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Little Wittenham
Oxfordshire

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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Hill Farm, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire

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By

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Hill Farm, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological watching brief and excavations at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham between December 2004 and November 2005. The work was commissioned by the Northmoor Trust in advance of the redevelopment of Hill Farm as a visitor and education centre for the Wittenham Clumps and construction of a new Office building.

Excavations were undertaken in the area of the ponds, Visitors Car Park and footprint of the Boiler House and new Office building to the west of Hill Farm, and the Staff Car Park to the east of Hill Farm. A Watching brief was also undertaken on drainage works, service trenches, construction of a new farm access road and concrete removal within and around Hill Farm.

The excavations revealed an early Neolithic pit with an associated scatter of flintwork in the Visitors Car Park. A scatter of Middle Bronze Age pottery was also found in later features, suggesting some occupation in the area of Hill Farm.

A small number of features of early Iron Age date were revealed, including a small enclosure in the Visitors Car Park and Offices area and a penannular gully in the Staff Car Park. The vast majority of the archaeology revealed relates to a settlement of middle Iron Age date. Several penannular gullies were revealed, some surrounding the postholes of roundhouses. The majority of the gullies exhibited two or three episodes of recutting indicating that the settlement persisted for a reasonable duration. The roundhouses were associated with various ditched enclosures, pits and four-post structures.

Roman ditches were also revealed in the Ponds, Staff Car Park and Offices and various drainage works. Many of these features can be related to ditches visible on the geophysical survey. An undated grave in the Visitors Car Park is most probably of late Roman or Saxon date.

1 INTRODUCTION

Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham between December 2004 and August 2005. The work was commissioned by Northmoor Trust in respect of a planning application for the redevelopment of redundant farm buildings at Hill Farm (Planning Application No. P04/W0538). The project brief was set by Paul Smith, County Archaeological Officer for Oxfordshire County Council and OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2005).

1.1 Site location

Hill Farm lies at the south-west end of the village of Little Wittenham on a minor road that connects Long Wittenham via Little Wittenham with Brightwell. The area of the farm buildings and proposed car park is irregular in shape and occupies an area of *c* 7500 m² (centred NGR SU 56300 92600).

1.2 Geology and topography

The site sits on Upper Greensand, and lies at the west end of a plateau of high ground below the Glauconitic Marl and Lower Chalk outcrops of Round Hill and Castle Hill. From Hill Farm the ground drops to the north-west onto the Gault Clay some 350 m distant, beyond which are the flat gravel terraces of the Thames. To the south and east the land drops more gradually, and the Greensand continues for nearly 1 km.

1.3 Summary of archaeological and historical background

The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI (OA 2005) and is reproduced below.

Hill Farm lies in an area of known archaeological potential. Some 500 m to the east Castle Hill is an Iron Age hillfort designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Oxfordshire SAM 208). Iron Age, Roman and Saxon pottery has been recovered from the interior, and burials (both cremations and inhumations) of Roman date from around the defences. Late Bronze Age and early Iron Age pits and drainage gullies were discovered by Rutland when the car park was constructed south of Castle Hill (Hingley 1980). Only 250 m east of the farm excavations carried out in the mid-20th century revealed the remains of a Roman building, an early Iron Age chalk and pebble platform and a Beaker land surface (Rhodes 1948). Cropmarks have been recorded within 100 m of Hill Farm on the south and south west, and both Roman and Saxon finds are recorded in the Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record in the field to the west (OA 2002).

Excavations on the hillfort by Oxford Archaeology in 2003 revealed a late Bronze Age phase on Castle Hill, both early and middle Iron Age pits and prehistoric burials, plus evidence of late Roman and medieval 12th-13th century occupation (OA website 2003; Allen and Lamdin-Whymark 2005). Geophysical survey and limited trenching by Time Team on Round Hill and the fields to the south of this revealed an extensive

late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlement stretching from below the hillfort almost as far west as Hill Farm north of the road (Wessex Archaeology 2004). They also recovered a Roman enclosure surrounding the building found by Rhodes, and revealed further walls and surfaces associated with it.

Map regression has been carried out for the parish of Little Wittenham, and the historic maps show that Hill Farm was not constructed until the later 19th century. Hill Farm is not shown on the 1844 Tithe Apportionment map, but does appear on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1877. Further documentary research on the village of Little Wittenham and Hill Farm is currently in progress. A detailed record of the barns and other buildings at Hill Farm has been carried out by the Oxfordshire Buildings Record.

Fieldwalking carried out in advance of a gas pipeline constructed in the late 1990s south-east of Hill Farm showed a concentration of prehistoric pottery in the eastern part of the field directly below the hillfort, and a shift to more Roman material to the west closer to Hill Farm.

Further fieldwalking carried out in 2002 and 2003 of the remainder of the large field to the east, south and south-west of Hill Farm, and of the field immediately south-west of Hill Farm, has revealed a spread of Roman pottery and building material in this area. The building material shows a concentration close to the farm, and the greatest concentration corresponds to the probable building identified by resistivity survey (Lamdin-Whymark and Allen 2005a). Surface collection immediately south of the farm has revealed a further concentration of Iron Age pottery that corresponds closely to one of the sub-circular enclosures revealed by geophysical survey. Medieval pottery was less common, but even this is concentrated around Hill Farm.

Geophysical survey south of the road around Hill Farm has confirmed the fieldwalking evidence for continuing settlement activity throughout the northern part of the field from the car park up to and around Hill Farm (OA website 2004). This area comprises a fairly level plateau below Round Hill and Castle Hill, before the land drops again to the south. The concentrated pit scatters found north of the road thin out south of the road, but another concentration of pits, interspersed with small circular or polygonal enclosures, runs from south of Hill Farm south-eastwards for *c* 250 m. The enclosures suggest a middle Iron Age date. Excavation of part of one of these enclosures in summer 2004 revealed that the geophysical enclosure ditch was indeed middle Iron Age, but that it overlay early Iron Age enclosures and pits, and was overlain in turn by early Roman ditches.

Cutting across the middle Iron Age settlement are parallel ditches running from the south-west, probably representing a Roman trackway approaching the enclosure excavated by Time Team north of the road. A third parallel ditch north of the trackway probably indicates a second Roman enclosure that extends beneath the south part of Hill Farm. A third rectangular enclosure has been identified within the field south west of Hill Farm, with faint indications of a track running south east from it

down to the main trackway. This may have been another element of the Roman settlement. West of Hill Farm a faint north-south boundary may be attached to this. A limited resistivity survey immediately south and south-east of Hill Farm has revealed a probable building to the south-east within one of the Roman ditched enclosures.

North of the road the Time Team geophysical survey revealed part of the east and north sides of another enclosure. Excavation in summer 2004 showed that this was Roman, earlier than the ridge-and-furrow cultivation running roughly north south in this area. The ridge-and-furrow cultivation was not evident on the 1946 aerial photographs, and shows that there was arable cultivation in the medieval period north of Hill Farm as well as on the south, east and west.

Curving north south and then south east around the west side of Round Hill, and picked up both by the Time Team survey north of Hill Farm and by the more recent geophysical survey east and south-east of Hill Farm, is a very long linear feature, which excavation in summer 2004 demonstrated was Iron Age. Radiocarbon dating has now shown this to be Middle Iron Age (OA 2005b), and it may have represented the boundary to the Iron Age settlement at some stage.

Geophysical survey west of the farm, where the plateau dips away to the west, revealed only one linear boundary and a scatter of possible pits, and this was taken to indicate that the archaeology was dying out at the edge of the plateau just west of Hill Farm. It must however be remembered that small features such as postholes, and indeed graves, are not usually detected through geophysical survey. Saxon activity, which is known from findspots in this field, and which is normally only evident in geophysical plots by pits or sunken-featured buildings, may still be represented by the results.

Cropmarks taken from a helicopter by Time Team during July 2003 show many of the features revealed by geophysical survey south and east of Hill Farm, and also additional details of pits and other small features, revealing that the density of archaeological features is very high indeed.

Evidence from a RAF aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows that the areas on the west, south and east of Hill Farm were covered by ridge-and-furrow during the medieval and early post-medieval periods. Together with the geophysical survey evidence for similar cultivation north of the farm, this makes it almost certain that the area of the later farm was also cultivated in the medieval period. The area south of Round Hill gives the impression of having been one of the major fields of the medieval three-field system for Little Wittenham.

A limited below-ground investigation comprising eleven 1 m square test-pits was carried out to establish the depth of the foundations of the existing buildings and the character and depth of the underlying geology. Oxford Archaeology carried out the work in order to record the stratigraphy and any archaeological deposits within the test-pits. Two of the eleven 1 m square test-pits revealed archaeological features, and

possibly archaeological features were uncovered in two more. Both of the definite features were probably Saxon in date, and were truncated by ploughing, probably the ridge-and-furrow cultivation evident on the 1946 aerial photograph. The investigation was particularly significant in confirming that Saxon archaeology, which was previously only known from findspots west of the farm, continued underneath it.

1.4 Acknowledgements

The archaeological works were commissioned by the Northmoor Trust and were monitored by Paul Smith, Oxfordshire County Archaeologist.

2 ORIGINAL AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- To record the extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of the archaeological remains within the areas of the site affected by the proposed works.

- To assess whether the geophysical survey conducted over the site is an accurate representation of the underlying archaeology, seeking reason for any distortion due to ground conditions and/or survey technique.

- To establish the western extent of the Roman and Iron Age settlements.

- To understand the character of Roman and Iron Age occupation at the western edge of the settlement.

- To signal, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of any significant archaeological find for which the resources allocated under a Watching Brief are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

- To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

The areas investigated are shown in Figures 2 and 3. The areas of the ponds, car parks, new farm access road, Boiler House and new Office building were excavated with a machine using a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision to the construction impact depth or upper surface of the archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first. The exposed archaeological remains were then planned and, following a site meeting with the Oxfordshire County Archaeologist, were then sampled by the required level of hand-excavation and were recorded following the appropriate methodology outlined in the WSI (OA 2005).

The archaeology in the ponds, Visitors Car Park, Boiler House and new Office building (see Figures 5 and 8) was sampled extensively due to the significant depth of impact of the development. The staff car park was excavated to the impact depth of 0.30 m, which revealed the surface of the archaeology over part of the area, but did not impact upon it. Exposed archaeological features were planned, and surface finds collected, but no features were excavated. The new farm access road was not excavated to a depth great enough to expose any archaeological horizons.

The archaeological watching brief observed all trenches and works that may have affected or revealed archaeological deposits. Where encountered, exposed archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:50 and excavated by hand to impact depth, although in very narrow service trenches some of the archaeology was only observed in section.

General methodology
Archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (OAU 1992).

A burial licence (No. A5579) was obtained from the Home Office to remove the human remains encountered.

3 SUMMARY OF EXCAVATION RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The archaeology is described by trench below with chronological summaries at the end of the section. Dating is primarily derived from pottery spot dates although other artefacts have been used where appropriate; stratigraphy has been used where relationships were present.

3.2 Trench descriptions

3.2.1 Visitors car park (Figures 5-7)

The visitors car park is situated to the west of Hill Farm and covers an area of 1845 m², sloping down from east to west. The majority of the area was devoted to pasture, but the north-eastern edge of the area (over penannular gully 174/175) was covered by a concrete track and agricultural buildings. The topsoil (31) and subsoil (32) were removed using a mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision. Close to the farm these layers combined were up to 0.8 m deep, probably the result of artificial levelling up when the farm was built. The overburden shallowed gradually westwards, and was c. 0.4 m deep at the west edge of the area.

Three substantial north east to south west aligned furrows, were also removed by machine. These furrows had significantly truncated shallow archaeological features where they crossed the excavation area. Due to the slope of the ground the impact in the western half of the excavation area was considerably shallower, and much of the archaeology remained masked by the subsoil. A limited area was stripped deeper, revealing early Neolithic pit 135 and a continuation of the Roman ditch observed in the ponds. The archaeology will be summarised below.

Early Neolithic - pit 135

A single feature dating to the Neolithic was identified in the excavations. The feature, a small bowl shaped pit (135), measured 0.70 m in diameter and 0.23 m deep and contained two fills; the pit had been slightly truncated by a plough furrow. The lower fill (179) was a 0.12 m thick deposit of friable, dark greyish brown clay loam with a small number of Greensand fragments and a high proportion of charcoal (*c* 25%). Sixty sherds of Plain Bowl pottery (236 g) and forty flints was spread throughout the fill. No animal bone was recovered, but given the generally poor preservation of the Iron Age bone, this perhaps reflects poor local preservation rather than an original absence. The deposit 179 appears to have entered the pit in a single episode, probably shortly after the pit was cut as no primary silting was noted. The upper fill (134) was a friable, mid grey brown clay silt with a small proportion of charcoal (5%) and occasional burnt stone. The upper deposit contained notably fewer finds than the lower fill, with 21 sherds (69 g) of Plain Bowl and four flints.

The first Iron Age activity - ditch 395 and pits 315 and 349 (Figure 6)
A small number of features stratigraphically predate penannular gullies 174/175 and enclosure 80/ re-cut 100, but in general there appears to have been little early activity in this area. Ditch 395 is earlier than both, indeed the ditch appeared to have been fully silted before the later ditch and gullies were cut; as it terminated beneath them on the south, however, the ditch may have been contemporary with a structure later encircled by gullies 174/175. Ditch 395 curved away to the north west, running beyond the limits of the excavation. The ditch had a U-shaped profile and was 0.80 m wide and *c* 0.50 m deep, shallowing to 0.28 m deep at the terminus. The ditch contained three fills. The lowest fill was a layer of redeposited Greensand natural in a tenacious dark grey brown silty clay matrix *c* 0.10 m thick, thickest on the eastern side of the feature. The secondary deposit was *c* 0.20 m thick and was similar, but contained only 25% redeposited Greensand. The uppermost deposit was a friable, dark brownish grey clay silt with *c* 10% Greensand fragments. The silting is suggestive of the erosion of a bank on the eastern side of the ditch. A pit (498) was cut into the upper fills of the ditch terminus, but the majority of this feature was truncated by penannular gully 175.

Pits 315 and 349 are among the largest examples revealed in the excavations. Pit 315 measured 2.4 m in diameter by 1.4 m deep and was filled with a number of deposits of friable, mid greyish brown to mid brownish grey clay silts with some fragments of Greensand. The majority of the fills were sterile, but a few early/middle Iron Age pottery sherds and fragments of animal bone were recovered. Pit 349 measured 2.10 m in diameter by 0.50 m deep. The pit contained two fills of light brown silty clay with some Greensand fragments; a single sherd of early/middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from the upper fill (351). Both pits were truncated by enclosure ditch 80/100. The truncation of the pits by the enclosure ditch may however not have been coincidental, as the ditch cut through both of these, the largest pits in this area; the surviving depressions of the infilled pits may still have been visible when the enclosure was dug, and may have been used to align the ditch.

Structure 532
Structure 532 consists of two shallow sub-circular penannular gullies (174/175) and a number of postholes within the area defined by the gullies. The outer gully (175) was the more substantial of the two and may have been a drip gully. Gully 175 had a V-shaped profile measuring 0.60 m wide by 0.21 m deep and with an internal diameter of 12 m to 12.60 m. In plan the gully was sub-circular, with several distinct facets in the circuit, perhaps reflecting the form of the structure. The gully has a *c* 4.5 m wide entrance orientated east-south-east. The majority of the interventions contain a single fill characterised as a firm, dark brown silty clay with frequent Greensand fragments. Intervention 143 contained two fills with some primary slumping from the northern edge of the cut. The interventions located at the entrance (336 and 402), also contained two fills. The lower fills were similar to those found around the structure, whilst the secondary fills were friable dark brown sandy silts with some charcoal.

The internal gully 174 broadly mirrored the line of the external gully 175, but was slightly more circular with an internal diameter of 11.5 m. Gully 174 was relatively slight with a U-shaped profile measuring between 0.30 m to 0.60 m wide and 0.10 m to 0.40 m deep. The gully contained a single fill of compact, mid to dark greyish brown silty clay. Longitudinal sections were excavated to facilitate the identification of post-pipes, but none were observed. At the northern terminal gully 174 was cut by a larger gully or ditch 533 that ran eastwards out of the excavation area. This ditch had an uncertain relationship with the outer gully 175, as both were removed by a later grave (see Figure 15, 333).

There are perhaps also slight indications of an earlier penannular gully predating gullies 174/175. To the north of structure 532 a small section of gully (534) is cut by gully 175. Gully 534 is very slight measuring 0.20 m wide by 0.10 m deep and contained a single fill of friable, mid brownish grey clay silt. A second small section of gully (400), was located to the south of the entrance to penannular 174/175 and was cut by gully 174. Gully 400 is 4.60 m long by up to 1.20 m wide and 0.22 m deep and contained a friable, dark greyish brown clay silt with charcoal flecking.

Within the area defined by the gullies numerous postholes were excavated, but it proved difficult to define a clear structure. Two substantial postholes (516 and 528) were orientated towards the gap in the penannular gullies and may have held the entrance posts to a structure. Posthole 516 was 0.80 m in diameter by 0.4 m deep and posthole 528 was 1.10 m in diameter by 0.48 m deep. Both postholes contained three fills of friable, mid grey brown clay silts with varying proportions of Greensand; no traces of the posts themselves were observed. A rough inner circle or oval of postholes can be identified in the interior (398, 411, 382, 380, 378, 368, 444, 434), perhaps indicating that this was an aisled structure, but while many of these postholes were quite substantial (up to 0.70 m wide) they were very shallow, the majority less than 0.2 m deep. It is therefore possible that the plough furrow crossing the centre of the structure may have entirely removed some structural postholes.

Numerous small postholes were present in the south east quadrant of the area defined by gullies 174/175. The majority of these postholes were relatively insubstantial measuring between 0.10 m and 0.20 m wide and deep. It is possible that some of these may be the survivors of an insubstantial outer roundhouse wall (see Figure 5), the remainder of the wall having been ploughed away, but if so, only a small arc of this wall line had survived.

Pit 486 was located towards the centre of the area defined by gullies 174/175. Pit 486 was circular in plan with near vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 1.24 m diameter by 0.5 m deep. The primary fill (485) was a friable, dark greenish grey clay silt, probably deriving from natural silting, which was overlain by a compact, dark grey green silty clay with 40% Greensand lumps, probably representing deliberate backfilling. A bowl shaped pit (484), measuring 1.24 m diameter by 0.39 m deep, was cut into the top of pit 486. Pit 484 contained a single fill of redeposited Greensand lumps (483) from rapid backfilling of the cut.

Enclosure 80/100 (Figure 5)

Enclosure 80/100 was cut from the rear of structure 532 enclosing an annexe some 235 m² in area on the south west. The enclosure ditch had steep sides (*c* 70°) with a concave base, measured *c* 0.7 m to 0.8 m wide and was *c* 0.50 m deep. The terminus to the north east, behind the structure 532, was square, while the terminus at the south west was rounded. The ditch was filled with a series of friable, light to mid greyish brown clay silts with variable proportions of natural Greensand; some of the sections had Greensand inclusions predominantly on the inner side of the enclosure, perhaps indicating primary slumping from an internal bank. The ditch was re-cut on one occasion. The re-cut measured *c* 0.75 m wide by *c* 0.40 m deep, and had a relatively flat base with steep sides in the lower half of the profile, opening to a broad cut at the top, probably the result of weathering of the upper sides of the ditch. The filling of the re-cut again provides some indication of an internal bank and natural silting. The upper deposits in the re-cut, particularly close to south west terminus, were darker and contained a higher proportion of charcoal and cultural material.

The interior of the enclosure was further subdivided by a small gully (90). The gully ran east from enclosure ditch 100 towards ring gullies 174/175, before turning south and terminating adjacent to pit 97 and the terminus of enclosure ditch 100. The gully was *c* 0.30 m wide by 0.12 m deep, and had been truncated in part by a plough furrow. Gully 90 contained a single fill of friable, dark greenish grey, clay silt with some Greensand fragments.

Within, or close to the entrance, of enclosure 100, nine pits and eleven postholes were located. Pits 258 and 94 cut the enclosure ditch and its re-cut, and posthole 67 cuts gully 90. It is, therefore, possible that the pits and postholes have originated from different episodes of activity. The majority of the pits (41, 97, 94, 149, 180, 292 and 318) were of similar diameter (between 1.21 m and 1.64 m) and ranged between 0.22 m and 0.66 m deep; these pits are smaller than pits 315 and 349 cut by enclosure ditch 100.

Pits 97, 180, 292 and 318 had between one and three fills and contained only a few fragments of animal bone and sherds of middle Iron Age pottery. Pit 41 was near flat-based with near-vertical sides, and contained a more complex sequence of seven fills (see Figure 6). The lowest fill (73), a tenacious, dark greyish brown silty clay, represents a period of natural silting. Overlying this deposit was a 0.04 m thick layer of charred material (72) and a 0.04 m thick layer of burnt clay (71), perhaps indicating the burning was *in situ* within the pit. The charred material included cereal grains, chaff and a variety of wild plants, as well as charcoal (see Appendices 3 and 4). Overlying these layers was a tenacious, dark yellowish brown silty clay (69), with charcoal (5%) and numerous fragments of burnt Greensand. A few fragments of animal bone, including a sawn horse bone and sherds of middle Iron Age pottery were recovered along with several fragments of the upper and lower stones of a Lodsworth Greensand rotary quern fractured by fire. This deposit was overlain by a tenacious,

dark brown clay silt with a high proportion of charcoal (10%) and some Greensand (49); this deposit was probably dumped into the pit. The deposit included several cattle bones and a horse pelvis; some of the bones, including the horse bone, were butchered, and a few bones were burnt. This deposit also contained charred plant remains including some cereal grain and chaff (see Appendix 3). Thick deposit of compact, dark grey brown clay silt from slow natural silting (43) overlay deposit 49. The highest fill in the pit was a friable, dark grey brown clay silt with a high proportion of redeposited natural Greensand, probably resulting from deliberate backfilling.

Pit 94 was 1.20 m in diameter and 0.6 m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The pit contained a sequence of five fills. The lowest fill (95) was a compact, dark greenish brown silty clay with a high proportion of Greensand fragments (40%), probably originating from the collapse of the pit's side. This deposit was overlain by a compact, dark yellow brown silty clay (96), with 20% Greensand fragments. The deposit also contained a small number of pottery sherds and pieces of animal bone. Overlying layer 96 was a deposit of tenacious, dark green brown clay silt (75) that probably slowly accumulated from erosion into the pit. This deposit was overlain by two soils of similar character (76 and 77), but including Greensand fragments, charcoal flecking (see Appendix 4) and finds including middle Iron Age pottery, animal bone and a worked bone 'toggle' (context 76).

Pit 149 was located in the centre of enclosure 100. The pit was circular with near vertical sides and a flat base, measured 1.64 m diameter and was 0.54 m deep (see Figure 6). A significant portion of the frontal bone of an adult male (skeleton 319) lay directly on the base of the pit in the centre, and was surrounded and covered by the lowest pit fill, a friable, dark yellowish green clay silt with degraded Greensand fragments that appears to have accumulated through natural silting. The skull appears to have been deliberately placed on the pit floor, and left exposed to be silted over. The primary fill also included a significant deposit of animal bone including horse and a single fish bone, and a few sherds of pottery. This deposit was overlain by a friable, dark yellow brown clay silt (148) containing further pottery and animal bone, which was apparently tipped in from the south western edge. The pit was subsequently partially backfilled with a compact deposit of redeposited Greensand (147). The remaining hollow was partially filled with a friable, dark brown black clay silt with distinct tip lines from its gradual accumulation (145), before a final deposit of friable, dark brownish grey clay silt (144), with a high proportion of charcoal (25%) was deposited. Both fills contained fragments of animal bone and sherds of pottery, and a fragment of an iron knife (SF 62) was recovered from fill 144. The pit was surrounded by three postholes (285, 299 and 301), which may have been associated.

Pits 258 and 295 were smaller than the majority of pits. Pit 258 was oval measuring 0.90 m by 0.70 m by 0.25 m deep. The pit cut through the fill of re-cut of enclosure 100 and was clearly late in the sequence of activity. Pit 258 contained a single fill (259), a friable, dark grey brown silty clay that was exceptionally rich in charcoal. Pit

295 measured 0.70 m diameter and was 0.35 m deep. The pit again contained a single fill (296), a friable, mid grey brown clay silt with occasional Greensand fragments. Pit 94 also cut the re-cut and fills of enclosure 100. Pit 94 measured 1.21 m diameter and was 0.68 m deep. The pit contained five clay silt fills with varying proportions of Greensand. The pit appears to have filled up with a mixture of deposits resulting from slow natural silting and deliberate deposits that included pottery and bone.

Three postholes (63, 58 and 61) form a line spaced at 4 m intervals. Posthole 61 contained fragments of copper edge binding, and similar fragments were recovered from posthole 67, 2 m to the north of posthole 61. As posthole 67 cut gully 90 it is possible that these postholes represents a late division of the area in enclosure 100.

Penannular gully 60 and re-cut 70 (Figure 8)
A second penannular gully was partially revealed to the south of the visitors car park. The ring gully exhibited two distinct phases of construction. The first cut (60) had been largely truncated by the re-cut 70, but measured in excess of 0.65 m wide and 0.20 m deep with an internal diameter in the region of 10.40 m. The cut had a flat base with gently sloping sides and contained a single fill of friable, mid to dark greyish brown clay silts with some Greensand fragments. The gully had an entrance to the east and a small (1 m wide) gap to the north. The re-cut (70) respected the eastern entrance but cut across the northern opening. Re-cut 70 was 'V' profiled, measuring 1.1 m wide by 0.46 m deep; the penannular gully has an internal diameter of 11.1 m. The majority of the excavated sections contained only a single fill of a friable dark grey brown silty clay with a high proportion of Greensand (*c* 25%), however, at the terminus a sequence of three fills was recorded. In the terminus (262 and 50) the gully contained two layers similar to the material in the rest of the ditch, but with a small proportion of charcoal not apparent elsewhere. The highest fill of the gully included a high proportion of Greensand lumps that were probably deliberately dumped in the open gully.

Several features appeared to be associated with the enclosure formed by gullies 60 and 70. Posthole 171 cut the fill of ditch 60, and was outside gully 70. In the area surrounded by ring gullies 60 and 70 three postholes (44, 128 and 234) and a stakehole (47) were recorded, but too little of the interior of the enclosure was excavated to discern a structure. Pit 53 lay adjacent to the eastern terminus of gullies 60 and 70. This pit measured 1.5 m in diameter by 1.3 m deep, and had three fills. The primary fill 54/55 resulted from the natural erosion of sand and silt from the pit's side. The secondary fill (56), a compact yellowish brown clay silt with a high proportion of Greensand, may have resulted from further erosion of the pit's sides or from deliberate backfilling. The uppermost surviving fill (57), a compact, mid grey brown clay silt, contained a few pieces of Greensand and 11 sherds of middle Iron Age pottery; this fill may represent deliberate backfilling of the feature.

Enclosure 610
Enclosure 610 lay to the east of ring gully 60/70 and extends into the area of the boiler house and new office building. This enclosure will be described below in the boiler house and new office building section.

Grave 333 (Figures 5 and 15)
Grave 333 was aligned north-east to south-west and cut through gully 175 (part of roundhouse 532) and gully 533. The grave was sub-rectangular and measured 2.05 m by 0.75 m with vertical sides surviving to a maximum depth of 0.20 m. The skeleton (320) was poorly preserved, but was an adult and probably female (see section 3.5.2 below). The burial lay on the left side with the skull to the north-east, facing south-east. No grave goods were found and no evidence of a coffin was recorded. The backfill of the grave, a compact, dark grey brown clay silt, contained middle Iron Age pottery, although it is likely this is residual deriving from the truncated middle Iron Age archaeology. Stratigraphically the burial post-dates the middle Iron Age gullies surrounding structure 532, but is otherwise undated; the form of the grave and burial rite however suggests a Roman or Saxon date.

Roman ditch 177
On the very west edge of the area part of a ditch running north-north-east was exposed. This was in line with the Roman ditch 16090 found crossing Ponds 1-3, and is probably a continuation of the same (see Figure 3). The ditch was not excavated, but a concentrated group of animal bones was recovered from the surface.

