

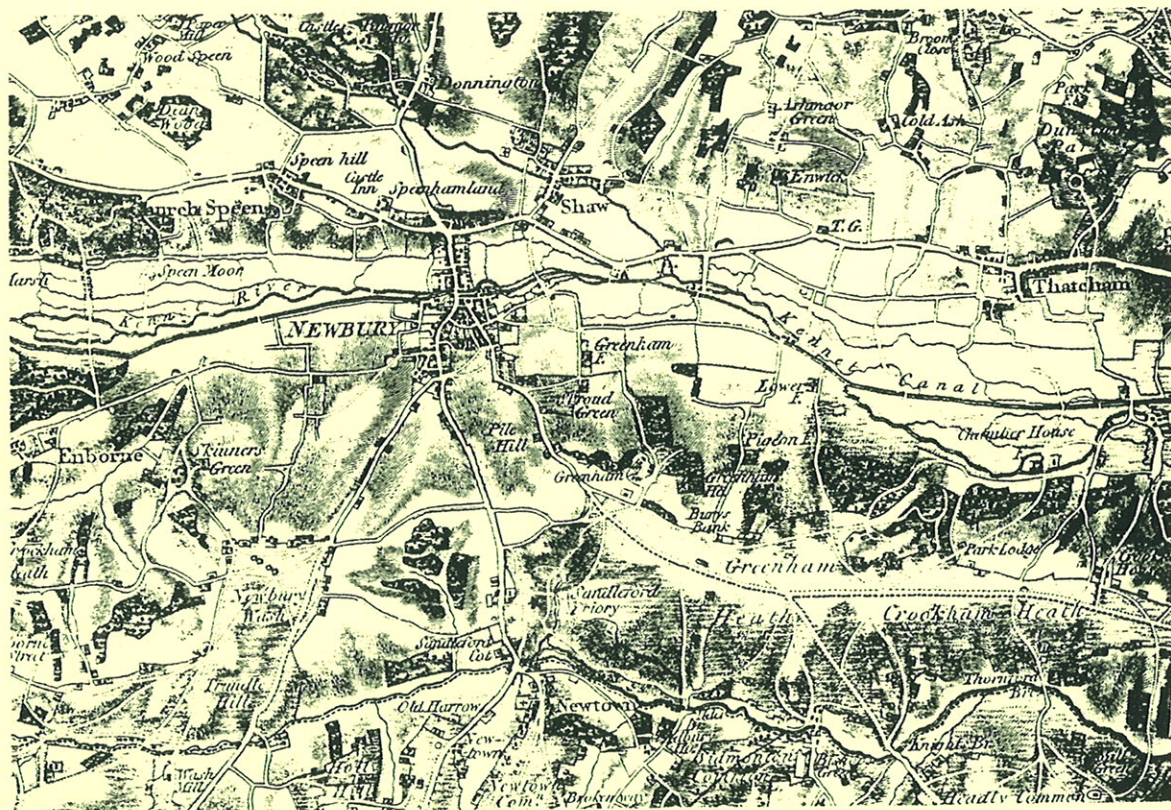
West Berkshire Priority Care Service NHS Trust

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, TURNPIKE ROAD, NEWBURY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SU 4970 6770

Planning Application No. 145254



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

October 1998

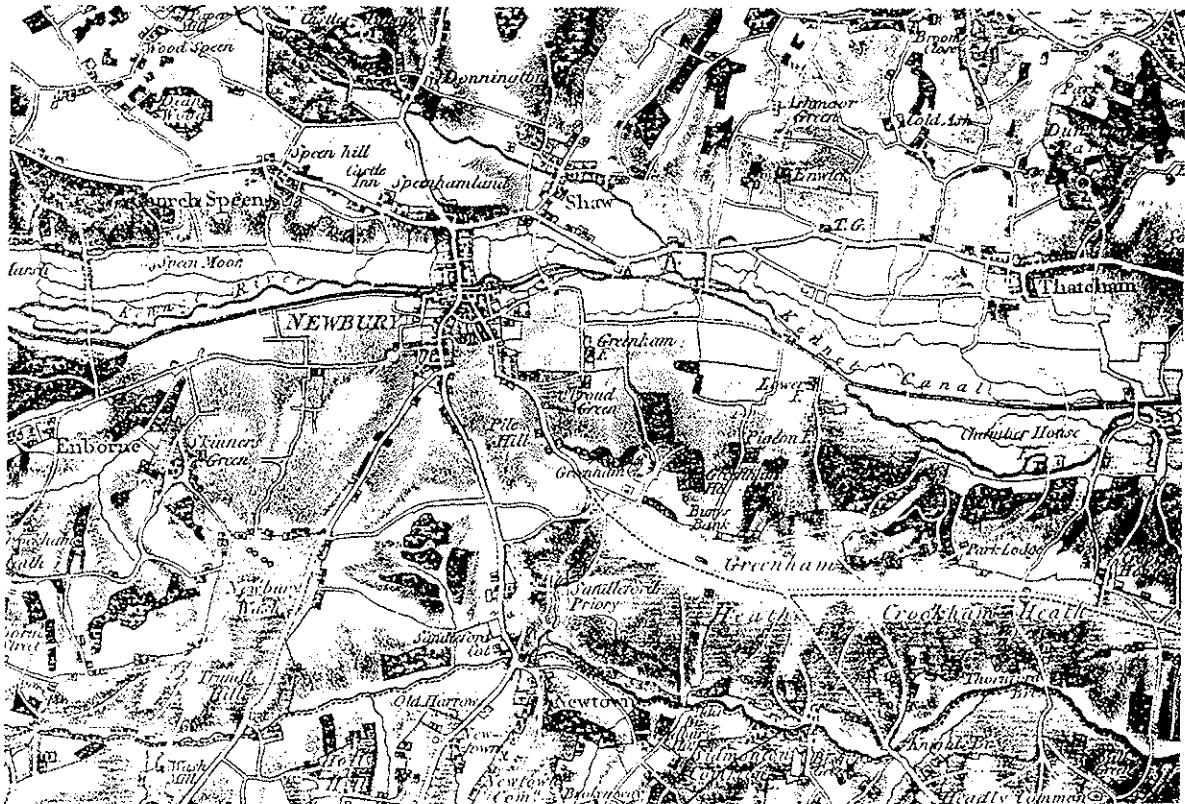
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Prepared by: S. Cook Date: 5/10/98.
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation at the site of the proposed Community Hospital, Turnpike Road, Newbury, on behalf of the West Berkshire Priority Care Service NHS Trust.

