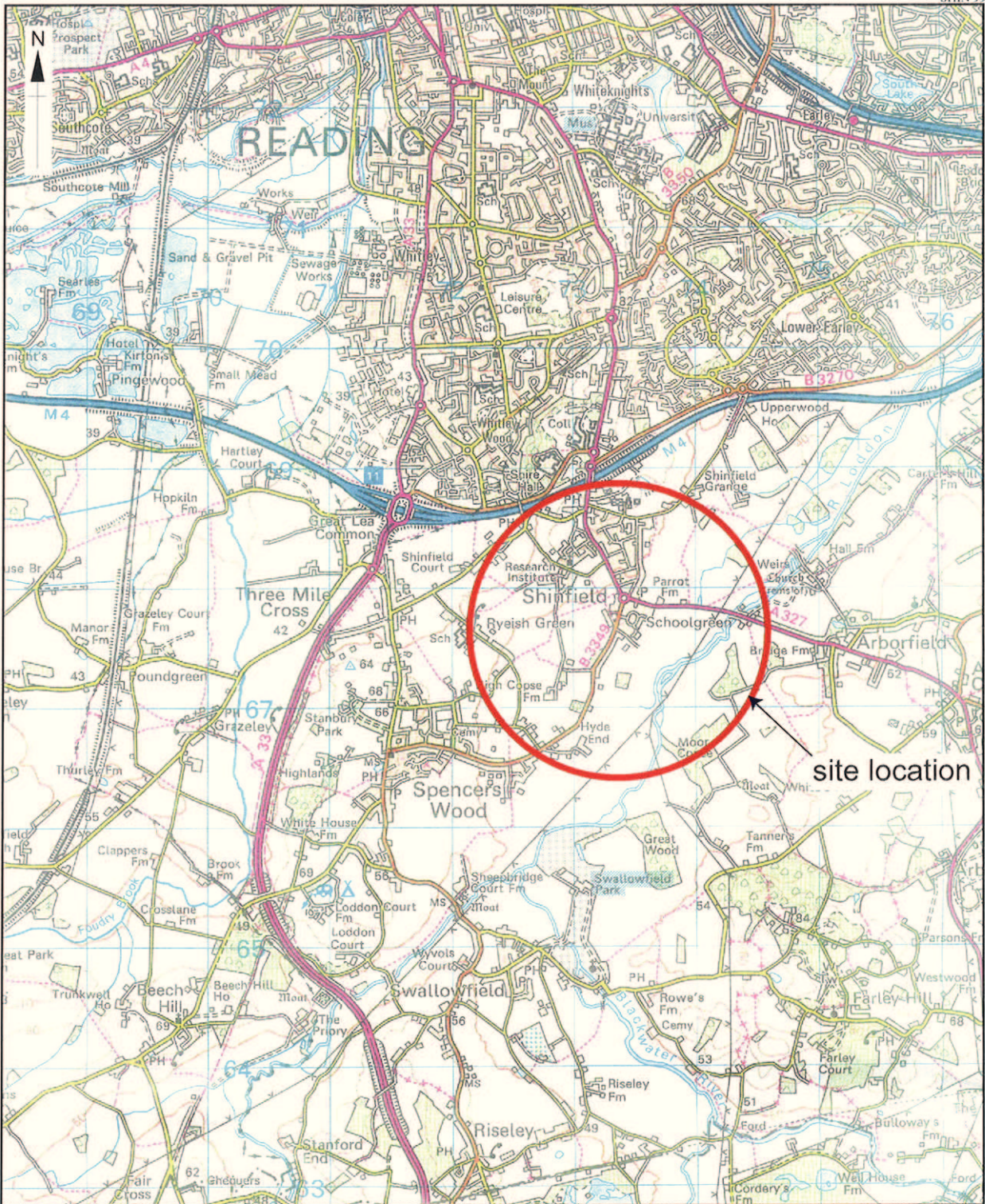
Further to my letter to Rob Bourne, and his response of 23 June, I enclose the revised text of the WSI for the above evaluation works. The plans remain unaltered. I should be grateful of your confirmation that the amended text is acceptable for your approval of the document. The University wishes to progress this work as soon as possible.

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely

George Lambrick
Deputy Director

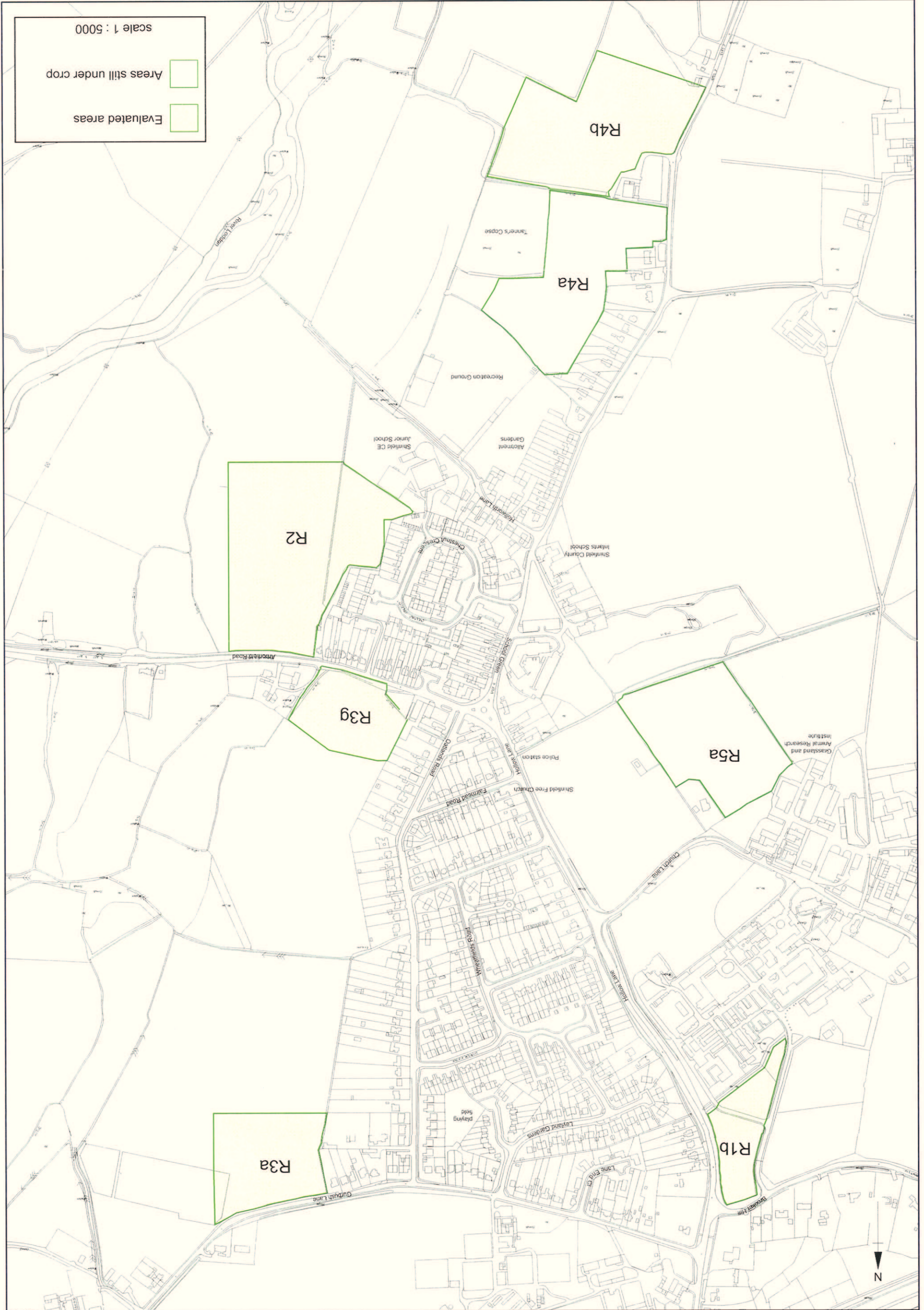
Cc Rob Bourne, Babtie Group
John Short, Haslams

