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Moreton Lane, Northmoor
Oxfordshire

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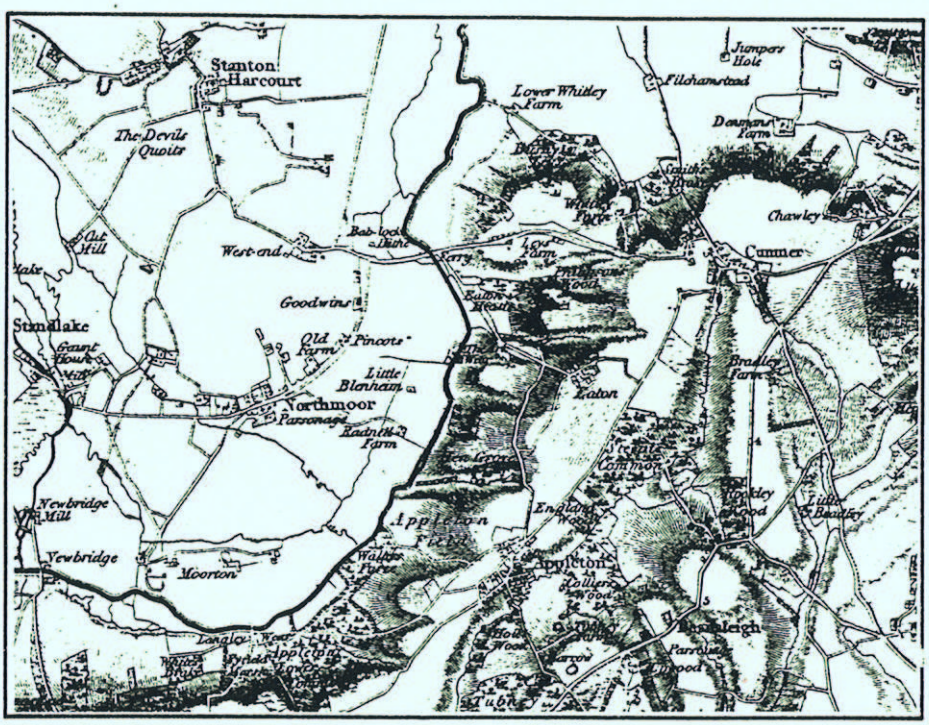
NGR SP 4172 0245

Archaeological Watching Brief



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

October 1995

MORETON LANE, NORTHMOOR, OXFORDSHIRE
NGR SP 4172 0245

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

1 SUMMARY

Possible prehistoric features and ditches of 2nd century and 3rd-4th century Roman date were identified and recorded during the course of this watching brief. A quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from several of the fills of these ditches. A possible medieval phase was identified, together with several undated, but probably Roman, features. Recent plough damage was observed to have cut into the top of the natural gravel horizon, and had therefore truncated any potential Roman and medieval ground levels.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook a watching brief at Moreton Lane, Northmoor, some 9 km west of Oxford, in June and August 1995, during the construction of an agricultural building (cattle shed) for Mr Florey of Rectory Farm, Northmoor. The development site (Fig 1), in a field located between Standlake Road and Moreton Lane, Northmoor, lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) Oxon 141(b), an extensive area of important cropmarks, likely to be principally of Iron Age and Roman date.

The watching brief was carried out as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent required in connection with the proposed construction. Groundwork operations for the construction, particularly the excavation of stanchion holes for the steel supports of the roof, and the subsequent stripping of topsoil from the interior of the building before hardcore for the concrete floor was laid, were monitored for the presence of archaeological finds and features. Features in the stanchion holes were recorded in section, while features exposed by the topsoil stripping were recorded in plan.

The groundwork was carried out in two phases in accordance with plans drawn up by Ardenlea Enterprises Limited of Princes Risborough, Bucks.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Scheduled Ancient Monument, SAM 141(b), consists of an extensive area of crop marks identified through aerial photography. These cropmarks, discussed by Benson and Miles (1974, 48-49) and more recently replotted by RCHME (Fig 2), include trackways and rectilinear enclosures with probable domestic elements, with a very complex pattern of less regular features, perhaps at least in part of Iron Age date, a little to the west. Romano-British pottery recovered from the area suggests a broad Roman date for some of the features. Roman pottery and a coin were found at SP 413028 (Oxfordshire SMR PRN 1165), c. 200 m to the NW of the present development. Iron Age and Roman

settlement enclosures have been excavated at Watkins Farm, Northmoor, a little over 1 km to the northeast (Allen 1990). In general, the site forms a small part of the continuum of complex cropmarks found across the wide gravel terraces located between the lower Windrush and the Thames in the Stanton Harcourt-Northmoor area.

The site is reasonably flat and is located on first terrace gravel which overlies clay. The site lies within a recently ploughed field and the ground level is at approximately 63.40 m O.D.

4 METHODOLOGY

A number of pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil during a brief preliminary site visit on 20.6.95. The sherds were much abraded (the result of ploughing and natural weathering), but were clearly of Roman date (see finds report below).

All 16 stanchion pits were machined by JCB, and the sections of the pits drawn and photographed. After the stanchion pits had been excavated, topsoil was stripped to the approximate top of the natural gravel horizon and the stripped level monitored for the presence of finds and features. Very limited excavation was carried out to establish relationships and to recover sufficient material to allow dating and some characterisation of the features. Storm water drainage trenches dug from the new building to the present roadside ditch were monitored, but no features were observed within them: here as elsewhere on this site, topsoil/ploughsoil directly overlay natural gravel. A deep foundation trench dug within the new building was also observed. This cut through a ditch feature which had already been recorded during the topsoil strip. All visible features were planned, drawn and photographed.

Owing to the nature of the topsoil strip, which was carried out using a machine equipped with a toothed bucket and a dozer blade, some areas of the site were not properly clean. In places the effects of tracking across the stripped area by the JCB and a dumper truck made investigation impossible. However, selected areas were hand cleaned in order to identify features originally observed in the stanchion pits and it is considered unlikely that any significant archaeological features were not observed.

Each stanchion pit was given a single context number and each deposit or feature observed within the pits was allocated a sub-number (i.e. 4/1, 4/2, 4/3 etc). For features and deposits revealed after the topsoil strip, each was allocated a unique context number, starting at 100.