A number of Mesolithic/early Neolithic worked flints were recovered from an earlier ploughsoil layer in the northern part of the site. The artefacts were not present in sufficient quantities to suggest in situ early prehistoric activity.

The evaluation revealed three Romano-British ditches in the southern part of the site. The quantity of pottery recovered from these ditches suggests the presence of an early Roman settlement nearby. No other archaeological features or deposits of this date were identified during the evaluation, suggesting that the settlement does not lie within the development area. The pottery recovered is most likely to derive from a Romano-British settlement excavated by Crawford in 1919, c 150 m to the south-east, on the south side of London Road.

The southern edge of the site, alongside London Road, seems to have been extensively quarried for gravel. This activity may be associated with maintenance of the road and is of unknown date.

Community Hospital, Turnpike Road, Newbury

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work (Fig.1)

In August 1998 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation on land to the north of Turnpike Road, Newbury, on behalf of the West Berkshire Priority Care Service NHS Trust. The evaluation was conducted in respect of a planning application to build a Community Hospital (Planning reference 145254). The work was carried out following discussions with Mr R Bourn of Babbie Group, as archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by the OAU. No formal brief was prepared.

1.2 Geology and topography

The site lies on the northern gravel terrace of the River Kennet and is bounded by Turnpike Road to the north, London Road to the south and Fir Tree Lane to the west. The land slopes gently down from *c* 84 OD in the north to *c* 74 OD in the south. The geology consists of River and Valley Gravel in the south, and Reading Beds (mottled clay and sand) to the north (Geological Survey Sheet 267).

The land is presently under arable cultivation. At the time of the evaluation, the cereal crop had recently been harvested.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

An archaeological desk-based study has been carried out. The results are presented in full in the Written Scheme of Investigation, and are summarised below.

The site itself has produced little archaeological evidence. However, there are a number of known sites and find spots within in the immediate vicinity of the development area:

- (i) *Early Prehistoric:* The site was field-walked as part of the Lower Kennet Valley Survey (LKV) in 1988-9, producing worked flint of early Neolithic and late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date (OAU 1). During the same survey, the field immediately to the east of the site produced some Mesolithic worked flint (OAU 4). Other Mesolithic flint was recovered from Lower Way, less than 500 m to the south-east (OAU 9). Other find spots from the immediate vicinity include OAU 6, 15, 21).

- (ii) *Later prehistoric:* Excavations 150 m to the south-east of the site by Crawford, in 1919 (OAU 11), yielded late Bronze age, early Iron Age and late Iron pottery, although the majority of the evidence related to the early Romano-British period.
- (iii) *Romano-British:* The present London to Bath Road, which forms the southern boundary of the site, may follow the line of Ermin Way (OAU 3), the Roman road between Silchester and Cirencester. There is excavated evidence of Romano-British settlement *c* 1 km to the east (OAU 5) and *c* 150 m to the south-east of the site (OAU 11), on the line of the road. Investigations in advance of the Thatcham Distributor Road, to the north of Turnpike Road (OAU 23), indicates the presence of another settlement to the north-east (OAU 1998a, 13). A number of linear field boundaries indicated by cropmarks within the development area (OAU 2), have been shown by the present evaluation to be of Romano-British date, rather than medieval or later date, as previously thought. Similar cropmarks immediately to the south (OAU 12 and 13), may also be of Roman date.
- (iv) *Saxo-Norman:* The site of the royal manor of Thatcham (Henwick) lies *c* 700 m to the north (OAU 22). There is no archaeological evidence for Saxon activity in the vicinity of the development area.
- (v) *Medieval:* The site was probably agricultural land in the medieval/ post-medieval periods. A small amount of post-medieval pottery was recovered by fieldwalking during the LKV survey (OAU 4), in sufficient quantities to suggest a settlement site.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1 To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment and to ensure an adequate representative sample is investigated.
- 2.2 To establish the presence/absence of Iron Age/Romano-British settlement or burial activity along the line of the Ermin Way.
- 2.3 To determine the local, regional, national and international significance of such archaeological deposits as revealed and the potential for further archaeological fieldwork to fulfil local, regional and national research objectives.
- 2.4 To make available the results of the evaluation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Sample size and scope of fieldwork

A series of trenches was excavated to investigate a 2% sample of the development area. The sample consisted of 33 trenches, positioned to coincide with cropmark features, where present, but otherwise distributed to provide even coverage of the site. All trenches measured 30 m x 1.8 m. Four additional trenches (34-37), varying in length from 5 m to 16.7 m, were excavated to further investigate features uncovered by the initial trenching. A 360 excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket was used to remove the overburden under close archaeological supervision.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

Where archaeological deposits were present, trenches were cleaned by hand and the exposed features were cleaned and sampled to determine their extent and nature. Finds and soil samples were collected and submitted for specialist examination. The excavated spoil was also monitored for finds. Archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50. Archaeologically sterile trenches were planned at a scale of 1:100. Sections were drawn at a scale 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).

3.3 Finds

All finds were quantified and selected materials were assessed by appropriately qualified specialists (see section 5.2).

3.4 Environmental data

A single 40 litre sample was taken from the fill (704) of a ditch (706) containing a concentration of Romano-British pottery.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The natural subsoil was sand and gravel in the southern part of the site (River and Valley Gravel), and mottled sandy clay to the north (Reading Beds). Ground conditions were dry.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

The only archaeological features identified were three linear boundary ditches in Trenches 7 and 12, located in the southern and central part of the development area. Four additional trenches (34, 35, 36 and 37) were excavated to further investigate these features. No other significant archaeological features were present in any other part of the site. However, a number of early prehistoric flints were recovered from an earlier ploughsoil in Trenches 17, 18, 23, 28 and 29 and there was evidence for gravel quarrying, of indeterminate date, in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

4.3 Presentation of results

Section 5.1.1 describes those trenches beside London Road affected by quarrying activity. Sections 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 describe those trenches with Romano-British archaeological features. Section 5.1.5 describes those trenches in the northern part of the site that yielded prehistoric flints. A complete list of contexts and associated finds is contained in the Context Inventory (Appendix 1). The finds and environmental evidence are summarised in sections 5.2 and 5.3 respectively. Specialist reports are contained in Appendix 2 (Worked flint), Appendix 3 (Pottery), Appendix 4 (Miscellaneous finds) and Appendix 5 (Environmental evidence).