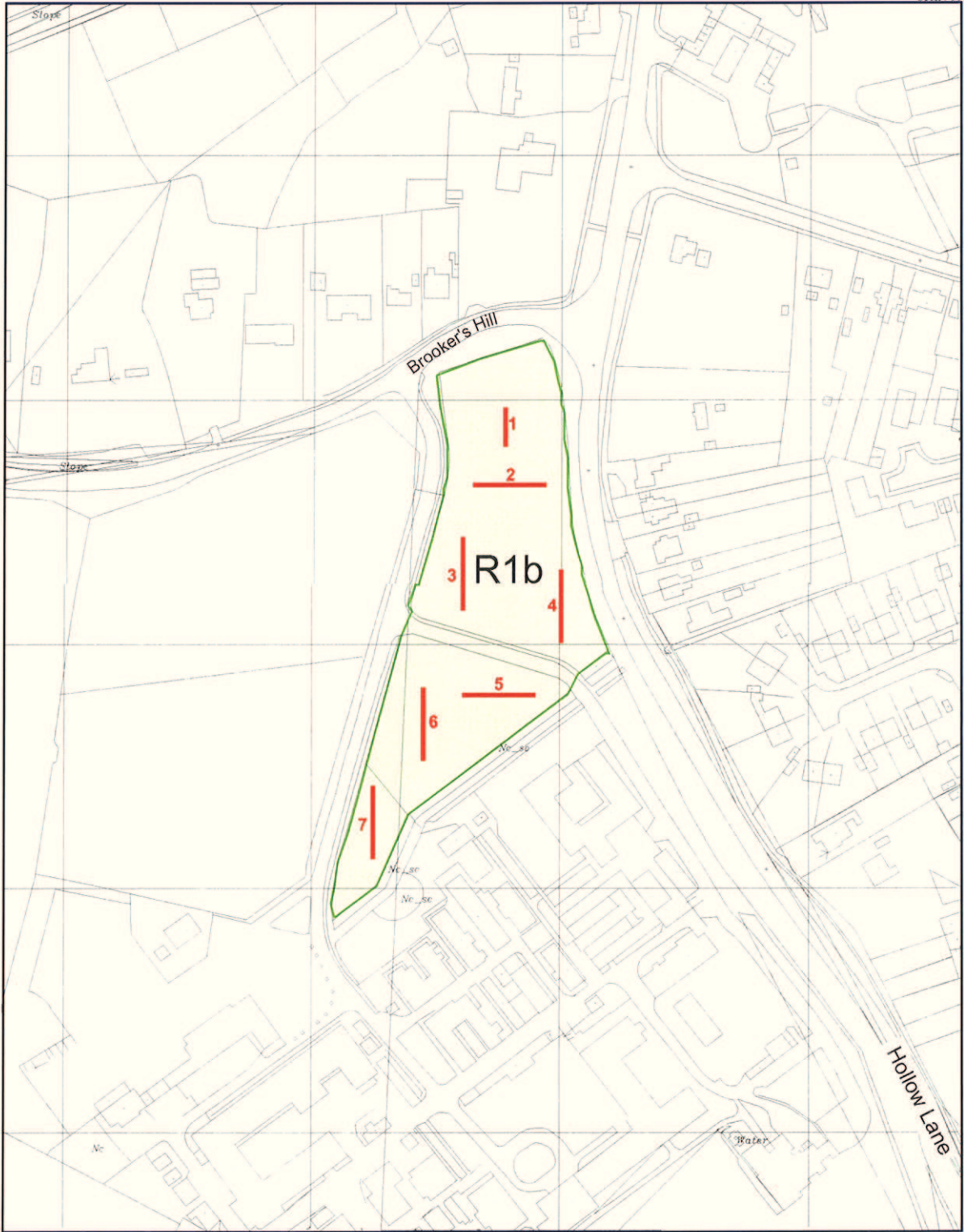



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figure 1 : site location

Figure 2 : map showing the sites in relation to the village





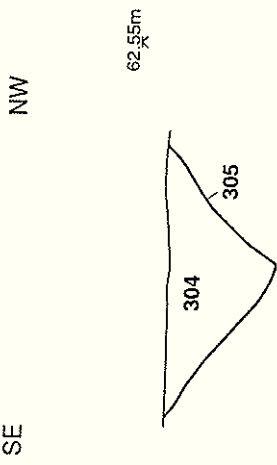
 study area R1b

 trenches

scale 1 : 2500

figure 3 : trench locations within Area R1b

section 304



section 303

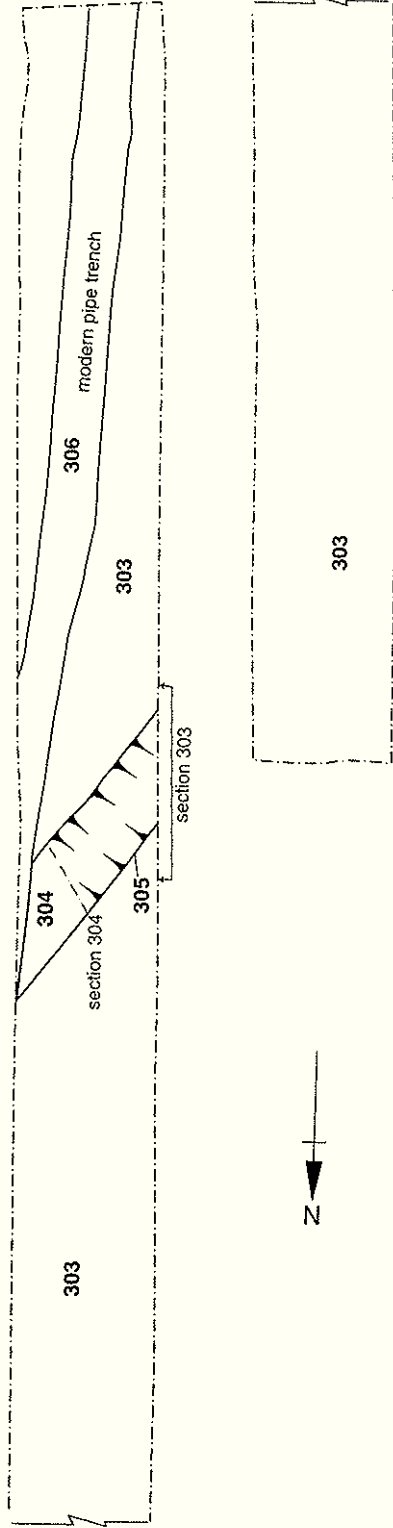
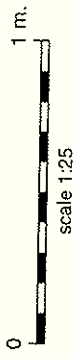
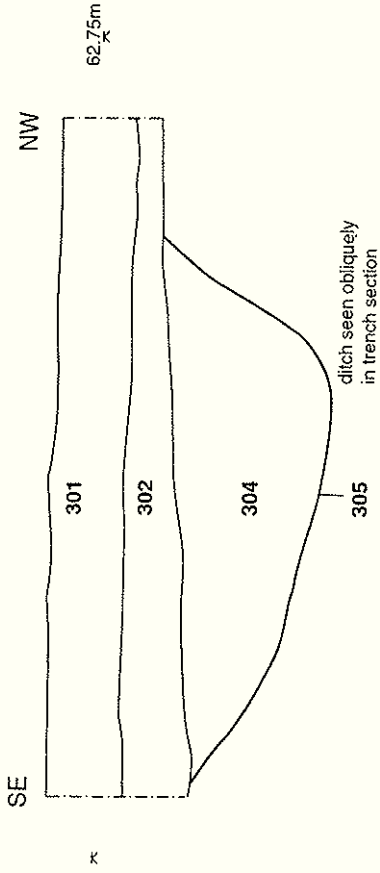
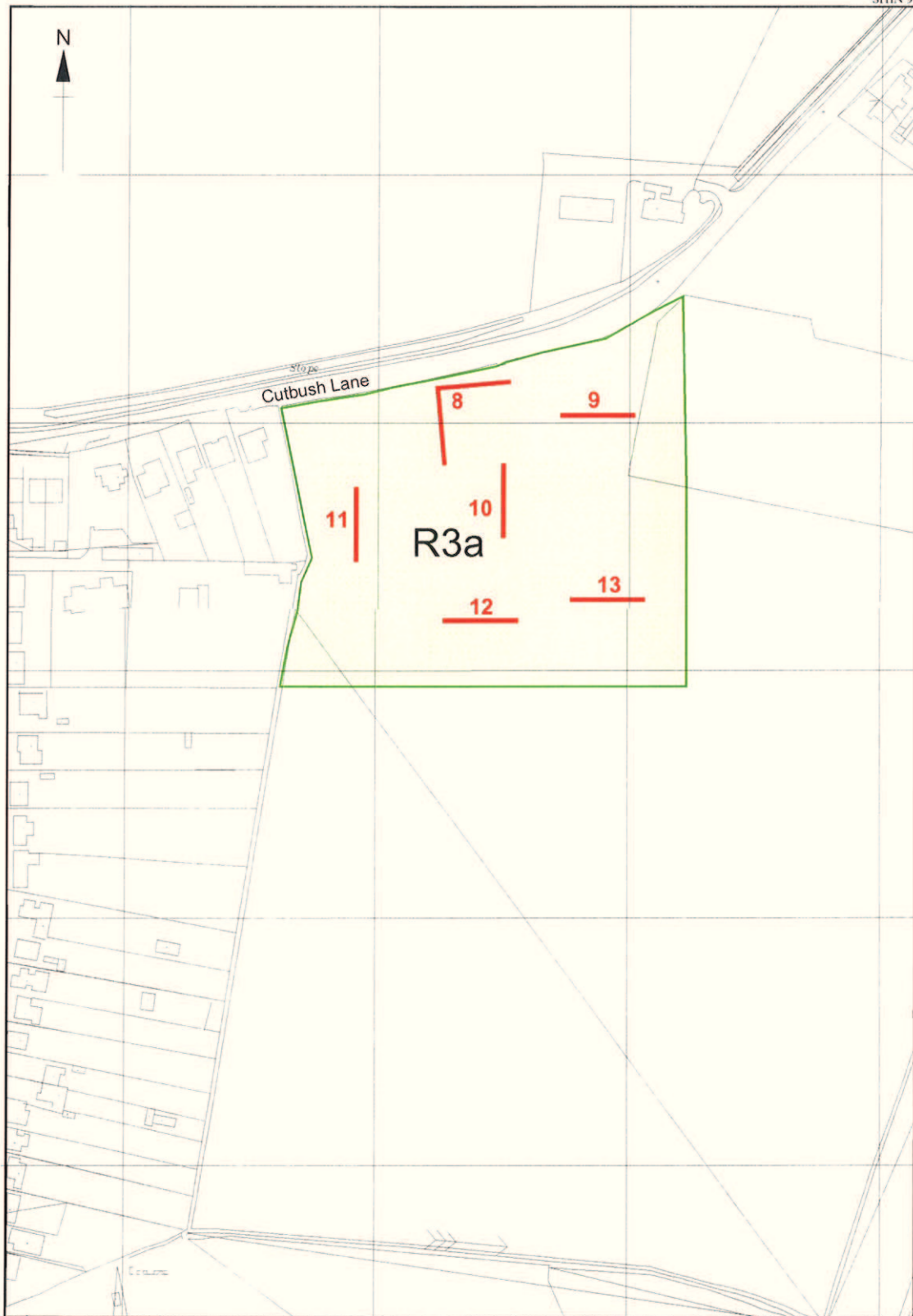