5 SITE DESCRIPTION (Figs 3 and 4)

The earliest deposit encountered was a thick layer of yellow-white gravel, which was interpreted as natural subsoil.

Stanchion Pits 1, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 16 revealed no features. Two soil layers in Pit 1 (1/2, 1/3) were observed to have been undisturbed by ploughing and perhaps represent

Roman or later soil horizons. Features were observed in the nine remaining pits, and these are described together with the further evidence from the topsoil strip.

The site is described by period, based on the (limited) stratigraphic sequence and pottery spot dates. No conclusive evidence of prehistoric settlement was found, but possible prehistoric features were identified. Thereafter there appear to have been two main phases of Roman land use, within which intercutting features suggested subphases of activity. There was slight evidence for a possible medieval period.

5.1 PERIOD 1 - POSSIBLE PRE-ROMAN FEATURES

The principal criteria used to isolate possible pre-Roman features were alignments which contrasted with those of the majority of Roman features (which were usually on either a N-S or E-W axis) and the presence of feature fills which were generally distinctly less dark and clayey than those associated with the majority of Roman features.

A light brown clayey gravel layer 0.25 m thick (2/6), observed in Pit 2, was thought not to be in a cut feature and was interpreted on site as a possible early ploughsoil. This deposit was not seen anywhere else on what was a very level site, however, and it is therefore most likely that it was the fill of a feature running along the line of the edge of Pit 2. It contained no dating material.

At the N end of the site ditch 115 = 10/4 was aligned NE-SW and filled with lighter loamy material than the Roman features. Ditch 115 was recorded in Pit 10, and further observed after the topsoil strip, though its SW end was not seen. It was 1.20 m, wide and excavated to a depth of 0.40 m. Its E edge was near vertical and the ditch had a flat base. The earliest fill, 10/3, was a mix of silty sand and gravel. Fill 10/3 lay beneath 10/2, a mid-dark brown sandy loam with frequent gravel inclusions, which was sealed by the topsoil. Two sherds of very abraded Roman pottery were recovered from the upper fill of ditch 115 (111 = 10/4), as was a metal object, perhaps the end of a plough.

5.2 PERIOD 2 PHASE 1 - ROMAN, SECOND CENTURY

Two features certainly fell within this phase on the basis of the pottery evidence. Ditch 13/3 in Pit 13 was aligned E-W, and was observed in plan in the SE corner of the site. 13/3 was excavated to a depth of 0.60 m and was at least 0.50 m wide. The N edge of the feature and its base were concave. Pottery from its single fill (13/2), a mid dark reddish brown silty clay containing 35% small stones, dated to the mid-late 2nd century.

A second feature assigned to this early period was a ditch 9/8 filled by 9/7 below 9/6, aligned roughly N-S in Pit 9. A possible continuation of this feature was observed in Pit 8, represented by layer 8/6. A cut line was not however seen in the confines of the pit. Ditch 9/8 was at least 0.27 m deep and at least 0.81 m wide.

The fills of 9/8 were truncated by a later and similarly aligned ditch feature, 9/5 = 8/5 = 7/5, which produced no datable evidence but could possibly represent a subphase of activity in this period, that is, a 're-cut' of the ditch alignment. Ditch 9/5 contained three

fills. The base fill, 9/4, was a light sandy gravel which was sealed by 9/3, a mid-dark brown silty clay. This fill was in turn sealed by 9/2, a light brown sandy silt. Fill 9/2 lay directly below the topsoil.

Another undated feature perhaps of this phase was truncated by later datable features. This was a N-S aligned ditch 104 = 2/5 (cut by an E-W linear feature 102), 1.10 m wide and 0.49 m deep. The base of 104 (=2/5) was filled by 2/4, a mid-dark brown sandy clay. Above this was fill 2/3 (=103), a light brownish grey clay loam with patches of silty clay. Ditch 104 = 2/5 cut layer 2/6, a mid-light brown silty clay, which may possibly represent a Roman soil horizon (see above). Ditch 2/5 did not extend southward beyond ditch 102.

5.3 PERIOD 2 PHASE 2 - ROMAN, THIRD-FOURTH CENTURIES

A sequence of intercutting E-W ditches was observed at the N end of the site. Ditch 109 (= 6/7) formed an approximate continuation of ditch 102 to the E. The upper fill of 109, 108, was a dark grey silty clay, containing late 3rd-4th century pottery. Fill 108 was sealed by the topsoil.

Ditch 102, which truncated the southward extent of ditch 104, was sampled. The ditch was 0.95 m wide, 0.24 m deep and was filled by 101 below 100. Fill 101 was a brownish-grey clay loam, which produced one pot sherd of uncertain (Roman) date. Fill 100 was a dark grey-brown clay loam which produced finds of 3rd-4th century date, and which lay beneath the topsoil.

A second ditch on the same alignment as 109 = 102, but cut into its latest fill, was observed in plan and also in Pit 6. Ditch 6/5 = 114 was 0.80 m wide and 0.30 m deep, with a 'V'-shaped base and sides sloping at an angle of 30°. The base fill (6/4) was a mid-dark brown sandy clay, which contained no dating evidence. Fill 6/4 was overlaid by 6/3, a compact dark grey clay from which several sherds of late 3rd-4th century pottery were recovered. This fill was in turn sealed by 6/2, a mid to dark grey-brown silty clay which again produced pottery of 3rd-4th century date. Fill 6/2 lay directly below the topsoil.

To the north of these features were two further intercut ditches, again aligned E-W. Ditch 3/7 was excavated to a depth of 0.60 m, and was at least 0.90 m wide. The base fill, 3/6, was a dark grey-brown sandy clay, which contained no pottery. It was sealed by 3/5, a thin layer of compact dark grey clay, from which pottery of 3rd century date was recovered. Fill 3/5 was overlaid by another deposit of clay, 3/4, which was sealed by a further clay fill, 3/3. The upper fill of this ditch was a compacted grey-brown clay silt, 3/2, which was sealed by the topsoil.