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

5.1.1 Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (Fig.2)

These trenches were located at the southern limit of the development area, beside London Road. The topsoil varied in depth from 0.10 m in Trenches 1 and 5, to 0.45 m in Trench 4. A gravelly subsoil varied from 0.15 m in depth where the topsoil was deepest to 0.30 m where the topsoil was more shallow. Deposits of 'dirty' sand and gravel underlying the subsoil in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4, were up to 0.90 m deep in places. The extent of these deposits and the presence of undulations in the ground surface, are consistent with gravel quarrying activity. These trenches produced no finds, in spite of their proximity to a known Iron Age and Romano-British settlement located on the south side of London Road (see section 1.3, iii).

5.1.2 Trenches 7, 34, and 35 (Figs 2 and 3)

These three trenches were situated in the south-eastern part of the site. The natural gravel lay between 0.30 and 0.40 m below ground level in these trenches, overlain by topsoil (701) and subsoil (702). A ditch (706), aligned from north-south and cut into the natural gravel, was located at the western end of Trench 7. The ditch was 2.6 m wide and 0.75 m deep. Trenches 34 and Trench 35 were excavated to confirm the line of the ditch. The two sandy gravel fills

(704, 705) yielded a significant quantity of Romano-British pottery dating from the 1st-2nd centuries AD. The secondary fill (704) also produced some animal bone. A second, east-west aligned ditch (3404), branched from the Ditch (706) at a right angle. The two ditches are likely to be contemporary, as both produced a similar range of 1st to 2nd century pottery. Both ditches correspond to linear cropmarks visible on aerial photographs of the site.

5.1.3 Trenches 12, 36 and 37 (Figs.2 and 4)

These three trenches were situated towards the central and southern part of the site. Natural gravel was encountered at an average depth of 0.8 m to the north and 0.45 to the south. A single north-south aligned ditch (1206) was identified. It had a maximum width of 1.1 m and a depth of 0.36 m. The continuing line of the ditch, to the south, was confirmed by the excavation of Trenches 36 and 37.

5.1.4 Trenches 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 20 (Fig. 2)

These trenches are located in the southern half of the development area, on sandy gravel subsoil, and were archaeologically sterile. The stratigraphic sequence in these trenches consisted of topsoil to depth of c 0.30 m, overlying a subsoil layer comprising sandy silt with gravel, to a depth of c 0.48 m, which in turn overlay sandy gravel.

5.1.5 Trenches 17, 18, 23, 28 and 29 (Fig.2)

These trenches, located in the northern half of the development area, contained no significant archaeological features or deposits, but did produce a small quantity of worked flint (see 5.2.3). All trenches lay on the sandy clay natural subsoil (Reading Beds). The stratigraphic sequence consisted of topsoil, overlying an earlier ploughsoil, overlying a layer of orange-brown clay-silt (alluvium?). This layer lay c 0.6-0.8 m below ground level and was c 0.4 m thick. Trench 28 contained a lower alluvial silty clay deposit c 0.35 m thick with lenses of wind-blown silty sands. The worked flints came from the topsoil in Trench 18, from the earlier ploughsoil in Trenches 28 and 29 and from the alluvium in Trenches 17 and 23.

5.1.6 Trenches 16, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32 and 33 (Fig.2)

These remaining trenches in the northern half of the development area were archaeologically sterile. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil (up to 0.48 m thick), overlying an orange-brown silty subsoil/ earlier ploughsoil, containing occasional burnt flint (up to 0.40 m thick). The subsoil overlay a reddish brown clay silt alluvium, up to 0.50 m thick. Clean natural silty clay or sandy gravel was encountered at a maximum depth of c 1.0 m.

5.2 Finds

5.2.1 Worked flint by Theresa Durden

A total of seven pieces of struck flint were recovered, one piece each from contexts 1703, 1801, 2303, 2802 and three pieces from context 2902. The flint was probably locally obtained from the river gravels.

5.2.2 Pottery by Kayt Smith

The evaluation produced 412 sherds, of which the majority are datable to the mid-late 1st to 2nd centuries, with the exception of two sherds of black-burnished ware (B11) probably dating from the 3rd or 4th centuries, a single late Iron Age sherd (FA3) and a single post-medieval sherd (Z30). The total weight of pottery was 5358 g from 12 contexts. Of these contexts the majority of material (75% of the total assemblage by weight) was recovered from contexts 704 and 705, the only two fills of ditch 706.

5.2.3 Miscellaneous finds

The only significant artefact categories from the evaluation were the pottery and flint. Other find types present comprised a small quantity of ceramic building materials (CBM), including a tile with incised lines on one surface, a single fragment of fired clay, and small fragments of bone. A single iron nail and a fragment of modern glass were also recovered.

5.3 Environmental data by Dana Challinor

5.3.1 Charred plant remains

A single soil sample from a Roman ditch (context 705) was taken during the evaluation for the assessment of environmental indicators.

The flot was dominated by modern intrusions; primarily roots and weed seeds. Wood charcoal dominated the charred remains. Most of this was too small for identification, although at least two tree species were present and a few fragments of *Quercus* sp. (oak) could be discerned. Charred herbaceous plant remains were present although preservation was not very good. Cereal grain was preserved but fragmentary, and the concentration was very low. Several legumes of edible size, probably pea (cf. *Pisum*), were also present. Chaff and weed seeds were absent. No molluscs or bone were recovered.

5.3.2 Animal bone by Beth Charles

Twelve fragments of bone were collected from the site. All appear to be from the same element, possibly part of a tibia from a large animal such as a cow or a horse. The bones were very poorly preserved with a high degree of attritional damage and can provide no useful information.

The lack of animal bones and molluscs from the single soil sample, confirms the view from the hand-retrieved material that these materials are not well-preserved.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

The evaluation has demonstrated that the majority of the site contains no significant archaeological features or deposits. However, the large assemblage of Romano-British pottery from ditch 706 is a clear indication of settlement in the near vicinity. Although this material could plausibly derive from the known settlement to the south of London Road, it is unexpected to find pottery in such quantities 150 m or more from the presumed settlement focus. It is possible that the settlement extended to the north of the Road, but that the traces of it have been removed by later quarrying activity.