3.2.2 Boiler House and New Office building (Figures 8-10)

The Boiler House and New Office Building are situated to the south of Hill Farm and occupy a sub-rectangular area of 509 m² (Figures 3, 4 and 8). The topsoil (31) and subsoil (32) were removed by machine to reveal archaeological features cutting into the Upper Greensand natural. On the north side of the site previous construction had truncated the archaeological features, and the overburden was 0.65 m deep; on the south side in the garden, the topsoil and subsoil together were 0.5 m deep. The geological surface was cut by a few shallow east-west aligned plough furrows and scars.

The archaeological features in this area overwhelmingly date to the middle Iron Age, comprising several pits, numerous postholes (some of which form four-post structures), a penannular gully with two phases of ditch and an enclosure ditch that extended into the Visitors' car park. A Roman ditch, aligned east-west, was clipped by the southern limit of excavation and may possibly represent a continuation of a ditch observed in the Staff car park and geophysical surveys to the east. Key structures and features are summarised below.

The sequence of development in this are is not entirely clear due to limited stratigraphic relationships, small artefact assemblages and the largely undifferentiated ceramic assemblages of the middle Iron Age. The surviving stratigraphic evidence

demonstrates that pit 742 predates the construction of penannular gullies 690 and 700, but no relationships are available for the other pits. Likewise, four-post structure 546 must predate or postdate gullies 690 and 700, but no relationship is present to confirm the arrangement. Spatially, however, the postholes, four-post structures and the two small clusters of pits to the east and west of four-post structures, could have coexisted prior to the construction of the structure associated with gullies 690 and 700.

Four-post structures 546, 547, 548, 549 and other postholes

Four posthole structures (546-549) were identified in the excavation that may be classified under the broad umbrella of 'four-post structures', although most consist of more than four posts.

Structure 546 measures 2.5 m by 2.5 m and comprises four postholes (695, 697, 795 and 797) with vertical sides and flat bases measuring between 0.20 m to 0.36 m in diameter and 0.11 m to 0.24 m deep. The postholes were all filled with a compact, mid greyish brown silty clay; no post-packing material or post-pipes were identified.

Structure 547 consists of four substantial post-pits (644, 646, 701 and 737) in a rectangular arrangement measuring 4 m by 3.5 m; a similar sized pit (823) in the centre of this arrangement may also belong to the structure. The postholes are all ovoid in plan, elongated along the east-west orientation; the dimensions of the features range between 0.67 m to 1.2 m long, by 0.5 m to 0.70 m broad and are between 0.22 m to 0.30 m deep. The post-pits all contain a single fill of compact, dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent Greensand inclusions; no post-pipes were observed. It is unclear if postholes 730 and 734, on the eastern side of the structure were related, but these postholes were particularly notable as they had been re-cut on two occasions (726 and 722).

Structure 548 consists of four postholes (599, 657, 660 and 668) arranged in a rectangle measuring 3 m by 2.75 m. Two intercutting postholes (686 and 688) positioned between postholes 657 and 668, on the eastern side, probably also belong to the structure. Postholes 599 and 657 to the south measure 0.56 and 0.58 m diameter by 0.18 m and 0.28 m deep respectively. Both features were filled with a friable, mid greyish brown silty clay. Postholes 660 and 668, to the north, were both larger measuring 0.70 m and 0.68 m diameter by 0.30 m and 0.28 m deep respectively. Postholes 660 and 668 also contained central post-pipes measuring 0.28 and 0.36 m respectively. The post-pipe fills were friable, dark greyish brown silty clays with few inclusions (662 and 670). The surrounding packing material was a tenacious, mid greyish yellow sandy clay with a good proportion of Greensand fragments (661 and 669). The additional postholes to the structure, 686 and 688, were 0.5 m and 0.35 m diameter respectively and 0.08 m and 0.10 m deep. Posthole 686 cut, and therefore replaced the post in Posthole 688. Both postholes were filled with tenacious, mid greyish yellow sandy clay.

Structure 549 consists of four substantial posts (677, 710, 766 and 691) arranged in a rectangle measuring 3 m by 2.5 m. Between the posts on the west, east and northern sides are smaller subsidiary postholes (707, 789 and 771). Postholes 677 and 710 are ovoid, elongated along the east-west axis, measuring *c* 1.20 m by 0.40 m by 0.30 m deep. Postholes 677 and 710 both contained post-pipes towards the western edge of the feature, these measured 0.36 m and 0.31 m diameter respectively. The post-pipes contained a friable dark greenish brown clay silt that was largely free from inclusions (675 and 708). The post-packing material was redeposited Greensand fragments (676 and 709). To the east postholes 691 and 766 are sub-circular. Posthole 691 measures 0.84 m by 0.65 m by 0.25 m deep and contained two fills. To the east of the feature was a 0.44 m diameter post-pipe (693) filled with a friable, dark yellow brown clay silt with a few charcoal flecks and frequent small Greensand fragments. The post-pipe was surrounded by packing material (692), a tenacious, mid yellow brown sandy clay with a good proportion of Greensand fragments. Posthole 766 was very substantial measuring 1.12 m diameter by 0.44 m deep and contained three fills. The three fills were all friable deposits of redeposited Greensand tipping in from the northern edge, probably representing packing for a post. No post-pipe was observed in posthole 766, but it is probably that the section would have missed the location of the post, which is likely to have been to the eastern side of the cut, as in posthole 691.

The three supplementary postholes (707, 771 and 789) are located centrally between the main postholes on the western, northern and eastern sides of the structure. The postholes varied between 0.32 m to 0.52 m diameter and were between 0.18 m and 0.29 m deep. Posthole 707 contained a 0.15 m diameter post-pipe, that was filled with a friable, dark greyish brown clay silt (705) and surrounded by post packing (706) a friable to loose, mid greenish grey deposit of Greensand lumps. Postholes 771 contained a single fill of friable, dark greyish brown clay silt (770); Posthole 789 contained a similar upper fill (788) over a thin primary fill of redeposited Greensand (787).

To the north of structure 549, postholes 713, 716, 783 and 786 possibly belonged to another post structure that continued north of the excavation area. Postholes 716 and 783 are spaced 2.75 m apart, a similar distance to that between the postgs of the other four-post structures on site. Postholes 716 and 783 are both circular and 0.54 m in diameter, but are 0.18 m and 0.26 m deep respectively. Posthole 783 is filled with a friable, dark greyish brown clay silt with Greensand (782) with a thin primary layer of redeposited Greensand (785). Posthole 716 has a single fill of compact redeposited Greensand in a clay silt matrix (715). Postholes 716 and 783 were both partially truncated by postholes 713 and 786 respectively, cut slightly to the south. Posthole 713 is 0.36 m in diameter and 0.16 m deep and contained two fills; a thin primary deposit of Greensand (712) overlain by a friable, dark greyish brown clay silt with few inclusions (711). Posthole 783 was 0.54 m in diameter by 0.26 m deep and was filled with a friable, dark greyish brown clay silt (782).

A number of isolated postholes are also present in this area, most of which lay close to the edge of the excavation area and may therefore have belonged to structures

beyond the limits of the excavation. Seven postholes within ring gullies 690/700 (719, 819, 791, 793, 813 815 and 817) may have been part of a structure within this area, but did not form an obvious shape, and they may equally have been unrelated. Postholes 791, 815 and 817, for instance, may have formed part of a four-post structure, with the fourth posthole truncated by pit 759.

Pits

A total of nine pits were revealed in the excavation area. These can be divided into two groups on either side of the area of postholes. Pits 575, 596, 605, 621, 625 are located on the west. Pit 596 sits close to, but not cutting ditch 620, perhaps indicating the features are broadly contemporary. Moreover, pits 596, 575, 621 and 625 form a broadly linear alignment following the alignment of ditch 620. The pits were all of broadly the same character. The pits were all circular, bar 621 which was slightly oval, with vertical sides and a flat bases. Pit 596 was 1.45 m diameter by 0.45 m deep and contained three deposits probably resulting from intentional backfilling. The lowest deposit, 595 was a friable dark greyish brown clay silt with numerous (*c* 20%) Greensand lumps. The secondary fill (594) was a friable, dark greyish brown clay silt with Greensand lumps (*c* 10%). The tertiary fill (593) was similar to the secondary fill, but contained few fragments of Greensand. Pit 575 was *c* 1.40 m diameter, but only 0.22 m deep and contained two fills of a similar character. The fills (576 and 577) were both moderately compact, dark grey silty clays with a proportion of charcoal; the upper fill (577) also contained a some small fragments of Greensand.

Pit 621 was oval in plan measuring 1.3 m by 1 m and was 0.48 m deep (see Figure 9). Pit 621 contained three fills, the lowest fill (622), a moderately compact, dark grey clay silt with frequent charcoal and some Greensand, contained animal bone and middle Iron Age pottery sherds. The secondary fill (623), a compact mid grey clay silt, with occasional charcoal flecking and some Greensand, was deposited in the pit from the south-west. The upper tertiary deposit (624) was similar to the secondary fill, but slightly darker with a higher proportion of Greensand. Pit 625 was adjacent to pit 621. The pit measured 0.68 m diameter by 0.64 m deep and contained three fills (Figure 9). The primary fill (626) was thin layer of friable, dark blackish grey silt rich in charcoal and small fragments of burnt bone (626). This layer was overlain by a moderately compact mid brown silty clay with frequent Greensand and occasional charcoal flecks (627), that was most probably deliberately backfilled into the feature. This layer was overlain by a 0.40 m thick deposit of compact, dark greyish brown silty clay with some charcoal and Greensand (628). At the base of layer 628 was a deposit of pottery sherds from a single middle Iron Age jar; approximately half the vessel is represented.

Pit 605 was *c* 1.60 m diameter by 0.78 m deep. The pit was filled by two deposits. The lower fill was a deposit of redeposited natural limestone (606) which was overlain by a compact, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional Greensand fragments and charcoal flecks; some middle Iron Age pottery sherds and animal bone was also recovered.

The remaining four pits (698, 742, 803 and 808) are located in the east of the excavation area and east of the postholes. Pit 742 was truncated by gullies 690 and 700, and therefore predates them (Figure 9). It was a circular, vertical sided and flat based pit measuring 2.4 m diameter, by 0.70 m deep. The pit contained a complex series of seven fills, the lower deposits appear to result from natural silting (757, 762, 756, and 755) followed by deliberate backfilling with friable, mid greyish brown clay silts containing varying proportions of Greensand fragments (752, 753 and 754). Pits 698, 803 and 808 were all oval in plan with vertical sides and flat base. The largest of these (808) measured 2.4 m by 1.16 m by 0.26 m deep. The pit was filled with a series of dumps of friable redeposited Greensand and clay silt entering from the north-west side of the pit (807, 806 and 805). A thin layer of charcoal (809) overlay deposit 805. The upper fill 804 again represented deliberate backfilling, but with a friable, dark greyish brown clay silt with only occasional Greensand fragments. Pit 698 measured 1.18 m by 0.90 m by 0.28 m deep and contained a single friable, dark brown sandy silt fill. Pit 803 was in excess of 1.2 m long and was 1 m wide by 0.12 m deep. The pit contained a single fill of friable, dark greyish brown clay silt with occasional Greensand.

Penannular gully 690/700

The earlier gully 690, describing a circle *c* 13 m in diameter, was *c* 0.40 m wide by *c* 0.35 m deep with steep sides and a profile varying from 'U' to 'V' shaped. The gully contained a friable to compact, mid greyish brown, clay silt with occasional limestone fragments and charcoal flecks. The fill most probably derives from natural silting. Gully 690 cut, and therefore post-dates, pit 742. No gap in this gully was found within the excavation. The gully was re-cut by gully 700, of slightly smaller diameter *(c* 12.1 m), with a gap 2.5 m wide, presumably an entrance, on the north-west side. Gully 700 has a broad open 'U' shaped profile and is more substantial than the original gully, measuring 0.75 m to 1 m wide, by 0.30 m to 0.60 m deep. The fills in gully 700 are quite irregular and the total number of fills per intervention varies between two and six. The fills of gully 700 may however be broadly characterised as friable, mid brownish grey clay silts with varying proportions of fine Greensand and occasional charcoal flecking, that have probably gradually accumulated through natural erosion and silting.

Penannular gullies 690 and 70 presumably enclosed a circular structure of some form, but little trace of a structure, or of internal activities, was identified in the excavation. Nine postholes and two pits are encircled by the penannular gullies, but it is unclear how many are contemporary with the gullies. Postholes 795 and 797 form part of four-post structure 546, which given its location across the gullies cannot be contemporary. Similarly it has been argued the postholes 791, 815 and 817 may represent part of another four-post structure; the fourth post possibly having been truncated by pit 759. Postholes 799 and 819 may also form one side of a four-post structure, with the other two posts located outside the excavation to the south.

Pit 759 is circular with vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 0.9 m in diameter, by 0.15 m deep. The pit contained a single fill (758), a friable, mid greyish brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small Greensand fragments; a single piece of animal bone was recovered from the fill. Pit 769 is of the same form and a similar size, measuring 1 m diameter, by 0.4 m deep. Pit 769 contained two fills; the primary fill was a friable, dark brownish black clay silt with charcoal flecking (761). The fill contained numerous middle Iron Age pottery sherds, animal bones, a few pieces of slag and fragments of a Culham Greensand quern. The upper fill (760) was a compact, mid brownish grey clay silt with occasional charcoal flecking. The fill contained pottery, animal bone and a complete saddle quern rubber of Culham Greensand.

Enclosure 610 (Figure 9)

The form of enclosure 610 is slightly unclear as only small elements of the enclosure were excavated either in the visitors' car park or the new office building area. Enclosure 610 appears to be of sub-rectangular form, measuring *c* 14 m west-east; the north-south dimension is uncertain, but is in excess of 12 m, and there was a gap in the enclosure ditch on the north-west side. The enclosure ditch is between 1.7 m and 2 m wide and 1 m deep (see Figure 9). The ditch is filled by a series of friable, mid brown to mid greyish brown clay silts with varying proportions of gravel that result from natural silting. A small assemblage of early or middle Iron Age pottery (42 sherds, 281 g) was recovered from the ditch fills along with seven sherds (21 g) of early Iron Age pottery. The presence of a small number of distinctively early Iron Age sherds that are comparatively scarce in this excavation area and absence of diagnostic middle Iron Age sherds may be taken to suggest that enclosure 610 predates the other activity in this area.

In the visitors car park, enclosure 610 cuts pits 882 and 899. Pit 882 has vertical sides and a flat base and measures 3 m diameter by 1.3 m deep. The pit is filled with a sequence of natural silts interspersed with episodes of backfilling which produced 25 sherds (96g) of early or middle Iron Age pottery and a single middle Bronze Age sherd. Pit 899 had a flat base and steep sides, measuring 0.60 m diameter by 0.30 m deep. The fills of pit 899 were relatively sterile silts; no pottery or other dating evidence was recovered.

In the office and boiler house excavations, the upper fill of enclosure 610 was cut by two postholes (584 and 602) that appear to follow the alignment of the ditch. Postholes 584 and 602 measure 0.74 m diameter by 0.24 m deep and 0.50 m diameter by 0.20 m deep respectively; both postholes were filled with sterile, friable dark grey brown clay silts.

Penannular gully 12066

The terminus of penannular gully 12066 (cut 617) lay in the north-west corner of the new office excavation area; a further portion of this gully was located in drainage works to the north of the office area. The gully measures *c* 8 m in diameter, the terminus (617) indicates a south-eastern entrance. The gully survives *c* 0.6 m wide

by *c* 0.30 m deep and contains two fills. The primary fill is a tenacious mid greyish yellow sandy clay, that appears to have eroded in from the southern edge. The upper fill is a friable, dark brown silty clay with occasion limestone and charcoal inclusions. The upper fill in the terminus 617 (619) contained several large refitting sherds representing half of a middle Iron Age jar; a few early-middle Iron Age sherds were also found. In the drainage works gully 12066 was cut by a small shallow north-south orientated gully (12064) and a small, undated, 0.5 m diameter pit 12055.

Ditch 620
Ditch 620 entered the excavation area on the south-west, and ran for 3.25 m on an east-north-east alignment before terminating. No continuation was observed in the service trench dug some 4 m to the west. The gully had an open 'U' shaped profile, measuring 1.18 m wide, by 0.42 m deep, and had three fills. In the terminus a thin 0.14 m this layer of compact Greensand lumps in a light greyish green, clay silt can be interpreted as primary silting (581). Overlying this fill was a compact mottled mid green to yellowish red dump of burnt daub and stone; it is perhaps surprising given the presence of burnt materials that charcoal was absent. The daub derives from the interior of a curved structure.

Roman Ditch 800
Ditch 800 runs on an east-west alignment along the southern edge of the excavation area, cutting middle Iron Age ring gully 700. Ditch 800 is 'V' -profiled, measured 1.2 m wide by 0.40 m deep and contained a compact mid to dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional Greensand fragments and charcoal flecking (801). The fill contained a small quantities of pottery and bone including a first or second century AD sherd. Some 5 m west of the excavation area a broad ditch was found crossing a pipe-trench in line with ditch 800, and may have been a continuation. Ditch 800 is also broadly aligned with Ditch 20 in the staff car park (see Figure 13), which contained pottery of a similar date. These ditches may form part of an enclosure visible on the geophysical plot, adjacent to the trackway and enclosing an area within which Roman building materials have been recovered and a resistivity survey indicates possible walls.

3.2.3 Ponds

Three irregular shaped ponds were excavated to the west of Hill Farm (Figures 2 and 3). The ponds are orientated along a north south axis, with Pond 1 at the southern end of the site, Pond 2 at the centre, and Pond 3 to the north (Figures 11 and 12). Each pond is individual in shape, and varies in size from approximately 100 m² to 170 m² (total area 392 m²). Stripping of the topsoil was continually monitored to the level of the archaeology.

The topsoil (16000) was a friable mid greyish brown silty clay that had been subject to ploughing until recent times. The topsoil contained a single abraded fragment of

Roman tegula. In places the topsoil was underlain by a subsoil (16001). The archaeology lay directly beneath the subsoil.

The archaeological features exposed by the excavations date to the pre-Roman, Roman and Medieval periods, with two possible modern features (Fig.2). A single curved gully [16083] was undated, but was cut across by a Roman ditch. A pit [16066] and two possible ditches [16054, 16057] were exposed in Pond 2. A substantial boundary ditch [group 16090] dating to the Roman period was exposed in all three ponds. Additional undated features, possibly associated with the Roman archaeology include five pits/postholes [16060, 16063, 16004, 16005, 16087], and ditch [16078]. Medieval or later furrows orientated south-west to north-east were observed in each of the three ponds, and those in Pond 3 were also traced across the Visitors' Car Park.

In the south of the area exposed by Pond 1, a shallow gully [16003] was partially uncovered. The feature is curved in plan and possibly represents the edge of a circular gully (Fig.2). The gully was filled with a friable dark grey sandy clay (16082) containing a high proportion of chalk inclusions (25%). The shallow ditch is cut by a large, flat bottomed, V shaped ditch [16090] running north-south. No dating evidence was found in gully 16003, but two early/middle Iron Age pottery fragments recovered in the Roman boundary ditch at the intersection with 16003 may derive from this gully.

The flat-bottomed, V-profiled boundary ditch [16090] runs broadly in a north south direction across all three ponds (Fig. 11). The ditch varies from 2.30 m to 1.35 m in width, and 0.74 m to 0.5 m in depth. A total of four sections were excavated across the ditch. Two trenches in Pond 1 investigated points of intersection with an earlier gully [16003] and a ditch running perpendicular [16002]. The ditch [16090] had a flat base, with sides rising at approximately 45°. In a section in Pond 2, a slight step in the side of the ditch was exposed, possibly as a result of recutting. The ditch contained three friable grey/brown silty clay fills. The upper fill (16053 and 16084) was distinguished by flecks of charcoal and a low amount of Greensand. The middle fill (16071 and 16052) was a darker brown with a 10% Greensand inclusion, and the primary fill (16051 & 16070) had a high proportion of Greensand (30%). Roman building materials, including fragments of tegulae and an imbrex, were recovered from all three fills. Two fragments of Roman pottery were recovered from the primary fill (16051) of the ditch in the south of Pond 2, and two fragments of early to middle Iron Age pottery were found in the top fill (16075) where the ditch intersects with gully 16003 in the south of Pond 1.

One side of a ditch (177) running north-north-east in line with 16090 was found at the west edge of the excavation for the Visitors car park, and probably represents a continuation of this boundary. The area was not stripped to a sufficient depth to confirm whether the ditch continued further north.

A second linear ditch [16078], running eastwards perpendicular to the boundary ditch [16090], was observed in Pond 1 (Fig. 11). This ditch was 0.1m deep and 0.7m wide towards the east edge of Pond 1, but deepened as it approached the intersection, and curved to the south at the intersection, joining at an oblique angle. The ditch was 0.7 m wide and 0.7 m deep at the point of intersection. The upper fill of the ditch contained a friable dark grey sandy clay, overlying a lighter primary fill of similar composition, discernible by an increased proportion of chalk inclusions (35%). At the intersection the fills of both ditches were continuous, indicating they were contemporary.

In the centre of Pond 3, a circular pit [16087], 1.2 m in diameter, cut the Roman boundary ditch (Fig.2). Half of the pit was excavated, but no dateable finds were recovered. The ditch was filled (16088) by a dark grey sandy clay, similar in composition to the upper fill of the Roman boundary ditch.

Two small pits or postholes, [16004 and 16005], were exposed north of ditch 16078 in Pond 1 (Fig. 11). Their surface fills (16010 and 16011) were comparable to that of the upper fill of the Roman boundary ditch 16090, but these features were not excavated and no dating evidence was recovered.

The western edge of the Roman boundary ditch in Pond 2 was difficult to define, the fill appearing to extend several metres further west even when the furrows that crossed in this area had been removed by machine and lowered by several machine-excavated spits. A hand-dug trench across the Roman boundary ditch and into this soilmark revealed a number of possible features in section, comprising two postholes/pits, a pit, and two possible ditches.

Posthole/pit [16063] appears to be a re-cut of an earlier posthole/pit [16060]. The features appeared to post-date the Roman boundary ditch, as the earliest posthole truncated the western edge of the ditch in section, and the later re-cut appeared to extend into the upper fill of the ditch. The original posthole was 0.4 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep, the re-cut 0.5 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep. Each feature was filled by a friable sandy clay with a small proportion of chalk inclusions. The upper (16061, 16064) and lower fills (16061, 16065) were distinguished by an increase in chalk inclusions and a darkening of the soil in the lower fills.

Pit [16066] was 1.1 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep, and truncated the re-cut posthole [16063]. The only datable finds came from the lower fill (16068) of the pit, comprising three fragments of Roman tegulae. The upper and lower pit fills were akin to those in the adjacent postholes [16060 and 16063].

Two possible ditches, were excavated to the west of the pits/postholes in Pond 2. The first of these [16054] was aligned parallel to the Roman boundary ditch, and was partially cut by the posthole [16060]. The feature was bowl-shaped in profile, with a diameter of 1.2 m and a depth of 0.44 m. The second linear feature [16057] was also bowl-profiled, and was 1.4 m wide and 0.44 m deep. The feature cuts the western

edge of ditch [16054]. The upper fills (16056 and 16059) of both were composed of a mid-grey sandy clay with a small proportion of chalk inclusions. The lower fills (16055 and 16058) of each feature were similar but contained a higher proportion of chalk. Roman building materials, including flanged tegula, an imbrex and a possible box flue tile were recovered from upper and lower fills of both features.

Medieval furrows were exposed in all three Ponds. The furrows were aligned in an north-east to south-west direction, and appear to be grouped into pairs. A pair of furrows was exposed in each pond, and a further single furrow was uncovered in the south of Pond 1. The width of the furrows range from 1.5 m to 2.8 m, with a 1-2 m space between each furrow, and an 8 m spacing between each furrow pair.

3.2.4 Staff car park

The staff car park to the east of Hill Farm covers a rectangular area of 480 m². The impact depth of the car park was 0.30 m. The topsoil strip was continuously monitored to the impact level, which coincided with the depth of the topsoil. The exposed surface was cleaned and all features planned; due to the impact depth archaeological features were not excavated, but where possible finds were recovered from the surface of exposed features.

The topsoil (1) was a slightly tenacious mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional bunter pebbles. The soil had been ploughed until recent years. The topsoil contained a number of fragments of Roman ceramic building materials including tegulae, imbrices, and the occasional cube of tile tessera. Early and late Roman pottery sherds were also recovered. These finds were particularly concentrated to the southern side of the trench. Fieldwalking in the fields to the south of Hill Farm identified a concentration of Roman building materials.

A friable mid yellowish brown clay silt subsoil (2) was present over the southern 17 m of the trench. A 1.2 m by 2 m trial excavation in the south west corner of the impact area indicated the subsoil was 0.2 m deep. Beneath the subsoil in this small trench, two archaeological features were observed. The features appeared to be substantial intercutting pits, although it was not possible to determine their relationship in plan. Both features were filled with a dark blackish brown clay silt with frequent charcoal flecking. The southern feature (29) produced a sherds of early or middle Iron Age pottery.

To the north of the trench the subsoil thinned and over approximately half the trench the topsoil directly overlay the natural Greensand (30) and archaeological features. The archaeological features in this area date to the Iron Age and Roman periods, with two possibly modern features. The Iron Age features comprise; a circular gully (6), two ditches possibly forming part of an enclosure (18 and 12), a gully (16) and five pits (10, 22, 24, 26 and 29). A single Roman ditch (20) was found to the north of the area. Two parallel gullies, 8.5 m apart, are probably part of a modern field drainage system. In addition two undated postholes and two irregular features were recorded.

The circular gully (6) was 0.6 m wide and had an internal area of 8.6 m diameter. Approximately a quarter of the circuit was revealed; to the south the gully was overlain by subsoil (2). The gully was filled with a friable dark blackish brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks. In places two fills were visible in plan, the upper fill containing a higher proportion of Greensand pebbles. Seven sherds (57 g) of early or middle Iron Age pottery and a single early Iron Age sherd (3 g) was recovered from the surface of the feature; this gully is probably of early Iron Age date. Within the area of the gully (6) was the outline of a substantial 1.7 m diameter circular pit (29). The upper fill of the pit (4) was a tenacious dark blackish brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecking.

A further four pits were recorded in the watching brief. Pit 10 measuring 0.9 m by 0.75 m and was oval, containing a friable mid greyish brown clay silt with large Greensand inclusions (11); a sherd of early or middle Iron Age pottery was recovered. Pit 22 was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.75 m, and was filled with a friable mid greyish brown clay silt with inclusions of Greensand (23); a sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the surface of the feature, but this find may be intrusive. Pit 22 was cut by ditch 12. Pits 24 and 26 inter-cut, but it was not possible to determine their relationship in plan; pit 26 was also cut by ditch 20. Pits 24 and 26 were roughly circular in plan, with diameters of 1.5 m and 1.15 m respectively. Pit 24 was filled with a friable mid blackish brown clay silt containing animal bone and eight sherds of pottery including one middle Iron Age sherd (24), while pit 26 was filled with a tenacious mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and three sherds of early or middle Iron Age pottery (27).

Gully 16 was 0.36 m wide and 4.7 m long, truncated to the west by ditch 18 and to the east by gully 14. The gully was filled by a slightly tenacious dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional Greensand fragments and one sherd of middle Iron Age pottery (17). Ditches 12 and 18 may represent the corner of an enclosure ditch. Ditch 12 was 2.8 m wide and filled with a relatively sterile friable mid brown silty clay with very occasional Greensand fragments. Sherds of early Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill of ditch 12 (13) and six middle Iron Age sherds (85 g) were recovered from ditch 18 (fill 19). Ditch 18 was cut by ditch 20, a slightly curving 1.8 m wide ditch filled with a tenacious dark brown clay silt with inclusions of charcoal and Greensand (21); The fours sherds of pottery provide a *terminus post quem* of the early to mid second century for the filling of the ditch.

Gullies 7 and 14 are parallel features 8.5 m apart running east to west. The gullies cut ditches 12/18 and gullies 16 and 6. Gullies 7 and 14 measured 0.8 m and 0.7 m wide respectively and gully 7 was less that 0.10 m deep. Both gullies contained fragments of Greensand and mortar, in particular fill 9, in gully 7. The Greensand in the features sat at a higher level than the archaeological surface, mainly within the base of the topsoil; these features are therefore considered to be modern, probably forming part of a field drainage system.