Cleaning during the topsoil strip revealed that a second ditch observed in Pit 4, ditch 4/7, was cut through the upper fills of ditch 3/7, and maintained that feature's alignment. Ditch 4/7 was 1.20 m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.50 m. The bottom fill of this feature was a layer dark brownish-grey silty clay, 4/6, which contained no dating evidence. This fill was overlaid by 4/5, a deposit of dark grey clay which contained pottery of 3rd-4th century date. Two further dark grey clay fills, 4/4, and 4/3 followed,

and the final fill (4/2) was a deposit of mid-dark grey-brown clay silt which lay beneath the topsoil.

Ditch 4/7 was seen in plan to truncate the southern end a N-S ditch, 117, filled by 116, which contained no pottery and is therefore undated, although it may be of this late phase. It is possible that this feature formed a right angle with ditch 3/7, thereby representing a field division, before being cut by the later 're-cut' ditch 4/7.

5.4 PERIOD 3 - POSSIBLE MEDIEVAL FEATURE

A single small circular feature (106) was identified adjacent to late Roman ditch 102. Feature 106 was 0.39 m wide and 0.25 m deep, and was interpreted as a post-hole. The upper fill of the post-hole, 105, was a very dark blueish-grey clay loam with charcoal inclusions, suggestive of a fire. This fill contained several sherds of late Roman pottery, but the date of four sand and shell-tempered sherds was less certain. It is possible that these were of medieval date.

6 THE FINDS by Paul Booth

The finds were restricted almost entirely to Roman pottery, which is reported on below. Other material, none of any significance, included five fragments of animal bone, one unidentified iron object, an iron nail and a lump of iron slag. Single fragments of post-medieval pottery, slate and asbestos, either from the ploughsoil or, in the case of the slate, from the upper fill (100) of a ditch in which it was presumably intrusive, were also found.

Roman Pottery

Some 138 sherds of Roman pottery (2372 g) were recovered during the watching brief. The majority of the material appeared to be of late Roman date and constitutes an assemblage typical of lower status sites within the region.

Introduction and Methodology

All the material (including the unstratified sherds) was examined by context and recorded using the system employed for all Iron Age and Roman pottery from OAU projects. Details of fabrics, vessel forms and decoration etc were recorded using standardised codes which allow ready comparison between assemblages. Quantification was by sherd count, weight and EVEs, though the present assemblage was too small for data from the last of these to be very meaningful. The full records are on sheets which are contained in the project archive.

The pottery was in reasonable condition, with quite large sherds (average weight 17.2 g), though some sherds were fairly abraded and evidence for surface treatment (such as burnishing or colour-coating) tended not to survive. This caused problems with the identification of some fabrics, particularly Oxfordshire colour-coated ware. Sherds which were probably in this fabric, although no trace of the characteristic surface treatment

survived, were recorded under a separate heading from certain Oxford products.

Fabrics

Identification of fabric was at a fairly generalised level, usually at an intermediate stage of the fabric/ware definition hierarchy used in the recording system. The major ware groups represented in the Northmoor assemblage were: S - samian ware, F - fine wares, M - mortarium fabrics, W - white wares, Q - white-slipped wares, O - oxidised 'coarse' wares, R - reduced 'coarse' wares, B - black-burnished ware and C - calcareous (usually shell-tempered) fabrics. Most sherds were assigned to subgroups of these categories (eg R30, a general grouping for moderately fine sandy reduced wares), though some were identified at the level of specific fabric (eg M22, Oxfordshire white ware mortaria). In view of the fairly small size of the assemblage, more detailed recording of the fabric of each sherd was not justified.

Brief descriptions of the fabrics present in the group, or familiar names of well-known wares, are given below. Fuller descriptions can be found in the documentation of the recording system contained in the project archive. Each description is followed by the total quantities of the fabric.

S30. Central Gaulish samian ware. 4 sherds 74 g.
F51. Oxford colour-coated ware (Young 1977, 123). 3 sherds 123 g.
OF. Probable/possible Oxford colour-coated ware. 7 sherds 24 g.
M22. Oxford white mortarium (Young 1977, 56). 1 sherd 16 g.
M41. Oxford colour-coated mortarium (Young 1977, 123). 2 sherds 13 g.
W11. Oxford parchment ware (Young 1977, 81). 1 sherd 28 g.
W20. Coarse sandy white ware, general category. 1 sherd 2 g.
Q20. Fine oxidised white-slipped ware, general category. 1 sherd 3 g.
O10. Fine oxidised 'coarse' ware, general category. 7 sherds 29 g.
O11. Fine oxidised 'coarse' ware. 1 sherd 4 g.
O20. Sandy oxidised ware general category. 1 sherd 6 g.
O80. Coarse tempered (grog etc) oxidised ware general category. 1 sherd 162 g.
O81. Pink grogged ware (Booth and Green 1989). 1 sherd 5 g.
R10. Fine reduced 'coarse' ware, general category. 2 sherds 18 g.
R20. Coarse sandy reduced ware, general category. 15 sherds 455 g.
R30. Medium sandy reduced ware, general category. 67 sherds 961 g.
R37. Reduced fabric with abundant fine sand inclusions. 3 sherds, 109 g.
R42. Reduced fabric with moderate large rounded quartz sand grains and abundant mica. 1 sherd 6 g.
R60. Reduced fabric with organic inclusions, general category. 1 sherd 62 g.
R90. Coarse tempered (grog etc) reduced ware general category. 1 sherd 4 g.
R95. Savernake ware. 1 sherd 5 g.
B11. Black-burnished ware category 1 (Dorset). 7 sherds 52 g.
B30. Black-burnished ware imitations, general category. 1 sherd 26 g.
C10. Shell-tempered ware, general category. 6 sherds 55 g.
C11. Late Roman shell-tempered ware (cf Brown 1994, 100-102). 2 sherds 130 g.

The principal component of the assemblage was reduced wares, which totalled 65.9% of

the sherds (68.3% of weight). The majority of these were in the general R30 category, generally consistent with the products of the Oxford industry, though more local production might also be represented. The same applies to R20 sherds, while R10 is almost certain to have been an Oxford product. Fabric R37, one of the few specifically assigned reduced fabrics, is widely distributed north of the Thames and is a very important component of the assemblages at Yarnton, Wilcote and Asthall. The relative scarcity of this fabric at Northmoor may be a consequence of the late Roman emphasis of the assemblage, since there is evidence that there was some decline in R37 production, particularly in the 4th century.