However, the failure of the LKV Survey to identify significant concentrations of Roman material in the ploughsoil, and the complete absence of archaeological finds or deposits in the trenches immediately adjacent to the London Road, suggests that there was in fact no significant settlement activity within the development area.

6.2 Overall interpretation

6.2.1 *Summary of results*

A small number of Mesolithic/early Neolithic flints found in the northern part of the site, generally supports the findings of the LKV Survey, suggesting early prehistoric activity in the vicinity. However, the very low density of finds and the varied contexts from which they were recovered, indicates that the worked flint is likely to be residual.

The only significant archaeological features identified were three Romano-British ditches located in the central part of the site. Two of the ditches are clearly visible on aerial photographs of the site. The three ditches appear to form part of a rectilinear field system, aligned almost perpendicular to London Road (the postulated line of Ermin Way). They are probably associated with the Iron Age and Romano-British settlement excavated by Crawford in 1919, on the south side of London Road, c 150 m south of the excavated ditches.

There is evidence for gravel quarrying activity adjacent to London Road, in the form of large shallow cuts, seen in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and undulations in the ground surface.

6.2.2 *Significance*

The comparatively large quantity of pottery recovered from the excavated ditches confirms the presence of a Romano-British settlement in the vicinity of the site. However, the evaluation has provided mainly negative evidence, suggesting that the known Romano-British settlement site on the south side of London Road did not extend significantly to the north of the road, with the exception of associated field boundaries. It is possible that quarrying activity along the northern side of the London Road has destroyed evidence for Romano-British settlement on that part of the site closest to the road, but it is clear that the majority of the site is devoid of significant archaeological activity.

Bibliography and references

OAU, 1998a, *Excavations at Thatcham Northern Distributor Road, Berkshire*

OAU, 1998b *Community Hospital, Turnpike Road, Newbury, WSI*

Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (First edition, August 1992)

Appendix 1: Archaeological Context Inventory

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
Trench 1							
101	Layer	Topsoil	0.12			None	Modern
102	Layer	Subsoil	0.28			None	
103	Layer	Quarrying	0.35			None	
104	Layer	Quarrying	0.48			None	
105	Layer	Natural					
Trench 2							
201	Layer	Topsoil	0.22			None	Modern
202	Layer	Subsoil	0.2			None	
203	Layer	Natural				None	
204	Layer	Quarrying	0.7			None	
205	Layer	Quarrying	>0.23			None	
Trench 3							
301	Layer	Topsoil	0.11-0.28			None	Modern
302	Layer	Subsoil	0.12-0.30			None	
303	Layer	?Alluvium	0.14-0.65			None	
304	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 4							
401	Layer	Topsoil	0.45			None	Modern
402	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.30			None	
403	Layer	Alluvium	0.45			None	
404	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 5							
501	Layer	Topsoil	0.1			None	Modern
502	Layer	Subsoil	0.3			None	
503	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 6							
601	Layer	Topsoil	0.16			None	Modern
602	Layer	Subsoil	0.2			None	
603	Layer	Alluvium	0.14			None	
604	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 7							
701	Layer	Topsoil	0.16			Pot, glass	Modern
702	Layer	Subsoil	0.26			None	
703	Layer	Natural				None	
704	Deposit	Fill of 706	0.66			Pot, bone	Roman
705	Deposit	Fill of 706	0.75			Pot	Roman
706	Cut	Ditch	0.75	2.6			Roman
Trench 8							
801	Layer	Topsoil	0.1			None	Modern
802	Layer	Subsoil	0.25			None	
803	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 9							
901	Layer	Topsoil	0.25			None	Modern
902	Layer	Subsoil	0.37			None	
903	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 10							
1001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27			None	Modern
1002	Layer	Subsoil	0.48			None	

1003	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 11							
1101	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			None	Modern
1102	Layer	Subsoil	0.32			None	
1103	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 12							
1201	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			None	Modern
1202	Layer	Subsoil	0.45				
1203	Layer	Natural				None	
1204	Cut	Tree-bole	0.17	1.1		None	
1205	Deposit	Fill of 1204	0.17	1.1		Burnt flint	
1206	Cut	Ditch	0.14	0.85	17		
1207	Deposit	Fill of 1207	0.14			Pot	
1208	Deposit	Fill of 1207	0.27			Pot, iron nail	
1209	Deposit	Fill of 1207	0.33			Pot	
1210	Cut	Ditch=1206	0.36	1.1	17	None	
Trench 13							
1301	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			None	Modern
1302	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.30			None	
1303	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 14							
1401	Layer	Topsoil	0.35			None	Modern
1402	Layer	Subsoil	0.3			None	
1403	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 15							
1501	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			None	Modern
1502	Layer	Subsoil	0.1			None	
1503	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 16							
1601	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			None	Modern
1602	Layer	Subsoil	0.28-0.40			None	
1603	Layer	Alluvium	0.3			None	
1604	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 17							
1701	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			None	Modern
1702	Layer	Subsoil	0.24-0.32			Flint	
1703	Layer	Alluvium	0.4			Worked flint+G111	
1704	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 18							
1801	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			Flint blade	Modern
1802	Layer	Subsoil	0.5			None	
1803	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 19							
1901	Layer	Topsoil	0.3				Modern
1902	Layer	Subsoil	0.35-0.5			None	
1903	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 20							
2001	Layer	Topsoil	0.4			None	Modern
2002	Layer	Subsoil	0.2			None	
2003	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 21							
2101	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			None	Modern