figure 4 : Area R1b, trench 3 plan and sections



 excavation area

 trenches

scale 1 : 2500

figure 5 : trench locations within Area R3a

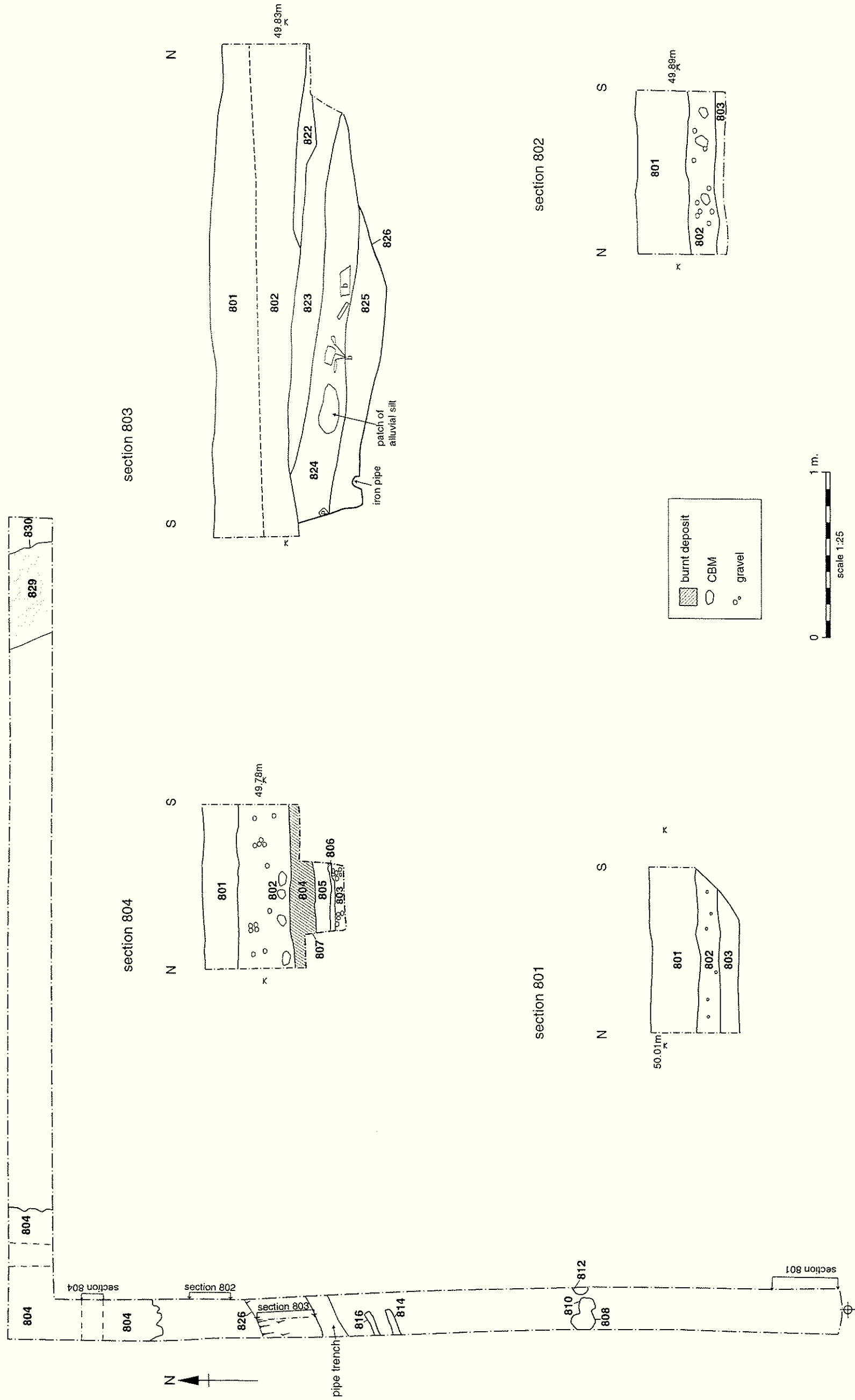


figure 6 :Area R3a, trench 8, plan and sections

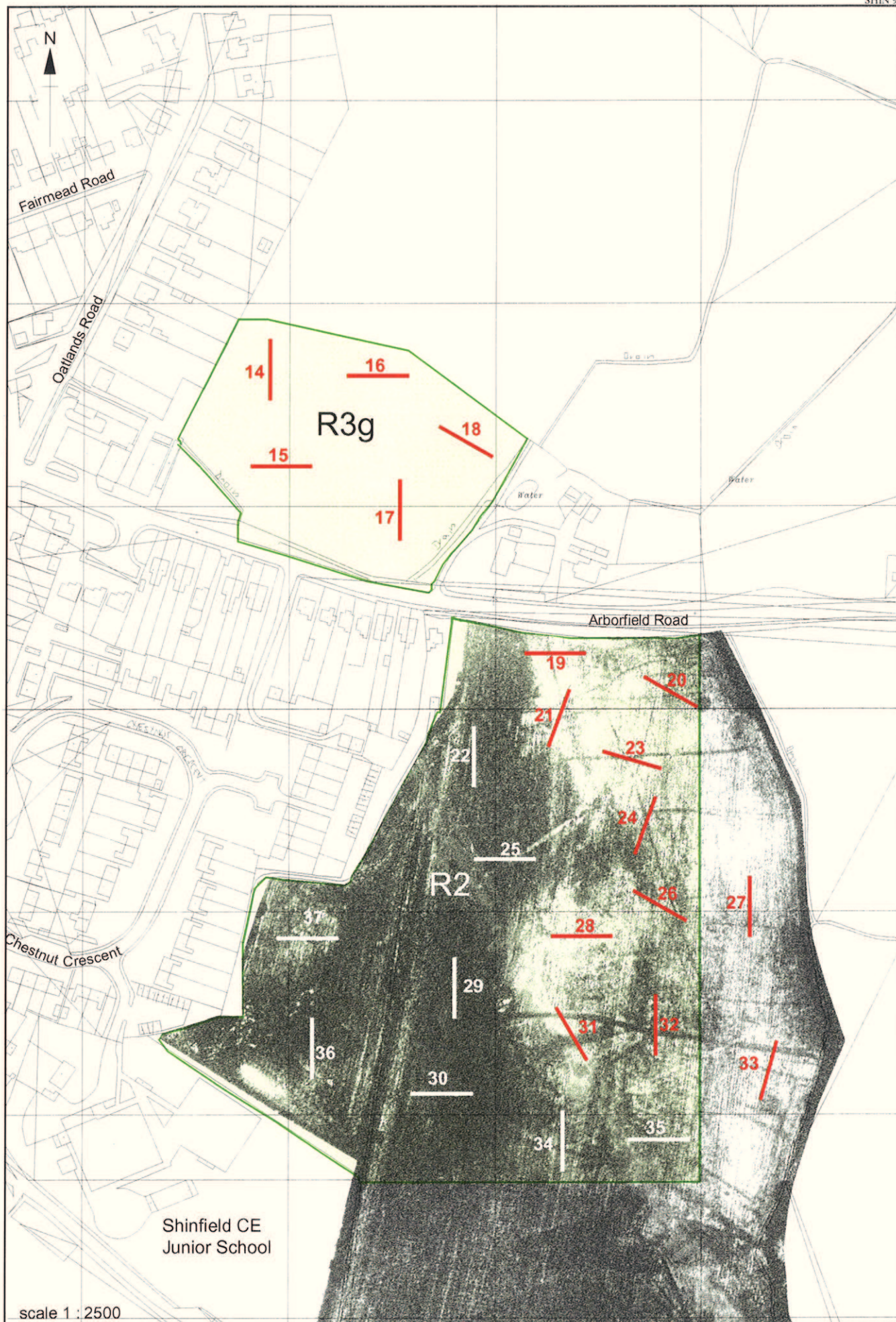


figure 7 : trenches within Areas R3g and R2 with aerial photograph showing crop-marks superimposed



SHIN 99

section 1403

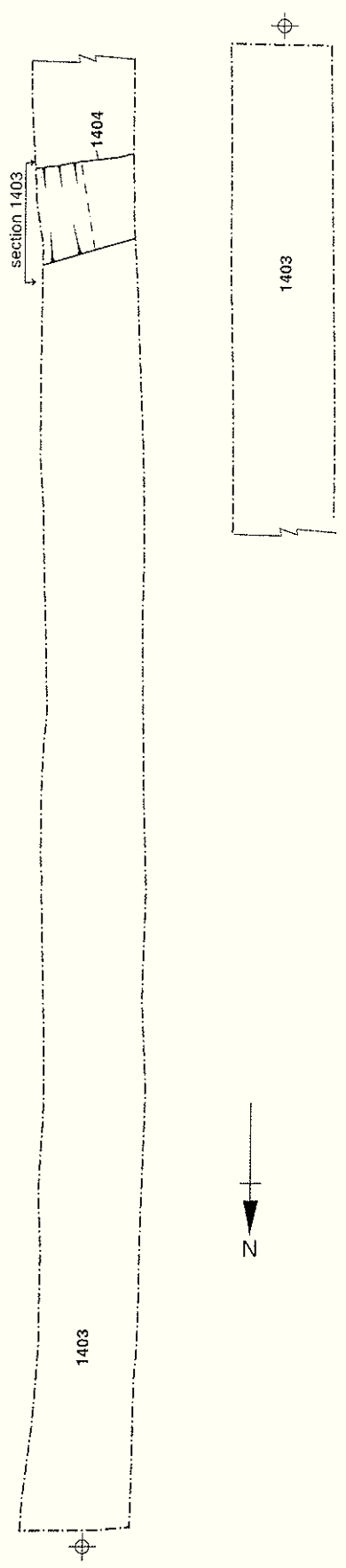
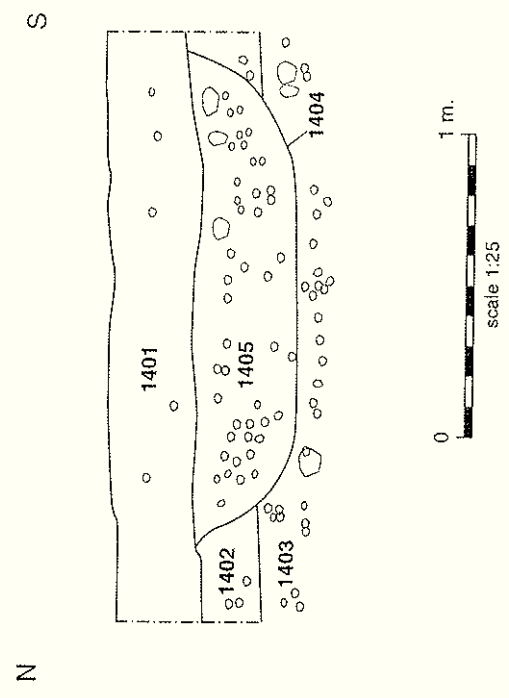
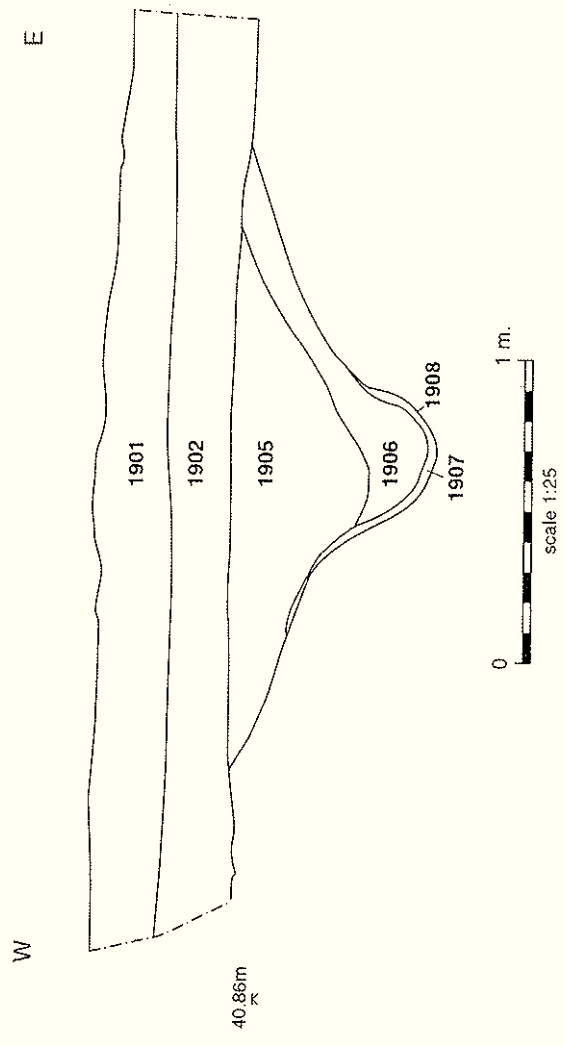