The reduced wares were supplemented by small quantities of oxidised, black-burnished and shell-tempered fabrics. The most numerous oxidised fabric, O10, occurred only as small sherds. This and O11 and O20 may all have been Oxford products and O81 was the only extra-regional fabric in this group, with a source probably in southern Northamptonshire. The shell-tempered fabrics included five sherds (assigned to group C10) from a single feature in which sand tempering was also present. It is just possible that these sherds were of medieval date.

The various fine and specialist wares (groups S, F, M, W and Q) consisted principally, if not entirely, of Oxford products with the addition of samian ware, amounting to 14.5% of the sherd total from the site. The probable colour-coated sherds designated OF were notable in showing a high degree of fragmentation like the sherds assigned to fabric O10. It is possible that some of the latter were perhaps also originally colour-coated, but this could not be demonstrated.

Vessel forms

Forty two vessels were represented by rim sherds, which totalled 3.24 EVEs. The proportion of rim to other sherds is unusually high. The majority of vessels (26 rims, but 83.6% of EVEs) were of jar or uncertain jar/bowl types. Many of the jars were not assignable to subtypes of the general class, but a single narrow mouthed jar was recognised in fabric R20, and medium mouthed jars occurred in fabrics R30 and R37. A range of bowls, dishes and bowl/dish types also occurred, together with single examples of a beaker, mortarium and lid, but in terms of EVEs all of these were poorly represented. Jars concentrated in reduced fabrics and bowls and dishes were largely confined to samian, Oxford colour-coated ware and black-burnished ware. There were no unusual types represented in the assemblage. Samian forms were Drag 36 and (probably) 18/31R and Oxford colour-coated types were C45, C51 and the base of a probable flagon.

Chronology

The balance of the fabrics and forms suggest that the majority of the assemblage is of later Roman date. This is indicated by the range of Oxford products, the presence of such typical later Roman fabrics as O81 and C11 and the complete absence of characteristic 1st century grog-tempered fabrics. Only one context group, from 13/3, was certainly of mid-late 2nd century date, and while up to five other groups could have been of similar date they only accounted for 15 sherds. It is most probable that most of these

contexts were in fact of later date. The certain late 3rd-4th century groups did of course contain a little residual earlier material, and all four samian ware sherds, for example, were from ploughsoil. These were all Central Gaulish, however, and are typical of samian found in later Roman rural sites. The overall date range of the assemblage may be estimated at mid 2nd-4th century. The termination date is uncertain, but may have been before the end of the 4th century.

Discussion

Despite its small size, a reflection of the very limited excavation involved, the assemblage permits some conclusions to be drawn about the site from which it originated.

It is clear that the material indicates an adjacent domestic site. The size of the sherds is such that they cannot have derived from manuring or other agricultural activity. Despite some loss of surfaces, probably a consequence of soil conditions, there, is little indication of severely abrasion of sherds indicative of repeated redeposition. Some of the linear features identified during the watching brief therefore probably belonged to a settlement site and were not just field boundaries at some remove from settlement.

As discussed above, the majority of the activity in this settlement is of the later 3rd-4th centuries, though at least one feature (fill 13/3) was probably filling in the later 2nd century.

The character of the material, with no imported pottery apart from samian ware, and an emphasis on local sources, suggests a site with relatively limited economic contacts. The representation of 'fine and specialist' wares, a potential indicator of socio-economic status, is reasonably high at 14.5% of the sherd total, but this figure is within the range of values for such wares on lower status rural sites within the region in the later Roman period (Booth forthcoming), since the incidence of these wares rises considerably with the widespread distribution of Oxford products at this time.

7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Three broad periods have been identified during the present work on this site, though only the middle one of these, the Roman period, with at least two significant phases, was clearly of major significance, and the evidence for the medieval period is particularly tenuous.

The identification of pre-Roman, or possibly very early Roman, features is based on criteria of alignment, fill character and (in one case) relative stratigraphy. None of these needs be conclusive in its own right, but cumulatively the evidence is suggestive. The total lack of and pre-Roman dating material, stratified or unstratified, would indicate that if these features are correctly assigned they were situated at some distance from the nearest settlement site. This conclusion is supported by the aerial photograph evidence, which suggests that the nearest potential Iron Age settlement was c 200 m distant to the W and perhaps also to the N. The presence of two small, abraded Roman sherds and an iron object in the upper fill of ditch 115 do not present a problem since it is entirely

possible that these pieces were introduced by the post-medieval ploughing which has scoured the site. Indeed, the iron object could very well be part of a piece of agricultural machinery of relatively recent date.

The early and late Roman ditches are clearly part of a wider system of boundaries, part of which shows very clearly on the aerial plots. It is notable, however, that the principal ditches observed were aligned E-W, whereas the major ditches evident on the aerial photographs in this area were related to a N-S aligned trackway. Inter alia this indicates that, as might be expected, the aerial photographs reveal only a sample of the archaeological features actually present (cf eg the RCHME plot with the excavated plan of Watkins Farm (Allen 1990, 3). In the present case the neat logic of N-S and E-W trackways is shown to be a considerable oversimplification.

While the identified ditches may have originated as field or plot boundaries it is clear from the density of pottery recovered from the fills of several of these features that the focus of settlement to which they related must have been close by, and was probably nearer at hand than the row of probable domestic units aligned on the W side of a parallel N-S trackway some 200 m to the E. The present evidence might suggest that a similar group of small domestic enclosures was attached to the E side of the more westerly of the two N-S trackways. This sort of settlement layout would contrast quite markedly with that seen on the excavated site of Watkins Farm, which was much less regular. This distinction may in part be a social one, but it may also reflect the earlier chronological emphasis of Watkins Farm and reflect significant changes in the later Roman landscape of the area.

Present evidence suggests that at Moreton Lane Roman activity did not begin earlier than the middle of the 2nd century AD, though this may simply be the date at which domestic activity commenced nearby. Ditches were perhaps re-cut during this early Roman phase. Thereafter there may have been some diminution in the scale of activity in the area until it became more intensive in the later 3rd and 4th centuries.

The possible medieval feature may indicate limited use of the site in that period, but as indicated above the identification of this feature as medieval hinges on four problematical sherds and is not certain.