An extension of the car park to the east revealed a sinuous, broadly north to south aligned gully (535), which was filled with a friable, dark greyish brown, silty clay (536). A fragment of a saddle quern rubber of Culham Greensand and three sherds (19 g) of early-middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from this fill. Gully 535, cut curvilinear gully 6. Gully 535 also cut two small circular pits (537 and 539). Pit (537), filled with a tenacious, light greyish brown silty clay (538), a single sherd of early or middle Iron Age pottery was recovered. Pit 539 was filled with a tenacious mid greyish brown silty clay (540), no finds were recovered.

3.2.5 Watching Brief areas (Figure 14)

In addition to the main works, the watching brief monitored various areas of ground disturbance in and around Hill Farm. The work is described by area, below.

Drainage works and foundation trenches within Hill Farm existing buildings
Several trenches and areas were stripped or trenched for foundations, cables or drainage; the areas monitored are shown on Figure 14. The groundworks revealed a single pit located beneath the foundation of barn to the north west of the courtyard. Pit (599) was circular in plan with a bell shaped profile, measuring *c* 1.6 m in diameter by 1.1 m deep (1.40 m from current ground surface); approximately a quarter of this feature lay within the trench. The pit contained a complex series of deposits representing initial deliberate backfilling (560, 561) follow by slower accumulation through natural silting with some deliberate dumps of charcoal (562-568). The pit contained sherds of early or middle Iron Age pottery and two diagnostic middle Iron Age sherds.

Drainage and pipe trenches to the west of Hill Farm
To the west of Hill Farm drainage work revealed two pits and three ditches/gullies. Pit 555, only observed in section, had a profile with vertical sides and a flat base measuring 0.70 m diameter by 0.40 m deep. The pit contained two fills (556 and 557) both mid greyish brown silt with occasional Greensand fragments; the upper fill 557 had a high proportion of charcoal. To the south a shallow gully (570) (0.60 m wide by 0.10 m deep) aligned WNW-ESE was recorded. This gully did not extend into the excavations in the Visitors car park to the west.

In a drainage trench to the south of the Visitors car park a substantial NNW-SSE ditch (12000) was recorded. The ditch had a 'V' shaped profile measuring 1.30 m wide by 0.56 m deep. The ditch contained a silt clay primary fill with a high proportion of Greensand fragments (12001) tipping from the NE, perhaps indicating the location of the bank. A homogeneous mid brown silt clay with Greensand fragments (12002) filled the remainder of the ditch. Further to the south again a small vertical-sided pit (12003) was cut by a broad 'U' profiled ditch on a north-west to south-east alignment. The pit 12003 measured 0.80 m+ diameter, by 0.52 m deep and was filled with three deposits (12004, 12005 and 12006). The primary and upper deposits were mid brown clay silts; the middle layer (12005) was a thin layer of charcoal. Two sherds of early Iron Age pottery (91 g) were recovered from the upper fill (12006). The ditch 12007

was 2.14 m wide, by 0.52 m deep, the ditch contained three deposits of mid brown silty clay, with varying proportions of Greensand, resulting from the natural silting of the ditch.

A trench for a water pipe was also cut from Hill Farm to the Lambing Shed to the south west. The trench measured 0.30 m wide by 0.90 m to 1.00 m deep. The trench cut a section through the ditch (12101) of enclosure 610 between the Visitors Car Park and Offices excavation. The trench shallowed 4 m north of ditch 12101, and so did not reach the natural greensand into which archaeological features were cut. No northern return for this enclosure was therefore observed. To the south of ditch 12101 a pit (12099) was located. Further south again, a west to east aligned ditch (12097) was cut; this ditch may represent a continuation of Ditch 800 in the Offices area. A north west to south east aligned ditch (12095) crossing the trench to the south of Hill Farm probably represents a continuation of ditch 12007.

The trench ran south-west across the field south-west of Hill Farm, and here it was crossed by three ditches aligned north to south (12077, 12085 and 12091), a gully aligned north to south (12083), a gully aligned north west to south east (12089) and four pits (12079, 12081, 12085, 12087). Only the tops of most of these features were exposed by the trench, and few finds were recovered. Ditch 12077 may represent a continuation of ditch 12000 some 30 m to the north. Ditch 12085 is in line with the Roman ditch 16090 crossing the ponds, and the geophysical survey shows that this ditch continued south across this field. Ditch 12091 is part of a substantial boundary ditch (also visible on the geophysical survey) running parallel to ditch 16090, and a sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the top fill of this ditch (12092), supporting the interpretation of these ditches as a Roman field system. The four pits are all located in the eastern half of the field, where the geophysical survey indicated a continuation of the Iron Age storage pits seen further north and east. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from pit 12081; otherwise these pits are undated.

Cable trench to the east of Hill Farm

A narrow cable trench running from the south of Hill Farm to the new garages east of the Hill Farm Cottages revealed four pits, two ditches and a wall. Pit 12016 was circular in plan with a bowl shaped profile, measuring 0.66 m diameter by 0.24 m deep. Pit 12016 was filled with a dark grey clay silt (12015). Further to the east a north to south aligned ditch (12020), probably of post medieval date due to the recovered of bricks from its fills (12018 and12019), cut a circular bowl-shaped pit (12022) 0.60 m in diameter by 0.25 m deep. Pit 12022 was filled with a light grey silty clay; no finds were recovered. Further to the east two more pits (12027 and 12030) were located. The pits were of similar bowl-shaped profile and dimensions (1.2 m diameter by 0.45 m deep) and possibly represent a contemporary pair. Each pit contained two fills of friable, mid grey silty clay with varying proportions of Greensand. As the cable trench crossed the boundary into the gardens of the Hill Farm Cottage a wall (12034) was located. The wall was abutted by deposits containing post-medieval pottery and appears to represent a recent property boundary. To the west of this a north-south 'V' profiled ditch (12037) was partly sectioned by

the trench. The ditch measured 1.12 m wide and was in excess of 0.52 m deep. The ditch contained two fills of mid to dark grey brown clay silts (12035 and 12036); no finds were recovered.

New garages at Hill Farm cottages
A fragment of adult human skull was recovered beside the footings for the new garages to the west of the cottages at Hill Farm (Figure 14, Sf 1). The skull appeared to have been disturbed during the excavation of the foundation trenches, but unfortunately it was not possible to verify the context of the skull as the concrete footing had already been laid.

3.3 Archaeological summary

3.3.1 Early Neolithic to late Bronze Age

The earliest archaeology identified at Hill Farm was a small early Neolithic pit (135) located in the visitors car park. A light scatter of Neolithic flintwork was also present as a residual element in later features.

In addition to the Neolithic activity, a small assemblage of middle and later Bronze Age pottery was recovered as a residual component in early and middle Iron Age feature. This pottery suggests that some middle and late Bronze Age activity was present on or close to Hill Farm, although no features were identified within the excavation area.

3.3.2 Iron Age activity

The Iron Age archaeology appears primarily to date from the middle Iron Age, but a few elements indicate some early Iron Age activity in and around Hill Farm, although the activity is clearly less intense than in Trench 15 to the south. The sub-rectangular enclosure 610 is tentatively dated to the early Iron Age on the basis of a small pottery assemblage. In addition, it is possible that the roundhouse gully 6 in the staff car park and pit 12003 located in the drainage works to the west of Hill Farm, date from the earlier Iron Age, but both features are again dated on the basis of limited pottery assemblages.

The main developments on the site occur in the middle Iron Age with the construction of four structures surrounded by penannular gullies; one associated with a adjacent enclosure. The penannular gullies that surrounded the roundhouse were all re-cut on at least one occasion; the gully surrounding roundhouse 532 had three phases. These developments indicate that the structures were constructed and used over an extended period. This assertion is further demonstrated by enclosure 100, which appears to intentionally cut two pits, was re-cut itself on one occasion, and is later cut by other pits, all (given the clustering of the archaeology) appear to relate to the use of the roundhouse, and as far as the pottery demonstrates, date to the middle Iron Age.

The structures at Hill Farm display some degree of order in their positioning, but do not necessarily represent a single phase of development. For example, in the New Office building excavation the penannular gully 690/700 was situated close to a series of four-post structures, but one of the structures is located across the ditch and clearly either predates or post-dates the roundhouse. The cluster of four-post structures is also of interest as it indicates a degree of central settlement organisation and perhaps communal use of the structures.

3.3.3 Roman and post-Roman activity

The Roman and post-Roman activity is relatively sparse and forms a relatively incomplete picture. Within the excavations sections of an east-west ditch containing 1st or 2nd century pottery was located in the Staff Car Park and Offices area. This ditch was perhaps also located in the watching brief to the west of Hill Farm (ditch 12007), but this ditch was not independently dated. Grave 333 (Figure 15) cuts the penannular gullies 179/180, providing a *terminus post quem* for the burial, but no independent artefactual dating evidence was available. The extended position of the skeleton in a rectangular grave suggests a Roman or Saxon date, but a later or slightly earlier date cannot be entirely ruled out.

Furrows from ridge and furrow agriculture were recorded in the Visitors Car Park, the Ponds and the New Office excavations. The alignment of the furrows concurs with the evidence from aerial photographs.

3.4 Artefactual

Assessments of the finds and environmental remains are presented in the main body of this report, but detailed tables and catalogues can be found in the Appendices 1-5.

3.4.1 ***Early Prehistoric to middle Iron Age pottery*** **(see also Appendix 1)**

by Emily Edwards

Introduction

A total of 1712 sherds (13,390 g) of pottery were recovered from 197 contexts (132 features) at Hill Farm. These were recovered from four different areas of investigation: the Staff and the Visitors car parks, the new Office and Boiler House excavations and from drainage trenches. The great majority of the pottery was recovered from the Visitors car park and Table 3.1 below gives a breakdown of quantification by area and period.

Small amounts of early Neolithic Plain Bowl, middle Bronze Age Bucket Urn, late Bronze Age Plain Ware and early Iron Age pottery were recovered. A significant quantity of the pottery could only be dated as early or middle Iron Age, due to the lack of diagnostic forms or fabrics, but the most significant dateable element of the assemblage comprised middle Iron Age jars and bowls. A number of highly decorated bowls were found that will add significantly to the corpus of decorated material of the middle Iron Age in the area. The importance of the smaller quantities from other periods is also to be emphasised, as together with the previous finds from around Hill Farm (Beaker pottery from Rhodes' 1947 excavation; Early Bronze Age sherds from Castle Hill and Middle Neolithic pottery from the 2004 excavations), it can now be suggested that there was activity on this site throughout virtually the whole of the prehistoric period. A breakdown of the assemblage by site and period is presented in Table 3.1 and a breakdown by context is presented in Appendix 1. It appears to be the case that all fabrics noted within this assemblage could be local.

Table 3.1: Breakdown of the total assemblage by period, quantification by sherd count and weight (g) respectively. Codes: EN; early Neolithic; MN; middle Neolithic, BA' Bronze Age, MBA; middle Bronze Age; LBA; late Bronze Age; EIA; early Iron Age, MIA; middle Iron Age; LPREH; late prehistoric, IND; Indeterminate.

	EN	EN OR MN	BA	MBA	LBA	LBA OR EIA	EIA	EIA OR MIA	MIA	LPREH	IND	TOTAL
Drainage				1, 5			2, 91	46, 205	42, 361	3, 7	12, 5	106, 674
Offices		1, 3					13, 66	287, 2213	50, 1859		20, 14	371, 4155
Staff car park					2, 13		3, 10	25, 222	10, 120		2, 2	42, 367
Visitors car park	78, 293		4, 44	19, 242	8, 41	7, 57	3, 9	700, 4016	314, 3433		60, 59	1193, 8194
Totals	78, 293	1, 3	4, 44	20, 247	10, 54	7, 57	21, 176	1058, 6656	416, 5773	3, 7	94, 80	1712, 13390

Methodology

The assemblage has been recorded according to the standard OA system for prehistoric pottery. This has been developed to take into account of guidelines and standards produced by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 1997). The consistent application of this system allows for comparability with other data gathered from sites within the region. All the pottery was examined, including material recovered from sieving. The sherds were quantified by weight and sherd number, excluding refitted fresh breaks. Vessels were counted according to rims and decorated sherds or where sherds can reasonably be identified as representing a single vessel.

The pottery was characterised by fabric, form, surface treatment, and decoration. The fabric groups were characterised according to principal inclusion and divided according to grade, namely fine, intermediate, coarse, fine to intermediate and intermediate to coarse, as with Reading Green Park (Morris 2004). A record was made of use-wear. The most diagnostic sherds will be selected for illustration, taking account of any key groups, and including all decorated material. The assessment data was entered into an Access database which will form part of the Wittenhams database.

Dating was assigned by form and fabric; this period has been very well studied in this region (Harding 1972; De Roche 1978; Hingley 1980). Quartzite and flint are typically late Bronze Age fabrics, appearing in combination with fine sand towards the very latest part of the late Bronze Age and beginning of the early Iron Age. Shell appears to be specifically early Iron Age at Wittenhams, as is coarse sand, which compares to Lambrick's conglomerate fabric (Mount Farm forthcoming). Fine sand fabrics are used throughout the early and middle Iron Age. A certain small number of fabrics and forms did appear to span either the late Bronze Age-early Iron Age or the early-middle Iron Age.

Condition

In general, the pottery assemblage consisted of small abraded sherds although a small number of larger sherds were noted. A total of 1429 (6332 g) sherds weighed under 10 g. A great majority of the assemblage comprised body sherds (1500 sherds) and 98% of all recorded rims (119 rims) weigh less than 20 g. Only 10 rims were represented by more than 5% of the original rim diameter. The condition, by weight, of sherds did not appear to vary significantly between areas. The area in which most refits and most well preserved rim fragments were found (the visitor car park) was the area from which the highest sherd count was obtained.

The assemblage by area

Drainage trenches

These have produced a total of 106 sherds, weighing 674 g, including 1 middle Bronze Age sherd, 2 early Iron Age sherds and 42 middle Iron Age sherds. The remainder were largely undiagnostic and could not be dated specifically. Two globular middle Iron Age jars and one small, broken early Iron Age 'T' shaped rim was recovered from a ditch and one grooved burnished bowl fragment from pit 559.

Pits 882 and 12003 contained no diagnostic fragments, with the exception of one residual, middle Bronze Age flint-tempered sherd.

Office and Boiler House excavation

A total of 371 sherds, weighing 4155 g, was recovered from this area. A residual early or middle Neolithic sherd, decorated with whipped cord, was recovered from a pit (742) otherwise containing broken early or middle Iron Age body sherds. The ditches within this area contained diagnostic pottery dating solely to the middle Iron Age; this comprised both barrel and globular jar forms, one of which was well represented by 30 % of the rim diameter. The postholes contained very few diagnostic sherds. Pit 625 contained fragments of an early Iron Age slack shouldered and a middle Iron Age barrel-shaped jar. Pit 593 contained fragments of an angular, early Iron Age bowl.

Staff Car Park

A total of 42 sherds, weighing 367 g was recovered from this area; the majority of the diagnostic material was of middle Iron Age date. Two late Bronze Age sherds were recovered, one from the topsoil and one from pit 10. A rounded bowl and globular jar were recovered from gully 16 and pit 24 and one decorated middle Iron Age body sherd was recovered from gully 12.

Visitors Car Park

A total of 1193 sherds weighing 13,390 g was recovered from this area. The assemblage included pottery dating from the early Neolithic, middle and late Bronze Age and the early and middle Iron Age. Pit 135 (76, 279 g) and ditch 100 (2 sherds, 14 g) contained small fragments of seven early Neolithic plain bowl vessels. Too little of the sherds remained for estimates of vessel size and shape, although it appeared that one at least was long necked and probably a 'baggy' style bowl. Ditch (100) and pits 80, 149 and 292 contained 19 sherds (see table 1.1) of residual middle Bronze Age Bucket Urn. Ditches 100 and 177, grave cut 333 and pit 44 contained 8 sherds of residual late Bronze Age pottery.

Only three early Iron Age sherds were identified. Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from pits 53, 80, 94, 146 and 532, ditches 60, 70, 100, ring gully 175 and grave cut 333. A total of 78 vessels were noted, including globular jars, barrel jars and rounded fine bowls. This is the best survival of diagnostic middle Iron Age forms within the Wittenhams excavations and the highest incidence of decorated middle Iron Age sherds.

Ceramic chronology

Early Neolithic

A total of 78 (293 g) sherds of early Neolithic Plain Bowl sherds was recovered from pit 135 (contexts 179 and 134) and ditch 228 (context 86). A minimum of five or six vessels were represented in pit 135. This includes the rim and flared neck of a large (300 mm diameter) 'baggy' or carinated bowl with a thickened rim, one slightly thickened rim decorated with incised lines, one small squared rim, two simple

rounded and upright rims and one simple rounded and flared rim. Fabrics included fine to medium flint and sand, quartzite and sand. These sherds can be compared to assemblages at Abingdon (Avery 1982).

Middle Neolithic
One residual (3 g) untempered sherd, from context 752 (Pit 742), was decorated with a single whipped cord impression and may be a fragment of middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware.

Middle Bronze Age
A total of 20 sherds (247 g) of middle Bronze Age Bucket Urn were recovered from nine contexts (or seven features) within ditches 85, 88, 109, 228 and pits 80, 149 and 882. With the exception of one cordoned sherd, the assemblage consisted of plain, thick, densely flint-tempered body sherds.

Late Bronze Age
A total of six (51 g) possibly late Bronze Age sherds were recovered from five contexts including ditches 254, 228, 177 and pit 41. One sand- and quartzite-tempered sherd (5 g), which was recovered from the topsoil (context 1), was considered to be late Bronze Age. The group consisted of six small plain body sherds and no forms were recognisable. The fabrics included sand and flint and were differentiated from middle Bronze Age sherds through thickness of wall and density of tempering. Further analysis will have to be carried out in order to fully determine the differences between these and the early Neolithic sherds. Most diagnostic late Bronze Age pottery from the Wittenhams area has been quartzite-tempered.

Early Iron Age
A total of 21 (176 g) sherds early Iron Age sherds were recovered from nine contexts within seven features including pits 24, 596, 625, gully 6, ditches 254, 582 and natural feature 823. Sherds included five rims from three vessels and another one was represented by a sherd decorated with dots. Fabrics included fine sand, shell and fine sand, fine sand with sandstone and organic material and sand and organic. Forms included a jar and an angular bowl. Two sherds were red-coated. Charred residue was noted on three sherds from a bowl.

Early or middle Iron Age
A total of 1069 (6739 g) sherds could only be dated as early or middle Iron Age. Although coarse fabrics such as the sand and sandstone fabrics or sand and calcareous fabrics are ordinarily presumed to be more typical of early Iron Age assemblages, such fabrics were used to manufacture diagnostic middle Iron Age pottery from Hill Farm. Caution has therefore been exercised in the identification of non-diagnostic sherds within this project.

Sherds were manufactured from the same range of fabrics as the early and middle Iron Age sherds. Decorated sherds (3, 15 g) have been included where decoration included

small fragments of incised or grooved lines which did not indicate a more specific date. Rim sherds included small fragments of rounded or squared rims.

Middle Iron Age

A total of 417 sherds (5778 g) of diagnostically middle Iron Age pottery was recovered. Fabrics included shell or sand fabrics, some of which contained small fragments of sandstone, shell or ferruginous ironstone. Surface treatment included smoothing (7, 83 g), rough smoothing (155, 3102 g) and burnishing (209, 2199 g). In 79 (896) incidences, burnishing was not present on the internal wall of a sherd or vessel which was burnished on the outside. It may be that this indicates the fragility of burnished surfaces. Vessel types included slack-shouldered, globular and barrel jars and rounded bowls. Decoration was noted on 19 sherds (11 vessels) of which 6 were body sherds; form was observable in five cases and all were globular bowls. Techniques included shallow tooling, grooves and dots forming motifs such as ladder patterns, 'stitched' designs, filled triangles, bands and filled squares. Residues (both charred and limescale) were noted on two bowls.

Conservation

Although the relative condition of most of the material is good, it should be considered to be fragile. Most of the sherds have been bagged and are bulk boxed. This will lead, inevitably, to further damage over the long term. Some of the more fragile material should be re-boxed.

Comparative material

The early Neolithic pit is important as pits containing Plain Bowl are rare in the Upper Thames Valley, the pottery usually being associated with middens or spreads (Barclay 2002, 87). Comparative material can be found at Abingdon (Avery 1982). The small amounts of residual pottery from the middle Neolithic and middle Bronze Age demonstrate activity at Hill Farm over much of the prehistoric period.

For the majority of the assemblage, which is of early and middle Iron Age, comparable material has been recovered from a number of adjacent sites including Allen's Pit (Bradford 1942), and Mount Farm (Myres 1937), Wigbald's Farm (Savory 1937), Kirtlington (Harding and Benson 1967), Standlake (Riley 1947) and Appleford (De Roche and Lambrick 1980, 45-59). The middle Iron Age decorated globular bowl fragments can also be paralleled at Abingdon Vineyard (Tim Allen, pers comm.).

3.4.2 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

by Paul Booth

Introduction

The 2004-5 excavation at Hill Farm produced only 11 sherds (114 g) of late Iron Age and Roman pottery. The pottery was recorded using the standard codes set out in the OA system for material of this date, with each context group divided in relation to

fabric and form types and other characteristics as appropriate. Quantification was by sherd count and weight and rim equivalents (REs) were used to quantify vessel types. The pottery was in moderate condition - surfaces were relatively well-preserved but the material was fairly well-fragmented, with an average sherd weight of 10.4 g.

The fabrics identified are listed and quantified below with summary descriptions including cross -reference to the national Roman fabric reference collection codes (Tomber and Dore 1998) where appropriate in bold.

Ware	Summary description	Nosh	Wt (g)	RE
S20	South Gaulish samian ware (including La Graufesenque - **LGF SA**)	1	1	
F51	Oxford red/brown colour-coated ware (**OXF RS**).	1	11	0.17
W10	Fine (?Oxford) white ware	1	3	
E30	Medium to coarse sand-tempered 'Belgic type' wares undifferentiated	4	58	
R20	Coarse sandy reduced wares undifferentiated	2	20	0.10
R30	Moderately fine sandy reduced wares undifferentiated	2	21	
TOTAL		**11**	**114**	**0.27**

The assemblage derived from 6 separate context groups (1, 2, 21, 23, 567 and 801), not all of which were well-stratified. The largest group was from context 21, which produced 4 sherds giving a probable *terminus post quem* of the early to mid 2nd century. With the exception of a single sherd of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware from context 1 (of Young (1977) type C77, dated AD 340-400), all the material could have been of 1st-2nd century date. Apart from the tiny fragment of samian ware all the sherds were probably from local or fairly local sources, including the Oxford industry.

3.4.3 Prehistoric fired clay

by Emily Edwards

A total of 220 fragments of fired clay (4779 g) were recovered, comprising 99 (4253 g) structural clay fragments (features 620 and 774 in the Office excavation area and feature 882 in the drainage trenches) and 121 amorphous fragments (features 41, 61, 70 and 80 in the Visitors car park, features 700 and 774 in the Office excavation and 882 in the drainage area) (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2: Quantification of the fired clay by feature and context.

Area	Part of Feature	Intervention Keyword	Context	Type	Sherd Count	Weight (g)
Staff Car Park	26	Pit	27	Briquetage	1	11
Visitors Car Park	41	Pit	71	Amorphous	9	49
Visitors Car Park	41	Pit	43	Amorphous	1	7
Visitors Car Park	61	Posthole	62	Amorphous	4	10
Visitors Car Park	70	Ditch	104	Amorphous	5	10
Visitors Car Park	80	Pit	245	Amorphous	1	5
Visitors Car Park	174	ring gully	416	Amorphous	1	14
Offices	620	ditch terminus	579	Structural	61	979
Offices	620	Ditch	631	Structural	6	3080
Offices	620	Ditch	631	Amorphous	1	82
Offices	700	Ditch terminus	685	Amorphous	1	9
Offices	774	Posthole	772	Structural	31	152
Offices	774	Posthole	772	Amorphous	80	204
Drainage	882	Pit	885	Structural	1	42

Drainage	882	Pit	883	Amorphous	17	125
Total					**220**	**4779**

Method
The fired clay was scanned and examined for evidence of wattle or other impressions, possible finished objects and structural pieces. The material was quantified by number of fragments and weight. No record was made of fabric.

Fired clay by category
Amorphous
This category (121 fragments, 526 g) may include unidentifiable fragmentary material from objects, structural pieces and potting clay. The majority was recovered from the New Office area (81, 213 g) although smaller amounts were recovered from the Drainage and Visitors car park areas.

Briquetage (identified by L. Brown)
Two refitting fragments of Hampshire briquetage (salt containers) were recovered from Pit 26 in the Staff car park.

Structural Clay and Daub
A total of 99 pieces of structural clay were recovered, all bar one fragment was from features in the Office area. The majority of the structural clay and daub was recovered from ditch terminus 620 (67 fragments, 4059 g). Several large fragments were recovered, some exhibiting multiple impressions of both rods and sails and an internal curved surface. This daub probably derives from the walls of a typical oven of the Iron Age (Poole 1991).

3.4.4 Worked flint
by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

Introduction
A total of 79 flints was recovered from excavations at Hill Farm. The majority of the flint assemblage was recovered from an early Neolithic pit containing Plain Bowl pottery (cut 135). In addition, a small number of probably Neolithic flints were scattered as a residual element in Iron Age features.

Methodology
The lithic assemblage has been quantified and characterised typologically. During the initial analysis additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-7; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999, 211-277). The assemblage was catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Access database. A printout of the catalogue will be deposited with the archive; where possible a digital copy will be deposited.

Quantification

A total of 79 flints was recovered during the excavation. The flint assemblage from the site is shown in Table 3.3.

Provenance

Flintwork was recovered from 34 contexts, including early Neolithic pit 135 (contexts 134 and 179) and a large number of Iron Age features. Excluding the flint recovered from early Neolithic pit 135, the flint forms a low density spread across the excavation areas, with no more than two flints recovered per context; the majority of contexts contained a single flint.

Table 3.3: The flint assemblage

	Pit 135		*Pit 135 Subtotal*	Other Contexts	Grand Total
CATEGORY TYPE	Fill 134	Fill 179			
Flake	2	30	*32*	25	57
Blade		1	*1*	2	3
Irregular waste	1		*1*		1
Chip	2	1	*3*	3	6
Single platform flake core				1	1
End scraper				2	2
End and side scraper				1	1
Serrated flake		3	*3*		3
Notch				1	1
Backed knife				1	1
Retouched flake		2	*2*	1	3
Grand Total	5	37	*42*	37	79

No. burnt (exc. chips) (%)	1 (2.8)	*1 (2.6)*	2 (5.9)	3 (4.1)
No. broken (exc. chips) (%)	9 (25)	*9 (23.1)*	6 (17.6)	15 (20.5)
No. retouched (exc. chips) (%)	5 (13.9)	*5 (12.8)*	6 (17.6)	11 (15.1)

Raw material and condition

The raw material was all flint, bar a single blade of chert. The flints appeared to have been struck from small pebbles, that commonly exhibited abraded surfaces where the cortex was present. A variety of colours were present, including browns, greys and yellows. A few of the flints exhibited thermal fractures, although in general the quality of the raw material appeared to be good. A likely source of this flint is the river gravels south of the Goring Gap. The chert blade (context 782) was a dark greenish grey with a light white speckling and was of good flaking quality. The colour of the flint may have been altered by post-knapping burning. A small area of cortical surface indicated that the blade was struck from a pebble from a derived source (possibly the river gravels again); the original source is unclear, but chert nodules are occasionally found in the Upper Greensand.

The condition of the flint assemblage was mixed. The flint from pit 135 was in exceptionally fresh condition, whilst the flint from Iron Age contexts exhibited post-

depositional edge-damage, consistent with the incorporation of the flintwork in deposits as a residual element. The flint was all uncorticated.

Storage and curation
The majority of the struck flints are bagged individually; the burnt unworked flint is bagged by context. The flintwork is adequately boxed and bagged for long-term storage and curation.

The assemblage
Pit 135
Pit 135 contained a total of 42 flints, the majority recovered from the pit's primary fill 179. The flint assemblage mainly consisted of unretouched flakes, with a single blade represented; the scars of blade removals were, however, present on the dorsal surface of a number of flakes indicating that blades may be under-represented in the assemblage. The flakes had been removed using both hard and soft hammer percussors, such as quartzite pebbles and antler. Care had been exercised in the reduction strategy with a numbers of flakes exhibiting platform preparation in the form of edge abrasion. The technology employed is consistent with the early Neolithic date for the pit, provided by the association with Plain Bowl pottery.