2102	Layer	Subsoil	0.24			None	
2103	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 22							
2201	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			None	Modern
2202	Layer	Subsoil	0.2-0.4			None	
2203	Layer	Alluvium	0.3-0.5			None	
2204	Cut	Tree-bole	0.5	1.04	1.4	None	
2205	Deposit	Fill of 2205	0.24	1.04		None	
2206	Deposit	Fill of 2205	0.25	0.78		Pot, burnt stone	
2207	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 23							
2301	Layer	Topsoil	0.3				Modern
2302	Layer	Subsoil	0.36				
2303	Layer	Alluvium	0.5			Flint, burnt stone	
2304	Layer	Natural					
Trench 24							
2401	Layer	Topsoil	0.35			None	Modern
2402	Layer	Subsoil	0.3			Pot, burnt stone	
2403	Layer	Alluvium	0.4			None	
2404	Layer	Alluvium	0.35			None	
2405	Cut	Pit/posthole	0.8	0.65		None	
2406	Deposit	Fill of 2405	0.8	0.65		None	
2407	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 25							
2501	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			None	Modern
2502	Layer	Subsoil	0.3			None	
2503	Layer	Alluvium	0.5			None	
2504	Layer	Alluvium	0.4			None	
2505	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 26							
2601	Layer	Topsoil	0.3				Modern
2602	Layer	Subsoil	0.1			None	
2603	Layer	Alluvium	0.15			None	
2604	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 27							
2701	Layer	Topsoil	0.42			None	Modern
2702	Layer	Subsoil	0.5-0.62			None	
2703	Layer	Alluvium	>0.18			None	
Trench 28							
2801	Layer	Topsoil	0.4			None	Modern
2802	Layer	Subsoil	0.4			Flint, burnt stone	
2803	Layer	Alluvium	0.3			None	
2804	Layer	Alluvium	0.36			None	
2805	Layer	Natural				None	
2806	Layer	Alluvium	>0.15			None	
2807	Layer	Alluvium	>0.2			None	
Trench 29							
2901	Layer	Topsoil	0.36				Modern
2902	Layer	Subsoil	0.32			Burnt stone	
2903	Layer	Alluvium	0.4			None	
2904	Layer	Alluvium	>0.3			None	
Trench 30							
3001	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			None	Modern

3002	Layer	Subsoil	0.24			Burnt flint	
3003	Layer	Alluvium	0.2			None	
3004	Layer	Alluvium	>0.22			None	
Trench 31							
3101	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			Burnt flint	
3102	Layer	Subsoil	0.3			Burnt flint	
3103	Layer	Alluvium	0.3			None	
3104	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 32							
3201	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			None	Modern
3202	Layer	Subsoil	0.2			None	
3203	Layer	Alluvium	0.2-0.3			None	
3204	Layer	Alluvium	0.15-0.24			None	
3205	Layer	Natural				None	
Trench 33							
3301	Layer	Topsoil	0.3-0.48			Burnt flint	Modern
3302	Layer	Subsoil	0.04-0.25			Burnt flint	
3303	Layer	Alluvium	0.48			None	
3304	Layer	Alluvium	>0.2			None	
Trench 34							
3401	Layer	Topsoil	0.15			None	Modern
3402	Layer	Subsoil	0.15			None	
3403	Layer	Natural				None	
3404	Deposit	Fill of ditch	>0.12	1.2		Pot	
3405	Deposit	Fill of ditch	>0.12	2.1		Pot	
Trench 35							
3501	Layer	Topsoil	0.18			None	Modern
3502	Layer	Subsoil	0.23			None	
3503	Layer	Natural				None	
3504	Deposit	Fill of ditch	>0.1			Pot	
Trench 36							
3601	Layer	Topsoil	0.3			None	Modern
3602	Layer	Subsoil	0.15			None	
3603	Layer	Natural				None	
3604	Deposit	Fill of ditch	>0.12	1.2		Pot	
Trench 37							
3701	Layer	Topsoil	0.26			None	Modern
3702	Layer	Subsoil	0.18			None	
3703	Layer	Natural				None	
3704	Deposit	Fill of ditch	>0.06	1		Pot	

Appendix 2: The worked flint

by Theresa Durden (Oxford Archaeological Unit)

A total of seven pieces of struck flint were recovered, one piece each from contexts 1703, 1801, 2303, 2802 and three pieces from context 2902. The flint was probably locally obtained from the river gravels. A total weight of 1195 g of burnt flint (77 fragments) was collected from eighteen contexts, as tabulated below.

Summary

3 flakes

2 blades

1 bladelet

1 blade-like flake

The character of this small collection is mostly blade-like, with one of the flakes also bearing dorsal blade scars (SF 4). This flake also bore possible evidence of utilisation on its right-hand edge. The only large, thick flake (SF 8) showed signs of use or retouch on the left hand edge. The use of soft hammers predominated, with hard hammers used on two of the flakes.

Dating such a small collection is difficult, but the blade-like character of many of the pieces would suggest a Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date.

Table 1: Quantification of burnt flint

Context	Weight (gms)	Number of fragments
1005	222	10
1202	102	5
1205	150	11
1702	124	8
1901	16	2
2303	90	6
2402	90	5
2601	4	1
2802	60	3
2901	44	3
2902	34	2
3002	86	7
3101	45	4
3102	4	1
3301	45	4
3302	41	2
3604	34	2
3704	4	1

Appendix 3: The pottery

by Kayt Smith (Oxford Archaeological Unit)

Introduction

The evaluation produced 412 sherds, of which the majority are datable to the mid-late 1st-2nd centuries, with the exception of 2 sherds of black-burnished ware (B11) probably dated to the 3rd/4th century, a single late Iron Age sherd (FA3) and a single post-medieval sherd (Z30). The total weight of pottery was 5358 g from 12 contexts. Of these contexts the majority of material (75% of the total assemblage by weight) was recovered from 704 and 705, the only two fills of ditch 706. The material was scanned, and the fabrics recorded, following the codes used in the standard OAU system for recording late Iron Age and Roman pottery.

Table 2: Basic quantification of the pottery, by sherd count and weight per fabric.

Fabric	No. sherds	Wt (g)
B11 – black burnished ware	4	37
E10 – organic tempered	5	68
E30 – sand tempered	96	1431
E60 – flint tempered	108	1175
E80 – grog tempered	17	569
FA3 – Iron age fabric	1	51
O20 – unsourced oxidised	15	87
Q – unsourced white-slipped	1	7
R30 – unsourced reduced sandy	124	1365
W20 – unsourced sandy white ware	10	144
W21 – verulamium	30	413
Z30 – post-medieval fabric	1	11
Total	412	5358

Table 3: Basic quantification of the pottery, by sherd count and weight per context.