The site has clearly been considerably damaged by recent ploughing which has cut into the gravel subsoil and must therefore have truncated features quite considerably. The ploughing has resulted in the incorporation of a substantial amount of pottery of Roman date in the topsoil. It is not known if the site was also ploughed in the medieval period. Any archaeological traces of such activity would appear to have been removed.

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Table of context information: features and deposits observed after topsoil strip

Cxt	Type	Depth	Width	Comments
100	fill	0.06 m	-	upper fill of ditch 102, Roman finds
101	fill	0.17 m	-	base fill of ditch 102, Roman finds
102	cut	0.24 m	0.95 m	E-W aligned Roman field ditch
103	fill	-	-	upper fill of ditch 104, cut by ditch 102
104	cut	-	1.10 m	N-S aligned ditch, at a right angle to ditch 102
105	fill	0.12 m	-	dark clay loam with charcoal: upper fill of post-hole 106
106	cut	0.25 m	0.39 m	post-hole located adjacent to ditch 102; no others observed
107	fill	0.25 m	-	mid-dark grey loam, lower fill of post-hole 106
108	fill	-	-	upper fill of ditch cut 109, Roman
109	cut	-	1.10 m	NE-SW aligned ditch, fill by 108 which was 're-cut' by ditch 114
110	layer	0.31 m	-	present topsoil/ploughsoil recently ploughed to top of the natural below
111	fill	-	-	fill of irregular feature/ditch 115, contains Roman finds
112	layer	0.95 m+	-	natural gravel
113	fill	-	-	upper fill of ditch 114
114	cut	-	0.80 m	ditch on same alignment and cut into fill of ditch 109
115	cut	-	1.05 m	possible ditch or irregular feature, on different alignment to Roman features - ?medieval
116	fill	-	-	fill of ditch 117
117	cut	-	1.50 m+	undated ditch, extent lies outside the excavation area

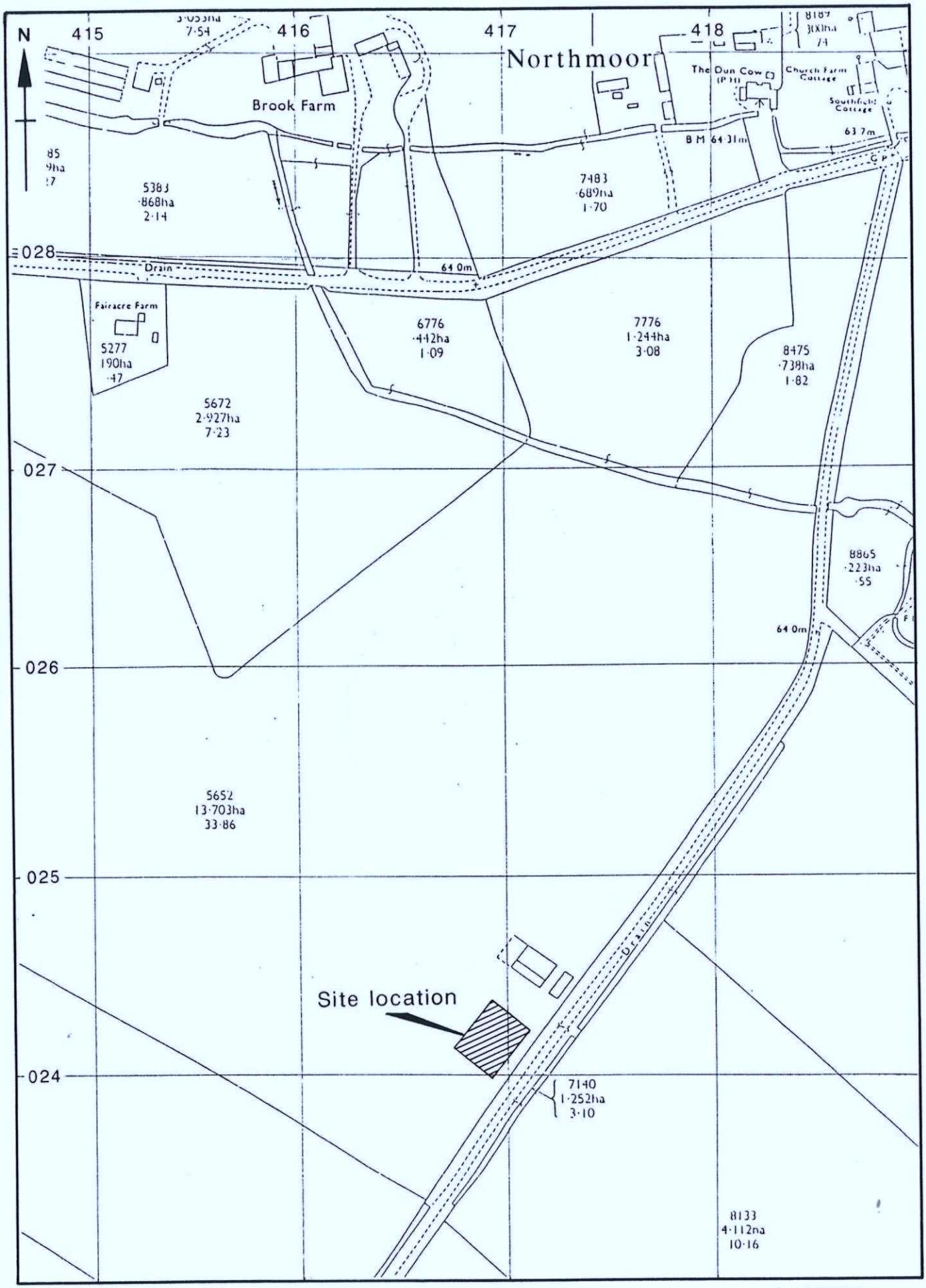
Table of context information: stanchion pits excavated by contractors

PIT NO.	CTX	TYPE	DEPTH	WIDTH	COMMENTS
1	1/1	layer	0.20 m	-	topsoil
1	1/2	layer	0.08 m	-	layer, possible feature fill, contains pottery