No cores were present and a limited number of chips recovered from the sieved residues, indicating that knapping debris in not present in this pit. Moreover, a brief refitting exercise failed to identify any refits and a visual inspection of the cortices present suggested the flakes derived from several different nodules. The flints may therefore have been brought to this location as part of a toolkit.

The assemblage included five retouched flints, representing a relatively high 12.8% of the total assemblage. The retouched component consisted of three serrated flakes and blades (two exhibiting silica gloss) and two edge retouched flakes. The serrated flakes are perhaps indicative of plant processing. In addition, the majority of unretouched flakes exhibited micro-scaring consistent with use damage.

Other contexts
A total of 37 flints was recovered from Iron Age contexts across the excavation area. The flints are of the same general technological characteristics as the material from Pit 135 and may therefore be considered broadly contemporary, although the flintwork itself may only be taken to suggest a broad Neolithic date. The overall composition of the flint assemblage is generally comparable to the material from pit 135. The proportion of retouch tools is high at 17.6% of the assemblage, and there is little evidence for on-site flint knapping, bar the presence of a single flake core. It is perhaps noteworthy that a different range of tools are represented in the assemblage, with serrated flakes in the pit and scrapers, a notch and a backed knife fragment represented in the surrounding area, however, the low numbers of artefacts make it

impossible to be confident that this difference results from deliberate choice rather than chance.

3.4.5 Worked stone

by Fiona Roe

Introduction

A total of 271 pieces of stone were collected during the 2005 excavation. As with previous seasons, the largest part of the assemblage consists of burnt stone, amounting to 190 fragments. There are some ten or eleven objects, while a further 70 pieces of local stone were considered to be unworked.

Method statement

The stone was all examined using a x 8 hand lens.

Identification

The objects and the materials used to make them are summarised in Table 3.4. The quern fragments are of two kinds; saddle querns are represented by three pieces and parts of two rubbers, while there are also 15 burnt fragments from an early rotary quern. There is only one hammerstone in this assemblage, while another loomweight was found, to add to those from previous excavation, and there are also two possible smoothers. It is not possible to determine whether a small ball of marcasite may have been put to some use, perhaps as a plaything.

Table 3.4: Summary of stone objects

	Saddle quern fragment	*Rubber*	*Rotary quern fragment*	*Smoother?*	*Loomweight*	*Hammerstone*	*Ball*	*Totals*
Culham Greensand	2	1						3
Lower Calcareous Grit	1			1				2
Limestone, Corallian		1						1
Lodsworth stone			1					1
Greensand, chalk				1	1			2
Flint						1		1
Marcasite							1	1
Totals	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	11

Materials

The stone selected to make the objects is, with one exception, from local or fairly local sources. The exception is the Lodsworth stone used for a rotary quern from a probable middle Iron Age context (69). This quernstone, a variety of the Lower Greensand, was brought to the Wittenhams from Sussex, from known quern quarries situated between Midhurst and Petworth. These quarries and their products have been described in some detail in a valuable paper by David Peacock (1987).

The other materials used to make stone objects are all ones already recorded from the 2003 and 2004 excavations. The main saddle quern material, as noted before, was a more local variety of the Lower Greensand, from around Culham, and this was used for 2 pieces of saddle quern and a rubber. Lower Calcareous Grit, from the Corallian ridge a little further away, was used for another saddle quern and part of a possible smoother. Corallian limestone, used for another rubber, would have come from the same general source area. A small ball of marcasite, possibly a plaything, probably came from the chalk, although it could perhaps have been found in the local Plateau Gravel. Further materials would have come from the immediate vicinity of the site. A chalky variety of the Upper Greensand was used again for a loomweight and also for a possible smoother, while flint was used for a large hammerstone.

The burnt stone is summarised in Table 3.5. It can be seen that it is all of local origin, with a range of materials comparable to that of the burnt stone from the 2003 fieldwalking and the 2004 excavations.

Table 3.5: Summary of burnt stone

Flint	16
Fossil	1
Greensand	39
Greensand, chalky	79
Greensand, ferruginous	5
Ironstone	1
Quartzite	37
Quartzitic sandstone	11
Unidentified	1
Total	**190**

Dating

The majority of the features at Hill Farm are known to be middle Iron Age. The pit that contained the Lodsworth rotary quern is probably also middle Iron Age, but unfortunately the information from this one context is somewhat ambiguous. There is some residual late Bronze Age pottery, but the Iron Age pottery consists of body sherds only, and these could be either early or middle Iron Age (Emily Edwards pers. comm.).

Condition and range of material

The artefacts are all fragmentary, although they include two large pieces of Culham Greensand, part of a saddle quern weighing 5 kg ((316) SF 41) and part of a large rubber weighing 3.5 kg (760). The 15 fragments of Lodsworth rotary quern (69) include three refitting rim fragments, which give an approximate diameter and show the tooling work used to shape the quern.

Provenance or context

The Lodsworth rotary quern (69) came from pit 42. In general, the stone that was collected came from Iron Age roundhouse gullies, postholes and storage pits and from other ditches.

Documentation
All available information was recorded in an Excel file, including identifications of the stone and weights. This information is summarised in the two tables in this report. Also relevant are the assessment reports and lists of stone finds from the 2003 and 2004 excavations at the Wittenhams, together with another list and the notes on stone from the 2003 fieldwalking.

There is also a written report on some worked stone from recent excavations by Network Archaeology along a pipeline that passes close to Little Wittenham (Major, in prep). Most of the finds come from Site 11, an Iron Age settlement near Berrick Salome some 4 km (2.6 miles) east of the Wittenhams.

There are reports in preparation at other local sites, at Appleford Sidings (Booth, in prep) and Mount Farm, Berinsfield (Barclay & Lambrick, in prep), and these will contain material of relevance to the Wittenhams project.

3.4.6 Worked bone objects

by Rose Grant

A total of three worked bone objects were recovered from excavations at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham. These objects are described in Table 3.6, below.

Table 3.6: Worked bone objects from Hill Farm

Object	Context	Length mm	Description	Parallel	Date
Object	69	109 mm	Large mammal metapodial sawn at one end and shaped and polished along the length.		MIA
Toggle	76	32 mm	Bone toggle. The toggle is a cylindrical shape with an ovoid section and is hollow through the centre. This example has a single perforation through one wall. Decoration consists of a single incised groove around each end.	B Cunliffe 1984, p 379 fig 3.57.	MIA
Object	147	35 mm	Section of sheep/goat metatarsal. The bone has been burnt and is highly polished. It is unable to say if the if it was polished after it was burnt of before.		MIA

Discussion
The worked bone objects were all recovered from the fills of middle Iron Age pits. The toggle is very similar to one found at the excavations at Danebury (Sellwood

1984). It is generally assumed that toggles were used as fasteners. The large collection of toggles from the Danbury collection supports this view (Sellwood 1984).

3.4.7 Metalwork **(see also Appendix 2)**

by Ian Scott

The excavations at Hill Farm produced 18 pieces of metalwork from. The majority are from contexts of middle Iron Age date, although a hobnail from context 490 is probable Romano-British in date and small object from context 477 is machine rolled and of modern date. These two pieces are very small and could be intrusive. Twelve pieces from context 68 (Sfs 11-15) comprise fragments of copper alloy edge binding. There is an iron blade fragment (Sf 42) and strip or binding of copper alloy (Sf 10). The single most interesting piece is a fragment of a La Tène III brooch (Context 2, Sf 2) which is from a subsoil layer. This form of brooch belongs to the pre-Roman tradition (see Bayley and Butcher 2004, 145), and can be dated to the early to mid 1st AD. The remaining finds are undistinguished.

3.4.8 Conservation requirements for metalwork

by Esther Cameron

Quantities
A total of 14 metal objects (18 fragments) were recovered of which 7 are of copper alloy and 7 are of iron.

Method of assessment
The objects were visually examined and x-rayed.

Condition
All the metalwork is stable at present. The iron is deeply corroded and fragmentary, the copper alloy is less corroded and has a fairly compact, smooth surface with little soil.

3.4.9 Iron Slag and other associated debris

By Lynne Keys

A very small quantity of slag (315 g) was recovered by hand during excavation. For this assessment it was visually examined and categorised on the basis of morphology alone. Each slag type in each context was weighed but the smithing hearth bottom was weighed separately and measured to obtain its dimensions for statistical purposes. Additionally a magnet was run through the soil in bags to detect micro-slags such as hammerscale. Quantification details are given in Table 3.7, below.

Table 3.7: Quantification of the slag

context	Sample No.	Identification	wt. (g)	Length	breadth	depth	comment
265		smithing hearth bottom	136	65	65	30	incomplete
286		fuel ash slag	2	-	-	-	
346		burnt coal	1	-	-	-	
757		fuel ash slag	112	-	-	-	
761	137	fuel ash slag	55	-	-	-	
761		fuel ash slag	8	-	-	-	
772	141	fuel ash slag	1	-	-	-	
Total			**315**				

Discussion of the assemblage

The smithing hearth bottom is the most characteristic bulk slag of smithing. It formed during smithing activity as a result of high temperature reactions between the iron, iron-scale and silica from either a clay furnace lining or the silica flux used by the smith. The iron silicate material from this reaction slag dripped down into the hearth base forming slag which, if not cleared out, developed into the smithing hearth bottom.

It is not known in what feature the (265) example was found, or its date, but on its own it is unlikely to be of much significance and may even be re-deposited.

Fuel ash slag is a very lightweight, highly porous, light coloured (grey-brown) residue produced by a high temperature reaction between alkaline fuel ash and siliceous material such as a clay lining or surface. It can be produced by any high temperature activity where these two constituents are present including domestic hearths, accidental fires, and even cremations (for further discussion on the subject the reader is referred to Bayley 1985, 41: and Henderson, Jannoway and Richards 1987a and 1987b). The fuel ash slag from this site is typical of that often found on Iron Age sites and probably represents the burning down of houses.

3.4.10 *Oyster shell*

by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

A single fragment of oyster shell, weighing 11 g, was recovered from ditch 20 (fill 21) in the Staff Car Park. The ditch also contained 1st to 2nd century Roman pottery.

3.5 Environmental

3.5.1 Charred plant remains and charcoal (see also Appendix 3)

By Mark Robinson

Introduction

Excavations in advance of the construction of a visitor centre at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham discovered part of a middle Iron Age settlement with roundhouses, enclosure ditches, pits and four-post structures. An early Neolithic pit and a Roman inhumation

burial were also found. Bulk samples were taken from a wide range of archaeological contexts for charred plant remains.

The samples

Thirty seven bulk samples of up to 40 l were taken for charred plant remains. The samples have been floated by Oxford Archaeology and the material is now in the form of dried unsorted flots.

Methods

The samples were floated in water using a flotation machine and the flots caught on a 0.25 mm sieve. Residues were checked to ensure the efficacy of the flotation. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at up to x20 magnification. The charred seeds and chaff observed were identified and an estimate made of their abundance. Charcoal from the flots was broken transversely and examined. While this is an appropriate means for the identification of *Ulmus* and *Quercus*, the remaining charcoal identifications must be regarded as tentative. Results are given in Appendix 3, Table 1 for those samples to contain ten or more charred items other than charcoal and, Appendix 3, Table 2 for those samples in Table 1 plus the only other sample to contain much charcoal.

Results

Carbonised plant remains other than charcoal are present in about two thirds of the samples but only seven samples (given in Appendix 3, Table 1) contain ten or more items. Cereal grain and weed seeds tend to predominate but Sample 137, from middle Iron Age Pit fill 761, also contains much chaff. Seeds are absent from Sample 107 from Context 179, the fill of an early Neolithic pit. The only species of cereal grain represented by grain from the middle Iron Age samples are *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat) and hulled *Hordeum* sp. (hulled barley). With the exception of a single awn fragment of *Avena* sp. (oats), which could be from wild oats, the only chaff remains are glumes of *T. spelta* and possible *T. spelta*. All the weed seeds in the Iron Age samples are from plants which can grow as cereal weeds on the local soils. Must numerous are seeds of *Vicia* or *Lathyrus* sp. (vetch or tare) which, given the low proportion of Chenpodietalia weed seeds, hints at relatively low soil fertility levels. The occurrence of seeds of *Galium aparine* (goosegrass) suggests that some of the crops were autumn-sown. The middle Iron Age remains were probably derived from the later stages of cereal crop processing. Sample 127 from Context 332, the fill of a probably Roman grave, contains a relatively low concentration of a similar range of remains to the Iron Age samples. It is thought likely that they are residual from the Iron Age roundhouse gully through which the grave was cut rather than being from any funerary activity.

Charcoal is present in around three quarters of the samples, although mostly in very small quantities. The only charcoal in the early Neolithic pit (sample 107) is *Alnus* or *Corylus* type (alder or hazel). The charcoals best represented in the middle Iron Age samples are *cf.* Pomoideae (hawthorn etc), *Ulmus* sp. (elm) and *Quercus* sp. (oak) but *Fraxinus excelsior* is quite well represented in Sample 116 from Context 76, the fill of a pit. *Ulmus* sp. is a relatively unusual wood from contexts of this date in the region,

although the three samples which contain it (Samples 122, 123 and 124) are all from fills of the same feature, Pit 41. The charcoal is probably from domestic activity. The only charcoal from the probable Roman grave (Sample 127) is a little charcoal of *Alnus* or *Corylus* type.

3.5.2 Human skeletal remains **(see also Appendix 4)**

by Ceridwen Boston and Peter Hacking

Introduction

The human bone discovered during excavations at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham, comprises a near complete inhumation (320) laid out within a sub-rectangular grave; the near complete frontal bone (319) of an adult placed within a middle Iron Age pit; and three fragments of an adult occipital bone found unstratified in spoil from the foundations of a modern garage (SF 1). These were osteologically analysed by Dr Peter Hacking. A catalogue of the human skeletal remains is available in Appendix 4.

Osteological methodology

Adults were aged by dental attrition (Miles 1962) and ectocranial suture closure (Meindl and Lovejoy 1985). The osteological sex of adults was determined from morphology of the skull and pelvis (Workshop 1980; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). The above methodology complies with the guidelines for the recording of human remains set out by BABAO and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (Brickley and McKinley 2004).

Provenance

One articulated skeleton (320) was discovered within a sub-rectangular grave (333), which truncated the fills of two ditches, clearly post-dating them. No grave goods were recovered, but relative stratigraphy and burial practices suggest a Roman date for this skeleton. The skeleton was orientated north-east - south-west, and had been laid out on his left side, with the head facing the south east. The legs were loosely flexed and both arms were extended in front of the torso. There was no evidence of iron nails or staining of the grave fill to suggest the presence of a coffin. There were no grave goods present.

Two contexts contained disarticulated human skull. The near complete frontal bone of skull 319 had been placed on the base of middle Iron Age pit (149), and overlaid by a primary fill of degraded greensand and clay (176). It appears that the pit was then deliberately backfilled.

Three fragments of the same occipital bone (SF 1) were retrieved from the spoil from garage foundations, and cannot be associated with a specific feature.

Preservation and completeness

Bone preservation in skeleton 320 was poor, with bone survival limited to the most dense bone of the skull, diaphyses of long bone shafts and the right acetabulum.

Elements composed principally of trabecular bone were very poorly preserved, although fragments of the left ilium and the bodies of all the cervical vertebrae and T1 and 2 had survived. The extant bone was very fragmented; the epiphyses of all long bones had been destroyed, and it was not possible to estimate stature from this skeleton.

The frontal bone of the skull from an Iron Age pit (319) was near-complete, missing only small portions of the orbital plates. The bone was well preserved, with the outer table intact bar a small area of erosion on posterior aspect of the left side. The cranial sutures were unfused and the bone had been detached along this natural division (probably when the skull was in a skeletonised state).

The occipital bone (SF1) had broken post-mortem into three fragments and was assembled later. The bone was in good condition.

Assemblage composition
The assemblage comprised one articulated skeleton (320), a complete frontal bone (319) and fragments of occipital bone (SF 1), representing the remains of three adult individuals. The severe dental attrition of the 1st and 2nd molars of skeleton 320 indicates a mature adult, approximately 40 years old. The 3rd molars are relatively unworn, which may suggest a younger adult, but this is more probably due to delayed eruption of these teeth (the age of eruption being subject to considerable individual variation). Although few sexually diagnostic traits had survived on skeleton 320, the prominence of the mastoid processes and the external occipital protuberance suggests a possible male individual. No pelvic features are available for sexing and the diameter of the right femoral head (45 mm) is unhelpful in the metrical determination of sex.

Skull 319 was of adult size. The coronal sutures were intact (i.e. fusion had not begun) suggesting an age of less than 40 years. Internally arachnoid granulations are noted, a normal variation. The prominence of the supraorbital ridges suggests that this individual was male.

The occiput (SF 1) was adult in size. The occipital protuberance was prominent, suggesting that the individual was male.

Skeletal pathology
No skeletal pathology was noted in this assemblage.

Dental pathology
The dentition of skeleton 320 showed evidence of dental enamel hypoplasia, calculus and caries.

Dental enamel hypoplasia
Dental enamel hypoplasia (DEH) could not be identified on most crowns of the dentition of skeleton 320 due to the high degree of dental attrition which had

obliterated most of the crowns. DEH was observed as single or multiple lines on four of five crowns (4/5; 80%), up to three marked lines noted in the left mandibular canine and right upper central incisor. DEH is the interruption or slowing of normal enamel formation during tooth crown development in the first six or seven years of life causing permanent thinning of the enamel (Goodman and Rose 1990). DEH manifests on the buccal surface of the crowns of teeth as pits, horizontal lines or lines of pits. Each line forms as a result of a prolonged episode of illness or malnutrition during childhood, lasting several weeks. Unlike bone, enamel does not remodel throughout life and so DEH acts as a permanent indicator of such a stress episode in the early years of life. The clear lines on the dentition of skeleton 320 indicate exposure to multiple moderate stress episodes, such as childhood infections and/or seasonal food shortages. Teeth displayed between 1-3 lines, indicating multiple episodes in the first 8 years of life.

Caries and calculus

Three caries were present in the dentition of skeleton 320 (3/12; 25% per tooth). These ranged from small to large and were located on the 2nd (n = 1) and 3rd molars (n = 2). Dental caries is a destruction of the enamel surface, the dentine (internal part of the tooth) and the cement (outer layer of the roots), caused by the acid produced by bacteria present in dental plaque (Hillson 1996, 269). The association of acidogenic bacteria and sugars in the diet is a well established cause of cavities.

Compared to later historical periods, the prevalence of many dental diseases in prehistory is generally low. This probably reflects the relatively low intake of carbohydrates, particularly in the form of refined sugar, and the fairly young overall age of the population. In many later post-medieval and modern populations, ingestion of refined foodstuffs results in minimal wear of the occlussal surfaces of the teeth. The folds of enamel trap food residues, and in the absence of stringent oral hygiene, result in caries formation. This was not the case in prehistory and in rural Roman Britain, where the coarseness of the diet and grit introduced during food processing wore flat these folds within the first two decades of life. The dental attrition of skeleton 320 was advanced and probably reduced further dental disease of the occlusal surfaces.

Calculus, colloquially known as tartar, was observed on three of the five teeth with intact or slightly worn crowns (3/5 or 60%). Calculus is a hard immovable mineralised plaque which forms when dental plaque has not been removed by brushing the teeth. Despite the advanced age of this individual, little calculus formation had taken place, the above teeth only showing flecks of the deposits. Like caries, this is probably most due to the absence of refined carbohydrates in the diet.

Discussion

The deliberate placement of disarticulated body parts within features, such as pits, postholes and ditches is a well recognised aspect of Iron Age burial ritual (Whimster 1981, Wait 1985). Whole or partial skulls were particularly favoured for this

treatment, and may refer to the veneration of the head as the seat of the 'soul' or persona in Iron Age Celtic society, suggested by accounts of Gallic traditions by Roman writers, such as Diodorus Siculus, and from indigenous British literary works, such as the story of Bran in the Welsh Mabiogog. Most skulls found in British Iron Age contexts appear to have been skeletonised prior to deposition, rather than decapitated prior to or soon after death (in the manner of, say, later Roman decapitation burials). This appears to have been the case with skull 319, where the frontal bone had separated naturally along the coronal suture, and shows no evidence of cut marks to suggest defleshing or dismemberment. Its placement on the base of the pit is clearly deliberate, and certainly represents a secondary funerary rite. The general lack of weathering on this bone suggests that it was little exposed to the elements prior or after deposition within the pit.

The precise dating of the burial of skeleton 320 is uncertain but it certainly shows characteristics consistent with Roman burial practices, although a later date should not be ruled out. Due to the limit of excavation, it is as yet unclear whether this individual was one of a number of burials or was an isolated phenomena. Booth (2001) comments on the prevalence of small 'family' burial plots dating to the late Roman period in Oxfordshire and the Upper Thames Valley, a tradition of which this burial may well be part. However, single burials within purpose-cut graves are also found as isolated phenomena in rural settings in this period. The lone burial of a mature to older adult ?male buried within a sub-rectangular grave was discovered on Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham (Gray 1978, 1-29). Like grave 333, this grave also cut through the fill of two ditches. Iron nails within the backfill indicate that the individual had been interred within a plain wooden coffin, and was accompanied by a 4th- century AD bowl.

Although the conventional body position was supine and extended, there are numerous examples of late Roman interments laid out on their sides (such as burials from Lankhills, Winchester, Hants., and Cotswold Community, Gloucester (Hey forthcoming), and this may reflect a continuity or renewal of earlier Iron Age practice.

Conclusion

To date, neither Iron Age nor rural Roman burial practices have received the level of academic analysis that they warrant. This is in large part due to the scattered nature of the evidence and newness of osteology as a discipline. The above interments of human remains offer a valuable addition to the current corpus of human remains analysed using modern osteological methodology, and promise valuable insights into this under-investigated field.

3.5.3 Animal bone (see also Appendix 5)

by Fay Worley

Introduction

A total of 2220 fragments (8364 g) of animal bone was recovered from archaeological excavations at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham. The excavations occurred in five development areas of the site; the ponds, the staff car park, the visitor car park, the new office building and boiler house and a drainage area. Animal bone was found in all areas with the exception of the ponds. Provisional dating of the site suggests that the majority of archaeological remains date to the mid Iron Age, however ditch fill (801) and grave fill (332) both containing faunal remains dated to the Roman period.

Methodology

Faunal material was identified by comparison with textual sources (Cohen and Serjeantson 1996; Hillson 1986; 1992; Lavocat 1966; Schmid 1972) and the OA faunal reference collection.

Specimens were identified as specifically as possibly to element and taxon with siding information included where appropriate. Species classes of large mammal (horse, cattle and red deer sized), medium mammal (sheep/goat, pig, roe deer, large dog sized), small mammal (rabbit sized) and micofauna (vole, mouse, frog sized) and species size groups were utilised where identification to more specific taxon was not possible. Sheep and goat bone was differentiated used criteria noted in Boessneck (1969), Hillson (1986, 101) and Prummel and Frisch (1986) with the class sheep/goat used where further identification was not possible.

Indicators of age-at-death such as bone fusion (following Silver 1969), mandibular tooth attrition (following Grant 1982) and general observations on size and bone porosity were noted. Skeletally mature elements (those for which bone fusion was complete) were measured following standard conventions (Driesch 1976). Where possible, sex was determined using sexually dimorphic characteristics. Any evidence of non-metric variation and pathological alteration was noted.

Evidence for post-mortem variation (butchery marks, gnawing and burning) was noted and described when present.

Fragmentation was recorded using bone zones suggested by Serjeantson (1996) and Cohen and Serjeantson (1996). Preservation was recorded using a six point graded scale based on Lyman (1996, 355).

The animal bone was recovered by hand collection and from wet-sieved bulk samples. Animal bone from the less than 4 mm fraction of three samples was not fully sorted and identified. These samples were scanned and comments on faunal inclusions noted (see note below). With the exception of the sieved material, all bone had been washed and marked prior to analysis. The weight of each specimen was noted, the weight of

any specimens less than 1 g was recorded as "0 g". Fragment counts in this assessment refer to refitted fragment counts. This methodology is consistent with that used for the assessment of faunal material from the associated site of LWNT'04 and differs only slightly from that used for the assessment of material from LWCHL'03 (undertaken by J. Kitch, G. Cox and E-J. Evans).

Results

Species representation

Identified taxa were predominantly domestic mammals (cattle, horse, sheep/goat, sheep, pig and dog) but indeterminate small mammal sized animals, vole and bird (unidentified and crow) bones were also recovered. The frequency of each taxa is presented in Table 3.8. The vast majority of the animal bone is split fairly equally between the excavations in the areas of the visitor car park and new office building and boiler house, with only a single fragment of bone recovered from each of the staff car park and drainage areas, however the latter two areas were not extensively excavated.

Table 3.8: Frequency of taxa

Species	Area								Total	
	Visitors car park		Staff car park		Drainage trenches		New Office building			
	No.	*Weight (g)*	No.	*Weight (g)*	No.	*Weight (g)*	No	*Weight (g)*	No.	*Weight (g)*
Cattle	39	*2028*	1	*10*	1	*4*	32	*1381*	73	*3423*
Cattle?	1	*0*	-		-	-	-	-	1	*0*
Horse	13	*338*	-		-	-	16	*1215*	29	*1553*
Large mammal	357	*1071*	-	-	-	-	168	*822*	525	*1893*
Medium/large mammal	447	*237*	-	-	-	-	124	*156*	571	*393*
Cattle/sheep/goat	4	*1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	*1*
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	*2*	1	*2*
Sheep/goat	54	*168*	-	-	-	-	66	*294*	120	*462*
Pig	12	*162*	-	-	-	-	4	*70*	16	*232*
Pig?	1	*2*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	*2*
Dog	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	*22*	2	*22*
Medium mammal	92	*72*	-	-	-	-	737	*305*	829	*377*
Small/medium mammal	2	*0*	-	-	-	-	1	*0*	3	*0*
Small mammal	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	*1*	3	*1*
Medium mammal/bird	1	*0*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	*0*
Small mammal/bird	1	*0*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	*0*
Crow	1	*0*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	*0*
Bird	1	*0*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	*0*
Vole	1	*0*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	*0*
Indeterminate	14	*1*	-	-	-	-	-	*23*	27	*3*

Total	1041	*4080*	1	*10*	1	*4*	1177	*4270*	2220	*8364*

Overall sheep/goat were the most prevalent taxa followed by cattle, horse and then pig. This ranked order of sheep/goat, cattle and pig is common to general trends known from other Iron Age sites and is also seen at other recent excavations at the Wittenhams. The frequency of horse bones is elevated compared to the adjacent site of LWNT'04. This distribution should be further considered.

No amphibian bones were recovered and bird and microfaunal bones were rare in the assemblage. Only one fish bone was identified; an eel vertebra from sample <121> of pit fill (176) (see Appendix).

Roman contexts

Two contexts, a ditch (800) in the new Office building area and an inhumation grave (332) in the Visitors car park, dated to the Roman period. 93 fragments of bone were recovered from the ditch fill including cattle, sheep/goat, horse and dog bone. 44 fragments of bone were recovered from the grave fill including horse, cattle and pig elements. Many of these specimens were fragmentary (with the exception of a complete horse astragalus) and none articulate suggesting that they may all be residual in the grave fill. This interpretation is supported by the fact that the grave was cut into earlier features.

Condition

The condition of the bone fragments was predominately good (grade 2) but nearly a third of fragments were only in fair preservation with rounded fracture edges (grade 3) and some fragments were poorly preserved with coarsely fibrous rough surface and chalky texture (grade 4). This preservation is poorer than that found at adjacent excavations (LWNT'04). The condition of bone in each context is presented in Appendix 5 and summarised by area in Table 3.9. It is not clear why preservation is worse in the office building area compared to the visitor car park.

Table 3.9: Condition of animal bone by area

Context	Condition			
	1	2	3	4
Visitor car park	1.6%	53.1%	35.8%	9.5%
Office building	2.0%	70.7%	25.4%	2.0%

Post-mortem modification

Post-mortem modification (butchery marks, burning and gnawing) was identified on a proportion of the assemblage (see Table 3.10). A similar proportion of fragments were gnawed in each area but the proportion of burnt and butchered fragments was very different. A higher proportion of fragments were butchered in the visitor car park area, it would be interesting to investigate whether these were recovered from the enclosure ditch, pits or ring ditches. Butchered taxa included cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse bone. A significantly higher proportion of burnt bone was recovered in the area of the office building. This increased prevalence of burnt bone can be largely

accounted for by fragments recovered from the sieved residue of sample <137> taken from pit fill (761). The nature of this pit should be further investigated. Gnawing was predominantly carnivore rather than rodent gnawing.