figure 8 : Area R3g, trench 14, plan and section



SHIN 99

section 1903



plan

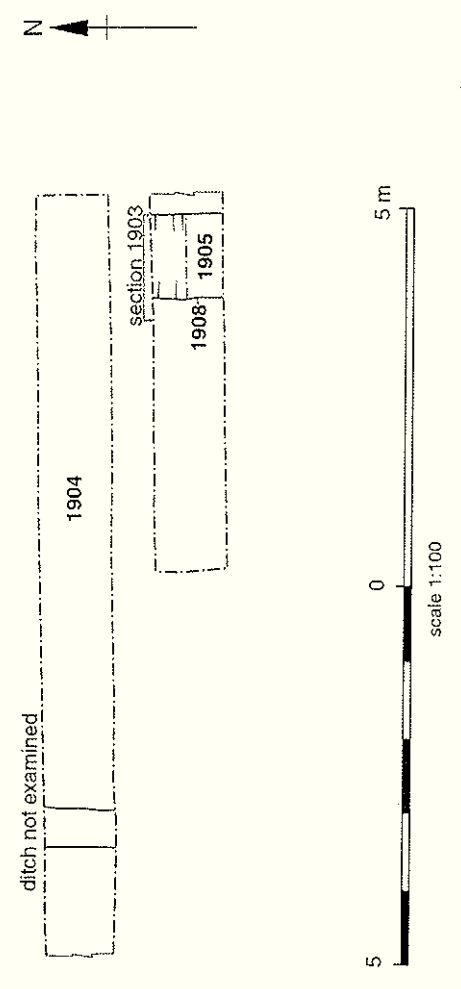
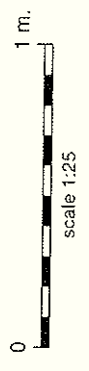
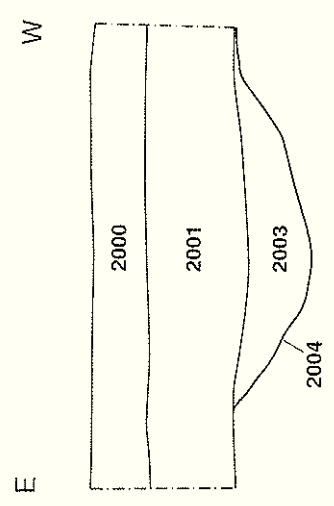


figure 9 : Area R2, trench 19, plan and section



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plan

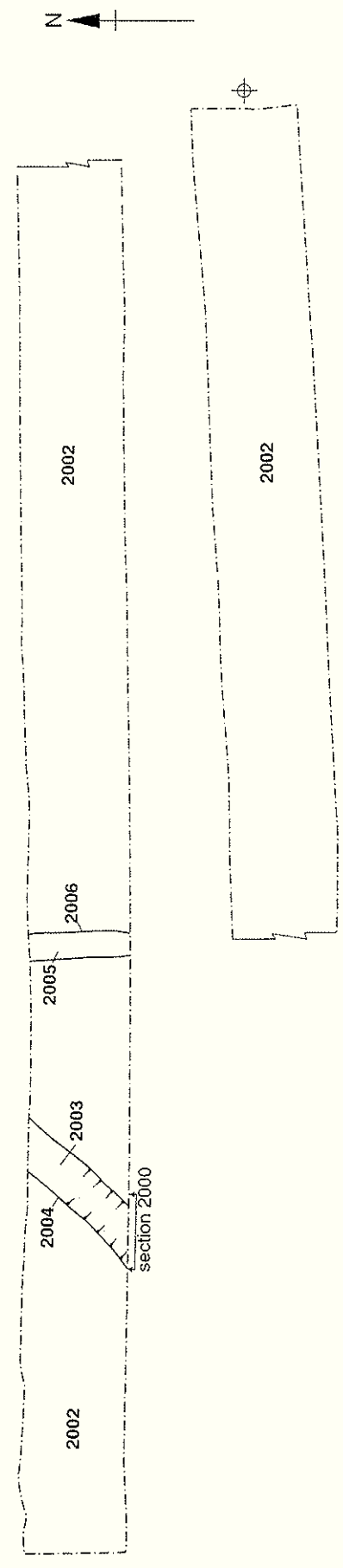
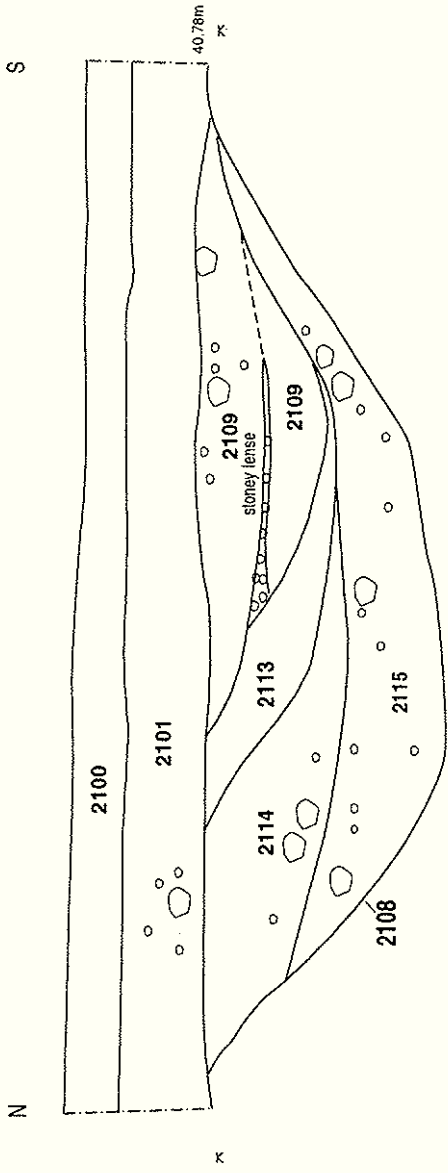
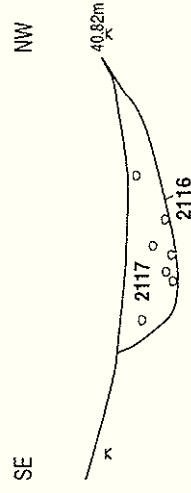


figure 10: Area R2, trench 20, plan and section

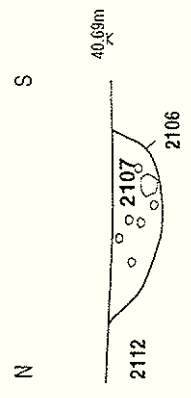
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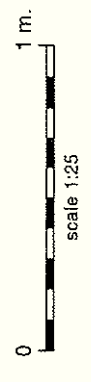
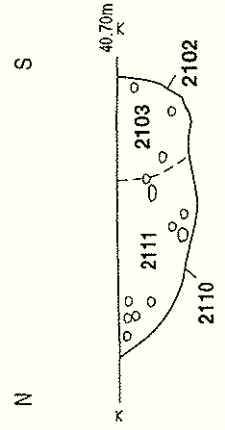
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section 2103



plan

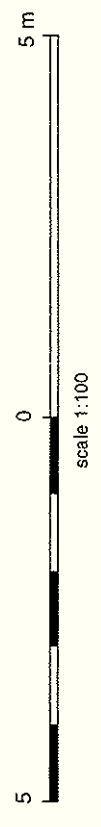
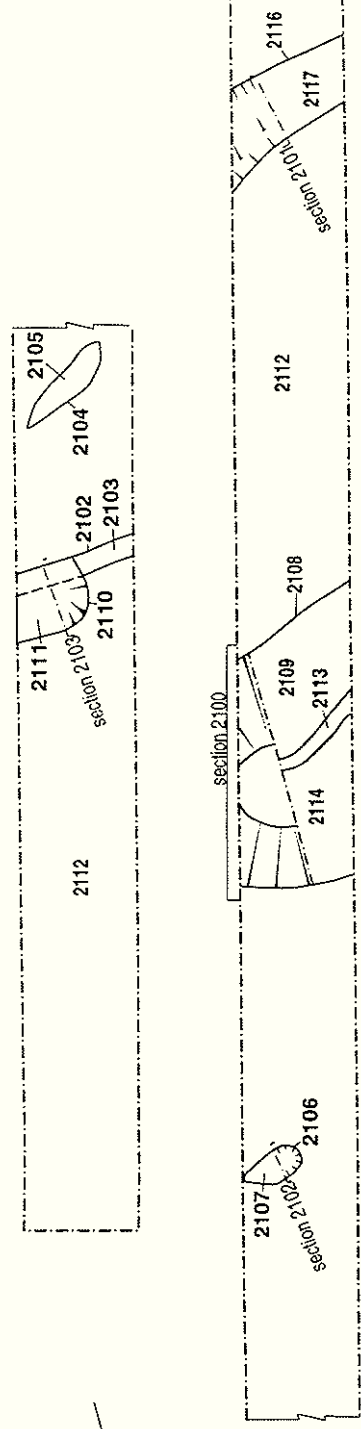