1	1/3	layer	0.08 m	-	light-brown silty clay, ?base of the ploughsoil
1	1/4	layer	-	-	natural gravel
2	2/1	layer	0.24 m	-	topsoil
2	2/2	layer	0.20 m +	-	natural gravel
2	2/3	fill	0.30 m	-	upper fill of ditch cut 2/5
2	2/4	fill	0.19 m	-	lower fill of ditch cut 2/5
2	2/5	cut	0.49 m	0.71 m +	ditch aligned N-S - renumbered as ditch 104 after topsoil strip
2	2/6	layer	0.24 m	-	layer of mid-light brown silty clay - ?Roman soil horizon
2	2/7	interface	-	-	?possible cut line
3	3/1	layer	0.20 m	-	topsoil
3	3/2	fill	0.15 m	-	upper fill of ditch 3/7
3	3/3	fill	0.20 m	-	fill of ditch 3/7
3	3/4	fill	0.05 m	-	gravelly fill in ditch 3/7
3	3/5	fill	0.10 m	-	fill of ditch 3/7
3	3/6	fill	0.10 m	-	base fill of ditch 3/7
3	3/7	cut	0.60 m	0.90 m +	E-W aligned ditch, later observed to be cut by 4/7
3	3/8	layer	-	-	natural gravel
3	3/9	finds ref.	-	-	finds reference for pottery from feature fills recovered from this pit
4	4/1	layer	0.15 m	-	topsoil
4	4/2	fill	0.22 m	-	upper fill of ditch cut 4/7
4	4/3	fill	0.20 m	-	clay fill of ditch 4/7
4	4/4	fill	0.06 m	-	fill of 4/7
4	4/5	fill	0.03 m	-	clay fill in ditch 4/7
4	4/6	fill	0.10 m	-	sandy clay fill at base of 4/7
4	4/7	cut	0.50 m	1.20 m +	E-W linear ditch cut into fills of ditch 3/7
4	4/8	layer	-	-	natural gravel
5	5/1	layer	0.20 m	-	topsoil/ploughsoil over 5/2
5	5/2	layer	0.50 m +	-	natural gravel
6	6/1	layer	0.30 m	-	topsoil

6	6/2	fill	0.10 m	-	upper fill of ditch cut 6/5, grey-brown silty clay
6	6/3	fill	0.20 m	-	central fill of ditch 6/5, dark grey clay
6	6/4	fill	0.03 m	-	base fill of ditch 6/5, sandy clay
6	6/5	cut	0.30 m	0.80 m+	E-W aligned ditch, renumbered as 114 after topsoil strip
6	6/6	fill	0.30 m	-	fill of feature 6/7, and cut cy 6/5, probably the base of ditch 109 seen during the topsoil strip
6	6/7	cut	0.30 m	1.0 m	what was thought to be ditch 109, identified after topsoil strip
6	6/8	layer	-	-	natural gravel
7	7/1	layer	0.20 m	-	topsoil
7	7/2	fill	0.17 m	-	upper fill of ditch 7/5
7	7/3	fill	0.30 m	-	sandy silt within ditch 7/5
7	7/4	fill	0.05 m	-	base fill of ditch/ feature 7/5
7	7/5	cut	0.75 m	1.20 m+	E-W linear feature, ditch or possibly a pit (same as 8/5?) - not further observed during topsoil strip
7	7/6	layer	-	-	natural gravel
8	8/1	layer	0.30 m	-	topsoil
8	8/2	fill	0.30 m	-	upper fill of cut 8/5, mostly gravel
8	8/3	fill	0.30 m	-	fill of cut 8/5, sandy silt
8	8/4	fill	0.10 m	-	sandy clay, base fill of ditch cut 8/5
8	8/5	cut	0.90 m	1.0 m+	N-S linear feature - ?ditch - continuation of 7/5; cuts fill of earlier feature 8/6
9	9/1	layer	0.30 m	-	topsoil
9	9/2	fill	0.23 m	-	upper fill of ditch 9/5
9	9/3	fill	0.17 m	-	fill of ditch 9/5
9	9/4	fill	0.05 m	-	base fill of ditch 9/5
9	9/5	cut	0.50 m	1.10 m+	N-S aligned ditch, re-cut of fills of ditch 9/8
9	9/6	fill	0.51 m+	-	upper truncated fill of ditch 9/8
9	9/7	fill	0.12 m+	-	lowest visible fill of ditch 9/8
9	9/8	cut	0.51 m +	0.81 m+	ditch aligned N-S, later re-cut by ditch 9/5
10	10/1	layer	0.20 m	-	topsoil

10	10/2	fill	0.20 m	-	stony fill of 10/4
10	10/3	fill	0.15 m	-	base fill of 10/4 - compacted silty sand
10	10/4	cut	0.40 m	0.90 m +	linear NE-SW feature, seen again after topsoil strip and renumbered 115
10	10/5	layer	-	-	natural gravel
11	11/1	layer	0.30 m	-	topsoil
11	11/2	layer	0.50 m +	-	natural gravel
12	12/1	layer	0.30 m	-	topsoil
12	12/1	layer	0.50 m +	-	natural gravel
13	13/1	layer	0.30 m	-	topsoil
13	13/2	fill	0.50 m	-	orange-brown silty clay in ditch 13/3
13	13/3	cut	0.60 m	0.50 m +	E-W linear ditch, Roman, further seen after topsoil strip
14	14/1	layer	0.27 m	-	topsoil
14	14/2	layer	0.50 m +	-	natural gravel
15	15/1	layer	0.28 m	-	topsoil
15	15/2	layer	0.50 m +	-	natural gravel
16	16/1	layer	0.30 m	-	topsoil
16	16/2	layer	0.50 m +	-	natural gravel