Table 3.10: Proportion of fragments from each trench exhibiting post-mortem modification

Trench	Area	
	Visitor car park	Office building
Total no. fragments	1041	1177
No. butchered fragments	61	31
% fragments butchered	*5.9*	*2.6*
No. burnt fragments	15	197
% burnt fragments	*1.4*	*16.7*
No gnawed fragments	6	6
% gnawed fragments	*0.6*	*0.5*

Note of the faunal remains from the wet sieved residues

Methodology

A sample of each of three residue fractions was assessed by F. Worley at Oxford Archaeology. The fish vertebra identification was confirmed by R. Nicholson.

Results

The 4-2 mm and 2-0.5 mm fractions of sample <121> from mid Iron Age pit fill (176) were assessed with 27% and 12% (by weight) respectively analysed. Both were found to contain occasional microfaunal elements including vole bones and teeth. There was no evidence of any amphibian or bird bone. A single eel vertebra was recovered from the 2-0.5mm fraction and a single calcined indeterminate fragment from the 4-2mm fraction.

15% (by weight) of the 4-2 mm fraction of sample <137> from middle Iron Age pit fill (761) was assessed. It was found to contain frequent fragments of indeterminate small or medium mammal bone. No bird, fish or amphibian bone was identified.

4 QUANTIFICATION OF THE ARCHIVE

4.1 Quantification of excavation records

Record Type	Quantity
Context sheets	933
Site plans	31
Sections	230
Levels sheets	17
Small Finds Sheets	2
Bulk Finds sheets	21
Environmental sample sheets	8
B&W films	29
Colour slide films	29

4.2 Quantification of finds and environmental evidence

Material	Quantity	Weight
Animal bone	2381	9233
Pottery	1893	13977
Flint	164	1380
Ceramic building materials/fired clay	39	4873
Human bone	1 skeleton and 1 fragment	-
Shell	1	11
Stone	12	-
Burnt stone	190	-
Worked bone	7	-
Slag	24	352
Copper alloy	7	-
Iron	11	-

5 OVERALL STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

5.1 The regional and national research context

The overall project encompasses three of English Heritage's primary goals, as defined in English Heritage's Archaeology Division Research Agenda (1997 Draft). These are:

A. Advancing understanding of England's Archaeology (particularly A.1 and A.3)

B. Securing the conservation of Archaeological Landscapes (especially B.1-4 and B.6-7)

D. Promoting Public appreciation and enjoyment of archaeology (D.2-4 and D.6).

It provides substantial opportunities to contribute to English Heritage programmes such as the Monuments Protection Programme, the RCHME mapping classification programme, the survival assessment programme and the enhancement of the SMR, and to make the results available to the general public.

More specifically, the site of Hill Farm is situated in the environs of Castle Hill hillfort and has the potential to contribute to a number of nationally important research aims. These include:

5.1.1 Themes - Settlement hierarchies and inter-action (T1)

The relationship between the defended enclosure on Castle Hill and the large settlement, now revealed by geophysical survey and excavations in 2004 and at Hill Farm, that developed outside it are of particular interest. Was this hierarchical, or did these fulfil complementary but equal roles in a single social system? Did the relationship change over time, and if so, how? The history of the defended hilltop may be compared with that of the surrounding hinterland for evidence of the changing pattern of social organisation in later prehistory.

5.1.2 Chronological Priorities: Late Bronze Age and Iron Age landscapes (P7).

The early and middle Iron Age settlement evidence identified at Hill Farm represents a significant addition to the archaeological dataset for the Castle Hill environs. The archaeology at Hill Farm forms part of the extra-mural settlement extending from the base of Castle Hill to some 500 m distant at Hill Farm. The archaeological remains indicate a reordering of the extra-mural settlement in the middle Iron Age, perhaps relating to the changing purpose or use of the hillfort itself. The archaeology of Hill Farm, therefore, has significant potential to inform on the chronological development of the extra-mural settlement and use of the immediate environs of Castle Hill.

6 REVISED RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

6.1 Revised Research Aims and Objectives

- To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.
- To integrate the results of the fieldwork at Hill Farm with the overall landscape project, correlating the development of the settlement at Hill Farm with other areas extra-mural settlement and the hillfort itself.
- To review the geophysical survey conducted over the site in light of the archaeological discoveries made and clarify the reasons for the any discrepancies in the results.

6.2 Potential of the stratigraphic record

6.2.1 Work to date as part of current assessment

A digital context database has been created, and a matrix produced. The matrix has been phased using pottery spot dates and stratigraphic relationships. Digital plans have been produced.

6.2.2 Analytical potential of the stratigraphy

In general, the archaeological remains were found below ploughsoil cut into natural Greensand at shallow depth. The majority of the archaeological features were discrete, but where relationships between archaeological features were encountered, there was usually little difficulty in determining the relationships. A summary of the archaeological description is in section 3 above.

6.3 Analytical potential of the artefactual evidence

Statements of the potential of the finds in relation to the Revised Research Aims are given below.

6.3.1 Early prehistoric to middle Iron Age pottery: Potential for further analysis

The assemblage, when examined alongside the other Wittenhams assemblages and previously published work, should meet the following research objectives:

- To what extent can it be said that activity at Wittenhams took place throughout the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age?
- Can it be reasonably presumed that the late Bronze Age activity without the hillfort is contemporary with the late Bronze Age activity associated with it's construction?
- Are the early Iron Age phases from all sites contemporary? If so, what explains the differences in vessel types recovered from within and without the hillfort?

- What differences are there in the distribution of middle Iron Age vessels across all the sites and how can they be explained?
- Can elements of the ceramic assemblage be related to food preparation and consumption within the settlement?
- Can elements of the ceramic assemblage enhance an understanding of late Bronze Age ceramic technology?
- How does the assemblage fit into a regional framework in terms of range of forms and fabrics used in the manufacturing of the pottery?
- What is the regional context for this site? How does this site relate to contemporary regional settlement patterns?
- What is the national context of this site?

Trench by trench comparison
Although generally, the condition of this assemblage was very similar to that from LNWT'04, it may be that future work may highlight better conditions within both the Visitors Car Park area and the Offices area. The significance of any such difference, however, will be difficult to assess as the quantities of pottery from other areas were so much smaller. The significance of the higher levels of decorated sherds from the visitors car park may, equally, be difficult to assess due to the lack of good, reasonably sized and well preserved groups. It may be that most of the pottery from this site, or most of the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age pottery, has the same pre-depositional history. These differences should be examined and discussed.

Recommendations
The aims of the post-excavation analysis are to clarify certain issues concerning chronology, function, status and role of the pottery. This will further establish the date and longevity of the site, and the character of activity at Wittenhams in relation to material from neighbouring sites. The association of pottery with lithics, animal bone and other artefacts may contribute greatly towards clarifying some of these issues. The assemblage has already been recorded to a standard that will allow this further analysis; no additional recording is necessarily required. Remaining work will include refinement of analysis based on the existing data set and the present report, selection of material for illustration and preparation of an associated catalogue, and further discussion.

It would be pertinent to compare this assemblage both to other Wittenhams assemblages recovered by OA and to the material recovered from previous excavations carried out in the immediate area. Further research into local fabric and form should clarify some of the issues relating to those sherds that were difficult to date specifically.

It is estimated that 4.5 days are required for the post-excavation analysis of the Wittenhams pottery. A breakdown of estimates and task list is presented below. A minimum of 44 sherds (6.5 days of illustrative work) are particularly important and

should be considered for illustration. A report of 5500-6500 words is envisaged with *c* 9 tables.

Task list	Duration (days)
Drawing briefs and check illustrations	1.5
Catalogue and preparation of report	2.5
Editing of report	0.5
Total	**4.5**
Illustration (minimum 44 sherds)	6.5

6.3.2 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery: Potential for further analysis

The pottery assemblage is unremarkable, although potentially of value for dating purposes, and no further work is required.

6.3.3 Prehistoric fired clay: Potential for further analysis

Fired clay is generally a good indicator of domestic and industrial activities, which includes cooking, textile production and pottery manufacture. In the case of this assemblage, evidence suggests an early or middle Iron Age oven or malting oven. It is not felt that these pieces would benefit from illustration but further work should include a full description including recording of fabrics and diameters of the rods and sails. The briquetage is indicative of salt trading and further work should include a reference to the distribution of Hampshire Briquetage.

Task list	Duration (days)
Analysis of fired clay fabrics	0.25
Report and catalogue of fired clay	0.25
Research relating to oven fragments	0.25
Total	**0.75**

6.3.4 Worked flint: Potential for further analysis

The flint assemblage recovered from Hill Farm has the potential to provide an insight into Neolithic activity in the Castle Hill environs. The majority of the flintwork was recovered from a contemporary early Neolithic feature (the first so far identified in the excavations), but it is noteworthy that a light background scatter of technologically similar material was also present in the area; a scatter not present in the 2004 excavations. Hill Farm was, therefore, a focus for Neolithic activity at some point in the Neolithic, but not necessarily for an extended period, judging by the generally low level of background scatter and the identification of only a single pit.

Recommendations

Due to the limited size of the flint assemblage, and the detailed level of recording at the assessment stage, no further analysis is recommended. A publication text of *c* 500 words with one table should be prepared. It is not recommended that any of the flints are illustrated.

Task list	Duration (days)
Prepare publication flint report	0.5
Total	**0.5**

6.3.5 Worked stone: Potential for further analysis

This assemblage extends the chronological period covered by earlier work at the Wittenhams, adding to what is already known of stone use here in the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. There is now one large collection of material with a time span from the late Bronze Age through to the middle Iron Age and this can be used for comparisons with other sites in the area and will indeed continue to be useful in this way for some time to come. It can be seen that the same conservative use of local materials for saddle querns continued into the middle Iron Age. The importance of the 2005 stone assemblage is that it demonstrates the changeover from saddle to rotary querns during the middle Iron Age and also a change to another, imported, quern material to go with the new technology. This report then can provide an opportunity to update Peacock's original publication (1987) and to discuss the pre-Roman distribution of Lodsworth querns to locations increasingly distant from the quarry area, and also the earliest use of rotary querns in the Upper Thames Valley. It can now be seen that Lodsworth querns start being moved along the Thames during the later Bronze Age, travelling further up the river by the Iron Age, to other sites such as Abingdon Vineyard (Allen, in prep) and Gravelly Guy (Lambrick and Allen 2004). There are as yet no radiocarbon dates at all to provide chronological indicators of this progress, or of the arrival of rotary querns in the Upper Thames Valley, so a C14 date from context 69 could make a useful contribution to the discussion.

Recommendations

- A catalogue needs to be prepared for the 10 or 11 objects. These are already listed in the Excel file, but measurements can be added, along with more detailed descriptions, while information about context types and phasing can be put in when the details become available.

- The main part of the report is likely to focus on the Lodsworth rotary quern and its significance in an Iron Age setting in Oxfordshire.

- If the worked stone from the Network Archaeology pipeline has been deposited in the Standlake store, it would be useful to see it and establish what kinds of stone were found at Site 11, since the report is by someone unfamiliar with the varieties of stone in use locally.

- It is anticipated that part of the stone report will consist of a drawing together of the information from all the Wittenhams excavations and the fieldwalking. This can then be considered in the light of what is already known about stone use in the area. It is now possible to give a fairly full picture of the way the provision of good grinding materials was arranged during the prehistoric and later periods.

The burnt stone requires no special treatment. It may also be noted that no thin sections will be required.

Illustrations
The three fitting rim pieces from the Lodsworth rotary quern (69) need to be illustrated, to draw attention to this find. The two largest pieces of Culham Greensand, part of a saddle quern ((316) SF 41) and part of a rubber (760) might also be drawn.

Task list	Duration (days)
Produce publication catalogue	1
Research Lodsworth rotary querns	1
Prepare publication report	2.5
Total	**4.5**
Illustration (3 pieces)	*c* 3 days

6.3.6 *Worked bone: Potential for further analysis*

The worked bone has little potential to address the projects research aims. The objects are, however, of intrinsic interest and the bone toggle is a good chronological indicator. It is recommended that a full catalogue and brief report are prepared for the final publication. The worked bone toggle should be illustrated.

Task list	Duration (days)
Produce full catalogue entries for publication	0.40
Preparation of drawing brief for the toggle	0.10
Total	**0.5 days**
Illustration (1 object)	*c* 0.25 days

6.3.7 *Metalwork: Potential for further analysis*

The assemblage is limited, but represents and interesting group of predominately Iron Age metalwork. There is little potential for further analysis or research, but a short report and table of the group should be produced for the publication. A small number of the objects should illustrated to represent the assemblage, including the La Tène III brooch fragment, riveted binding fragment and the iron blade.

Task list	Duration (days)
Produce publication report	0.75
Produce full catalogue for publication	0.50
Preparation of drawing brief for the toggle	0.25
Total	**1.5 days**
Illustration (3 objects)	*c* 1 day

6.3.8 *Slag: Potential for further analysis*

No recommendations are made for further work. It is sufficient to mention the slag if this is thought relevant to the feature in which it is found.

6.3.9 Oyster shell: Potential for further analysis

The single piece of oyster shell has no potential for further analysis. No further work is recommended.

6.4 Analytical potential of the environmental remains

6.4.1 Environmental remains: charred plant remains and charcoal

The concentration of remains in the middle Iron Age samples are relatively low but they do have the potential to give information on the arable economy of the settlement. If the richer samples can be analysed in conjunction with those from the nearby excavation in 2004 of Trench 15 at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham, useful comparisons can be made with the charred plant remains from both the Wittenham Clumps Iron Age hillfort and the Iron Age settlements on the gravel terraces of the Upper Thames. The results from Hill Farm suggest large-scale settlement and agriculture on the Upper Greensand and Chalk whereas there appears to have been little settlement in the hillfort itself. The arable economy of the river gravels has already been studied in detail but Iron Age agriculture on other geology's in the region is much less well known. The Neolithic and Roman samples appear to have no useful potential for further analysis.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the six Iron Age samples listed in Appendix 4, Table 1 be analysed in full for charred plant remains including seeds etc and charcoal. The results should be compared with those from the settlement sites on the gravels of the Upper Thames Valley, the other excavations at Little Wittenham and the hillforts of the Ridgeway on the Chalk of the Berkshire Downs, in an attempt to discern regional characteristics.

Task list	**Duration (days)**
Sorting flots for charred plant remains - technician	4
Analysing and reporting on charred plant remains - specialist	3
Total	**7 days**

6.4.2 Human skeletal remains: Potential for further analysis

The human skeletal remains have been fully catalogued and reported. The assessment report should be edited for inclusion in the final publication.

Task list	**Duration (days)**
Edit report for inclusion in final publication	0.5
Total	**0.5 days**

6.4.3 Animal bone

The faunal assemblage from the 2005 excavations at Little Wittenham Hill Farm is predominately composed of domestic taxa, particularly sheep/goat, cattle, horse and pig. This is consistent with the general pattern for Iron Age economic assemblages elsewhere in southern England (Maltby 1996).

The assemblage is generally fairly well preserved allowing the recognition of detail such as butchery evidence on many of the fragments. Further analysis of this data may provide details of carcass processing methodologies. Evidence of age-at-death, particularly from tooth attrition was also recorded which, when further manipulated, will provide mortality profiles for animal husbandry on site. Evidence from pathological lesions has the potential to inform about the use of animals for traction.

Comparison of Hill Farm and other local Iron Age assemblages should allow consideration of spatial differences in animal utilisation and/or disposal in the area.

Recommendations
Although all necessary primary analysis of the faunal assemblage is complete the following tasks should be addressed in order to interpret the data.

1. Full consideration of taxon and element data. Consideration of the taxa and species identified in individual features within the site as well as overall assemblage profiles may highlight economic strategy and particular functional groups. Particularly the distribution of horse bone and the contents of pit fill (761) should be investigated.

2. Age-at-death. No foetal or neonatal individuals were identified but the presence of unfused epiphyses and mandibular tooth rows has the potential to inform about husbandry strategy.

3. Metric data. Although measurable bones were recorded the applications of these measurements on the interpretation of the assemblage are limited. There are too few measurable examples of elements to use this data for sex differentiation. The measurement data should be included in the archive but only manipulated further where withers heights can be calculated.

4. Butchery. Butchery was recorded on 92 fragments of bone (see Table 3.10). Consideration of the butchery marks may indicate the utilisation of animals for meat and marrow or raw materials. Initial consideration of butchery marks indicates that sheep/goat, pig, cattle and horse were butchered. Sheep/goat and large mammal, probably horse, bone were worked. These fragments require further consideration by a worked bone specialist.

5. Pathology. Pathological lesions and non-metric variations were noted on four fragments of bone; three cattle elements and a sheep/goat tooth. Consideration of these features has the potential to inform about the health of the stock and the utilisation of animals for traction.

7. Investigation of local husbandry and animal utilisation. The data from 2005 excavations should be integrated with that from previous excavations at Little

Wittenham to investigate localised strategies for animal utilisation and spatial differences and continuities between contemporary occupation sites.

8. Comparative sites. Comparative sites, such as contemporary settlements, should be sought for the identified patterns of animal utilisation including species profiles, mortality profiles and butchery patterns.

Task list	Duration (days)
Analysis of data	1.5
Library research time	0.5
Integration of previous seasons data	0.5
Writing report	2
Final editing	0.5
Total	**5**

6.5 Assessment of potential for radiocarbon dating

Radiocarbon dating would serve to address a few specific issues relating to the archaeology of Hill Farm. Firstly, a date on charcoal from the early Neolithic pit 135 would serve to provide an absolute date for the activity. The date would also function to further refine the chronology of Plain Bowl pottery in the Thames Valley.

A second aspect of the archaeology at Hill Farm that would be clarified by radiocarbon dating, is the date of pit 149 and the skull fragment (319) placed on the base of the pit. The dating of the skull and charcoal from the deliberate upper backfill (144) would serve to both determine the date of the pit and if the skull represents a curated bone, already of considerable age when deposited.

A further aspect of the archaeology at Hill Farm that may benefit from scientific dating is the clarification of the date of pit 41 (fill 69) which contained fragments of a Lodsworth Greensand rotary quern. The date of pit 41 is currently uncertain as although a middle Iron Age date would be most appropriate given the surrounding archaeology, the feature only contained pottery dated to the early to middle Iron Age. Lodsworth Greensand rotary querns are scarce finds in middle Iron Age contexts in the upper Thames valley, and unknown in early Iron Age context. A radiocarbon date on charred material associated with the quern will therefore serve to clarify the date of this example and provide additional data for the introduction of the Lodsworth Greensand rotary quern in to the upper Thames Valley.

Grave 333, containing skeleton 320, are post-middle Iron Age, but otherwise undated. The form of the grave and arrangement of the burial suggest a Roman or Saxon date, although a later date cannot be entirely ruled out; no artefactual dating evidence is available. Scientific dating would serve clarify the date of the burial.

7 METHOD STATEMENT

7.1 Stratigraphic method statement

A full archaeological description will be generated, and publication plans and sections produced, based upon chronological information from the stratigraphic, artefactual and scientific dating.

7.2 Artefactual method statement

7.2.1 Earlier prehistoric to middle Iron Age pottery

A detailed record has been made of the fabric, form, surface treatment, decoration and any evidence of use, using the existing OA system for prehistoric pottery, which has been developed in accordance with guidelines and standards produced by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 1997). The data has been entered onto a Microsoft Access database and the data has been manipulated using a variety of queries. A publication text together with tables will be prepared and a representative selection of material illustrated.

7.2.2 Late Iron Age to Roman pottery

The pottery was recorded at the assessment stage using the standard codes set out in the OA system for material of this date, with each context group divided in relation to fabric and form types and other characteristics as appropriate. Quantification was by sherd count and weight and rim equivalents (REs) were used to quantify vessel types. The fabrics have been cross-referenced to the national Roman fabric reference collection codes (Tomber and Dore 1998) where appropriate.

No additional recording is required for further analysis; the analysis will be based on the existing data set and the assessment report. A publication text will be prepared, material selected for illustration and an associated catalogue produced.

7.2.3 Prehistoric fired clay

The fired clay will be recorded using the standard OAU system. The material has already been quantified by weight and number. Fabrics will be defined in terms of principal inclusions. The records will be computerised as part of the overall site database, and in order to facilitate analysis and correlation with other categories of data.

7.2.4 Worked flint

The lithic assemblage has been quantified and characterised typologically. During the initial analysis additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-7; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999, 211-277).

The assessment report will form the basis of a publication report.

7.2.5 Worked stone

The worked stone catalogued will be enhanced and prepared for publication. A publication text will be prepared after comparisons have been made with local contemporary examples. Selected items of worked stone will be illustrated (*c* 3).

7.2.6 Metalwork

The metal finds have been fully recorded. The small metalwork assemblage requires publication. A summary quantification of the finds by phase and context is all that is required, together with a brief illustrated catalogue of the small number of identifiable and datable finds. A selection of the artefacts (*c* 3) will be illustrated.

7.2.7 Metalwork: conservation and storage requirements

Conservation requirements
The preservation of the metalwork has allowed identification of the objects without further cleaning.

Storage requirements
Recommended levels of relative humidity (RH): iron > 20%; copper alloy > 35%. These objects are brittle and easily damaged physical support and packaging to archival standards should be provided (Museums and Galleries Commission (1992) standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections).

7.2.8 Slag

No further work is recommended. The assessment report will be deposited with the archive. Reference will be made to the slag in the descriptive text.

7.2.9 Oyster shell

No further work is recommended. The assessment report will be deposited with the archive.

7.3 Environmental method statement

7.3.1 Environmental remains: charred plant remains and charcoal

The flots specified will be sorted under a binocular microscope. All seeds, chaff and other identifiable charred remains (excluding charcoal) will be picked out, identified in full and quantified, and a publication report comprising text and tables will be prepared from the results.

7.3.2 Human skeletal remains

As part of the assessment, an inventory of the articulated skeletal remains was recorded pictorially. The disarticulated remains were recorded as to which side and

part of the bone was present. The remains were sexed by using a combination of cranial, pelvic and metrical data. The features used were chosen from Standards (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994) and Workshop (1980). The following methods were used for the assessment of age: Perinatal age from limb bones (Scheuer *et al.* 1980), epiphyseal fusion (Chamberalin 1994), degenerative changes of the pubic symphyses (Todd 1921; Suchey and Brooks 1990), degenerative changes observed on the auricular surface (Lovejoy *et al.* 1985), dental attrition (Miles 1962), suture closure (Meindl and Lovejoy 1985) and degenerative changes of the sternal rib end (Iscan *et al.* 1985). Stature was estimated by using the regression formulae developed by Trotter (1970).

The dental inventory was recorded following the Zsigmondy system and Dental notations use the universally accepted recording standards and terminology (after Brothwell 1981).

A publication report with a full catalogue of all articulated and disarticulated human skeletal remains will be prepared, using the assessment report as the basis of the document.

7.3.3 Animal bone

With the exception of small fraction sieved residues, all animal bone has been analysed and the primary data catalogued. The following methods should be used for the interpretation of secondary data (see Reitz and Wing 1999 for definition of primary and secondary data). The assemblage should be quantified in terms on *Minimum Number of Individuals* and species ratios of identified specimens. Age-at-death information should be interpreted following Silver (1969) for epiphyseal fusion and tooth eruption and Grant (1982) for tooth attrition. Where possible withers heights should be calculated following Fock (1966) for cattle, Teichert (1975) for sheep/goats, Kieserwalter (1888) for horses and Harcourt (1974) for dogs. Bone modification including butchery mark evidence and pathological modification should be interpreted following published texts, with photographic documentation where appropriate.

The assemblage should be documented for publication with figures and tables as appropriate. A document of approximately 3000 words is envisaged.

7.4 Method statement for scientific dating

7.4.1 Radiocarbon dating

Radiocarbon dating is proposed to clarify the date of the early Neolithic pit 135, appropriate *Corylus sp.* charcoal will be selected from the environmental sample. The date of pit 149 is also to be clarified by obtaining a date on appropriate charcoal from fill 144. The associated skull fragment (319) in pit 149 will be directly dated. The femur of Skeleton 320, from grave 333 will be sampled for dating. Charred barley

grain from context 69, found with the Lodsworth Greensand Rotary Quern, will be selected for dating.

Samples will be chosen on the basis of stratigraphic integrity and the quality and appropriateness of the materials, and may include human and animal bone, charred plant remains and charcoal. It is likely that AMS dates will be needed on some of the samples, as the quantities of material available is small. The laboratory will be chosen in consultation with English Heritage Scientific Dating Service to ensure the highest quality and reliability of the dates.

7.5 Health and safety statement

All OA post-excavation work will be carried out under relevant Health and Safety legislation, including the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974). A copy of the OA Health and Safety Policy can be supplied. The nature of the work means that the requirements of the following legislation are particularly relevant:

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 - offices and finds processing areas

Manual Handling Operations Regulations (1992) - transport: bulk finds and samples

Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations (1992) - use of computers for word-processing and database work

COSSH (1988) - finds conservation and environmental processing/analysis

8 PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS

8.1 Publication synopsis

The report on the excavations will be prepared and submitted for publication as part of an OA monograph titled 'The changing landscape of Little and Long Wittenham'. The archaeological description of the archaeological excavations at Hill Farm should be incorporated into the Wider Landscape section of the publication alongside the 2004 excavations. The specialist reports and site discussion Hill Farm and should be integrated with the results of the 2004 excavations and published as a single unit. The synopsis provided below is indicative of the publication format and size of contribution the Hill Farm excavations will make to the overall volume.

EXCAVATIONS AT HILL FARM, LITTLE WITTENHAM, OXFORDSHIRE

Introduction *c* 1200 words

Site location and project background (500)

Geology, geography and topography (200)

Excavation methodology (500)

Archaeological narrative *c* 8250 words

Early Neolithic (500)

The early Iron Age enclosure 810 (750)

Enclosure 810 and associated features

The middle Iron Age archaeology (6000)

Roundhouses, enclosure, pits and four post structures

Roman (250)

Ditch 800

Medieval and post-medieval (500)

Ridge and furrow agriculture and farm buildings

Undated (250)

Grave 333

Artefactual evidence

Prehistoric pottery *c* 3500 words

Late Iron Age and Roman pottery	*c* 250 words
Fired clay	*c* 750 words
Flint	*c* 750 words
Worked stone	*c* 1500 words
Metalwork	*c* 750 words
Other finds	*c* 500 words
Environmental evidence	
Charred plant remains	*c* 1500 words
Charcoal	*c* 200 words
Human bone	*c* 750 words
Animal bone	*c* 3000 words
Scientific dating	
Radiocarbon dating	*c* 500 words
Discussion and conclusions	*c* 2000 words
Bibliography	*c* 1500 words

TOTAL: *c* 26,950 words

Illustrations:

Figures:

Figure 1: Location plan

Figure 2: Plan of excavation areas

Figure 3: Plan of all archaeology (Phased)

Figure 4: Staff Car Park (numbered)

Figure 5: Visitors Car Park (numbered)

Figure 6: Offices and boiler house (numbered)

Figure 7: Sections of pits

Figure 8-11: Pottery illustration

Figure 12: Metalwork illustration

Figure 13: Stone illustration

Plates:

Plate 1: Roundhouse 532 in the Visitors Car Park (post-excavation)

Plate 2: Skull 319 in pit 149 in the Visitors Car Park

Plate 3: Overview of the Offices excavation

Plate 4: Grave 333 (Skeleton 320)

Tables:

Section	No. of tables
Pits and postholes	2
Prehistoric pottery	5
Roman pottery	1
Fired clay	1
Flint	1
Worked stone	1
Metalwork	1
Charred plant remains	3
Charcoal	2
Animal bone	6
Radiocarbon dating	1
Discussion	1

9 PROGRAMMING AND RESOURCES

9.1 Personnel

T Allen	OA	Project Manager
L Allen	OA	Finds Manager/metalwork specialist
C Boston	OA	Human bone specialist
E Edwards	OA	Prehistoric pottery specialist
H Lamdin-Whymark	OA	Project Officer / lithic specialist
N Scott	OA	Archives Manager
F Roe	Freelance	Worked stone specialist
M Robinson	Freelance	CPR and charcoal specialist
F Worley	OA	Animal bone specialist

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APPENDIX 1: QUANTIFICATION OF PREHISTORIC POTTERY BY CONTEXT

by Emily Edwards

Breakdown of total assemblage by Context and Feature. Codes: EN; early Neolithic; MBA; middle Bronze Age; LBA; late Bronze Age; EIA; early Iron Age, MIA; middle Iron Age; BA; Bronze Age; IA; Iron Age, IND; Indeterminate.