figure 11 : Area R2, trench 21, plan and sections

section 2301

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section 2302

E

W

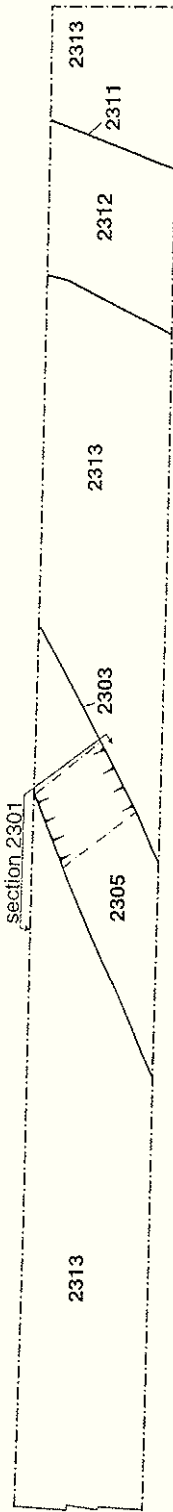
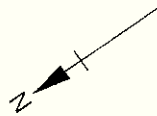
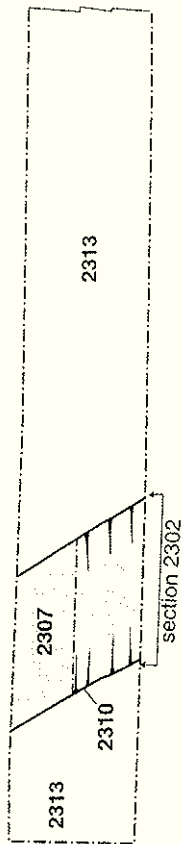
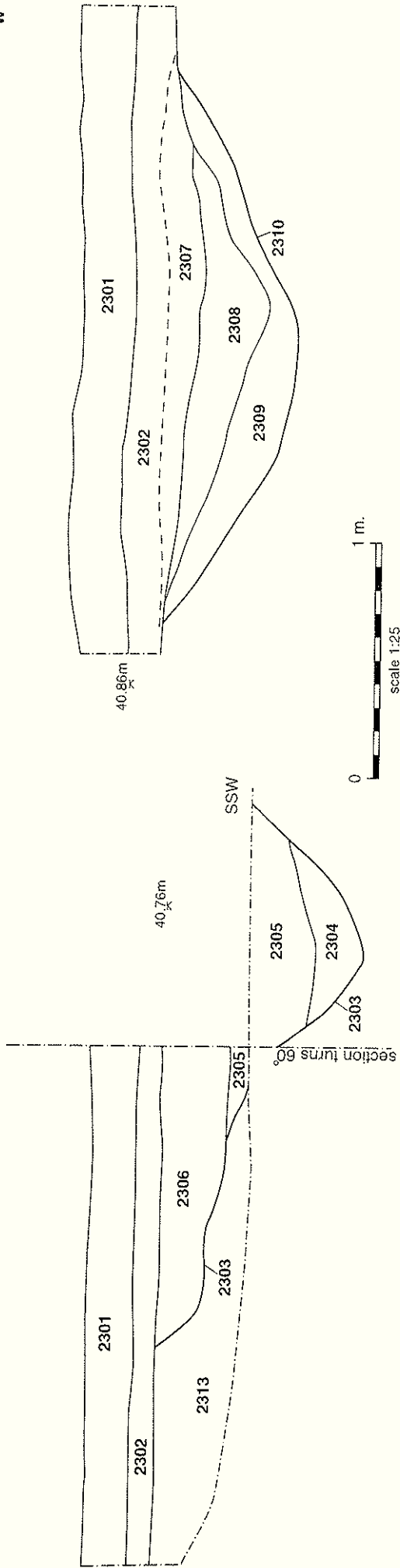
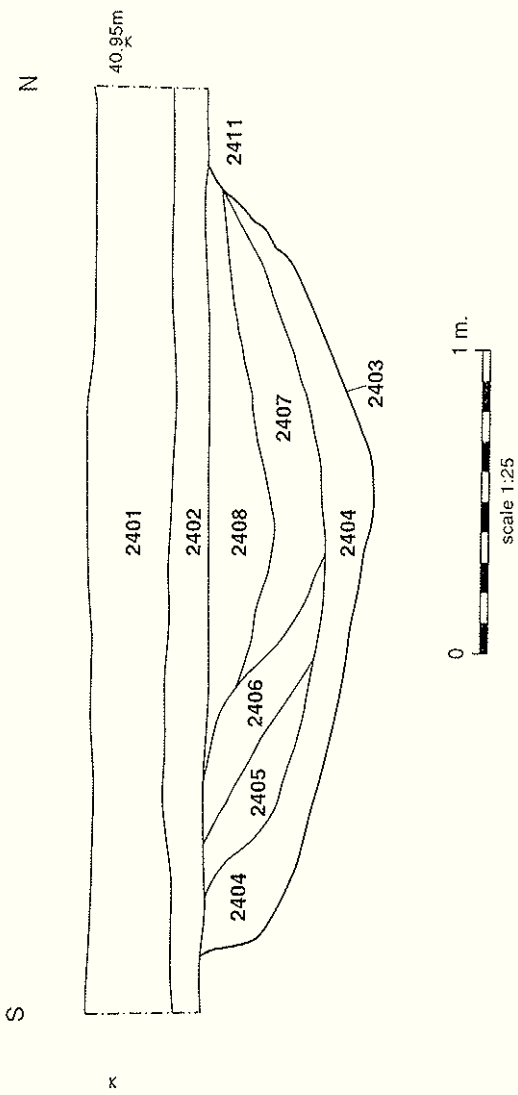


figure 12: Area R2, trench 23, plan and sections

section 2401



plan

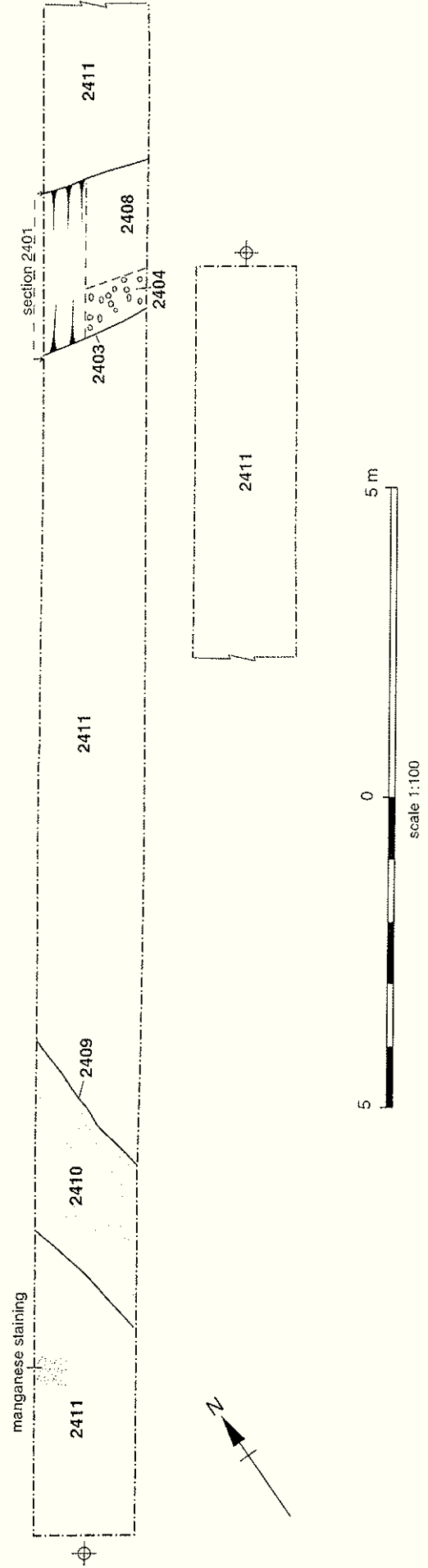
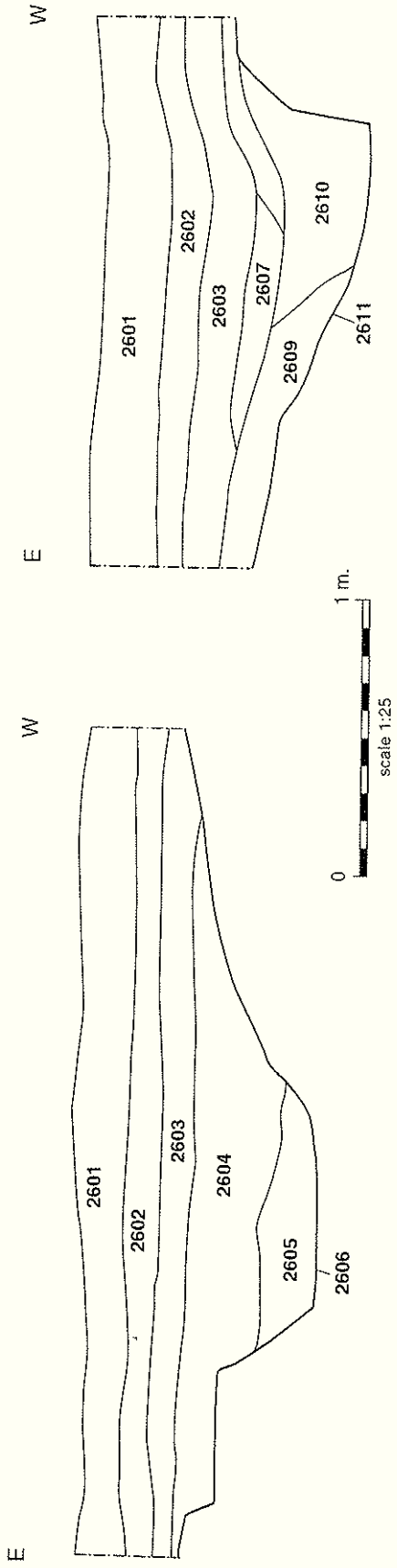