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scale 1:2500

Figure 1

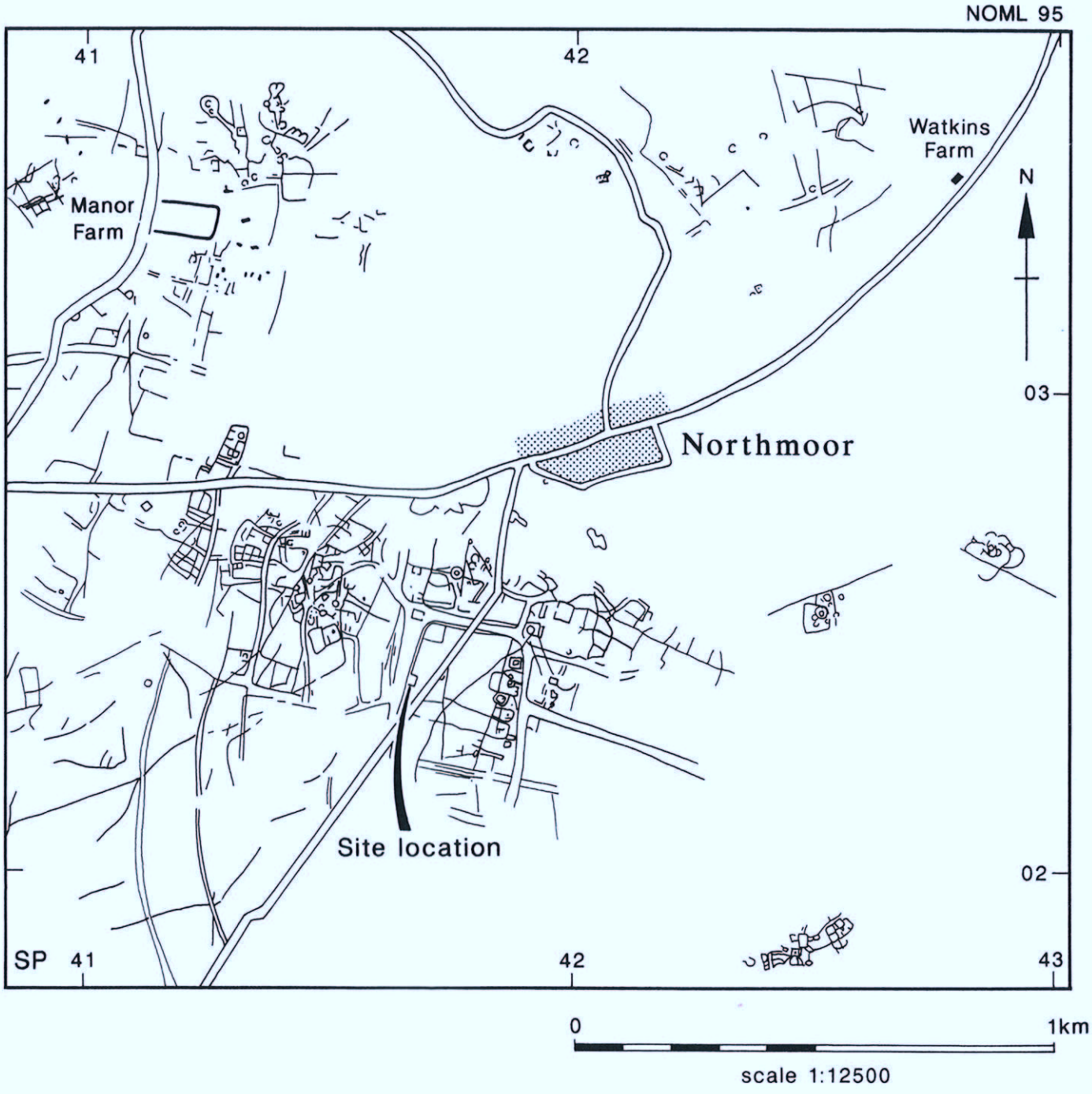
NOML 95
41
42
Watkins Farm
Manor Farm
N
03
Northmoor
Site location
02
SP 41
42
43
0
1km
scale 1:12500

Figure 2

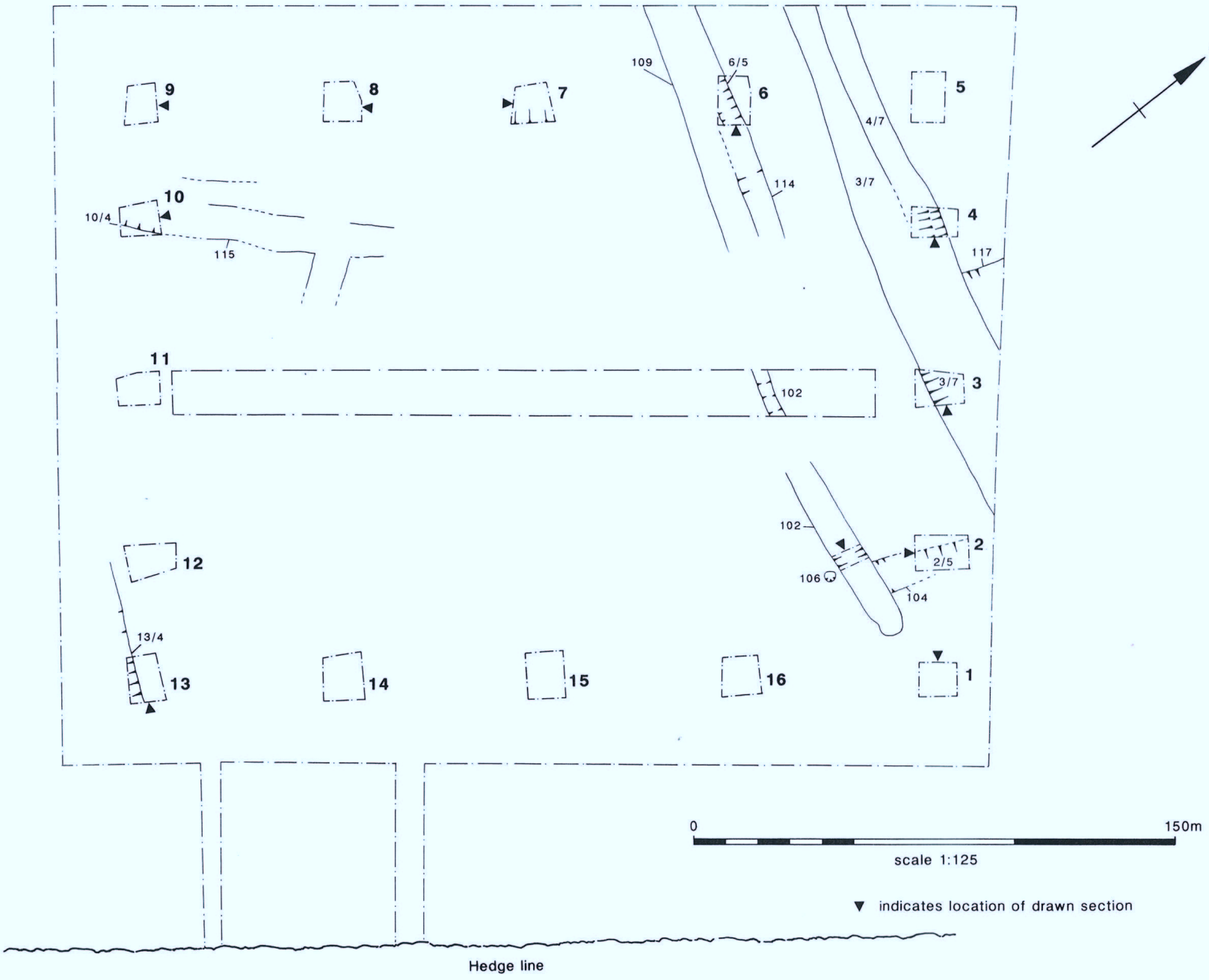
N
9
8
7
109
6/5
6
5
4/7
3/7
114
10
10/4
115
4
117
11
102
3/7
3
102
2
2/5
106
104
12
13/4
13
14
15
16
1
0
150m
scale 1:125
▼ indicates location of drawn section
Hedge line