Site code	Area	Part of feature	Intervention keyword	Context	Date	Count	Weight (g)
LWHF05		32	subsoil	32	EIA OR MIA	1	14
LWHF05	Drainage	559	Pit	561	EIA OR MIA	5	14
LWHF05	Drainage	559	Pit	561	MIA	2	24
LWHF05	Drainage	559	Pit	561	LPREH	3	7
LWHF05	Drainage	559	Pit	567	EIA OR MIA	1	16
LWHF05	Drainage	871	Ditch	881	EIA OR MIA	7	33
LWHF05	Drainage	871	ditch	890	IND	12	5
LWHF05	Drainage	871	ditch	890	EIA OR MIA	3	15
LWHF05	Drainage	871	ditch	890	MIA	40	337
LWHF05	Drainage	871	ditch	893	EIA OR MIA	3	19
LWHF05	Drainage	871	ditch	894	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	Drainage	872	Pit	875	EIA OR MIA	1	7
LWHF05	Drainage	882	Pit	883	EIA OR MIA	1	4
LWHF05	Drainage	882	Pit	885	EIA OR MIA	1	17
LWHF05	Drainage	882	Pit	887	EIA OR MIA	22	62
LWHF05	Drainage	882	Pit	889	MBA	1	5
LWHF05	Drainage	882	Pit	889	EIA OR MIA	1	13
LWHF05	Drainage	12003	Pit	12006	EIA	2	91
LWHF05	Offices	548	posthole	600	MIA	1	7
LWHF05	Offices	548	Posthole	670	EIA OR MIA	4	12
LWHF05	Offices	549	posthole	676	EIA OR MIA	6	18
LWHF05	Offices	549	posthole	692	EIA OR MIA	2	10
LWHF05	Offices	549	posthole	693	EIA OR MIA	1	13
LWHF05	Offices	549	Posthole	705	MIA	1	3
LWHF05	Offices	549	Posthole	705	EIA OR MIA	1	3
LWHF05	Offices	549	posthole	708	EIA OR MIA	1	8
LWHF05	Offices	549	posthole	763	EIA OR MIA	5	12
LWHF05	Offices	549	posthole	765	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	Offices	549	posthole	787	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	Offices	575	Pit	576	EIA OR MIA	6	26
LWHF05	Offices	584	Pit	583	EIA OR MIA	8	172
LWHF05	Offices	596	Pit	593	EIA OR MIA	12	84
LWHF05	Offices	596	Pit	595	EIA OR MIA	6	71
LWHF05	Offices	596	Pit	595	EIA	1	4
LWHF05	Offices	597	Pit	598	EIA OR MIA	4	26
LWHF05	Offices	602	Pit	601	EIA OR MIA	1	2
LWHF05	Offices	605	Pit	607	EIA OR MIA	14	86
LWHF05	Offices	610	Ditch	585	EIA	7	21
LWHF05	Offices	610	Ditch	585	EIA OR MIA	27	143
LWHF05	Offices	610	Ditch	585	IND	1	1
LWHF05	Offices	610	Ditch	588	EIA OR MIA	5	42

LWHF05	Offices	610	Ditch	591	EIA OR MIA	6	82
LWHF05	Offices	610	Ditch	592	EIA OR MIA	4	14
LWHF05	Offices	620	ditch terminus	578	EIA OR MIA	15	84
LWHF05	Offices	620	ditch terminus	581	EIA OR MIA	1	9
LWHF05	Offices	621	Pit	622	EIA OR MIA	9	44
LWHF05	Offices	621	Pit	623	EIA OR MIA	3	18
LWHF05	Offices	625	Pit	626	EIA OR MIA	2	8
LWHF05	Offices	625	Pit	627	EIA OR MIA	2	12
LWHF05	Offices	625	Pit	628	MIA	8	827
LWHF05	Offices	625	Pit	628	EIA	3	34
LWHF05	Offices	638	posthole	637	IND		
LWHF05	Offices	664	plough furrow	665	EIA OR MIA	3	5
LWHF05	Offices	666	Posthole	667	EIA OR MIA	1	14
LWHF05	Offices	690	Ditch	679	IND	7	3
LWHF05	Offices	690	Ditch	679	EIA OR MIA	3	35
LWHF05	Offices	690	Gully	750	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	Offices	698	Pit	699	EIA OR MIA	5	18
LWHF05	Offices	700	ditch	743	EIA OR MIA	5	125
LWHF05	Offices	700	ditch	746	EIA OR MIA	5	28
LWHF05	Offices	700	ditch	748	EIA OR MIA	4	20
LWHF05	Offices	700	Ditch	776	EIA OR MIA	1	2
LWHF05	Offices	700	Ditch	778	MIA	9	59
LWHF05	Offices	700	Ditch	778	EIA OR MIA	2	13
LWHF05	Offices	700	Ditch	829	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	Offices	700	Ditch	830	EIA OR MIA	8	37
LWHF05	Offices	700	Ditch terminus	681	EIA OR MIA	1	3
LWHF05	Offices	700	Ditch terminus	682	EIA OR MIA	1	11
LWHF05	Offices	700	Ditch terminus	684	MIA	5	83
LWHF05	Offices	700	Ditch terminus	685	MIA	1	4
LWHF05	Offices	700	Ditch terminus	685	EIA OR MIA	11	127
LWHF05	Offices	700	Ditch terminus	685	IND	10	8
LWHF05	Offices	700	ditch terminus	719	EIA OR MIA	1	34
LWHF05	Offices	700	Unknown	832	EIA OR MIA	1	21
LWHF05	Offices	703	Posthole	704	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	Offices	713	posthole	711	EIA OR MIA	5	10
LWHF05	Offices	716	posthole	714	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	Offices	722	posthole	723	IND		
LWHF05	Offices	722	posthole	723	EIA OR MIA	2	1
LWHF05	Offices	726	posthole	729	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	Offices	730	posthole	733	EIA OR MIA	1	2
LWHF05	Offices	734	Pit	736	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	Offices	741	Posthole	740	EIA OR MIA	9	49
LWHF05	Offices	742	Pit	752	EN or MN	1	3
LWHF05	Offices	742	Pit	752	EIA OR MIA	3	6
LWHF05	Offices	742	Pit	756	EIA OR MIA	6	82
LWHF05	Offices	742	Pit	757	EIA OR MIA	2	8
LWHF05	Offices	769	Pit	761	EIA OR MIA	16	149
LWHF05	Offices	769	Pit	761	IND	2	2
LWHF05	Offices	774	Posthole	772	EIA OR MIA	2	86
LWHF05	Offices	793	Posthole	792	EIA OR MIA	4	1

LWHF05	Offices	800	Ditch	801	EIA OR MIA	10	45
LWHF05	Offices	808	Pit	804	EIA OR MIA	6	24
LWHF05	Offices	808	Pit	805	MIA	1	4
LWHF05	Offices	808	Pit	805	EIA OR MIA	3	15
LWHF05	Offices	823	natural feature	820	EIA	2	7
LWHF05	Offices	823	natural feature	822	EIA OR MIA	1	7
LWHF05	Offices	871	Ditch	878	EIA OR MIA	1	13
LWHF05	Offices	12066	Ditch	619	MIA	24	872
LWHF05	Offices	12066	Ditch	619	EIA OR MIA	11	183
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	6	Gully	5	EIA	1	3
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	6	Gully	5	EIA OR MIA	7	57
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	10	Pit	11	LBA	1	8
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	10	Pit	11	EIA OR MIA	2	14
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	12	Furrow	13	MIA	6	85
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	12	Furrow	13	EIA OR MIA	3	39
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	16	Gully	17	MIA	1	17
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	20	Ditch	21	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	20	Ditch	21	MIA	1	2
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	24	Pit	25	MIA	1	10
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	24	Pit	25	IND	2	2
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	24	Pit	25	EIA	1	5
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	24	Pit	25	EIA OR MIA	4	33
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	26	Pit	27	EIA OR MIA	3	20
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	28	Pit	3	EIA OR MIA	2	32
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	535	Ditch	536	MIA	1	6
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	535	Ditch	536	EIA OR MIA	2	9
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	537	pit / linear feature	538	EIA	1	2
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	558	Topsoil	1	LBA	1	5
LWHF05	StaffCarPark	558	Topsoil	1	EIA OR MIA	1	13
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	41	Pit	43	LBA	1	6
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	41	Pit	43	EIA OR MIA	16	54
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	41	Pit	49	LBA	1	4
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	41	Pit	49	EIA OR MIA	2	9
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	41	Pit	69	EIA OR MIA	6	31
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	41	Pit	72	EIA OR MIA	8	16
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	44	Post hole	45	LBA OR EIA	1	5
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	44	Post hole	45	IND	5	5
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	44	Post hole	45	EIA OR MIA	12	65
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	53	Pit	55	MIA	1	6
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	53	Pit	55	EIA OR MIA	3	45
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	53	Pit	56	EIA OR MIA	3	19
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	53	Pit	56	LBA OR EIA	1	2
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	53	Pit	56	MIA	1	16
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	53	Pit	57	EIA OR MIA	1	8
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	53	Pit	57	MIA	10	171
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	58	Post hole	59	IND	1	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	60	Ditch	166	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	60	Ditch	263	MIA	1	3
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	60	Ditch	263	EIA OR MIA	13	48
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	61	Post hole	62	IND	5	9

LWHF05	VisitCarPark	70	Ditch	35	BA?	1	22
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	70	Ditch	35	MIA	17	279
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	70	Ditch	38	EIA OR MIA	5	47
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	70	Ditch	38	MIA	43	459
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	70	Ditch	40	EIA OR MIA	23	129
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	70	Ditch	79	MIA	31	232
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	70	Ditch	118	EIA OR MIA	1	13
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	70	Ditch	168	MIA	4	33
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	70	Ditch	265	EIA OR MIA	35	225
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	70	Ditch	265	MIA	4	59
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	70	Ditch	266	EIA OR MIA	13	87
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	70	Ditch	266	MIA	3	18
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	80	Ditch	82	MBA	7	41
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	80	Ditch	93	EIA OR MIA	2	6
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	80	Ditch	224	EIA OR MIA	1	2
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	80	Ditch	271	EIA OR MIA	2	6
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	80	Ditch	272	IND	1	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	80	Ditch	288	IND	1	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	80	Pit	87	EIA OR MIA	5	27
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	80	Pit	87	MBA	1	14
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	80	Pit	111	EIA or MIA	24	31
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	80	Pit	111	MBA	1	14
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	80	Pit	111	MIA	39	420
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	80	Pit	245	MIA	6	31
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	90	Gully	190	EIA OR MIA	1	2
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	90	Gully	192	IND	1	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	94	Pit	75	EIA OR MIA	3	7
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	94	Pit	75	MIA	11	109
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	94	Pit	76	EIA OR MIA	6	39
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	94	Pit	77	EIA OR MIA	1	7
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	94	Pit	77	MIA	1	15
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	94	Pit	96	EIA OR MIA	8	19
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	97	Pit	98	EIA OR MIA	6	36
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	112	EIA OR MIA	47	204
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	112	MBA	3	41
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	113	MIA	3	94
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	206	EIA OR MIA	3	10
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	206	MIA	1	4
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	214	EIA OR MIA	21	97
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	229	EIA OR MIA	1	8
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	230	MIA	59	543
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	230	MBA	2	89
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	231	EIA OR MIA	10	26
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	232	BA?	1	15
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	232	EN	2	14
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	247	EIA OR MIA	1	6
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	247	MBA	1	15
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	251	LBA OR EIA	3	12
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	251	MIA	2	27
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	251	LBA	1	14

LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	253	EIA	3	9
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	267	EIA OR MIA	23	310
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	267	MIA	2	14
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	268	EIA OR MIA	2	14
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	291	EIA OR MIA	1	23
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	291	MIA	1	2
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	344	EIA OR MIA	1	110
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	344	MIA	1	16
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	345	EIA OR MIA	17	130
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	346	EIA OR MIA	2	18
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	346	MIA	26	470
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch	509	EIA OR MIA	20	178
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch recut	86	EIA OR MIA	47	136
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch recut	86	LBA OR EIA	1	16
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch recut	86	MBA	1	15
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch recut	108	IND	5	10
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	100	Ditch recut	108	MIA	22	163
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	110	Gully	341	MIA	1	38
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	110	Gully	341	EIA OR MIA	3	23
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	120	Stakehole	121	EIA OR MIA	2	7
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	135	Pit	134	EN	17	58
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	135	Pit	134	IND	3	2
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	135	Pit	179	EN	59	221
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	146	Pit	144	EIA OR MIA	11	69
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	146	Pit	144	MIA	1	10
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	146	Pit	144	IND	1	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	146	Pit	145	EIA OR MIA	4	35
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	146	Pit	145	MIA	1	5
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	149	Pit	147	BA?	2	7
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	149	Pit	147	EIA OR MIA	10	108
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	149	Pit	147	MBA	2	8
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	149	Pit	147	MIA	11	103
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	149	Pit	148	MIA	6	61
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	149	Pit	148	IND	2	4
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	149	Pit	148	EIA OR MIA	21	47
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	149	Pit	176	IND	1	3
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	149	Pit	176	MIA	1	9
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	149	Pit	176	EIA OR MIA	8	26
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	174	gully terminus	490	EIA OR MIA	14	93
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	174	ring gully	138	EIA OR MIA	1	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	174	ring gully	416	EIA OR MIA	5	23
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	174	ring gully	416	IND	15	6
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	175	ring gully	142	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	175	ring gully	414	EIA OR MIA	6	25
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	175	ring gully	414	IND	7	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	175	ring gully	414	MIA	2	11
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	175	ring gully	477	IND	1	3
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	175	ring gully terminus	404	EIA OR MIA	21	122
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	177	Ditch	178	EIA OR MIA	5	41
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	177	Ditch	178	LBA	3	13

LWHF05	VisitCarPark	180	Pit	181	IND	1	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	180	Pit	183	IND	1	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	184	posthole	185	EIA OR MIA	5	14
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	258	Pit	260	EIA OR MIA	7	26
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	285	Stakehole	286	IND	2	2
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	292	Pit	293	EIA OR MIA	3	6
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	292	Pit	294	EIA OR MIA	1	4
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	292	Pit	294	MBA?	1	5
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	297	Posthole	298	IND	1	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	299	posthole	300	EIA OR MIA	1	21
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	315	Pit	310	EIA OR MIA	2	17
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	315	Pit	314	EIA OR MIA	1	6
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	333	Grave cut	332	EIA OR MIA	27	173
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	333	Grave cut	332	IND	2	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	333	Grave cut	332	LBA	2	4
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	333	Grave cut	332	MIA	1	9
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	337	Posthole	338	IND	1	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	349	Pit	351	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	395	Ditch	330	IND	1	3
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	395	Ditch	330	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	395	Ditch terminus	512	EIA OR MIA	9	53
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	395	Ditch terminus	512	LBA OR EIA	1	22
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	399	Gully	401	EIA OR MIA	29	182
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	405	posthole	406	EIA OR MIA	5	27
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	405	posthole	407	EIA OR MIA	2	15
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	419	Gully	418	EIA OR MIA	1	5
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	491	Gully	364	EIA OR MIA	72	479
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	525	Layer	525	EIA OR MIA	2	23
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	532	Pit	373	EIA OR MIA	1	8
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	532	Pit	373	IND	2	1
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	532	Pit	428	EIA OR MIA	4	12
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	532	Pit	428	MIA	1	3
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	532	Pit	483	EIA OR MIA	4	7
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	532	posthole	381	EIA OR MIA	3	24
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	532	Posthole	396	EIA OR MIA	1	6
LWHF05	VisitCarPark	532	Posthole	520	EIA OR MIA	9	20

APPENDIX 2: METALWORK

By Ian Scott

ID	Trench	Context	Sf No	Phase	Count	L (mm)	W (mm)	Function	Identification	Comments	X-ray ref	Metal	Box No
139		62	10	MIA	1	22		Binding	Strip	Strip, rounded at each end and bent double. It is pierced by a nail/rivet hole	X 03	cu alloy	CA 01
140		68	11	MIA	1	13		Binding	Edge binding	Edge binding fragments x 5. Formed from rolled thin sheet. There are no clear joins between the fragments. Overall these fragments would measure 45 mm long. See IDs 141-144	X 03	cu alloy	CA 01
141		68	12	MIA	1	32		Binding	Edge binding	Edge binding, formed from rolled sheet. Single slightly curved fragment. See IDs 140, 142-144	X 03	cu alloy	CA 01
142		68	13	MIA	1	14		Binding	Edge binding	Edge binding formed from rolled sheet. Four fragments, but no clear joins. See IDs 140-42, 143-44	X 03	cu alloy	CA 01
143		68	14	MIA	1	32		Binding	Edge binding	Edge binding formed from rolled sheet. Single slightly curved fragment. See IDs 140-142, and 144	X 03	cu alloy	CA 01
144		68	15	MIA	1	52		Binding	Edge binding	Edge binding formed from rolled sheet. Single slightly curved fragment. See Ids 140-143	X 03	cu alloy	CA 01
146		829	52	MIA	1	59		Miscellaneous	Block	Block or strip, of thick rectangular section, and tapered to a point	X 03	fe	CA 01
138		490	43		1			Personal	Hobnail	Hobnail, well-preserved	X 03	fe	CA 01
147		2	2	MIA	1	38		Personal	Brooch	La Tène III brooch fragment. Comprises broad upper portion of bow with zig zag chasing down the centre. Catch plate and pin lost.	X 03	cu alloy	CA 01
134		477		MIA	1	14		Query	Unidentified	Small neatly made object, rolled with slight point at one end	X 03	fe	CA 01
145		144	42	MIA	1	84		Query	Blade fragment	Blade fragment with lenticular cross section, and possibly a slight mid rib on one face. The blade is slightly asymmetrical in outline, with a rounded point. Function uncertain.	X 03	fe	CA 01
135		890		EIA?	4			Unknown	Fragments	Flattish irregular fragments	X 03	fe	CA 01
136		338		MIA	2			Unknown	Fragments	Two small elongated fragments	X 03	fe	CA 01
137		338		MIA	1	30		Unknown	Fragment	Fragment, encrusted, with possible rivet hole	X 03	fe	CA 01
					18								

APPENDIX 3: ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS - CHARRED PLANT REMAINS AND CHARCOAL

By Mark Robinson

Charred Plant Remains (excluding charcoal) from LWHF 05

Number of samples 37, Total sample volume (litres) 1077, No. of samples with charred seeds etc 24

	Date	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	RB
	Sample	116	122	123	124	125	137	127
	Context	76	49	69	72	71	761	332
	Feature	94	41	41	41	41	769	333
	Sample Volume (litres)	40	30	40	40	10	30	40
CEREAL GRAIN								
Triticum spelta L.	spelt wheat	-	-	-	+	-	+	+
Triticum dicoccum Schübl. or *spelta* L.	emmer or spelt wheat	+	+	-	+	-	+	+
Hordeum sp. - hulled	hulled barley	++	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hordeum sp.	barley	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
cereal indet.		+	-	-	+	+	+	+
Total cereal grain		++	+	+	+	+	++	+
CEREAL CHAFF								
Triticum spelta L. - glume	spelt wheat	+	-	-	-	-	+	+
T. dicoccum Schübl. or *spelta* L. - glume	emmer or spelt	+	+	-	-	-	++	+
Avena sp. - awn	oats	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Total cereal chaff		+	+	-	+	-	++	+
WEED SEEDS								

	Date	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	RB
	Sample	116	122	123	124	125	137	127
	Context	76	49	69	72	71	761	332
	Feature	94	41	41	41	41	769	333
	Sample Volume (litres)	40	30	40	40	10	30	40
Atriplex sp.	orache	-	-	-	+	+	-	-
Vicia or *Lathyrus* sp.	vetch or tare	-	+	++	+	+	++	+
cf. *Medicago lupulina* L.	black medick	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Polygonum aviculare agg.	knotgrass	-	-	+	+	-	+	-
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) Löv.	black bindweed	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Rumex sp.	dock	-	+	-	+	+	+	-
Lithospermum arvense L.	corn gromwell	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Odontites verna (Bell.) Dum.	red bartsia	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Galium aparine L.	goosegrass	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Tripleurospermum inodorum (L.) Sch.	scentless mayweed	-	+	-	+	+	-	-
Bromus Sect. *Eubromus* sp.	brome grass	+	-	+	+	++	+	-
Gramineae indet.	grass	-	+	-	-	+	-	-
weed seeds indet.		-	+	-	-	+	-	-
Total weeds seeds		+	++	++	++	++	++	+
Total Items		++	++	++	++	++	+++	++

+ 1-10 items, ++ 11-50 items, +++ 51-200 items

Charcoal from LWHF 04

Number of samples 37, Total sample volume (litres) 1077, No. of samples with charcoal 29

	Date	ENeo	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	RB
	Sample	107	116	117	122	123	124	125	137	140	127
	Context	179	76	259	49	69	72	71	761	883	332
	Feature	135	94	258	41	41	41	41	769	882	333
	Sample Volume (litres)	40	40	10	30	40	40	10	30	10	40
cf. Pomoideae	hawthorn, apple etc	-	+	+++	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alnus or *Corylus* sp.	alder or hazel sp.	++	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Ulmus sp.	elm	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
Quercus sp.	oak	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	++	-
Fraxinus excelsior L.	ash	-	++	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

+ present, ++ some, +++ much

APPENDIX 4: CATALOGUE OF HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS

The following abbreviations have been employed in the catalogue below:

/ post-mortem tooth loss
- tooth not present
C caries
DEH dental enamel hypoplasia
L left
DJD degenerative joint disease
C1-7 cervical vertebra 1 to 7
L1-5 lumbar vertebra 1 to 5
X ante-mortem tooth loss
A dental abscess
k calculus
R root only (in relation to dentition)
R right
SDJD spinal degenerative joint disease
T1-12 thoracic vertebra 1 to 12

Skeleton number: **320**
Archaeological context: North-east - south-west orientated inhumation within a sub-rectangular grave cut (333). Positioned on left side with legs loosely flexed at the hip and knee; arms extended in the sagittal plane (in front of the body). The burial was unaccompanied.
Completeness: 25-30%
Preservation: poor with considerable fragmentation of the bone
Age: mature adult (35-45 years)
Sex: possible male
Dental inventory:

	B			R	R	R	B			B			R	B	k
/	7	/	/	4	3	2	1	/	/	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	7	6	/	4	3	/	/	/	/	3	/	5	6	7	8
B	R	R		B	B			B		R		R	B	R	R
k				k											

Dental Pathology: Caries 3/12; flecks of calculus 3/5; DEH 4/5, moderate; AMTL 0/24; dental abscess 0/24
Skeletal pathology: Nil present

Skeleton number: 319
Archaeological context: The skull fragment was placed on the base of a middle Iron Age pit.
Completeness: Near complete frontal bone
Preservation: good
Age: adult < 40 years
Sex: male
Skeletal pathology: nil noted

Skeleton number: SF1 (unstratified)
Archaeological context: Three fragments of human occiput retrieved from spoil heap associated with foundations of modern garage
Completeness: partial occipital bone
Preservation: good
Age: adult
Sex: ?? male
Skeletal pathology: nil noted

APPENDIX 5: THE CONDITION OF ANIMAL BONE BY CONTEXT

Context	Condition			
	1	2	3	4
35		67%	33%	
38	2%	78%	20%	
43			100%	
45		100%		
46			100%	
49			71%	29%
56		13%	63%	25%
62				100%
68		100%		
69		100%		
76	6%	89%	6%	
77		91%	9%	
79			100%	
83	25%	25%	50%	
86		20%	40%	40%
87		80%		20%
96		86%		14%
98		38%	63%	
108		100%		
111			100%	
112		67%	33%	
127		75%		25%
132				100%
138				100%
144		50%	50%	
147		100%		
148				100%
168		100%		
176	11%		33%	56%
178		25%	75%	
263		50%	50%	
265		62%	38%	
266			100%	
267		75%	25%	
271		100%		
294				100%
310		100%		
314			100%	
316			100%	
332		38%	63%	
345		100%		
364			100%	
401		36%	64%	
407			100%	
414		100%		
416		25%	50%	25%

428			100%	
477		100%		
478			100%	
484		50%	50%	
490			100%	
492		50%	50%	
520				100%
536		100%		
561		50%	50%	
576		100%		
578			100%	
585		43%	57%	
588			100%	
591		67%	33%	
593		100%		
598		100%		
607		75%	25%	
619		100%		
622		50%	50%	
623		75%	25%	
626		100%		
627	100%			
631		100%		
679		43%	29%	29%
684			100%	
692		50%	50%	
694			100%	
699		100%		
719			100%	
723				100%
740			100%	
743		38%	63%	
748			100%	
750		100%		
752			100%	
754		50%	50%	
757		50%	50%	
758		100%		
760	3%	97%		
761	1%	94%	4%	
763		60%	40%	
776		100%		
778			100%	
781			100%	
801		17%	75%	8%
805		33%	33%	33%
818		100%		
829		100%		
875		33%	67%	
885		100%		
883		100%		

886	14%	64%	21%	
890		74%	26%	
12002		100%		
Total	2%	62%	30%	6%

APPENDIX 6: SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Hill Farm, Little Wittenham
Site code: LWHF 04.31
Grid reference: NGR SU 5635 9255
Type of watching brief: Strip, plan and sample.
Date and duration of project: December 2004 - November 2005
Area of site: 7,500 m²

Summary of results: Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological watching brief and excavations at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham between December 2004 and November 2005. The work was commissioned by the Northmoor Trust in advance of the redevelopment of Hill Farm as a visitor and education centre for the Wittenham Clumps and construction of a new Office building.

Excavations were undertaken in the area of the ponds, Visitors Car Park and footprint of the Boiler House and new Office building to the west of Hill Farm, and the Staff Car Park to the east of Hill Farm. A Watching brief was also undertaken on drainage works, service trenches, construction of a new farm access road and concrete removal within and around Hill Farm.

The excavations revealed an early Neolithic pit with an associated scatter of flintwork in the Visitors Car Park. A scatter of Middle Bronze Age pottery was also found in later features, suggesting some occupation in the area of Hill Farm.

A small number of features of early Iron Age date were revealed, including a small enclosure in the Visitors Car Park and Offices area and a penannular gully in the Staff Car Park. The vast majority of the archaeology revealed relates to a settlement of middle Iron Age date. Several penannular gullies were revealed, some surrounding the postholes of roundhouses. The majority of the gullies exhibited two or three episodes of recutting indicating that the settlement persisted for a reasonable duration. The roundhouses were associated with various ditched enclosures, pits and four-post structures.