figure 13 : Area R2, trench 24 plan and section



plan

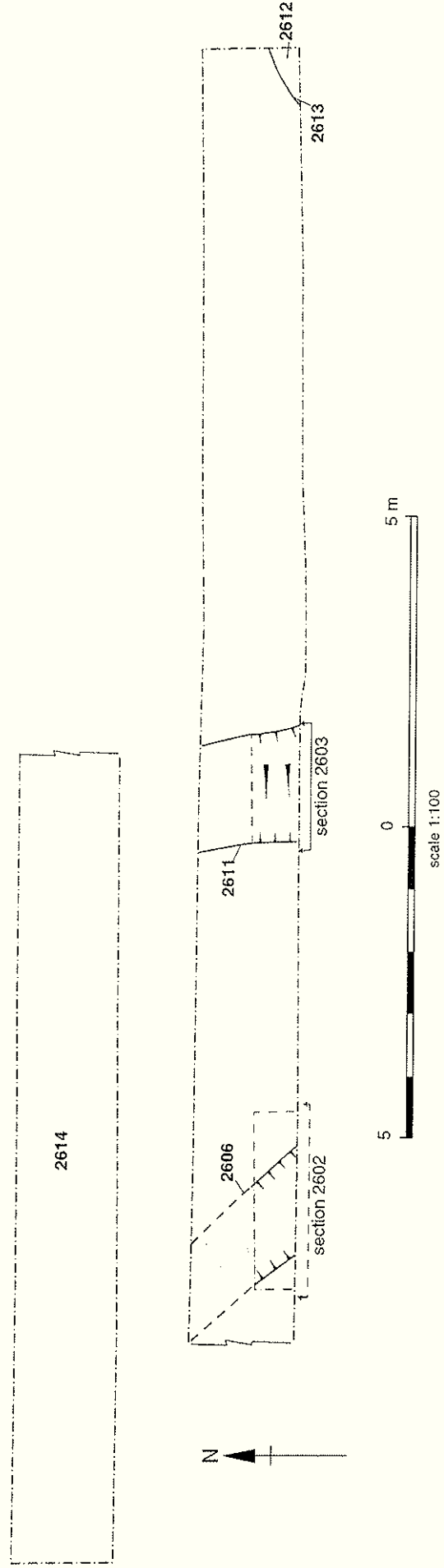


figure 14: Area R2, trench 26, plan and sections

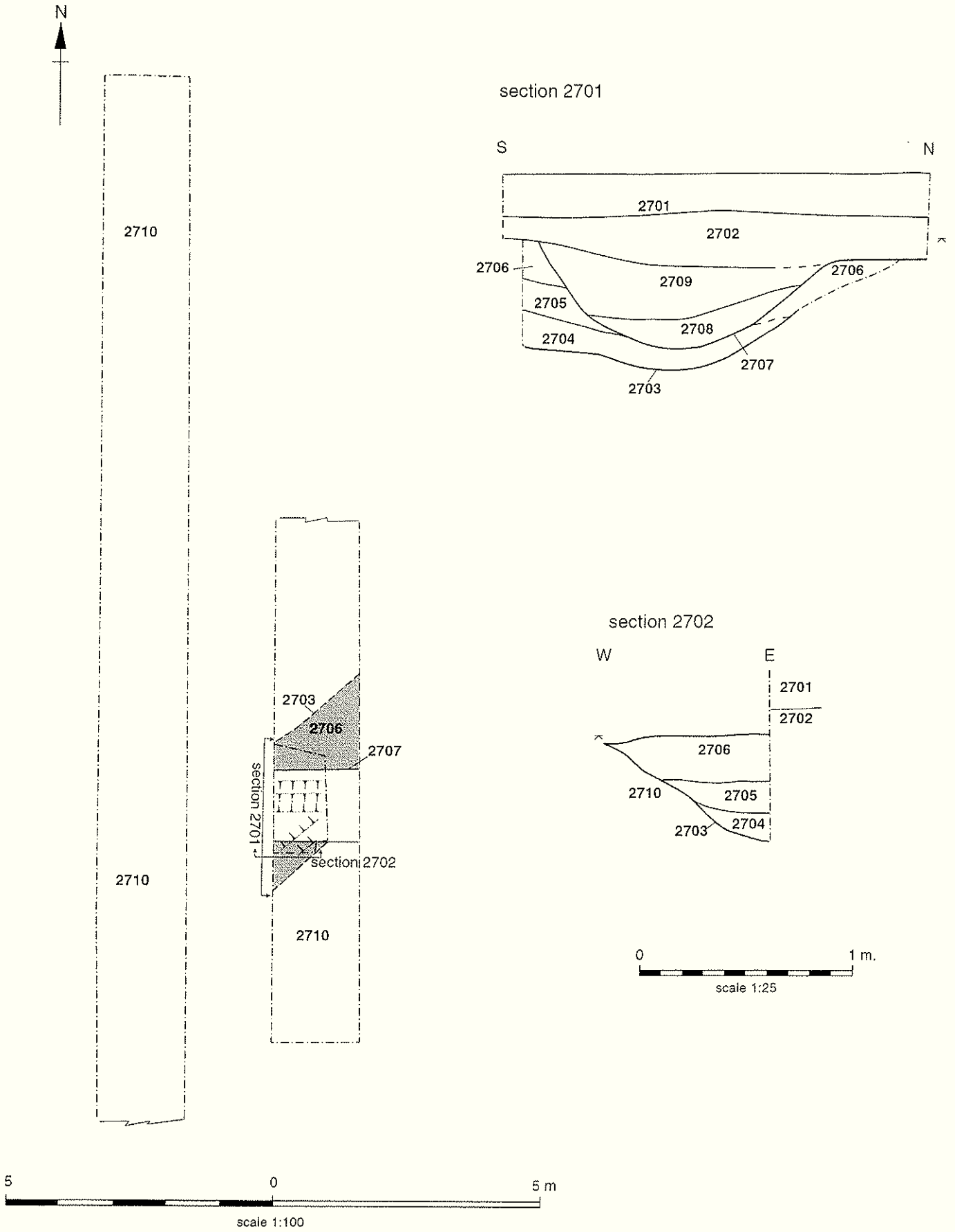


figure 15: Area R2, trench 27, plan and sections

plan

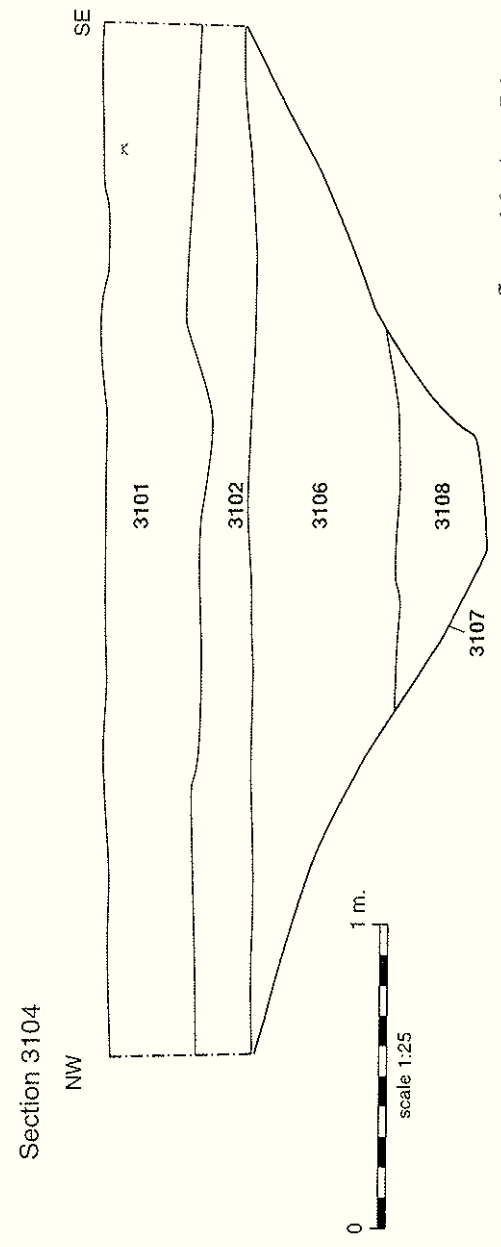
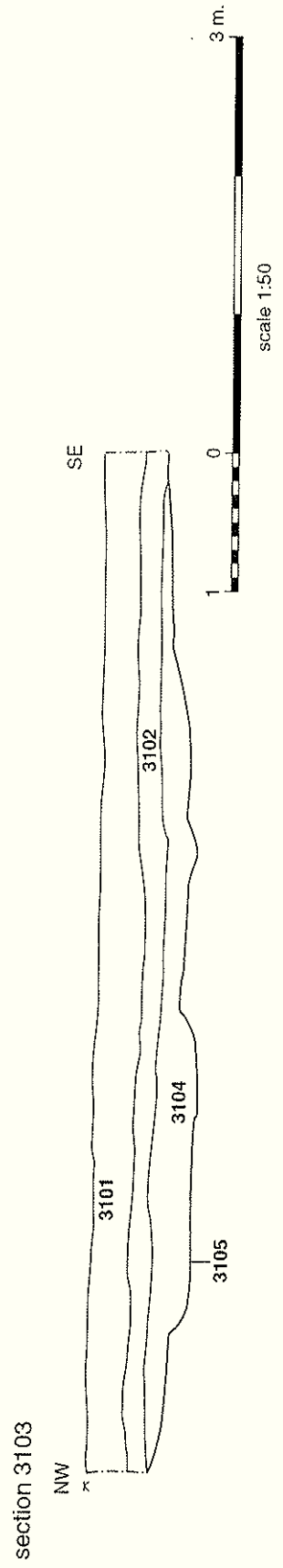
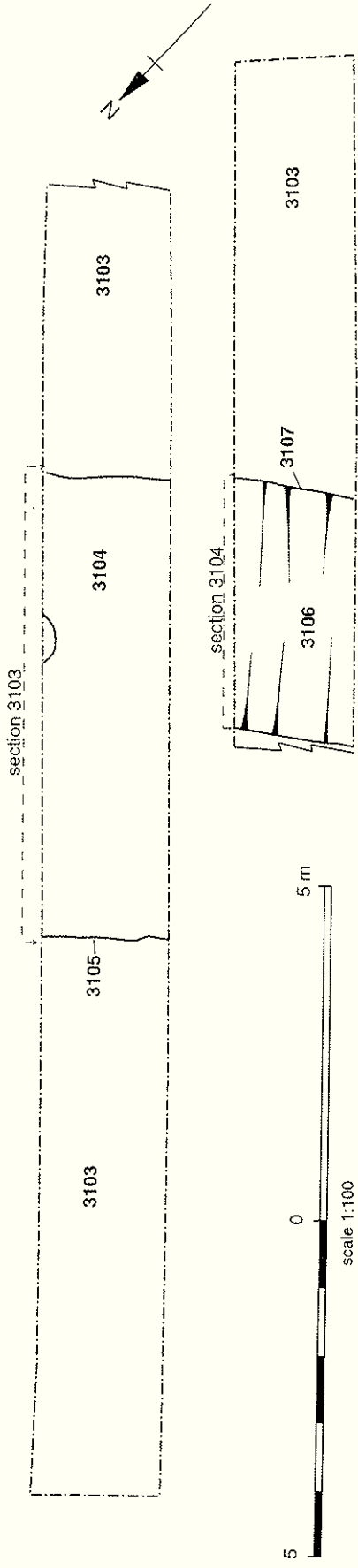