Figure 3

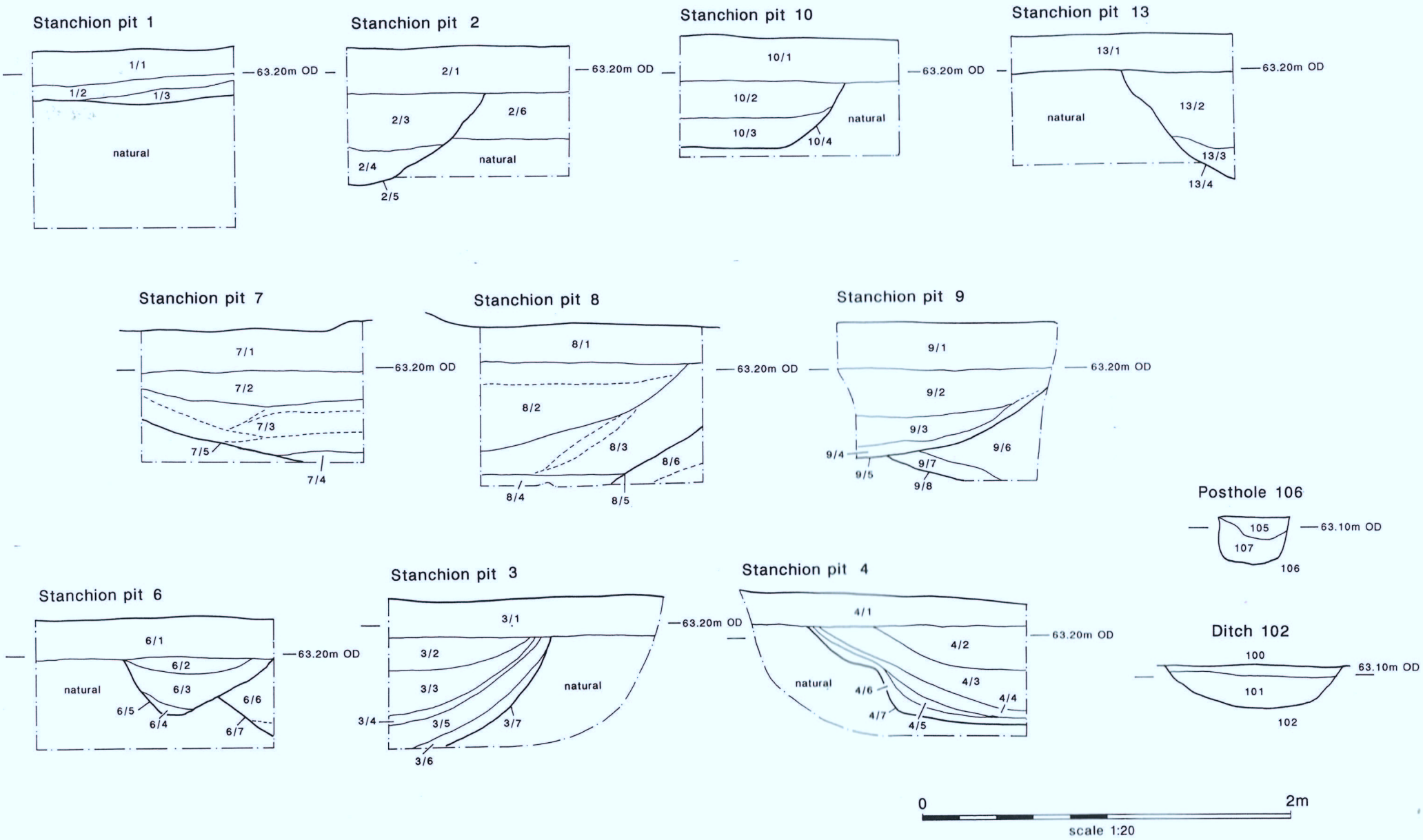
Stanchion pit 1
1/1
1/2
1/3
natural
63.20m OD
Stanchion pit 2
2/1
2/3
2/6
2/4
natural
2/5
63.20m OD
Stanchion pit 10
10/1
10/2
10/3
natural
10/4
63.20m OD
Stanchion pit 13
13/1
natural
13/2
13/3
13/4
63.20m OD
Stanchion pit 7
7/1
7/2
7/3
7/5
7/4
63.20m OD
Stanchion pit 8
8/1
8/2
8/3
8/6
8/4
8/5
63.20m OD
Stanchion pit 9
9/1
9/2
9/3
9/4
9/5
9/7
9/6
9/8
63.20m OD
Posthole 106
105
107
106
63.10m OD
Stanchion pit 6
6/1
6/2
natural
6/3
6/6
6/5
6/4
6/7
63.20m OD
Stanchion pit 3
3/1
3/2
3/3
natural
3/4
3/5
3/7
3/6
63.20m OD
Stanchion pit 4
4/1
4/2
natural
4/3
4/6
4/4
4/7
4/5
63.20m OD
Ditch 102
100
101
102
63.10m OD
0
2m
scale 1:20

Figure 4

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