Context	No.	Wt (g)
701	2	26
704	155	2270
705	120	1777
1202	17	351
1207	6	54
1209	36	174
2206	2	3
2402	1	4
3404	16	263
3405	15	85
3504	31	325
3604	4	12
3704	7	14
Total	412	5358

Description

The principal ceramic types present are 'Belgic' fabrics and Roman sandy fabrics. The Belgic fabrics comprise almost 60% (by weight) of the total assemblage, and are characterised as handmade and wheelmade vessels in a style which was current both before and after the Roman conquest. These early 'Belgic' type wares include grog (E80), sand (E30), organic (E10) and flint (E60) tempered fabrics. The largest single fabric type is R30 (25% of the assemblage by weight) a general category for romanised reduced sandy grey wares. While not chronologically diagnostic in terms of fabric, the range of forms present would indicate an early date for this material. Also recorded were a range of unsourced oxidised fabrics (O20), a single sherd of an unsourced white-slipped fabric (Q) and white wares (W20), the latter of which are principally products from the Verulamium industry (W21), which include the base of a possible flagon and again suggests a date from the mid 1st century AD. No imported wares such as samian or amphorae were present. The minimum number of vessels is twenty-eight, and includes three flagons, one bowl and a single abraded sherd, tentatively identified as a butt beaker. The remaining vessels included necked or angle-rim jars and a single large storage jar.

Appendix 4: Miscellaneous finds

Description

The only significant artefact categories from the evaluation were the flint and pottery (Appendices 2 and 3). Other finds comprised a small quantity of ceramic building materials (CBM), including a tile with incised lines on one surface, a single fragment of fired clay, and small fragments of bone. A single iron nail and a fragment of modern glass were also recovered.

Table 4: Quantification of miscellaneous finds by fragment count and weight.

Type	No.	Wt
CBM	5	824
Fired clay	1	36
Glass	1	12
Stone	1	94

Appendix 5: Environmental evidence

by Dana Challinor and Bethan Charles (Oxford Archaeological Unit)

Charred plant remains

Methods

A single soil sample from a Roman ditch (context 705) was taken during the evaluation for the assessment of environmental indicators. A volume of 40 litres was processed by mechanical flotation in a modified Siraf machine for the recovery of charred plant remains, with the sample held on a 500µm and the flot collected on a 250µm mesh. The remaining residue was then washed through 10, 4 and 2 mm sieves and sorted for bone and artefacts. The flot was scanned under a microscope at x10 magnification.

Results

The flot was dominated by modern intrusions; primarily roots and weed seeds. Wood charcoal dominated the charred remains. Most of this was too small for identification, although at least two tree species were present and a few fragments of *Quercus* sp. (oak) could be discerned. Charred herbaceous plant remains were present although preservation was not very good. Cereal grain was preserved but fragmentary, and the concentration was very low. Several legumes of edible size, probably pea (cf. *Pisum*), were also present. Chaff and weed seeds were absent. No molluscs or bone were recovered.