Roman ditches were also revealed in the Ponds, Staff Car Park and Offices and various drainage works. Many of these features can be related to ditches visible on the geophysical survey. An undated grave in the Visitors Car Park is most probably of late Roman or Saxon date.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS 04.31

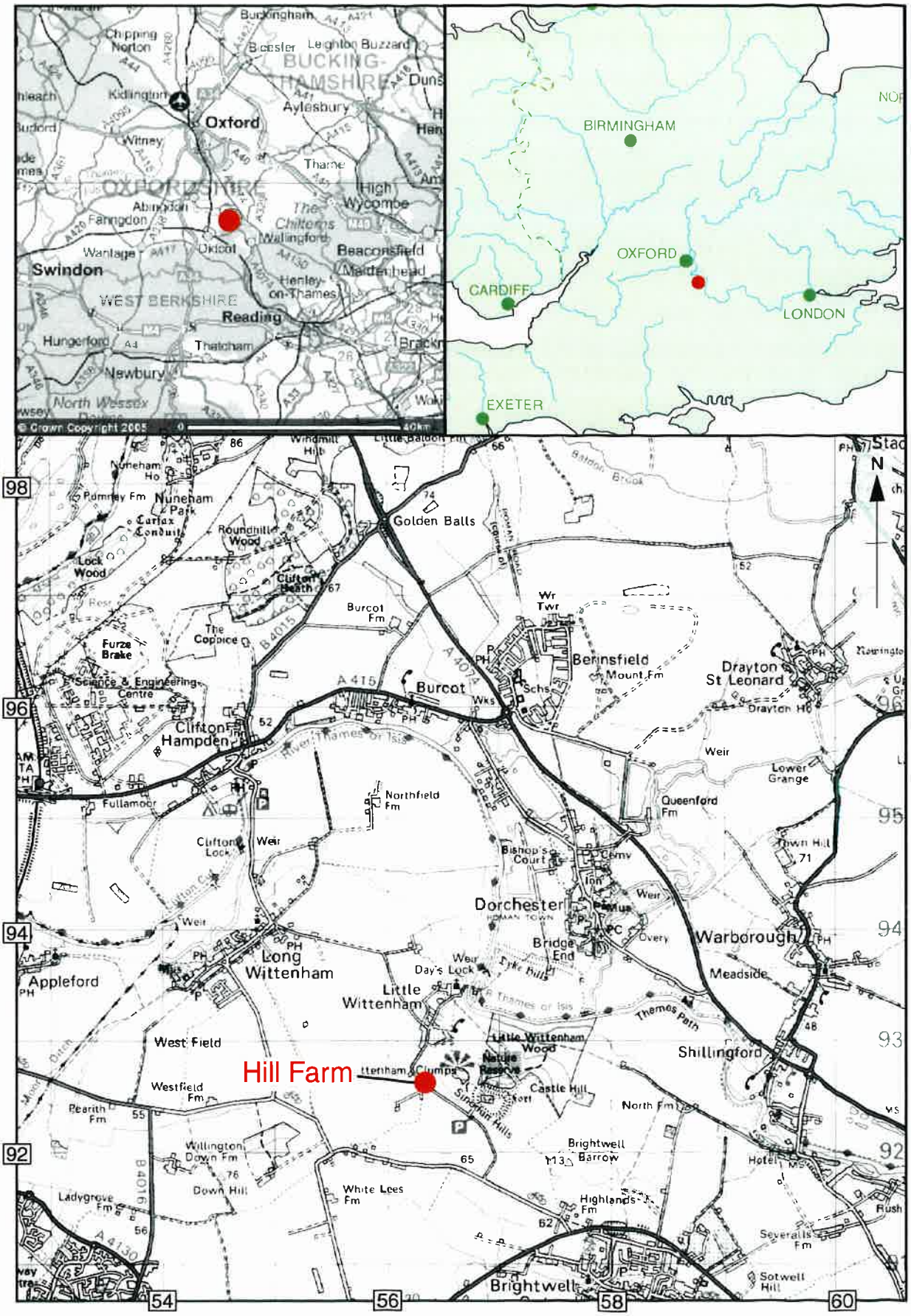

Figure 1: Site location

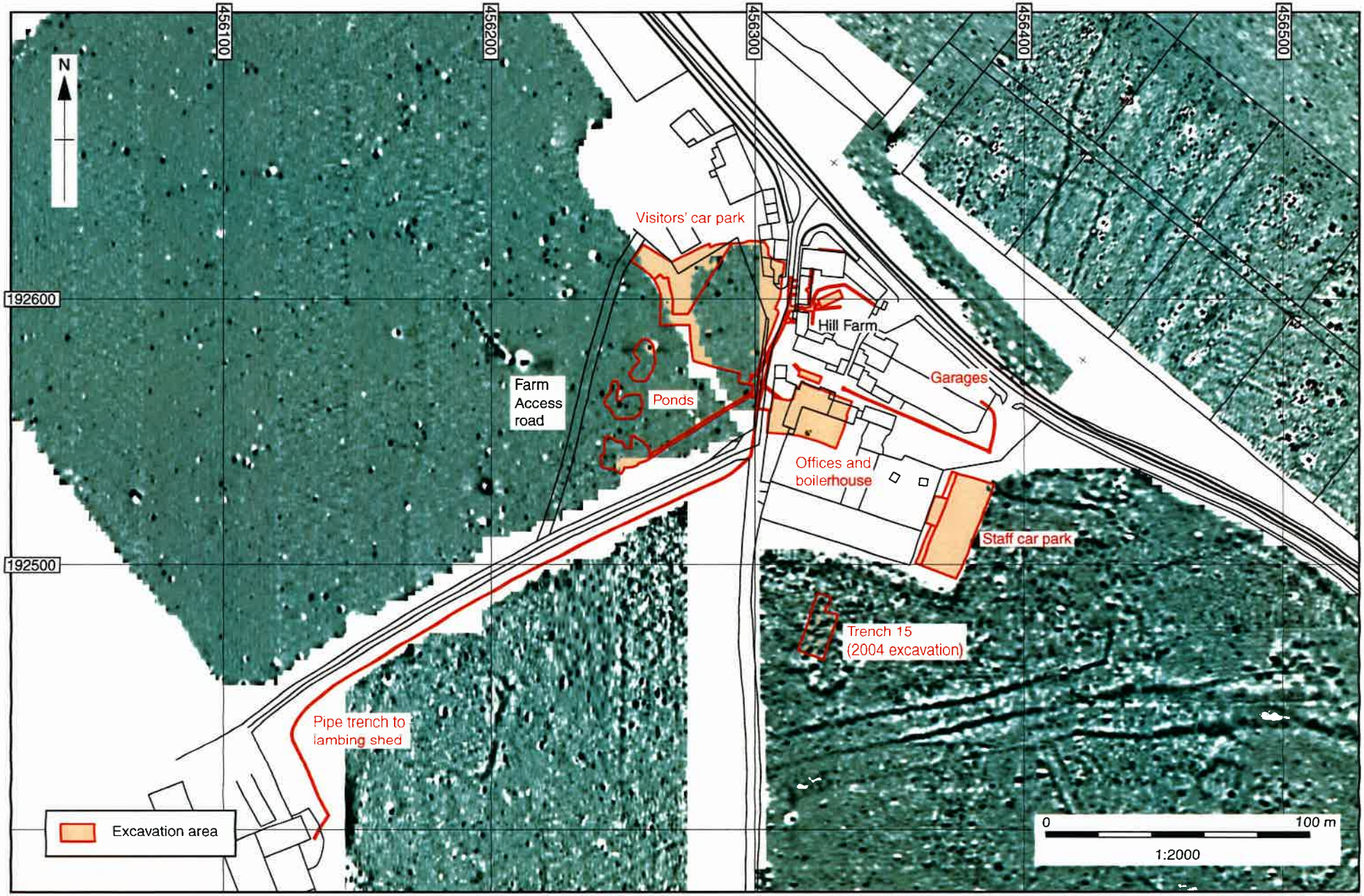

Figure 2: Results of the geophysical survey with outlines of the excavation and watching brief areas

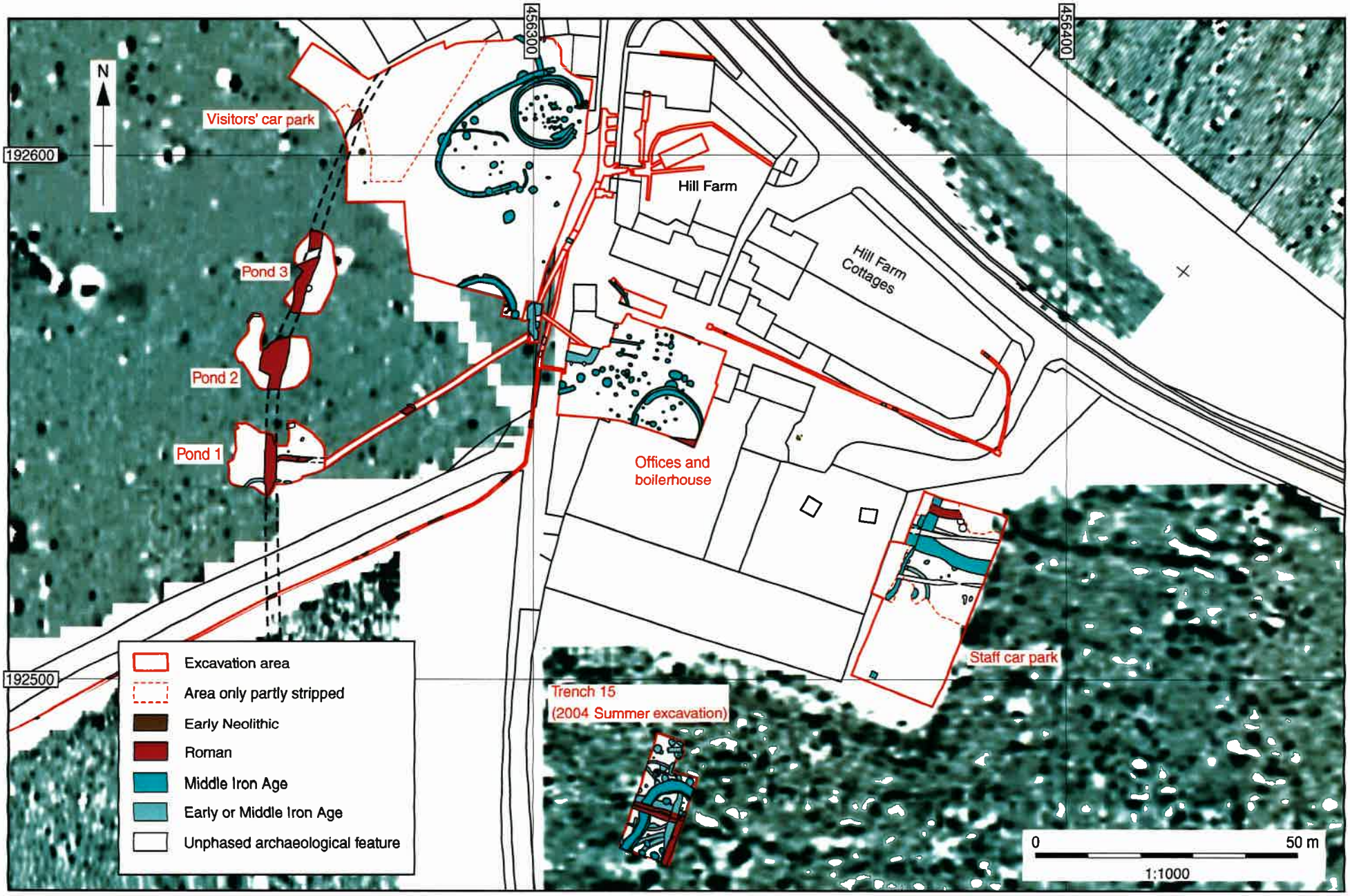

Figure 3: Excavations at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham

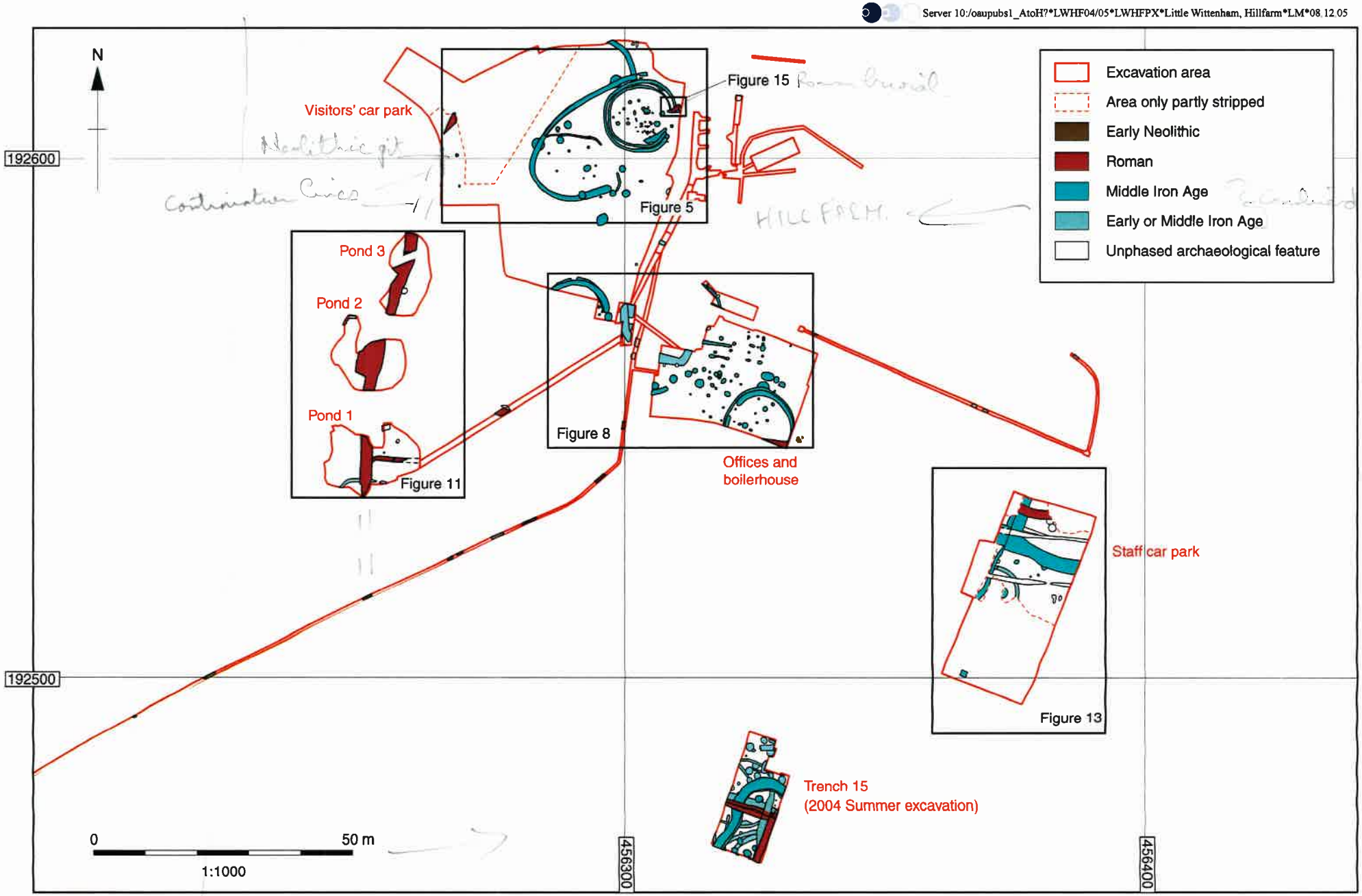

Figure 4: Excavations at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham, showing the location of detailed figures

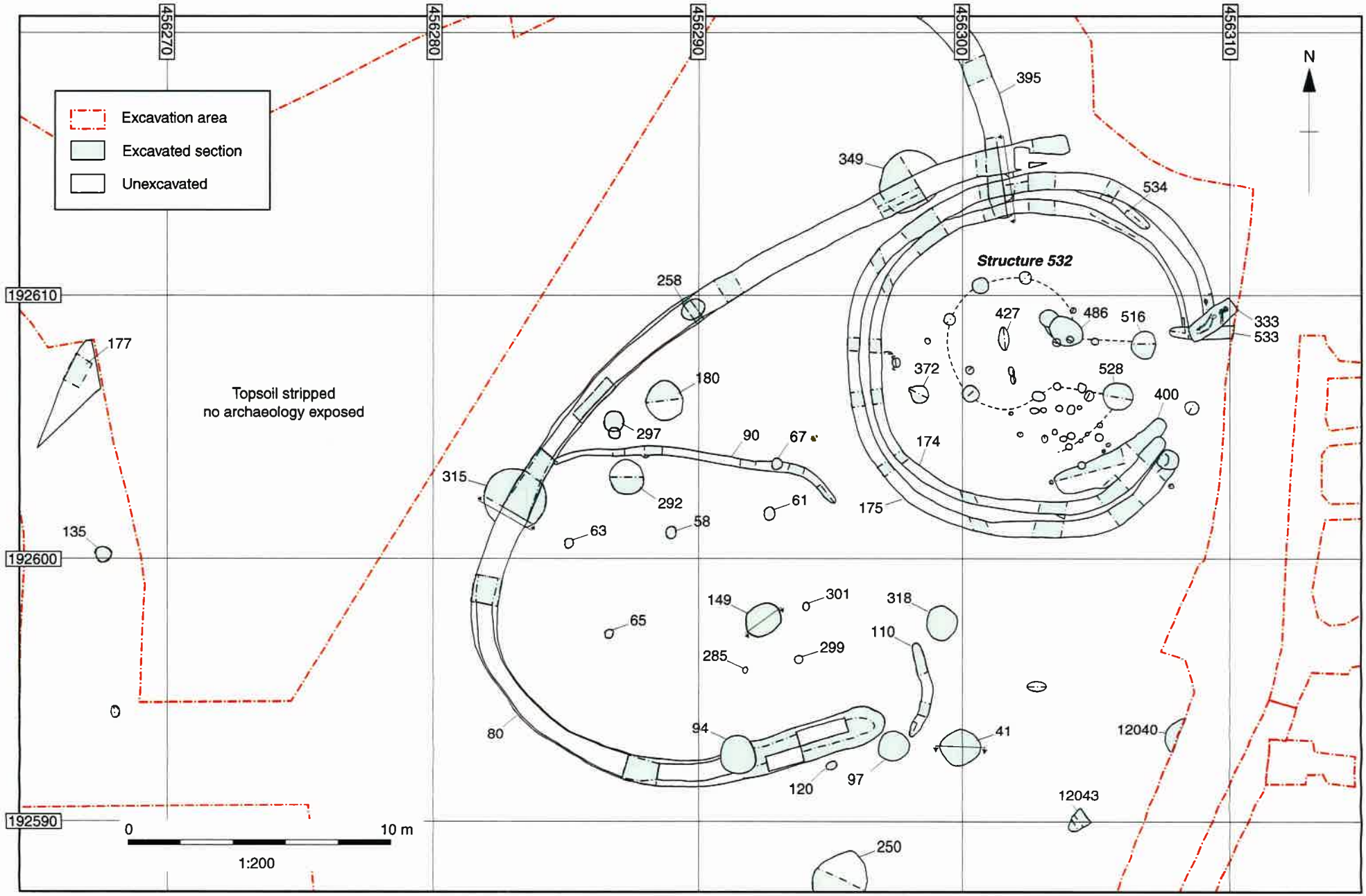

Figure 5: Plan of the Visitors' car park excavation, north part

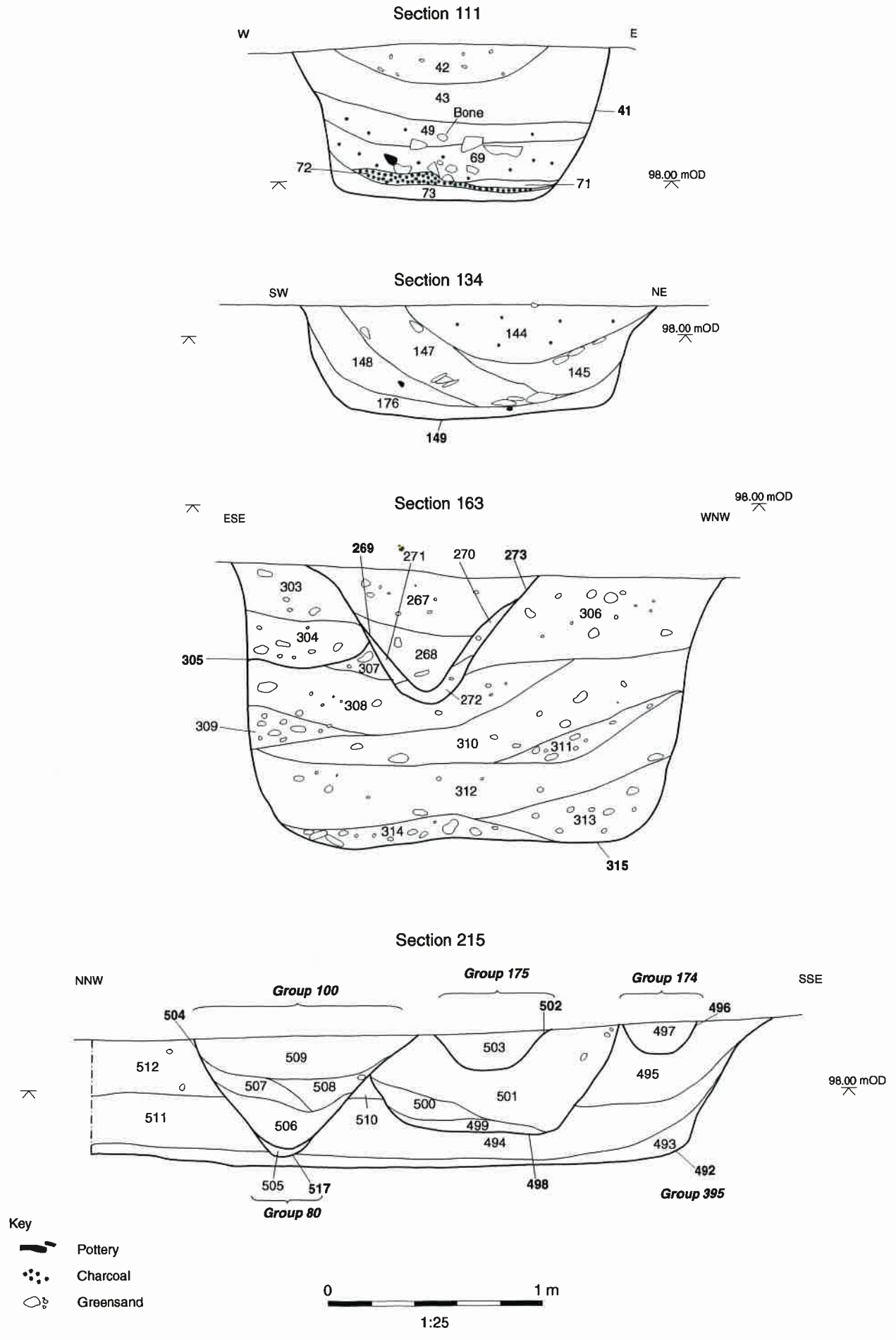

Figure 6: Sections - Visitors' car park excavation

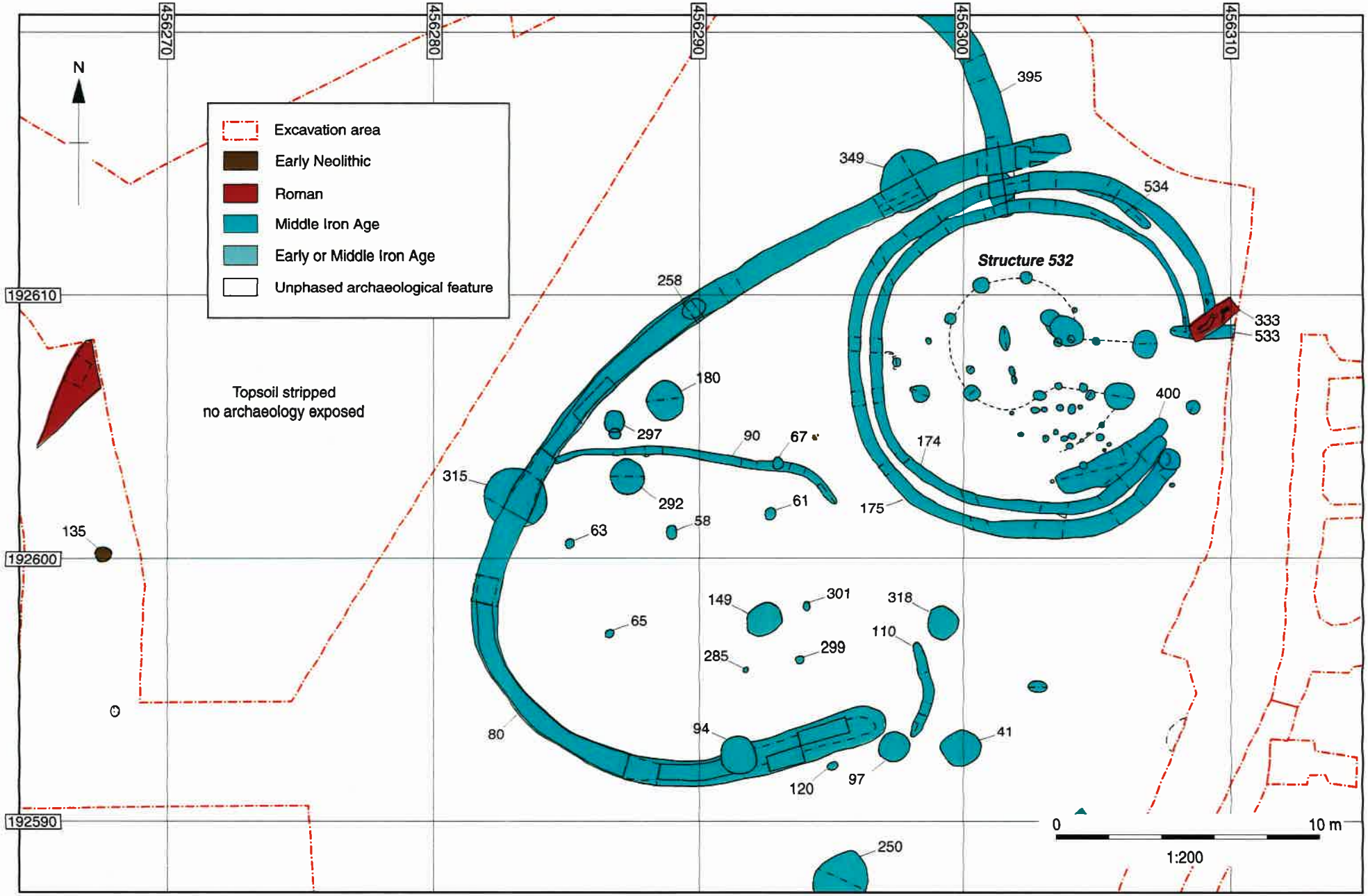

Figure 7: Plan of the visitors' car park

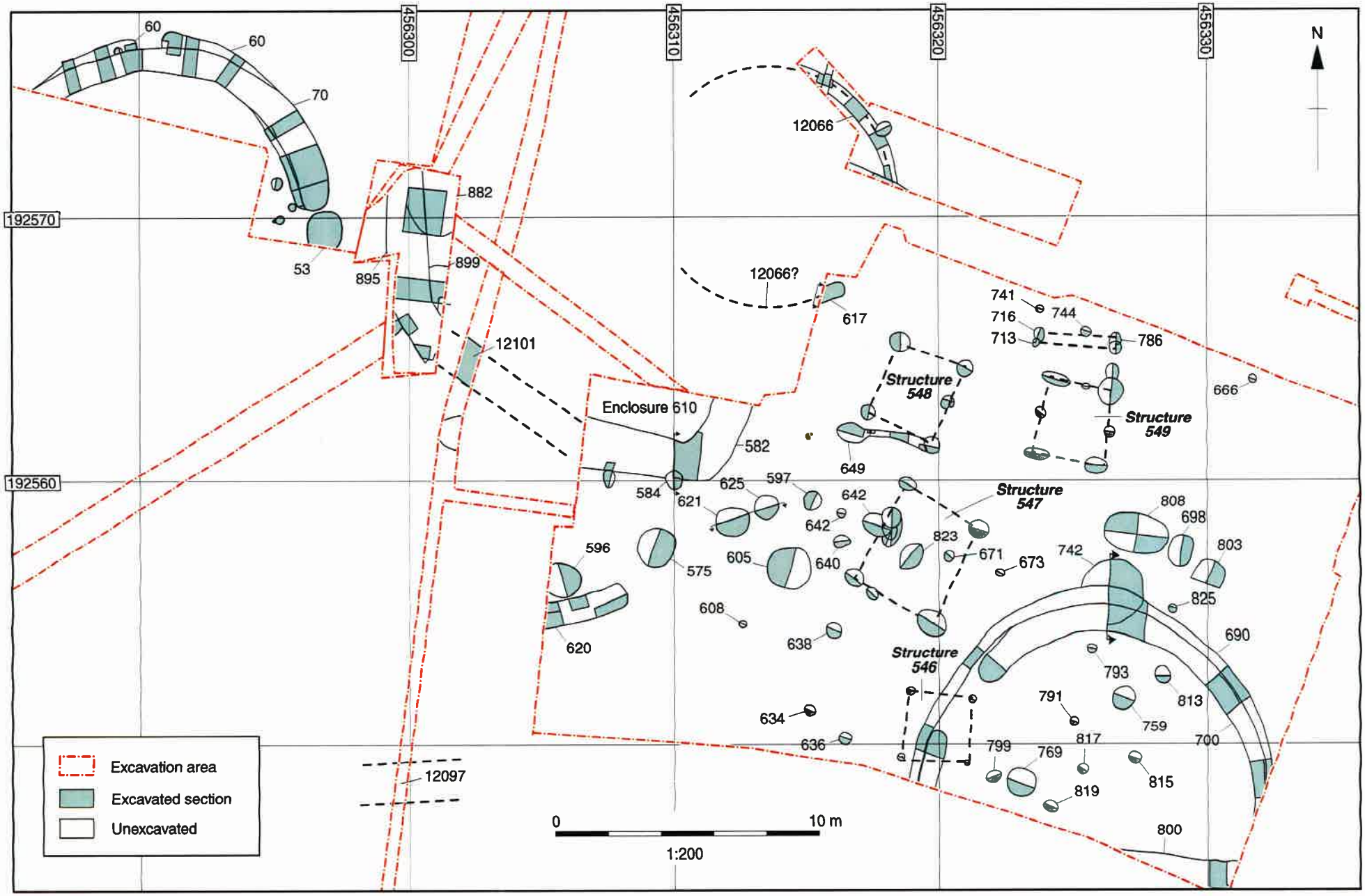

Figure 8: Plan of the New Office and Boiler house excavation, and the south end of the Visitors Car Park excavation