figure 16 : Area R2: trench 31, plan and sections

section 3202

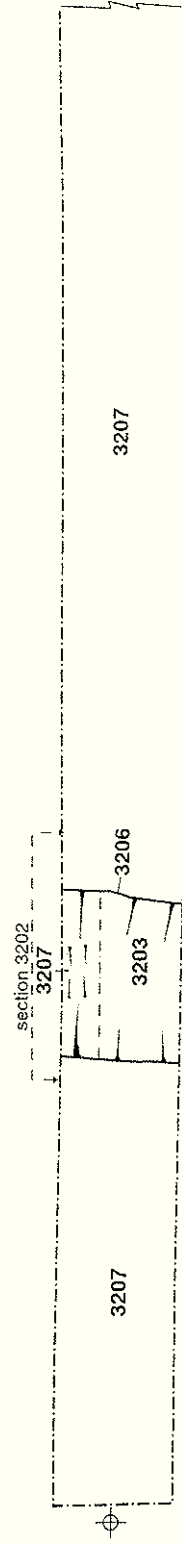
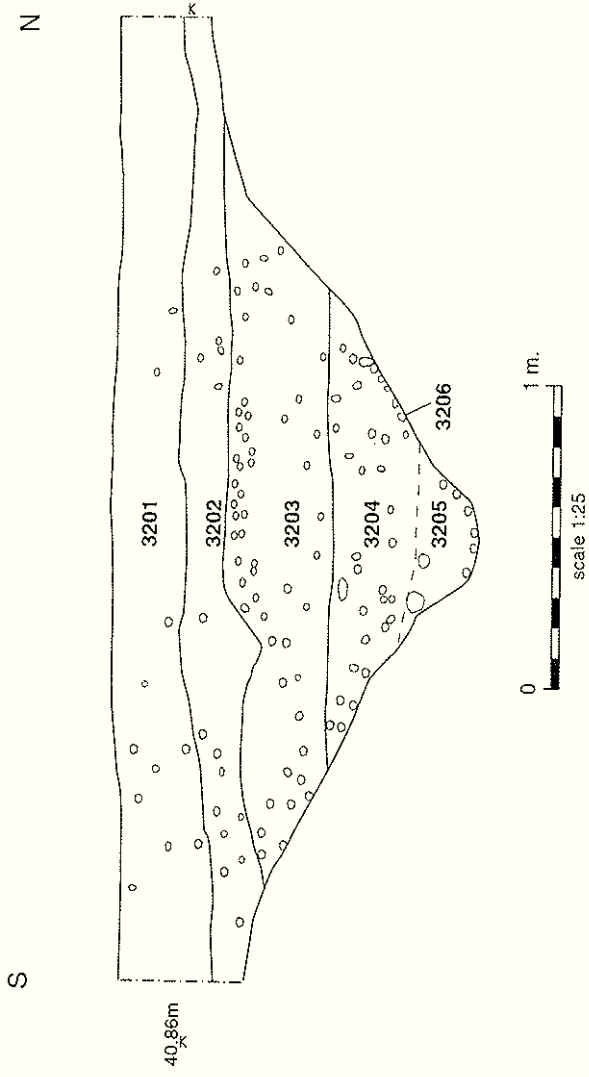
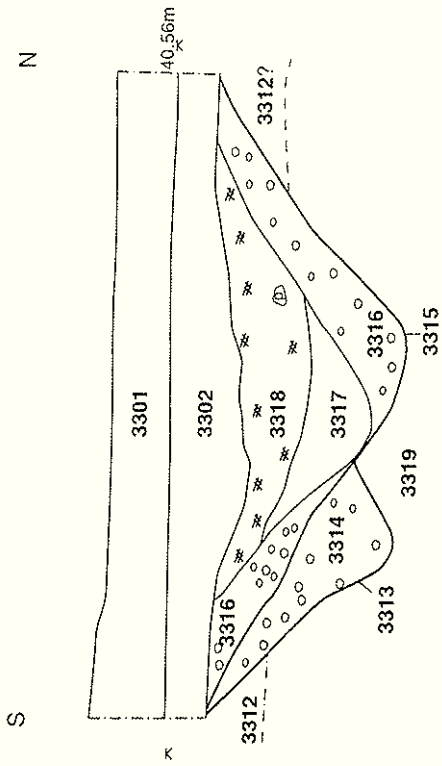
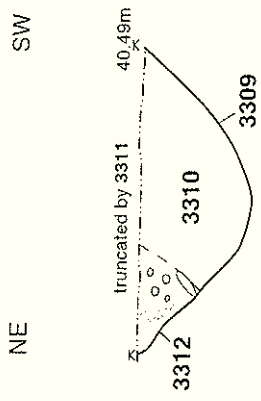


figure 17 : Area R2, trench 32, plan and section

section 3302



section 3303



section 3301

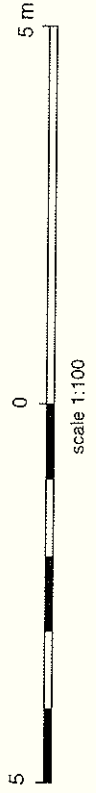
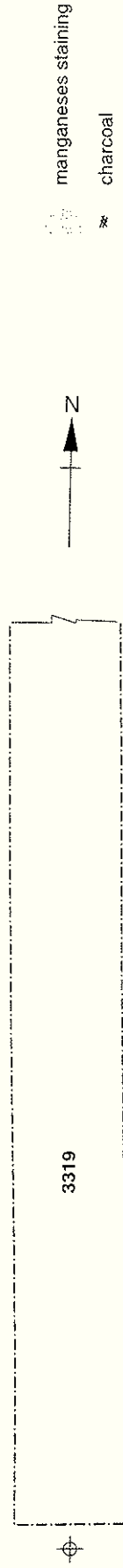
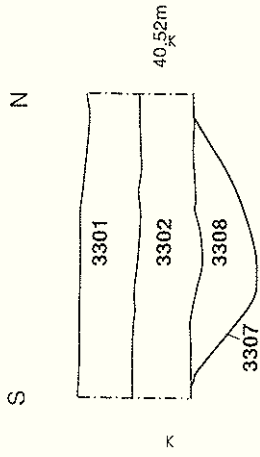