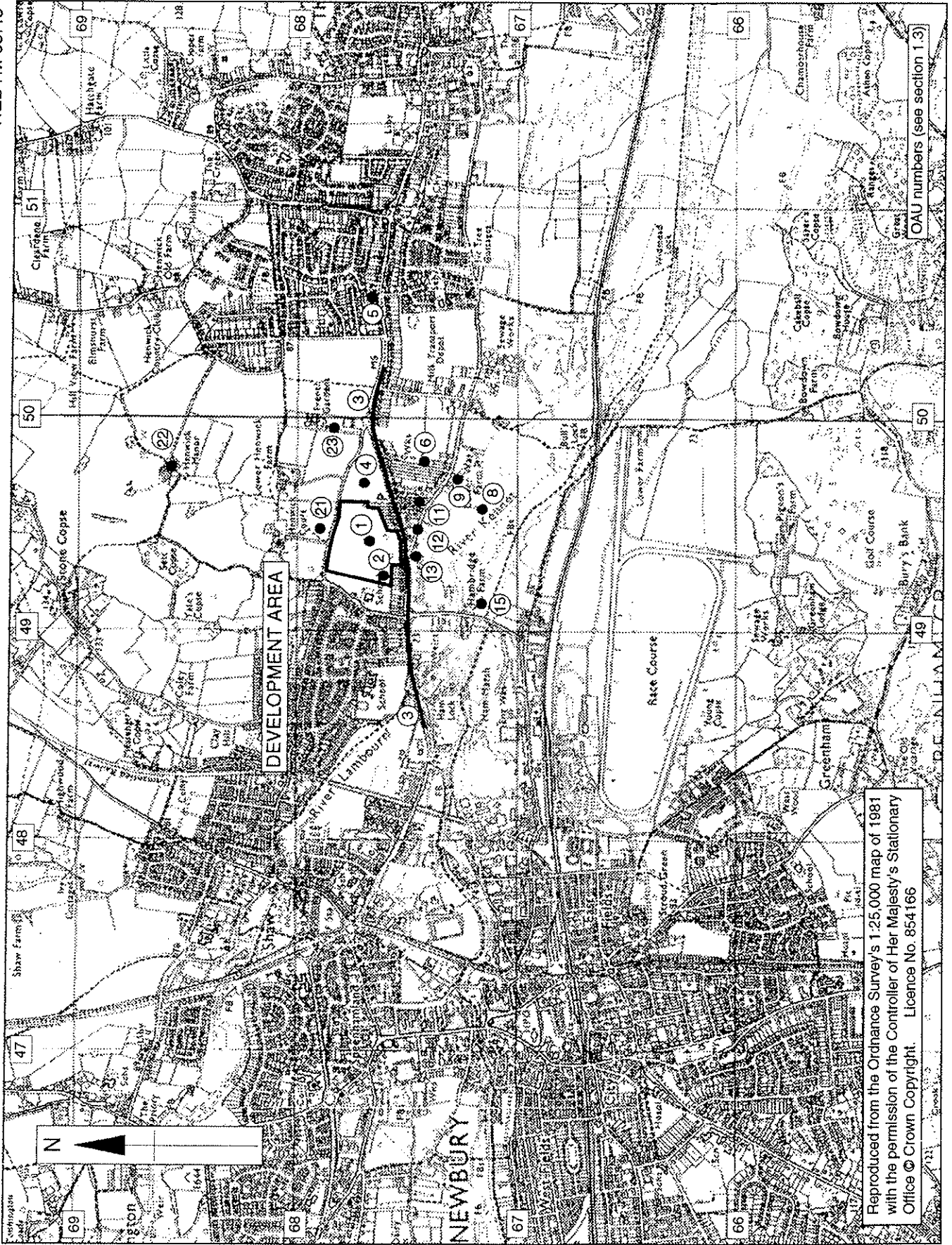
Discussion

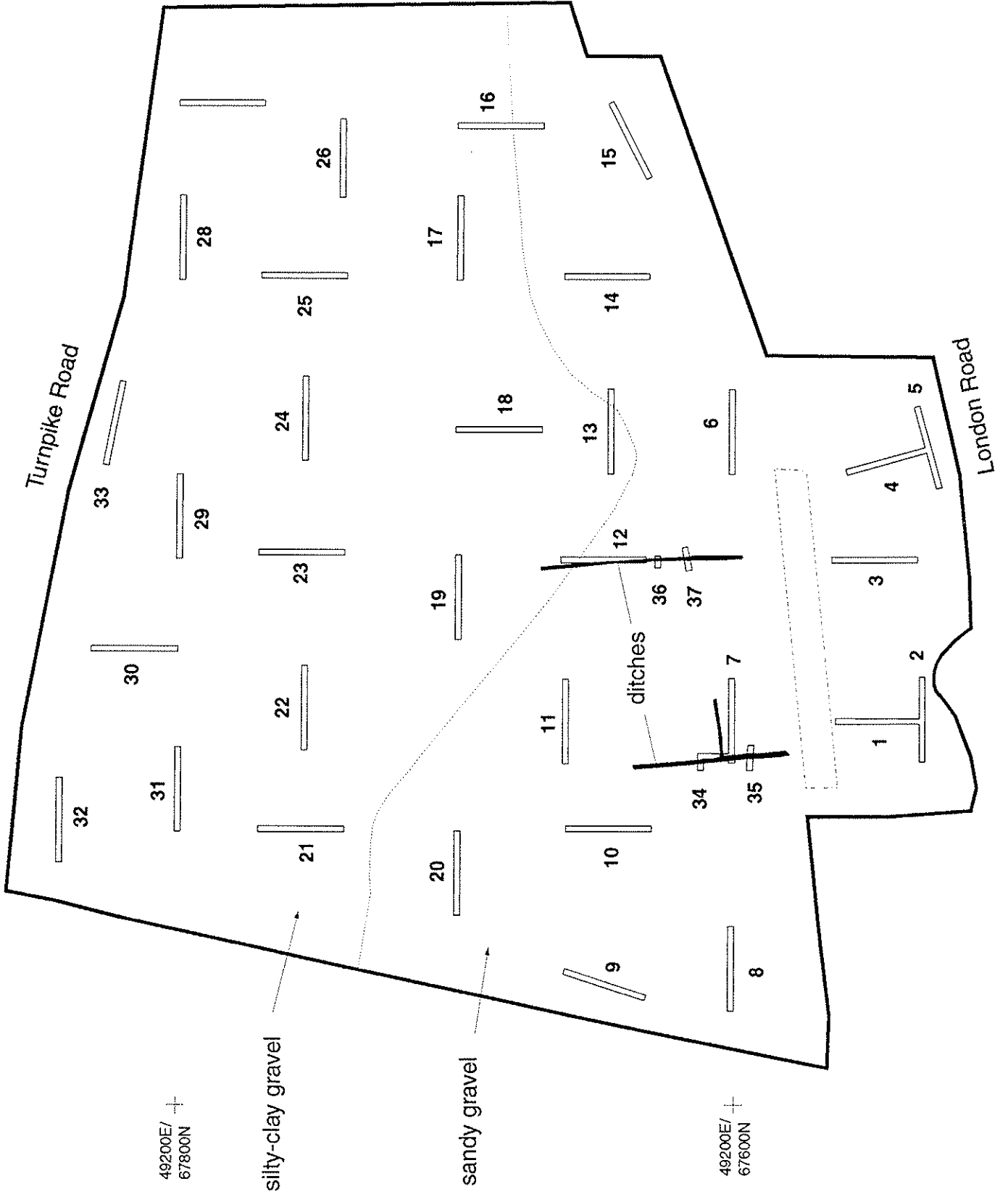
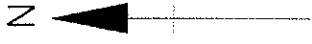
Charred plant remains are preserved at the site, and any further work on the site should include charred remains recovery as a component. Further analysis on this sample would not be productive. The low density and content is consistent with a randomly selected deposit from a Romano-British settlement site. The edible legumes are relatively uncommon, and probably indicate occupation in the immediate vicinity.