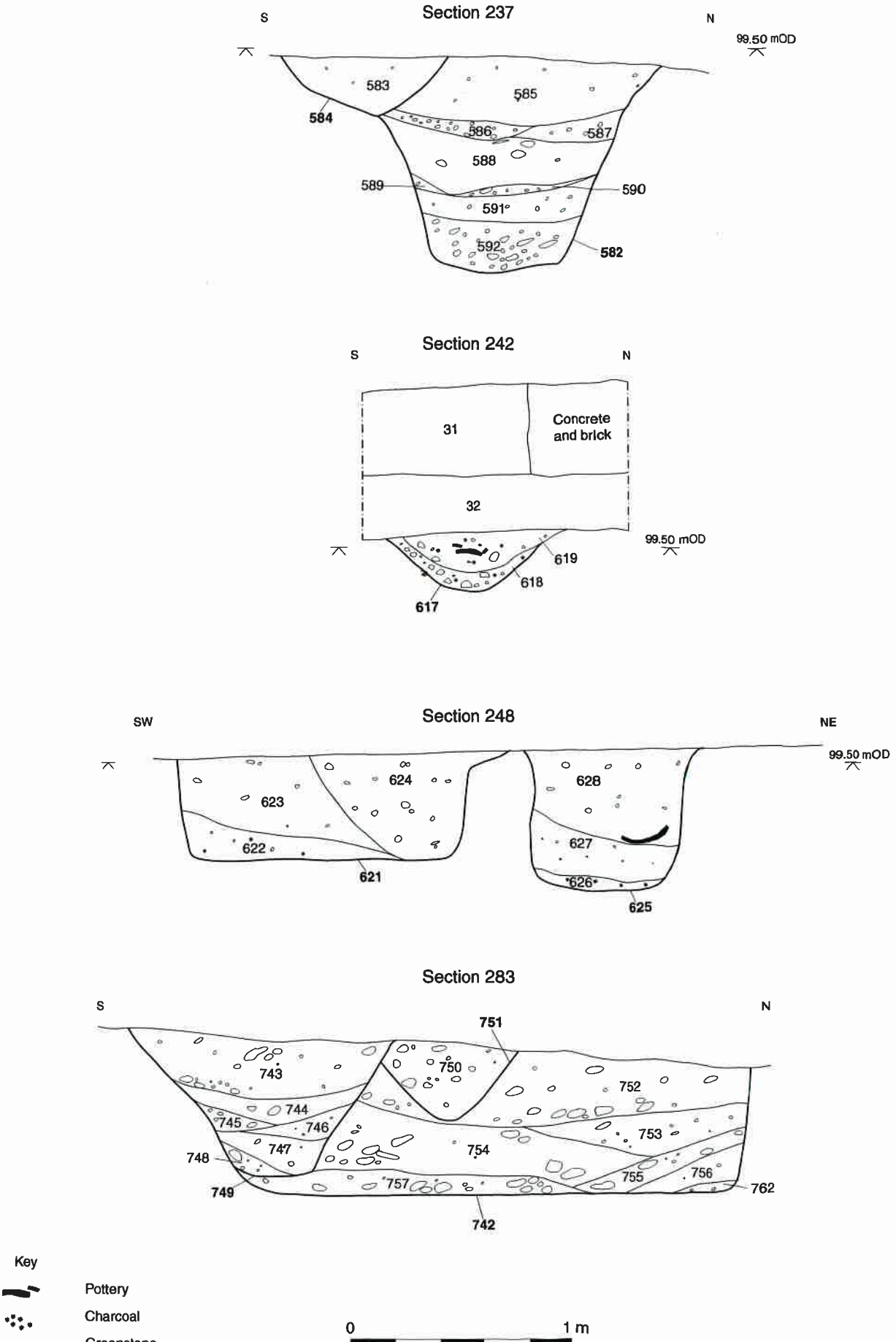

Figure 9: Sections - Office and Boiler House excavation

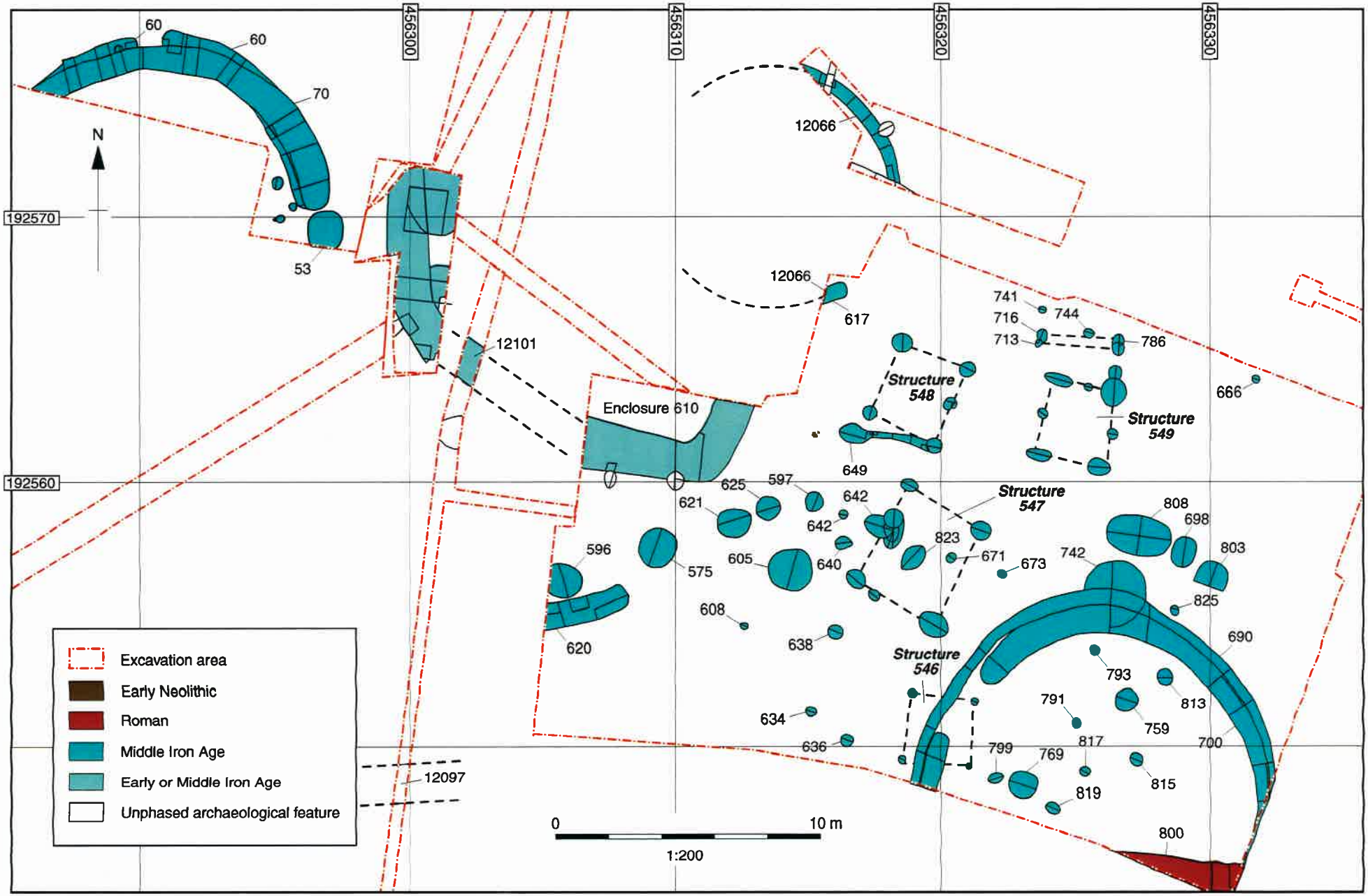

Figure 10: Phased plan of the office and boiler house excavation

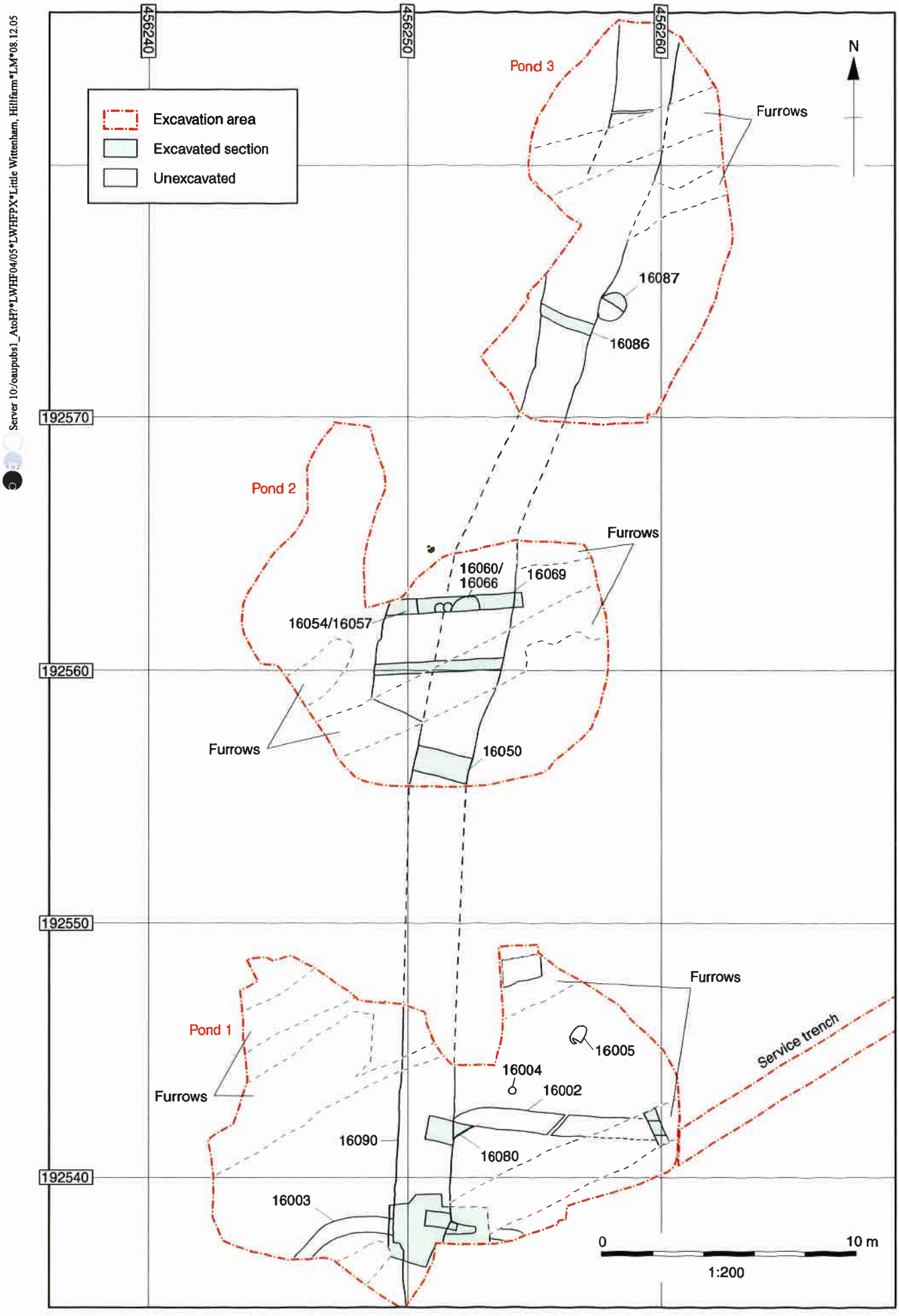

Figure 11: Plan of the Ponds

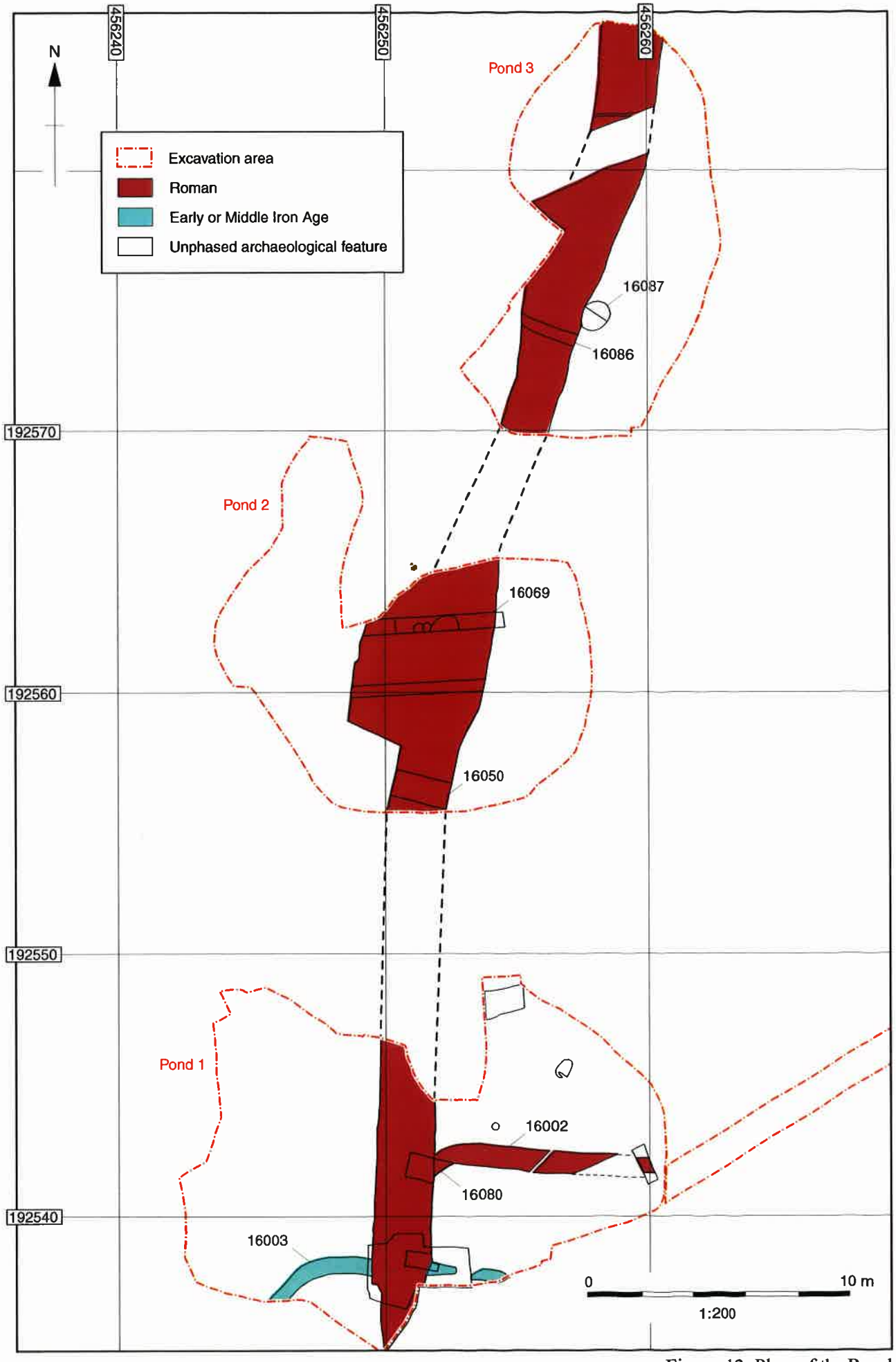

Figure 12: Plan of the Ponds

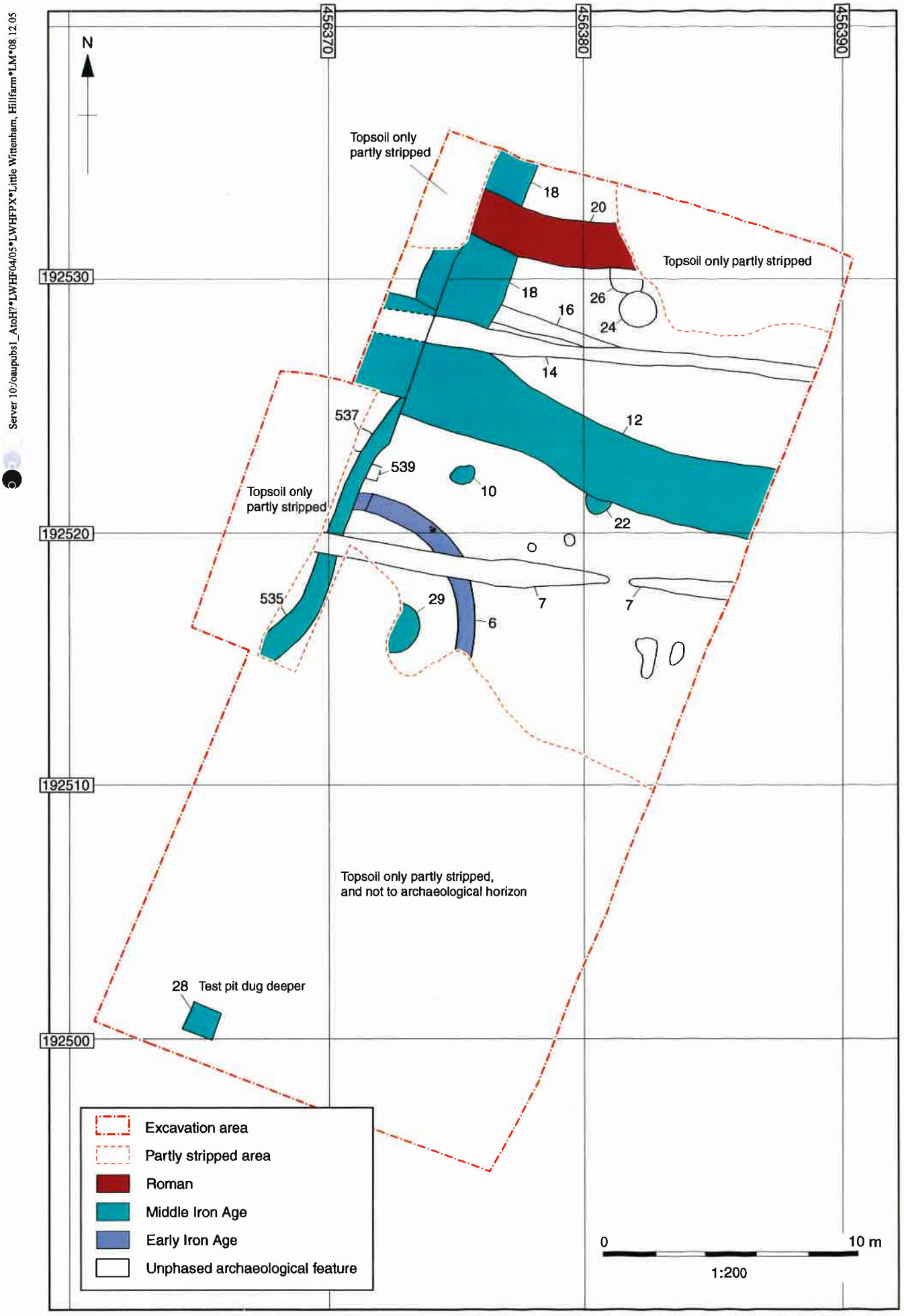

Figure 13: Plan of the archaeological features in the staff car park (phased and numbered)

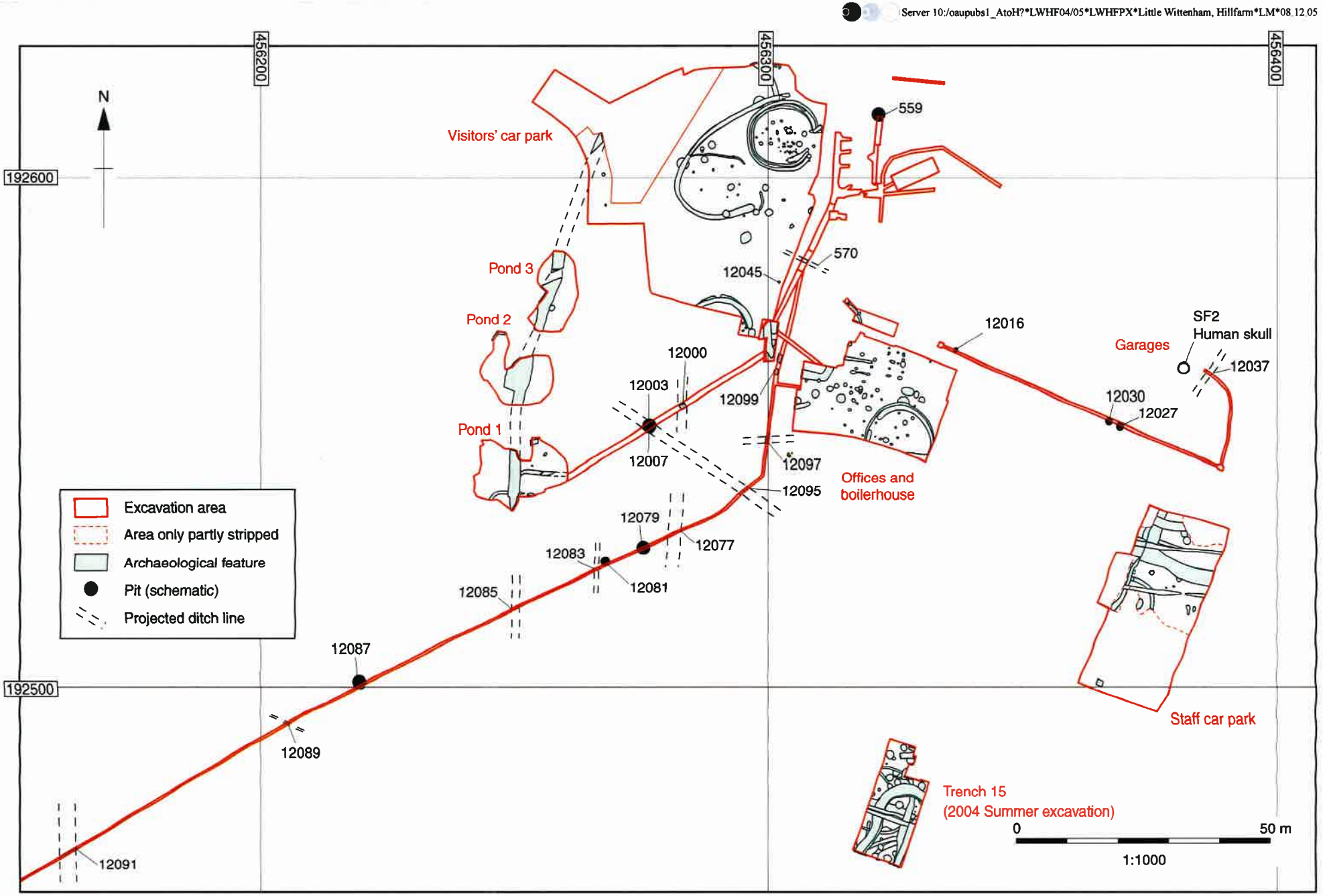

Figure 14: Plan of archaeology identified in other groundworks

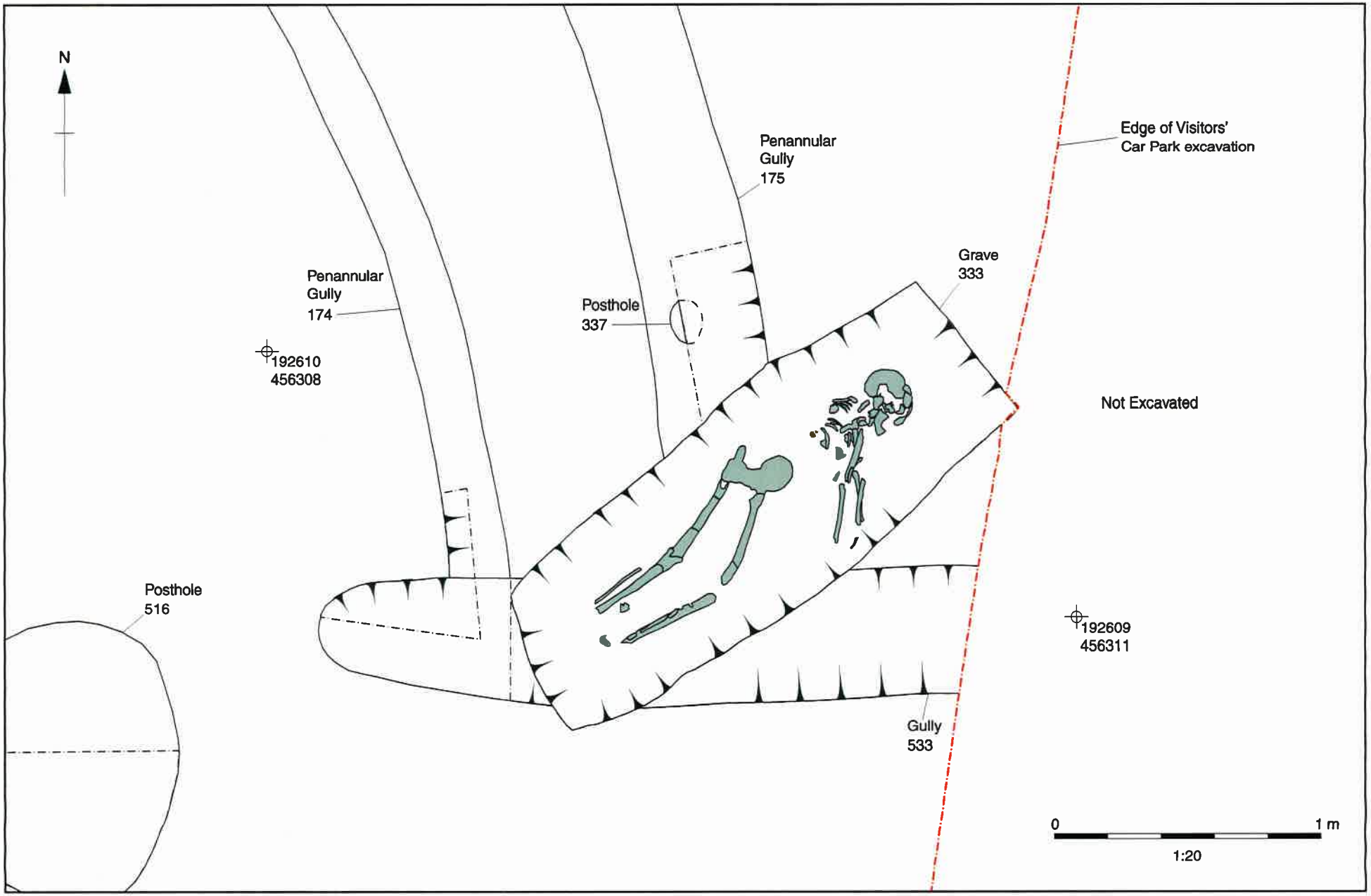

Figure 15: Grave 333, Skeleton 320

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