figure 18 : Area R2, trench 33 plan and section

section 3401

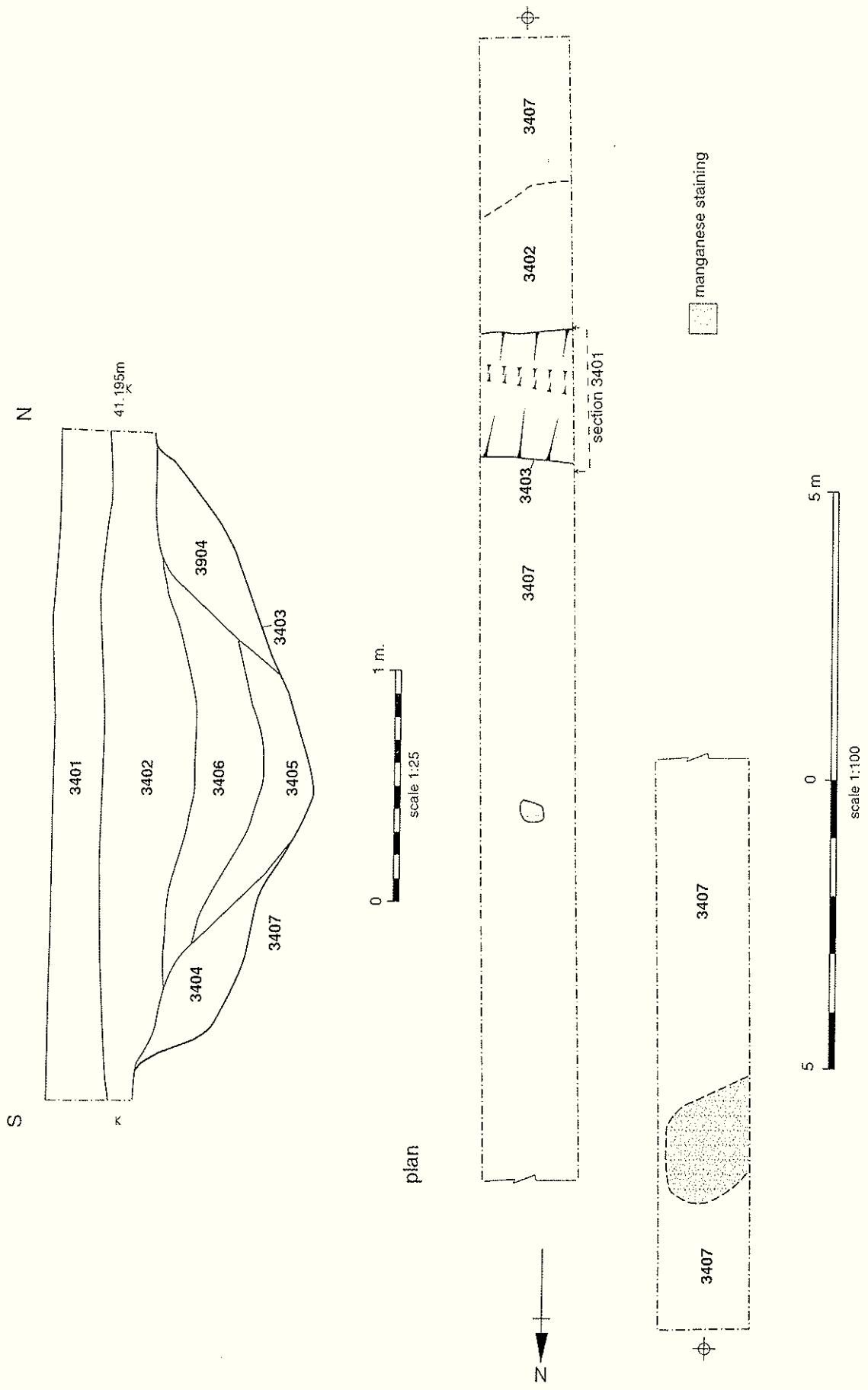


figure 19: Area R2, trench 34, plan and section

section 3503

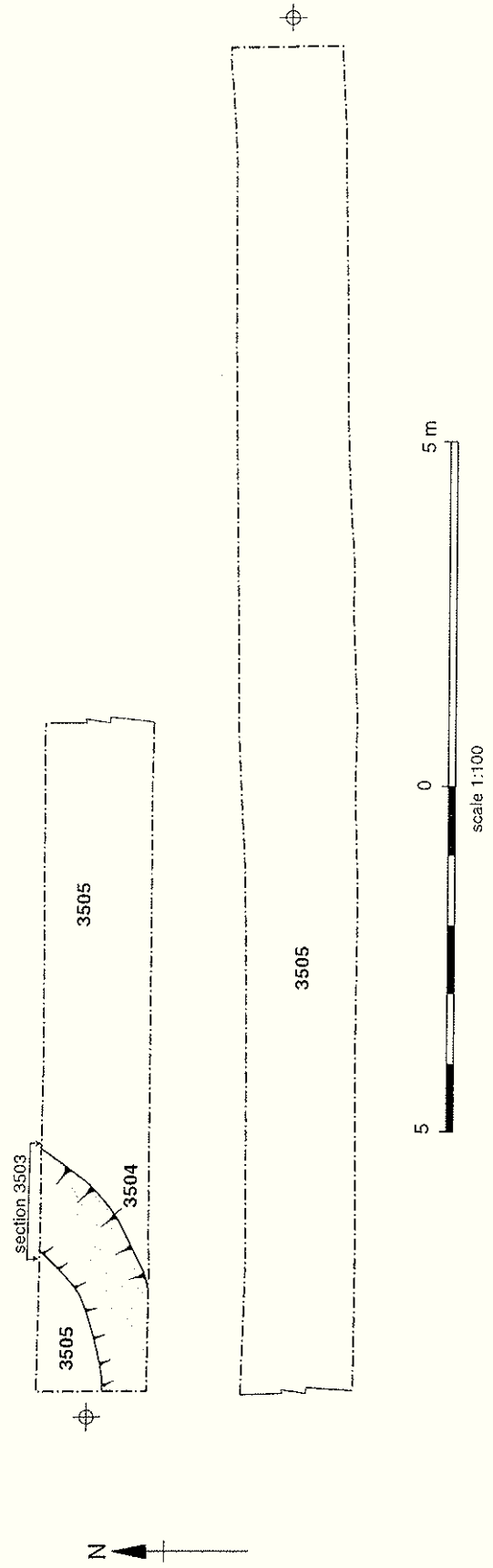
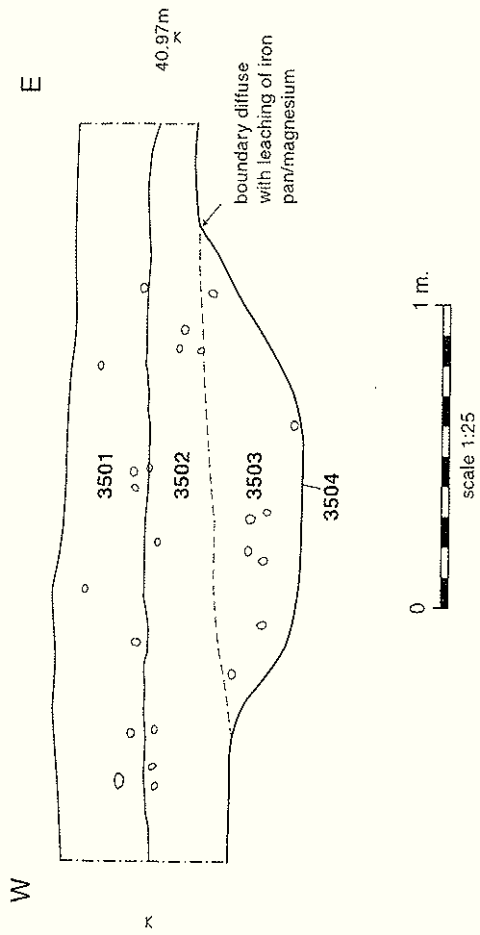


figure 20 : Area R2, trench 35 plan and section

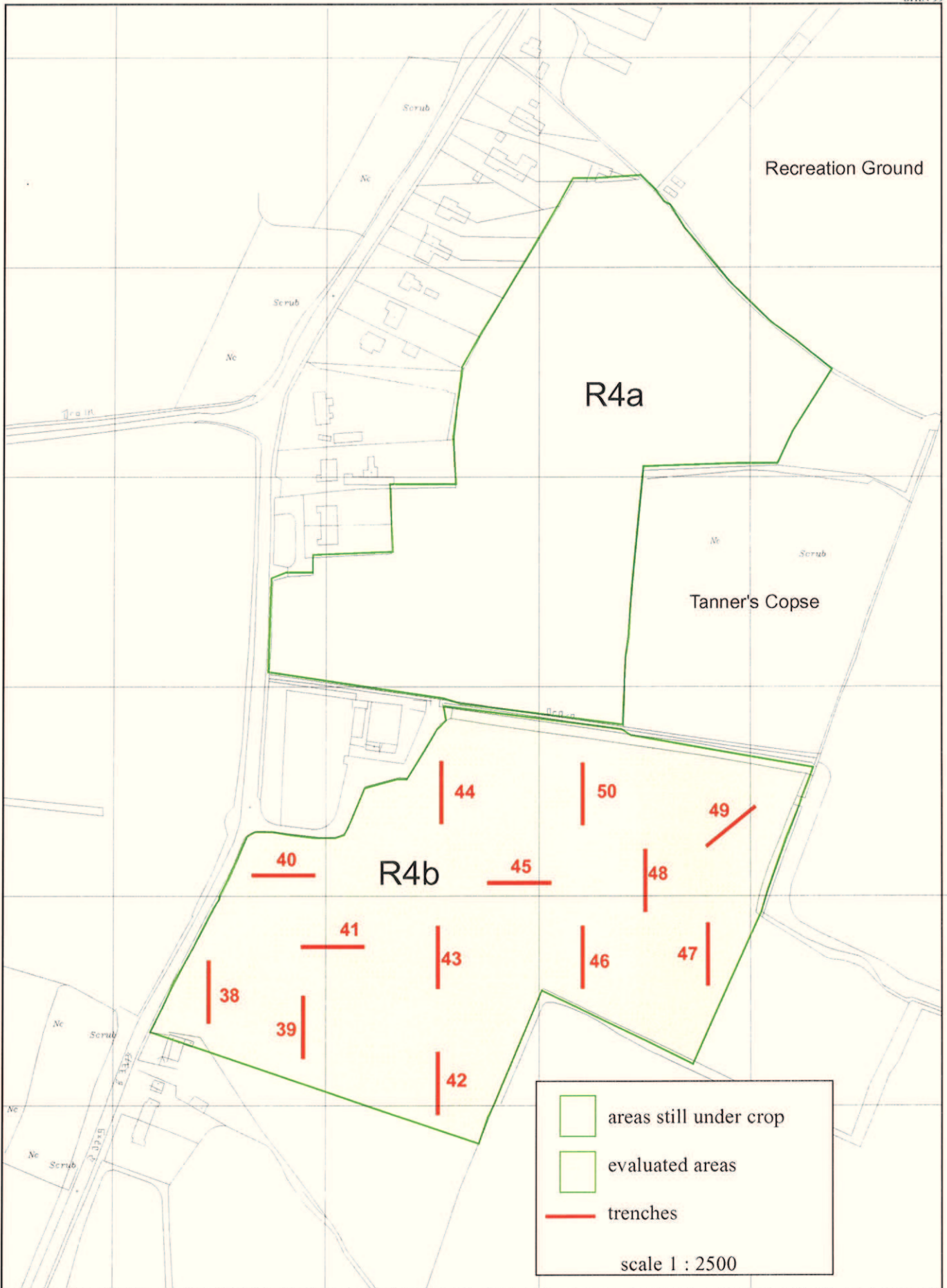


figure 21 : trench locations within Area R4b

plan

section 4703

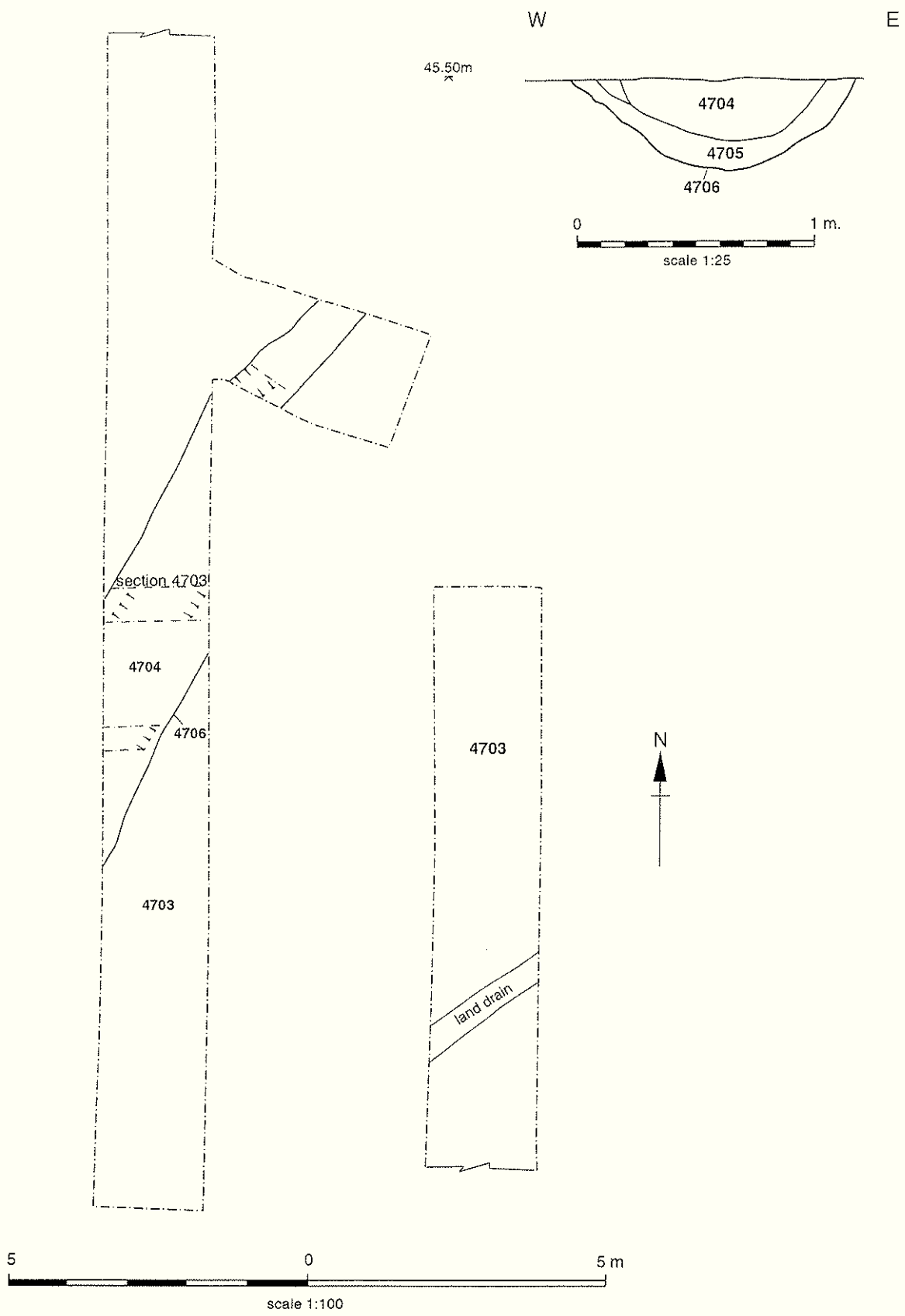


figure 22 : Area R4b, trench 47 plan and section