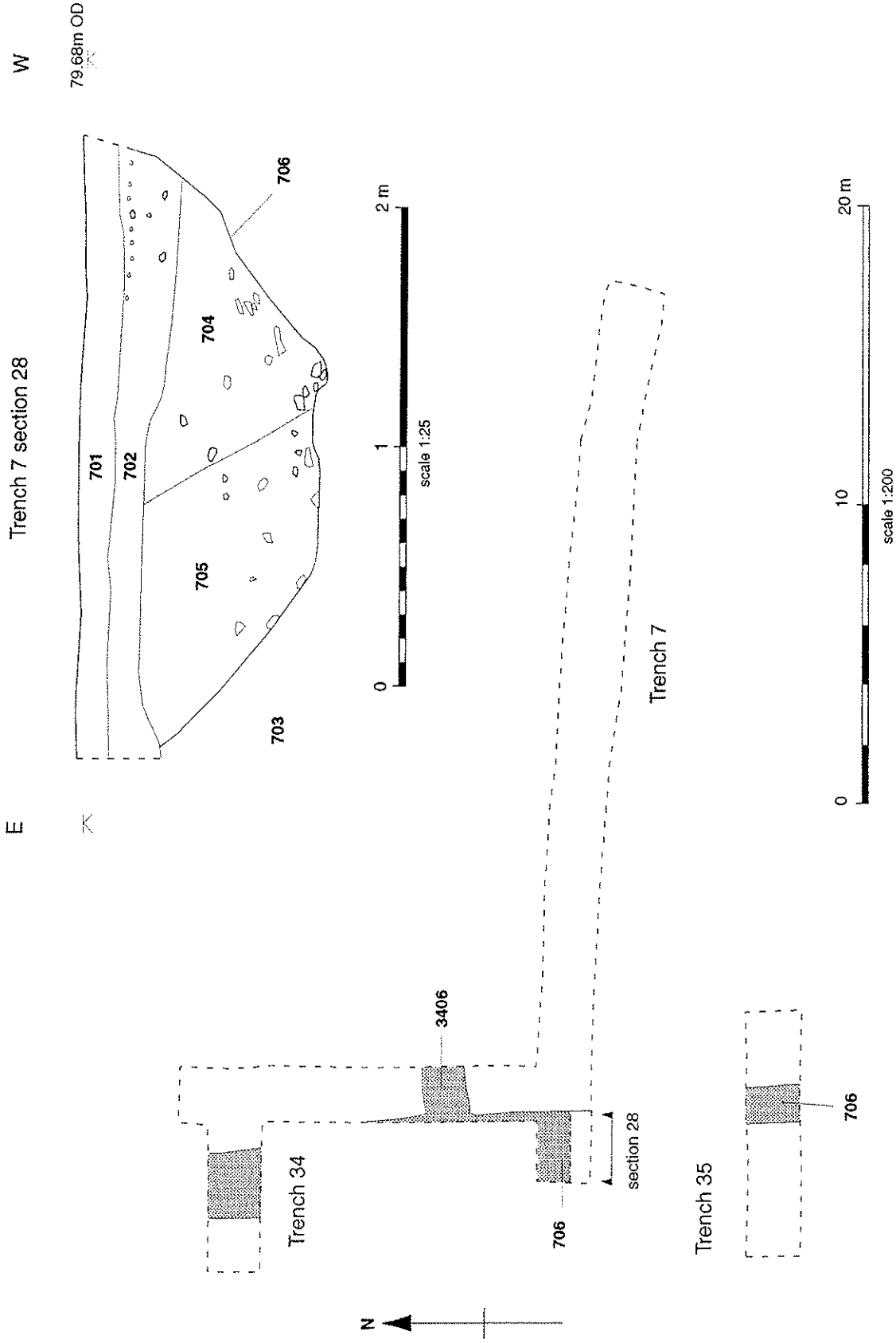
Animal bone

Twelve fragments of bone were collected from the site. All appear to be from the same element, possibly part of a tibia from a large animal such as a cow or a horse. The bones were very poorly preserved with a high degree of attritional damage and can provide no useful information.

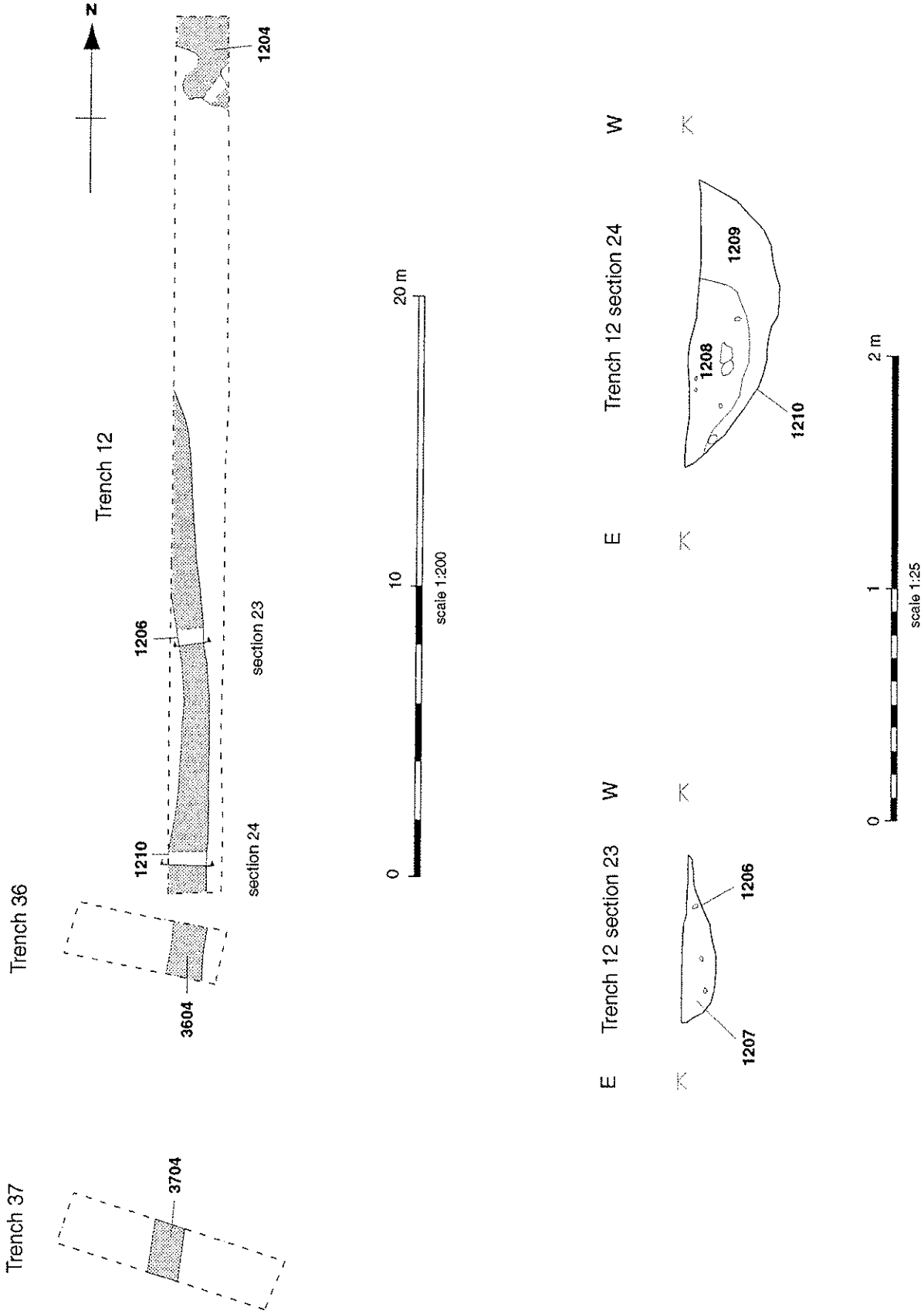
The lack of animal bones and molluscs from the single soil sample, confirms the view from the hand-retrieved material that these materials are not well-preserved.







Trenches 7, 34 and 35 plan and section



Trenches 12, 36 and 37 plan and sections



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